

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 1 of 139

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- Sunday Extras](#)
- [22- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)
- [23- Thune's Weekly Column](#)
- [24- Johnson's Weekly Column](#)
- [25- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
- [27- EarthTalk - Count Us In](#)
- [28- COVID-19 Reports](#)
- [32- Tigers spoil Cyclone's Homecoming Game](#)
- [32- Girls soccer falls to SF Christian](#)
- [33- Let's Meet the Challenge](#)
- [34- Quinn Quacks](#)
- [34- GFP Seeking Comments on Draft Prairie Grouse Management Plan 2022-2031](#)
- [35- October Senior Menu Calendar](#)
- [36- Fliehs takes first, Groton Area's golf team placed third at own invite](#)
- [37- School Board Agenda](#)
- [38- South Dakota Average Gas Prices](#)
- [39- Drought Monitor](#)
- [40- Offensive Missteps Plaque Northern State on the Road](#)
- [41- Northern State Offense Rallies in 4-Set Victory over Minnesota Crookston](#)
- [42- Weather Pages](#)
- [46- Daily Devotional](#)
- [47- 2022 Community Events](#)
- [48- Subscription Form](#)
- [49- News from the Associated Press](#)

Sunday, Sept. 11

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.

5 p.m.: 3/4 and 5/6 football hosts Redfield.

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.: Carnival of Silver Skates Registration at the warming house

Emmanuel: 9 am Worship with Backpack blessing; 10:15 am God's Work, Our Hands Sunday service; 6 pm Youth Movie Night

Monday, Sept. 12

Senior Menu: Chicken rice casserole, green beans, lettuce salad, chocolate pudding with bananas, whole wheat bread.

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.



"The legacy of heroes—the memory of a great name, and the inheritance of a great example."

-Benjamin Disraeli

- 2 p.m.: Cross Country at Webster
- Emmanuel: 6:30 am Bible Study
- 7 p.m.: School Board Meeting
- The Pantry open at the Groton Community Center, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- 1 p.m.: Senior Citizens Meet at the Groton Community Center.
- 4 p.m. - 6 p.m.: Carnival of Silver Skates Registration at the warming house

NO OUTDOOR WATERING!
Effective immediately, no outdoor watering is permitted in the City of Groton until further notice. (About 4-6 weeks)

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 2 of 139



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE



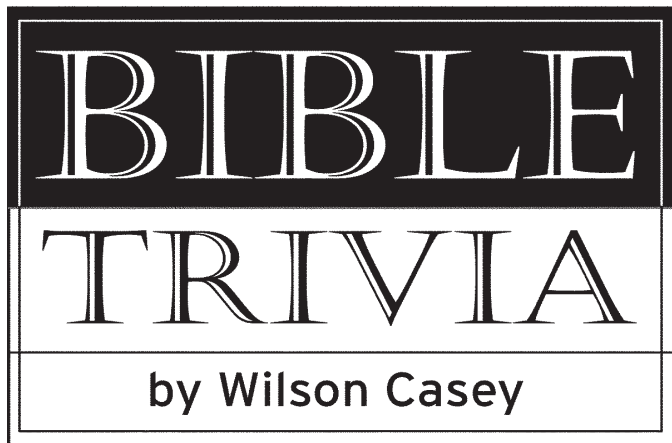
Detail of "David and Abigail"
by Antonio Molinari (1655-1704)

Then David said to Abigail: "Blessed is the Lord God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me! And blessed is your advice and blessed are you, because you have kept me this day from coming to bloodshed and from avenging myself with my own hand."

1 SAMUEL 25: 32, 33

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

2. What “holy” thing did Paul tell Timothy that Christians should lift up in prayer? *Hearts, Hands, Voices, Children*

3. From 2 Kings 9, which king of Israel drove his chariots like a madman? *Manasseh, Ahasuerus, Zimri, Jehu*

4. Who succeeded Belshazzar as king of the Chaldeans? *David, Darius, Daniel, Daegel*

5. What place was known as the “Land of Promise”? *Israel, Canaan, Babylon, New Jerusalem*

6. Who was the brother of Moses? *Noah, Aaron, Eli, Seth*

ANSWERS: 1) Neither, 2) Hands, 3) Jehu, 4) Darius, 5) Canaan, 6) Aaron

Comments? More Trivia? Gift ideas? Visit www.TriviaGuy.com

Party Pasta Salad

The last days of summer are upon us. Maybe you’ll choose one last visit to the beach or maybe a trip to a state park or maybe even your own backyard. Wherever you choose to “party,” be sure to take this easy pasta dish along. It’s sure to please.

- 1/2 cup fat-free French dressing
- 2 tablespoons fat-free mayonnaise
- 3 cups cold cooked rotini pasta, rinsed and drained
- 1 cup finely chopped celery
- 1/2 cup finely chopped onion
- 1 tablespoon finely chopped fresh parsley

1. In a large bowl, combine French dressing and mayonnaise. Add pasta, celery, onion and parsley. Mix well to combine.

2. Cover and refrigerate for at least 30 minutes. Gently stir again just before serving. Makes 6 (3/4 cup) servings.

• Each serving equals: 132 calories, 0g fat, 4g protein, 29g carb., 259mg sodium, 2g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 1 1/2 Starch, 1/2 Vegetable.

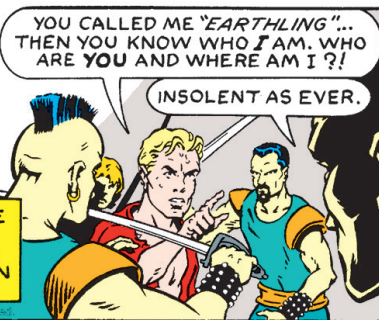
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 4 of 139

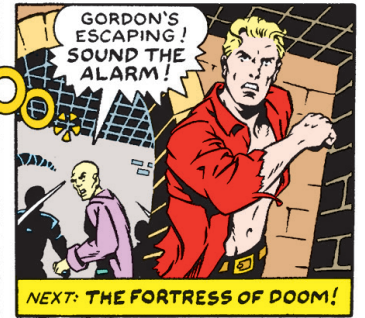
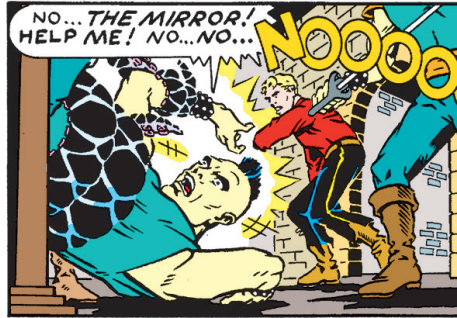
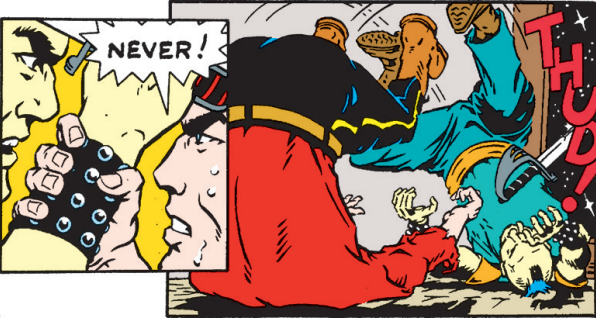
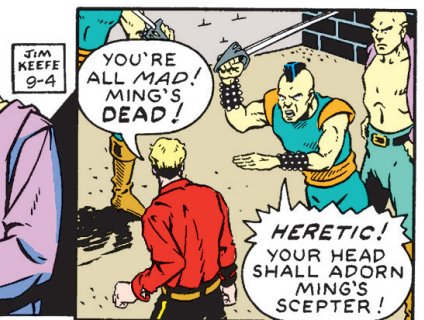


FLASH GORDON

HAVING BARELY SURVIVED THE DARK DIMENSION, DAZED, DISORIENTED, FLASH STANDS DEFENSELESS AS HIS UNKNOWN ASSASSINS APPROACH!

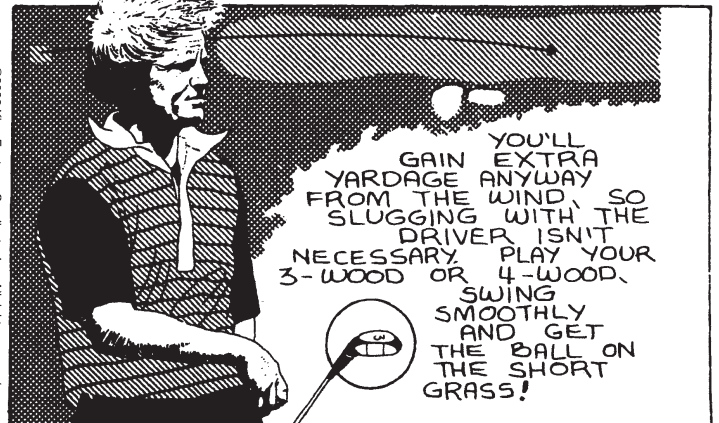
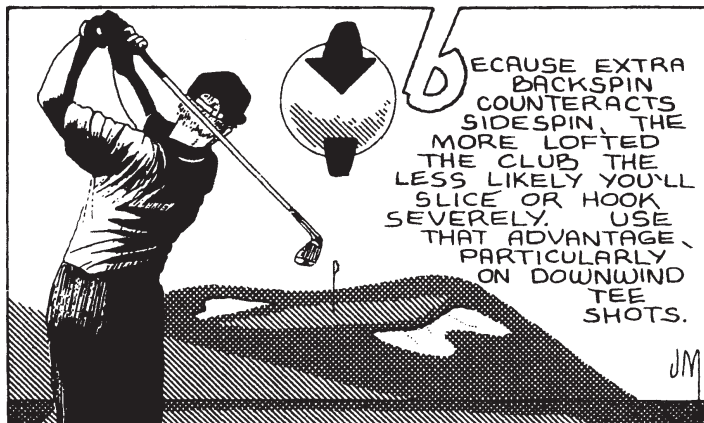


I AM GARAKAHN. THIS FORTRESS HOLDS THE REMNANTS OF THOSE STILL LOYAL TO OUR LORD, MING. WE WAIT, EVER VIGILANT, FOR HIS TRIUMPHANT RETURN AS THE TRUE AND RIGHTFUL RULER OF ALL OF MONGO!



NEXT: THE FORTRESS OF DOOM!

Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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Incontinence Caused By an Enlarged Prostate Calls for Medication

DEAR DR. ROACH: I am a 55-year-old male in good health and was diagnosed with a slightly enlarged prostate several years ago. My primary care doctor said he wasn't concerned enough to prescribe any medications. I get an annual physical, and there haven't been any changes. However, in the past couple of years, there have been times when, once I get the urge to urinate, I've got to get to a restroom posthaste. But, it's comical at times! Once, I was halfway through a three-hour road trip and started thinking I should stop. I made it all the way home without a problem, but couldn't make it from my driveway to the restroom. I read up on Flomax, which appears to work for those who have trouble urinating. Are you aware of any over-the-counter medications for my situation? — *R.J.*

ANSWER: I'm glad you can see the humor in the situation. With even one episode of incontinence, I would consider medication if the person wanted it after a discussion.

There are several herbal treatments (such as saw palmetto, South African star grass, stinging nettle and African plum) for an enlarged prostate with recurring symptoms. Some of my patients take them and feel like they are effective, but the evidence is not definitive. Supplements are not subject to the same standards of purity that prescription medications are. Consequently, I do not recommend these treatments. Tamsulosin (Flomax) and similar drugs are safe and well-tolerated for most men.

tate symptoms is using the AUA score, available at tinyurl.com/BPHscore. Men who have a result of moderate or severe symptoms benefit from treatment.

DEAR DR. ROACH: Please tell the public about prolapses that women may experience and the fact that surgery may be totally successful. I was lucky to find my surgeon and, after surgery, have a dandy little old body. A majority of women do not know about the problems nor the solutions. — *M.*

ANSWER: Many women experience pelvic organ prolapse, especially older women who have had one or more children. The symptoms that alert a woman may be varied, but one screening question that identified most women with this issue was whether they had symptoms of "a bulge, or that something is falling out of the vagina."

Other symptoms include urinary incontinence, difficulty voiding and problems with bowel movements, either constipation or incontinence.

Many women do not bring these symptoms up with their regular doctor, so I am glad you wrote. Unfortunately, some doctors are not experts at making the diagnosis of mild prolapse by examination, so consultation with a gynecologist is ideal. Women with mild prolapse and no symptoms do not need treatment. Many women with mild symptoms will do well with conservative treatment such as a vaginal pessary, a silicone device that supports the pelvic organ. Pelvic floor muscle exercises also may be tried before considering surgery. Surgery is indicated when conservative treatments have not been effective.

I am glad you had a good outcome with surgery, because not all women are so lucky — a third, or perhaps half, of women who get surgery for prolapse will require a second surgery for recurrence of symptoms.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 6 of 139



Tom Hanks stars in a new live-action "Pinocchio." Courtesy of Disney

"Pinocchio" (PG) -- The new live-action retelling of the Disney classic "Pinocchio" has a timely release right on Disney+ Day, which Disney deemed Sept. 8. Tom Hanks stars in this film as Geppetto, an Italian woodcarver who built a puppet named Pinocchio and cared for him as if he were his own son. Pinocchio gets brought to life by the Blue Fairy, much to Geppetto's great joy, but Pinocchio longs for more -- he wishes to become a real boy. The Blue Fairy promises to grant him his wish only if he remains brave, truthful and selfless, a feat that isn't as easy as it seems, especially when Pinocchio embarks upon a journey to the magical place of Pleasure Island where no one's around to enforce the rules. (Disney+)

"Aline" (PG-13) -- Inspired by the life story of legendary Canadian singer Celine Dion, this musical-drama film explores her life like never before, beginning with her early childhood years leading up to her rise to stardom. A young Aline, who is the fictionalized version of Dion, first achieves success as a young artist under her manager Guy-Klaude, but due to her age, Guy-Klaude advises Aline to wait until she fully matures into an adult before committing to the fame. This decision, no doubt, comes to be a definitive and positive turning point for the singer, both personally and professionally, as she eventually evolves become the angelic singer many people know and love. Premieres Sept. 9. (Prime Video)

"Tell Me Lies" (NR) -- This new thriller-drama series being released on Hulu is based off of Carola Lovering's book of the same name. Grace Van Patten stars as Lucy, a freshman in college who falls for an upperclassman named Stephen, a charming and mysterious man who's able to pierce through Lucy's tough, icy surface. Lucy and Stephen commence a steamy love affair, which turns eerie quickly, as a chain of events begin to unfold that slowly erodes Lucy's once-sturdy trust in Stephen. Executively produced by Emma Roberts, this series premieres Sept. 7, with episodes releasing weekly every Wednesday. (Hulu)

"I Came By" (TV-MA) -- This week's action film stand-out stars George Mackay ("1917"), Kelly Macdonald ("Boardwalk Empire") and Hugh Bonneville ("Downton Abbey"). Mackay portrays a 23-year-old graffiti artist, known for being part of the movement of street artists who enter the homes of the privileged and rich in their city and write "I Came By" onto their walls. When the graffiti artist decides to tag the home of a well-respected judge (Bonneville) in the area without his usual partner, he is haunted by a dark secret of the judge's that he never intended to learn. Unable to give up the fight, he finds himself in a dangerous game with a judge with great power and rage. Out now! (Netflix)

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 7 of 139



1. "In Sixteen Tons" by Tennessee Ernie Ford, what does the reference to owing your soul to the company store mean?
2. Who released the 1981 version of "Bette Davis Eyes"?
3. Name the artist who released "All Those Years Ago."
4. Who were the musical guests on the first "Saturday Night Live"?
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "I saw your lips, I heard your voice. Believe me, I just had no choice. Wild horses couldn't make me stay away."

Answers

1. The song is about coalminers. They were paid in scrip, not cash, and that scrip was only good at the company store. This kept the miners from saving cash and leaving.
2. Kim Carnes. The song netted Grammy awards for Song of the Year and Record of the Year.
3. George Harrison, as a tribute to slain fellow Beatle John Lennon.
4. Janis Ian and Billy Preston, on Oct. 11, 1975.
5. "Hello Mary Lou," by Ricky Nelson, in 1961. There was a plagiarism problem when the record label was sued by a Catholic priest who'd formerly been in a band when he wrote "Merry, Merry Lou." The settlement included giving the priest co-writing credits and royalties.

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GRIN and BEAR IT ^{by Wagner}



"Let's adjourn for a short celebration."

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



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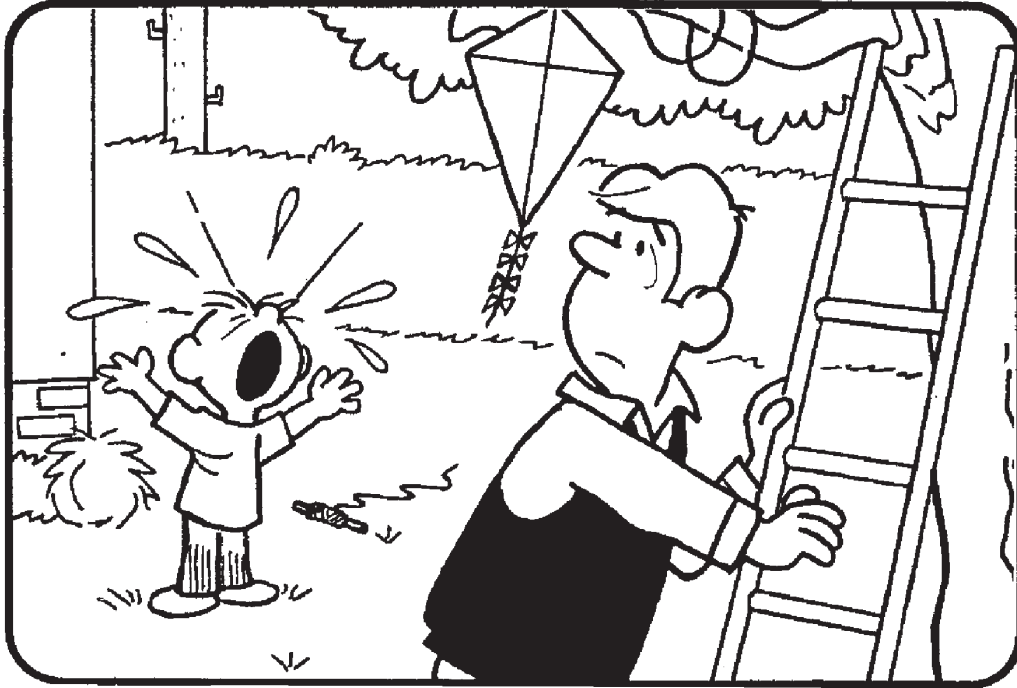
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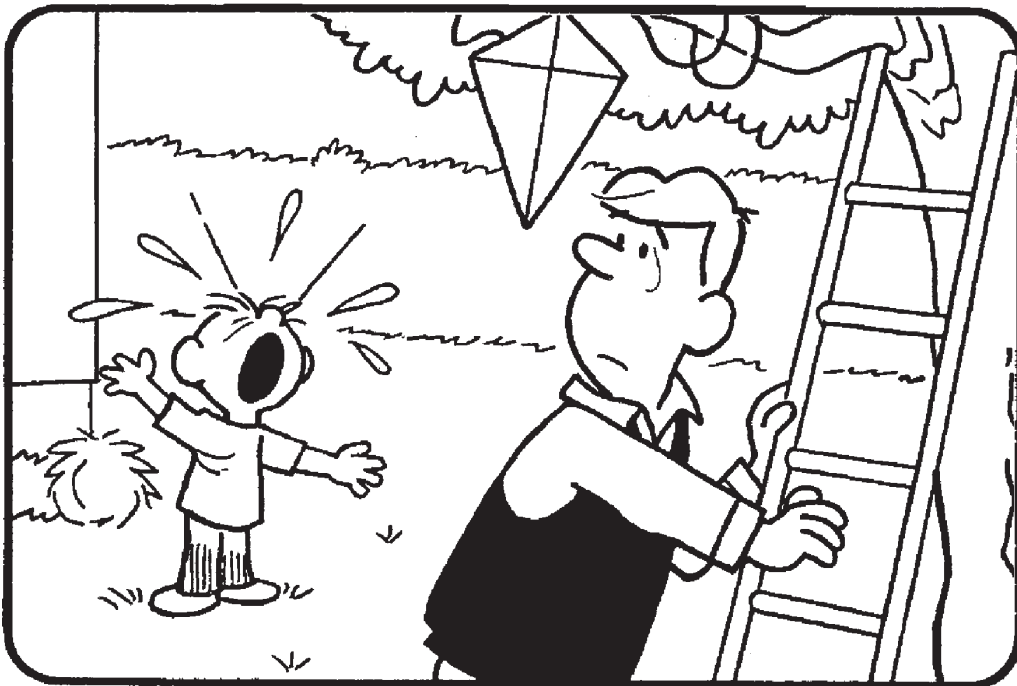
Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 8 of 139

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Differences: 1. Pole is missing. 2. Bricks are missing. 3. Arm is moved. 4. String holder is missing. 5. Kite tail is missing. 6. Hair is different.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 9 of 139



* "If you have a fish tank, you can use the fish tank water to fertilize your rose bushes. I do this, and it's rich in minerals that the bushes love!" -- A.U. in Alabama

* Make your own bed buddy hot pad with a long sock and rice. Use a sock that's knee high, and fill it about two-thirds with plain, uncooked white rice. Knot it an inch or two from the top of the rice, so it's nice and loose. Once it's secure, you can stick the sock into the microwave for 1-2 minutes. The rice heats up and the heat is stored in the rice. It's wonderful for aches and pains -- or just for keeping toes toasty!

* Shower caps can be placed over a planter and used to make a kind of greenhouse for planting cuttings. Just water and place it in a sun-filled window. Be sure to check it often, because even though it may be moderate or even cool out, your little greenhouse can get pretty hot with only a few hours of sun.

* "Loosen tight jeans with a cutting board! First, wash in cold water, then button them around something that's about an inch wider than the waist, say, a cookie sheet, chair top, cutting board, etc. Air dry. It's magical." -- V.L. in New York

* "When I was a kid, the side of my yard was soft sand, but it's where my brother and I kept our bikes. I liked my bike to stand up, because it kept the sand out of my gears. The kick stand was sinking in the sand, and my dad gave me an old tennis ball that he had poked a hole into. I put it on the kick stand, and from then on, it stayed standing up. Thought I would share." -- M.N. in Florida

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

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Groton Daily Independent

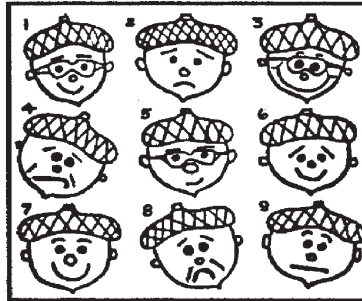
Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 10 of 139



HEADS UP! Our artist says heads of 16 different creatures appear in this Noah's ark scene. How many of them do you see?

Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman



NUTTY SMILES AND FROWNS

WHO has the broadest smile in this smiling acorn-face contest? See if you can pick the winner. Then, see if you can decide on second place, etc., on down the line to Mr. Drearypuss himself.

P.S.: Last place is something of a tossup.

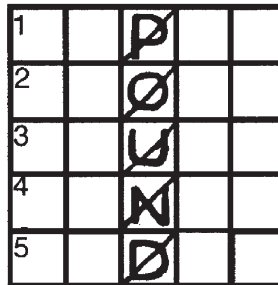
Our rating of smiles first to last: 3, 7, 6, 1, 5, 9, 2, 4 and 8, with 4 and 8 a

dhssol

VERSE OFF! "A thousand and one, a sixth part of twenty; some have none, others have plenty." Plenty of what, as suggested in this classic verse-riddle?

The answer is "money" (M, one and Y).

LETTER GO! Remove the middle letter from certain words and another word remains. Drop U from POUND, for instance, and POND remains. Drop B from ROBOT, and ROOT remains, etc. Just for fun, let's see how quickly you can find five such five-letter words in accord with drop-out letters indicated (right) and definitions below:



1. Shade tree.
2. Porch, of sorts.
3. Abode.
4. Eat snacks.
5. Bicycle part.

Time limit: Two minutes.

1. Maple.
2. Stoop.
3. House.
4. Munch.
5. Pedal.

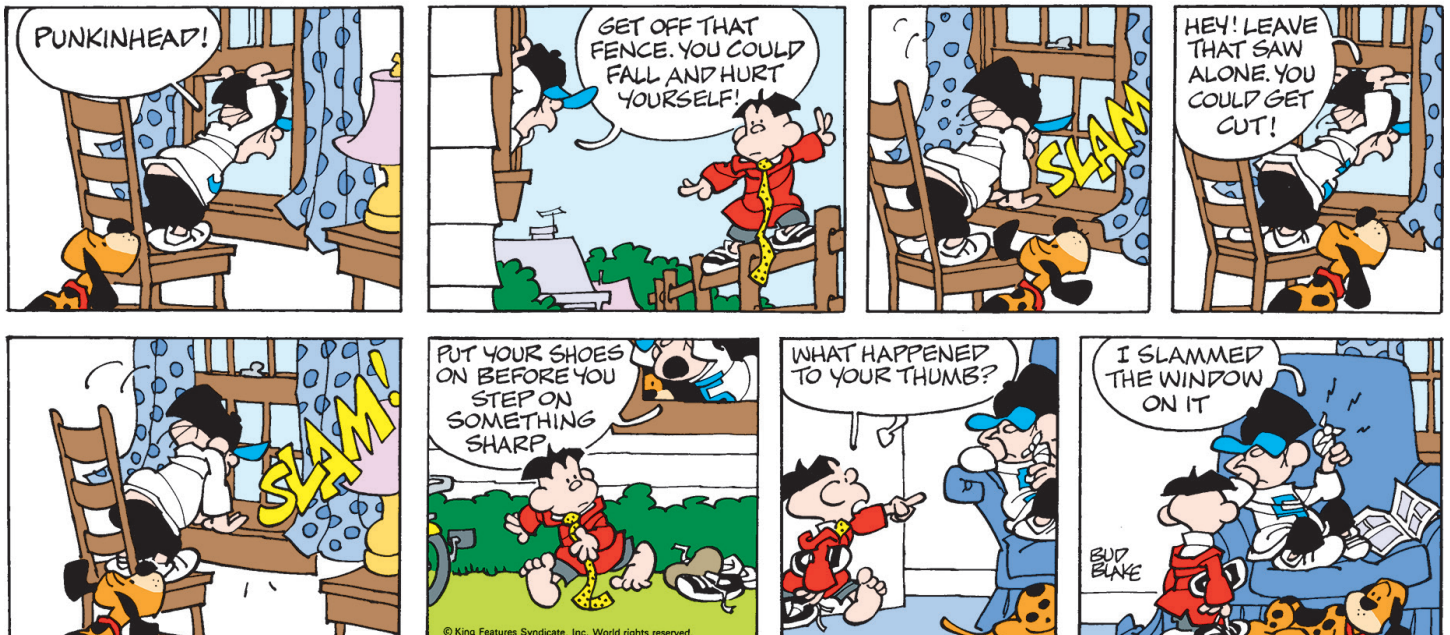
FOUR FITS! True or false?

1. Four score totals 80.
2. If one-fourth Kate's age is 1, double her age is 8.
3. Petit fours are small iced cakes.
4. The fourth dimension is regarded as time.

All statements are true.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 11 of 139

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Listening device
 4 Iota
 7 Bright star
 11 Shapeless mass
 13 Get older
 14 Eden evictee
 15 U2 lead singer
 16 Sailor
 17 Air outlet
 18 Attempts
 20 Judicial garb
 22 Gaiety
 24 "Weeping" tree
 28 Macaroon ingredient
 32 Wilderness Road pioneer
 33 Unoriginal one
 34 Actress Arthur
 36 Hindu royal
 37 Gold-loving king
 39 Country named for an imaginary line
 41 Eye, slangily
 43 Tax form ID
 44 One of the Fab Four
 46 Cairo's nation
 50 Hoosegow
 53 Perched
 55 Slithery
 56 Shrek, for one

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	
11			12	13				14				
15				16				17				
18				19		20		21				
			22		23		24			25	26	27
28	29	30				31		32				
33					34		35		36			
37				38		39		40				
41					42		43					
			44			45		46		47	48	49
50	51	52			53		54		55			
56					57				58			
59					60					61		

- 57 Part of TNT
 58 Dance move
 59 Pitch
 60 Chatter
 61 Wedding words
DOWN
 1 Recedes
 2 Oodles
 3 Novelist Jaffe
 4 Purse
 5 Composer Stravinsky
 6 Former quarterback Tim
 7 Easy-to-peel citrus fruits
 8 Poetic tribute
 9 Moving day rental
 10 Invoice fig.
 12 Partake in a Halloween game
 19 Day light?
 21 Clothing protector
 23 Gist
 25 Burden
 26 — account (never)
 27 Dam
 28 Bivouac
 29 Mayberry moppet
 30 Give up
 31 Golf prop
 35 Rm. coolers
 38 Salty expanse
 40 Exploit
 42 Out of practice
 45 Zhivago's love
 47 Bigfoot's cousin
 48 Begged
 49 Printing error
 50 Scribble (down)
 51 Past
 52 Apr. check casher
 54 Gratuity

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 12 of 139

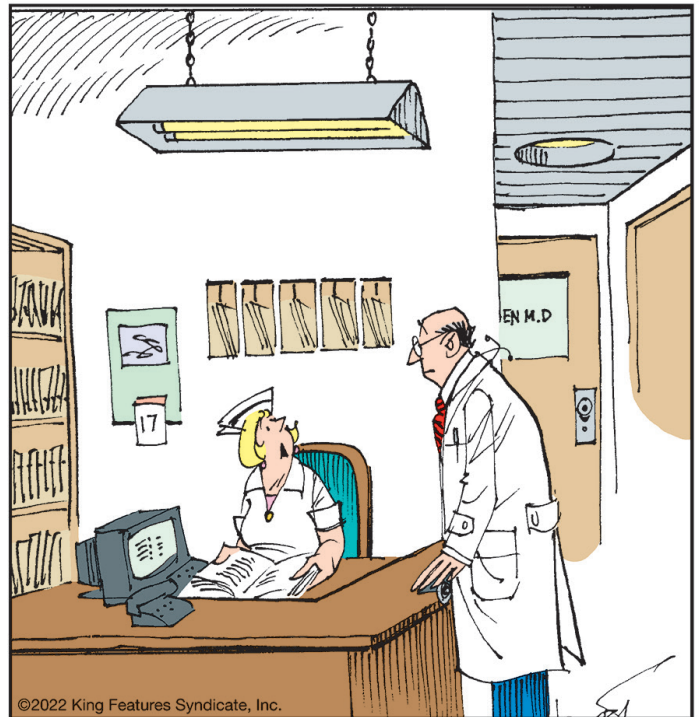
— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

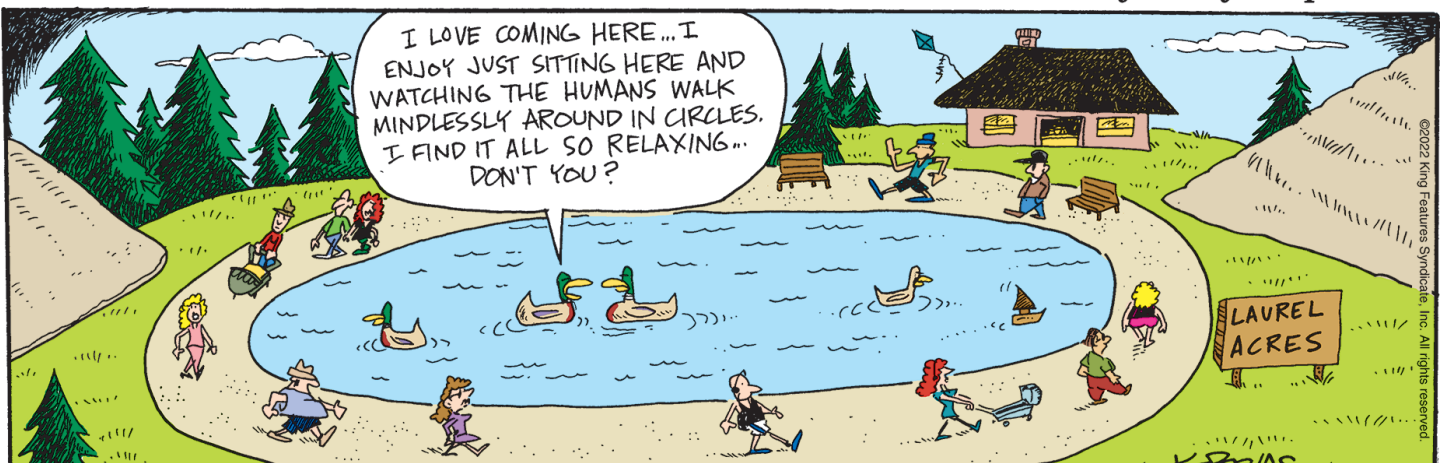
LAFF - A - DAY



"All of our clients are paid up ...except for the 8 amnesia patients."

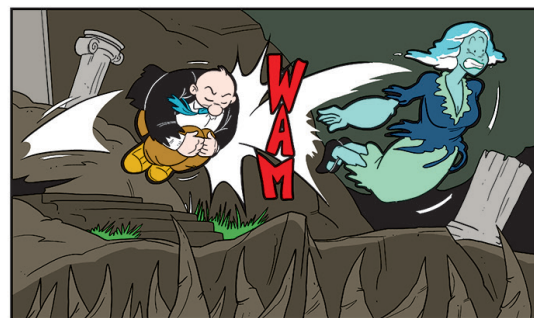
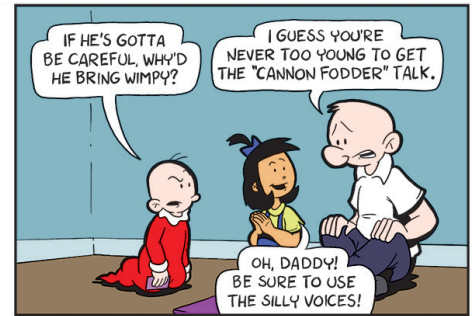
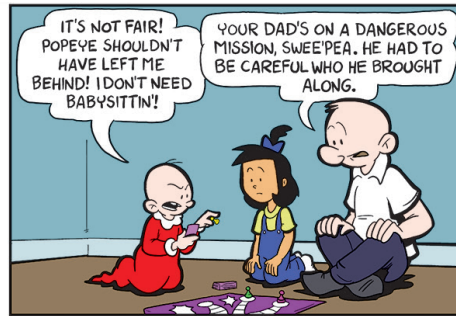
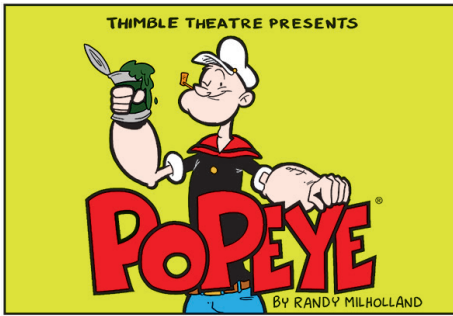
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



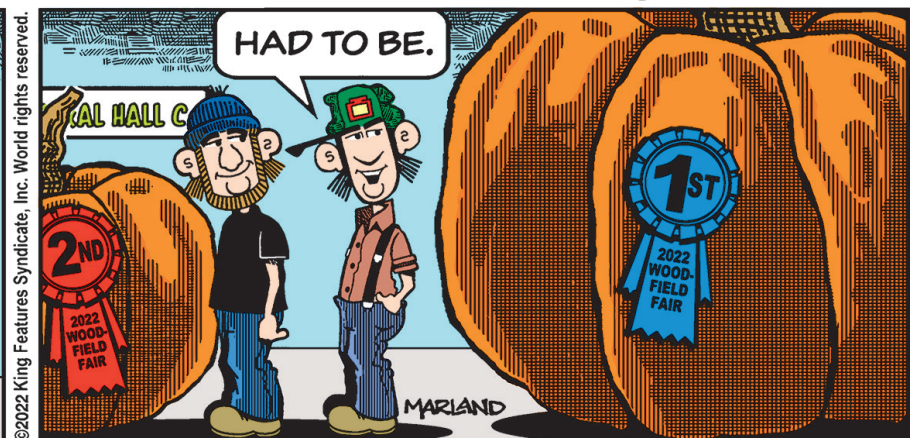
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 13 of 139



R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



Groton Daily Independent

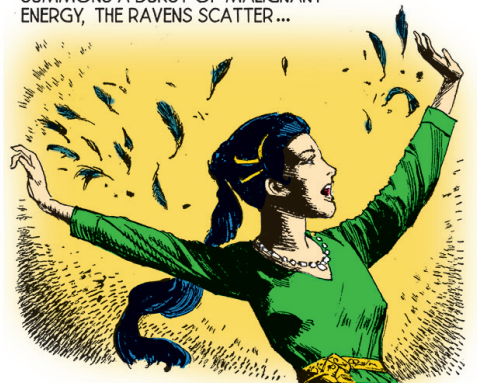
Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 14 of 139

Hal Foster's
Prince Valiant
BY GIANNI AND SCHULTZ

MALDUBH IS DRIVEN FROM HER ATTACKS BY A COUNTER-SPELL - RAVENS ATTACK THE WITCH!

WITHOUT HIS WIFE'S SUPPORT, DRACO IS NO MATCH FOR VAL.

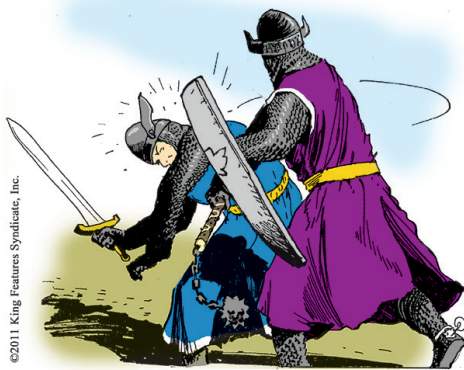
... UNTIL MALDUBH RALLIES HER CONCENTRATION AND RESPONDS TO THE IMMEDIATE THREAT. SHE SUMMONS A BURST OF MALIGNANT ENERGY, THE RAVENS SCATTER...



THE PRINCE BATTERS HIS FAILING OPPONENT RELENTLESSLY...

... AND, ONCE AGAIN, VAL'S STRENGTH FAILS, ALLOWING A RELIEVED DRACO TO PRESS A NEW ATTACK.

THE DARK WITCH TURNS TO THE THREE ROBED FIGURES THAT HAVE DARED OPPOSE HER AND GESTURES-

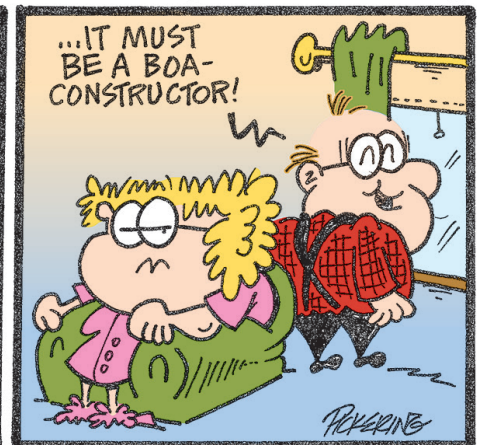
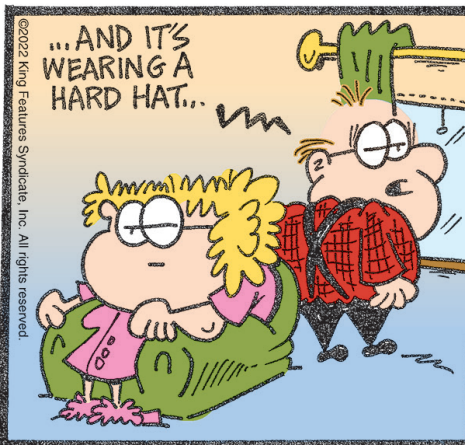
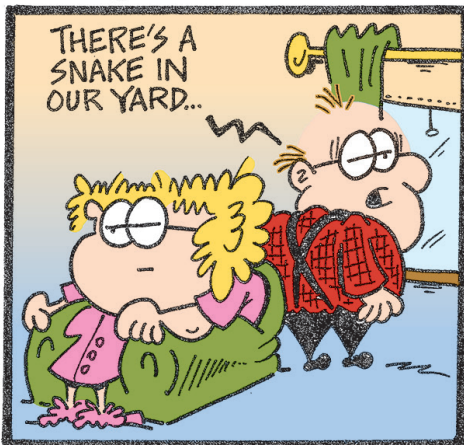


A HUGE OAK ABOVE THE TRIO CRACKS AND FALLS!

NEXT:
Unpredictable weather

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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PICKERING

SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Meals When the Larder Is Empty

I learned of a neighborhood group, six seniors, who are trying to keep themselves fed against all odds. They've come up with a brilliant plan: At the end of each week they pool whatever foods they have left over and have dinner together. They split the leftovers to take home.

The woman who told me about this talked about a website she discovered where all manner of ingredients could be entered, with the machine scouting the internet for recipes that could be created using those ingredients.

Whoever created the SuperCook website (www.supercook.com) did a fantastic job. Meats, grains, fruits, vegetables, dozens of cheeses, nuts, spices, dairy substitutes ... it's all there, ready to be clicked. You only need to scroll down the left side and select the ingredients you have on hand.

I tried it out, clicking that I have butter, milk, onion, ground beef and rice. The result came back that I could make a potential 521 recipes. Some of them actually sounded pretty good. When I swapped the ground beef for bacon, it was even better. A little suggestion note at the top of the screen said that if I had certain other ingredients on hand, I could find an additional 51 recipes.

Another website, My Fridge Food (myfridgefood.com), offers the same thing, although on a more limited basis. There's even a phone app, and when you click on a recipe it tells you the cooking time, calories and serving size of each recipe.

Once I found those two sites I went on a hunt for more and found a public library database titled "Finding Recipes for Ingredients You Already Have." You can check it out at www.penningtonlibrary.org/finding-recipes-for-ingredients-you-already-have.

Maybe you don't need another trip to the grocery store, at least not yet. Maybe you have on hand what you need to make a meal once you find a creative recipe.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 16 of 139

1. What member of the Boston Red Sox Hall of Fame was nicknamed "The Greek God of Walks" because of his patience at the plate?

2. How many times was Houston Texans quarterback David Carr sacked during the 2002 season?

3. What annual motorsports event in Colorado is known as "The Race to the Clouds"?

4. The Avco World Trophy was awarded to the season champion of what professional ice hockey league that operated from 1972-79?

5. Name the Lithuanian immigrant who adapted basketball rules for women in the late 1800s and was the first woman inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1985?

6. Name the brothers who played center in the NFL and were both on the New Orleans Saints' roster in 1993.

7. What driver beat Kurt Busch by 0.002 seconds -- the closest margin of victory in NASCAR Cup Series history -- at the 2003 Carolina Dodge Dealers 400 at Darlington Raceway?



by Ryan A. Berenz

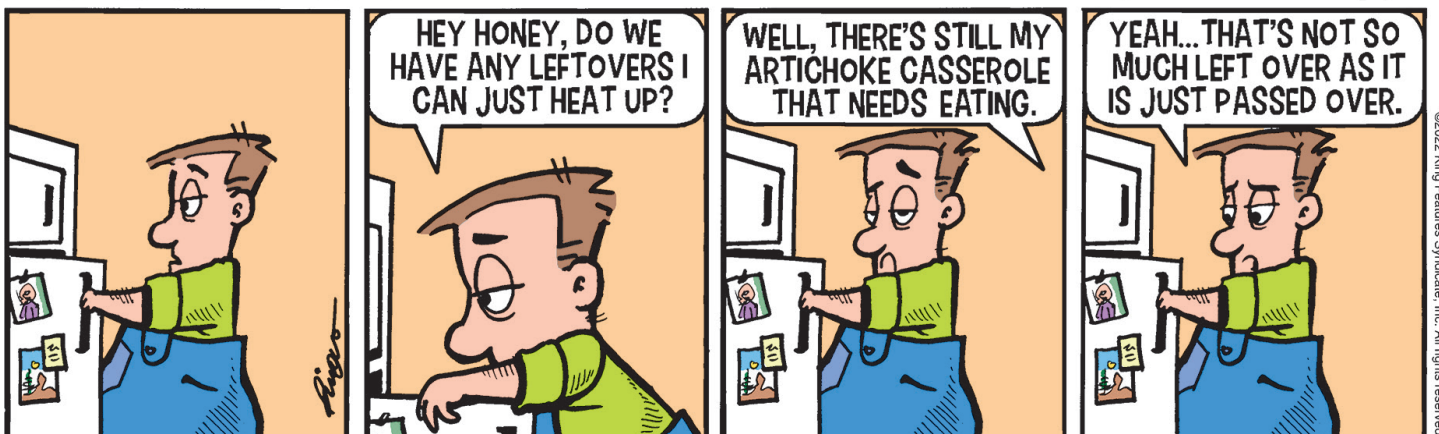
Answers

1. Kevin Youkilis.
2. 76, an NFL record.
3. The Pikes Peak International Hill Climb.
4. The World Hockey Association.
5. Senda Berenson Abbott.
6. Jay and Joel Hilgenberg.
7. Ricky Craven.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Guinea Pigs Hide Signs of Illness

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My male guinea pig, Dale, was always healthy. He was fat and not losing weight. One day, we cleaned his cage and noticed that he was sticking his head out repeatedly and opening his mouth -- like yawning. The vet said to come in right away, and within five minutes of hanging up, Dale was dead. The vet looked at him and said he looked healthy and that maybe he had a heart attack or stroke, but I didn't see any symptoms. Any help would be great, because we have two others. -- Julie G., via e-mail

hiding signs of illness, and often they are acutely ill before their owners can tell what's wrong. It's clear that you pay close attention to your guinea pigs, as you were aware of Dale's weight and normal behavior.

However, guinea pigs can become ill very quickly. You were right to contact the veterinarian immediately after noticing Dale's strange behavior, which I agree, could have been a sign of a stroke or heart attack.

I'll refer to the late Peter Gurney's brilliant Guinea Pig Health Guide. One suggestion, which you may be able to apply to your surviving guinea pigs, is to have the vet listen to their heartbeat. A heart murmur can indicate valve problems. Another possibility is an undetected fungal or bacterial infection that got into Dale's system, eventually causing a heart attack. But as you pointed out, he showed no external signs of illness.

For this mystery, I'll turn to my readers. Any suggestions for Julie on monitoring her two surviving covies?

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

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 18 of 139

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* A town in Washington has a treetop bridge over a busy road that's just big enough for squirrels, called the Nutty Narrows Bridge.

* Russian author Vladimir Nabokov came up with the idea for smiley emoticons in 1969.

* Now here's a great way to "go green": Residents of Surabaya, Indonesia, can pay their bus fare with plastic waste, which will earn them two hours of travel time. The dual aim is to reduce waste as well as the number of cars on the road by encouraging the use of public transportation.

* A U.S. constitutional amendment was proposed in 1893 suggesting that the country be renamed The United States of Earth.

* If you've ever questioned the idea that smartphone addiction is real, consider the case of computer programmer Maneesh Sethi, who hired a woman (at \$8 an hour) to slap him in the face every time he tried checking Facebook during working hours!

* The average MLB baseball lasts for just 5-7 pitches. In the beginning of a game, at least 90 balls are required on hand, with about 60-70 used per the average game.

* When Apple purchased rural land for a new data center in Maiden, North Carolina, an older couple refused to sell the one-acre plot they'd originally purchased for \$6,000 more than three decades earlier. After all offers were rejected, Apple finally asked them to name a price. Success at last! For just a cool \$1.7 million.

* The Spice Girls' nicknames were created by Top of the Pops magazine in a 1996 article.

* Monopoly, originally called The Landlord's Game, was invented by Lizzie Magie to share her views on the dangers of capitalism.

Thought for the Day: "Knowing trees, I understand the meaning of patience. Knowing grass, I can appreciate persistence." -- Ralph Waldo Emerson

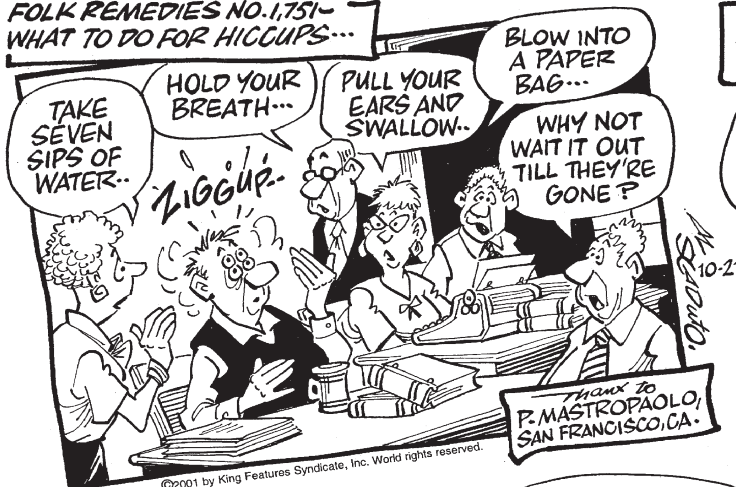
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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 19 of 139

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

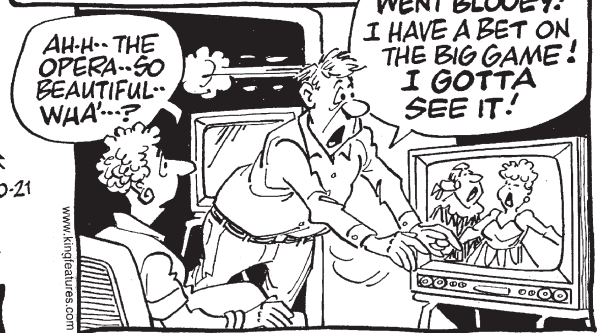
FOLK REMEDIES NO. 1,751 -
WHAT TO DO FOR HICCUPS...



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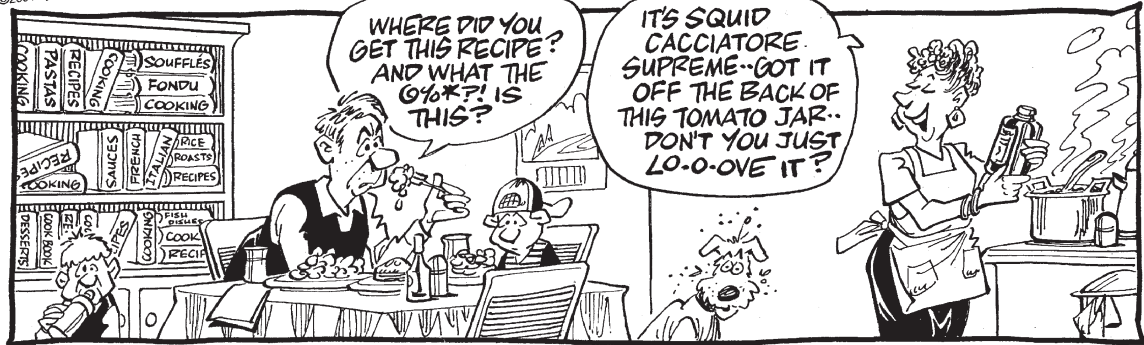
BY AL SCADUTO

SHOCK WAVES - YOU BUY A SECOND TV SET
SO WIFEY CAN WATCH HER
FAVORITE PROGRAMS.. THEN...



THANK TO B. HARRITON, PORTLAND, ORE.

SIGN OF
THE
TIMES -
COOKBOOKS
GALORE...
BUT -



THANK TO
LEAH WEISS,
YONKERS, N.Y.



The Garden Bug

The sap of the **Giant Hogweed** plant can cause severe skin and eye irritation, painful blistering, permanent scarring and blindness when combined with sunlight exposure. It is contacted by brushing against the bristles on the stem or breaking the stem or leaves. If you come in contact with the sap, wash it off as soon as possible with soap and water, and keep the affected skin hidden from sunlight for 48 hours. Giant hogweed is listed as a "noxious weed" by the US government.

- Brenda Weaver

Sources: www.dec.ny.gov, wikipedia.org



by Freddy Groves

The VA OIG Strikes Again

I have the utmost respect for the VA Office of Inspector General and even more respect now. It appears they'll go after anyone breaking the law, bending the rules, doing wrong ... even one of their own.

In this case it came to their attention that a senior OIG employee was still carrying an OIG-issued firearm and credentials after no longer being eligible to do so. Having been transferred out of one position into another one where carrying the firearm was not authorized, the individual should have turned the

firearm in when he switched jobs. Didn't happen. Further, others knew of this and didn't speak up ... for six months.

Enter the OIG investigators.

They unearthed a tangle of job classification language that revealed that nobody was reading the fine print nor filling out the correct forms, even the ones who should have done so. And nobody stepped forward to take the firearm away from the employee, even the ones who knew he wasn't authorized to have it.

Eventually word reached two people in the organization who knew instantly that the employee was not authorized to carry an OIG-issued firearm and credentials, and acted pronto to retrieve both the firearm and the credentials.

The end result is a thing of beauty. The employee in question retired. Two senior executives are no longer employed by the OIG, having resigned during the investigation. Another employee received a letter of reprimand. And the two employees who were in charge of the firearms program are no longer in charge of the firearms program.

If you suspect something is wrong in either the VA programs or operation, contact the VA OIG hotline at 800-488-8244. You also can go online to www.va.gov/oig/hotline. If you need to submit a complaint about violations, abuse, fraud, mismanagement or other problems, that's where you do it. They don't take regular email submissions. To see the OIG's reports, go to www.va.gov/oig.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 21 of 139

Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. GEOGRAPHY: Which European country has the largest population?
2. HISTORY: The storming of the Bastille took place in which country in 1789?
3. ASTRONOMY: What is the brightest star in any constellation called?
4. MYTHOLOGY: Who is Thor's father in Norse mythology?
5. COMICS: Where is the superhero Aquaman from?
6. MOVIES: How many characters does Mike Myers play in the "Goldmember" movie?
7. LITERATURE: How many lines does a haiku poem have?
8. TELEVISION: What was the name of the ranch on the 1960s western "Bonanza"?
9. U.S. STATES: Which state's official animal is the raccoon?
10. BUSINESS: What is the Ford Mustang automobile named after?

Answers

1. Russia.
2. France. It is celebrated on July 14.
3. Alpha.
4. Odin.
5. Atlantis.
6. Four (Austin Powers, Dr. Evil, Fat Bastard and Goldmember).
7. Three, with a total of 17 syllables.
8. The Ponderosa.
9. Tennessee.
10. A WWII fighter plane.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Defending our Constitution

Our nation loves to celebrate holidays. Today, I want to talk about one day that does not get enough attention: September 17, Constitution Day.

On September 17, 1787, our Founding Fathers signed the document that has shaped our nation ever since: the U.S. Constitution. Over the last couple years, I have spoken many times about upholding the Constitution, and about how South Dakota is setting an example for the nation that constitutional principles still work. Some might think that I even talk about it too much – but there’s a reason why I do. That reason is best articulated by a story from another September 17.

To this day, September 17, 1862, remains the bloodiest 24 hours in American history. On that day, the Battle of Antietam was fought during the Civil War, and an estimated 23,000 young American men were killed or wounded.

What were those men fighting for? Our Constitution. It mattered to them. It mattered to those who were fighting to preserve our Union. The Confederacy had attempted to break the Constitution by seceding, and the men defending our Union were determined to uphold it.

There is a scene from this battle recorded by one anonymous soldier. As one of the regiments was, for the second time, entering the conflict, one soldier staggered. But he was not wounded – he had just seen his father lying dead upon the battlefield.

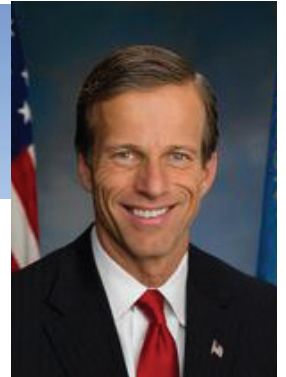
Another man, who knew them both, pointed to his father’s corpse and then pointed upwards. He said, “It is alright with him,” and the son continued with him into the battle. He passed his father’s dead body and did his duty to defend our Constitution.

We must exhibit the same bravery and sense of duty in defending our Constitution and the principles that our nation was founded on. We must do it even when it isn’t popular. We must do it because it is the right thing to do.

South Dakota has done this time and time again. When other states were destroying the Freedom of Religion, South Dakota never ordered a single church to close. When others were attacking the Freedom of Assembly, South Dakota allowed people to make their own decisions about who to gather with. When other states – and the federal government – tried to tear down the 2nd Amendment, South Dakota set the standard for defense of the right to keep and bear arms. I have always remained focused on what authorities I have and do not have – and I will continue to do so for as long as I am Governor.

The principles that our Founding Fathers followed in creating our Constitution – Freedom, Equality, Opportunity – these are still the most powerful forces known to man to make all of us safer, stronger, and healthier. South Dakota will continue to stand for these principles, and I will continue to stand for our Constitution.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



A Slap in the Face

On August 24, eight days after signing the so-called Inflation Reduction Act into law, President Biden announced that with a stroke of his pen, he would authorize a student loan giveaway of up to \$10,000 in qualifying student loan debt for most borrowers and up to \$20,000 for borrowers who received Pell Grants. Eight days. That's how long it took President Biden to completely erase any of the supposed deficit reduction included in Democrats' Inflation Reduction Act.

I want to be very clear about this: Despite what the president and other Democrats might say, not one penny of debt is being "canceled" or "forgiven." This debt is being transferred from the 13 percent of the country with student loan debt to the 87 percent of the country that does not have student debt. It's a slap in the face and blatantly unfair to expect Americans who either never went to college, paid off their loans, or paid their way through college to shoulder the cost of other Americans' loans that they agreed to pay back. What about all the parents who scrimped and saved to send their children to college, or the students who chose a lower-cost college or worked to put themselves through? Not to mention the men and women in the military who fought for this country and earned money for their college education.

The president's plan isn't even targeted to the people who need it most. Families making \$250,000 – nearly four times as much as the average household – will now be eligible to have their obligation to repay student loans erased. Instead of focusing on ways to control the rising cost of college education, President Biden's decision will provide a disincentive for colleges to lower costs for students, and it will likely encourage students to incur even more debt, since he has now set up an expectation that the government will step in and write a check. Also, given the fact that student loan debt is expected to be back to its current level in six years, I imagine we will be hearing more Democrat calls for student loan "forgiveness" in the very near future.

Our country is in the middle of the highest inflationary period in four decades, and families are already struggling with high grocery bills, high energy bills, and high rent prices – largely because of Democrats' big-government, big-spending agenda. Instead of focusing on policies that would help lower inflation for American families, President Biden instead chose to pursue policies, like the unprecedented bailout of student loan debt, in order to appease the radical wing of the Democrat Party. To add insult to injury, according to the Penn Wharton Budget Model, this bailout could cost taxpayers more than \$1 trillion over the next decade, which would only pour gasoline on the inflationary fire.

While President Biden's reckless student loan plan may buy him a vote or two, a lot of other Americans may decide that they've had their fill of inflationary spending, soaring prices, and far-left appeasement.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 24 of 139



CONGRESSMAN
DUSTY JOHNSON
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



There's No Place Like Home.

The August District Work Period is coming to a close, and next week Members of the House head back to D.C. for votes.

August was full of meetings in South Dakota with constituents, community leaders, small business owners, and more. I hosted town halls, visited county fairs, honored veterans, and toured businesses.

My meetings took me all over the state—from Spearfish to North Sioux City and St. Francis to Frederick—let's just say I had a lot of time in the car.

Some of my favorite stops?

Touring Anthem Oats in Frederick—their story of a five-generation family farmstead is rooted in South Dakota values and tradition. The Sumption family grows the Rushmore variety of oats that was developed at SDSU. They value quality from start to finish and they support other American family-owned businesses in the process. Not to mention how delicious these oats are!

Seeing the newest innovation for the ag industry at DakotaFest.

Visiting Silencer Central when they were named one of America's fastest growing companies.

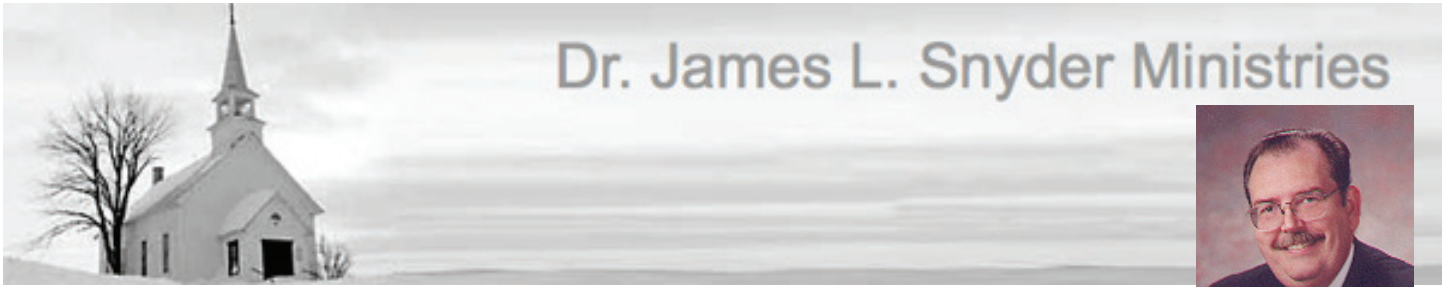
Honoring hundreds of Vietnam Veterans at Vietnam Veteran Pinning Ceremonies across the state. Each veteran had an opportunity for their unique story to be recognized and received thanks and gratitude for their service.

Touring Albany Farms in Belle Fourche—after encountering supply chain disruptions in California, Albany Farms decided to relocate its ramen noodle production to South Dakota, and we are happy to have them. Their new facility will bring 150 jobs to Belle Fourche.

While I have meetings regularly in South Dakota throughout the year, being home for the whole month of August was a great opportunity to have more visits. There truly is no place like home.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 25 of 139



Nothing Like An Old Fashion Scam

Scams have become the norm of our culture today. If it weren't for Alexander Graham Bell, we wouldn't have all of these scams today. Thanks Alex.

These scams go from car warranties to Medicare benefits, and they're probably just getting started.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage gets very agitated when these calls come. They show up on our phone as a scam. As soon as it shows up on our phone, she yells, "That's a scam. Don't you dare answer it?"

By the time I heard what she said, I had already answered the phone. So, I like to take advantage of these scam calls. After all, it's my phone, I pay the bill, so it should also be my choice.

For example, when they asked me in the beginning how I was, I said, "Okey-Dokey." I don't know what this means, but they hang up immediately as soon as some hear that phrase. When it first happened, I couldn't have been happier.

So, "Okey-Dokey" is part of my scam to those scammers.

Then when some Medicare scam comes through, one thing they ask is how old I am. So one time I said, "I feel like I'm 87." They said that I don't qualify and hung up immediately.

I didn't say I was 87, just that I feel 87. So now I have another response to these scammers.

I am building up of repertoire of responses to these scammers. I had to sit down and think a little bit in the beginning and ask myself, is it okay to lie to liars? I guess it depends on your definition of a lie.

Unlike many people, especially those in my house, I don't get aggravated when I see a scam call on the phone. I just get ready to go nose to nose with them.

I'm not sure how these people get through a day of calling; I don't think I could make it. But I am happy to respond as much as possible.

Then something strange happened last week. My idea is that I'm not going to say something is a scam until it turns out to be a scam. After all, it might be real.

The call I got last week was from the government. Our government has selected 1700 people to receive a free \$9,000 grant. Something I don't have to pay back and can use for whatever I want.

My immediate response was, this is a scam. After all, good old Uncle Sam would never do anything to scam anybody. They don't call it a scam; they call it taxes. But that's a different story.

I listened to the proposal and thought it was a scam. So why would the government want to give me a \$9,000 grant that I didn't have to pay back?

Being curious, I listen to the whole presentation. After all, what if it isn't a scam?

I had qualified for this \$9,000 grant, and the young lady on the phone wanted to work out how they could send me that money. Do I want it in cash or deposited in my bank account?

There's no way I will give them my bank information over the phone. So I said, "I'll take it in cash, please."

She asked me where the nearest Western Union was so she could send me the money. I told her where the nearest one was and then she gave me the information I needed to go there and collect my money. I wrote down all the information I needed.

I hung up the phone and did a bit of laughing.

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage came in and asked me what I was laughing about. I told her

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 26 of 139

about the phone call and how the government would send me a \$9,000 grant through Western Union. Then I laughed heartily and told her I thought it was a scam, thinking she would agree.

She stared at me with both hands on her hips and said very seriously, "What if it isn't a scam? What if it's true?"

I was a little setback by her response because if anybody is skeptical about anything, it is her. She can smell a scam three days before it arrives.

And then she said something quite strange, "What would you do with \$9,000?"

I just chuckled and went back to my office to work. But I was bothered by that phrase, "What would you do with \$9,000?" Suddenly, I began thinking of what I could do with that kind of money.

What if this wasn't a scam? What if I did qualify for this money? These and other thoughts rolled through my mind for the next hour.

Then the idea came to my mind, what if this was real? What do I have to lose if I go and find out if it's real or not?

The Western Union was a couple of blocks down the road, and it wouldn't take me long to go and check out this scam. If it's a scam, I've only lost two blocks of time, and if it isn't a scam, it's worth investigating.

Walking back from Western Union with no grant money, I thought of a Bible verse.

Ecclesiastes 7:5, "It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools."

It's better to have empty pockets than an empty head.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: What is the Count Us In campaign all about and how does it differ from other efforts to help us rein in carbon emissions?

—P. Stout, Anchorage, AK

Count Us In is a global movement of people and organizations committed to getting individuals to take active, reasonable steps to lower their own carbon footprints so that the actions of many aggregate into significant change on a large scale. The goal of the non-profit campaign is to get this message out to upwards of a billion people, especially the so-called “non-activist middle” that simultaneously have the most business and political sway but are also actively contributing to carbon pollution.

Small steps can add up when it comes to lowering our carbon footprints.

Individuals can get on board with Count Us In via the organization’s website by engaging in various carbon footprint reduction “steps” that are counted by an online “Aggregator” designed to show how individual efforts add up to significant carbon reductions collectively. Each step has an associated description for an action to be taken, anything from driving an electric car to improving the insulation of your home, as well as a respective carbon reduction value. When you take a “step,” you input the data associated with the action you took, then that step is added to the Aggregator. To date, the Aggregator has recorded over 15 million individual steps, which adds up to a savings of some 174 million kilograms of greenhouse gas.

With over 100 organizations standing behind the movement, including TED Countdown, The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Accenture, Global Citizen, World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the European Union (EU) Climate Pact, YouTube and SKY Sports, the Count Us In campaign has gained a serious reputation as a worthwhile effort in climate change activism, encouraging its followers to join in the action. According to their official website, the Count Us In campaign utilizes the significant influence that these large organizations have to act as a catalyst for change. As they state in their FAQ, “Your organization or company can help Count Us In become the largest citizen climate action mobilization, by joining as a partner, and promoting Count Us In among your supporters, followers, members, staff and customers.”

Count Us In considers itself different from other climate action movements because organizers encourage participants to actively, rather than passively, engage in carbon reductions with their community. Each participant must take action in the form of a “step,” and then record that step appropriately within the Aggregator. This simple, yet effective step-by-step process pushes people to be aware of not only the action they are taking and the impact they have as an individual, but also the cumulative effect the community’s actions have when added together.

If you’d like to take a “step” with the Count Us In community, their team makes it easy for you by providing 16 of their best steps, chosen specifically because of three criteria: “their impact on your personal carbon pollution, their power to influence leaders and their ability to involve everyone.”

Here are some popular Count Us In steps you can take right now: fly less often, drive electric, insulate your home, wear clothes that last, tell your politicians, walk/cycle more, cut food waste, green your money, repair and reuse, and get some solar! Make sure to enter your progress into the Aggregator so your contributions are counted..



Small steps can add up when it comes to lowering our carbon footprints.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 28 of 139

South Dakota COVID-19 Report

New Confirmed and Probable Cases

963

Active Cases

644
-73

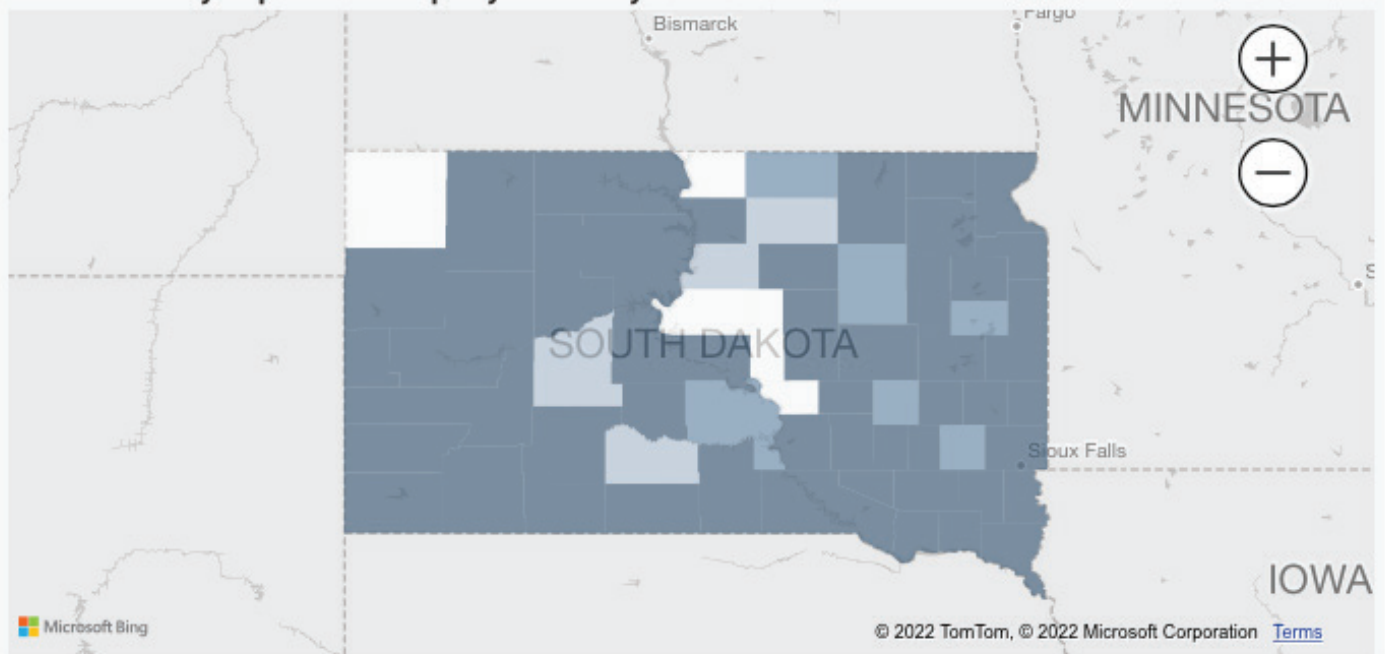
Recovered Cases

254,864

Currently Hospitalized

99

Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread Low Moderate Substantial High

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

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

Total Confirmed and Probable Cases

258,510

Total Tests

2,309,128

Deaths Among Cases

3,002

Ever Hospitalized

11,641

Percent of State Population with at least 1 Dose**

75%

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 29 of 139

Brown County COVID-19 Report

New Confirmed and Probable Cases

33

Active Cases

20
-13

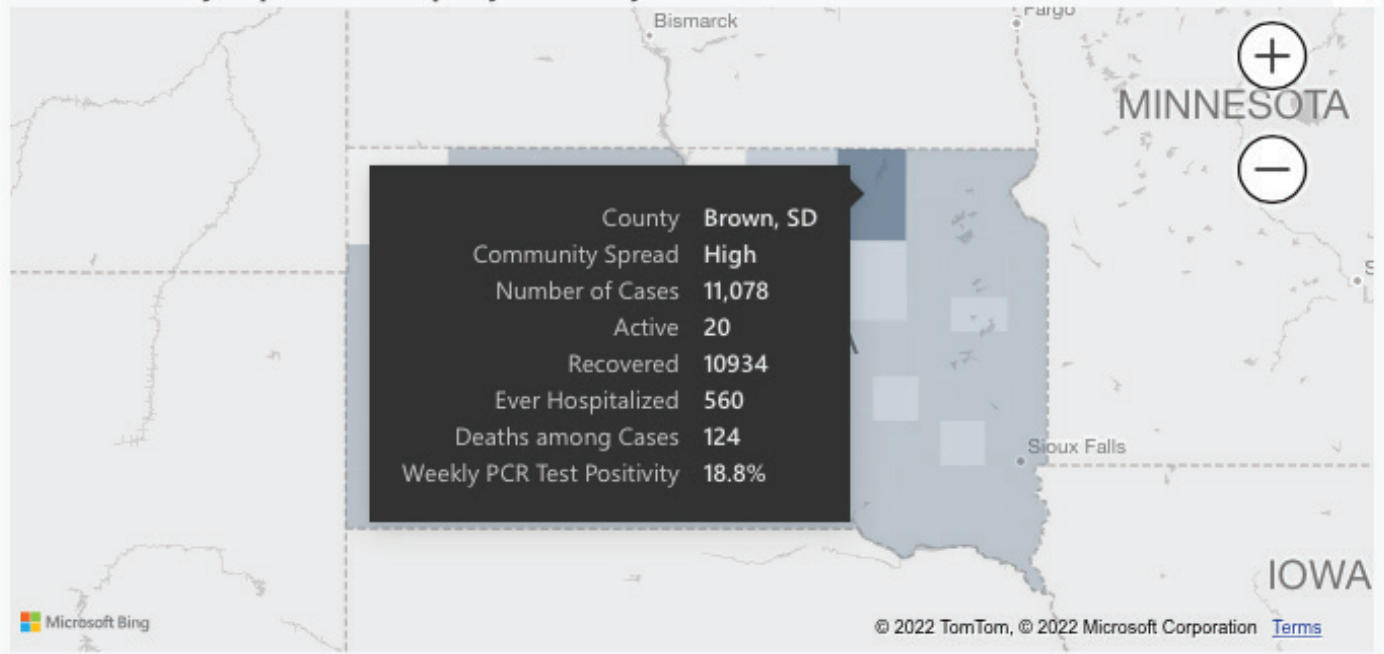
Recovered Cases

10,934

Currently Hospitalized

99

Community Spread Map by County of Residence



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

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

Total Confirmed and Probable Cases

11,078

Total Tests

109,825

Deaths Among Cases

124

Ever Hospitalized

560

Percent of State Population with at least 1 Dose**

75%

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 30 of 139

Day County COVID-19 Report

New Confirmed and Probable Cases

7

Active Cases

4
+3

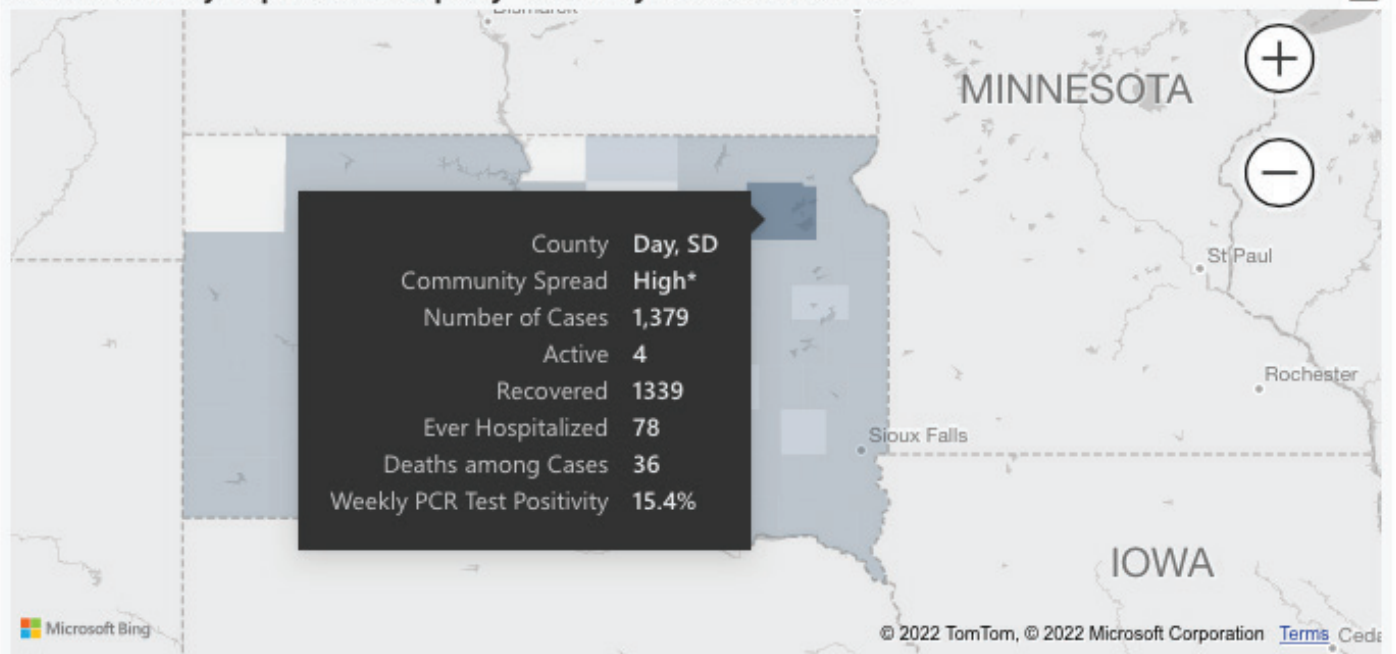
Recovered Cases

1,339

Currently Hospitalized

99

Community Spread Map by County of Residence



Community Spread Low Moderate Substantial High

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

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

Total Confirmed and Probable Cases

1,379

Total Tests

17,544

Deaths Among Cases

36

Ever Hospitalized

78

Percent of State Population with at least 1 Dose**

75%

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 31 of 139

Ever Hospitalized

11,641

03/07/2020 - 09/05/2022

Currently Hospitalized

99

-6

VARIANT CASES OF COVID-19 IN SOUTH DAKOTA

COVID-19 Variant	# of Cases	# of Cases - Last 3 Months
Delta (B.1.617.2 & AY lineages)	1,720	151
Omicron (B.1.1.529 & BA lineages)	1,438	271
Alpha (B.1.1.7)	176	3
Omicron (BA.2)	143	131
Gamma (P.1)	4	1
Beta (B.1.351)	2	0

SEX OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Sex	# of Cases	# of Hospitalizations	# of Deaths Among Cases
Male	120,995	6,070	1,634
Female	137,515	5,571	1,368

AGE GROUP OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Age Range with Years	# of Cases	# of Hospitalizations	# of Deaths Among Cases
0-9 years	17,642	172	3
10-19 years	30,180	187	2
20-29 years	44,654	625	14
30-39 years	43,106	859	54
40-49 years	35,646	989	89
50-59 years	32,945	1,542	228
60-69 years	28,117	2,339	485
70-79 years	15,640	2,487	701

RACE/ETHNICITY OF SOUTH DAKOTA COVID-19 CASES

Race/Ethnicity	# of Cases	# of Hospitalizations	# of Deaths
Asian / Pacific Islander	3,585	114	20
Black	6,282	217	22
Hispanic	11,029	364	39
Native American	33,063	1,984	450
Other	2,243	62	13
Unknown	5,577	81	22
White	196,731	8,819	2,436

Tigers spoil Cyclone's Homecoming Game

Groton Area's football team spoiled Clark-Willow Lake's homecoming game Friday night as the Tigers took advantage of a late game interception to score with four minutes left in the game. It broke a 14-14 tie and Groton Area posted a 20-14 win.

The first quarter was scoreless with the bulk of the scoring taking place in the second quarter.

The Cyclones would score first at the 10:48 mark on a Trey Huber one yard run. He kicked the PAT and it was 7-0 in favor of the Cyclones.

Then Korbin Kucker broke free and scampered 66 yards to score for the Tigers with 10:23 left in the half. Kucker kicked the PAT and the game was tied at seven.

The Cyclones would score with 7:36 left in the first half on a Mitchell Larson 14 yard run. Huber kicked the PAT and it was 14-7.

The Tigers got into good field position late in the first half and would score on a 20 yard pass play from Lane Tietz to Teylor Diegel with 15 seconds left in the half. Kucker kicked the PAT and the game was tied at 14.

Ryder Johnson would intercept the ball late in the game to set up Groton Area's touchdown drive. With four minutes left, Andrew Marzahn would catch the ball in the endzone on a 25 yard pass from Tietz. The PAT kick attempt was bobbled, but the Tigers took a 20-14 lead.

Teylor Diegel would intercept the ball to stop Clark-Willow Lake's drive and the Tigers would go for the win.

Groton Area had more first downs, 12-8, with the Cyclones having only one first down in the second half. The Cyclones had more yards rushing, 153-146. Groton Area's Lane Tietz, who was named the player of the game, completed 12 of 23 passes for 130 yards for two touchdowns and one interception and had nine carries for 12 yards. Clark-Willow Lake's Trey Huber completed three of 14 passes for 21 yards and two interceptions.

Groton Area recovered its only fumble. The Tigers had four penalties for 30 yards while Clark-Willow Lake had three for 30 yards.

Korbin Kucker had five rushes for 81 yards and one touchdown and had 10 tackles. Andrew Marzahn had 12 carries for 35 yards and had three catches for 36 yards and one touchdown. Teylor Diegel had four carries for 16 yards, two catches for 46 yards and one touchdown, had eight tackles and one interception. Christian Ehresmann had one carry for two yards and caught two passes for seven yards. Ethen Gengerke had two catches for 23 yards and had eight tackles. Tate Larson had three catches for 18 yards. Colby Dunker had 10 tackles and one sack. Holden Sippel had nine tackles. Teylor Diegel had eight tackles and one interception and Brevin Fliehs had eight tackles and one sack.

Huber led the Cyclones with 12 carries for 76 yards and one touchdown and had six tackles.

Groton Area, now 2-2, will play Deuel at Clear Lake on Friday. Clark/Willow Lake, now 1-3, will host Parker.

Girls Soccer falls to SF Christian

Sioux Falls Christian's girls soccer team defeated Groton Area, 3-1. Groton had a 1-0 lead early in the game. The next game will be Saturday, Sept. 24, when the Lady Tigers will host Tea Area. The regular season concludes Oct. 1 when Groton Area will host Garretson.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 33 of 139

Let's Meet the Challenge

by Ben Jones, Director of the State Historical Society,
and former South Dakota Secretary of Education

It's no surprise to any of us that our civic education needs reforms. From Jay Leno's joking to our national civics test scores, we've known for years our nation faces a grave challenge. Many, including me, have previously stated that our nation's civic challenges are rooted in our historical ignorance. Having taught at the Air Force Academy and at Dakota State, I have experienced bright students in my class who were unable to do college level work as they did not have command of basic American history. So, in 2015, I organized several colleagues to sign a letter to the State Board of Education to say that more work was needed on those standards. Since then, I've served in various roles and kept working on this issue. I've researched and learned a great deal about what the root causes are. One of causes is the belief that learning history doesn't need to be equipped with historical evidence, but in a skills-based model, students should think critically about history because the students can always google the facts. This is akin to asking students to do math without knowing their numbers and results in students' frustration and all of us falling further away from the solutions.

Fast forward to today, I was glad to serve on the SD Social Studies Standards Commission and believe these standards are a much-needed improvement and part of the solution. They are because the proposed social studies standards, just as math and English standards do, focus on key content early in a child's education and re-introduces them with greater detail and complexity as the student gets older. Just as we design math instruction so first graders can

count in order to do arithmetic, and 4th graders can do arithmetic in order to do algebra as 9th graders, we need to introduce, in a simple and clear way, the things like the Roman Republic in the early years so high school students can understand why John Adams sought to design a better republic in order to avoid Rome's calamity. Despite this approach in math and English, many are saying Rome is too difficult for youngsters to understand and there's too much "rote memorization."

But the educational research on this is clear, as the well-known educational researcher E. D. Hirsch wrote, ". . .the idea that there are ages for which particular topics are appropriate has no scientific support." With this in mind, the Commission's proposed standards introduce the invention of democracy by the Greeks, the fall of the Roman Republic, and other key events that impacted the thinking behind the Declaration of Independence and the formulation of our Constitution and Bill of Rights. Students then follow the American story along and learn how the American people have often failed and sometimes achieved to meet these high ideals. Students will also gain increased appreciation for how rare, or as one might say, exceptional, our nation is due the high expectations set by the framers despite their, and our, persistent human failings. With these proposed standards we're taking the best opportunity we've had in a long time to help students do better and meet the civic challenge facing us.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 34 of 139

Quinn Quacks

Bill forgot to take his reading glasses to the restaurant, and he accidentally ordered a well-done gratuity. – Quinn Quacks

If there are flying saucers in outer space, do you think there could be flying cups too? – Quinn Quacks
= = = = =

Quinn Column

Rix Quinn – My favorite meal

Here's a great question from a Texas reader: "Why is the pizza round, the box square, and the slices cut into triangles?"

This is a complicated question for me. In school, I had so much trouble with geometry they put me in a simpler class called "Meet Mr. Number Guy."

So, I asked several people about this, and here's what they told me. (What they didn't tell me, I made up.)

First, the square box. These are easier and less expensive because they can be made from one sheet of flat cardboard. That means they can be stored easier, too.

This is just basic logic. It's like asking "Why are wheels round?" Wheels are round because square wheels don't get good mileage.

So – regarding roundness – why are pizzas that way? I'm told that chefs stretch pizza by taking a lump of dough, and spinning it in the air.

Centrifugal force rounds the dough out. I tried to spin pizza dough, but I dropped it on the floor, which sadly just flattened it.

Finally, why is round pizza cut into triangles? Slicing triangles is the easiest way to divide a circle. This way, pizza can be divided evenly, and each person gets some crust.

But, did you know that in ancient times, pizza resembled a flatbread cooked in an oven? Flat, rectangular pizza has some advantages, too. For instance, if you don't like crust, you can eat a juicy middle piece filled with toppings.

Writing about pizza made me so hungry, I bought me a big round one. I'll enjoy it for dinner tonight... and maybe tomorrow morning with coffee, too.

Got a story idea for Rix? E-mail him at rix@rixquinn.com.

GFP Seeking Comments on Draft Prairie Grouse Management Plan 2022-2031

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) is seeking comments on the draft "Prairie Grouse Management Plan for South Dakota, 2022-2031."

The draft revision of the prairie grouse management plan includes updated research results to target grassland habitat conservation and management with interested landowners and public land managers, best management practices, and avoidance mitigation recommendations for permanent above-ground development.

All individuals interested in prairie grouse management in South Dakota have from now through September 30, 2022, to provide suggestions and comments on the revised plan in its current form.

The draft prairie grouse management plan can be found online at: <https://gfp.sd.gov/management-plans/>.

Written comments on the plan can be sent to 523 E. Capitol Ave., Pierre, S.D. 57501, or emailed to prouseplan@state.sd.us. Comments must be received by the deadline and include your full name and city of residence.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 35 of 139

SENIOR MEALS PROGRAM

Oct-22
month/year

SITE: GROTON

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
3 DRI-32 Goulash Green Beans Baked Apples Whole Wheat Bread	4 Honey Glazed chicken Breast Parsley Buttered Potatoes Beets Fruit Whole Wheat Bread	5 DRI-9 Baked Fish AuGratin Potatoes 3 Bean Salad Peach Cobbler Whole Wheat Bread	6 DRI-46 Ham Loaf Sweet Potatoes Peas Acini Depepi Fruit Salad Whole Wheat Bread	7 Taco Salad Mexican Rice Seasonal Fresh Fruit Bread Stick
10 DRI-33 Chili Cornbread Coleslaw Lime Pear jello	11 DRI-19 Baked Chicken Rice Pilaf Cauliflower/Pea Salad Banana Pudding w/banana Whole Wheat Bread	12 Potato Soup Ham Salad Sandwich Tomato Spoon Salad Pineapple Tidbits	13 DRI-1 Roast Beef Mashed Potatoes/gravy Beets Peaches Dinner Roll	14 Creamed Chicken Buttermilk Biscuit Peas Mandarin Oranges Cookie
17 Beef Tips w/Gravy Over noodles Lettuce Salad w/dressing Peaches Whole Wheat Bread	18 DRI-55 Baked Pork chops Augratin Potatoes Carrots Applesauce Cookie Whole Wheat Bread	19 DRI-40 Ranch Chicken Breast Boiled Potato Squash Fruit Whole Wheat Bread	20 Hamburger w/Bun Oven Roasted Potatoes Mixed Vegetables Fruit Ice Cream	21 DRI-63 Chicken Rice Casserole Green Beans Spinach Salad Chocolate Pudding W/bananas Whole Wheat Bread
24 DRI-67 French Dip Sandwich Macaroni Salad Seasoned Cabbage Waldorf Salad	25 DRI-52 Roast Pork Mashed potatoes/gravy Parsley Buttered Carrots Applesauce Molasses Cookie Whole wheat Bread	26 Chicken Enchiladas Spanish Rice Refried Beans Tossed Green Salad Fruit Cobbler	27 DRI-17 Spaghetti w/ meat sauce Mixed Vegetables Garlic Toast Pears Sherbert	28 DRI-65 Chicken Alfredo Broccoli Spinach Salad Mandarin Oranges Whole Wheat Bread
31 Chicken Fried Steak Mashed potatoes/gravy Corn Chocolate Cake Fruit Whole Wheat Bread				

MEALS APPROVED BY: REGISTERED DIETITIAN

All meals include milk

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 36 of 139



Groton Area Golf Team

L-R Andrew Marzahn, Jace Johnson, Cole Simon, Logan Pearson, Tate Larson, Brevin Fliehs, Carter Simon, Jayden Schwan, Porter Johnson, Keegan Harry.



Fliehs takes first, Groton Area's golf team placed third at own invite

Groton Area's golf team placed third at the Groton Invitational Golf Tournament held Sept. 8. In addition, Brevin Fliehs placed first by two strokes ahead of Milbank's Jonathan DeBoer.

Fliehs shot a 38 in the front nine and a 36 in the back nine for a total score of 74. Cole Simon placed sixth, shooting a 39 and a 42 for a total score of 81. Carter Simon placed 13th with scores of 41 and 43 for a total score of 84. Other's participating were Andrew Marzahn with a 92, Logan Pearson 95, Jace Johnson and Tate Larson each had a 97, Jayden Schwan 103, Porter Johnson 120 and Keegan Harry a 137.

Sioux Valley won the team title with 321 followed by Aberdeen Roncalli with 332, Groton Area 334, Milbank 349, Aberdeen Central JV 376, Sisseton 403 and Redfield 351.

Brevin Fliehs took first place the Groton Invitational Golf Tournament held Thurs., Sept. 8.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 37 of 139

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

School Board Meeting

September 12, 2022 – 7:00 PM – GHS Library Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of August 8 school board meeting as drafted or amended.
2. Approval of August 2022 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.
3. Approval of August 2022 School Lunch Report.
4. Approval of August 2022 School Transportation Report.
5. Approve open enrollment application #23-15.
6. Approve open enrollment application #23-16.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Second reading and adoption of recommended policy amendments: IGDK Participation of Alternative Instruction Students, ACAA Sexual Harassment, ACAA-R Sexual Harassment Regulation, JFCC Student Conduct on School Buses, JFCC-R Student Conduct on School Buses Regulation, JFC Student Conduct, JHCC Student Communicable Diseases, JHCC-R Student Communicable Diseases Regulation, JHC Student Health Services and Requirements, GCE Part-Time and Substitute Professional Staff Employment, BDDD Quorum, BDDF Voting Method, DLA Payday Schedules, GBEB Employee Communicable Diseases, GBEB-R Employee Communicable Diseases Regulation, GBE Staff Health and Safety
3. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion on condition of MS/HS classroom facility.
2. Discussion or action on state mileage reimbursement rate change.
3. Approve certified staff lane changes.
 - a. Jordan Carson from BS to BS+15 (+ \$900)
 - b. Adam Franken from BS to BS+15 (+ \$900)
 - c. Becky Hubsch from BS+15 to MS+15 (+ \$4,350)
 - d. Jordan Kjellsen from BS+15 to BS+30 (+ \$900)
 - e. Julie Milbrandt from BS+45 to MS+45 (+ \$4,350)
 - f. Alexa Schuring from BS+15 to MS (+ \$3,450)
 - g. Mellissa Smith from BS+15 to MS (+ \$3,450)
4. Approve Wyatt Locke as Volunteer Assistant Coach for Soccer.

ADJOURN

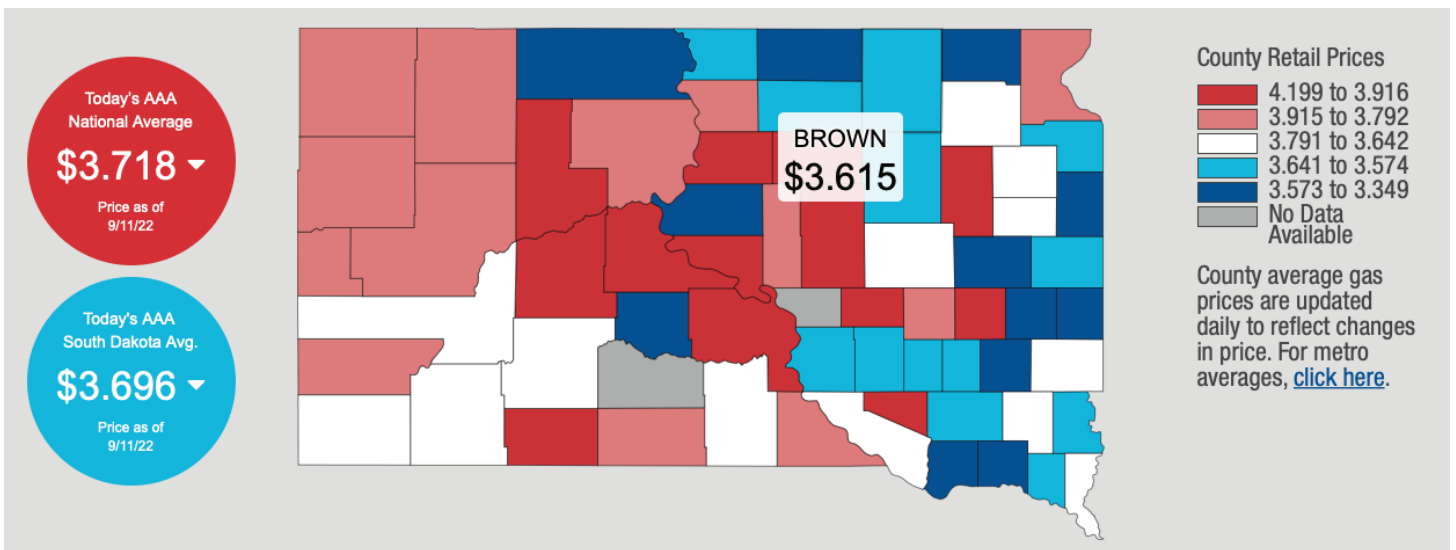
Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 38 of 139

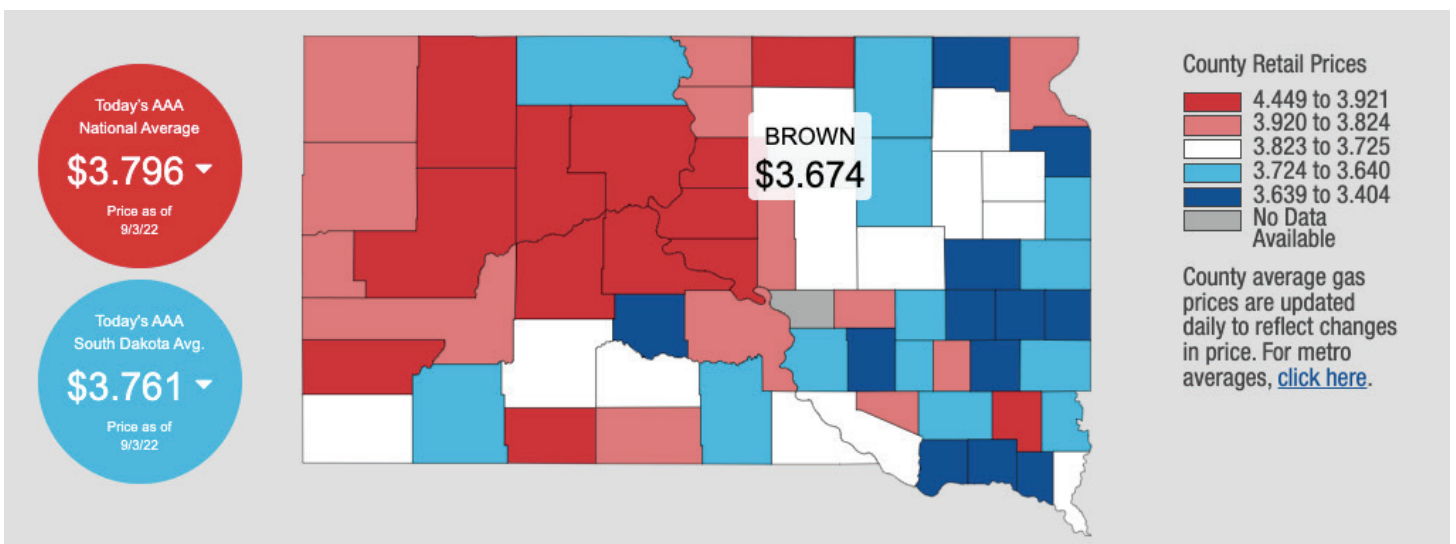
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

Current Avg.	\$3.696	\$3.878	\$4.301	\$4.849
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.708	\$3.859	\$4.310	\$4.851
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.753	\$3.931	\$4.397	\$4.894
Month Ago Avg.	\$4.001	\$4.184	\$4.700	\$4.880
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.151	\$3.272	\$3.641	\$3.242

This Week



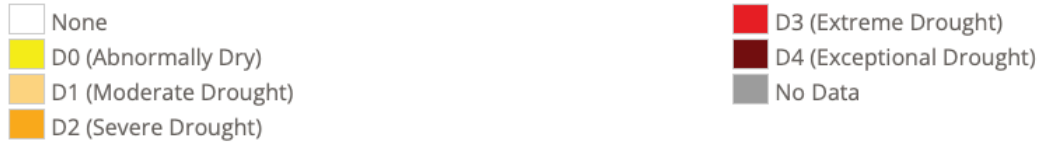
Last Week



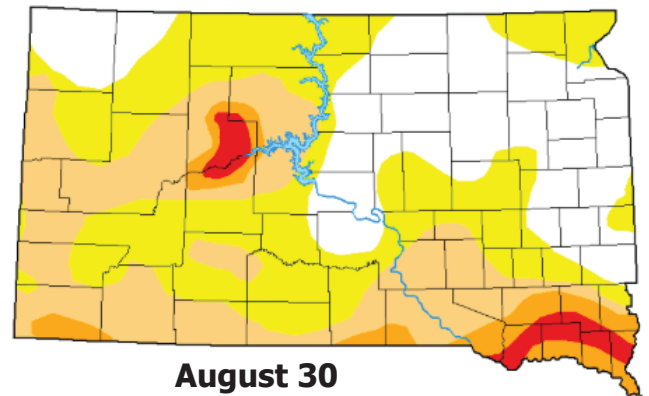
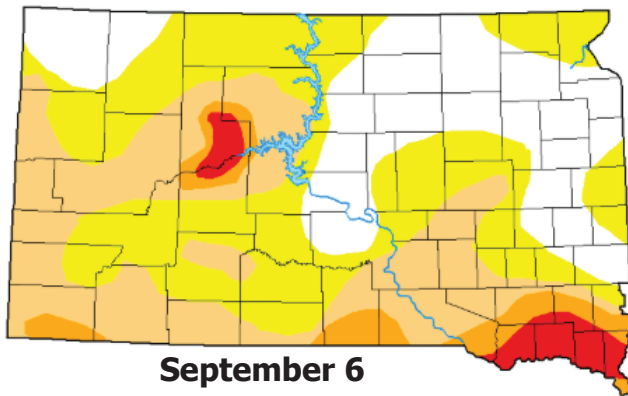
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 39 of 139

Drought Classification



Drought Monitor



On this week's map, drought-related conditions continued to intensify across areas of southeastern Wyoming, northeastern Montana, Nebraska, southern South Dakota, and western Kansas, as anomalously hot temperatures impacted western portions of the region. According to the National Drought Mitigation Center's Condition Monitoring Observer Reports (CMOR), numerous drought impact reports have been submitted during the past 30-day period. Impacts include reduced crop yields, poor pasture conditions, and the need for supplemental feeding of livestock. The current drought situation was exacerbated by this week's intense heat, with average maximum temperatures ranging from 95 to 100 deg F in areas of eastern Montana, northern and eastern Wyoming, and western portions of South Dakota, Nebraska, and Kansas.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 40 of 139

Offensive Missteps Plaque Northern State on the Road

Wayne, Neb. – The Northern State University football team suffered their first loss of the 2022 season on Saturday evening at Wayne State. Northern tallied six points in the contest, but was unable to score offensively outside of a field goal.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 6, WSC 0

Records: NSU 1-1, WSC 2-0

Attendance: 1649

HOW IT HAPPENED

- The Wolves tallied three points apiece in both the first and third quarters, via field goal
- Payton Eue recorded a 34-yard score in the first and 33-yard score in the third
- Wayne State notched field goals of their own in the first and third, as well as the difference making touchdown in the second
- Northern had four more first downs than Wayne in the contest, however four turnovers led to the Wolves demise
- In total, NSU tallied 116 yards rushing and a game high 148 yards passing, averaging 3.5 yards per career and 8.2 yards per catch
- The NSU offense suffered three interceptions and one lost fumble, completing 4-of-14 third down attempts and just 2-of-5 red zone chances
- Each team recorded two sacks and Northern went 2-of-4 in field goal attempts
- Michael Bonds threw for 142 yards, completing 15-of-27 attempts with two interceptions
- Isaiah Cherrier ran for 58 yards, averaging 4.8 yards per carry, with a 12-yard long
- Ben Noland led the receivers with 42 total yards and five receptions
- Ian Marshall, Luke Chuol, and Jordan Hillesheim combined for the two Northern State sacks, while Ar'Shon Willis and Trey King led the defense with six tackles each
- Eue went 2-for-4 in field goals, missing a 32 and 31 yard attempt in the second and fourth
- Luke Gunderson led the returners with 41 total yards on two kick returns

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

- Ar'Shon Willis: 6 tackles
- Trey King: 6 tackles, 1.0 tackles for a loss
- Ian Marshall: 5 tackles, 1.0 sacks for a loss of 10 yards
- Luke Chuol: 3 tackles, 0.5 sack, 1 forced fumble

UP NEXT

The Wolves return to Dacotah Bank Stadium on September 17th versus Minnesota State. Kick-off is set for 6 p.m. versus the Mavericks. For a full list of game day promotions [CLICK HERE](#). Fans are also reminded that all game day information and protocols are posted on the Dacotah Bank Stadium homepage.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 41 of 139

Northern State Offense Rallies in 4-Set Victory over Minnesota Crookston

Aberdeen, S.D. – The (RV) Northern State University volleyball team added their second league victory of the season, defeating Minnesota Crookston in 4-sets from Wachs Arena.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 3, UMC 1

Records: NSU 7-3 (2-0 NSIC), UMC 1-9 (0-2 NSIC)

Attendance: 1292

HOW IT HAPPENED

- Northern won the first two sets with scores of 26-24 and 25-14
- Minnesota Crookston rallied back for a 25-22 victory in set three and the Wolves sealed the match with a 25-16 win in the fourth
- NSU hit .297 as a team with 60 kills
- They tallied a match high 55 digs, 54 assists, 12 aces, and eight blocks
- Multiple Wolves tallied career highs in the win, including Sally Gaul and Taylor Buckley with 26 and 14 kills
- Walker nearly matched her career high in assists, notching 50 total with a 12.50 average per set
- The Wolves defense held the Golden Eagles to a .165 attack percentage

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

- Sally Gaul: 26 kills (career high), .310 attack%, 7 digs, 3 blocks
- Taylor Buckley: 14 kills (career high), .524 attack%, 15 digs
- Keri Walker: 50 assists, 8 digs, 3 blocks, 3 kills
- Cara Cyr: 5 kills, .714 attack%, 2 blocks (all career highs)
- Madison Langlie: 15 digs, 4 aces, 3 assists

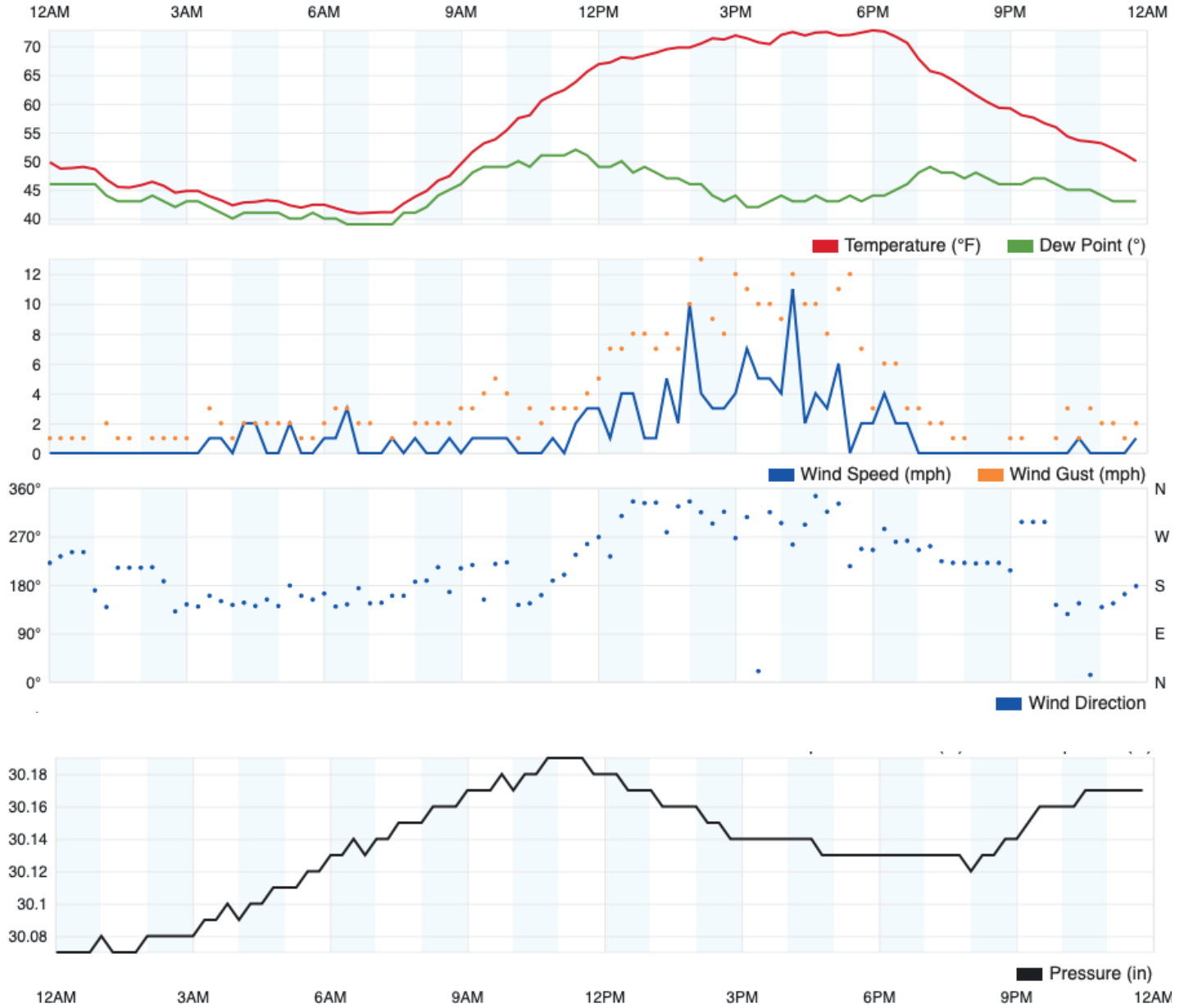
UP NEXT

The Wolves hit the road next weekend, traveling to St. Cloud State and Minnesota Duluth. Match start times are set for 6 p.m. on Friday against the Huskies and 2 p.m. on Saturday versus the Bulldogs.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 42 of 139

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 43 of 139

Today



Patchy Frost
then Sunny

High: 75 °F

Tonight



Clear

Low: 43 °F

Monday



Sunny

High: 79 °F

Monday
Night



Mostly Clear


Low: 48 °F

Tuesday



Mostly Sunny

High: 76 °F

 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

Today, warm. Highs in the mid 70s to lower 80s.

Tonight, clear. Lows in the mid 40s.

Monday, sunny. Highs in the upper 70s to upper 80s. Some gusts up to 25 mph.

Updated: 9/11/2022 2:38 AM Central

Warm and dry conditions can be expected today, with high temperatures in the mid 70s to low 80s. Nights will continue to be cool, lows tonight in the mid 40s. Monday, highs in the upper 70s to upper 80s. (warmer west river).

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 44 of 139

Yesterday's Groton Weather

Friday

High Temp: 70 °F at 2:31 PM

Low Temp: 50 °F at 11:58 PM

Wind: 19 mph at 1:25 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Saturday

High Temp: 73 °F at 6:05 PM

Low Temp: 41 °F at 6:40 AM

Wind: 13 mph at 2:11 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 100 in 1927

Record Low: 30 in 1961

Average High: 77°F

Average Low: 49°F

Average Precip in Sept.: 0.75

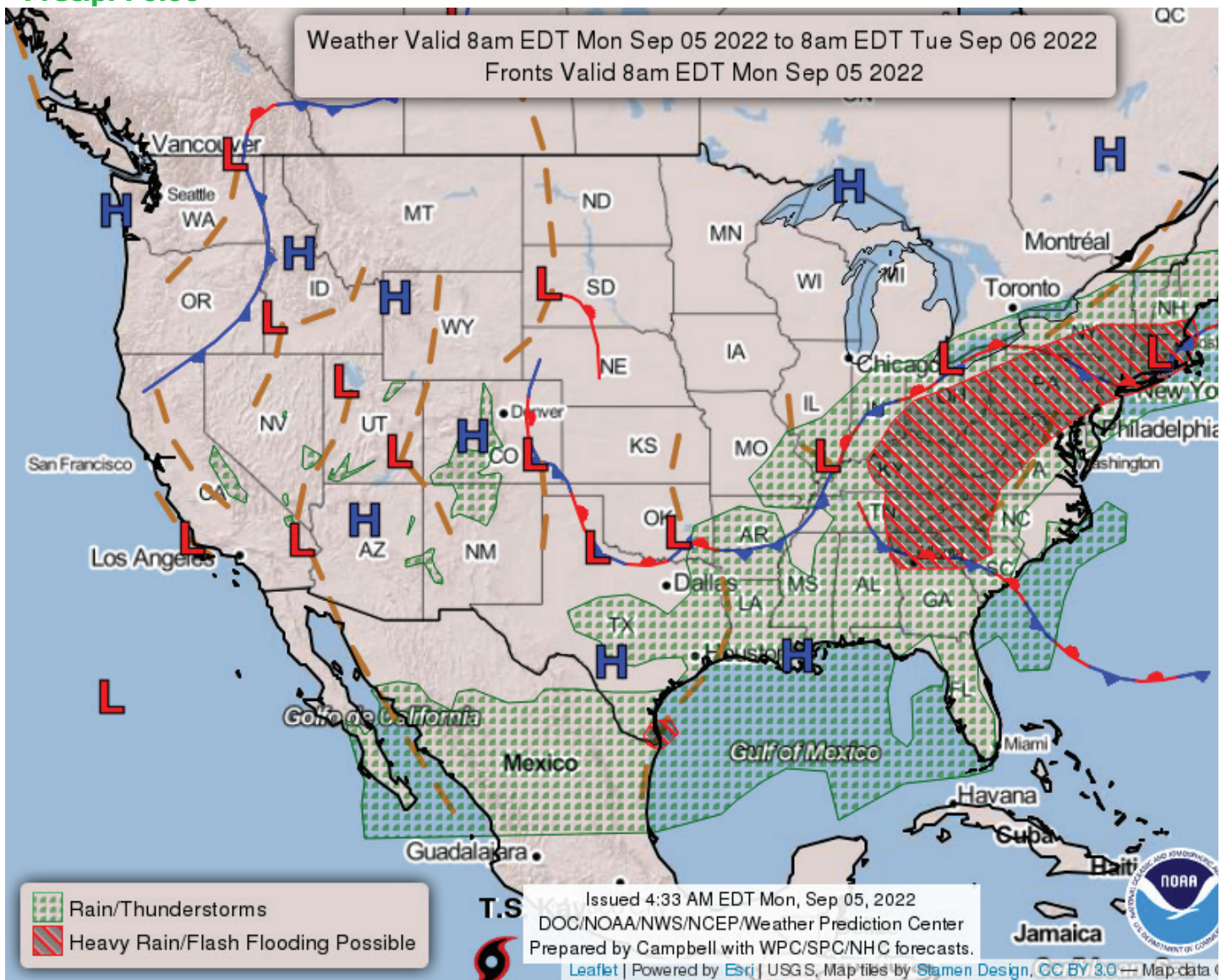
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 17.09

Precip Year to Date: 15.96

Sunset Tonight: 7:52:57 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:06:07 AM



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 45 of 139

Today in Weather History

September 11, 1978: High winds to 65 mph damaged the roofs of several barns outside of Watertown during the early evening.

1900: The remnants of the Great Galveston Hurricane were located over central Iowa on this day. Eastern Nebraska, northwest Iowa, and southern Minnesota show four-plus inches of rain from this storm.

1949 - An early snowstorm brought 7.5 inches to Helena MT. In Maine, a storm drenched New Brunswick with 8.05 inches of rain in 24 hours, a state record. (The Weather Channel)

1961 - Very large and slow moving Hurricane Carla made landfall near Port Lavaca TX. Carla battered the central Texas coast with wind gusts to 175 mph, and up to 16 inches of rain, and spawned a vicious tornado which swept across Galveston Island killing eight persons. The hurricane claimed 45 lives, and caused 300 million dollars damage. The remnants of Carla produced heavy rain in the Lower Missouri Valley and southern sections of the Upper Great Lakes Region. (David Ludlum) (Storm Data)

1976 - Up to five inches of rain brought walls of water and millions of tons of debris into Bullhead City AZ via washes from elevations above 3000 feet. Flooding caused more than three million dollars damage. Chasms up to forty feet deep were cut across some roads. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - Thunderstorms caused flash flooding and subsequent river flooding in central Lower Michigan. Up to 14 inches of rain fell in a 72 hour period, and flooding caused 400 million dollars damage. (Storm Data)

1987 - Late afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced large hail and damaging winds in Texas, and spawned three tornadoes. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 70 mph at Goodnight TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Snow blanketed parts of the Central Rocky Mountain Region and the Central Plateau, with ten inches reported at Mount Evans in Colorado. Smoke from forest fires in the northwestern U.S. reached Pennsylvania and New York State. Hurricane Gilbert, moving westward over the Caribbean, was packing winds of 100 mph by the end of the day. (National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Nine cities in the north central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Havre MT with a reading of 23 degrees. Livingston MT and West Yellowstone MT tied for honors as the cold spot in the nation with morning lows of 17 degrees. Thunderstorms produced hail over the Sierra Nevada Range of California, with two inches reported on the ground near Donner Summit. The hail made roads very slick, resulting in a twenty car accident. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1992: Hurricane Iniki struck the island of Kaua'i with winds of 145 mph and a central pressure of 27.91 inches of mercury, making it a Category 4 hurricane. Iniki is the strongest hurricane to strike Hawaii Islands in recent history.

2011: Hurricane Erin was off the coast of New Jersey and New York on this day.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 46 of 139



Our Daily Bread. | Love God. Love Others.

Uncommon Era

Scripture: Esther 9:20–23, 29-32 (NIV)

Purim Established

20 Mordecai recorded these events, and he sent letters to all the Jews throughout the provinces of King Xerxes, near and far, 21 to have them celebrate annually the fourteenth and fifteenth days of the month of Adar 22 as the time when the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month when their sorrow was turned into joy and their mourning into a day of celebration. He wrote them to observe the days as days of feasting and joy and giving presents of food to one another and gifts to the poor.

23 So the Jews agreed to continue the celebration they had begun, doing what Mordecai had written to them. 29 So Queen Esther, daughter of Abihail, along with Mordecai the Jew, wrote with full authority to confirm this second letter concerning Purim. 30 And Mordecai sent letters to all the Jews in the 127 provinces of Xerxes' kingdom—words of goodwill and assurance— 31 to establish these days of Purim at their designated times, as Mordecai the Jew and Queen Esther had decreed for them, and as they had established for themselves and their descendants in regard to their times of fasting and lamentation. 32 Esther's decree confirmed these regulations about Purim, and it was written down in the records..

Insight By: Bill Crowder

One of the unique characteristics of Israel's history is how tragedy frequently produced celebration. The tragedy of four centuries of slavery in Egypt produced Passover. The desecration of Israel's temple by the Seleucids in the second century bc led to the feast of Hanukkah, which commemorated the temple's rededication. And the threat of genocide raised against the Jews in the book of Esther resulted in the Feast of Purim. In each case, tragedy or near tragedy was resolved and the celebration honored the God of rescue. In Israel today, one of the fascinating features of the celebration of Purim is how it includes children. They dress up in costumes and some as the characters in the Esther story. It's a fun and interesting way to encourage the children to engage in the stories of rescue that mark their history..

Comment By: Tim Gustafson

Despite living much of his life as a pagan, the Roman emperor Constantine (ad 272–337) implemented reforms that stopped the systematic persecution of Christians. He also instituted the calendar we use, dividing all of history into bc (before Christ) and ad (anno Domini, or "in the year of the Lord").

A move to secularize this system has changed the labels to ce (Common Era) and bce (before the Common Era). Some people point to this as yet another example of how the world keeps God out.

But God hasn't gone anywhere. Regardless of the name, our calendar still centers itself around the reality of Jesus' life on earth.

In the Bible, the book of Esther is unusual in that it contains no specific mention of God. Yet the story it tells is one of God's deliverance. Banished from their homeland, the Jewish people lived in a country indifferent to Him. A powerful government official wanted to kill them all (Esther 3:8–9, 12–14). Yet through Queen Esther and her cousin Mordecai, God delivered His people, a story still celebrated to this day in the Jewish holiday of Purim (9:20–32).

Regardless of how the world chooses to respond to Him now, Jesus changed everything. He introduced us to an uncommon era—one full of genuine hope and promise. All we need to do is look around us. We'll see Him. .

Reflect and Prayer: How do you react to instances where it seems like God is being "banished"? In what ways do you see Him today?

Father, thank You for the history-changing reality of Your Son, Jesus.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 47 of 139

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

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 48 of 139

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 49 of 139

News from the Associated Press

Gronowski accounts for 3 TDs; S. Dakota St. beats UC Davis

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Mark Gronowski passed for a touchdown and ran for two more scores, Isaiah Davis had 25 carries for 112 yards and South Dakota State held on to beat UC Davis 24-22 Saturday night.

Gronowski was 13-of-21 passing for 110 yards with two interceptions. He opened the scoring midway through the first quarter with a 1-yard TD run and capped an 11-play, 86-yard drive when he scored on a 5-yard run that made it 17-7 before Isaiah Gomez kicked a 36-yard field goal with 1 second left in the second quarter to pull UC Davis within a score at halftime.

Davis ran seven times for 42 yards during a 12-play, 75-yard drive that took nearly-6 minutes off the clock before Gronowski hit Tyler Feldkamp with a 7-yard touchdown pass — Feldkamp's only reception of the game — to make it 24-10 with 9 minutes to go.

Miles Hastings completed 26 of 43 passes for 273 yards and three touchdowns for UC Davis (0-2).

South Dakota State (1-1), which is ranked No. 3 in the FCS coaches poll following a 7-3 loss to Iowa in its opener, committed three turnovers and finished with just 250 total yards.

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

13-16-18-27-32

(thirteen, sixteen, eighteen, twenty-seven, thirty-two)

Estimated jackpot: \$54,000

Lotto America

19-24-32-33-52, Star Ball: 6, ASB: 2

(nineteen, twenty-four, thirty-two, thirty-three, fifty-two; Star Ball: six; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$22,210,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: 231,000,000

Powerball

38-42-56-68-69, Powerball: 4, Power Play: 2

(thirty-eight, forty-two, fifty-six, sixty-eight, sixty-nine; Powerball: four; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$193,000,000

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Brandon Valley 42, Rapid City Central 0

Brookings 24, Huron 2

Pierre 50, Mitchell Christian 6

Sioux Falls Jefferson 30, Sioux Falls Lincoln 13

Sioux Falls Washington 14, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 7

St. Thomas More 41, Belle Fourche 7

Sturgis Brown 18, Aberdeen Central 13

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Aberdeen Central def. Sturgis Brown, 25-8, 25-15, 25-19

Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 50 of 139

Brookings def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-12, 25-11, 25-20
Faith def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-18, 25-22
Faith def. White River, 25-20, 25-14
Highmore-Harrold def. Lyman, 25-22, 25-23
Jones County def. Bennett County, 25-13, 25-9
Jones County def. Harding County, 25-17, 25-12
Jones County def. Kadoka Area, 25-16, 16-25, 25-10
Jones County def. Sully Buttes, 25-18, 25-20
Little Wound def. Crow Creek, 25-14, 23-25, 25-15, 24-26, 15-10
Miller def. Potter County, 25-19, 25-15, 25-13
Northwestern def. Madison, 25-19, 25-12, 25-22
Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-7, 25-11, 25-12
Philip def. Faith, 25-14, 25-23
Philip def. Highmore-Harrold, 25-20, 25-21
Pierre def. Spearfish, 25-23, 25-15, 25-12
Rapid City Christian def. Custer, 25-17, 25-11, 25-15
Sioux Valley def. Flandreau, 18-25, 25-16, 25-22, 25-17
Todd County def. Red Cloud, 25-9, 25-14, 25-18
Watertown def. Rapid City Central, 25-16, 25-11, 25-15
Wessington Springs def. Gregory, 25-22, 25-14, 25-20
Arlington Tournament=
Arlington def. Faulkton, 25-15, 25-22
Burke def. Arlington, 25-23, 25-14
Burke def. Deubrook, 25-20, 25-14
Burke def. Faulkton, 25-12, 25-13
Burke def. Warner, 25-19, 22-25, 25-23
Deubrook def. Arlington, 17-25, 26-24, 25-23
Deubrook def. Faulkton, 25-21, 25-20
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Arlington, 25-13, 25-23
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Burke, 22-25, 25-16, 25-13
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Deubrook, 25-15, 25-13
Elkton-Lake Benton def. Faulkton, 25-14, 25-17
Warner def. Deubrook, 25-11, 25-16
Warner def. Elkton-Lake Benton, 22-25, 25-21, 25-21
Warner def. Faulkton, 25-12, 25-10
Clark/Willow Lake Tournament=
Estelline/Hendricks def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-19, 25-19
Estelline/Hendricks def. Clark/Willow Lake, 25-9, 25-17
Estelline/Hendricks def. Redfield, 25-17, 25-22
Estelline/Hendricks def. Webster, 25-19, 25-15
Redfield def. DeSmet, 25-8, 25-17
Redfield def. Deuel, 25-12, 25-13
Redfield def. Wilmot, 25-10, 25-7
Webster def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-23, 19-25, 25-13
Gordon-Rushville Tournament=
Hay Springs, Neb. def. Lakota Tech, 24-26, 25-21, 25-19
Mobridge-Pollock Tournament=
Ipswich def. Stanley County, 25-18, 25-15
Mobridge-Pollock def. Ipswich, 25-15, 25-15
Third Place=

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 51 of 139

Ipswich def. Herreid/Selby Area, 17-25, 25-21, 26-24
Wolsey-Wessington Tournament=
Sanborn Central/Woonsocket def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-11, 25-21
Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Flandreau, 2-0
Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Langford, 2-0
Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Marty Indian, 2-0
Wolsey-Wessington def. Flandreau, 2-0
Wolsey-Wessington def. Leola/Frederick, 25-17, 25-21
Wolsey-Wessington def. Sanborn Central/Woonsocket, 25-10, 25-15
Wolsey-Wessington def. Sioux Falls Lutheran, 25-14, 25-15
Wolsey-Wessington def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-13, 25-6

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

Johnson's 3 TDs lead Montana past South Dakota 24-7

MISSOULA, Mont. (AP) — Lucas Johnson was 22-of-28 passing for 180 yards and a touchdown, and he added two rushing scores to lead Montana past South Dakota 24-7 on Saturday.

Johnson had running scores of 4 and 24 yards in the first quarter to build a 13-0 lead. His 12-yard touchdown pass to Junior Bergen made it 22-0 with 4:37 left in the first half.

Montana's streak of seven straight quarters without allowing a team to score ended with 6:27 left in the fourth quarter. But the Grizzlies' defense responded with a safety by Braxton Hill with less than a minute to play.

Johnson carried it 13 times for 75 yards and Junior Bergen caught six passes for 35 yard and a touchdown for Montana (2-0).

Carson Camp passed for 119 yards for South Dakota (0-2). Travis Theis carried it 20 times for 88 yards and a touchdown.

Friday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli 70, Dakota Hills 0

Alcester-Hudson 32, Garretson 17

Avon 28, Gayville-Volin 0

Bon Homme 20, Viborg-Hurley 0

Bridgewater-Emery/Ethan 20, Parker 2

Canistota 46, Florence/Henry 0

Canton 36, Lennox 25

Castlewood 60, Dell Rapids St. Mary 6

Chamberlain 15, Lakota Tech 14

Chester 50, Arlington 0

Colome 34, Burke 28

Corsica/Stickney 38, Centerville 24

DeSmet 58, Oldham-Ramona/Rutland 0

Dell Rapids 41, Hot Springs 21

Deuel 30, Webster 6

Elkton-Lake Benton 44, Deubrook 20

Estelline/Hendricks 41, Iroquois/ Lake Preston Co-op 16

Faith 34, North Central Co-Op 8

Faulkton 46, Langford 19

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 52 of 139

Flandreau 28, Baltic 12
Gregory 50, Bennett County 0
Groton Area 20, Clark/Willow Lake 14
Hamlin 46, Britton-Hecla 0
Hanson 8, Parkston 6
Harding County/Bison Co-op 54, Lemmon/McIntosh 8
Harrisburg 28, Rapid City Stevens 0
Herreid/Selby Area 72, Newell 0
Hitchcock-Tulare 67, Waverly-South Shore 0
Howard 59, Colman-Egan 26
Ipswich 48, Northwestern 0
Lead-Deadwood 27, Miller/Highmore-Harrold 18
Lower Brule 68, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 0
Lyman 58, White River 8
McCook Central/Montrose 40, Woonsocket/Wessington Springs/Sanborn Central 0
Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 30, Jim River 7
Philip 42, Jones County 6
Platte-Geddes 32, Kimball/White Lake 0
Rapid City Christian 26, Custer 8
Red Cloud 50, Crazy Horse 0
Redfield 21, Mobridge-Pollock 20
Sioux Falls Christian 24, Dakota Valley 14
Sioux Valley 55, Hill City 18
Spearfish 36, Douglas 8
Sully Buttes 50, Sunshine Bible Academy 0
Tea Area 44, Sioux Falls O'Gorman 41
Timber Lake 38, Dupree 0
Tiospa Zina Tribal 48, Omaha Nation, Neb. 6
Tri-Valley 52, Sisseton 0
Vermillion 22, Milbank 16
Wagner 14, Tripp-Delmont/Armour/Andes Central/Dakota Christian 7
Wall 50, Kadoka Area 0
Warner 62, Potter County 12
West Central 28, Madison 25
Winnebago, Neb. 60, St. Francis Indian 0
Winner 22, Beresford 0
Yankton 41, Watertown 7

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Brookings def. Rapid City Central, 33-31, 25-23, 25-21
Pierre def. Sturgis Brown, 25-11, 25-12, 25-5
Watertown def. Rapid City Stevens, 25-18, 25-19, 25-15
SMSU Tournament=
Sioux Falls Roosevelt def. Minneota, Minn., 21-25, 25-12, 15-5

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

US to award \$35M in grants to tribes for 988 crisis line

By FELICIA FONSECA Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — Most people in Santa Clara Pueblo in northern New Mexico know each other. So when a tribal member needs mental health services or help for substance abuse, calling a tribal office might lead to an aunt, cousin or other relative.

Confidentiality is important, pueblo Gov. Michael Chavarria said shortly after federal officials visited to talk about new grant funding available for tribes to spread the word about a nationwide mental health crisis hotline.

“That’s the hesitancy, but again they have to be strong enough to want to get that help,” Chavarria said Friday. “And that’s what we’re here for, to help them the best way we can.”

The 988 Lifeline went live in June. It’s designed to be an easy number to remember, similar to 911. Instead of dispatcher sending police, firefighters or paramedics, 988 connects callers with trained mental health counselors. People also can text the number or chat with counselors online.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced Friday that it’s making \$35 million in grant funding available to Native American and Alaska Native tribes to ensure callers receive culturally sensitive support as well as follow-up care if needed. The deadline to apply is Oct. 25.

The reach will be limited, a fact often criticized by tribes who say they are forced to compete against each other for limited resources. Any of the 574 federally recognized tribes are eligible to apply, along with tribal organizations. Up to 100 grants will be awarded.

The funding is part of \$150 million set aside for the 988 hotline in a bill addressing gun violence and mental health that President Joe Biden signed in June. Overall, the federal government has provided \$432 million to expand the network of crisis counselors and telephone infrastructure, and help educate the public on the 988 hotline — some of which was available to states and territories as grants.

Chavarria said the tribal police chief is planning to meet with other tribal departments soon to talk about applying for a grant and what it might cover.

“Right now we just don’t know,” he said. “That’s the planning phase we’re in right now. At least it’s being afforded. It’s a matter of how do we leverage that with other resources we have, fill the gaps.”

Chavarria sees a need because of the social isolation brought on by COVID-19 and the pueblo being in New Mexico, a state that has some of the highest death rates from alcohol and drug overdoses. Native Americans and Alaska Natives also are disproportionately impacted by violent crime and suicide, federal data shows.

“It has to be a well-rounded, collaborative effort to put a damper on this,” Chavarria said. “Because sometimes it just revolves in that family and extended family into the community, to the local, regional and national (level). It is a challenging issue for all of us.”

Miriam Delphin-Rittmon, assistant secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use at Health and Human Services, was among the federal officials who visited Santa Clara and Jemez pueblos, and Albuquerque, New Mexico, this week.

She said some of the challenges she heard from tribal leaders in accessing funding include a lack of resources to apply for grants, unreliable internet and cell phone services, and a widespread shortage of mental health specialists and culturally appropriate care.

“The thing we appreciated is that we had frank discussions,” Delphin-Rittmon said. “We encourage them and thank them when they push us, and that’s helpful. I think it really helps for there to be understanding.”

There’s no guarantee funding will be available in the future to raise awareness of 988 because it’s appropriated through Congress, Delphin-Rittmon said. Tribes also have opportunities for funding through other federal grant programs for training for emergency response, overdose prevention and mental health, she said.

The gauge on whether the funding works as intended isn’t numbers alone, she said, but anecdotal evidence from tribes.

The 988 system is built on the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline, a network of crisis centers where

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 54 of 139

counselors field millions of calls each year. The 1-800-273-8255 number still works, even with 988 in place.

The first full month of data from the 988 Lifeline in August showed an increase of 152,000 calls, chats and texts over August 2021. The average time to answer those contacts decreased from 2.5 minutes to 42 seconds, according to Health and Human Services.

Gov. Kristi Noem tried to avoid ethics hearing, seal records

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem asked a state ethics board to dismiss a complaint against her without a public hearing and to seal off certain records, documents released Friday by the state's Government Accountability Board show.

The Republican governor, who is widely seen as eyeing a 2024 White House bid, argued in an April motion that the state's attorney general, a fellow Republican who filed the complaint, was out for political retribution and should be removed from the complaint. Noem had pushed former Attorney General Jason Ravnsborg to resign and later for his impeachment over his involvement in a fatal car crash.

The attorney general's complaint was sparked by a report from The Associated Press last year that Noem had taken a hands-on role in a state agency. Shortly after the agency moved to deny her daughter, Cassidy Peters, a real estate appraiser license in July of 2020, Noem held a meeting with Peters and key decision-makers in her licensure. Days after the meeting, Peters signed an agreement that gave her another opportunity to meet the licensing requirements.

The South Dakota Legislature's audit committee, controlled by Republicans, unanimously approved a report in May that found Noem's daughter got preferential treatment.

The records released Friday provided some new insight into an inquiry that the Government Accountability Board has conducted mostly in secret for nearly a year. The three retired judges who evaluated the ethics complaint unanimously found last month that there was enough evidence for them to believe that Noem "engaged in misconduct" by committing malfeasance and a conflict of interest.

The board has said "appropriate action" would be taken against Noem, though it didn't specify the action. It's also not clear whether Noem will request a contested case hearing before the board to publicly defend herself against the allegations.

Neither her office nor her campaign said Friday whether she will proceed to a public hearing. She has continued to publicly insist that she did nothing wrong.

The records show that Noem, in a 29-page motion to the board, launched a range of arguments for dismissing the complaint. Her attorney, Lisa Prostrollo, mocked Ravnsborg's allegations as "nonsensical," a "political attack" and based on "far-fetched conspiracy theories."

The motion argues Noem's daughter joined the July 2020 meeting to provide her perspective as an applicant and attempts to defend how that was appropriate while she was facing a denial of her license. Government ethics experts have said the timing and circumstances of the meeting created a clear conflict of interest for the governor.

Noem's attorney argued that the Government Accountability Board did not have the constitutional power to act against the governor or evaluate the complaint against her. And the lawyer suggested that Ravnsborg, who had been forced from office, be removed from the complaint and replaced with the deputy attorney general who was overseeing the office at the time.

The board in August denied Noem's motion. However, it did appear to later pay some heed to Noem's requests. It dismissed two of Ravnsborg's allegations that she misused public funds, and sealed off certain records from being released.

Ravnsborg suggested that the board launch a full investigation into the episode by hiring a Minneapolis law firm. However, the board appears ready to settle the matter. It closed the complaint and has so far kept it a secret what "action" it may take against the governor, though it has suggested the complaint could be reopened later.

The secrecy of the board's potential action against the governor has prompted some criticism from

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 55 of 139

government ethics experts who say the board should be transparent.

"I would hope that they would make public their plan of action as soon as possible," Karen Soli, a former Democratic state lawmaker who helped create the board, told the AP last month.

Noem also made a motion to strike certain documents from the record, but it is not clear what those records were because the board did not release that motion. The board's attorney, Mark Haigh, said the motion was not released because it contained the list of redacted records.

The board previously voted to redact records that "contain privileged information" related to a state fund for paying litigation. The agency's former director, Sherry Bren, received a \$200,000 payment from the fund to settle an age discrimination complaint she filed after Labor Secretary Marcia Hultman pressured her to retire in December of 2020.

Meanwhile, the board has sent a separate complaint to Mark Vargo, the attorney general who Noem appointed to replace Ravensborg, to investigate her use of state airplanes. Ravensborg alleged that her use of the state-owned plane to fly to political events and escort family members around the state violated a state law that only allows the aircraft to be used for state business.

Vargo's office said Friday that, "to avoid even the appearance of impropriety," he has requested Hughes County State's Attorney Jessica LaMie to oversee the Division of Criminal Investigation's work and make any charging decisions.

Queen Elizabeth II's coffin leaves her beloved Balmoral

By MIKE CORDER Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II's flag-draped coffin left her beloved Scottish estate Balmoral Castle on Sunday as the monarch who died after 70 years on the throne begins her last journey back to London for a state funeral.

The hearse drove past piles of flowers and other tributes as it led a seven-car cortege from Balmoral, the summer retreat where the queen died Thursday, for a six-hour journey through Scottish towns to Holyroodhouse palace in Edinburgh. The late queen's coffin was draped in the Royal Standard for Scotland and topped with a wreath made up of flowers from the estate, including sweet peas, one of the queen's favorites.

"A sad and poignant moment as Her Majesty, The Queen leaves her beloved Balmoral for the final time," the First Minister of Scotland, Nicola Sturgeon tweeted. "Today, as she makes her journey to Edinburgh, Scotland will pay tribute to an extraordinary woman."

Crowds lined parts of the route as the nation mourns its longest-reigning monarch, the only one most Britons have ever known. In the Scottish village of Ballater, where residents regard the royal family as neighbors, hundreds of people watched in silence and some threw flowers in front of the hearse as it passed.

Before reaching the Scottish capital, the cortege is traveling down what is effectively a royal memory lane — passing through locations laden with House of Windsor history including Dyce, where in 1975 the queen formally opened the U.K.'s first North Sea oil pipeline, and Fife near St. Andrews University, where her grandson William, now the Prince of Wales, studied and met his future wife, Catherine.

Sunday's solemn drive through Scotland comes a day after the queen's eldest son was formally proclaimed the new monarch — King Charles III — at a pomp-filled accession ceremony steeped in ancient tradition and political symbolism.

"I am deeply aware of this great inheritance and of the duties and heavy responsibilities of sovereignty, which have now passed to me," Charles said as he took on the duties of monarch.

He will be proclaimed king in other nations of the United Kingdom — Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland — and in towns across the country Sunday. Earlier, proclamations were held in other parts of the Commonwealth — the group of former British Empire colonies — including Australia and New Zealand.

In the New Zealand capital, Wellington, the British monarch's representative, Governor-General Dame Cindy Kiro, said: "On behalf of all New Zealanders, I extend to King Charles our loyalty and support and wishes for a long and happy reign."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 56 of 139

Even as he mourned his late mother, Charles was getting down to work. He was meeting at Buckingham Palace with the secretary-general of the Commonwealth, a group of nations that grapples with affection for the queen and lingering bitterness over their own colonial legacies. That ranges from slavery to corporal punishment in African schools to looted artifacts held in British institutions.

Amid the grief enveloping the House of Windsor, there were hints of a possible family reconciliation. Prince William and his brother Harry, together with their respective wives, Catherine, Princess of Wales, and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, delighted mourners near Windsor Castle with a surprise joint appearance Saturday.

The queen's coffin will take a circuitous journey back to the capital. On Monday, it will be taken from Holyroodhouse to nearby St. Giles' Cathedral, where it will remain until Tuesday, when it will be flown to London. The coffin will be moved from Buckingham Palace on Wednesday to the Houses of Parliament to lie in state until the funeral at Westminster Abbey on Sept. 19.

In Ballater, near Balmoral, the Rev. David Barr said locals consider the royals as "neighbors" and try to treat them as locals when they spend summers in the Scottish Highlands.

"When she comes up here, and she goes through those gates, I believe the royal part of her stays mostly outside," he said. "And as she goes in, she was able to be a wife, a loving wife, a loving mum, a loving gran and then later on a loving great-gran — and aunty — and be normal."

Russian troops retreat after Ukraine counteroffensive

By KARL RITTER and HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian forces on Sunday pushed its counteroffensive in the country's east, exploiting quick gains they made in a week of fighting that has sharply changed the course of the conflict.

Ukraine's quick action to reclaim Russia-occupied areas in the northeastern Kharkiv region forced Moscow to withdraw its troops to prevent them from being surrounded and leave behind significant numbers of weapons and munitions in a hasty retreat as the war marked 200 days on Sunday.

The jubilant Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy mocked the Russians in a video address late Saturday, saying that "the Russian army in these days is demonstrating the best that it can do — showing its back."

On Sunday, he posted a video of Ukrainian soldiers hoisting the national flag over Chkalovske, another town they reclaimed from the Russians in the counteroffensive.

Ukraine's military chief, Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnyy, said Sunday that Ukraine had liberated about 3,000 square kilometers (about 1,160 square miles) since the beginning of September. He noted that the Ukrainian troops are now just 50 kilometers (about 30 miles) away from the border with Russia.

The Russians' pullback marked the biggest battlefield success for Ukrainian forces since they thwarted a Russian attempt to seize the capital, Kyiv, at the start of the nearly seven-month war. Ukraine's attack in the Kharkiv region came as a surprise for Moscow, which had relocated many of its troops from the area to the south in expectation of the main Ukrainian counteroffensive there.

In an awkward attempt to save face, the Russian Defense Ministry said Saturday the troops' withdrawal from Izyum and other areas in the Kharkiv region was intended to strengthen Russian forces in the neighboring Donetsk region to the south.

The claim sounded similar to the justification Russia gave for pulling back its forces from the Kyiv region earlier this year when they failed to take the capital.

The group of Russian forces around Izyum has been key for Moscow's effort to capture the Donetsk region, and their pullback will now dramatically weaken the Russian capability to press its offensive to Ukrainian strongholds of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk just south.

Igor Strelkov, who led Russia-backed separatists in the early months of the conflict in the Donbas when it erupted in 2014, mocked the Russian Defense Ministry's explanation of the retreat, suggesting that handing over Russia's own territory near the border to Ukraine as a "contribution to Ukrainian settlement."

The retreat drew angry comments from Russian military bloggers and nationalist commentators, who

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 57 of 139

bemoaned it as a major defeat and urged the Kremlin to respond by stepping up war efforts. Many scathingly criticized Russian authorities for continuing with fireworks and other lavish festivities in Moscow that marked a city holiday on Saturday despite the debacle in Ukraine.

Just as the Russian forces were hastily pulling back from Izyum under Ukrainian fire, Russian President Vladimir Putin attended the opening of a huge observation wheel at a Moscow park, a new transport link and a sports arena.

The action underlined the Kremlin's effort to keep pretending that the war it calls a "special military operation" was going according to plan without affecting the situation in the country.

Pro-Kremlin political analyst Sergei Markov criticized the festivities in Moscow as a grave political mistake. "The fireworks in Moscow on a tragic day of Russia's military defeat will have extremely serious political consequences," Markov wrote on his messaging app channel. "Authorities mustn't celebrate when people are mourning."

In a sign of potential rift in the Russian leadership, Ramzan Kadyrov, the Kremlin-backed leader of Chechnya, said that the retreat from the Kharkiv region resulted from the Russian military leadership's blunders.

"They have made mistakes and I think they will draw the necessary conclusions," Kadyrov said. "If they don't make changes in the strategy of conducting the special military operation in the next day or two, I will be forced to contact the leadership of the Defense Ministry and the leadership of the country to explain the real situation on the ground."

Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov said in televised comments Saturday that the Russians have been cut off from supply lines and predicted more gains.

"It will be like an avalanche," he said, predicting a Russian fallback. "One line of defense will shake, and it will fall."

Despite Ukraine's gains, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the head of NATO warned Friday that the war would likely drag on for months. Blinken said the conflict was entering a critical period and urged Ukraine's Western backers to keep up their support through what could be a difficult winter.

In another major development Sunday, the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe's largest, was reconnected to Ukraine's electricity grid, allowing engineers to shut down its last operational reactor in an attempt to avoid a radiation disaster as fighting rages in the area.

For several previous days, the plant was operating in "island mode" with just one of its six-reactors working to power cooling systems and other crucial equipment.

Last reactor at Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia nuclear plant stopped

By KARL RITTER Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Europe's largest nuclear plant has been reconnected to Ukraine's electricity grid, allowing engineers to shut down its last operational reactor in an attempt to avoid a radiation disaster as fighting rages in the area.

The six-reactor Zaporizhzhia plant lost its outside source of power a week ago after all its power lines were disconnected as a result of shelling. It was operating in "island mode" for several days, generating electricity for crucial cooling systems from its only remaining operational reactor.

Nuclear operator Energoatom said one of those power lines was restored "to its operational capacity" late Saturday, making it possible to run the plant's safety and other systems on electricity from the power system of Ukraine.

"Therefore, a decision was made to shut down power unit No. 6 and transfer it to the safest state – cold shutdown," the company said in a statement.

Energoatom said the risk remains high that outside power is cut again, in which case the plant would have to fire up emergency diesel generators to keep the reactors cool and prevent a nuclear meltdown. The company's chief told The Associated Press on Thursday that the plant only has diesel fuel for 10 days.

The plant, one of the 10 biggest atomic power stations in the world, has been occupied by Russian

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 58 of 139

forces since the early stages of the war. Ukraine and Russia have blamed each other for shelling around the plant that has damaged the power lines connecting it to the grid.

Energoatom renewed its appeal for Russian forces to leave the Zaporizhzhia plant and allow for the creation of a "demilitarized zone" around it.

The International Atomic Energy Agency, the U.N. nuclear watchdog which has two experts at the plant, confirmed to the AP on Sunday that external power has been restored at Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

"After yesterday's restoration of the power line – which connects the ZNPP to the switchyard of a nearby thermal power station – the operator of the ZNPP this morning shut down its last operating reactor, which over the past week had been providing the plant with the required power after it was disconnected from the grid," the IAEA said in an emailed statement. "IAEA staff present at the ZNPP were informed this morning about these new developments, which were also confirmed by Ukraine."

IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi has called for a safe zone around the plant to avert a disaster.

Ukraine pushes major counteroffensive as war marks 200 days

By The Associated Press undefined

As the war in Ukraine marks 200 days, the country has reclaimed broad swaths of the south and east in a long-anticipated counteroffensive that has dealt a heavy blow to Russia.

The counterattack began in the final days of August and at first focused on the southern region of Kherson, which was swept by Russian forces in the opening days of the invasion. But just as Moscow redirected attention and troops there, Ukraine launched another, highly effective offensive in the northeastern region of Kharkiv.

Facing the prospect of a large group of its forces becoming surrounded, Moscow ordered a troop pullback from Kharkiv, in a dramatic change of the state of play that posed the biggest challenge to the Kremlin since it launched the invasion Feb. 24.

"The Ukrainian army has taken advantage of the relocation of the bulk of the Russian forces to the south and is trying to direct the course of the war, excelling in maneuver and showing great ingenuity," said Mykola Sunhurovskiy, a military expert with the Razumkov Centre, a Kyiv-based think tank. Ukraine's quick gains, he added, are "important both for seizing initiative and raising troops' spirit."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy commended the military in a video address late Saturday, saying it has reclaimed about 2,000 square kilometers (over 770 square miles) of territory so far this month. He also taunted Moscow over its withdrawal, saying the Russian army was "demonstrating the best it can do — showing its back" and "they made a good choice to run."

Both sides have suffered heavy losses in Europe's largest conflict since World War II. Ukraine's military chief said last month that nearly 9,000 of the country's soldiers have been killed in action. And while Moscow hasn't reported its own losses since March, Western estimates put the toll as high as 25,000 dead, with the wounded, captured and deserters bringing the overall Russian losses to more than 80,000.

Ukraine has sought to mobilize the population to reach an active military of 1 million people, while Russia, in contrast, has continued to rely on a limited contingent of volunteers for fear that a mass mobilization could fuel discontent and upset internal stability.

As the war slogs on, a growing flow of Western weapons over the summer is now playing a key role in the counteroffensive, helping Ukraine significantly boost its precision strike capability.

Since the counteroffensive began, Ukraine said, its forces have reclaimed more than 30 settlements in the Kharkiv region.

In the Kherson region, troops sought to drive Russian forces from their foothold on the west bank of the Dnieper River, a potential vantage point for a push deeper into Ukraine by Moscow.

The city of Kherson, an economic hub at the confluence of the Dnieper and the Black Sea with a prewar population of about 300,000, was the first major population center to fall in the war.

Russian forces also have made inroads into the Zaporizhzhia region farther north, where they seized Europe's largest nuclear power plant. The last of its six reactors was shut down Sunday after operating

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 59 of 139

in a risky "island mode" for several days to generate electricity for the plant's crucial cooling systems after one of the power lines was restored.

Moscow has installed puppet administrations in occupied areas, introduced its currency, handed out Russian passports and prepared for local plebiscites to pave the way for annexation. But the counteroffensive has derailed those plans, with a top Moscow-backed official in Kherson saying the vote there needs to be put off.

The counterattack followed methodical strikes on Russian infrastructure and supply lines. Ukrainian forces have used American-supplied HIMARS multiple rocket launchers to pound the two bridges across the Dnieper, forcing Russian troops in the Kherson region to rely on pontoon crossings that also have faced daily strikes.

Last month, a series of explosions also hit airbases and a munitions depot in Crimea, underlining the vulnerability of the peninsula that was annexed by Russia in 2014 and has been crucial for its southern operations. Ukrainian authorities initially refrained from claiming responsibility, but the country's military chief, Gen. Valerii Zaluzhnyy, acknowledged in recent days that his forces hit them with rockets.

Ukrainian military analyst Oleh Zhdanov said that "Ukraine has used the tactics of methodically exhausting the Russian army, weakening it and depriving it of a possibility to regularly beef up its forces."

Unlike in the south, where Ukraine's counteroffensive proceeded more slowly on the barren steppes of Kherson that left troops vulnerable to Russian artillery, the Kharkiv region's forests offered natural cover that allowed for lightning-fast surprise attacks from multiple directions.

"Swift and surprise have become key components of the Ukrainian army action in the Kharkiv region after Russian forces deployed there had been relocated to the south," Zhdanov said.

Michael Kofman, an expert on the Russian military at the Virginia-based think tank CNA, said the counteroffensive "has proven a very significant victory for Ukraine."

"Russian forces appear to have been spread thinly, and military leadership unprepared despite earlier evidence of Ukrainian buildup," Kofman wrote. "I think it's fair to assess that Russia was caught by surprise with little in the way of reserves locally available."

After capturing the town of Balakliia, about 55 kilometers (about 34 miles) southeast of Kharkiv, Ukrainian forces quickly pressed their offensive farther east to Kupiansk, a rail hub vital for sustaining Russian operations in the region.

They claimed control of the strategic city Saturday, cutting supply lines to a big group of Russian forces around Izyum to the south. To prevent their complete encirclement, Moscow ordered the hasty retreat, claiming that they were relocating to focus on the neighboring Donetsk region.

Zhdanov noted that a successful counteroffensive is key to persuading allies to further increase supplies of weapons to Ukraine, something that was discussed Thursday at a NATO meeting in Germany.

"The events in the south and in the Kharkiv region must show to the West that the Ukrainian military know to handle the weapons and need to develop their success," Zhdanov said.

'I cannot mourn': Former colonies conflicted over the queen

By CARA ANNA, DANICA COTO and RODNEY MUHUMUZA Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Upon taking the throne in 1952, Queen Elizabeth II inherited millions of subjects around the world, many of them unwilling. Today, in the British Empire's former colonies, her death brings complicated feelings, including anger.

Beyond official condolences praising the queen's longevity and service, there is some bitterness about the past in Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and elsewhere. Talk has turned to the legacies of colonialism, from slavery to corporal punishment in African schools to looted artifacts held in British institutions. For many, the queen came to represent all of that during her seven decades on the throne.

In Kenya, where decades ago a young Elizabeth learned of her father's death and her enormous new role as queen, a lawyer named Alice Mugo shared online a photograph of a fading document from 1956. It was issued four years into the queen's reign, and well into Britain's harsh response to the Mau Mau

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 60 of 139

rebellion against colonial rule.

"Movement permit," the document says. While over 100,000 Kenyans were rounded up in camps under grim conditions, others, like Mugo's grandmother, were forced to request British permission to go from place to place.

"Most of our grandparents were oppressed," Mugo tweeted in the hours after the queen's death Thursday. "I cannot mourn."

But Kenya's outgoing president, Uhuru Kenyatta, whose father, Jomo Kenyatta, was imprisoned during the queen's rule before becoming the country's first president in 1964, overlooked past troubles, as did other African heads of state. "The most iconic figure of the 20th and 21st centuries," Uhuru Kenyatta called her.

Anger came from ordinary people. Some called for apologies for past abuses like slavery, others for something more tangible.

"This commonwealth of nations, that wealth belongs to England. That wealth is something never shared in," said Bert Samuels, a member of the National Council on Reparations in Jamaica.

Elizabeth's reign saw the hard-won independence of African countries from Ghana to Zimbabwe, along with a string of Caribbean islands and nations along the edge of the Arabian Peninsula.

Some historians see her as a monarch who helped oversee the mostly peaceful transition from empire to the Commonwealth, a voluntary association of 56 nations with historic and linguistic ties. But she was also the symbol of a nation that often rode roughshod over people it subjugated.

There were few signs of public grief or even interest in her death across the Middle East, where many still hold Britain responsible for colonial actions that drew much of the region's borders and laid the groundwork for many of its modern conflicts. On Saturday, Gaza's Hamas rulers called on King Charles III to "correct" British mandate decisions that they said oppressed Palestinians.

In ethnically divided Cyprus, many Greek Cypriots remembered the four-year guerrilla campaign waged in the late 1950s against colonial rule and the queen's perceived indifference over the plight of nine people whom British authorities executed by hanging.

Yiannis Spanos, president of the Association of National Organization of Cypriot Fighters, said the queen was "held by many as bearing responsibility" for the island's tragedies.

Now, with her passing, there are new efforts to address the colonial past, or hide it.

India is renewing its efforts under Prime Minister Narendra Modi to remove colonial names and symbols. The country has long moved on, even overtaking the British economy in size.

"I do not think we have any place for kings and queens in today's world, because we are the world's largest democratic country," said Dhiren Singh, a 57-year-old entrepreneur in New Delhi.

There was some sympathy for the Elizabeth and the circumstances she was born under and then thrust into.

In Kenya's capital, Nairobi, resident Max Kahindi remembered the Mau Mau rebellion "with a lot of bitterness" and recalled how some elders were detained or killed. But he said the queen was "a very young lady" then, and he believes someone else likely was running British affairs.

"We cannot blame the queen for all the sufferings that we had at that particular time," Kahindi said.

Timothy Kalyegira, a political analyst in Uganda, said there is a lingering "spiritual connection" in some African countries, from the colonial experience to the Commonwealth. "It is a moment of pain, a moment of nostalgia," he said.

The queen's dignified persona and age, and the centrality of the English language in global affairs, are powerful enough to temper some criticisms, Kalyegira added: "She's seen more as the mother of the world."

Mixed views were also found in the Caribbean, where some countries are removing the British monarch as their head of state.

"You have contradictory consciousness," said Maziki Thame, a senior lecturer in development studies at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, whose prime minister announced during this year's visit of Prince William, who is now heir to the throne, and Kate that the island intended to become fully independent.

The younger generation of royals seem to have greater sensitivity to colonialism's implications, Thame

said — during the visit, William expressed his “profound sorrow” for slavery.

Nadeen Spence, an activist, said appreciation for Elizabeth among older Jamaicans isn’t surprising since she was presented by the British as “this benevolent queen who has always looked out for us,” but young people aren’t awed by the royal family.

“The only thing I noted about the queen’s passing is that she died and never apologized for slavery,” Spence said. “She should’ve apologized.”

Steven Spielberg debuts his movie memoir ‘The Fabelmans’

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

TORONTO (AP) — Steven Spielberg premiered his much-anticipated “The Fabelmans” to thunderous applause at the Toronto International Film Festival, debuting his most autobiographical film and one the 75-year-old filmmaker said he’s been building toward his whole life.

“The Fabelmans,” which Spielberg wrote with Tony Kushner, draws extensively from the director’s own childhood — from his parents, played by Michelle Williams and Paul Dano in the film, and from his early formation as a filmmaker. The film opens with a timid young boy outside a cinema going to see his first movie (“The Greatest Show on Earth”). His mother encourages him: “Movies are dreams, doll.”

“It’s something obviously I’ve been thinking about for a long time,” Spielberg said on stage after the screening late Saturday. “I didn’t really know when I was going to get around to this. It is not because I decided to retire and this is my swan song. Don’t believe any of that.”

Spielberg said he first talked about what would become “The Fabelmans” with Kushner during the making of “Lincoln.” The playwright, Spielberg said, played the role of therapist as Spielberg unloaded his memories. But it wasn’t until the pandemic that the director resolved to tell, for the first time, his own story.

“As things got worse and worse, I felt if I was going to leave anything behind, what was the thing that I really need to resolve and unpack?” said Spielberg.

Spielberg, whose three sisters were in the audience, later added: “This film is for me a way of bringing my mom and dad back. And it also brought my sisters — Annie and Sue and Nancy — closer to me than I ever thought possible. And that was worth making the film for.”

Universal Pictures will release “The Fabelmans” on Nov. 11 in New York and Los Angeles before expanding it nationwide Nov. 23. Its world premiere at Toronto — which happened to immediately follow Rian Johnson’s “Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery” at the Princess of Wales Theatre — was a major event, and an unusual one. It was Spielberg’s first film at TIFF, and he said while introducing the film that it was his first time ever in a film festival’s official lineup.

The two-and-a-half hour film was immediately received as a grand and personal opus for Spielberg, all but certain to play a starring role at the Academy Awards. Aside from Williams, who is pregnant with her third child, and Dano, the cast includes Seth Rogen as a close family friend, a brief standout performance from Judd Hirsch, Jeannie Berlin and newcomer Gabriel LaBelle who plays Sammy Fabelman, the fictionalized young Spielberg.

“Steven was generous about letting us into his life,” said Dano, who said he had access to Spielberg’s old photographs, home movies and lengthy conversations over Zoom with the director. “The goal was to capture a life lived.”

While there are vividly drawn moments of movies transporting Sammy, “Fabelmans” may surprise some for how complexly it weaves filmmaking and family life. Cinema in Spielberg’s film is both a transformative power and something dangerous; a way to express genuine emotion and to hide from it. Kushner, a frequently collaborator with Spielberg, said the film demonstrates how “film is an unreliable friend.”

“It will take you to into a place of safety and right through safety is something unexpected and scary,” said Kushner. “It happens over and over again in the movie.”

“The Fabelmans” is populated by early experiments with 8-millimeter cameras, little movies made with family members and increasingly ambitious short films. All mirror Spielberg’s own first forays into filmmaking, though there are some differences.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 62 of 139

"I made all the behind-the-scenes stuff in this movie much better than the actual films I made when I was Sammy's age," Spielberg said with a smile. "It was a great do-over."

US marks 21st anniversary of 9/11 terror attacks

By JENNIFER PELTZ and KAREN MATTHEWS Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans are remembering 9/11 with moments of silence, readings of victims' names, volunteer work and other tributes 21 years after the deadliest terror attack on U.S. soil.

Victims' relatives and dignitaries will convene Sunday at the places where hijacked jets crashed on Sept. 11, 2001 — the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania.

Other communities around the country are marking the day with candlelight vigils, interfaith services and other commemorations. Some Americans are joining in volunteer projects on a day that is federally recognized as both Patriot Day and a National Day of Service and Remembrance.

The observances follow a fraught milestone anniversary last year. It came weeks after the chaotic and humbling end of the Afghanistan war that the U.S. launched in response to the attacks.

But if this Sept. 11 may be less of an inflection point, it remains a point for reflection on the attack that killed nearly 3,000 people, spurred a U.S. "war on terror" worldwide and reconfigured national security policy.

It also stirred — for a time — a sense of national pride and unity for many, while subjecting Muslim Americans to years of suspicion and bigotry and engendering debate over the balance between safety and civil liberties. In ways both subtle and plain, the aftermath of 9/11 ripples through American politics and public life to this day.

And the attacks have cast a long shadow into the personal lives of thousands of people who survived, responded or lost loved ones, friends and colleagues.

More than 70 of Sekou Siby's co-workers perished at Windows on the World, the restaurant atop the trade center's north tower. Siby had been scheduled to work that morning until another cook asked him to switch shifts.

Siby never took a restaurant job again; it would have brought back too many memories. The Ivorian immigrant wrestled with how to comprehend such horror in a country where he'd come looking for a better life.

He found it difficult to form the type of close, family-like friendships he and his Windows on the World co-workers had shared. It was too painful, he had learned, to become attached to people when "you have no control over what's going to happen to them next."

"Every 9/11 is a reminder of what I lost that I can never recover," says Siby, who is now president and CEO of ROC United. The restaurant workers' advocacy group evolved from a relief center for Windows on the World workers who lost their jobs when the twin towers fell.

On Sunday, President Joe Biden plans to speak and lay a wreath at the Pentagon, while first lady Jill Biden is scheduled to speak in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, where one of the hijacked planes went down after passengers and crew members tried to storm the cockpit as the hijackers headed for Washington. Al-Qaida conspirators had seized control of the jets to use them as passenger-filled missiles.

Vice President Kamala Harris and husband Doug Emhoff are due at the National Sept. 11 Memorial in New York, but by tradition, no political figures speak at the ground zero ceremony. It centers instead on victims' relatives reading aloud the names of the dead.

Readers often add personal remarks that form an alloy of American sentiments about Sept. 11 — grief, anger, toughness, appreciation for first responders and the military, appeals to patriotism, hopes for peace, occasional political barbs, and a poignant accounting of the graduations, weddings, births and daily lives that victims have missed.

Some relatives also lament that a nation which came together — to some extent — after the attacks has since splintered apart. So much so that federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies, which were reshaped to focus on international terrorism after 9/11, now see the threat of domestic violent extremism

as equally urgent.

Jill Biden shares memories of 9/11 as wife, sister, more

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Jill Biden realized that terrorists had attacked America on Sept. 11, 2001, her husband, Joe, wasn't the only loved one whose safety she worried about.

Biden recalled being "scared to death" that her sister Bonny Jacobs, a United Airlines flight attendant, was on one of the four hijacked airplanes that were flown into New York's World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field, killing nearly 3,000 people.

After learning that her sister was safe at her Pennsylvania home, "I went straight to Bonny's house," Biden told The Associated Press on Saturday as she and her sister remembered that day.

On Sunday, Jill Biden, now the first lady, will mark the 21st anniversary of the 9/11 attacks by delivering remarks at the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville, Pennsylvania — accompanied by Jacobs.

The 40 passengers and crew aboard that United Airlines flight fought back against their hijackers, thwarting a feared attack on the U.S. Capitol in Washington.

"I called Bonny to see where she was because I was scared to death ... I didn't know where she was, whether she was flying, not flying, where she was," Jill Biden recalled. "And then I found out she was home."

Biden had gone to teach her class at Delaware Technical Community College, then went straight to her sister's house after school was dismissed.

Joe Biden, then a U.S. senator, was on an Amtrak train barreling toward Washington when his wife got through to him. They were on the phone when she cried out, "Oh my God, oh my God, oh my God" after an airplane hit the second World Trade Center tower.

Jacobs said she had gotten home around 2 a.m. on Sept. 11 after a late flight. She slept a little, got up to help get her kids, then 11 and 7, off to school, turned off her phone and went back to bed.

"So when I got up around noon, it was such a gorgeous day," she said. "I had my coffee. I sat outside. I literally said out loud, 'I'm doing nothing today, this day is gorgeous.'"

She saw the phone beeping when she went inside. Jill had left a message asking if she'd been watching television. She turned it on and saw replays of the attack on the World Trade Center.

"I started to shake," Jacobs said, adding that she went upstairs to get dressed and "put my clothes on inside out" and spent the rest of the day watching TV.

"And then the first person that came to the house was Jill," she said. "I hadn't called her to come, but she just showed up, and she was there for me, as usual."

Jacobs said she usually flies on the Sept. 11 anniversary to pay tribute to her fallen United Airlines colleagues and as a way of distracting herself "because it's so upsetting." But she wanted to be with the first lady in Shanksville to offer the same kind of support her big sister has given her.

"It's such a special moment to be together with her," Jacobs said. "She was there for me at the time that it happened and she actually is always there for me. She is my rock. Everybody should have a rock in their life, and she is mine."

"And it's such a special thing to share it with her as a flight attendant and that she's there, you know, supporting us," Jacobs said.

In addition to laying a wreath at the memorial and delivering remarks, the first lady was joining members of the Association of Flight Attendants-CWA to honor the Flight 93 crew members.

In her prepared remarks for Sunday, Jill Biden says that after the shock of 9/11 "settled into sorrow" and she had spoken with her husband and children, her thoughts turned to her sister, who continues to work as a flight attendant with United Airlines.

"It's a job that she has loved for many years and I knew that the weight of this tragedy would be heavier for her," the first lady says. "When I got to her house, I realized that I was right. She hadn't just lost colleagues. She had lost friends."

She adds: "But I know that, as we learned more about that dark day, she felt pride for what happened

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 64 of 139

here as well, pride that it was fellow flight attendants and the passengers of United Flight 93 who fought back, who helped stop the plane from taking an untold number of lives in our nation's capital."

Joe Biden, now president, was to commemorate the day at the Pentagon. Vice President Kamala Harris and her husband, Doug Emhoff, were to be at the New York remembrance.

On 9/11, then-Sen. Biden arrived in Washington to see smoke in the sky from the crash at the Pentagon. He wanted to go to the floor of the Senate, but the Capitol and the surrounding complex of offices and official buildings, including the Supreme Court, had been evacuated.

He was turned away by Capitol police, who said there was a risk that the building was a target.

Jill Biden said scores of lives were saved — including possibly her husband's — by the actions of everyone aboard United Airlines Flight 93.

"That plane was headed for the U.S. Capitol and so I think it's important that every year we go to Shanksville and we remember those who fought: the flight attendants, the captains, the pilots, all of those who fought to save those lives," the first lady said in the interview.

She said her message Sunday would be, "We will never forget. We will never forget."

"There were so many things swirling that day because I was worried about Joe's safety, but I just could not imagine that my sister was on one of those flights," the first lady said.

"I don't know what word I want to use. I was so worried and I don't even think that's strong enough," she added.

Jacobs interjected to say 9/11 was "surreal."

Jill Biden added: "The whole thing was so surreal, but I was just, you know, just really praying that she was not on one of those flights."

Iga Swiatek beats Ons Jabeur for 1st US Open title, 3rd Slam

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Good as she's been this year, Iga Swiatek came to the U.S. Open unsure of what to expect.

She complained that women use different, slightly lighter, tennis balls than the men do at Flushing Meadows, where she'd never been past the fourth round. She was trying to grow accustomed to the noise and distractions, the hustle and bustle, of the Big Apple. And she arrived with a record of just 4-4 since her 37-match winning streak ended in July.

None of that matters now. Cementing her status as her sport's new dominant figure by winning what is expected to be the last tournament of Serena Williams' career, the No. 1-ranked Swiatek outplayed No. 5 Ons Jabeur 6-2, 7-6 (5) in Arthur Ashe Stadium on Saturday to claim her first championship at the U.S. Open and third Grand Slam title overall.

"It's something that I wasn't expecting, for sure. It's also like a confirmation for me that the sky's the limit," said Swiatek, who is 55-7 in tour-level matches with seven trophies in 2022, both best in the WTA. "I'm proud. Also surprised little bit."

She acknowledged harboring concerns about the U.S. Open after a couple of shaky showings at hard-court tune-up tournaments.

It turned out OK: She is the first top-seeded woman to win the U.S. Open since 23-time major champion Williams in 2014.

"I feel like on court, I can just do my job," Swiatek said, "and I'm happy about it, that I kind of can make these doubts go away."

Swiatek, like Jabeur, travels with a sports psychologist, and it took some fortitude to finish this one off. At 6-5 in the second set, Swiatek held her first championship point. Right before Jabeur served, Swiatek jogged over to the sideline to change rackets — an unusual choice at that moment.

When action resumed, Swiatek missed a backhand. That could have been tough to recover from. Indeed, Jabeur pushed things to the tiebreaker, which she then led 5-4. But Swiatek steeled herself, took the last three points and soon was accepting the silver trophy and a \$2.6 million winner's check, joking:

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 65 of 139

"I'm really glad that is not in cash."

The 21-year-old from Poland won the French Open for the second time in June and is the first woman since Angelique Kerber in 2016 to collect two major titles in a single season.

"She's really set the bar very high. It's great for our sport," said Jabeur, a 28-year-old from Tunisia who will rise to No. 2 in the rankings on Monday.

She is the first African woman and first Arab woman to reach a Grand Slam final and was participating in her second in a row.

But she is 0-2 at that stage, including a runner-up showing at Wimbledon in July.

"Definitely, I'm not someone that's going to give up," said Jabeur, whose support team wore black shirts with white writing that read "Yalla Habibi," Arabic for "Let's go, my love!"

"I am sure," she added, "I'm going to be in the final again."

Didn't help on this sunny, 85-degree Fahrenheit (29.4 Celsius) afternoon that Jabeur needed to deal with Swiatek, who has won her past 10 finals — all in straight sets — and was great from the get-go.

Jabeur did not face a single break point in her semifinal victory, but she got broken right away when Swiatek laced a cross-court backhand winner off a short ball to cap a 15-stroke exchange.

"The only match here where I started that well," said Swiatek, who had to come back from a set down in the fourth round and the quarterfinals.

Eight minutes in against Jabeur, Swiatek had grabbed 12 of the first 14 points for a 3-0 edge.

"Put a lot of pressure on me," Jabeur said.

Using her heavy topspin forehand to take charge from the baseline, Swiatek dictated the tempo and trajectory of points. She ran her opponent this way and that, never letting Jabeur use the sorts of spins and variety that she's accustomed to.

When Jabeur did show off some of what she can do, Swiatek would manage, more often than not, to elongate points. She used her strong court coverage, backed by a soundtrack of squeaky sneakers as she darted everywhere, sometimes even sliding as she arrived at a ball, the way one does on red clay, her favorite surface.

When Jabeur missed a slice forehand early in the second set, she dropped her racket to reflect her despair. A few points later, she flung her racket while off balance and falling face down. A running, down-the-line backhand passing shot from Swiatek on the next point made it 2-0 in that set. Swiatek raised a clenched fist and yelled, "Come on!"

Then Jabeur did make things interesting, briefly.

But only briefly.

She got to 4-all and, after ending up on her back when an off-balance backhand won a point in the next game, she stayed there, enjoying the moment, pumping her fists while laying on the ground.

Jabeur earned three break chances in that game, any one of which would have allowed her to serve for the set. She could not cash in there, though, missing a groundstroke on each.

Swiatek needed to wait 10 minutes from her first match point to the one that closed the contest, but close it she did. Maybe she'll feel more comfortable at the U.S. Open from now on.

GOP hopefuls for election posts see enemies within own party

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Four Republicans who have promoted false claims about the 2020 presidential election and are running for top state election offices said Saturday they were fighting against a corrupt system — even pointing a finger at mysterious forces within their own party.

The candidates -- Arizona's Mark Finchem, Michigan's Kristina Karamo, Nevada's Jim Marchant and New Mexico's Audrey Trujillo -- said they want to overhaul how elections are run in their states. They appeared at a conference inside a South Florida hotel ballroom that featured numerous speakers falsely claiming that the 2020 election was stolen from former President Donald Trump.

"Our biggest enemy is our own party," said Marchant, a businessman and former state lawmaker who

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 66 of 139

was among Trump's most ardent supporters challenging President Joe Biden's 2020 win in Nevada. "Even though we are Republicans, we are kind of the outsiders. We have a battle, but we're not giving up."

All are members of the America First Secretary of State Coalition, which calls for large-scale changes to elections. While not officially tied to Trump's America First movement, it's part of the broader effort promoting conservative candidates who align with the former president's views.

Eliminating voting machines, mailed ballots and early voting are among their goals. The coalition also supports hand-counting of all ballots and a single day of voting for all Americans with few exceptions. They did not say whether Election Day should be a national holiday.

Many of their ideas are based on unfounded claims that voting machines are being manipulated. Nearly two years after the 2020 election, no evidence has emerged to suggest widespread fraud or manipulation while reviews in state after state have upheld the results showing Biden won.

The four are among the nearly 1 in 3 Republican candidates running for statewide offices that play a role in overseeing, certifying or defending elections who have supported overturning the results of the 2020 presidential contest, according to an Associated Press review.

Election experts say candidates who dispute the results of a valid election in which there has been no evidence of wrongdoing pose a danger of interfering in future elections. They warn it could trigger chaos if they refuse to accept or challenge results they don't like.

With less than nine weeks before the November election, the candidates took time off the campaign trail in their own states to appear at the event, organized by the secretary of state coalition and the Florida affiliate of The America Project. The America Project was founded by Michael Flynn, the retired lieutenant general and Trump's former national security adviser, and Patrick Byrne, founder of Overstock.com.

It was the latest in a nationwide effort to question the results of the 2020 election and promote conspiracy theories about voting machines and the workings of election offices. The forums, held for well over a year, have helped to undermine confidence in elections among broad swaths of the Republican Party.

A few hundred people attended Saturday's conference, which featured numerous panels claiming that elections are being manipulated in a variety of ways. One panel was comprised of former candidates -- Democrats and Republicans from around the country -- who sought to cast doubt on their election losses in bids to challenge elected officials in their states.

Karamo, a community college professor, gained prominence after the 2020 election for claiming she saw irregularities in the processing of handling mailed ballots while serving as an election observer in Detroit. She called the election system corrupt.

"This is not a partisan issue. It's a liberty issue," Karamo said. "That's why you see people in our own party, claiming to be Republicans, trying to silence us and stop us. Even though we are the Republican nominees of this office, we have people in our own party trying to make us lose. Because they are in on it."

A wide-ranging review of the 2020 election in Michigan by Republicans who control the state Legislature found no systemic fraud and no issues that would have changed the results. Similar reviews in other battleground states have come to the same conclusion. Dozens of court cases brought by Trump and his allies were turned away, and even the former president's own Justice Department found no evidence of widespread fraud.

Nevertheless, the Republican secretary of state candidates speaking Saturday spoke of a system they see as hopelessly corrupted.

Finchem said he did his job as a state lawmaker in calling a public hearing to discuss election concerns and noted how Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey, a Republican in his final term, dismissed the effort: "How do you like me now, Doug?" Finchem said.

He added: "We are in battle against a cartel."

Finchem was at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, before Trump backers attacked Congress and has pushed for Biden's win in Arizona to be withdrawn, something the law provides no way to do.

False claims about the 2020 election have led to death threats against election officials and workers, prompting some to leave the profession and raising concerns about a loss of experienced professionals overseeing elections in November.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 67 of 139

The repeated false claims of a stolen election also have eroded confidence in U.S. elections. An Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll in 2021 found that about two-thirds of Republicans say they do not think Biden was legitimately elected.

Trujillo, a small business owner from the central New Mexico town of Corrales, said she wants the state's officials to follow the law when it comes to elections and to increase transparency. For example, she raised concerns about the security of drop boxes used to return mailed ballots, even though there is no evidence of widespread problems with drop boxes.

She also criticized election officials for being dismissive or even condescending to voters who have doubts. "We have questions as voters and we should get to ask them," Trujillo said in an interview after speaking as part of the panel. "We shouldn't feel like, 'OK, we can't ask that because it's taboo and we'll look like we're trying to question the elections.' Because the integrity needs to be there. It needs to be very transparent."

Marshall upsets No. 8 ND 26-21; Freeman to 0-3 for Irish

By TOM COYNE Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — Notre Dame fans could live with the Fighting Irish being overpowered in the fourth quarter against then-No. 2 Ohio State. Being pushed around by Marshall is a different story.

Notre Dame Stadium is supposed to be a place to shake down the thunder, not where the Thundering Herd celebrate a 26-21 victory.

The eighth-ranked Irish led 15-12 when Tyler Buchner ran in for a 1-yard run to open the fourth quarter Saturday, then added a 2-point conversion. It all went downhill from there for Notre Dame (0-2). Marcus Freeman is now the first Irish coach to open his career 0-3.

Freeman, the 36-year-old, first-time head coach, was asked whether his inexperience coaching was a factor in the poor start.

"If it's my experience as head coach, and I don't know if that's a reason why, or the lack of execution? But it starts with me, right? It starts with me as the head coach and looking at myself and saying, 'What do I have to do to help this football team and really look at everything we're doing?' Because the performance isn't where we needed to be," he said.

Steven Gilmore returned an interception 37 yards for a touchdown late in the fourth quarter and Khamari Labron ran for 163 yards as Marshall shocked the Irish. Gilmore, the brother of Stephon Gilmore of the Indianapolis Colts, picked off a pass by Tyler Buchner with 4:35 left, raced to the end zone and then jumped into the stands where Marshall fans were already celebrating the victory.

"Obviously, a phenomenal day," second-year Marshall coach Charlie Huff said. "I'm really proud of the way they competed. I'm really proud of their competitive spirit, the consistency of what we needed to do to come out with a win."

Marshall (2-0), the first Sun Belt Conference team to play at Notre Dame Stadium, beat a team ranked in the top 10 for just the second time in school history. The Thundering Herd beat No. 6 Kansas State 27-20 in 2003.

Huff tried to downplay the significance of the win.

"In house, no disrespect to Notre Dame, in house, we expected it. Because we talked about this summer being a team that expects to win every time we touch the field," Huff said.

Freeman, who was promoted from defensive coordinator after Brian Kelly left for LSU, had lost a bowl game to Oklahoma State and at Ohio State last week. This one will go down much differently.

The Irish had a streak of 42 straight wins against unranked opponents snapped. Freeman also said after the game Buchner was replaced in the closing minutes because of a shoulder injury. He said he didn't know how severe it was.

The Herd took a 19-15 lead with 5:16 remaining when Henry Colombi completed a 3-yard touchdown pass to Devin Miller to cap that 94-yard drive. The score was set up by a 42-yard run by Labron, who broke a tackle at the line of scrimmage and juiced Irish safety Brandon Joseph before breaking free.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 68 of 139

Any hope for a comeback by the Irish (0-2) ended when Owen Porter intercepted a pass by backup Irish quarterback Drew Pyne with three minutes remaining. Pyne threw a TD pass with 14 second left to cut the lead to five points.

Colombi was 16-of-21 passing for 145 yards and the Thundering Herd rushed for 219 yards on 50 carries.

The Irish, who struggled offensively a week earlier in a 21-10 loss to Ohio State with a play-it-safe, ball-control game plan, opened the playbook against the Herd but still struggled to get much going.

Buchner was 18-of-32 passing for 201 yards with two interceptions. Buchner also led the Irish in rushing with 44 yards on 13 carries, Michael Mayer had eight catches for 103 yards.

Freeman said it's time for self-examination.

"I just told the team that we all have to look at ourselves, starting with the head coach on down and say, 'Okay, what do I have to do? What do we have to do to fix the issues that we're having, and not just focus on the end result.' We have to look at the lack of executions in all phases of our team and where we can improve that," Freeman said.

THE TAKEAWAY

Marshall: Huff, a former Alabama and Penn State assistant, assembled a roster heavy on Power Five transfers such as Labron from Florida State for the school's first season in the Sun Belt. It paid off with one of the biggest victories in school history.

Notre Dame: The Irish offense showed it still has a lot of work to do, and the honeymoon period for Freeman is probably over.

KILLER DRIVE

Freeman said the Irish can't allow an opponent to drive 94 yards for a touchdown like the Herd did to take a 19-15 lead.

"The biggest thing was the lack of tackling. It's too many times where, run or pass, we didn't get the ball carrier down. You can't let an offense drive it 95 yards at any moment, but especially not in the fourth quarter when the game's on the line and you're up and you're trying to put the game away," he said.

SLOW STARTS

Freeman is the first Notre Dame coach to open his career 0-3. Kelly opened his stint with the Irish 1-2 and lost three of his first four. The last Irish coach to open with two straight losses was Lou Holtz in 1986, opening his career 1-4.

Freeman might have been a bit too confident before the game.

"There's no better place in this country to get our first win of this new era but here at Notre Dame Stadium," Freeman said to fans before the game.

POLL IMPLICATIONS

The respect the Irish gained by playing Ohio State won't be enough to overcome this poor showing.

NEXT UP

Marshall: The Thundering Herd play at Bowling Green on Saturday, their first meeting since 2010.

Notre Dame: The Irish will wear green jerseys when they host Cal on Saturday. It will be the first time the Irish have worn green since 2018. The Irish were 4-0 wearing green during the Brian Kelly era — and will be looking to snap a three-game losing streak in them this time.

Visa, Mastercard, AmEx to start categorizing gun shop sales

By KEN SWEET Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Payment processor Visa Inc. said Saturday that it plans to start separately categorizing sales at gun shops, a major win for gun control advocates who say it will help better track suspicious surges of gun sales that could be a prelude to a mass shooting.

But the decision by Visa, the world's largest payment processor, will likely provoke the ire of gun rights advocates and gun lobbyists, who have argued that categorizing gun sales would unfairly flag an industry when most sales do not lead to mass shootings. It joins Mastercard and American Express, which also said they plan to move forward with categorizing gun shop sales.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 69 of 139

Visa said it would adopt the International Organization for Standardization's new merchant code for gun sales, which was announced on Friday. Until Friday, gun store sales were considered "general merchandise."

"Following ISO's decision to establish a new merchant category code, Visa will proceed with next steps, while ensuring we protect all legal commerce on the Visa network in accordance with our long-standing rules," the payment processor said in a statement.

Visa's adoption is significant as the largest payment network, and with Mastercard and AmEx, will likely put pressure on the banks as the card issuers to adopt the standard as well. Visa acts as a middleman between merchants and banks, and it will be up to banks to decide whether they will allow sales at gun stores to happen on their issued cards.

Gun control advocates had gained significant wins on this front in recent weeks. New York City officials and pension funds had pressured the ISO and banks to adopt this code.

Two of the country's largest public pension funds, in California and New York, have been pressing the country's largest credit card firms to establish sales codes specifically for firearm-related sales that could flag suspicious purchases or more easily trace how guns and ammunition are sold.

Merchant category codes now exist for almost every kind of purchase, including those made at supermarkets, clothing stores, coffee shops and many other retailers.

"When you buy an airline ticket or pay for your groceries, your credit card company has a special code for those retailers. It's just common sense that we have the same policies in place for gun and ammunition stores," said New York City Mayor Eric Adams, a former police captain who blames the proliferation of guns for his city's deadly violence.

The city's comptroller, Brad Lander, said it made moral and financial sense as a tool to push back against gun violence.

"Unfortunately, the credit card companies have failed to support this simple, practical, potentially lifesaving tool. The time has come for them to do so," Lander said recently, before Visa and others had adopted the move.

Lander is a trustee of the New York City Employees' Retirement System, Teachers' Retirement System and Board of Education Retirement System — which together own 667,200 shares in American Express valued at approximately \$92.49 million; 1.1 million shares in MasterCard valued at approximately \$347.59 million; and 1.85 million shares in Visa valued at approximately \$363.86 million.

The pension funds and gun control advocates argue that creating a merchant category code for stand-alone firearm and ammunition stores could aid in the battle against gun violence. A week before the mass shooting at the Pulse Nightclub in Orlando, Florida, where 49 people died after a shooter opened fire in 2016, the assailant used credit cards to buy more than \$26,000 worth of guns and ammunition, including purchases at a stand-alone gun retailer.

Gun rights advocates argue that tracking sales at gun stores would unfairly target legal gun purchases, since merchant codes just track the type of merchant where the credit or debit card is used, not the actual items purchased. A sale of a gun safe, worth thousands of dollars and an item considered part of responsible gun ownership, could be seen as a just a large purchase at a gun shop.

"The (industry's) decision to create a firearm specific code is nothing more than a capitulation to anti-gun politicians and activists bent on eroding the rights of law-abiding Americans one transaction at a time," said Lars Dalseide, a spokesman for the National Rifle Association.

Over the years, public pension funds have used their extensive investment portfolios to influence public policy and the market place.

The California teacher's fund, the second largest pension fund in the country, has long taken aim on the gun industry. It has divested its holdings from gun manufacturers and has sought to persuade some retailers from selling guns.

Four years ago, the teacher's fund made guns a key initiative. It called for background checks and called on retailers "monitor irregularities at the point of sale, to record all firearm sales, to audit firearms inventory on a regular basis, and to proactively assist law enforcement."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 70 of 139

Found: Alligator, drugs, guns, money. But where's the tiger?

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — An alligator, drugs, guns and money were seized during a raid at two homes in Albuquerque last month, but New Mexico wildlife officials said Saturday they are still searching for a young tiger they believe is being illegally kept as a pet.

Investigators think the tiger is with someone "in New Mexico or a nearby state," New Mexico Department of Game and Fish conservation officers said in a statement.

The animal was believed to be less than 1 year old and weigh under 60 pounds (27 kilograms), but tigers can grow to 600 pounds (272 kilograms), the department said, calling large meat-eating animals such as tigers and alligators a clear danger to the public.

Wild tigers are listed globally as an endangered species. Alligators were listed as endangered in the U.S. from 1967 to 1987, but today thrive in the wild.

The alligator seized by authorities is about 3 feet (almost 1 meter) long. It was taken to a wildlife facility after state conservation officers and federal, state and local police served search warrants Aug. 12.

Albuquerque police reported a 26-year-old man was arrested and investigators seized 2 pounds (0.9 kilograms) of heroin, 10.5 pounds (4.75 kilograms) of cocaine, 49 pounds (22 kilograms) of marijuana, 17 rifles and pistols, fentanyl and Xanax pills, and nearly \$42,000.

Young, No. 1 Alabama escape Texas on late FG 20-19

By JIM VERTUNO AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — First came the twisting, falling backward touchdown throw. Then came the duck and dodge slip away from a sack that turned into a 20-yard scamper.

Two fourth-quarter plays by Bryce Young once again carried top-ranked Alabama to a victory. The Crimson Tide escaped Texas with 20-19 win Saturday after Young's scramble set up Will Reichard's 33-yard field goal with 10 seconds left.

"Houdini act," Texas coach Steve Sarkisian said of the player he once helped recruit when he was an assistant at Alabama.

Texas had pressured last season's Heisman Trophy winner for most of the day, only to lose its grip on him late.

"We know what it takes," Young said of the final drive that started at the Alabama 25 and moved across midfield in two plays. "We embrace that challenge. That's where we want to be at."

Young's clutch play rescued Alabama on an uncharacteristically sloppy day for the Crimson Tide (2-0), who struggled with penalties and dropped passes and was forced into six consecutive punts in one stretch. Texas (1-1) stuffed Alabama on fourth-and-inches late to set up a go-ahead field goal by Bert Auburn with 1:39 remaining.

"When his best was needed, he was really good," Alabama coach Nick Saban said of Young. "And that's what we needed."

Young also spoiled what could have been a program-defining victory for Texas and Sarkisian after last season's 5-7 finish. Longhorns quarterback Quinn Ewers was knocked out with a shoulder injury at the end of the first quarter. Sarkisian said Ewers had a sprained clavicle and would have more tests to determine how bad it is.

The steady hand of backup Hudson Card and an inspired defense helped Texas build a 16-10 lead early in the fourth, and then drive for the lead again on Auburn's fourth field goal of the day.

Young was 27-of-39 passing for 213 yards with the scrambling TD throw to Jahmyr Gibbs that gave Alabama a 17-16 lead. Jase McLellan had an 81-yard touchdown run for Alabama in the first quarter.

Alabama avoided its first nonconference regular-season loss since 2007 against Louisiana-Monroe in Saban's first season.

"Nobody gave us a chance in this game. ... None of you, no one in the national media," Sarkisian said. "We played like a team that believed it could win the game."

THE TAKEAWAY

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 71 of 139

Alabama: The Tide was all out of sorts. Eleven first-half penalties and dropped passes showed a level of sloppy play seldom seen by Saban teams. Last season's Bronko Nagurski Award winner Will Anderson struggled to make plays against an inexperienced Texas offensive line that started two freshmen.

"It's all about discipline, making the right choices and decisions, whether it's post-snap, it doesn't matter. We've got to play better, there's no doubt about that," Saban said.

Texas: Texas looks reborn on defense. Sarkisian hired defensive guru and former TCU head coach Gary Patterson as a special assistant last spring. But Texas now has new questions at quarterback if Ewers is out for an extended period. He was electric early against the Tide and had already passed for 134 yards in the first quarter before he was hurt. Card, who lost the starting job after two games last season, finished 14-of-22 passing for 158 yards.

BACK ON TRACK

Saban won his first 25 matchups against former assistants who became head coaches, and then lost two last season against Jimbo Fisher at Texas A&M and then Kirby Smart of Georgia in last season's national championship game. Sarkisian was Saban's offensive coordinator when Alabama won the 2020 national title.

POLL POSITION

This could be one of those rare situations where the top-ranked team gets penalized for not playing well in a win, while the loser earns respect for nearly stealing a victory in what was expected to be a blowout. If voters weren't impressed by Alabama, the Tide could drop behind No. 2 Georgia. Texas, unranked but receiving votes, may have been impressive enough to sneak into the bottom of the rankings.

RECORD CROWD FOR FUTURE RIVAL

Texas, which is scheduled to join the Southeastern Conference ahead of the 2025 season, drew a record crowd of 105,213 to Darrell K Royal-Texas Memorial Stadium. Anderson was impressed by a crowd that hampered Alabama signal calls at the line of scrimmage all game.

"This is probably like the loudest environment I've played in. The hardest game, since I've been in college football," Anderson said. "Super loud, a lot of energy."

NO SAFETY

Texas got what initially looked like a sack and a safety that would have given the Longhorns a 12-10 lead and the ball early in the third quarter. Even the Alabama kickoff team was gathered on the field. But the game officials, who at first threw a flag for targeting, waived that off and the safety and Alabama was allowed to punt instead.

UP NEXT

Alabama hosts Louisiana-Monroe.

Texas hosts UTSA next Saturday.

Russia announces troop pullback from Ukraine's Kharkiv area

By KARL RITTER and JOANNA KOZLOWSKA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia's Defense Ministry announced Saturday that it was pulling back troops from two areas in Ukraine's eastern Kharkiv region where a Ukrainian counteroffensive has made significant advances in the past week.

The news came after days of apparent advances by Ukraine south of Kharkiv, the country's second-largest city, in what could become the biggest battlefield success for Ukrainian forces since they thwarted a Russian attempt to seize the capital, Kyiv, at the start of the nearly seven-month war.

"The Russian army in these days is demonstrating the best that it can do — showing its back," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a video released by his office Saturday night. "And, of course, it's a good decision for them to run."

Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said troops would be regrouped from the Balakliya and Izyum areas to the eastern Donetsk region. Izyum was a major base for Russian forces in the Kharkiv region, and earlier this week social media videos showed residents of Balakliya joyfully cheering as Ukrainian troops moved in.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 72 of 139

Konashenkov said the Russian move was being made "in order to achieve the stated goals of the special military operation to liberate Donbas," an eastern area home to two separatist regions that Russia has declared sovereign.

The claim of a withdrawal to concentrate on Donetsk is similar to the justification Russia gave for pulling back its forces from the Kyiv region earlier this year when they failed to take the capital.

Igor Girkin, a Russian who was an early leader of a Moscow-backed separatist uprising in Donetsk in 2014, sneered at the portrayal of the pullback being strategic. On the messaging app Telegram, he acidly called it "the brilliant (clearly within the framework of the plan and even ahead of schedule) operation to transfer the cities of Izyum, Balakliya and Kupiansk to respected Ukrainian partners."

Earlier Saturday, Ukrainian officials claimed major gains in the Kharkiv region, saying their troops had cut off vital supplies to Izyum.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Oleh Nikolenko also suggested troops had retaken Kupiansk, a town along the main supply route to Izyum, long a focus on the Russian front line and the site of heavy artillery and other fighting. Nikolenko tweeted a photo showing soldiers in front of what he said was a government building in Kupiansk, 73 kilometers (45 miles) north of Izyum.

The Ukrainian Security Service posted a message hours later saying troops were in Kupiansk, further suggesting it had been seized. The military did not immediately confirm entering the town, a railway hub that Russia seized in February.

Videos on social media appeared to show Ukrainian forces on the outskirts of Izyum at a roadside checkpoint. A large statue with the city's name could be seen in the images. Ukrainian forces did not acknowledge holding the city.

Britain's Defense Ministry said Saturday that it believed Ukrainian troops had advanced as much as 50 kilometers (30 miles) south of Kharkiv, and described Russian forces around Izyum as "increasingly isolated."

"Russian forces were likely taken by surprise. The sector was only lightly held and Ukrainian units have captured or surrounded several towns," the British military said, adding that the loss of Kupiansk would greatly affect Russian supply lines.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, likewise referenced sweeping Ukrainian gains, estimating that Kyiv has seized around 2,500 square kilometers (965 square miles) in its eastern breakthrough. The institute said it appeared that "disorganized Russian forces (were) caught in the rapid Ukrainian advance," and cited social media images of apparent Russian prisoners seized around Izyum and surrounding towns.

The same report said Ukrainian forces "may collapse Russian positions around Izyum if they sever Russian ground lines of communication" north and south of the town.

Vladislav Sokolov, head of the Russian-appointed local administration, said on social media that authorities in Izyum had started evacuating residents to Russia.

The fighting in eastern Ukraine comes amid an ongoing offensive around Kherson in the south. Analysts suggest Russia may have taken soldiers from the east to reinforce the latter area, offering the Ukrainians the opportunity to strike a weakened front line.

Ukrainian Defense Minister Oleksii Reznikov told the television channel Ukraina that the Russians had no food or fuel for their troops in the area as Kyiv had cut off their supply lines.

"It will be like an avalanche," he said, predicting a Russian fallback. "One line of defense will shake, and it will fall."

The Ukrainian military was more circumspect, claiming to have taken "more than 1,000 square kilometers" (386 square miles) from pro-Kremlin forces this week. It said that "in some areas, units of the Defense Forces have penetrated the enemy's defenses to a depth of 50 kilometers," matching the British assessment, but did not disclose geographical details.

Officials in Kyiv have for weeks been tight-lipped about plans for a counteroffensive, urging residents to refrain from sharing information on social media.

However, Zelenskyy said Friday that troops had reclaimed more than 30 settlements in the Kharkiv region since the start of the counteroffensive.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 73 of 139

Elsewhere, Ukrainian emergency services reported that a 62-year-old woman was killed in a Russian missile strike in the Kharkiv region when her home was flattened overnight.

The Ukrainian governor of Kharkiv, Oleh Syniehubov, accused Moscow of pummeling retaken settlements. He said via Telegram that five civilians were hospitalized in the Izyum district, while nine others suffered injuries elsewhere in the region.

In the embattled Donbas, the Ukrainian governor said civilians were killed and wounded overnight by Russian shelling near the city of Bakhmut, a key target of the stalled Russian offensive. Pavlo Kyrylenko said on Telegram that two people died and two were injured in Bakhmut and the neighboring village of Yahidne.

In the Russian-held city of Enerhodar, home to Europe's largest nuclear power plant, electricity and water were restored after a four-day outage due to an explosion, the city's Ukrainian mayor, Dmytro Orlov, said.

Enerhodar and its Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant have come under repeated shelling in recent weeks, which Russia and Ukraine accused each other of committing. The shelling has raised fears of a radiation leak at the plant, which has been cut off from outside power sources; the facility has been forced to rely on power from its only working reactor for systems cooling and other safety measures.

Orlov said workers from the plant assisted in restoring Enerhodar's power, but it was not clear if the electricity was coming from the plant or from a nearby thermal generating station.

Also Saturday, German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock paid an unannounced visit to Kyiv and said Europe would not tire of helping Ukraine, despite Russian President Vladimir Putin's efforts to raise the pressure by withholding energy supplies.

Baerbock said Germany will assist Ukraine in finding and removing mines and other unexploded ordnance left by Russian troops in areas where they have been pushed back.

Despite Ukraine's gains, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and the head of NATO warned Friday that the war would likely drag on for months. Blinken said the conflict was entering a critical period and urged Ukraine's Western backers to keep up their support through what could be a difficult winter.

Stepping up: Next generation of royals to see more scrutiny

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Prince William and wife Kate made a surprise joint appearance with Prince Harry and wife Meghan on Saturday, warmly greeting a large crowd gathered outside Windsor Castle to remember their long-reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth II.

Their "walkabout," the first time the brothers have appeared amicably together in public since March 2020, comes at a time when the younger generation of Britain's royal family must step up their responsibilities significantly.

William, long second-in-line to the throne, is now the heir apparent after his father, King Charles III, became Britain's new monarch upon his mother's death. That means William and Kate, both 40 and parents of three young children, immediately assume a much more central role as the new face of the monarchy.

William and Harry had been on frosty terms since Harry quit as a senior royal and moved to the U.S. two years ago. Their show of unity Saturday was reportedly initiated by William and left some observers hoping that Harry, 37, might return to the fray and support his elder brother in sharing the heavy workload now on William's shoulders.

"Certainly William and Catherine, as the new Prince and Princess of Wales, will be even more in the media spotlight if that's possible," said Joe Little, managing editor of Majesty magazine. "Until Thursday, there was a buffer between him and the throne. That buffer has now been removed."

It's a stark contrast to how things were just two weeks ago, when William and Kate announced they were moving their family from central London to a more rural base in Windsor. Observers thought they were seeking more privacy and a more "normal" upbringing for their children, who just started a new year together at a private school.

Long before he ascended to the throne, Charles indicated that he wanted a "slimmed down" monarchy with a tighter core group of full-time working royals and lower expenses.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 74 of 139

That was before Harry's move — and before the princes' uncle, Prince Andrew, was effectively banished from public life following sexual misconduct scandals.

Not many other recognizable "working royals" — members of the royal family who officially represent the monarch — were left to share the hundreds of official engagements and numerous overseas visits undertaken each year.

The group includes Charles and his wife, Camilla, now the Queen Consort; William and Kate; the queen's only daughter, Princess Anne; and the queen's youngest child, Prince Edward, and his wife, Sophie. Also working royals, but much lesser known, are the queen's first cousin, Prince Richard, and his wife, Birgitte.

In his first speech to the nation, which was broadcast Friday, Charles formally bestowed his own title, the Prince of Wales, to William. Kate is now the Princess of Wales, and is the first person since William's late mother, Princess Diana, to hold the title.

William and Kate also inherit Charles and Camilla's other honorary titles, the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall. That means managing and taking income from the Duchy of Cornwall, an estate comprising land across the U.K. that is reportedly worth 1 billion pounds.

"With Catherine beside him, our new Prince and Princess of Wales will, I know, continue to inspire and lead our national conversations, helping to bring the marginal to the center ground where vital help can be given," Charles said Friday.

In his speech, Charles said he knows won't be able to devote as much time and energy to causes he cares most about, such as the environment and climate change.

William will now likely spend more time championing those topics. He already made his mark by founding the Earthshot Prize, an ambitious "legacy project" expected to hand out millions of pounds in grants for environmental initiatives over the next 10 years.

"It will be some time before the reality of life without Grannie will truly feel real," William wrote in a statement Saturday. "I will honour her memory by supporting my father, The King, in every way I can."

Charles also spoke briefly of Harry in his address to the nation, expressing his "love for Harry and Meghan as they continue to build their lives overseas."

Harry and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, moved away from the U.K. to seek financial independence and freedom from severe British media scrutiny into their lives.

The couple is now settled in California with their two young children. Both Harry and Meghan repeatedly have aired their unhappiness with the royals since their departure.

Those tensions were put aside Saturday, as the two princes and their wives arrived in the same car to greet people who pressed against road barriers outside the gates of Windsor Castle. Each royal stopped to speak to both children and adults, accepting flowers and condolences from an excited crowd.

"It was so beautiful to see. I felt so emotional and I felt the queen would have loved it," said Banita Ranow, 28. Her mother, Baljinder, said the visit was "fabulous."

"I just hope in the future they remain like that and that the brothers come together," she said.

Indiana Jones, Black Panther take spotlight at Disney expo

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — An emotional Harrison Ford appeared along with a new trailer for the fifth Indiana Jones film, cast members from "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" showed footage from their forthcoming sequel, and trailers and details were unveiled from the widening TV presence of the "Star Wars" galaxy on Saturday at the D23 Expo.

An arena-sized audience gave a standing ovation to Ford, co-star Phoebe Waller-Bridge and director James Mangold after the trailer was shown at a presentation from Disney divisions Marvel, Lucasfilm and 20th Century Studios at the festival at the Anaheim Convention Center, next door to Disneyland.

"Thank you for making these films such an incredible experience for all of us," the usually stoic Ford said, choking up at times. "I'm very proud to say to say that this one is fantastic."

He pointed to Waller-Bridge and said, "this is one of the reasons."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 75 of 139

The 80-year-old Ford suggested this would be his last time donning the hat and holding the whip of one of the two characters that made him famous.

"This is it," he said, as shouts of "no" came from the crowd. "I will not fall down for you again."

The 37-year-old Waller-Bridge said Ford showed no signs of slowing down, saying "I had the time of my life making this movie," and "keeping up with this guy is exhausting."

The trailer shows Ford cracking that whip in front of a group of heavily armed henchmen with Waller-Bridge at his side.

The film, whose title has yet to be announced, is set for release on June 30, 2023. It also stars Mads Mikkelsen, Toby Jones and Antonio Banderas, and is the first in the franchise not directed by Steven Spielberg.

Angela Bassett and Winston Duke were among the cast members who presented part of "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," which is set for release on Nov. 11.

The sequence shows a team trying to steal some of the nation of Wakanda's precious substance vibranium, and a Wakandan team beating them back.

It has not been clear how the film would deal with the death of the title star of the first film, Chadwick Boseman, who died of prostate cancer in 2020.

But the footage acknowledged that his character T'Challa had died, and suggests that his sister Shuri, played by Letitia Wright, might be the next Black Panther.

"We had to meet his level of excellence, and we did," Bassett said.

Neither the "Indiana Jones" trailer nor the "Black Panther" footage were released outside of the convention hall.

Marvel also announced cast members of the forthcoming Phase 5 films from its cinematic universe, "Captain America: New World Order" and "Thunderbolts."

Anthony Mackie will take up the familiar shield as Captain America in the movie slated for a May 2024 release, as he did at the end of the television series "The Falcon and the Winter Soldier," and he'll be joined by Tim Blake Nelson as central villain the Leader. Danny Ramirez and Shira Haas will play heroes alongside Mackie.

Marvel's team of antiheroes "Thunderbolts" will include role reprisals from Florence Pugh as Yelena Belova, Sebastian Stan as the Winter Soldier and David Harbour as Red Guardian. Wyatt Russell and Julia Louis Dreyfus also appear in the film set to be released in July of 2024.

Pedro Pascal and the cast of "The Mandalorian" unveiled a trailer and new details for the series' third season and Diego Luna did the same for the forthcoming series "Andor" as Lucasfilm and the "Star Wars" galaxy deepens its television presence with no big screens in sight.

"You are a Mandalorian no more," Pascal's title character is told in the trailer for the new season, a penalty for his having removed his helmet and showed his face.

The trailer shows the Mandalorian and his baby-Yoda sidekick Grogu zipping through space, and suggests an increased role for "Battlestar Galactica" star Katee Sackhoff and her character Bo-Katan Kryze, who first appeared in season two.

Carl Weathers and Giancarlo will both reprise their roles, and "Back to the Future" star Christopher Lloyd is joining the cast. The show is set to premiere in February.

In a different Lucasfilm galaxy, a trailer was unveiled for the forthcoming TV series "Willow," based on the 1988 Ron Howard fantasy film. Christian Slater was announced as a cast member, and appeared live to talk about it.

"I love the fantasy, the sci-fi, just getting to be a part of this show was, I will be honest with you an absolute dream come true," Slater said. "This was a very fun character."

The character was described only as someone aiding in a quest who is a friend of Madmartigan, the rogue adventurer played by Val Kilmer in the film.

The trailer brings epic echoes of "Lord of the Rings," with original "Willow" actor Warwick Davis leading a group of teen adventurers in cloaks on a magical mission.

All the shows will stream on Disney+.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 76 of 139

Charles is proclaimed king; sons unite to thank the public

By JILL LAWLESS, DANICA KIRKA and SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — King Charles III was formally proclaimed sovereign of the United Kingdom on Saturday, as officials unveiled details of the meticulously choreographed ceremonies that will culminate in the state funeral of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, on Sept. 19.

In this time of sorrow for the House of Windsor, there were hints of a possible family reconciliation. Prince William and his brother Harry, together with Catherine, now Princess of Wales and Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, delighted mourners near Windsor Castle with a surprise joint appearance to thank the public for their floral tributes and condolences.

It was the first time that quarrelling younger royal generation had worked together publicly since the Sussexes stepped aside from royal duties in 2020 and moved to California. The thousands who flocked to Windsor on a sunny day were in their thrall, as the couples gratefully accepted flowers, talked to parents and children at length, shook hands and accepted heartfelt condolences.

Meghan approached a teenager in the crowd, who put her hand over her mouth in shock. The pair spoke briefly then the girl said: "Can I have a hug?" Meghan leaned in to give her a big hug.

Catherine, for her part, focused on young children in the crowd, bending down low to speak to them warmly face-to-face.

The late sovereign's coffin now rests at Balmoral Castle, the summer retreat in the Scottish Highlands where Elizabeth died on Thursday. Palace officials promised Saturday that the public will have opportunities to see the late monarch's oak coffin as it journeys from Balmoral Castle to Edinburgh and then to London, where her body will lie in state for four days starting Wednesday.

Edward William Fitzalan-Howard, the official in charge of arrangements, said the ceremonies would be "a fitting farewell to one of the defining figures of our times."

The queen's eldest son and successor Charles was officially proclaimed Britain's monarch Saturday in a pomp-filled ceremony steeped in ancient tradition and political symbolism — and, for the first time, broadcast live on television and online.

The 73-year-old Charles, who spent seven decades as heir apparent, automatically became king when his mother died and vowed to follow her example. But the accession ceremony was a key constitutional and ceremonial step that introduced the new monarch to the country, a relic of a time before mass communications.

"I am deeply aware of this great inheritance and of the duties and heavy responsibilities of sovereignty which have now passed to me," Charles said as he took on the duties of monarch.

New British Prime Minister Liz Truss and five of her predecessors were among scores of current and former British politicians who gathered at St. James's Palace for the meeting of the Accession Council.

Saturday's accession ceremony ended with a royal official publicly proclaiming King Charles III to be the country's new monarch from a balcony at the palace. In centuries past, this would have been the first official confirmation the public had of their new sovereign.

David White, the Garter King of Arms, made the proclamation, flanked by trumpeters in gold-trimmed robes before leading cheers — "hip, hip, hooray!" — for the new king. Gun salutes rang out in Hyde Park, at the Tower of London and at military sites around the U.K. as he announced the news, and scarlet-robed soldiers in the palace courtyard doffed their bearskin hats in a royal salute.

The proclamation was read at other locations across the U.K., including in the medieval City of London.

The new king formally approved a series of orders, including one declaring the day of his mother's funeral as a public holiday.

Charles was accompanied at the ceremony by wife Camilla, the Queen Consort, and eldest son Prince William, who is now heir to the throne and known by the title that Charles long held, the Prince of Wales. In his first statement since his grandmother's death, William said the queen "was by my side at my happiest moments. And she was by my side during the saddest days of my life" — a clear reference to the death of his mother, Princess Diana, in 1997.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 77 of 139

"I knew this day would come, but it will be some time before the reality of life without Grannie will truly feel real," William said.

People came by the thousands to pay their respects outside Buckingham Palace in London. The scene was repeated at other royal residences across the U.K. and at British embassies around the world.

For many Britons, the queen's passing, though long expected, is a destabilizing experience. Queen Elizabeth II is the only monarch most have ever known, and her death comes as many Britons are facing an energy crisis, the soaring cost of living, the uncertainties of the war in Ukraine and the fallout from Brexit.

The country has also just seen a change of leader. Truss was appointed prime minister by the queen on Tuesday, just two days before the monarch died. On Saturday, Truss and other senior U.K. lawmakers lined up in the House of Commons to take an oath of loyalty to the new king.

Normal parliamentary business has been suspended during a period of mourning for the queen. The House of Commons held a rare Saturday session so lawmakers could pay tribute to the late monarch.

Charles has struck a note of continuity, vowing in a televised address Friday to carry on the queen's "lifelong service," with his own modernizing stamp.

The new monarch looked both to the past — noting his mother's unwavering "dedication and devotion as sovereign" — and the future, seeking to strike a reassuring note of constancy while signaling that his will be a 21st-century monarchy.

He reflected on how the country had changed dramatically during the queen's reign into a society "of many cultures and many faiths," and pledged to serve people in Britain and the 14 other countries where he is king "whatever may be your background or beliefs."

For a second day on Saturday, Charles waded into the crowds to meet his subjects and shake hands. Trying to overcome a reputation for aloofness, he is signaling a more relaxed approach to the monarchy than that of his mother.

"It just felt like a really special moment in history," said Beverly Nash from Kent. "And it was lovely actually seeing him. I didn't think I would feel as emotional as I did."

Poitras documentary wins top prize at Venice Film Festival

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

"All the Beauty and the Bloodshed," Laura Poitras's epic documentary about photographer Nan Goldin and her activism against the Sackler family and their art connections has been awarded the Golden Lion for best film at the 79th Venice International Film Festival.

Poitras, the American filmmaker behind the Oscar-winning Edward Snowden documentary "Citizenfour," thanked the festival for recognizing that "documentary is cinema" at the ceremony Saturday evening in Venice. Neon is expected to release the film in theaters this fall and HBO Documentary Films recently acquired it for a television run.

Runner up went to Alice Diop's "Saint Omer," the narrative debut from the documentarian about a young novelist observing the trial of a woman accused of infanticide.

Cate Blanchett and Colin Farrell won the top acting prizes. Blanchett won for her performance as a renowned conductor in Todd Field's "TÁR" and Farrell for playing a man who has broken up with by his longtime friend in Martin McDonagh's "The Banshees of Inisherin."

"Thank you so much, it's such an enormous honor," Blanchett said, having just flown back to Venice from the Telluride Film Festival where the film also played.

Her performance as a successful woman in the world of international music whose reputation comes under threat has gotten nearly universal acclaim.

"I'm shocked to get this and thrilled," Farrell said in a live video message. McDonagh was on site to collect the prize before he got one of his own for screenplay.

Luca Guadagnino won the Silver Lion award for best director for the cannibal romance "Bones and All" starring Timothée Chalamet and Taylor Russell, who also was recognized for her performance for best young actress.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 78 of 139

"I have a speech prepared because I'm nervous," Russell said. "I'm grateful beyond belief to be standing here. So many of my heroes are in this room.

Russell also thanked Guadagnino.

"He's been a great friend to me and I love him so dearly," Russell said.

The jury also gave a special jury prize to "No Bears," by imprisoned Iranian director Jafar Panâhi. The acclaimed director was in July ordered by Iran to serve six-year prison sentence from a decade ago that had never been enforced. The order came as the government seeks to silence criticism amid growing economic turmoil and political pressure.

Julianne Moore led the jury that selected Saturday's winner from a pool of 23 films that included many Oscar hopefuls. The Oscar-winner presided over a jury that included French director Audrey Diwan, whose film "Happening" won the Golden Lion last year, author Kazuo Ishiguro ("Never Let Me Go"), who has been judging from his hotel room after testing positive for COVID-19, and Iranian actor Leila Hatami ("A Separation"). Also on the main jury were Italian director Leonardo Di Costanzo ("The Inner Cage") Argentinian filmmaker Mariano Cohn ("Official Competition") and Rodrigo Sorogoyen ("The Candidate").

Premiering in competition at Venice has launched many successful Oscar campaigns in recent years, leading to nominations and even wins. Seven times in the last nine years the best director Oscar has gone to a film that world premiered at the festival, including Chloé Zhao, Alfonso Cuarón, Alejandro G. Iñárritu, twice, Guillermo del Toro and Damien Chazelle. It's also debuted a handful future best picture winners like "Nomadland," "The Shape of Water" and "Birdman."

Outside of the festival's acting winners, Venice cemented several films, actors and directors, as strong awards contenders for the season to come. Brendan Fraser moved many to tears for his portrayal of Charlie, a reclusive English teacher who weighs 600 pounds and is attempting to mend things with his estranged, cruel daughter Ellie (Sadie Sink) in Darren Aronofsky's "The Whale."

If standing ovation timers are any indication of reception, some of the most beloved of the festival were Andrew Domink's "Blonde," an evocative, semi fictional account of Marilyn Monroe's life, starring Ana de Armas, and "The Banshees of Inisherin." "Banshees" got a reported 13-minute standing ovation to "Blonde's" 14 minutes—nearly double that of most other well-liked films.

Other films made also waves but went home from the awards empty handed, like Netflix's "Athena," a pulsating French drama about the murder a young boy that incites an all-out war in the community, led by his other brothers. Another, quite different, French film also charmed audiences and critics: Rebecca Zlotowski's "Other People's Children," about a 40-year-old childfree woman (Virginie Efira) dating a man (Roschdy Zem) with a young daughter.

Some were more divisive, like Iñárritu's "Bardo (or False Chronicles of a Handful of Truths)," a nearly three-hour, surrealist epic about a journalist returning his home country, Mexico, for the first time in 20 years. Loosely based on Iñárritu's experience of finding success in another country, the film was beloved by some and not by others. Noah Baumbach's Don DeLillo adaptation "White Noise" also received mixed reviews.

One major surprise was the generally negative reception for "The Son," Florian Zeller's follow-up to his Oscar-winner "The Father," that stars Hugh Jackman and Laura Dern.

Aside from awards, it was a Venice for the books, with high glamour from Timothée Chalamet, who stunned in a red backless halter neck from Haider Ackermann, and Florence Pugh, looking the part of a movie star in a sheer tulle off the shoulder Valentino that slyly evoked both classic romanticism and playful modernity, and high drama, mostly around Olivia Wilde's "Don't Worry Darling." The behind-the-scenes intrigue on Wilde's film led to some excessive silliness as the world watched the cast's every move for clues, from where people were seated, to who looked at who during the premiere.

Chris Pine even became an unlikely meme for various shots of him looking zoned out at a press conference. Then came "spit-gate" where onlookers turned into amateur sleuths trying to determine whether or not Harry Styles spit on Pine before the world premiere of the film (he didn't). As ever, Venice gets people talking.

Small nuke reactors emerge as energy option, but risks loom

By MENELAOS HADJICOSTIS Associated Press

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A global search for alternative sources to Russian energy during the war in Ukraine has refocused attention on smaller, easier-to-build nuclear power stations, which proponents say could provide a cheaper, more efficient alternative to older model mega-plants.

U.K.-based Rolls-Royce SMR says its small modular reactors, or SMRs, are much cheaper and quicker to get running than standard plants, delivering the kind of energy security that many nations are seeking. France already relies on nuclear power for a majority of its electricity, and Germany kept the option of reactivating two nuclear plants it will shut down at the end of the year as Russia cuts natural gas supplies.

While Rolls-Royce SMR and its competitors have signed deals with countries from Britain to Poland to start building the stations, they are many years away from operating and cannot solve the energy crisis now hitting Europe. Nuclear power also poses risks, including disposing of highly radioactive waste and keeping that technology out of the hands of rogue countries or nefarious groups that may pursue a nuclear weapons program.

Those risks have been accentuated following the shelling around Europe's largest nuclear power plant in Zaporizhzhia, Ukraine, which has raised fears of potential nuclear disaster.

In the wake of the war, however, "the reliance on gas imports and Russian energy sources has focused people's minds on energy security," Rolls-Royce SMR spokesman Dan Gould said.

An SMR's components can be built in a factory, moved to a site in tractor trailers and assembled there, making the technology more attractive to frugal buyers, he said.

"It's like building Lego," Gould said. "Building on a smaller scale reduces risks and makes it a more investible project."

Some SMRs are essentially pressurized water reactors identical to some 400 reactors worldwide, while other designs use sodium, lead, gas or salt as a coolant instead of water. The key advantages are their size — about one-tenth as big as a standard reactor — the ease of construction and the price tag.

The estimated cost of a Rolls-Royce SMR is 2.2 billion to 2.8 billion pounds (\$2.5 billion to \$3.2 billion), with an estimated construction time of 5 1/2 years. That's two years faster than it took to build a standard nuclear plant between 2016 and 2021, according to International Atomic Energy Agency statistics. Some estimates put the cost of building a 1,100-megawatt nuclear plant at between \$6 billion and \$9 billion.

Rolls-Royce aims to build its first stations in the U.K. within 5 1/2 years, Gould said.

Similarly, Oregon-based NuScale Power signed agreements last year with two Polish companies — copper and silver producer KGHM and energy producer UNIMOT — to explore the possibility of building SMRs to power heavy industry. Poland wants to switch from polluting, coal-powered electricity generation.

Rolls-Royce SMR said last month that it signed a deal with Dutch development company ULC-Energy to look into setting up SMRs in the Netherlands.

Another partner is Turkey, where Russia is building the Akkuyu nuclear power plant on the southern coast. Environmentalists say the region is seismically active and could be a target for terrorists.

The introduction of "unproven" nuclear power technology in the form of SMRs doesn't sit well with environmentalists, who argue that proliferation of small reactors will exacerbate the problem of how to dispose of highly radioactive nuclear waste.

"Unfortunately, Turkey is governed by an incompetent administration that has turned it into a 'test bed' for corporations," said Koray Dogan Urbarli, a spokesman for Turkey's Green Party.

"It is giving up the sovereignty of a certain region for at least 100 years for Russia to build a nuclear power plant. This incompetence and lobbying power make Turkey an easy target for SMRs," said Koray, adding that his party eschews technology with an "uncertain future."

Gould said one Rolls-Royce SMR would generate nuclear waste the size of a "tennis court piled 1-meter high" throughout the plant's 60-year lifetime. He said initially, waste would be stored on site at the U.K. plants and would eventually be transferred to a long-term disposal site selected by the British government.

M.V. Ramana, professor of public policy and global affairs at the University of British Columbia, cites

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 80 of 139

research suggesting there's "no demonstrated way" to ensure nuclear waste stored in what authorities consider to be secure sites won't escape in the future.

The constant heat generated by the waste could alter rock formations where it's stored and allow water seepage, while future mining activities could compromise a nuclear waste site's integrity, said Ramana, who specializes in international security and nuclear energy.

Skeptics also raise the risks of possibly exporting such technology in politically tumultuous regions. Gould said Rolls-Royce is "completely compliant" with U.K. and international requirements in exporting its SMR technology "only in territories that are signatories to the necessary international treaties for the peaceful use of nuclear power for energy generation."

Ramana said, however, there's no guarantee nations will follow the rules.

"Any country acquiring nuclear reactors automatically enhances its capacity to make nuclear weapons," he said, adding that every SMR could produce "around 10 bombs worth of plutonium each year."

Rolls-Royce SMR could opt to stop supplying fuel and other services to anyone flouting the rules, but "should any country choose to do so, it can simply tell the International Atomic Energy Agency to stop inspections, as Iran has done, for example," Ramana said.

Although spent fuel normally undergoes chemical reprocessing to generate the kind of plutonium used in nuclear weapons, Ramana said such reprocessing technology is widely known and that a very sophisticated reprocessing plant isn't required to produce the amount of plutonium needed for weapons.

Live updates: French president sends condolences to PM Truss

By The Associated Press undefined

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron turned his attention from the new head of state to the new head of government on Saturday evening.

He sent condolences to Britain's Prime Minister Liz Truss and said that ties between France and the United Kingdom have long roots in history.

In the future, "we shall strengthen them," Macron said in a tweet. He added: "Our support for Ukraine, as well as food and energy security will be among our shared priorities."

KEY DEVELOPMENTS:

- What's next for the UK as Queen Elizabeth II laid to rest
- What's in a name? King Charles III's name has loaded history
- King Charles III is officially proclaimed monarch in London
- What will happen to all the currencies that feature the queen?
- Live Updates: Prime Minister Liz Truss, other lawmakers vow loyalty to king
- Explainer: The formal rules around Charles' accession
- Mourners in the street: Sincere grief flows out across Britain
- Will Charles be loved by his subjects, like his mother was?
- 'A constant in my life': World mourns Queen Elizabeth II
- Camilla becomes Queen Consort after a long, twisting road
- Find more AP coverage here: <https://apnews.com/hub/queen-elizabeth-ii>

OTHER DEVELOPMENTS:

Wearing black armbands, test cricketers from England and South Africa held a minute's silence before a bell was chimed once by a high-ranking member of the military at the Oval.

Over to the west of London, golfers from around the world paused their rounds and other pros, officials and caddies gathered on the putting green in front of the first tee at Wentworth to hold a two-minute period of silence, also impeccably observed.

There were moving and respectful tributes to Queen Elizabeth II on Saturday as sports resumed in Britain following a nationwide shutdown Friday as a mark of respect for the monarch of more than 70 years who

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 81 of 139

died at the age of 96 on Thursday.

Professional and grassroots soccer — including the Premier League — decided to call off all matches this weekend to give an opportunity for participants to mourn the queen's passing.

International cricket and golf returned, though, as did English domestic rugby, on the back of guidance from the government that stated there was no obligation on sports organizations to cancel or reschedule events during the nation's period of mourning.

Prince Harry and his wife Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, have joined Prince William and his wife Kate at Windsor Castle to view floral tributes left by the public in honor of Queen Elizabeth II.

The two princes and their wives took time to study the bouquets before waving at crowds of wellwishers pressed against road barriers outside the gates of Windsor Castle on Saturday.

William and Kate were seen shaking hands and speaking with members of the public.

It was the two couples' first public appearance since the queen died on Thursday.

LONDON — Palace officials say the state funeral for Queen Elizabeth II will take place on Sept. 19 at Westminster Abbey in London after the public gets an opportunity to pay their last respects to the monarch.

Elizabeth, the nation's longest-reigning sovereign, died Thursday at her summer retreat in the Scottish Highlands.

Details on the 96-year old queen's funeral will be released later, but organizers on Saturday described the ceremony as a "a fitting farewell to one of the defining figures of our times."

Palace officials said there would be opportunities to see the late sovereign's oak coffin as it journeys from Balmoral Castle in Scotland to Edinburgh and again in London, where her body will lie in state for four days starting Wednesday.

LONDON — Prince William has made his first statement about the death of Queen Elizabeth II, saying "it will be some time before the reality of life without Grannie will truly feel real."

William, who is now heir to the throne behind his father King Charles III, said in a statement Saturday the queen "was by my side at my happiest moments. And she was by my side during the saddest days of my life."

William, the Prince of Wales, said the late queen provide "an example of service and dignity in public life that was from a different age, but always relevant to us all."

OTTAWA, Ontario — King Charles III has been officially announced as Canada's monarch Saturday in a ceremony in Ottawa.

Charles automatically became king when Queen Elizabeth II died on Thursday. But like the ceremony in the United Kingdom hours earlier, the accession ceremony Saturday in Canada is a key constitutional and ceremonial step in introducing the new monarch to the country.

Charles is now the head of state in Canada, a member of the British Commonwealth of former colonies.

Though Canadians are somewhat indifferent to the monarchy, many had great affection for the late Queen Elizabeth II, whose silhouette marks their coins.

Overall, the antiroyal movement in Canada is minuscule, meaning that Charles will almost certainly remain king of Canada. One reason is that abolishing the monarchy would mean changing the constitution. That's an inherently risky undertaking, given how delicately it is engineered to unite a nation of 37 million that embraces English-speakers, French-speakers, Indigenous tribes and a constant flow of new immigrants.

BALMORAL CASTLE, Scotland — Members of the royal family have stopped to take in a sea of floral tributes left by the public outside the gates of Balmoral Castle in Scotland after attending a prayer service nearby.

Queen Elizabeth II's three youngest children — Princess Anne, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward — as well as their families greeted a crowd of people who gathered Saturday to line the route outside the castle.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 82 of 139

Princess Eugenie, Andrew's daughter, was seen laying a bunch of flowers, while the rest of the family took time to read the many tributes to the queen.

The tribute came two days after the death of Queen Elizabeth II and the same day that her eldest son King Charles III was officially proclaimed Britain's monarch.

LONDON — Prime Minister Liz Truss and senior members of her government have taken oaths of loyalty to King Charles III in the House of Commons.

House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle was the first to pledge he will "bear true allegiance to his Majesty King Charles, his heirs and successors," followed by the longest-serving lawmakers and the prime minister.

All lawmakers pledge allegiance to the monarch after they are elected. Making a new vow when the monarch changes is not a legal requirement, but all 650 lawmakers will have a chance to retake the oath in the coming days if they wish.

Normal parliamentary business has been suspended during a period of mourning for the queen. The House of Commons is holding a rare Saturday session so that lawmakers can pay tribute to the late monarch.

A royal official has publicly proclaimed King Charles III as Britain's new monarch during a ceremony at St. James's Palace.

David White, the Garter King of Arms, read the proclamation from a balcony at the London royal residence flanked by trumpeters in gold-trimmed robes.

Gun salutes rang out in Hyde Park, at the Tower of London and at military sites around the U.K. as the proclamation was made.

Scarlet-robed soldiers in the palace courtyard presented arms and doffed their bearskin hats in a royal salute.

LONDON — King Charles III has declared that the day of his mother's funeral will be a public holiday. Charles approved the decision during his formal accession ceremony on Saturday.

The date of Queen Elizabeth II's state funeral has not been announced but is expected to be around Sept. 19.

This will be the second extra public holiday for Britons this year — a holiday was declared in early June for celebration's to mark Elizabeth's platinum jubilee, for 70 years on the throne.

LONDON — King Charles III has been officially announced as Britain's monarch Saturday, in a ceremony steeped in ancient tradition and political symbolism — and, for the first time, broadcast live.

Charles automatically became king when his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, died on Thursday, but Saturday's accession ceremony is a key constitutional and ceremonial step in introducing the new monarch to the country.

The ceremony at St. James's Palace, a royal residence in London, is attended by the Accession Council, made up of senior politicians and officials who advise the monarch. They met without Charles, officially confirming his title, King Charles III. The king will then join them to make a series of oaths and declarations.

It's the first time the ceremony has been held since 1952, when Queen Elizabeth II took the throne.

EXPLAINER: What to know ahead of Sweden's election Sunday

By VANESSA GERA Associated Press

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — Sweden is holding an election Sunday to elect lawmakers to the 349-seat Riksdag as well as to local offices across the nation of 10 million. Early voting began on Aug. 24. Here are some key things to know about the vote.

WHAT IS AT STAKE?

Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson is fighting to keep her center-left Social Democrats at the helm of

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 83 of 139

a left-wing coalition but is facing a strong challenge from the right.

Sweden is known for being a cradle-to-grave welfare society and Andersson would like to preserve the social protections that have long defined Sweden, and reverse some of the market-oriented changes by an earlier government. Her party feels that some of the changes, like state subsidies going to private schools, are creating greater inequalities.

The once-mighty Social Democrats have been in power since 2014. But as the party's popularity has sunk, it has presided over a weak government that relies more on other parties to pass laws, creating political instability for the past eight years.

WHO IS LIKELY TO WIN?

There are two major blocs: one with four parties on the left and another with four on the right. The polls leading up to the election say it is impossible to predict.

"It's basically a coin toss. It's 50-50 between the two different sides," Zeth Isaksson, a sociologist in electoral behavior at Stockholm University, said Saturday.

Under Swedish law, the party that wins the most seats forms the next government. Polls show this is likely to be Andersson's party, which will need to create a coalition with other parties.

But if the left as a whole has a poor showing, she might not be able to form a coalition. In that case, the baton would be passed to the second-largest party to try to form a government.

WHICH PARTY IS IN THE NO. 2 SPOT?

In the last election in 2018, the Moderates led by Ulf Kristersson, a center-right party, won the second-highest number of seats. The conservative party promotes a market economy, lower taxes and a smaller role for government in a country with a generous welfare state supported by high taxes.

But like the Social Democrats and other mainstream parties across Europe, the Moderates have also seen their popularity decline amid a populist challenge coming from further right.

WHO ARE THE POPULISTS?

The Sweden Democrats, a populist right-wing party that takes a hard line on immigration and crime, first entered parliament in 2010 and has been growing steadily ever since.

The party won 13% of the vote in 2018, becoming the third-largest force in parliament. Polls show it is likely to improve on that showing Sunday.

Some Swedes compare the party to Trump-style populism and note it was founded by far-right extremists decades ago. They do not trust it in its reported transformation to a more traditional conservative party.

The party is led by Jimmie Akesson, a 43-year-old former web designer who has been the driving force in trying to moderate the party's image.

The party has clearly tapped into the social mood, however, and other parties have been moving closer to its positions, as many Swedes believe that they can no longer bear the costs of the country's generous refugee policies and are seeking a crackdown on crime.

Once a pariah, other conservative parties have grown increasingly willing to deal with the Sweden Democrats.

Andersson told reporters Saturday that "the rise of the far right" was partly the fault of the right-wing opposition, which she said "spent so much time and effort to try to convince people that the Sweden Democrats aren't the party that they actually are."

HOW SERIOUS IS CRIME IN SWEDEN?

Some immigrants have had difficulties assimilating into Swedish society, leading to segregated neighborhoods with high crime rates.

Gang violence mostly takes place among criminal networks dealing drugs or involved in other illicit activity. But there have been recent cases of innocent bystanders being hurt. So far this year, 48 people have been killed by firearms in Sweden, three more than in all of 2021.

The fears triggered by shootings and explosions in disadvantaged neighborhoods have made crime one of the most pressing issues for Swedish voters.

"Shootings and explosions of bombs have increased in the last few years and (this violence) is now

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 84 of 139

considered a great social problem," said Anders Sannerstedt, a political scientist at Lund University in southern Sweden.

THE GENDER FACTOR

Andersson became Sweden's first female prime minister less than a year ago — a milestone late in coming for a country that in many ways is an example of gender equality.

"I was really proud," said Ulrika Hoonk, a 39-year-old who voted early in Stockholm on Friday, saying it took "far too long" for that to happen.

Polls show that Andersson's party is especially popular with women, with men tending to vote more conservative.

Even though Andersson is the first prime minister, there are still many women represented in positions of authority. Four party leaders are women and one party has a woman and a man sharing the leadership. In parliament, the gender balance has long been split roughly 50-50.

Several women voters interviewed this week said that finally having a woman in the top leadership job was very important for them, and one factor they considered when choosing which party to support.

Political pressure over 'Drag Kids' event rocks Boise Pride

By REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — When Joseph Kibbe attended the first Boise Pride Festival in 1989, he and about two dozen other participants wore paper bags over their heads to hide their faces from potentially violent onlookers.

At the first festival parade two years later, Kibbe and his friends were greeted by protesters with nooses in front of the Statehouse.

"Boise was a very different place back then — it was not a safe time to be LGBTQIA," he said.

Still, for Kibbe — then a junior high student who faced frequent beatings at school, now the vice principal of the Boise Pride Festival board — the event was the one place where he felt like part of a community.

"I could come and be who I wanted to be here, who I actually was," Kibbe said on Friday, just a few hours before this year's festival was set to begin. "That was a huge morale booster, and why I'm so passionate about what we're doing today."

But this year, a roughly half-hour program on the three-day-long festival schedule called "Drag Kids" has prompted a wave of political pressure and anonymous threats.

Festival organizers envisioned a short performance where kids could put on sparkly dresses and lip-sync to songs like Kelly Clarkson's "People Like Us" on stage. But others, including Idaho Republican Party Chairwoman Dorothy Moon, expected a lurid scene where children would "engage in sexual performances with adult entertainers."

The event garnered national attention from far-right websites and podcasts, and by Tuesday organizers realized this wasn't the "normal" amount of opposition, said festival president Michael Dale.

"The sexualization of children is wrong, full stop," the Idaho GOP wrote on Twitter. "Idaho rejects the imposition of adult sexuality & adult sexual appetites on children."

Moon and the Idaho GOP sent out statements directing constituents to ask the festival's corporate sponsors to pull support. A few did, at least partly — removing their logos from festival fencing and canceling plans for booths. The Idaho Department of Health and Welfare announced it was pulling \$38,000 in funding along with resources focused on tobacco-cessation and HIV/AIDS prevention.

A conservative pastor from California began rallying like-minded congregations, asking members to tell the Ada County Sheriff to arrest any festival organizer who "contributes to the delinquency of minors." A group known for armed protests told followers to show up Sunday.

Others, though, rallied to support Boise Pride. Four Democratic state lawmakers pledged their own financial support, and released a joint statement criticizing what they called "the false, dangerous claims from Idaho GOP Chair Dorothy Moon that stoke violence." New business sponsors stepped up to fill vacancies.

But the political maelstrom was growing more intense by the hour, and five kids were stuck in the middle.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 85 of 139

Riley Burrows, a full-time drag entertainer from Boise who was co-producing the Drag Kids event, began getting death threats on social media.

"It's: 'We're going to show up at this festival,' 'We're coming after you,' 'I hope you know you have a target on your back,' and 'You're going to be found in a tree,'" Burrows said. "It's gotten so repetitive."

On Thursday afternoon, festival organizers made the decision to postpone the kids' performance.

"We wanted to ask these kids first and foremost, because it affects them, and their confidence and their lives. And they still wanted to do it," Dale said, fighting back tears. "But it came to be an issue of their health, their wellbeing, and that of the festival-goers."

Anti-LGBTQ rhetoric has been increasing in Idaho and around the U.S. in recent months, and earlier this year 31 members of a white supremacist group were arrested outside of a northern Idaho Pride event for allegedly planning to riot. The Boise Pride organizers have been working with Boise Police to boost security since the northern Idaho arrests in June.

None of the five young performers are new to drag shows. The youngest is 10, and was inspired by watching her mom get ready to perform.

"She really wanted to copy me and just do the makeup and have fun with it," said Harley Innocent, who goes by her stage name. Innocent is one of many cisgender women who participate in drag, sometimes referred to as "AFAB" or "Assigned Female At Birth Queens."

Her daughter's first performance was in 2019, in the rural Idaho town of Emmett. She loved it, Innocent said.

"She was really looking forward to being able to do it on the Pride main stage — it was a big opportunity for her to share her talent."

Innocent says her daughter does a "porcelain doll" makeup look, wears a wig and chooses a song that fits her mood.

It's similar to a glitzy beauty pageant, Innocent said, but more laid back. "In drag you don't have to be perfect. We're just trying to have fun and welcome them to this art form."

Burrows, the Drag Kids co-producer, said the kids are just having fun on stage in pretty outfits.

"It's like if you were to send your kid to a school of dance, and the performance theme was rainbows — big tutus, bows and fun hair."

That's different from an adult drag show, which can have heavier themes, more revealing costumes and be geared toward more mature audiences, Burrows said: "It's like the difference between a kid's TV show and an adult TV show."

Youth performances can give kids a sense of belonging, he said, adding that "it's not scary to be gay when you're surrounded by love and acceptance."

There's a lot more support available for LGBTQ kids today, said Kibbe, but it was still heartbreaking to tell them the event was being postponed until organizers could find a safer, more supportive venue.

"The actions of whatever small minority group don't reflect how the majority of people feel, but we haven't figured out how to counterbalance that yet," Kibbe said. "The kids that were going to be performing in that show, they were literally just trying to let others know, 'Hey, you're OK, this is what a supportive parent looks like, this is what a friend looks like.'"

Saleh knows Jets playing at home on 9/11 has special meaning

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr. AP Pro Football Writer

FLORHAM PARK, N.J. (AP) — There likely will be a moment Sunday — maybe a few — when Robert Saleh looks up into the stands at MetLife Stadium and is reminded of how many lives were instantly changed 21 years ago.

Including his own.

Saleh's New York Jets will open the NFL regular season against the Baltimore Ravens at home — just across the Hudson River from where hijackers crashed two planes into the World Trade Center during the 9/11 attacks.

Football will be played Sunday, but all the cheers won't mean anyone has forgotten. Certainly not Saleh,

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 86 of 139

whose oldest brother, David, narrowly escaped the south tower that day.

There were 2,750 others in lower Manhattan who never went home.

And chances are, many of the fans rooting for the Jets — in the stands and at home — to beat Lamar Jackson and the Ravens on Sunday have been mourning personal losses since that day.

"There's no doubt. It's amplified because it is 9/11 in this city," Robert Saleh said. "Not so much for me, but for the people who are in the thick of it. Obviously, I know it's documented about my brother, but I heard stories this week about the cars being at (the Meadowlands) for months afterward because no one could pick them up. And then the Long Island train stations and the tragedies that led up to this."

Saleh was only 22 on Sept. 11, 2001, and just starting out in the financial business in Detroit. His brother was training as a financial adviser in New York City.

As Saleh and his family watched on TV as the attacks unfolded there, Washington, D.C., and Shanksville, Pennsylvania, they prayed, hoped and begged for David to be OK.

Several agonizing hours later, David called.

He made it.

Robert, who thought he lost his big brother, immediately began contemplating his own life and career path. After a few more months trudging through the financial world, the former college tight end knew he needed to chase his dream.

He wanted to be a coach.

That two-decade journey began at Michigan State and brought him to Central Michigan, Georgia, the Houston Texans, Seattle Seahawks, Jacksonville Jaguars and San Francisco 49ers before he became an NFL head coach for the first time last year with the Jets.

"I'm supposed to be here and I believe that God does things for a reason," Saleh said after he was hired. "And I believe this is one of them."

His debut with the Jets last year — Sept. 12 at Carolina — coincided with the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks.

This year, he'll be standing on the sideline in a stadium filled with fans predominantly from the New York/New Jersey area exactly 21 years since that day.

"I think it's very personal for a lot of people and I think that passion is felt country-wide, not just in New York," Saleh said Friday. "But it's a little bit more important here and you know that (Sunday) means a lot more than just a football game to a lot of people in the stands.

"That's why I think that's what's going to make Sunday pretty cool."

Sports became a method of healing and a source of unity when they returned to stadiums across the country a few weeks after the attacks.

And they have continued to do so in the years since, particularly during the days surrounding the anniversary. That's something not lost on Ravens coach John Harbaugh.

"We're going up to New York, going to be in the Meadowlands, it's going to be 9/11," Harbaugh said. "It's a great honor to be chosen to go up there and play on 9/11. We take it very seriously, that part of it.

"We know the environment, we know how loud it's going to be, we know how enthusiastic they're going to be, their demeanor. They're going to be into it. We have to match that as best we can."

There will be poignant moments of silence before the game.

And very likely some tears.

A 100-yard American flag will be unfurled on the field by members of the New York Police Department, New York City Fire Department and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Police Department.

The Jets will then begin a new game day tradition by having fans sing the national anthem. It will be led by NYPD officer Brianna Fernandez, whose late father, Luis, was a 23-year veteran of the NYPD who helped in the rescue and recovery efforts.

A stadium again will be filled with voices united by tragedy and bonded by football.

"I know y'all like to tailgate. I would appreciate it if you all get out there early, get in there early," Saleh said, directing his message to the fans. "I would love if everyone sang the national anthem. Don't just

listen to it, just sing it.

"I think it's the coolest thing when the stadium sings it. I think it's going to be electric."

Marsha Hunt, '40s star and blacklist victim, dies at 104

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

TORONTO (AP) — Marsha Hunt, one of the last surviving actors from Hollywood's so-called Golden Age of the 1930s and 1940s who worked with performers ranging from Laurence Olivier to Andy Griffith in a career disrupted for a time by the McCarthy-era blacklist, has died. She was 104.

Hunt, who appeared in more than 100 movies and TV shows, died Wednesday at her home in Sherman Oaks, California, said Roger Memos, the writer-director of the 2015 documentary "Marsha Hunt's Sweet Adversity."

A Chicago native, she arrived in Hollywood in 1935 and over the next 15 years appeared in dozens of films, from the Preston Sturges comedy "Easy Living" to the adaptation of Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" that starred Olivier and Greer Garson.

She was well under 40 when MGM named her "Hollywood's Youngest Character Actress." And by the early 1950s, she was enough of a star to appear on the cover of Life magazine and seem set to thrive in the new medium of television when suddenly "the work dried up," she recalled in 1996.

The reason, she learned from her agent, was that the communist-hunting Red Channels publication had revealed that she attended a peace conference in Stockholm and other supposedly suspicious gatherings. Alongside Hollywood stars Lauren Bacall, Humphrey Bogart and Danny Kaye, Hunt also went to Washington in 1947 to protest the House Un-American Activities Committee, which was conducting a witch hunt for communists in the film industry.

"I'd made 54 movies in my first 16 years in Hollywood," Hunt said in 1996. "In the last 45 years, I've made eight. That shows what a blacklist can do to a career."

Hunt concentrated on the theater, where the blacklist was not observed, until she began occasionally getting film work again in the late 1950s. She appeared in the touring companies of "The Cocktail Party," "The Lady's Not for Burning" and "The Tunnel of Love," and on Broadway in "The Devil's Disciple," "Legend of Sarah" and "The Paisley Convertible."

Marcia Virginia Hunt (she changed the spelling of her first name later) was born in Chicago and grew up in New York City, daughter of a lawyer-insurance executive and a voice teacher. Slender and stylish, with a warm smile and large, expressive eyes, Hunt studied drama and worked as a model before making her film debut.

An early marriage to director Jerry Hopper ended in divorce. In 1948 she married film writer Robert Presnell Jr., and they had one daughter, who died soon after her premature birth. Her husband died in 1986.

Hunt's first movie was 1935's "The Virginia Judge." She went on to play demure roles in a series of films for Paramount, including "The Accusing Finger" and "Come on Leathernecks," but, as she told The Associated Press in 2020, she was tired of "sweet young things" and begged for more substantial work.

Hollywood proved a painful education. In "Marsha Hunt's Sweet Adversity," she remembered almost getting the part of Melanie Wilkes in "Gone with the Wind," even being assured by producer David O. Selznick. Within days, Olivia de Havilland was announced as the actor who would play Melanie for the 1939 epic.

"That's the day I grew up," Hunt said in the documentary. "That's the day I knew I could never have my heart broken again by this profession of acting."

She left Paramount for MGM around the time of "Gone with the Wind" and had lead or supporting roles in "These Glamour Girls," "Flight Command" and "The Human Comedy" among other movies.

"MGM was sheer magic," she recalled in a 2007 Associated Press interview. "When I arrived at the studio for a one-day role, they parked my car. I went on the set and found a director's chair with a sign on it, 'Miss Hunt.' Another sign was on my dressing room.

"I said to myself, 'Any studio that treats a one-day player that way, really knows how to make pictures.' They won my loyalty."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 88 of 139

Work unraveled quickly after she openly embraced liberal causes, such as joining the 1947 protest against congressional hearings on the reputed communist influence in Hollywood.

"I was never a communist or even interested in the communist cause," she declared in 1996. "I was a political innocent defending my industry."

With a couple of exceptions, such as producer Stanley Kramer's 1952 family comedy "The Happy Time," she was unseen on the big screen for most of the 1950s. She later appeared in many TV series, including "My Three Sons," "Matlock," "All in the Family" and "Murder, She Wrote."

She remained vigorous and elegant in old age. In 1993, she put out "The Way We Wore: Styles of the 1930s and '40s and Our World Since Then," a lavishly illustrated book of the fashions during her Hollywood heyday.

A lifelong political activist, Hunt had a brush with terror in 1962 when she took part in a forum on right-wing extremists and two other participants' homes were damaged by homemade bombs the very same evening.

"The ashen-faced actress said her home probably escaped the bomb attack only because the terrorists were unable to find out where she lived," the Los Angeles Times reported. Police were sent to guard her home.

More recently, she helped create a refuge for the homeless in Los Angeles' Sherman Oaks neighborhood, where she lived and was feted with the title honorary mayor.

Looking back on her activist years, Hunt remarked in 1996: "I never craved an identity as a figure of controversy. But having weathered it and found other interests in the meantime, I can look back with some philosophy."

Black preacher arrested while watering flowers sues police

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — A Black pastor who was arrested by white police officers while watering the flowers of a neighbor who was out of town filed a federal lawsuit alleging the ordeal violated his constitutional rights and caused lingering problems including emotional distress and anxiety.

Michael Jennings filed the lawsuit Friday night against three officers and the central Alabama town of Childersburg requesting a jury trial and seeking an unspecified amount of money.

Jennings' lawyers held a news conference outside the Birmingham federal courthouse on Saturday to discuss the lawsuit, and the NAACP, the nation's oldest civil rights organization, and other groups planned a rally afterward at a downtown park.

"I'm here for accountability, and I'm here for justice," Jennings told the news conference.

The suit alleged the actions of Officers Christopher Smith and Justin Gable, Sgt. Jeremy Brooks and the city violated rights protecting against unlawful arrest and guaranteeing free speech. He cited multiple continuing problems including post traumatic stress disorder and humiliation.

Childersburg city attorney Reagan Rumsey didn't return an email seeking comment.

Jennings, 56, was arrested in May after a white neighbor called 911 and said a "younger Black male" and gold SUV were at a house while the owners — who are friends of Jennings and had asked him to watch their home — were away.

Jennings identified himself as "Pastor Jennings" but refused to provide identification to the officers, who arrested him on a charge of obstructing government operations after a 20-minute confrontation that included raised voices on both sides.

Filed in municipal court, the charge was dismissed within days at the request of the then-police chief. Jennings' attorneys last month released police body camera video that was obtained following a records request to the city, located 55 miles (88 kilometers) southeast of Birmingham.

Benard Simelton, president of the Alabama branch of the NAACP, said the officers who arrested Jennings did "so many things" that weren't in line with good community policing tactics.

"These poor judgment decisions reflect poorly on the type of training the Childersburg police officers receive ... if they were acting in accordance within police guidelines," Simelton said in a statement.

While Jennings could have filed a claim against the city seeking damages, attorney Harry Daniels said that wasn't done because the arrest was well within the time frame allowed by law for a lawsuit.

Manchin's big energy deal draws pushback from many Dems

By KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats desperately needed the vote of Sen. Joe Manchin of West Virginia to get their signature legislative priority across the finish. So they did what Washington does best: They cut a deal.

To help land his support for a bill hailed by advocacy groups as the biggest investment ever in curbing climate change, Manchin said he secured a commitment from President Joe Biden and Democratic leaders to move a permitting-streamlining package for energy projects through Congress before Sept. 30, the end of the current fiscal year.

Now the climate bill is law, and Manchin is ready to collect. But key Democratic constituency groups are lining up against the proposal, calling it bad for the country and the climate. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont and dozens of House members agree.

The fissure could complicate the party's efforts to keep the focus on this summer's major legislative victories going into the November midterm elections, which will determine which party controls the House and the Senate. More immediately, the divide is testing the ability of Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., and House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., to keep enough Democrats in line to avoid a partial government shutdown at the end of the month.

Schumer is pushing ahead. He said this week that he would attach Manchin's preferred measure to must-pass legislation that would keep the federal government running into mid-December.

To win over skeptics, some Democrats are stressing that Manchin's proposal to streamline environmental reviews for energy infrastructure projects would be good for renewable energy, too.

A summary of the proposed legislation has been circulating among Senate Democrats in recent days and was obtained by The Associated Press. It states that the package being developed is key to meeting climate goals by developing interstate transmission lines that will transport electricity from Midwestern wind farms, for example, to major East Coast cities.

"Unfortunately, today these higher voltage, longer lines across multiple jurisdictions are not getting built," the summary said.

The summary states that about 20 large transmission projects are ready to move forward with some federal support.

"Reforms to address permitting, siting and cost allocation concerns are key to building these projects," the document says.

In interviews, key Democratic senators stressed a similar message, calling the energy proposal complementary to the massive climate package that passed last month.

"Right now, there's just too much delay in solar and wind and geothermal, so I want at every possible opportunity to speed up permitting for renewables," said Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore.

Sen. Brian Schatz, D-Hawaii, said the permitting effort is about making sure bedrock environmental laws are followed in a more timely manner, such as concurrent reviews by government agencies rather than one agency beginning its work after another has finished.

Schatz said the "old environmental movement" was built around stopping inappropriate projects. But the "new environmental movement" is built around building an unprecedented amount of clean energy.

"In order to do that, we're going to run into the same regulations that have stopped bad projects for a number of years," Schatz said. "If we're going to actually meet our clean energy goals, we're going to need to build big planet-saving projects, and that means the federal regulations that slow them down have to be looked at very carefully."

Legislative text incorporating Manchin's priorities has not yet been released, but among the goals he has set out is establishing a maximum timeline for permitting reviews, including two years for major projects

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 90 of 139

and one year for lower-impact projects. Manchin also wants a statute of limitations for filing court challenges and language that would enhance the federal government's authority over interstate electric transmission projects determined by the Secretary of Energy to be in the national interest.

Finally, he wants to require all relevant agencies to take the steps necessary to permit the construction and operation of the Mountain Valley Pipeline, a 303-mile (487-kilometer) pipeline, which is mostly finished and would transport natural gas across West Virginia and Virginia.

The proposed route crosses more than 1,100 streams and will disturb 6,951 acres (2,813 hectares) of land, including 4,168 acres (1,687 hectares) that have the potential for severe water erosion. When fully complete, the pipeline will deliver up to 2 billion cubic feet (56 million cubic meters) of natural gas per day to markets in the mid-Atlantic and Southeast.

Legal battles have delayed completion by nearly four years and doubled the pipeline's cost, now estimated at \$6.6 billion. Manchin also wants to give the federal appeals court in Washington jurisdiction over any further litigation regarding the project.

More than 70 House Democrats signed onto a letter Friday calling on Pelosi to keep the permitting provisions out of the spending bill, or any other must-pass legislation this year.

"We remain deeply concerned that these serious and detrimental permitting provisions will significantly and disproportionately impact low-income communities, indigenous communities, and communities of color," the lawmakers wrote.

Sanders directed his ire mostly at efforts to open the Mountain Valley Pipeline. Speaking on the Senate floor, he cited the litany of climate disasters taking place around the globe — from record-breaking droughts in the West and in China, to massive flooding in Pakistan, to the melting of glaciers that he said could place major U.S. cities underwater in coming decades.

"At a time when climate change is threatening the very existence of the planet, why would anybody be talking about substantially increasing carbon emissions and expanding fossil fuel production in the United States?" Sanders said. "What kind of message does this send to the people of our own country and to suffering people all over the world?"

Schatz called the Mountain Valley Pipeline a "different animal" that he normally would not accept, but "we've made a deal with Joe Manchin." He said that deal, which led to the passage of the Inflation Reduction Act last month, has put the U.S. on a path to achieving the most emission reductions in the nation's history.

That bill uses changes in the tax code to move the U.S. to cleaner sources of energy. It gives tax breaks to consumers who buy electric vehicles, solar panels and more energy-efficient appliances, and it also provides financial incentives for the manufacturers of such products. Plus the bill spends billions of dollars on such things as transitioning the fleet of the U.S. Postal Service to electric vehicles.

Advocates project the bill puts the U.S. on track to cut emissions 40% below 2005 levels by 2030.

"In the net, this is not a close call," Schatz said. "... I don't like this pipeline, but it's not the main environmental problem on the planet. The main environmental problem is that we're not doing enough wind and solar. And now we're about to see wind and solar energy take off like a rocket ship."

Not just a bag: Fendi fetes its famed 'Baguette' in NYC

By JOCELYN NOVECK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — You'd have thought it was a movie premiere, with the hoopla converging outside midtown Manhattan's Hammerstein Ballroom. But inside, despite the celebrity presence, the real star was a handbag.

Not just any handbag, but the "Baguette" — the ubiquitous Fendi bag created 25 years ago and named for the long French loaf of bread and the way it, too, is carried under the arm of the discerning buyer. The Fendi show on Friday night was a big birthday party for the bag and its long-lasting claim to pop-culture fame.

But why New York, when Fendi usually shows in Italy? The bag had early success and pop-culture

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 91 of 139

resonance in New York, most memorably immortalized in a 2000 episode of "Sex and the City," when a mugger had the temerity to try to take one from Carrie Bradshaw when he apparently didn't know what it was called.

"Gimme your bag," the thug in the alley demanded. "It's a baguette!" Carrie admonished him as he made off with her shiny purple version.

It's safe to say everyone knew their bags from their baguettes on Friday night, when about 600 people packed into the ballroom — some on the main floor and others in high balcony seating — to celebrate the bag and its many iterations over the years.

The evening marked a three-way collaboration. Fendi women's designer Kim Jones had brought in his friend and onetime boss, Marc Jacobs — the quintessential New York designer — to lend his distinctive romantic streetwear vibe to a series of 10 or so ensembles starring, of course, the baguette. ("I am never one to shy away from an iconic bag," Jacobs was quoted as saying in a theater-style program.) And jeweler Tiffany & Co. presented its own baguettes in signature robin's-egg blue.

In the front row sat Kim Kardashian, in blonde locks and a figure-hugging sheer and sequined dress, but the baguettes were the focus on the runway. There were big baguettes, small baguettes, nano-sized baguettes. Shiny baguettes, fluffy baguettes, sparkly and smooth baguettes.

There were fanny-pack baguettes, and sometimes double baguettes — two sizes stacked together. Pockets were reimagined as baguettes. There were tiny baguettes in satin fashioned onto tube socks — a perfect place to put little gadgets — or if you wanted them closer to your head, attached to a satin baseball cap. The vibe was a mix of fancy and casual, of sequins and sweatshirts.

As the show began, a huge drape on the wall dropped to the ground to reveal a giant mirror, suddenly allowing the entire room, balconies and all, to see itself. The models snaked along the floor, but when they were done, the mirror suddenly disappeared and the models were standing in a huge display case, as if at a store.

Linda Evangelista, in a huge Tiffany blue cape and gown, came out with the designers for a final bow. They applauded her, in what was a very public moment for the '90s supermodel, now 57, after her recent ordeal with what she has described as a disastrous body-sculpting procedure that left her disfigured.

Debating over debates: Campaign tradition faces skepticism

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Under pressure from his Republican rival, Pennsylvania Democratic Senate candidate John Fetterman said this week he would participate in one debate before the November election.

In Georgia, Democratic Sen. Raphael Warnock and Republican challenger Herschel Walker are still working through the details of what a debate might look like, though they appear to be inching closer to a deal. And in Arizona, Democratic gubernatorial hopeful Katie Hobbs has declined a televised debate with Republican Kari Lake.

With the fall campaign rapidly approaching, the time-honored tradition of televised debates as a forum for voters to evaluate candidates may be the latest casualty of constant media coverage and powerful digital platforms, as well as the nation's polarized political climate. For some Republicans, eschewing debates is a chance to sidestep a media structure some in the party deride as biased and align with Donald Trump, who has blasted presidential debates. Some Democrats, including Hobbs, have pointed to raucous GOP debates from the primary season as a reason to avoid tangling with their opponents.

Despite such skepticism, veteran political consultant Terry Sullivan defended debates as "the one forum where candidates are forced into answering questions that they don't want to answer."

"They're not going to do it in their TV commercials," added Sullivan, who managed GOP Sen. Jim DeMint's 2004 bid in South Carolina and handled media for Florida Sen. Marco Rubio's 2016 presidential effort. "And in stump appearances, press conferences, they can evade, they can dodge."

And sometimes, Sullivan added, it's the media coverage of what happens onstage, rather than the back-and-forth itself, that can make a bigger impression.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 92 of 139

In what "should have been the most boring debate in the history of mankind," Sullivan said that a 2004 panelist questioning DeMint and Democrat Inez Tenenbaum asked DeMint if he agreed with a state GOP platform tenet in opposition of openly gay teachers in South Carolina's public schools.

"That kind of turned the race on its head for the next three months," Sullivan said, noting headlines he characterized as "DeMint wants to fire gay teachers."

DeMint went on to win the open seat by nearly 10 percentage points, a margin typical in recent South Carolina statewide elections. But in more competitive states, Sullivan said, a debate can serve as "a good way to find out where candidates are on the issues."

In addition to winning candidates thousands of impressions in earned media and repackaged video clips, debate footage can also propel candidates' messages far more broadly — and cheaply — than could television ad buys, said Michael Wukela, a South Carolina Democratic media consultant and veteran of Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders' presidential bids.

"You're getting that in one shot," Wukela said, of a debate appearance being worth airtime that would otherwise cost millions. "That's like a Super Bowl ad."

Refusal to participate can draw ire from rivals. The Republicans whom Walker refused to debate ahead of Georgia's primary critiqued him as ill-prepared to take on Warnock, a skilled orator.

"If you can't get on the stage and debate fellow Republicans, how the heck are you going to debate with Raphael Warnock in the general election?" Latham Saddler, a Navy veteran and former Trump administration official who was among five Republicans challenging Walker, asked. "Usually if you're hiding, you're hiding for a reason."

Walker repeatedly proclaimed his eagerness to face off with Warnock in the fall but, instead of agreeing to Warnock's challenge to three debates, accepted an invitation to a different one altogether. This week, Warnock said he would participate in that debate, if Walker agreed to another forum Warnock wants. That back-and-forth remains unresolved.

Other Senate contests are playing out similarly.

In North Carolina, where U.S. Rep. Ted Budd skipped four Republican primary debates in his U.S. Senate bid, said Friday he wouldn't accept an invitation from the North Carolina Association of Broadcasters to debate Democrat Cheri Beasley, as the two head for a presumably close general election. Budd said he had accepted a cable debate invite, but there's no agreement with Beasley on that appearance.

Dr. Mehmet Oz, the Republican Senate candidate in Pennsylvania, mused to reporters this week about what would happen if voters elected a senator who never has "answered a legitimate question from a voter, from a newscaster in a non-taped setting, in a debate stage?" citing Fetterman's campaign-trail absence as he recovers from a stroke.

Fetterman's campaign said he will participate in a televised debate in October but gave no other details, including why he would agree to just one debate. Oz's campaign immediately dubbed it a "secret debate," with no details on when or where.

In Pennsylvania's governor's race, the Republican nominee Doug Mastriano has rejected a media-moderated debate and instead reserved a hotel ballroom on Oct. 22 and picked a partisan moderator for himself: Mercedes Schlapp, who served as Trump's White House strategic communications director and is married to the chair of the American Conservative Union.

The campaign of Democrat Josh Shapiro said Mastriano's refusal to accept an independent moderator blew up about a dozen invitations from news organizations and other groups.

Some incumbents with an edge on their rivals have rebuffed requests for multiple debates, uninterested in taking a risk on stage that might change the course of their campaign.

South Carolina Democrat Joe Cunningham called for four general-election debates with Republican Gov. Henry McMaster, whose campaign dismissed the request as a "stunt" and ultimately agreed to one matchup. In Texas, GOP Gov. Greg Abbott has granted a single debate to Democratic challenger Beto O'Rourke — on a Friday night in the thick of high school football season, which will be broadcast as distracted voters are instead at games kicking off around the state.

Florida Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis initially committed to a statewide televised debate with his

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 93 of 139

Democratic opponent before U.S. Rep. Charlie Crist — who came under fire for not agreeing to primary debates — won his party's nomination. Now, the two are set to spar in a single debate, shown only on a West Palm Beach TV station.

Michigan Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Republican nominee Tudor Dixon finally agreed to a single October debate after a scheduling flap. Whitmer announced last month she would participate in two statewide, televised debates, a decision her campaign said was "consistent with past precedent." Dixon, who criticized Whitmer for not debating before voters are able to send in absentee ballots, ultimately agreed to the solo meeting.

Noting that the uncertainty of debates can be "terrifying" for all involved, Wukela acknowledged incumbents' reticence to allowing their challengers prominent opportunities to equate themselves with the office, or its existing occupant.

"Strom Thurmond refused to debate any of his opponents," Wukela said of the longtime South Carolina Democrat-turned-Republican governor and senator. "If I've got a four-touchdown lead, why would I ever throw the ball?"

In Indiana, a shifting abortion landscape without clinics

By ARLEIGH RODGERS Associated Press/Report for America

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — About nine years ago, Sarah Knowlton sought an abortion at a now-closed clinic in northern Indiana, where she encountered anti-abortion protestors as she approached the entrance.

Knowlton reflected on how that experience drove her in 2019 to Whole Woman's Health, another abortion clinic in South Bend, to train workers to take patients safely to its doors, creating a resource she wished she had years ago.

But the program — and Knowlton's work at the clinic — will end Sept. 15, when Indiana's abortion ban comes into force, effectively closing down abortion clinics statewide.

Indiana's Legislature became the first in the nation to approve abortion restrictions after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, and Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb signed the ban into law Aug. 5.

The ban, which has exceptions, prohibits abortion clinics from providing any abortion care, leaving such services solely to hospitals or outpatient surgical centers owned by hospitals.

"My last shift as a clinic escort is coming up," Knowlton said Wednesday. "And I'm not ready for it."

At Indiana University Health, which is the state's largest hospital system, providers have been training to continue offering abortion care in the allowed circumstances.

Under the new law, abortions will be permitted only in cases of rape and incest before 10-weeks post-fertilization; to protect the life and physical health of the patient; or if a fetus is diagnosed with a lethal anomaly.

A doctor who performs an illegal abortion or who fails to file required reports must lose their medical license.

IU Health officials outlined a new 24/7 response team — which will include a clinician, an ethicist and a lawyer — that providers can contact to evaluate nuanced emergency situations.

"The law is broad," said Dr. Caroline Rouse, medical director of maternity services at IU Health. "Patient situations are very specific and unique."

Last year, the majority of abortions in Indiana happened in abortion clinics. Hospitals performed 133 of the state's 8,414 abortions, according to a 2021 annual report from the state Department of Health, while the remaining 8,281 took place in abortion clinics.

The clinics in Indiana that will not be able provide abortion services on Sept. 15, include Whole Woman's Health in South Bend, Women's Med in Indianapolis, and Clinic for Women in Indianapolis.

The four Planned Parenthood clinics that provide abortion care in Indiana will do so no longer, but will continue to see patients for other medical services such as STI testing and treatment, contraception and cancer screenings, said Rebecca Gibron, CEO of the Planned Parenthood division that includes Indiana.

"Planned Parenthood has been a leading reproductive health care provider in Indiana since 1932. And we are not going anywhere," Gibron told the AP in August.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 94 of 139

Sharon Lau, Midwest Advocacy Director for Whole Woman's Health Alliance, said that though the South Bend clinic will cease abortion care, patients can still access a program that directs patients to abortion appointments in other states.

"We will keep going until we're forced not to," she said.

Clinic for Women in Indianapolis declined to talk to The Associated Press.

Lau said her clinic's plans could hinge on two lawsuits filed by the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana that seek to block the abortion ban before it takes effect.

The first lawsuit, filed Aug. 31 in a Monroe County, states the ban violates the Indiana Constitution, while the one filed Thursday in Marion County claims the ban is at odds with the state's religious freedom law, which Republicans enacted seven years ago. The timing of both lawsuits is unclear.

Mike Fichter, Indiana Right to Life CEO, said in a statement that delaying the ban would mean "the indiscriminate killing of unborn children will continue at abortion clinics in Indiana."

"We are confident the state will prevail and pray the new law is not blocked from going into effect," he said.

Women's Med will also stop providing abortions after the ban but continue referring patients to states where abortion is legal until about one month after, said Dr. Katie McHugh, an abortion provider at the clinic.

McHugh said she's seen a shift in patient behavior since the Indiana ban was passed. While some are pursuing abortion earlier, others are choosing surgical over medication abortions to avoid complications, she said.

Other patients assume abortion is already illegal, "and yet they choose abortion anyway, if that can demonstrate the desperation that people feel," McHugh said.

Knowlton said she worries for those patients who will put their health or lives at risk if they cannot get an abortion. She knows that feeling; it was her mindset nine years ago.

"I was going to find a way, come hell or high water, whether there was a clinic I was able to access or not," Knowlton said.

Queen Elizabeth is featured on several currencies. Now what?

By KELVIN CHAN AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — Queen Elizabeth II has been depicted on British banknotes and coins for decades. Her portrait also has been featured on currencies in dozens of other places around the world, in a reminder of the British empire's colonial reach.

So what happens next after her death this week? It will take time for the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia, New Zealand and other countries to swap out the monarchs on their money.

Here's a look at what is next for the paper cash featuring the late queen:

SWITCHING MONARCHS

The queen's portrait on British notes and coins is expected to be replaced by a likeness of the new King Charles III, but it won't be immediate.

"Current banknotes featuring the image of Her Majesty The Queen will continue to be legal tender," the Bank of England said. An announcement on existing paper money issued by the U.K.'s central bank will be made after the official 10-day mourning period has ended, it said.

The Royal Mint, which is the official maker of British coins, said all coins with her portrait "remain legal tender and in circulation," with more information to come later.

"As we respect this period of respectful mourning, we continue to strike coins as usual," the Royal Mint said on its website.

With 4.7 billion U.K. banknotes worth 82 billion pounds (\$95 billion) in circulation and about 29 billion coins, British money bearing the queen's image will likely be in circulation for years.

"Rather than all of the current coins and notes being handed in, the process will be a gradual one and many of the coins featuring portraits of Queen Elizabeth II will remain in circulation for many years to come," according to Coin Expert, a British coin research website.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 95 of 139

After Charles takes the crown at his coronation, a new portrait will need to be taken to use on redesigned notes and coins, the website said.

Coins featuring him will show him facing to the left, replacing the queen's rightward gaze in line with tradition dating to the 17th century. It dictates monarchs be shown in profile and in opposite direction to their predecessors.

WHAT ABOUT OTHER COUNTRIES?

Other nations' currencies that feature the queen — from Australian, Canadian and Belizean dollars — also will be updated with the new monarch, but the process could take longer, because "it is much easier to enforce a new design in the country where it originates, rather than in other countries where different jurisdiction may take place," the Coin Expert website said.

The Bank of Canada said its current \$20 banknote, made of synthetic polymer, is designed "to circulate for years to come."

"There is no legislative requirement to change the design within a prescribed period when the Monarch changes," the Bank of Canada said.

In general, when a new portrait subject is chosen for Canadian money, the process begins with drawing up a fresh design, and a new note is ready to be issued "a few years later," the bank said.

The Reserve Bank of New Zealand said it will issue all of its stock of coins depicting the queen before new ones go out with Charles' image. The queen also is featured on the \$20 bill, which is made "infrequently" and there is no "plan to destroy stock or shorten the life of existing banknotes just because they show the Queen," the bank said.

"It will be several years before we need to introduce coins featuring King Charles the Third, and longer until stocks of \$20 notes are exhausted," it added.

THE QUEEN'S CURRENCY

She first appeared on money when she was still a princess. That was in 1935, when Canada's \$20 bill featured 8-year-old Princess Elizabeth, whose grandfather King George V was then the monarch, as part of a new series of notes.

Canadian \$20 bills were updated with a new portrait of the queen in 1954, a year after her coronation, and her portrait also started appearing on other currencies around the world, mainly British colonies and Commonwealth countries.

British bills didn't get her image until 1960 — seven years after her coronation. That's when the Bank of England was granted permission to use her likeness on paper money, starting with the 1-pound note, though the formal and regal image was criticized for being too severe and unrealistic.

She became the first monarch to be depicted on British banknotes. British coins, meanwhile, have featured kings and queens for more than 1,000 years.

CURRENCIES OUTSIDE THE U.K.

At one time, Queen Elizabeth II appeared on at least 33 different currencies, more than any other monarch, an achievement noted by Guinness World Records.

Her image is still featured on money in places where she remains a beloved figure, such as Canada, and continue to incorporate the Union Jack into their flags, like Australia and New Zealand.

She's also found on notes and coins issued by the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank, the monetary authority for a group of small nations including Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines.

Other places have long stopped putting her face on their currency. After Jamaica gained independence from Britain in 1962, its central bank replaced the queen on paper notes with portraits of national heroes such as Marcus Garvey.

Notes in the Seychelles now feature local wildlife instead of the queen. Bermuda did a similar revamp, though the queen retains a minor position on bills. Trinidad and Tobago swapped in a coat of arms after it became a republic.

Hong Kong dollars issued after Britain handed its colony back to Beijing in 1997 feature Chinese dragons and skyscrapers on the Asian financial center's skyline.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 96 of 139

Not Mar-a-Lago: Congress' secrets in sealed rooms, lock bags

LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — Security-sealed rooms. Lock bags. And in the most rare of circumstances, the ability to handcuff a document pouch to a messenger to transport the nation's secrets.

These are some of the ways Capitol Hill keeps classified documents secured, an elaborate system of government protocols and high-level security clearances that stands in stark contrast to the storage room stash of secrets at Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida.

As the Justice Department's probe into the Republican former president's possession of White House materials deepens, lawmakers of both parties have more questions than answers. Intelligence officials have offered to brief congressional leaders, possibly as soon as next week, senators said, as they launch a lengthy risk assessment. Congress had asked for the briefing soon after the revelation of the unprecedented Aug. 8 search, but it may be delayed by the legal fight between Trump and the government.

"We need to be able to do appropriate oversight for the Intelligence Committee so that we have a better handle on how this particular incident was handled, but so that we avoid problems like this in the future," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas.

A culture of secrecy may not necessarily be expected from Capitol Hill, where 535 elected members of Congress, alongside thousands of aides and countless more visitors broker information on a daily basis as a routine part of governing.

Secrets large and small — from the most mundane details about when an upcoming vote will be scheduled to the parlor intrigue of transitional alliances — are among the more valued bits of currency that pass through the place.

But when it comes to classified materials, the stream of information tends to clamp shut.

Lawmakers who serve on the House and Senate Intelligence committees are traditionally among the most publicly tight-lipped about their work, and staff for those panels must obtain security clearances to handle the documents and perform their jobs. Others serving on committees dealing with military affairs and certain national security funds face similar restrictions.

When members of Congress want to peruse classified materials, they descend deep into the basement of the Capitol to a sensitive compartmented information facility, known as a SCIF. Other SCIFs are scattered throughout the Capitol complex.

If documents need to be ferried in or out of secure locations, they are typically transported in a lock bag, a briefcase-sized pouch under lock and key.

Sen. Bob Casey, D-Penn., a member of the Intelligence Committee, said staff will often use a lock bag even simply to transport materials from committee offices to a SCIF some 30 feet (9 meters) away.

"The idea that anyone would leave any building or any room with those documents not secure — it's just, the word is, unfathomable," Casey said in an interview.

In rare instances, a document pouch can be handcuffed to a person's wrist for travel, though several senators and staff said they have never seen that happen.

"I've only seen that in movies," said Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, the top-ranking Republican on the Intelligence Committee.

Trump's alleged mishandling of the documents has stunned lawmakers of both parties, even those Republicans critical of the Justice Department's unusual search of a former president. Court filings from the federal government say hundreds of classified records have been retrieved from Trump's private Mar-a-Lago club in Palm Beach, Florida.

Sen. Martin Heinrich, D-N.M., all but warned of Trump's handling of sensitive documents early in the then-president's term. A photo from a White House press briefing in 2017 showed Trump and others in the Oval Office with a lock bag visible on the desk, the key still inside.

"Never leave a key in a classified lock bag in the presence of non-cleared people. #Classified101," tweeted Heinrich, a member of the Intelligence Committee, days after the February 2017 incident. He asked for a review.

In an interview this past week, Heinrich said, "It is outrageous to think — the cavalier nature with which

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 97 of 139

the former president treats information, that can have life or death consequences for our sources, is unfathomable.”

Trump amassed more than a dozen boxes of papers and other mementos from the White House, many held in a storage room at Mar-a-Lago. The FBI's search came after a protracted battle over missing documents launched soon after Trump left the White House in 2021.

Trump attorneys had insisted early in the summer after the first delivery of returned documents that there was nothing left at the former president's club. Upon inspection, the FBI asked the storage room to be put under lock and key. Ultimately a search warrant for Mar-a-Lago was obtained and more than 100 other documents with classified markings were found. Now, the Justice Department is investigating the Trump team's handling of the documents and possible obstruction.

Cornyn expressed skepticism the stashed documents held critical information.

“It's hard for me to believe it was particularly sensitive — it's been sitting at Mar-a-Lago for a year and a half before they do anything about it,” he said.

Still, when it comes to handling classified documents, Cornyn noted: “There are ways to secure it, but it's not — under no circumstance, should it be in your home.”

Retribution for breaking secrets on Capitol Hill can be swift and severe. In the 1980s, Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., announced he would leave the Intelligence Committee after acknowledging that he had allowed a reporter to review a not classified but still “committee confidential” draft report on the Contra wars in Latin America. More recently, a former senior staff member of the Senate panel was charged with lying to investigators about his interactions with journalists.

Immediately after the Mar-a-Lago search, Sen. Mark Warner, the Democratic chairman of the intelligence committee, and Rubio jointly asked the director of national intelligence for an assessment of the damage to national security that would result from disclosure of the documents.

“My issue is not whether the documents belong there or not, because ultimately they shouldn't have been stored there and they could have been removed,” Rubio said in an interview. “The question is: Was there good faith efforts made by the federal government to retrieve those documents without resorting to a raid of a former president's home?”

The intelligence office was expected to provide a bipartisan briefing for the so-called gang of eight — the top four leaders of the House and the Senate, along with the House and Senate intelligence committee leaders.

But it is uncertain now, due to Trump's litigation, whether the Office of the Director of National Intelligence will be able to continue the assessment or provide the briefing to lawmakers.

Warner said he was asking for at least an interim risk assessment.

Senators expect the gang of eight briefing could happen next week, when the House and Senate are both back in session — but only in a secure location.

Day of terror in Memphis leaves family and friends bereft

By TRAVIS LOLLER and ADRIAN SAINZ The Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A day of terror that left four dead and three wounded in a Tennessee city this week tore a hole in the hearts of those left behind: the grandmother of three children left without parents, the man who lay down beside his fallen best friend and refused to leave, the daughter whose wounded father is her “whole world.”

Police have so far released few details of the rampage that sent Memphis into lockdown as a shooter drove around town for hours, opening fire on people and streaming some of the attacks on social media.

Police arrested 19-year-old Ezekiel Kelly on Wednesday night when he surrendered after a car chase and charged him with first-degree murder in the shootings.

Although several of the victims have been publicly identified by friends and relatives, police had released the name of only the first victim, Dewayne Tunstall, on Friday.

Marcus Cash was in his house just before 1 a.m. Wednesday when he heard gunfire and ran outside

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 98 of 139

to where Tunstall and some friends had gathered. Cash and Tunstall were so close that they were like brothers, he said. When Cash saw Tunstall's body, he just lay down beside him.

"I had his blood all over me," Cash said. "They couldn't get me off the ground."

After police arrived, they held Cash for hours as a precautionary measure, because he was so distraught, he said.

"They said I wasn't in the right state of mind to be out," Cash said. "I was emotionally torn."

When asked what he told police, he said: "You all better catch him before I do."

Tunstall was featured in a news story on Memphis television station WREG-TV last year after he bought gas for a stranger at a local station. Olivia Jennings told a reporter she was standing in line behind Tunstall when she started joking with him about all the orange juice he was buying. Then he offered to buy her gas.

The small act of kindness touched Jennings so much that she asked to take a photo with Tunstall to post online. She told the station she wanted others to know that while Memphis gets a bad rap, there are good people all over the city.

"The young man is about the same age as my son," Jennings said. "I would just like to know if he did something kind, people would at least say something. You know, 'You're a good kid.'"

Also killed on Wednesday was Allison Parker, a mother of three who worked as a medical assistant at a clinic in nearby West Memphis, Arkansas.

Parker's mother-in-law, Debbie Holland, said Parker's children lost their father — her son — a couple of years ago. Speaking by phone on the way to be with her grandchildren Thursday, she said the killer "didn't just take one life" but also left the children without parents.

"She was beautiful, intelligent, kind-hearted, giving — she would help anybody who asked," Holland said. "She didn't deserve to die at the hands of this monster."

A Facebook post from Dr. Trent Pierce at the Family Practice Center of West Memphis, where Parker worked, said the office was grieving her death.

"Please pray for her family and our entire office staff as we try to process this senseless loss," it read.

Rodolfo Berger was shopping in an AutoZone when he was shot just before 6 p.m. Wednesday, according to his daughter.

Police said Kelly streamed the shooting on Facebook live, casually speaking to the camera before opening the store door and firing what appeared to be a pistol. Police said the man who was injured was taken to the hospital in critical condition.

Jenny Berger identified the victim as her father in a long post on Facebook.

"Today my dad was a victim of a senseless act of violence. Memphis shooting rampage. He was at the wrong place at the wrong time," she wrote.

Berger said she was in agony for hours, not knowing what had happened to the man she considers her best friend.

"I love this man so much," she wrote. "If you know me, you know he's my world."

A person who answered the phone at Jenny Berger's office said she was not granting interviews. She wrote on Facebook that her father is recovering. A family friend has organized a GoFundMe campaign to help with expenses.

"I can feel in my heart he is so STRONG and ready for a journey of healing ahead," Berger wrote.

Trailers offer temporary home as flood victims plan future

By BRUCE SCHREINER Associated Press

PRESTONSBURG, Ky. (AP) — David Stephens' children romped around the small patch of grass they've turned into a makeshift playground, running and laughing — seemingly without a care in the world.

Their father, though, is gripped by worry about the future. And he marvels at his kids' resilience, considering the losses and hardships they've endured.

When floodwaters engulfed their eastern Kentucky home in late July, they first moved into a motel. Now Stephens, his 8-year-old son, Loki, and 6-year-old daughter, Kerrigan, are staying in a travel trailer — tak-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 99 of 139

ing their place among those displaced by the disaster in a recreational area filled with lawn chairs, picnic tables, bikes and toys as people grasp for some sense of normalcy.

"My kids are pretty tough, and we've been through a lot," he said. "We lost everything we had."

They're staying at a state park campground, where trailers set up in long rows have become temporary homes for families trying to figure out how and where to rebuild after historic flooding caused at least 39 deaths in the state. Some are still waiting for checks they hope are coming from the federal government. Others have gotten their money but are stuck on waiting lists for much-in-demand carpentry crews.

Fleets of trailers are descending on the Appalachian region — some brought in from western Kentucky, where they served a similar purpose for people who lost homes when tornadoes hit in December.

Kentucky is receiving up to 300 donated travel trailers from another state well acquainted with natural disaster, Louisiana. Sixty-five trailers have arrived so far, Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear said at a Frankfort news conference Thursday. The trailers originally were acquired to shelter people displaced by Hurricane Ida in 2021.

In eastern Kentucky, about 300 people have moved into 100 trailers at various sites, with more on the way or being prepared onsite for people still waiting, Beshear said. Area state parks are still housing more than 340 people left homeless by the flooding.

"Getting the trailers is not our challenge," the Democratic governor said. "It's safe places to hook them up. It's the electric; it's the utilities. And we continue to search for more."

The trailers offer a place where families can "spread out a little bit," Beshear said. During a recent stop in Hazard, he saw trailers being set up at a park offering a range of recreational activities.

In the desperate days after floodwaters inundated homes, and swept some away, many people in the region took refuge in makeshift shelters at churches and schools. The trailers are part of a progression toward the ultimate goal — getting people back into permanent housing.

The governor emphasized the trailers aren't a long-term solution to housing challenges.

"We don't want these to be forever homes," Beshear said. "This is not the end; this is the middle. This is intermediate housing."

But some occupants expect to spend the coming holidays and at least part of 2023 in the trailers. They're grateful for the temporary lodging but long for something more settled.

"Having a place of your own is good, but I'd rather it be like a house," said Jordan Perkins, 31, who is sharing a trailer with his girlfriend along with their dog and cat.

He's hoping a carpenter gets to work rebuilding his grandfather's house, where he lived and worked as an IT specialist before the flood hit. His grandfather is staying with a family friend. Lacking internet service at the trailer, Perkins bought boxed sets of TV shows on Blu-ray to pass some of the time.

"I wish I had internet and phone service," Perkins said. "That's really the biggest problem with being over here. You're isolated. And people want that when they come over here (to camp), but they don't necessarily want that when they have to live here."

Perkins was sitting outside at the state park campground with his new neighbor, Lyndon Hall. Having worked most of his life, Hall, a 57-year-old mechanic, is taking some time off.

"I ain't never taken a vacation," he said, a beer in one hand. "Feels pretty good."

Hall also is biding time in a trailer until he reaches the top of the waiting list for carpenters to rebuild his home, where he also operated his business. Family and friends stop by to visit, and he spends some of his time fishing in a nearby lake. The catfish have been biting, he said.

A few doors down, Bernard Carr is sharing his trailer with his 13-year-old Chihuahua, Wiley. The 84-year-old retired carpenter and Marine Corps veteran spends his days taking his dog outside and listening to country music and the news on his radio. He doesn't drive anymore, so a friend brings him food and takes care of his laundry.

He spent two weeks in his flood-damaged home until "everything started molding," he said. Other than the lack of cable TV access, Carr had two complaints about his new lodging.

"I can't let my dog loose," Carr said. "She was always used to going out in the yard, playing."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 100 of 139

His only other complaint?

"I've got my American flag in there and no place to put it," he said.

Several families in the region already have moved on from the travel trailers to other housing, and Stephens, 43, intends to do the same. He's planning to take his kids to another place with more room once it's ready to move in.

Until then, his children will keep playing outside their trailer, with bikes, scooters and other toys — all donated — strewn nearby.

"They're good kids," Stephens said. "I'm lucky."

Today in History: September 11, U.S. comes under attack

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Sept. 11, the 254th day of 2022. There are 111 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 11, 2001, nearly 3,000 people were killed as 19 al-Qaida hijackers seized control of four jetliners, sending two of the planes into New York's World Trade Center, one into the Pentagon and the fourth into a field in western Pennsylvania.

On this date:

In 1789, Alexander Hamilton was appointed the first U.S. Secretary of the Treasury.

In 1814, an American fleet scored a decisive victory over the British in the Battle of Lake Champlain in the War of 1812.

In 1936, Boulder Dam (now Hoover Dam) began operation as President Franklin D. Roosevelt pressed a key in Washington to signal the startup of the dam's first hydroelectric generator.

In 1941, groundbreaking took place for the Pentagon. In a speech that drew accusations of anti-Semitism, Charles A. Lindbergh told an America First rally in Des Moines, Iowa, that "the British, the Jewish and the Roosevelt administration" were pushing the United States toward war.

In 1954, the Miss America pageant made its network TV debut on ABC; Miss California, Lee Meriwether, was crowned the winner.

In 1967, the comedy-variety program "The Carol Burnett Show" premiered on CBS.

In 1972, the troubled Munich Summer Olympics ended. Northern California's Bay Area Rapid Transit system began operations.

In 1973, Chilean President Salvador Allende (ah-YEN'-day) died during a violent military coup.

In 1997, Scots voted to create their own Parliament after 290 years of union with England.

In 2006, in a prime-time address, President George W. Bush invoked the memory of the victims of the 9/11 attacks as he staunchly defended the war in Iraq, though he acknowledged that Saddam Hussein was not responsible for the attacks.

In 2008, presidential candidates John McCain and Barack Obama put aside politics as they visited ground zero together on the anniversary of 9/11 to honor its victims.

In 2016, Hillary Clinton abruptly left a 9/11 anniversary event at ground zero in New York after feeling "overheated," according to her campaign, and hours later her doctor disclosed that the Democratic presidential nominee had pneumonia.

Ten years ago: A mob armed with guns and grenades launched a fiery nightlong attack on a U.S. diplomatic outpost and a CIA annex in Benghazi, Libya, killing U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans. President Barack Obama and Republican rival Mitt Romney toned down the campaign rhetoric and pulled negative ads amid commemorations of the 9/11 attacks, saying it was not a day for politics.

Five years ago: Authorities sent an aircraft carrier and other Navy ships to help with search-and-rescue operations in Florida, where a flyover of the Keys revealed what Gov. Rick Scott described as scenes of devastation from Hurricane Irma. Irma weakened to a tropical storm, and then a tropical depression, and finally left Florida after a run up the entire 400-mile length of the state. An estimated 13 million people in

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 101 of 139

Florida remained without power.

One year ago: Marking the 20th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks, victims' relatives and four U.S. presidents paid respects at the sites where hijacked planes killed nearly 3,000 people, while others gathered for observances or volunteer projects across the country; the anniversary was observed weeks after the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, once again ruled by the same Taliban militant group that gave safe haven to the 9/11 plotters. Al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri appeared in a video marking the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11, attacks, months after rumors spread that he was dead. (The U.S. would kill al-Zawahri in a drone strike in Kabul in July 2022.) British teenager Emma Raducanu beat Canadian teen Leylah Fernandez 6-4, 6-3 in the U.S. Open final to become the first qualifier to win a Grand Slam title in the professional era.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Earl Holliman is 94. Comedian Tom Dreesen is 83. Movie director Brian De Palma is 82. Singer-actor-dancer Lola Falana is 80. Rock musician Mickey Hart (The Dead) is 79. Guitarist Leo Kottke is 77. Actor Phillip Alford is 74. Actor Amy Madigan is 72. Rock singer-musician Tommy Shaw (Styx) is 69. Sports reporter Lesley Visser is 69. Actor Reed Birney is 68. Former Homeland Security Secretary Jeh (Jay) Johnson is 65. Musician Jon Moss (Culture Club) is 65. Actor Scott Patterson is 64. Rock musician Mick Talbot (The Style Council) is 64. Actor/director Roxann Dawson is 64. Actor John Hawkes is 63. Actor Anne Ramsay is 62. Actor Virginia Madsen is 61. Actor Kristy McNichol is 60. Musician-composer Moby is 57. Syrian President Bashar al-Assad is 57. Business reporter Maria Bartiromo is 55. Singer Harry Connick Jr. is 55. Actor Taraji (tuh-RAH'-jee) P. Henson is 52. Actor Laura Wright is 52. Rock musician Jeremy Popoff (Lit) is 51. Blogger Markos Moulitsas is 51. Singer Brad Fischetti (LFO) is 47. Rock musician Jon Buckland (Coldplay) is 45. Rapper Ludacris is 45. Rock singer Ben Lee is 44. Actor Ryan Slattery is 44. Actor Ariana Richards is 43. Country singer Charles Kelley (Lady A) is 41. Actor Elizabeth Henstridge is 35. Actor Tyler Hoechlin (HEK'-lihn) is 35. Actor Mackenzie Aladjem is 21.

5 dead after New Zealand boat flips in possible whale strike

By NICK PERRY Associated Press

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Five people died Saturday in New Zealand after the small charter boat they were aboard capsized, authorities say, in what may have been a collision with a whale. Another six people aboard the boat were rescued.

Police said the 8.5-meter (28-foot) boat overturned near the South Island town of Kaikōura. Police said they were continuing to investigate the cause of the accident.

Kaikōura Police Sergeant Matt Boyce described it as a devastating and unprecedented event.

"Our thoughts are with everyone involved, including the victims and their families, their local communities, and emergency services personnel," Boyce said.

He said police divers had recovered the bodies of all those who had died. He said all six survivors were assessed to be in stable condition at a local health center, with one transferred to a hospital in the city of Christchurch as a precaution.

Kaikōura Mayor Craig Mackle told The Associated Press that the water was dead calm at the time of the accident and the assumption was that a whale had surfaced from beneath the boat.

He said there were some sperm whales in the area and also some humpback whales traveling through.

He said locals had helped with the rescue efforts throughout the day but the mood in the town was "somber" because the water was so cold and they feared for the outcome of anybody who had fallen overboard.

Mackle said he'd thought in the past about the possibility of a boat and whale colliding, given the number of whales that frequent the region.

"It always plays on your mind that it could happen," he said, adding that he hadn't heard about any previous such accidents.

Mackle said the boat was a charter vessel typically used for fishing excursions. News agency Stuff reported the passengers belonged to a bird enthusiasts' group.

Police said they were still notifying the relatives of those who died, and couldn't yet publicly name the victims.

Vanessa Chapman told Stuff she and a group of friends had watched the rescue efforts unfold from Goose Bay, near Kaikōura. She said that when she arrived at a lookout spot, she could see a person sitting atop an overturned boat waving their arms.

She said two rescue helicopters and a third local helicopter were circling before two divers jumped out. She told Stuff that the person atop the boat was rescued and a second person appeared to have been pulled from the water.

Kaikōura is a popular whale-watching destination. The seafloor drops away precipitously from the coast, making for deep waters close to the shore. A number of businesses offer boat trips or helicopter rides so tourists can see whales, dolphins and other sea creatures up close.

Compliance agency Maritime New Zealand said it sent two investigators to the scene and would be conducting a thorough investigation once recovery operations had concluded.

Principal Investigator Tracy Phillips said the agency "offers its heartfelt condolences to the family and loved ones of the people who have died."

The Tiafoe Effect: US tennis star has big impact in Africa

By CLARENCE ROY-MACAULAY and GERALD IMRAY Associated Press

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — Last year, Sam Jalloh zig-zagged across West Africa coaching tennis to kids, taking with him rackets, balls and a cellphone loaded with photos and videos of a pro player in action to inspire the youngsters.

The player? Frances Tiafoe.

That move to encourage young Africans by showing them images of Tiafoe, an American with Sierra Leone roots, has paid off. Jalloh's phone has pinged and pinged this week with text messages from many of the kids, delighted by the 24-year-old Tiafoe's incredible run to the semifinals at the U.S. Open, where he beat Rafael Nadal along the way.

"They're saying, 'coach, have you seen Frances? This is really good.' When these things happen . . . you can see that it motivates children," Jalloh said. "They are very, very excited and it's not just kids from Sierra Leone. I've got kids from Gambia, kids from Ghana, kids from Nigeria. This will bring a lot more inspiration for them."

Tiafoe was born in the United States to parents who emigrated from Sierra Leone — also Jalloh's home country — and while Tiafoe offers new hope for the future of American tennis, the African link made him an ideal role model for Jalloh to use, even before this breakthrough U.S. Open where he advanced to Friday's semifinals before losing in five sets to Carlos Alcaraz.

Tiafoe's parents, Frances Sr. and Alphina, struggled when they first arrived in the U.S. Frances Sr. worked as a laborer and then janitor at the Junior Tennis Champions Center in Maryland. Alphina put in long night shifts as a nurse. Frances Jr. and his twin brother, Franklin, were born in Maryland and lived for much of the first 10 years of their lives in a converted office at the tennis center.

With that backstory, Jalloh could see kids in West Africa make "a connection" to Tiafoe even though he also showed them clips of 22-time Grand Slam singles champion Nadal and other top players.

"It inspires them to go on and be great in tennis or whatever they aspire to be," Jalloh said. He feels the Tiafoe effect in Africa will "go on for a long time."

Jalloh insists tennis is more popular than many think in West Africa. He's seen enough courts in enough towns and cities and enough young hopefuls to make that claim.

Some of the courts he's coached on are neatly marked out and surrounded by fences. Many aren't. Jalloh has made use of whatever he's found. Some are little more than cracked strips of concrete in between houses in poor, inner-city neighborhoods. Others are stretches of flat earth carved out of the wilderness outside town.

It's here that Jalloh hopes Tiafoe's stirring performance at Flushing Meadows sparks something in tennis

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 103 of 139

authorities in West Africa like it has in his young players.

"Once we have the organization and the people with the passion, then you'll see a lot of talent come from Africa," Jalloh said.

There have been positive signs in Sierra Leone in the past week. The national media, normally with eyes only for soccer, has taken notice of tennis and Tiafoe has received much praise.

Fatima Bio, wife of Sierra Leone President Julius Bio, posted on her Facebook page about Tiafoe: "You are such an amazing guy and I want you to know we are celebrating you at home." Former Sierra Leone soccer captain Kai Kamara called Tiafoe "one of us" and said the country was behind him.

Jalloh became aware of Tiafoe when he won the prestigious Orange Bowl junior tournament in Miami at the age of 15. Jalloh wanted to know more about the young talent with Sierra Leonean heritage and eventually became good friends with Tiafoe's dad. They speak often on the phone, Jalloh said, and were in contact this week as Frances Jr. blazed his trail at the U.S. Open.

It has also reinvigorated Jalloh, whose own life story is quite extraordinary.

Jalloh was born in the Sierra Leone capital, Freetown, one of 11 children and his parents gave him up for adoption at the age of 6 because they couldn't afford to keep him. He ran away from his adopted family and lived on the streets of Freetown before reuniting with his mother.

He then found tennis and went from playing on the streets with his hand, and later homemade wooden bats, to a Sierra Leone national tennis player, which earned him \$250 and a team tracksuit, his "greatest dream," he said.

He now coaches players on the pro tour from his home in England and is already planning his next coaching trip to Africa. He's aiming to go to Kenya, Zimbabwe and South Africa at the end of the year and back to West Africa in early 2023, he said, with his tennis equipment and plenty of new video clips of Tiafoe.

"Oh yes, I've got so much now. I will have a lot to show to the kids," Jalloh said.

With forests abound, Africa looks to grow its carbon market

By WANJOHI KABUKURU Associated Press

MOMBASA, Kenya (AP) — In villages dotted across the African continent, locals living in once-heavily forested regions are starting to find their land in high demand.

In Kenya's Gazi Bay, arguably the continent's most famous mangrove restoration project, thousands of trees have been planted thanks to nearly a decade of concerted efforts to offset carbon dioxide released by faraway governments and companies seeking to improve their climate credentials. The initiative was one of Africa's first steps into the carbon market, where credits to emit greenhouse gases can be bought or sold.

Since then, dozens of similar schemes have sprouted across the continent, with African governments now looking to capitalize on this exploding global industry. The continent is home to huge swaths of carbon-absorbing lands, with forest covering roughly 674 million hectares, or 22.7%, of Africa, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. The Cuvette-Centrale Peatlands deep in the Congo Basin are alone capable of locking in up to 30 billion tons of carbon, or three years worth of the world's emissions.

Waterside mangrove forests, which are more effective at sucking carbon out of the air than their land counterparts, have swelled in places like Gazi. Community-led voluntary initiatives in Kenya, Mozambique and Ivory Coast that restore thousands of hectares of forest are supported by large international carbon credit organizations such as Blue Forest and the World Resources Institute.

"The carbon market is changing everything," said Vahid Fotuhi, founder of the Blue Forest initiative, at the Africa Climate Week conference in Gabon in early September. "Suddenly, trees are worth more alive than dead. By tapping into carbon markets, communities ... can access carbon offset funding which helps them conserve their forests whilst also improving livelihoods. It is a win-win."

Although many of these carbon credit schemes are based in Africa, where emissions are far lower and the consequences of climate change far greater than many other parts of the world, the continent remains largely excluded from the carbon market.

Between 2002 and 2020 just 14% of all the carbon credits issued came from Africa. In 2021, Gabon be-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 104 of 139

came the first African country to receive payments from the Central African Forest Initiative for reducing carbon emissions through forest protection, a total of \$17 million so far.

Carbon markets can be voluntary or set by international policies, known as regulatory compliance. In voluntary schemes, which are more advanced in Africa, companies that wish to generate carbon credits must hire independent third party verifiers to confirm that carbon emissions would have been released were it not for the credit.

"Carbon offsets provide an opportunity for Africa to tap into the value of its natural assets," said Jean-Paul Adam, head of the climate division of the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa.

But he added: "The relatively low cost of carbon and limited capacity in African financial markets, however, have remained barriers to this becoming a meaningful financing opportunity."

One tradeable carbon credit represents one ton of greenhouse gas, with prices usually fluctuating between \$10 to \$100 per ton of carbon dioxide, according to the United Nations development agency. The price for one ton of carbon is about \$10 or less in Africa, but in Europe carbon pricing is pegged at \$80 to \$90 per ton, with the U.S. pricing carbon at \$140.

Africa is looking to push for better and standardized prices on carbon during the upcoming United Nations conference of parties, known as COP27, scheduled for Sharm El Sheikh in Egypt in November.

"It boils down to bookkeeping," said Fotuhi. "African governments need to diligently account for their nature-based carbon stocks as well as their greenhouse gas emissions" to allow them to make the best use of carbon offset schemes, he said.

He added that if nations have more "clarity" around their goals to reduce their carbon emissions they would be able to have "a more dominant role in global carbon markets." Countries need to submit their emissions reductions plans to the U.N. in what's known as nationally determined contributions, which are non-binding and part of the 2015 Paris Agreement.

Most African governments are outlining plans to cut their reliance on fossil fuels as many are already feeling the effects of climate change through drought, extreme heat and cyclones. The African Development Bank estimates that addressing climate change will require between \$3.5 and \$4 trillion by 2030 for countries to adapt and reduce their reliance on fossil fuels.

"Even though Africa is sucking up carbon from the atmosphere, which is a huge global benefit, we cannot afford to be part of the problem," said Agnes Kalibata, president of the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa.

She added that more climate financing for Africa through carbon credits would greatly help the continent adapt, particularly in the case of food and agriculture systems that are at risk due to climate change.

Kalibata added that carbon markets can and should be "more equitable" particularly toward farmers "who are the custodians and managers of most of the world's carbon stocks."

Nighttime rocket strikes spread fear in east Ukrainian city

By ELENA BECATOROS Associated Press

SLOVIANSK, Ukraine (AP) — It's at night that residents of the eastern Ukrainian city of Sloviansk are most afraid, when rocket and artillery attacks happen more frequently. Shells and rockets slam into gardens and apartment buildings, sending chunks of masonry and shards of glass hurtling through the darkness.

Little more than 11 kilometers (7 miles) southwest of the front line and within artillery range of Russian forces, Sloviansk has sustained increasingly frequent attacks. The city is considered a strategic target in Moscow's ambition to seize all of Donetsk province, a largely Russian-speaking area in eastern Ukraine that makes up part of the Donbas, Ukraine's industrial heartland.

On Wednesday, firefighters sifted through the still-smoldering rubble of an apartment building, looking for possible victims after a predawn strike collapsed part of the structure. After hours of searching, using a crane to remove slabs of concrete and reach down to the basement, they emerged with a white body bag. Relatives waiting anxiously nearby said they were also searching for an elderly couple who lived on the third floor.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 105 of 139

"What is happening now is not just scary, it's gruesome," said 75-year-old Raisa Smielkova, who lives in another part of the same building and whose apartment suffered only minor damage. This war, she said, is worse than the previous one in 2014, when Ukrainian forces battled Russian-backed separatists. "There is more destruction. Everything is worse. Just everything."

Relying on their pensions to survive, she and her husband can't afford to move away to a safer part of Ukraine, Smielkova said.

"If we get killed, we get killed, what can I do?," she said. "Some are saying to me: are not you afraid? And I answer: Of course I'm afraid. Only the fools are not afraid, the rest are afraid just like me."

Just over 24 hours earlier in another part of the city, the force of the blast from another strike threw 92-year-old Maria Ruban out of bed and onto the floor. She doesn't remember how long she lay there, alone and helpless, covered in dust.

"I lost consciousness and there was nobody around, nobody could help me," she said, recounting her ordeal through heavy sighs and some tears. She eventually picked herself up but couldn't get out of the house - the force of the blast had warped the door shut.

Ruban has lived in her small house in the southern part of Sloviansk since 1957. Now 92, she survived both World War II and the Ukrainian war of 2014. But she said this war is like she's never experienced before.

"I have lived through everything, even starvation. But I have never seen anything like this, like what happened today," she said, standing in her garden with help from a rough wooden cane. Behind her, relatives and neighbors hammered plastic sheeting over her damaged roof and picked twisted chunks of shrapnel out of her tomato plant beds to the distant sound of pounding artillery.

It had been around midnight on Monday night when Ruban lay down and covered herself with a duvet. "I thought: 'now they will start their attacks,' because they attack at this time," she said. She wasn't wrong.

Now she worries about how she'll make it through Ukraine's bitterly cold winter, with a damaged roof and blasted-out windows.

"Oh God, please help me so the roof can be covered for the winter," she cried. "Who knows how long I will live for." Ruban had lost her windows to explosions in the 2014 war too, she said. "All I know is repairs, to live and to repair."

Across the street, a projectile struck a neighbor's yard, leveling his home and damaging several other residences. The neighbor, who didn't want to give his name, had been sleeping next to a window in a front room. His roof was blasted away, his walls crumbled and an apple tree in his front garden was blown clear across the street. But he escaped without so much as a scratch.

Taking a break from digging through the rubble to find his identity documents, he peered into the large crater where his front garden used to be, the bottom filled with water from overnight rainfall.

He had been thinking of planting potatoes this year, he said wryly, but now perhaps he should turn to raising fish instead.

Alcaraz stops Tiafoe's US Open run for 1st Grand Slam final

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Carlos Alcaraz and Frances Tiafoe engaged in a high-level, high-energy spectacle of a back-and-forth semifinal at the U.S. Open — no point over when it seemed to be, no ball out of reach, no angle too audacious.

One sequence was so stuffed with "What?! How?!" moments by both men that Arthur Ashe Stadium spectators were on their feet before it was over and remained there, clapping and carousing, while watching a replay on the video screens.

Ultimately, enough of the winners went Alcaraz's way, and too many of the mistakes came from Tiafoe's racket. And so it was Alcaraz who surged into his first Grand Slam final — and, in the process, gave himself a chance to become No. 1 at age 19 — by ending Tiafoe's run at Flushing Meadows with a 6-7 (6), 6-3, 6-1, 6-7 (5), 6-3 victory on Friday night.

"It was so electric. I mean, the tennis definitely matched the hype of the match. Unbelievable shot-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 106 of 139

making, gets, extending points, crazy shots ... at crazy times," Tiafoe said. "Yeah, I was getting riled up."

Alcaraz appeared to seize control by grabbing nine of 10 games in one stretch and could have ended the evening when he held a match point in the fourth set. But Tiafoe, who is ranked 26th, saved it and soon was yelling, with some colorful language mixed in for emphasis, "I'm putting my heart on the line!" Soon after that, Tiafoe was forcing a fifth set by improving to a U.S. Open-record 8-0 in tiebreakers.

Still, Alcaraz showed no signs of fatigue despite playing a third five-setter in a row — including a 5-hour, 15-minute quarterfinal win that ended at 2:50 a.m. on Thursday, the latest finish in tournament history — and was better when he needed to be, taking four of the last five games.

"I feel great right now," Alcaraz said nearly two hours after beating Tiafoe, then added: "I mean, a little bit tired."

Now No. 3 Alcaraz will face No. 7 Casper Ruud for the championship Sunday with so much on the line: The winner will become a major champion for the first time and lead the rankings next week.

"It's amazing to be able to fight for big things," Alcaraz said.

Alcaraz and Tiafoe were both making their major semifinal debuts and offered an exceptionally entertaining performance for a little more than a set, and a little more than an hour, at the start, then again for the latter portion of the fourth and the beginning of the fifth.

Tiafoe, a 24-year-old from Maryland who eliminated 22-time Grand Slam champ Rafael Nadal in the fourth round, played to a sellout crowd of more than 23,000 that included former first lady Michelle Obama, often asking for — and receiving — more noise. No surprise, given he was the first American man in the semifinals at Flushing Meadows in 16 years.

"I feel I let you guys down," Tiafoe said during an unusual chance for a match's loser to address the crowd in an on-court interview. "This one hurts. This one really, really hurts."

Alcaraz, who's from Spain, is popular around the world, widely recognized as a future star of the sport, and he is now the youngest U.S. Open men's finalist from any country since Pete Sampras won the trophy at 19 in 1990.

When Alcaraz went up 2-0 in the fourth, spectators regaled him with a soccer-style song of "Olé, Olé, Olé! Carlos!"

"People love to see that guy play, so they were getting behind him, too," Tiafoe said. "Obviously I would have loved to win tonight, but I think tennis won tonight. I think the crowd got what they expected. I just wish I was the one who got the 'W.'"

Afterward, Alcaraz spoke first in English, then in Spanish, telling his supporters that they helped him fight for "every point, every ball." He tapped his chest as he said this was "for my family, for my team, for me, for all of you."

During the day's first semifinal, which featured a 55-shot point to end the first set, folks called out the winner's last name — "Ruud!" — and it sounded as if they were booing, rather than saluting. Ruud won that lengthy rally and built an early lead and route to beating Karen Khachanov 7-6 (5), 6-2, 5-7, 6-2.

"Towards the end," Ruud, a 23-year-old from Norway, said about the longest point of this U.S. Open, "the pulse was getting very high and the legs were almost shaking."

Either Ruud, the runner-up to Nadal at the French Open in June, will make a six-place jump that represents the biggest move ever to No. 1 or Alcaraz will become the youngest man to get to the ATP's top spot since the computerized rankings began in 1973.

There were so many memorable exchanges and scenes between Tiafoe and Alcaraz. One arrived in the second set's third game, when Alcaraz saved a break point and went on to hold. A smiling Tiafoe jokingly climbed over the net to Alcaraz's side, as if to go shake hands at match's end.

If this semifinal had, indeed, concluded right then and there, no one could have complained about the product. It would proceed for a total of 4 hours, 19 minutes.

They wore matching shirts — red in front, white in back, burgundy on the side — and were every bit each other's equal for lengthy stretches, including until 6-all in the opening tiebreaker.

Alcaraz, who by then already had saved four set points, offered up a fifth by sending a backhand wide, then made converting that one easy for Tiafoe by double-faulting. As the crowd roared, Alcaraz hung his

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 107 of 139

head, walked to his sideline seat and smacked his equipment bag with his racket.

He regrouped and broke to go up in the second set, and a pivotal juncture arrived with Alcaraz serving at 5-3 but facing a break point. He snapped a cross-court forehand winner to erase that chance for Tiafoe, which began a run in which Alcaraz grabbed 11 consecutive points and 19 of 22 to own that set and a 4-0 lead in the third.

As on that forehand, Alcaraz often rips the ball with abandon — and, somehow, with precision, too, aiming for the lines and finding them. He won no fewer than three first-set points with shots that caught the outer edge of the white paint with no margin to spare.

After one, Tiafoe went over for a little light-hearted exchange with Alcaraz's coach, Juan Carlos Ferrero, the 2003 French Open champion who briefly was No. 1 himself. Yet make no mistake: Alcaraz is not some hang-back baseliner. He has a varied, all-court game and showed off his skills by winning points via acrobatic volleys, feathered drop shots and perfectly parabolic lobs.

Other than that lull in the second and third sets, and late in the fifth, Tiafoe was exceptional, too, and having the time of his life all the while.

"I'm going to be back," Tiafoe said, "and I will win this thing one day."

US, Trump team propose names for arbiter in Mar-a-Lago probe

By ERIC TUCKER and NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department and Donald Trump's legal team each proposed candidates Friday for the role of an independent arbiter in the investigation into top-secret documents found at the former president's Florida home, but the two sides differed on the scope of duties the person would have.

Lawyers for Trump said they believe the so-called special master should review all documents seized by the FBI during its search last month of Mar-a-Lago, including records with classification markings, and filter out any that may be protected by claims of executive privilege.

The Justice Department, by contrast, said it does not believe the arbiter should be permitted to inspect classified records or resolve potential claims of executive privilege.

U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon had given both sides until Friday to submit potential candidates for the role of a special master, as well as proposals for the scope of the person's duties and the schedule for his or her work.

The Justice Department submitted the names of two retired judges — Barbara Jones, who served on the federal bench in Manhattan and has performed the same role in prior high-profile investigations, and Thomas Griffith, a former federal appeals court jurist in the District of Columbia.

The Trump team proposed one retired judge, Raymond Dearie — also the former top federal prosecutor in the Eastern District of New York — and a prominent Florida lawyer, Paul Huck, Jr.

The back-and-forth over the special master is playing out amid an FBI investigation into the retention of several hundred classified documents recovered from Mar-a-Lago within the past year. Though the legal wrangling is unlikely to have major long-term effects on the investigation or knock it significantly off course, it will almost certainly delay the probe by potentially months and has already caused the intelligence community to temporarily pause a separate risk assessment.

The Justice Department proposed an Oct. 17 deadline for the special master to complete the review process, while the Trump team said the work could take as long as three months.

Though both sides met Cannon's deadline to provide potential candidates, their filings made clear that they have core disagreements about the job of special master. That's not surprising given that the Justice Department had strenuously objected to the Trump team's desire for such an arbiter, and gave notice Thursday that it would appeal the judge's decision to grant the ex-president's request.

Central to the dispute is precisely what documents the yet-to-be-named special master should be tasked with reviewing. Roughly 11,000 documents — including more than 100 with classified markings, some at the top-secret level — were recovered during the FBI's Aug. 8 search. In granting the request for a special master, Cannon directed the department to temporarily pause its use of the seized records for investiga-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 108 of 139

tive purposes.

The Justice Department had said a special master was unnecessary in part because it had already completed its own review of the seized documents, locating a limited subset that possibly involve attorney-client privilege. It has maintained that executive privilege does not apply in this investigation because Trump, no longer president, had no right to claim the documents as his.

Though the government does not believe the special master should inspect documents with classification markings, the Trump team maintains the arbiter should have access to the entire tranche of seized records. According to a summary of its position outlined in a filing Friday night, it disputes the idea that the Justice Department's "separation of these documents is inviolable" or that a document with classification markings should be forever regarded as classified.

And, the lawyers say, if any document is a presidential document then Trump has an "absolute right of access to it."

"Thus, President Trump (and/or his designee) cannot be denied access to those documents, which in this matter gives legal authorization to the Special Master to engage in first-hand review," the filing states.

Executive privilege generally refers to a president's power to shield information from the courts and public so as to ensure the confidentiality of presidential decision-making, though there are limits.

A separate dispute concerns the special master's fees and expenses. The Trump team has suggested splitting the costs evenly with the Justice Department. The government says the Trump team should bear the cost.

The two sides are also at odds over candidates, though three of the four are retired judges.

Jones, a former Manhattan federal judge and one of the government's picks, recently served as special master in two other high-profile cases related to Trump. She reviewed materials seized in FBI raids on Trump's one-time personal lawyers Michael Cohen, in an investigation related to hush-money payments, and Rudy Giuliani, in a probe of his dealings in Ukraine.

Griffith, the other Justice Department selection, was named to the federal appeals court in Washington in 2005 by then-president George W. Bush, and previously represented the institutional interests of the Republican-led Senate during the impeachment case of former President Bill Clinton.

The Trump team recommended Dearie, who was nominated in 1986 by then-President Ronald Reagan to the federal court based in Brooklyn. He has also served on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

The other Trump pick, Huck, served as general counsel to Charlie Crist when Crist was the Republican governor of Florida. He is married to Barbara Lagoa, a judge on the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which would hear any appeal in the Trump case from Florida. He is listed on the Federalist Society website as a contributor to the conservative legal group.

The Justice Department on Thursday filed a notice of appeal indicating it would contest the judge's special master order to the Atlanta-based 11th Circuit. It asked her to lift her hold on their investigative work pending their appeal.

The department has been investigating the unlawful retention of top-secret records at Mar-a-Lago after Trump left the White House, as well as whether anyone sought to obstruct that probe. It is not clear if Trump or anyone else will be charged.

Defense rests at R. Kelly trial on trial-fixing charges

By MICHAEL TARM AP Legal Affairs Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — The defense for R. Kelly and two co-defendants rested Friday at the R&B singer's trial on charges of trial-fixing, child pornography and enticing minors for sex, with closing arguments and the start of jury deliberations scheduled for early next week.

Minutes before resting, Kelly co-defendant and ex-business manager Derrell McDavid ended three days on the stand. He testified for nearly two days that he had believed Kelly when he denied abusing minors — then said he started having doubts about Kelly's believability during the trial that started last month.

Kelly and McDavid are charged with fixing Kelly's 2008 state child pornography trial — at which Kelly was

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 109 of 139

acquitted — by threatening witnesses and concealing video evidence. Both also face child pornography charges. A third co-defendant, Kelly associate Milton Brown, is accused of receiving child pornography.

Prosecutors normally get a chance to call witnesses in a rebuttal of the defense case. But when they told Judge Harry Leinenweber on Friday that they needed some time to prepare, he said there would be no rebuttal and the case would go straight to closing arguments Monday morning.

McDavid was the only one of the three defendants to testify in his own behalf.

Kelly, 55, already was sentenced to 30 years in prison in June after a separate federal trial in New York.

Known for his smash hit "I Believe I Can Fly" and for sex-infused songs such as "Bump n' Grind," Kelly sold millions of albums even after allegations of sexual misconduct began circulating in the 1990s. Widespread outrage emerged after the #MeToo reckoning and the 2019 docuseries "Surviving R. Kelly."

During her cross-examination of McDavid, prosecutor Jeannice Appenteng sought to cast doubt on his testimony that, all through the 2000s, he was unaware that the sexual abuse allegations might have some credence.

During Kelly's monthlong trial in 2008, which McDavid attended, state prosecutors played a 30-minute, sexually explicit video dozens of times on large screens throughout the courtroom. Prosecutors said it showed Kelly abusing a 14-year-old girl, "Jane."

McDavid initially said he looked away every time the video was played but later conceded that he "glanced back and forth" at it, though not long enough to fully assess the content.

Appenteng also questioned McDavid about his claim that he wasn't at a 2001 hotel room meeting with Jane and her parents, where government witnesses said Kelly admitted having sex with Jane, who regarded Kelly as her godfather.

McDavid testified that he drove to the hotel but remained outside in his car. "It was delicate," he added.

"It was delicate," the prosecutor shot back, "because Kelly admits (at the meeting) ... he is having sex with his goddaughter."

On Thursday, McDavid also denied intimidating anyone leading up to the 2008 trial. His lawyer asked if he ever threatened to kill Kelly's ex-girlfriend Lisa Van Allen for having stolen a sex video from Kelly and for not being forthcoming about it, as she testified earlier.

"I'm an accountant. No," he said.

At times, McDavid sounded more like a government witness.

In a sudden shift at the end of his second day of testimony Thursday, he expressed doubts about Kelly's insistence in the 2000s that he never sexually abused minors.

Asked by his own lawyer, Beau Brindley, if he was in "a different position" to assess allegations against Kelly after sitting through government testimony by four Kelly accusers, including Jane, McDavid responded: "Yes, I am."

"The last (few) weeks ... I've learned a lot ... that I had no idea about in 2008," added McDavid, who previously had testified that he once saw Kelly as a son.

McDavid's testimony could lend credence to the charges Kelly alone faces — five counts of enticing minor girls for sex, one count each for five accusers.

Judge Leinenweber repeatedly rejected requests from Kelly's defense team that he be tried alone because his and McDavid's interests would conflict at a joint trial.

The ongoing trial in Kelly's hometown is, in ways, a do-over of the 2008 trial. The single video was at the heart of that trial and is also in evidence at the current trial.

Jane, then an adult, did not testify at that 2008 trial, which jurors cited as a reason they couldn't convict Kelly. She testified at the current trial that she was the person in that video. She also said Kelly sexually abused her hundreds of times starting when she was 14.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 110 of 139

MLB adopts pitch clock, shift limits, bigger bases for 2023

By RONALD BLUM AP Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Major League Baseball is introducing some of its most radical rules next season, adopting a pitch clock and limiting defensive shifts after concluding modern analytics created a slower, less entertaining sport.

The decisions were made Friday by the sport's 11-man competition committee over the unanimous opposition of the panel's four players. Commissioner Rob Manfred pushed for the innovations along with a management team that included former Boston and Chicago Cubs executive Theo Epstein, now an MLB consultant.

"The influx of data in our industry," Epstein said, "have not improved the game from an esthetic standpoint or from an entertainment standpoint. So in my role now, it's my responsibility to try to look at the big picture, think about what's great for fans."

Players supported the third major initiative: larger bases that are expected to lessen injuries and lead to more stolen bases because of a decreased distance of 4 1/2 inches.

Manfred called the rules an attempt to "bring back the best form of baseball."

"Number one, fans want games with better pace," he said during a news conference. "Two, fans want more action, more balls in play. And three, fans want to see more of the athleticism of our great players."

Union head Tony Clark was noticeably absent, as he was at the announcement of an agreement in March that ended a 99-day lockout.

"Players live the game — day in and day out. On-field rules and regulations impact their preparation, performance, and ultimately, the integrity of the game itself," the union said in a statement. "Major League Baseball was unwilling to meaningfully address the areas of concern that players raised."

The pitch clock will be set at 15 seconds with no runners on base and 20 seconds with runners — up from the 14/19 tested at Triple-A this season and 14/18 at lower minor league levels.

There will be a limit of two of what MLB calls disengagements — pickoff attempts or steps off the rubber — per plate appearance, and a balk would be called for a third or more unless there is an out. The disengagement limit, which some players predict will benefit baserunners, would be reset if a runner advances.

A catcher is required to be in the catcher's box with nine seconds left on the clock and a hitter in the batter's box and focused on the pitcher with eight seconds remaining. Penalties for violations will be a ball called against a pitcher and a strike called against a batter.

A batter can ask an umpire for time once per plate appearance, and after that it would be granted only at the umpire's discretion if the request is made while in the batter's box.

The clock, which some players suggested be altered for late and close situations, has helped reduce the average time of a nine-inning game in the minor leagues from 3 hours, 4 minutes in 2021 to 2:38 this season. The average time of a nine-inning game in the major leagues this year is 3:07, up from 2:46 in 1989 and 2:30 in the mid-1950s.

"It reminded me of the game that I grew up watching in the '70s and '80," said former outfielder Raúl Ibañez, now an MLB senior vice president.

Two infielders will be required to be on either side of second and all infielders to be within the outer boundary of the infield when the pitcher is on the rubber. Infielders may not switch sides unless there is a substitution, but five-man infields will still be allowed, MLB executive vice president Morgan Sword said.

Shifts have soared from 2,357 times on balls hit in play in 2011 to 28,130 in 2016 and 59,063 last year, according to Sports Info Solutions. Shifts are on pace for 68,000 this season.

"I think fans will cherish the moments absent the extreme defensive shifts when games are decided not by whether their team's infield is positioned by the perfect algorithm, but by whether their team's second baseman can range to make an athletic dive playing with everything on the line," Epstein said.

MLB's season batting average has dropped from .267 in 1997 to .243 this year, with a team's average runs declining from 4.77 to 4.33.

"The game has evolved in a way that nobody would have chosen if we were sitting down 25 years ago

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 111 of 139

to chart a path towards the best version of baseball," Epstein said. "Nobody would have asked for fans to have to wait more than four minutes for balls to be put into play. Nobody would have asked for generational lows and stolen bases, triples and doubles."

Base size will increase to 18-inch squares from 15 — first basemen are less likely to get stepped on.

In addition, each team will be allowed a sixth mound visit in the ninth inning next year, if it has used five during the first eight innings.

Until last winter, MLB needed one year advance notice to amend on-field rules without union approval but the March lockout settlement established the committee. Cardinals pitcher Jack Flaherty, Rays pitcher Tyler Glasnow, Blue Jays infielder/outfielder Whit Merrifield and Giants outfielder Austin Slater represented players Friday, a group that included Cubs infielder Ian Happ as an alternate.

"It's going to be hard on guys. ... It's a shame that that we weren't taken more seriously," Merrifield said. "It's an overcorrect and they're going to have to tweak it. And that's just what we were trying to avoid."

Seattle chairman John Stanton headed the committee, which included include St. Louis CEO Bill DeWitt Jr., San Francisco chairman Greg Johnson, Colorado CEO Dick Monfort, Toronto CEO Mark Shapiro and Boston chairman Tom Werner, along with umpire Bill Miller.

"It's hard to get consensus among the group of players on changing the game," Manfred said. "I think at the end of the day what we did here was about giving fans the kind of game they want to see."

UK watches to see if king departs from mother's traditions

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — As the United Kingdom mourns a beloved queen, the nation is already wondering how King Charles III will reign and whether his monarchy will depart from the traditions of his mother.

If his first full day on the throne is any indication, Charles seemed ready to chart at least a slightly different course.

When Charles traveled to Buckingham Palace for the first time as the new king Friday, his limousine snaked through a sea of spectators then stopped short of the palace gates before he got out and shook hands with well-wishers. Charles looked more like a U.S. president on the campaign trail than the latest steward of a 1,000-year-old hereditary monarchy.

It's not that Queen Elizabeth II didn't meet her subjects. She did, often. But this felt different — a bit less formal, a bit more relaxed and personal. Charles spent almost 10 minutes greeting people pressed up against the crowd-control barriers, smiling, waving, accepting condolences and the occasional bouquet of flowers as the audience broke out in a chorus of "God Save the King."

After inspecting the tributes to his mother lined up outside the palace, he waved once more and walked through the gates with Camilla, the Queen Consort.

"It was impressive, touching, a good move to come out to the crowds," said Ammar Al-Baldawi, 64, a retiree from Hertfordshire who was among the throngs outside the palace. "I think that's where the royal family needs to communicate with the people now."

Charles' efforts to engage with the public more intimately reflect the fact that he needs their support. There are difficult issues ahead, most pressingly how the 73-year-old king will carry out his role as head of state.

The laws and traditions that govern Britain's constitutional monarchy dictate that the sovereign must stay out of partisan politics, but Charles has spent much of his adult life speaking out on issues that are important to him, particularly the environment.

His words have caused friction with politicians and business leaders who accused the then-Prince of Wales of meddling in issues on which he should have remained silent.

The question is whether Charles will follow his mother's example and muffle his personal opinions now that he is king, or use his new platform to reach a broader audience.

In his first speech as monarch, Charles sought to put his critics at ease.

"My life will of course change as I take up my new responsibilities," he said. "It will no longer be possible

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 112 of 139

for me to give so much of my time and energies to the charities and issues for which I care so deeply. But I know this important work will go on in the trusted hands of others."

Ed Owens, a historian and author of "The Family Firm: Monarchy, Mass Media and the British Public, 1932-53," said that while Charles will tread a careful path, it's unlikely he will suddenly stop talking about climate change and the environment — issues where there is a broad consensus about the urgent need for action.

"To not do so would not be true to the image that he has until this moment developed," Owens said.

John Kerry, the U.S. special envoy for climate, said he hopes Charles will continue speaking out about climate change because it is a universal issue that doesn't involve ideology. Kerry was in Scotland to meet with the Prince of Wales this week, but the session was canceled when the queen died.

"It doesn't mean he's involved in the daily broil of politics or speaking for a specific piece of legislation," Kerry told the BBC. "But I can't imagine him not ... feeling compelled to use the important role of the monarch, with all the knowledge he has about it, to speak out and urge the world to do the things the world needs to do."

Constitutional lawyers have debated for years whether Charles has pushed the boundaries of conventions designed to keep the monarchy out of the political fray.

His so-called Black Spider Memos — named for his spidery handwriting — to government ministers have been cited as evidence that he wouldn't be neutral in his dealings with Parliament.

The debate has also spilled over into fiction.

In the 2014 play "King Charles III," playwright Mike Bartlett imagines the new king, uncertain of his powers and moved by his conscience, causing a constitutional crisis by refusing to sign a new law restricting press freedom.

It is an illustration of the tensions inherent in a system that evolved from an absolute monarchy to one in which the sovereign plays a largely ceremonial role. While Britain's unwritten constitution requires that legislation must receive royal assent before it becomes law, this is considered a formality that the monarch cannot refuse.

In an interview for a 2018 documentary broadcast on his 70th birthday, Charles said he would behave differently when he became king because the monarch has a different role than the Prince of Wales.

Even so, he questioned the criticism he has received over the years.

"I've always been intrigued if it's meddling to worry about the inner cities, as I did 40 years ago, and what was happening or not happening there, the conditions in which people were living," he wondered. "If that's meddling, I'm very proud of it."

On another issue facing the new king, Charles has said clearly that he intends to reduce the number of working royals and cut expenses as he seeks to ensure the monarchy better represents modern Britain.

Robert Lacey, a royal historian and adviser on the Netflix series "The Crown," said this initiative underscores the important role of Prince William, who is now heir to the throne.

William has already made the environment one of his primary issues, and he is likely to take an even more prominent role in this area now that his father is king, Lacey told the BBC.

But there is another clue to the new king's plans for his reign, and that's his choice of a name.

Before Elizabeth's time, there was a tradition that British monarchs would choose a new name when they ascended the throne. Charles' grandfather, for instance was known as Bertie before he became King George VI. There was some thought Charles would choose to be known as King George VII in honor of his grandfather.

But Charles rejected the idea and kept his own name. That's a "clear message" that the king will continue to champion the causes he backed as Prince of Wales, Lacey said.

It was his father, Prince Philip, who identified ways in which the neutral monarchy could advocate for youth development and the environment — "really important causes that they could push forward without being accused of partisanship," he said.

Judge tosses Trump's Russia probe suit against Clinton, FBI

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge in Florida has dismissed Donald Trump's lawsuit against 2016 Democratic rival Hillary Clinton and former top FBI officials, rejecting the former president's claims that they and others acted in concert to concoct the Russia investigation that shadowed much of his administration.

U.S. District Judge Donald Middlebrooks said in a sharply worded ruling on Thursday that Trump's lawsuit, filed in March, contained "glaring structural deficiencies" and that many of the "characterizations of events are implausible."

He dismissed the idea that Trump had sued to correct an actual legal harm, saying that "instead, he is seeking to flaunt a two-hundred-page political manifesto outlining his grievances against those that have opposed him, and this Court is not the appropriate forum."

The lawsuit had named as defendants Clinton and some of her top advisers, as well as former FBI Director James Comey and other FBI officials involved in the investigation into whether Trump's 2016 presidential campaign had coordinated with Russia to sway the outcome of the election.

Other defendants include the founders of a political research firm that hired a former British spy to investigate ties between Trump and Russia, and a well-connected Democratic lawyer who was recently acquitted on a charge of lying to the FBI during a 2016 meeting in which he presented the bureau with information he wanted it to investigate.

But none of the claims, the judge wrote, supported Trump's claims of a conspiracy against him.

"What the Amended Complaint lacks in substance and legal support it seeks to substitute with length, hyperbole, and the settling of scores and grievances," Middlebrooks wrote.

A 2019 Justice Department inspector general report did identify certain flaws by the FBI during the Russia investigation, but did not find evidence that the bureau's leaders were motivated by political bias in opening the probe and said the inquiry was started for a legitimate purpose.

A separate investigation by special counsel Robert Mueller produced criminal charges against nearly three dozen people and entities and found pervasive Russian interference in the election, but did not establish a criminal conspiracy with the Trump campaign.

Alina Habba, a lawyer for Trump, said Friday that Trump would appeal the dismissal.

US counts millionth organ transplant while pushing for more

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

The U.S. counted its millionth organ transplant on Friday, a milestone that comes at a critical time for Americans still desperately waiting for that chance at survival.

It took decades from the first success — a kidney in 1954 — to transplant 1 million organs, and officials can't reveal if this latest was a kidney, too, or some other organ. But advocates opened a new campaign to speed the next million transplants by encouraging more people to register as organ donors.

Yet the nation's transplant system is at a crossroads. More people than ever are getting new organs — a record 41,356 last year alone. At the same time, critics blast the system for policies and outright mistakes that waste organs and cost lives.

The anger boiled over last month in a Senate committee hearing where lawmakers blamed the United Network for Organ Sharing, a nonprofit that holds a government contract to run the transplant system, for cumbersome organ-tracking and poor oversight.

"This is sitting on your hands while people die," Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Massachusetts, told the organization's chief executive as she and other senators suggested UNOS should be replaced.

UNOS continually takes steps to improve organ supply and equity and won't be satisfied until everyone who needs a transplant gets one, CEO Brian Shepard responded.

Other experts say the fireworks are a distraction from work already underway.

"Everybody would like the system to be better," said Renee Landers, a Suffolk University health law expert who, as part of an independent scientific advisory panel to the government, co-authored a blueprint

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 114 of 139

for change earlier this year.

That blueprint, from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, sets a five-year deadline for improving every part of the complex transplant system — including the groups that collect organs from deceased donors, transplant centers that decide which ones to use, and the government agencies that regulate both.

“Focusing on only one aspect is actually not going to achieve” that goal, Landers said. “There are so many other pieces that have to fall into place.”

In the U.S., more than 400,000 people are living with functioning transplanted organs, UNOS said Friday. For all the lives saved each year, more than 105,000 people are on the national list still waiting for a new kidney, liver, heart or other organ, and about 17 a day die waiting.

Too often potentially usable organs aren't recovered from would-be donors and too many hospitals turn down less-than-perfect organs that might still offer a good outcome for the right patient, the National Academies report found.

Kidneys are the organ most in demand and nearly a quarter of those donated last year were discarded, refused by hospitals for a variety of reasons.

A Senate Finance Committee investigation turned up additional problems including testing failures that between 2008 and 2015 led to 249 transplant recipients developing diseases from donated organs, 70 of whom died. In other cases, organs being shipped from one hospital to another were lost in transit or delayed so long they weren't usable.

While those kinds of errors should never happen, they are a small fraction of the tens of thousands of transplants performed over that time period.

Solutions to the more common problems -- procuring more organs and making sure they're used -- are tougher but attempts are underway:

--Kidney transplants increased 16% last year -- and by 23% among Black patients -- attributed to a UNOS-ordered change in how organs are distributed that allows kidneys to be shipped to sicker patients further away rather than being offered first to hospitals near where they were donated.

--In July, UNOS told hospitals to quit using a certain formula to test kidney function that can underestimate Black patients' need for a transplant and leave them waiting longer than similarly ill white patients.

--Some “organ procurement organizations,” or OPOs retrieve organs from deceased donors at far higher rates than others. Medicare this year finalized new rules that require improvement or the low performers could be shut down in 2026.

—OPOs are reluctant to retrieve less-than-perfect organs that they know nearby hospitals won't accept. Some hospitals may always refuse kidneys from donors over 70 or diabetics, for example. But soon, transplant centers' kidney acceptance rates will be tracked as a new quality measure.

To get ready, dozens of hospitals are using new computer filters to opt out of even receiving offers they don't intend to accept. Skipping them could allow those offers to more quickly reach places like Yale University's transplant center — known for success with less-than-perfect kidneys — before the organs sit on ice too long to be usable.

“You can't criticize OPOs for not recovering organs if you're not beginning to hold transplant programs accountable for the decisions they make,” said kidney specialist Dr. Richard Formica, Yale's transplant medicine director. “We have to come up with ways to incentivize people to change their behaviors.”

Ukraine claws back some territory; nuclear plant in peril

By HANNA ARHIROVA and YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian forces on Friday claimed new success in their counteroffensive against Russian forces in the country's east, taking control of a sizeable village and pushing toward an important transport junction. The United States' top diplomat and the head of NATO noted the advances, but cautioned that the war is likely to drag on for months.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy commended the military for its gains in the east, saying in a

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 115 of 139

nightly video address that Ukrainian troops have reclaimed more than 30 settlements in the Kharkiv region since the start of the counteroffensive there this week.

"We are gradually taking control over more settlements, returning the Ukrainian flag and protection for our people," Zelenskyy said.

Ukraine's military said it also launched new attacks on Russian pontoon bridges used to bring supplies across the Dnieper River to Kherson, one of the largest Russian-occupied cities, and the adjacent region. Ukrainian artillery and rocket strikes have left all regular bridges across the river unusable, the military's southern command said.

Anxiety increased about Europe's largest nuclear power plant, which was operating in emergency mode Friday for the fifth straight day due to the war. That prompted the head of the U.N. atomic watchdog to call for the establishment of an immediate safety zone around the plant to prevent a nuclear accident.

The six-reactor Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant came under the control of Russian forces early in the war but is being operated by Ukrainian staff. The plant and surrounding areas have been repeatedly hit by shelling that Russia and Ukraine blame on each other. The last power line connecting the plant to the Ukrainian electricity grid was cut Monday, leaving the plant without an outside source of electricity. It is receiving power for its own safety systems from the only reactor — out of six total — that remains operational.

In other advances, the Ukrainian military said it took control of the village of Volokhiv Yar in the Kharkiv region and aimed to advance toward strategically valuable town of Kupiansk, which would cut off Russian forces from key supply routes.

Pro-Russian authorities in the Kupiansk district announced that civilians were being evacuated toward the Russian-held region of Luhansk.

"The initial signs are positive and we see Ukraine making real, demonstrable progress in a deliberate way," U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in Brussels, a day after visiting Kyiv.

"But this is likely to go on for some significant period of time," he said. "There are a huge number of Russian forces in Ukraine and unfortunately, tragically, horrifically, President (Vladimir) Putin has demonstrated that he will throw a lot of people into this at huge cost to Russia."

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, who met with Blinken, said the war is "entering a critical phase." The gains "are modest and only the first successes of the counteroffensive of the Ukrainian army, but they are important both in terms of seizing the military initiative and raising the spirit of Ukrainian soldiers," Mykola Sunhurovskiy, a military analyst at the Razumkov Center in Kyiv, told The Associated Press.

Energoatom, Ukraine's state nuclear operator, said Friday that repairs to outside electric lines at the Zaporizhzhia plant are impossible because of the shelling and that operating the plant in what is called an "island" status carries "the risk of violating radiation and fire safety standards."

"Only the withdrawal of the Russians from the plant and the creation of a security zone around it can normalize the situation at the Zaporizhzhia NPP. Only then will the world be able to exhale," Petro Kotin, the head of Energoatom, told Ukrainian TV.

Earlier, Kotin told The Associated Press the plant's only operating reactor "can be stopped completely" at any moment and as a consequence, the only power source would be a diesel generator.

There are 20 generators on site and enough diesel fuel for 10 days. After that, about 200 tons of diesel fuel would be needed daily for the generators, which he said is "impossible" to get while the plant is occupied by Russian forces.

Rafael Mariano Grossi, the director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said Friday that there was little likelihood of reestablishing reliable offsite power lines to the plant.

"This is an unsustainable situation and is becoming increasingly precarious," Grossi said, calling for an "immediate cessation of all shelling in the entire area" and the establishment of a nuclear safety and security protection zone.

"This is the only way to ensure that we do not face a nuclear accident," he said.

Fighting continued Friday elsewhere in Ukraine.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 116 of 139

Russian planes bombed the hospital in the town of Velika Pysarivka, on the border with Russia, said Dmytro Zhyvytskyi, governor of the Sumy region. He said the building was destroyed and there were an unknown number of casualties.

In the Donetsk region in the east — one of two that Russia declared to be sovereign states at the outset of the war — eight people were killed in the city of Bakhmut over the past day and the city is without water and electricity for the fourth straight day, said governor Pavlo Kyrylenko.

Four people were killed in shelling in the Kharkiv region, two of them in the city of Kharkiv, Ukraine's second-largest, according to governor Oleh Syniehubov. The shelling of the city continued Friday afternoon, Mayor Ihor Terekhov said, wounding 10 people, including three children.

Ukraine this week claimed to have regained control of more than 20 settlements in the Kharkiv region, including the small city of Balakliya. Social media posts showed weeping, smiling Balakliya residents embracing Ukrainian soldiers.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Friday refused to comment on the alleged retaking of Balakliya, redirecting all such questions to the Russian Defense Ministry.

But Vitaly Ganchev, the Russian-installed official in the Kharkiv region, confirmed Friday that "Balakliya, in effect, is not under our control." Ganchev said "tough battles" were continuing in the city.

Helicopters and fighter jets streaked over the rolling plains of the Donetsk region, with the jets heading toward Iziium, near where Ukrainian forces have been carrying out a counteroffensive in the Kharkiv region. The jets fired flares and black smoke billowed in the distance.

'A servant queen': World pays tribute to Queen Elizabeth II

By ANDREW MELDRUM Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — Across the globe, the death of Queen Elizabeth II has prompted reflections on the historic sweep of her reign and how she succeeded in presiding over the end of Britain's colonial empire and embracing the independence of her former dominions.

Tributes to the queen's life have poured in, from world leaders to rock stars to ordinary people — along with some criticism of the monarchy.

It was in Cape Town, marking her 21st birthday in 1947, that the then-Princess Elizabeth pledged that her "whole life, whether it be long or short, shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong."

The British empire soon crumbled, but Elizabeth managed to maintain a regal — if ceremonial — position as the head of the Commonwealth, the 54 nations of mostly previous British colonies.

"The Queen lived a long and consequential life, fulfilling her pledge to serve until her very last breath at the age of 96," Cape Town mayor Geordin Hill-Lewis, said Friday. "She was an exemplary leader of the kind seldom seen in the modern era."

As queen, Elizabeth was seen as endorsing the birth of democracies in former colonies in Africa where Black citizens previously had been denied basic rights, including the vote. When in glittering tiaras she danced with new African leaders in the 1960s and visited their capitals, she burnished their new institutions.

When white-minority rule finally fell in South Africa in 1994, Elizabeth welcomed Nelson Mandela as a world leader. Her warm friendship with Mandela gave her a new relevance.

"In the years after his release from prison, (Mandela) cultivated a close relationship with the queen. He hosted her in South Africa and visited her in England, taking particular delight in exploring Buckingham Palace. They also talked on the phone frequently, using their first names with each other as a sign of mutual respect as well as affection," the Nelson Mandela Foundation said Friday.

"For Madiba, (Mandela's clan name) it was important that the former colonial power in southern Africa should be drawn into cordial and productive relations with the newly democratic republic of South Africa."

Fellow anti-apartheid fighter the late Anglican archbishop of Cape Town Desmond Tutu also enjoyed good relations with the queen.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 117 of 139

"Although ensconced in the pomp, ceremony and lifestyle of royalty and empire, in a world of profound inequality, she was a servant queen," Tutu's foundation and trust said Friday.

In contrast, a scathing view of the queen's rule was issued by South Africa's populist party, the Economic Freedom Fighters. The queen was "head of an institution built up, sustained, and living off a brutal legacy of dehumanization of millions of people across the world," it said.

"We do not mourn the death of Elizabeth, because to us her death is a reminder of a very tragic period in this country and Africa's history," said the party. "During her 70-year reign as queen, she never once acknowledged the atrocities that her family inflicted on native people that Britain invaded across the world. She willingly benefited from the wealth that was attained from the exploitation and murder of millions of people."

Some Irish soccer fans raucously cheered the queen's death at a match Thursday, according to videos posted online that angered her supporters. The Republic of Ireland's leadership expressed condolences and admiration for the queen.

The widespread tributes that followed her death came not only from U.S. President Joe Biden but also from Russian President Vladimir Putin.

She was a "stateswoman of unmatched dignity and constancy who deepened the bedrock alliance between the United Kingdom and the United States," Biden and first lady Jill Biden said, adding that she "defined an era."

Putin sent a telegram to King Charles III — Elizabeth's oldest son who automatically became Britain's new monarch.

"For many decades, Elizabeth II rightfully enjoyed the love and respect of her subjects, as well as authority on the world stage. I wish you courage and perseverance in the face of this heavy, irreparable loss," Putin wrote.

Elizabeth was mourned across Europe. In France, Britain's historic rival and contemporary ally, flags at the presidential palace and public buildings were lowered to half-staff on Friday.

French President Emmanuel Macron released a video Friday in English expressing a sense of "emptiness" after her passing. Addressing the British public, he said: "To you, she was your Queen. To us, she was THE Queen, to all of us."

In the U.S., tributes came from every living former president.

Barack Obama and his wife, Michelle, said Elizabeth made "the role of queen her own — with a reign defined by grace, elegance, and a tireless work ethic." George W. Bush called her "a woman of great intellect, charm, and wit," and Jimmy Carter said Elizabeth's "dignity, graciousness and sense of duty" were inspiring.

Even in places where the relationship with British monarchy is complicated, the tributes flowed. In India, once a British colony, Prime Minister Narendra Modi called Elizabeth "a stalwart of our times."

The queen's death came as a growing number of British territories in the Caribbean are seeking to replace the monarch with their own heads of state amid demands that Britain apologize for its colonial-era abuses and award its former colonies slavery reparations.

Still, Caribbean leaders mourned her. Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness said for many years Elizabeth visited the island every decade.

"Undoubtedly, she formed a special bond with the people of Jamaica," he said. "We are saddened that we will not see her light again, but we will remember her historic reign."

Bermuda Premier David Burt noted that her reign "has spanned decades of such immense change for the United Kingdom and the world."

Elizabeth was also sovereign to 14 other countries including Jamaica, Canada, Australia, the Solomon Islands and New Zealand.

"Here is a woman who gave her life, utterly, to the service of others. And regardless of what anyone thinks of the role of monarchies around the world, there is undeniably, I think here, a display of someone who gave everything on behalf of her people," New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 118 of 139

In Canada, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he was having trouble believing he'd had his last sit-down chat with Elizabeth: "I will so miss those chats," he said. Elizabeth had visited Canada 22 times as monarch. "For most Canadians, we have known no other sovereign," Trudeau said, his eyes red with emotion. He said she was a "constant presence in our lives — and her service to Canadians will forever remain an important part of our country's history."

Former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, who led a failed campaign to have an Australian president replace the British monarch as Australia's head of state, came close to tears in paying tribute to Elizabeth.

"It's the end of an era and let's hope that the future, after the queen's passing, is one where we will have leadership as dedicated and selfless as she has shown," Turnbull told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

In China, Elizabeth's death was a top trending topic on social media.

"I feel quite sad," said Bao Huifang, a lawyer in Beijing. "She played a very important role in stabilizing Britain and the world."

Chinese President Xi Jinping sent his condolences, noting Elizabeth was the first British monarch to visit China.

Elizabeth's death comes amid increasingly tense relations between Britain and China. Xi said he was willing to work with King Charles III on promoting "healthy and stable" bilateral ties.

Rock star Elton John paid tribute at his Toronto concert, saying he was inspired by her and is sad that she is gone.

"She led the country through some of our greatest and darkest moments with grace and decency and genuine caring," John said.

Federal judge blocks Arizona law limiting filming of police

By BOB CHRISTIE Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — A federal judge on Friday blocked enforcement of a new Arizona law restricting how the public and journalists can film police, agreeing with the American Civil Liberties Union and multiple media organizations who argued it violated the First Amendment.

U.S. District Judge John J. Tuchi issued a preliminary injunction that stops the law from being enforced when it is set to take effect on Sept. 24. The quick decision came after Republican Arizona Attorney General Mark Brnovich and the prosecutor and sheriff's office in Maricopa County told the judge they did not plan to defend the law. They were named as defendants in the lawsuit filed last month.

The law was enacted by the Republican-controlled Legislature over unified opposition from Democrats and signed by GOP Gov. Doug Ducey on July 6.

It makes it illegal to knowingly film police officers 8 feet (2.5 meters) or closer if the officer tells the person to stop. And on private property, an officer who decides someone is interfering or the area is unsafe can order the person to stop filming even if the recording is being made with the owner's permission.

The penalty is a misdemeanor that would likely incur a fine without jail time.

KM Bell, an ACLU attorney who lobbied against the bill at the Legislature and was in court Friday, said they were pleased the judge acted quickly.

"We are extremely gratified that Arizonans will not have their constitutional rights infringed and their ability to record the police criminalized by this law," Bell said.

Bystander cellphone videos are largely credited with revealing police misconduct — such as with the 2020 death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis officers — and reshaping the conversation around police transparency. But Republican Arizona lawmakers say the legislation was needed to limit people with cameras who deliberately impede officers.

Tuchi gave the Legislature a week to decide whether it wants to defend the law. The ACLU and media groups are seeking a permanent injunction.

Republican Rep. John Kavanagh, a retired police officer who sponsored the law, said he was "taken by

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 119 of 139

surprise" when Brnovich did not move to defend the law.

"I was assuming that the attorney general would do his job as the state's attorney and defend a law passed by the state," Kavanagh said. "We are trying to get together with the (House) speaker and the (Senate) president and see if the Legislature will defend it, but there's also the possibility of some outside group possibly stepping up."

Brnovich's office is charged with defending state laws. But in this case, his spokesperson, Katie Conner, said that because the attorney general does not have enforcement authority in these types of cases, they were the wrong party to sue.

Matt Kelley, an attorney who represented the news organizations that sued, argued in his court papers that Brnovich is not correct. He noted that by law the attorney general can step in and enforce laws that county prosecutors normally would.

Kavanagh argued that allowing people to record police up close while they are doing enforcement, like making arrests or dealing with a disturbed person, could put officers in danger, and noted that he made several changes to address the concerns of the ACLU. Those include changing the restriction from 16 feet (4.8 meters) to 8 feet.

"So I think this is unbelievably reasonable," he said. "And if what's causing the problem is my limiting it to just these law enforcement characters in all encounters, how ironic that trying to limit the scope of government reach is unconstitutional. But I guess that's the world we live in."

Kelley said that the law was very problematic. He praised Tuchi for quickly agreeing that the law did not meet the requirements needed to restrict First Amendment protections for filming law enforcement activities.

"There wasn't anything in the law that said the person recording has to be interfering with law enforcement or harassing officers or otherwise doing something that would create a danger or a distraction," Kelley said. "All it prohibited was simply standing there, making a video recording. And since that's activity that's protected by the First Amendment, this law was on its face unconstitutional."

The original legislation was amended so it applies only to certain types of police actions, including questioning of suspects and encounters involving mental or behavioral health issues. It exempts people who are subject to the police interaction, or in a stopped car.

In similar cases, six of the nation's dozen U.S. appeals courts have ruled on the side of allowing people to record police without restriction. Soon after the Arizona law was signed, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals in Denver ruled that a YouTube journalist and blogger's lawsuit against a suburban Denver police department could move forward. The blogger said an officer blocked him from recording a 2019 traffic stop.

The Phoenix Police Department, which oversees the nation's fifth-largest city, has been criticized in recent years for its use of force, which disproportionately affects Black and Native American residents.

Reporters and photographers said this law will make it nearly impossible to do their job, especially at massive events like protests. The outlets that sued include Phoenix Newspapers Inc., parent of The Arizona Republic; Gray Television; Scripps Media; KPNX-TV; Fox Television Stations; NBCUniversal Media; the Arizona Broadcasters Association; States Newsroom; Arizona Newspapers Association; and the National Press Photographers Association.

The Associated Press filed a friend of the court brief urging Tuchi to block the law from being enforced. The AP's attorneys said that photographers especially could be caught up while covering rallies, where it could limit their ability to capture the full interactions between police and protesters.

King Charles III, in first address, vows 'lifelong service'

By DANICA KIRKA, JILL LAWLESS and SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — King Charles III vowed in his first speech as monarch Friday to carry on Queen Elizabeth II's "lifelong service" with his own modernizing stamp, as Britain entered an uncertain new age under a new sovereign. Around the world, the queen's exceptional reign was commemorated, celebrated and debated.

Charles, who spent much of his 73 years preparing for the role of king, addressed a nation grieving the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 120 of 139

only British monarch most people alive today had ever known. He takes the throne in an era of unease for both his country and the monarchy itself.

He spoke of his "profound sorrow" over the death of his mother, calling her "an inspiration and example to me and to all my family."

"That promise of lifelong service I renew to all today," he said in the 9 1/2-minute address, recorded earlier in the day and delivered with a framed photo of the queen on a desk in front of him.

"As the queen herself did with such unswerving devotion, I, too, now solemnly pledge myself, throughout the remaining time God grants me, to uphold the constitutional principles at the heart of our nation," he said.

The king's speech was broadcast on television and streamed at St. Paul's Cathedral, where some 2,000 people attended a service of remembrance for the queen. They included Prime Minister Liz Truss and officials in her government, along with hundreds of members of the public who lined up for tickets.

As the country began a 10-day mourning period, people around the globe gathered at British embassies to pay homage to the queen, who died Thursday at Balmoral Castle in Scotland after an unprecedented 70 years on the throne.

In London and at military sites across the United Kingdom, cannons fired 96 shots in an elaborate, 16-minute salute marking each year of the queen's life.

The widespread admiration for Elizabeth in Britain and across its former colonies was occasionally mixed with scorn for the institution and the imperial history she symbolized.

Charles, who became the monarch immediately upon his mother's death, will be formally proclaimed king at a ceremony on Saturday. He is expected to tour the United Kingdom in the coming days.

The queen's coffin will be brought to London, where she will lie in state before a funeral at Westminster Abbey, expected around Sept. 19.

On the king's first full day of duties, Charles left Balmoral and flew to London for a meeting with Truss, appointed by the queen just two days before her death.

He arrived at Buckingham Palace, the monarch's London home, for the first time as sovereign, emerging from the official state Bentley limousine alongside Camilla, the queen consort, to shouts from the crowd of "Well done, Charlie!" and the singing of the national anthem, now called "God Save the King." One woman gave him a kiss on the cheek.

Under intense scrutiny and pressure to show he can be both caring and regal, Charles walked slowly past flowers heaped at the palace gates for his mother. The mood was both grieving and celebratory.

"It has been so touching. ... All those people, come to give their condolences," he told Truss during their meeting.

"It's the moment I've been dreading, as I know a lot of people have," he added, referring to his mother's death. "But you try and keep everything going."

The changing of the guard comes at a time when many Britons are facing an energy crisis, the soaring cost of living, the war in Ukraine and the fallout from Brexit.

In his speech, Charles looked to both the past — noting his mother's unwavering "dedication and devotion as sovereign" — and the future, seeking to strike a reassuring note of constancy while signaling that his will be a 21st-century monarchy.

He reflected on how the country had changed dramatically during the queen's reign into a society "of many cultures and many faiths," and pledged to serve people in Britain and the 14 other countries where he is king "whatever may be your background or beliefs."

The lifelong environmentalist said he was confident work on "the issues for which I care so deeply" would "go on in the trusted hands of others."

He spoke of his son Prince William, now heir to the throne and formally given the title that Charles long held, Prince of Wales. William and his wife, Catherine, Princess of Wales, will "continue to inspire and lead our national conversations, helping to bring the marginal to the center ground where vital help can be given," Charles said, referring to the couple's work on homelessness, mental health and other issues.

He also struck a note of reconciliation after a raw family rift when he said, "I want also to express my

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 121 of 139

love for Harry and Meghan as they continue to build their lives overseas.”

Prince Harry and wife Meghan have been in a tense relationship with the royal family since they stepped away from their official duties and left the country in 2020, citing what they said were the unbearable intrusions and racist attitudes of the British media toward the biracial American actress.

As the second Elizabethan Age came to a close, throngs of people arrived all day to grieve together and lay flowers outside the gates of Buckingham Palace and other royal residences.

Finance worker Giles Cudmore said the queen had “just been a constant through everything, everything good and bad.”

At Holyrood Palace in Edinburgh, mourner April Hamilton stood with her young daughter, struggling to hold back tears.

“It’s just such a momentous change that is going to happen,” she said. “I’m trying to hold it together today.”

Many sporting and cultural events were canceled as a mark of respect, and some businesses — including Selfridges department store and the Legoland amusement park — shut their doors. The Bank of England postponed its meeting by a week.

Elizabeth was Britain’s longest-reigning monarch and a symbol of constancy in a turbulent era that saw the decline of the British empire and upheaval in her family, including the messy divorce of Prince Charles and Princess Diana.

The public’s affection for the queen had helped sustain support for the monarchy amid complaints in some quarters that it had outlived its usefulness. But Charles does not command that kind of popularity.

“Charles can never replace her, you know,” said 31-year-old Londoner Mariam Sherwani.

Like many, she referred to Elizabeth as a grandmother figure. Others compared her to their mothers, or great-grandmothers.

But around the world, her passing revealed conflicting emotions about the nation and institutions she represented.

In Ireland, some soccer fans cheered.

For some, Elizabeth was a queen whose coronation glittered with shards of a stunning 3,106-carat diamond pulled from grim southern African mines, a monarch who inherited an empire they resented. Across Africa, nations rejected British rule and chose independence in her first decade on the throne.

In India, once the “jewel in the crown” of the British empire, entrepreneur Dhiren Singh described his own personal sadness at her death, but added: “I do not think we have any place for kings and queens in today’s world.”

Politics in air as Biden visits future Intel plant in Ohio

By AAMER MADHANI, JOSH BOAK and ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS Associated Press

NEW ALBANY, Ohio (AP) — President Joe Biden steered clear of partisan politics at Friday’s groundbreaking celebration for a huge new computer chip facility in Ohio — as a tough Senate contest in that state and a Democratic candidate seeking to distance himself from Biden reflected the challenge of translating White House policy wins into political gains.

Biden, a major force behind the legislation that helped lure Intel, went to suburban Columbus to take a victory lap just as voters in the state are starting to tune in to the Senate race between Democratic Rep. Tim Ryan and Republican author and venture capital executive JD Vance. They’re competing in a former swing state that has trended Republican over the past decade.

Ryan attended the event but raised questions in interviews about whether he thinks Biden should pursue re-election in 2024. Vance did not attend.

The president, in his speech, thanked Ryan for his leadership without mentioning his Senate candidacy, choosing instead to emphasize that the Intel plant serves as a model for a U.S. economy that revolves around technology, factories and the middle class.

“Folks, we need to make these chips right here in America to bring down everyday costs and create

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 122 of 139

good jobs," Biden said. "Industry leaders are choosing us, the United States, because they see America's back and America's leading the way.

Touring the construction site, the president chatted with unionized workers in hard hats and noted his own blue collar credentials, saying, "These are my people, where I come from."

Intel had delayed groundbreaking on the \$20 billion plant until Congress passed the bipartisan CHIPS and Science Act. The plant speaks to how the president is trying to revive American manufacturing nationwide, including in states that are solidly Republican or political toss-ups. Investments for manufacturing facilities in Idaho, Arizona and North Carolina have also been announced in recent weeks.

Factory work is one of the few issues going into November's midterm elections that has crossover appeal at a time when issues such as abortion, inflation and even the nature of democracy have dominated the contest to control Congress. Biden shared the stage on Friday with Ohio Gov. Mike DeWine and Sen. Rob Portman, two Republicans who stressed in their remarks the value the plant holds in a state with a working class identity.

Ryan, the Democrat vying to succeed Portman, did not take to the lectern even though he championed the computer chip plant. He had largely been hesitant to share a stage with Biden, as appearing with the country's top Democrat could hurt his chances in a state that backed Republican Donald Trump by eight points in both 2016 and 2020.

Ryan skipped the president's July 6 visit to Cleveland where Biden plugged his administration's efforts to shore up troubled pension programs for blue-collar workers. Biden nonetheless referred to him as the "future Senator Tim Ryan" and thanked him for his "incredible work" on the legislation.

In a Thursday TV interview with Youngstown's WFMJ on the eve of Biden's visit, Ryan said he was "campaigning as an independent." When asked if Biden should seek a second term, he said, "My hunch is that we need new leadership across the board, Democrats, Republicans, I think it's time for like a generational move."

Ryan, pressed Friday by reporters about his comments in the TV interview, said that Biden himself has said he "was going to be a bridge to the next generation, which is basically what I was saying." Pressed if Biden should run in 2024, Ryan offered a noncommittal, "That's up to him."

The open Senate seat in Ohio is one of several hotly contested races that could determine whether Democrats can hold their slim majority in the chamber for the second half of Biden's term.

Several Democrats in competitive races have at moments sought to maintain some distance from the president, whose public approval ratings have ticked up in recent weeks but remain underwater. Biden has tried to balance his bipartisan cheerleading with warnings that extremist Republican lawmakers who refuse to accept the results of the 2020 election are a threat to democracy.

Vance, the Republican Senate candidate in Ohio, hailed the Intel plant in a statement at as "a great bipartisan victory" for the state. He specifically applauded the "hard work" of GOP lawmakers including DeWine and Portman, but Vance pointedly made no mention of Biden.

The shortage of semiconductors has slashed into production of autos, household appliances and other goods. That has fueled high inflation, while creating national security risks as the U.S. has recognized it is overly dependent on Asia for chip production.

The mix of high prices and long waits for basic goods has left many Americans feeling disgruntled about Biden's economic leadership, a political weakness that has lessened somewhat as gasoline prices have fallen and many voters have grown concerned about the loss of abortion protections after the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade.

The new law that convinced Intel to build the facility would provide \$28 billion in incentives for semiconductor production, \$10 billion for new manufacturing of chips and \$11 billion for research and development. That cash infusion means voters will be weighing the changes coming to the Ohio city of New Albany, where the Intel plant is being constructed, as well as nearby Johnstown.

Don Harvey, a sporting goods store owner and longtime Johnstown resident, likes the idea of a company making things again in the United States, and also providing potentially high-paying jobs for his five grandchildren down the road. Intel has said pay will average \$135,000 for its 3,000 Ohio workers.

"What an opportunity in my eyes for Ohio and the United States as a whole," said the 63-year-old Harvey. Elyse Priest lives in a subdivision just up the road from the plant, and received a firsthand taste of the construction recently as she watched a huge cloud of dust roll up from the 1,000-acre site currently being leveled. Priest, 38, also knows the road widening and added traffic will affect her commute to downtown Columbus where she works as a legal assistant.

"I'm concerned about losing the small town feel I've always had and loved about Johnstown," Priest said. "But I know it's going to be a greater good for the whole state."

N. Korea says it will never give up nukes to counter US

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korean leader Kim Jong Un stressed his country will never abandon the nuclear weapons it needs to counter the United States, which he accused of pushing to weaken the North's defenses and eventually collapse his government, state media said Friday.

Kim made the comments during a speech Thursday at North Korea's rubber-stamp parliament, where members passed legislation governing the use of nuclear weapons, which Kim described as a step to cement the country's nuclear status and make clear such weapons will not be bargained.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres's office said he was "deeply concerned" about the new law, and noted that the North's pursuit of a nuclear weapons program "continues to disregard the resolutions of the Security Council to cease such activities."

"The Secretary-General reiterates his call to the DPRK to resume dialogue with the key parties concerned with a view to achieving sustainable peace and the complete and verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," Guterres's office said in a statement, using an acronym for the North's formal name.

The new law spells out conditions where North would be inclined to use its nuclear weapons, including when it determines that its leadership is facing an imminent "nuclear or non-nuclear attack by hostile forces." The law requires North Korea's military to "automatically" execute nuclear strikes against enemy forces, including their "starting point of provocation and the command," if Pyongyang's leadership comes under attack.

The law also says North Korea could use nukes to prevent an unspecified "catastrophic crisis" to its government and people, a loose definition that experts say reflect an escalatory nuclear doctrine that could create greater concerns for neighbors.

Kim also criticized South Korea over its plans to expand its conventional strike capabilities and revive large-scale military exercises with the United States to counter the North's growing threats, describing them as a "dangerous" military action that raises tensions.

Kim has made increasingly provocative threats of nuclear conflict toward the United States and its allies in Asia, also warning that the North would proactively use its nuclear weapons when threatened. His latest comments underscored the growing animosity in the region as he accelerates the expansion of his nuclear weapons and missiles program.

"The purpose of the United States is not only to remove our nuclear might itself, but eventually forcing us to surrender or weaken our rights to self-defense through giving up our nukes, so that they could collapse our government at any time," Kim said in the speech published by the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

"Let them sanction us for 100 days, 1,000 days, 10 years or 100 years," Kim said. "We will never give up our rights to self-defense that preserves our country's existence and the safety of our people just to temporarily ease the difficulties we are experiencing now."

Kim also addressed domestic issues, saying North Korea would begin its long-delayed rollout of COVID-19 vaccines in November. He didn't specify how many doses it would have, where they would come from, or how they would be administered across his population of 26 million people.

GAVI, the nonprofit that runs the U.N.-backed COVAX distribution program, said in June it understood

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 124 of 139

North Korea had accepted an offer of vaccines from China. GAVI said at the time the specifics of the offer were unclear.

North Korea rejected previous offers by COVAX, likely because of international monitoring requirements, and has also ignored U.S. and South Korean offers of vaccines and other COVID-19 aid.

Kim last month declared victory over COVID-19 and ordered preventive measures eased just three months after his government for the first time acknowledged an outbreak. Experts believe the North's disclosures on its outbreak are manipulated to help Kim maintain absolute control.

The North Korean report about Kim's speech came a day after South Korea extended its latest olive branch, proposing a meeting with North Korea to resume temporary reunions of aging relatives separated by the 1950-53 Korean War, which were last held in 2018.

Experts say it's highly unlikely North Korea would accept the South's offer considering the stark deterioration in inter-Korean ties amid the stalemate in larger nuclear talks between Washington and Pyongyang. The U.S.-North Korean diplomacy derailed in 2019 over disagreements in exchanging the release of crippling sanctions against the North and the North's denuclearization steps.

Kim was combative toward South Korea in Thursday's speech and urged his country to expand the operational roles of its tactical nuclear weapons and accelerate their deployment to strengthen the country's war deterrent. Those comments appeared to align with a ruling party decision in June to approve unspecified new operational duties for front-line troops, which analysts say likely include plans to deploy battlefield nuclear weapons targeting rival South Korea along their tense border.

Cheong Seong Chang, a senior analyst at South Korea's Sejong Institute, said Kim's comments and the new North Korean law amount to a warning that it would launch immediate nuclear strikes on the United States and South Korea if they ever attempt to decapitate Pyongyang's leadership.

The North is also communicating a threat that it could use its nuclear weapons during conflicts with South Korea's conventional forces, which would raise the risk of accidental clashes escalating into a nuclear crisis, Cheong said.

North Korea has been speeding its development of nuclear-capable, short-range missiles that can target South Korea since 2019. Experts say its rhetoric around those missiles communicates a threat to proactively use them in warfare to blunt the stronger conventional forces of South Korea and the United States. About 28,500 U.S. troops are stationed in the South to deter aggression from the North.

The U.S.-led diplomatic push to defuse the nuclear standoff has been further complicated by an intensifying U.S.-China rivalry and Russia's war on Ukraine, which deepened the divide in the U.N. Security Council, where Beijing and Moscow have blocked U.S. efforts to tighten sanctions on Pyongyang over its revived long-range missile tests this year.

Kim has dialed up weapons tests to a record pace in 2020, launching more than 30 ballistic weapons, including the first demonstrations of his intercontinental ballistic missiles since 2017.

U.S. and South Korean officials say Kim may up the ante soon by ordering the North's first nuclear test in five years as he pushes a brinkmanship aimed at forcing Washington to accept the idea of the North as a nuclear power and negotiating concessions from a position of strength.

Experts say Kim is also trying to strengthen his leverage by strengthening his cooperation with China and Russia in an emerging partnership aimed at undercutting U.S. influence.

North Korea has repeatedly blamed the United States for the crisis in Ukraine, saying the West's "hegemonic policy" justified Russian military actions in Ukraine to protect itself. U.S. officials said this week the Russians are in the process of purchasing North Korean ammunition, including artillery shells and rockets, to ease their supply shortages in the war against Ukraine.

North Korea also has joined Russia and Syria as the only nations to recognize the independence of two pro-Russia breakaway territories in eastern Ukraine and has discussed sending its construction workers to those regions to work on rebuilding.

Weird Al gives himself the Weird Al treatment in new biopic

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

TORONTO (AP) — When a young, bespectacled Al Yankovic picked up an accordion, few — especially Al, himself — would have predicted the long-running show-business career that would follow. But can you imagine if they did? That every step of Yankovic's way — the first Hawaiian shirt, the epiphany of riffing on "My Sharona" as "My Bologna" — carried the same portentous sense of fate that rings through most music biopics?

It's a funny enough idea that shortly before the raucous midnight Toronto International Film Festival premiere of "Weird: The Al Yankovic Story" — a nutty, authorized biopic that takes that concept and has as much fun with it as possible — Yankovic was still riffing. He was sitting alongside Daniel Radcliffe, who enthusiastically plays Yankovic in the movie, at a Toronto bar stocked with on-theme cocktails like "Just Drink It."

Like, what if, Yankovic imagines, "Weird" had that much-memed moment in Baz Luhrmann's "Elvis" where Tom Hanks' Tom Parker hears Presley on the radio for the first time, dramatically swings around and exclaims "He's white?!" — only it's Weird Al he hears and instead responds, "He's weird?!"

"Weird: The Al Yankovic Story," written by Yankovic with director Eric Appel, does to Yankovic's career pretty much what the 62-year-old comedian has been doing to pop songs for the last four decades. It distorts it through a funhouse mirror, turning Yankovic's life into something that at its most absurd heights becomes its own parallel reality.

"I never would have believed this would happen early in my life, and maybe even a year ago," says Yankovic. "That's one of the reasons why the movie is funny because it shouldn't exist. There are detractors that are saying: 'Why is Weird Al getting a biopic when there are a thousand names that should have gotten one before him?' Well, that's kind of the point. It's not that I deserve it. The fact that I don't deserve it is why this exists."

Some, including Radcliffe, would quibble with that. Yankovic long ago outlasted many of the musicians he's parodied. He's one of only five music acts to have a Top 40 hit in each of the last four decades. That ranks him among the likes of Madonna and Michael Jackson, who have, of course, each received the Weird Al treatment ("Like a Surgeon," "Eat It"). The New York Times has called Yankovic "a completely ridiculous national treasure."

"I can't explain it," shrugs Yankovic. "I guess it's just sheer tenacity because I should have gone away decades ago."

"Weird: The Al Yankovic Story," which will be released Nov. 4 on Roku, is itself an unlikely movie that began as a gag. About a decade ago, Appel and Yankovic made a faux-trailer for a Yankovic biopic for Funny or Die. Yankovic would play it at his concerts and bat away questions from fans about when the movie would actually be released. But a string of music biopics — many of which played so elastically with the truth that Yankovic sensed they were ripe for parody — made the premise even more appealing. Appel and Yankovic worked on a script and reached out to Radcliffe.

"My first reaction on hearing the idea of me as Al was, 'Wait, what?'" says Radcliffe. "As soon as I started reading it, I was like, 'Oh, there's nothing else that Al's biopic could have been but something that is inherently a parody of all musical biopics.'"

There are a few bits of autobiographic truth in "Weird," but the movie quickly, as Radcliffe says, "goes off the rails," wildly overinflating Yankovic's trajectory and many of his encounters. Madonna (played by Evan Rachel Wood), desperate for the honor of a Yankovic parody, initiates a love affair with him, for instance.

"The amount of people that have asked me about you and Madonna," sighs Radcliffe.

Yankovic notes that a door-to-door accordion salesman really did come to his family's house, as one does in the film. It's less true that Yankovic's father abhorred the instrument as "the devil's squeezebox" and violently pummeled the salesman.

"That scene goes on for so long," Radcliffe says, shaking his head.

For the 33-year-old Radcliffe, the movie is in line with other eccentric, experimental films like 2016's

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 126 of 139

"Swiss Army Man" that he's been drawn to since playing Harry Potter. A self-described Yankovic fan who listens to his polkas while working out, Radcliffe and Yankovic found themselves in many ways simpatico.

"At some points in my life, I thought I needed to be stoic as an actor and stoic as a movie star," says Radcliffe. "The success I've had since 'Potter' has been about whatever is weird about me, leaning into that. That's the asset, actually, not to be avoided. And Al is like the model for that."

Radcliffe describes the rapid 18-day shoot of "Weird" as "truly one of the best experiences I've ever had on a set." Ahead of production, he dove into learning the accordion.

"Nobody asked me to, by the way. It was entirely self-inflicted," says Radcliffe. "I mean, if you're playing Al, what else am I doing? You've got to make an honest attempt."

"I can't tell you what a joy it was to wake up in the morning and get video of Dan playing 'My Bologna' on the accordion," Yankovic says, earnestly.

"My most common note was 'Please pump more,'" adds Radcliffe.

Yankovic was in Toronto for only the evening with Colorado concerts the night before and the night after the premiere. He's currently on "The Unfortunate Return of the Ridiculously Self-Indulgent Ill-Advised Vanity Tour" which concludes this fall at Carnegie Hall. At his concerts, he now sees fans of his from the 1980s with their kids — "and in some cases, their grandkids — which is a little scary."

The continued affection people have for Weird Al — a performer who represents roughly the diametric opposite of an image-conscious, out-of-reach pop star — seems to somehow still be expanding. At the "Weird" premiere in Toronto, Hawaiian shirts and curly wigs were out in force. On the last day of shooting, Radcliffe says, the whole cast and crew dressed up as Yankovic.

Reluctantly, Yankovic acknowledges there's something, in fact, very real about Weird Al.

"My nickname 'Weird Al' has been empowering for a lot of people," he says. "When I took on that name professionally it was a college DJ in the '70s. It wasn't calculated, obviously. I wasn't thinking that I was going to be, like, a role model decades later. But a lot of people that feel like outcasts or freaks or outsiders or didn't belong in some way would sometimes look to me and go, 'Here's a guy that's owning his weirdness, and he's comfortable with it.'"

Suspect in Memphis shooting rampage granted public defender

By ADRIAN SAINZ Associated Press

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A Tennessee man accused of killing four people and wounding three others in a livestreamed shooting rampage that paralyzed Memphis and led to a city-wide manhunt was granted a public defender during Friday morning court appearance and will remain jailed on a first-degree murder charge.

Ezekiel Kelly, 19, told a judge he could not afford a lawyer for accusations in Wednesday's attack that caused panic and fear across the city.

Additional charges are expected. District Attorney Steve Mulroy said outside court that bond is not warranted due to the violent nature of the alleged crimes.

The hours-long rampage had police warning residents to shelter in place, locking down a baseball stadium and university campuses and suspending public bus services as frightened residents wondered where the man might strike next. Kelly was arrested late Wednesday after crashing a stolen car while fleeing police.

The violence unfolded just a few months after Kelly was released early from a three-year prison sentence for a pair of shootings in 2020.

The bloodshed played out as the city was still reeling from the brutal killing of jogger Eliza Fletcher who was abducted during her early morning run less than a week earlier.

"This has been a horrific week for the city of Memphis," Police Director Cerelyn "CJ" Davis said.

Authorities offered no explanation Thursday of a possible motive. Nor did they say how Kelly managed to obtain the gun or guns used in the attacks.

The Shelby County public defender's office did not return a call seeking comment on Kelly's case.

Memphis has also been shaken by other high-profile killings in recent weeks, including the shooting of

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 127 of 139

a pastor during a daylight carjacking in her driveway and the shooting of an activist during an argument over money.

Mayor Jim Strickland told reporters Thursday he was outraged that Kelly had been released early from prison in March after pleading guilty last year to aggravated assault charges.

"This is no way for us to live, and it is not acceptable," said Strickland, who later pounded the podium as he demanded accountability. He added: "If Mr. Kelly served his full three-year sentence, he would still be in prison today, and four of our fellow citizens would still be alive."

In February 2020, Kelly, then 17, was charged as an adult with attempted first-degree murder and other crimes in two shootings committed a few hours apart. Both victims survived but did not cooperate with prosecutors, according to court records, and Kelly pleaded guilty to reduced charges of aggravated assault in April 2021.

Kelly was sentenced to three years in prison, but was released in March after serving just over two years behind bars, including credit he received for time he was jailed prior to his plea.

Juvenile Court records reviewed by The Associated Press showed both shootings took place when it was dark outside and when both victims were helping other people move. Gunshots came from a car with more than one person inside on both occasions, records showed.

The man who was shot in the chest testified he was hit while trying to take cover and the shots lasted five minutes. He positively identified Kelly in court, records showed.

"Given the defendant's age, previous contacts with the Court and the nature of the delinquent acts, the Court does not believe there is specific time to rehabilitate the child by use of procedures, services and facilities available to the Court in this state," a court order said.

Months before his release, Kelly was denied parole in September 2021.

Ahead of that decision, he said at a parole board hearing that he had left high school during 11th grade because he had an anger management problem. On an assessment for inmate risks and needs, a parole hearing official said he scored high for "violent," according to a recording of the hearing.

"I was going to anger management," Kelly, then 18, said at the hearing. "I didn't know how to cope with it at the time because I was a teenager."

He said he had been "affiliated" – meaning, with a gang – but wasn't anymore, saying, "as I got older, I separated myself from that type of groups." He said he previously worked at a fast-food restaurant and a poetry club.

At the time, his fiancée wrote a letter to parole officials, saying the couple had talked about Kelly going to trade school and starting a new life.

In recommending against parole, the hearing officer in part cited "the seriousness of your offense, being that someone was shot – I know that you said that you weren't there – but you do have the conviction."

Peak TV bonanza complicates Emmy goal of honoring the best

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Eager to root for viewer favorites "Yellowstone," "NCIS" or "Young Sheldon" during the Emmy Awards? Save your breath.

They and other ratings successes failed to make a dent in nominations for Monday's ceremony. Instead, the haul went to shows that are critical darlings or possess a higher degree of cool, "Stranger Things" and "Squid Game" among them.

While it may be frustrating to fans, industry experts consider such omissions a sign that television's most prestigious honor is doing its job, or trying to, in the daunting age of "peak TV" overload.

"When the Emmys were created more than 70 years ago, there were so few shows. The public was familiar with what was being nominated," said TV producer-writer William Rosenthal. That remained the case for most of the 20th century, but today it's "a whole different game, with more than 500 series, and also international series."

Netflix's "Squid Game" is a case in point, a South Korean drama that's the first non-English language

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 128 of 139

nominee for top series honors. The dystopian horror story is competing with seven other acclaimed shows, including "Succession" and "Severance."

The crush of programming means that even worthy shows struggle for recognition.

"You would have thought this bounty of quality would have been wonderful for the Emmys, but it's become one of their most significant challenges," said Robert Thompson, director of Syracuse University's Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture. "What happens when an award that was originally designed to pick out the high points in what was called the 'idiot box' suddenly has more high points than they can possibly know what to do with?"

Which begs the question: Given the many options splintering the TV audience, how can an awards show draw a crowd?

The ceremony isn't limited to spotlighting only nominated shows, said returning executive producers Reginald Hudlin and Ian Stewart. The awards air 8 p.m. EDT Monday on NBC, with Kenan Thompson of "Saturday Night Live" as host.

"The writing, the filmmaking, the acting that you see on television is extraordinary," said Hudlin. "We want to celebrate all of TV ... the things we like to watch, whatever those are, yay!"

How to accomplish that? "Put a bit of 'Law & Order' in there for the people, and that's exactly what we're going to do," said Stewart, using the long-running franchise as shorthand for crowd favorites. "We want people to recognize their TV, not our TV, not just those things that are nominated but they've never heard of, or don't subscribe to the streaming service."

One approach, inviting actors from non-nominated shows to serve as presenters, is already evident: Mariska Hargitay of "Law & Order: Special Victims Unit" and Christopher Meloni of "Law & Order: Organized Crime" will do just that (with both shows also conveniently on host network NBC).

The nominations winnowing process was particularly brutal this year. The farewell seasons of network favorites "black-ish" and "This Is Us" were snubbed, and FX's "Atlanta" was left out of the best comedy series category after two previous nods (although star-creator Donald Glover is up for an acting trophy, which he won in 2017).

Staples like NBC's "Chicago Fire" or CBS' "NCIS" — the No. 1 network drama with an average 10 million viewers last season — are awards longshots in any field, but particularly among TV's endless wave of innovative storytelling. The same goes for Paramount's "Yellowstone," well-crafted but not seen as cutting edge, which leaves even its deserving cast members out in the cold.

"It seems like a big oversight that Kelly Reilly hasn't been nominated," said Rosenthal, whose credits include "Nurse Jackie" and who is an assistant professor at Chapman University's Dodge College of Film and Media Arts. Reilly's performance as tough but troubled Beth Dutton in the modern Western is "really fantastic," he said.

Emmy nods largely favored shows from big-spending streaming services like Netflix, among the drivers of TV's explosive growth, alongside relatively old-guard premium cable channels including HBO and Showtime. Of the 21 nominees in the best drama, comedy and limited series categories, 11 are on streaming services and seven are on premium cable.

ABC's comedy "Abbott Elementary," stands alone as a broadcast network series nominee. Two series nods went to basic cable: AMC's "Better Call Saul" and FX's "What We Do in the Shadows."

When broadcast and daily ratings ruled TV, before DVRs and streaming, Emmy recognition could help make a show. The groundbreaking police drama "Hill Street Blues" is a vivid example cited by Syracuse's Thompson.

It was among the lowest-rated series when it was showered in 1981 with a then-record eight Emmys, he said, and spared cancellation. It aired until 1987 and won four consecutive best drama series awards.

The Emmys hunt still triggers splashy "for your consideration" promotional campaigns aimed at academy voters. But the overloaded pop culture environment has dimmed the appeal of Hollywood awards ceremonies across the board, as ebbing viewership proves, and maybe the cachet of the trophies themselves.

Emmy producer Stewart offers a counter perspective to the latter. Statistically, he said, the odds of win-

ning one of the 25 Emmys to be given Monday are overwhelmingly long.

"Let's not forget that this is an incredible, incredible achievement," he said.

As cost of climate change rises, UN urges compensation

By WANJOHI KABUKURU Associated Press

From drought to floods and sea level rise, the cost of damage caused by climate change will only get higher as the world warms, sparking concerns from both top officials and activists about how to pay for it.

"Loss and damage from the climate crisis is not a future event. It is happening now, all around us," said United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on a visit to Pakistan, which recently suffered from devastating floods that displaced hundreds of thousands of people and left over a thousand dead.

"Developed countries must step up and provide Pakistan and other countries on the frontlines with the financial and technical resources they need to survive extreme weather events like these deadly floods," he said.

"I urge governments to address this issue at COP 27 with the seriousness it deserves," Guterres added, referring to the United Nations climate summit in November which will be held in the Egyptian seaside resort of Sharm el Sheikh.

Pakistan, along with dozens of other developing countries around the world, are scrambling to adapt to the effects of climate change, with many of them calling on richer, high-emitting nations to help foot the bill.

Guterres' comments come a day after the U.N.'s World Meteorological Organization warned that Africa's islands and coastal states — and the 116 million people that inhabit them — will be heavily exposed to rising seas and will spend about \$50 billion in damages by 2050.

It added that drought over the last 50 years in the Horn and southern Africa, exacerbated by climate change, has claimed the lives of over half a million people, with losses estimated at \$70 billion. Over 1,000 floods in the same time period claimed over 20,000 lives, it said.

The report's findings stirred renewed calls for compensation for the continent by many who believe rich nations that emit far more planet-warming gases into the atmosphere should pay for climate catastrophes, known as "loss and damage" in climate negotiations.

"As a continent we feel that the issue of loss and damage needs to be addressed," said Harsen Nyambe, the director of sustainable environment at the African Union. "It is a controversial issue and developed countries are afraid because it has serious financial implications."

Loss and damage negotiations were a sticking point at last year's U.N. climate conference and are expected to feature prominently again this year at the climate summit in November.

Developing nations in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Latin America and the Pacific have banded together under the Climate Vulnerable Forum to tackle the issue of loss and damage and seek compensation.

The bloc, currently chaired by Ghana, was formed in 2009 and brings together 48 of the world's most climate susceptible developing countries who have a combined population of 1.2 billion but a collective share of global emissions of just 5%.

Speaking to The Associated Press, Kenyan climate activist Elizabeth Wathuti warned about "loss of lives and livelihoods, and damage to our lands and communities" as a result of climate change.

"Vulnerable countries do not have the financial capacity to adapt to these intensifying climate impacts, which makes climate finance a matter of global justice," she added.

Slain Las Vegas reporter spent career chasing corruption

By KEN RITTER and JOHN SEEWER Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — In four decades of writing about the Las Vegas underworld and government corruption, investigative reporter Jeff German took on plenty of powerful and dangerous people. The hard-bitten newsman was once punched by an organized crime associate and received veiled threats from mobsters.

Nothing seemed to faze him as he doggedly went about his work.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 130 of 139

So German (GEHR'-man) characteristically didn't express concern when Clark County Public Administrator Robert Telles, a virtually unknown politician in charge of an obscure and small government office, took to Twitter last spring to angrily denounce the reporter.

German, who worked for the Las Vegas Review-Journal, had written about bullying and favoritism in the public administrator's office and an inappropriate relationship by Telles with a female subordinate.

Authorities say German's initial investigation and follow-up stories were the motivation for Telles to fatally stab German last week at the reporter's home. DNA at the scene linked Telles to the killing as did shoes and a distinctive straw hat found at his home that matched those worn by a suspect caught on video, investigators said Thursday.

Police arrested Telles on Wednesday after a brief standoff at his home. Telles was hospitalized for what Clark County Sheriff Joe Lombardo described as non-life-threatening, self-inflicted wounds.

Glenn Cook, executive editor of the Review-Journal, said there was talk within the newspaper about Telles being "unhinged" but he never made any physical threats against German and the reporter never said he was worried.

The thought this was the story that would put German's safety at risk seemed implausible, he said, remembering how the reporter recounted once being punched by an organized crime associate.

"He cut his teeth covering the mob," Cook said. "Jeff spent over 40 years covering the worst of the worst of Las Vegas. This was a guy who ran down mobsters, wise guys and killers."

Killings of journalists in the U.S. in retaliation for their work are extremely rare. Up until German's death, eight journalists have been killed in the U.S. since 1992, according to the Committee to Protect Journalists. The deadliest attack came in 2018 when a shooting at the Capital Gazette in Maryland left five dead.

"Jeff's death is a sobering reminder of the inherent risks of investigative journalism," said Diana Fuentes, executive director of the organization Investigative Reporters & Editors. "Journalists do their jobs every day, digging deep to find information the public needs to know and has a right to see."

German joined the Review-Journal in 2010 after more than two decades at the Las Vegas Sun, where he was a columnist and reporter who covered courts, politics, labor, government and crime. He was 69, but never talked with his boss about retirement, Cook said.

Former co-workers along with attorneys and government officials German counted on as sources called him a hard-nosed, tenacious journalist who could be gruff at times, especially if someone didn't know him or was holding back information.

"He was not someone who was easily intimidated," said Geoff Schumacher, who worked with German at the Sun until the late 1990s. "Getting to the truth, that was more important to him than his own well-being or being popular."

The pair recently worked together on a podcast called "Mobbed Up."

German talked about receiving veiled threats from mobsters in the early 1980s at a time when people were disappearing as law enforcement cracked down on organized crime. The warnings definitely got German's attention, but he never went to police, said Schumacher, who now works at The Mob Museum in Las Vegas.

Alan Feldman, a former executive with MGM Resorts International, said getting a call from German was like hearing from the CBS news show, "60 Minutes." He didn't talk tough or threaten anyone, Feldman said, but he never backed down.

And he always followed the story even if it didn't go in the direction he expected, he said.

"The last thing I would say about Jeff is that anything scared him or that he was afraid," Feldman said. "He was prepared to go after anyone who was doing something not in the public interest."

Telles, a Democrat who apparently had never served in public office until he was elected in 2018, oversaw less than 10 people and was paid about \$120,000 a year to run an office that deals with estates and the property of people after they die. Before that he was a lawyer practicing probate and estate law.

In the weeks before the June primary, German bylined reports about an office "mired in turmoil and internal dissension" between longtime employees and new hires under Telles' leadership. Following the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 131 of 139

stories, county officials hired a consultant to help oversee the office.

Telles blamed "old-timers" for exaggerating the extent of his relationship with a female staffer and falsely claiming that he mistreated them. He posted complaints on Twitter about German, saying he was a bully who was "obsessed" with him.

Telles ended up finishing last in the three-way primary and was serving out the remainder of his term at the time of the killing.

The articles "ruined his political career, likely his marriage, and this was him lashing out at the cause," Chief Deputy Clark County District Attorney Richard Scow said Thursday.

German's family called him "a loving and loyal brother, uncle and friend who devoted his life to his work exposing wrongdoing in Las Vegas and beyond."

"We're shocked, saddened and angry about his death," they said in a statement. "Jeff was committed to seeking justice for others and would appreciate the hard work by local police and journalists in pursuing his killer. We look forward to seeing justice done in this case."

From Eisenhower to Biden, queen met every US president but 1

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Horseback riding with Ronald Reagan. Yachting with Bill Clinton. Sipping tea with Joe Biden.

Queen Elizabeth II, who died Thursday at age 96, had met every American president since Dwight Eisenhower, with the exception of Lyndon Johnson, who did not visit Britain during his presidency. Biden was the 13th and final U.S. president to meet the woman whose reign spanned seven decades.

Every living former U.S. president — Jimmy Carter, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, Barack Obama and Donald Trump — joined Biden in mourning her passing and sending condolences to her family.

Biden and first lady Jill Biden said the queen's "legacy will loom large in the pages of British history, and in the story of our world."

Obama and his wife, Michelle, recalled the queen welcoming them, America's first Black president and first lady, to the world stage "with open arms and extraordinary generosity."

Biden first met the queen in 1982 as a U.S. senator traveling in the U.K. with a delegation from Congress. He last saw her in 2021, several months after he became president, while attending a world leaders' summit in southwestern England.

She mingled with Group of Seven leaders at a reception that she and other royals hosted at an indoor rainforest. After the summit, the Bidens traveled to Windsor Castle, near London, at the queen's invitation for a private audience.

The queen was a 25-year-old princess when she came to Washington in 1951 and stayed with President Harry Truman and his family. She met Herbert Hoover in 1957, more than 20 years after he left office.

Here are highlights of some of her meetings, on both sides of the pond, with past American presidents:

JOE BIDEN

Biden and his trademark aviator sunglasses met the queen at Windsor Castle on a sweltering afternoon in June 2021.

Biden emerged from a black car wearing his shades, stepped onto a covered dais where the queen waited, and, with his wife, posed with the queen as the two countries' national anthems played.

After walking around the courtyard to inspect the honor guard, he entered the castle for tea.

Back at the airport, Biden told journalists that the queen was "very gracious" and had asked him about the leaders of China and Russia.

While it's generally frowned upon to discuss one's private talks with the queen, Biden continued.

"I don't think she'll be insulted, but she reminded me of my mother," he said.

Biden said he also had invited the queen to visit the White House.

DONALD TRUMP

Trump and the queen met in July 2018 at Windsor Castle during a visit to Britain that drew large anti-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 132 of 139

Trump protests to downtown London, including the hoisting of a balloon depicting Trump in a diaper.

He was criticized for breaking protocol by briefly walking in front of the queen — instead of alongside her — and turning his back on her as they reviewed an honor guard.

Trump later said he thought of his late mother, Mary Anne, who was born in Scotland and who loved the royal family, when he and his wife, Melania, sipped tea with the queen.

Trump's subsequent comment that the queen told him that Brexit — Britain's break from the European Union — was complex also created a stir. Most heads of state don't reveal their private conversations with the queen. She also doesn't discuss political matters.

The Trumps and the royals met again during the D-Day commemoration in 2019.

BARACK OBAMA

Obama and the queen had their first of three meetings in April 2009 at a reception for world leaders attending the Group of 20 nations summit in London.

It was there that first lady Michelle Obama broke protocol by briefly putting an arm around the queen's back as they commiserated about their achy feet. It's generally a no-no to touch the queen, but she returned Mrs. Obama's gesture.

The queen invited the Obamas for a state visit in 2011 that included a two-night stay at Buckingham Palace and a lavish banquet in the president's honor.

As Obama delivered a toast to the queen, he didn't miss a beat when the band assumed that a pause in his remarks meant he had concluded and launched into a rendition of "God Save the Queen." Obama kept talking over the music until the band quieted down.

The couples saw each other again in 2016 when Obama visited the queen at Windsor Castle a day after her 90th birthday during another swing through Europe.

GEORGE W. BUSH

Bush detested stuffy, formal affairs, but he donned a white tie-and-tails tuxedo after the queen pulled out all the stops for a state dinner in his honor at Buckingham Palace in November 2003.

A few years later, Bush's slip of the tongue generated ripples of laughter at a White House welcoming ceremony for the queen, who was touring the U.S. in May 2007.

Stumbling on a line in his speech, Bush said the queen had dined with several of his predecessors and had helped the United States "celebrate its bicentennial in 17- ..." Bush caught himself and corrected the date to 1976, and paused to see if she had taken offense.

"She gave me a look that only a mother could give a child," Bush said with a smile.

The queen later turned the tables on Bush with her toast at a dinner she hosted for the president at the British Embassy in Washington.

"I wondered whether I should start this toast by saying, 'When I was here in 1776,'" she said to laughter.

BILL CLINTON

The queen hosted Clinton and his wife, Hillary, aboard her royal yacht, Britannia, in June 1994.

The ship, 412 feet (125 meters) long and 55 feet (17 meters) wide, was docked at the Portsmouth Naval Base and was home base for the Clintons as they attended the queen's dinner at Guildhall for leaders of Allied nations whose troops participated in the D-Day invasion of Normandy 50 years earlier.

The Clintons spent one night aboard the boat. The next day, the Britannia ferried Clinton to the USS George Washington aircraft carrier as it prepared to sail across the English Channel, from Portsmouth to Normandy, for D-Day anniversary celebrations.

GEORGE H.W. BUSH

One of the more memorable images from the monarch's third state visit to the U.S. came in 1991 when only her white-striped purple hat could be seen above the microphones when she spoke at an arrival ceremony on the White House grounds.

Someone forgot to adjust the lectern after the much taller Bush spoke.

The queen stayed strong and carried on, later making light of the incident as she opened an address to a joint meeting of Congress.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 133 of 139

"I do hope you can see me today from where you are," she deadpanned. Bush later apologized and said he felt badly for not pulling out a step for her to stand on.

RONALD REAGAN

Reagan and the queen bonded over a mutual love of horseback riding.

They rode side by side on an 8-mile (13-kilometers), hourlong tour on the grounds of Windsor Castle when Reagan visited her there in June 1982. Reagan was the first president to sleep over at the British royal family's historic home, an 11th-century estate overlook the River Thames.

While in the U.S. in 1983, the monarch and Philip stayed with the president and first lady Nancy Reagan at their ranch in Santa Barbara, California. She wanted to ride horses again, but a rainstorm wouldn't allow it. The Reagans served a lunch of regional staples, including enchiladas, chiles rellenos, refried beans, tacos, rice and guacamole.

They also hosted a state dinner for the queen in San Francisco at the M.H. de Young Memorial Museum.

JIMMY CARTER

The queen hosted Carter in May 1977 on his first overseas trip at a dinner for NATO leaders at Buckingham Palace. At one point, as Carter stood with the queen and other guests, he noticed the arrival of the queen mother.

Ever the Southern gentleman, Carter broke away, took her by the hand and escorted her to the assembled line of guests.

The no-frills Georgia peanut farmer-turned-president ate chicken mousse off a gold plate and seemed excited by his dinner seating between the queen and her sister, Princess Margaret, and across from her son, Prince Charles, Prince Philip and the queen mother.

GERALD FORD

Ford threw a gala state dinner for the Brits in 1976 to mark the bicentennial of the American Revolution. The queen was resplendent in a diamond-studded tiara that sparkled for a crowd that included diplomats, star athletes and celebrities such as Cary Grant and Julie Harris.

The mood evaporated when Ford led the queen to the dance floor while the song "The Lady Is a Tramp" echoed throughout the State Dining Room.

'Come From Away' readies for 9/11 anniversary by giving back

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — This Monday, the cast and crew of the Broadway musical "Come From Away" have an appointment, as usual, with an aircraft carrier.

Every year to honor Sept. 11, they help box thousands of meals for food banks across the city and perform for the volunteers aboard the U.S.S. Intrepid.

"9/11 was a worldwide event. It was a time when we all felt helpless, and it was a time when we all wanted to help. And I think those sentiments continue right now," said David Hein, who with his wife, Irene Sankoff, wrote the book, music and lyrics to "Come From Away."

The musical is set in the small Newfoundland town of Gander, which opened its arms to some 7,000 airline passengers diverted there when the U.S. government shut down airspace during 9/11.

In a matter of a few hours, the town was overwhelmed by 38 planeloads of travelers from dozens of countries and religions, yet locals went to work in their kitchens and cleaned up spare rooms to offer space and food to the newcomers.

This year's visit to the Intrepid by the New York cast will be bittersweet; it's the last time the show will send representatives from Broadway. The show closes Oct. 2 after a five-year run.

But it's fitting that one of its last acts will be giving. Few shows have left such a legacy of connecting with the community — concerts for cancer victims, fundraisers for farmers facing drought and even cast members handing out dollar bills to the needy in the New York subway.

"It's been incredible to see us be inspired by the Newfoundlanders and then have this story inspire other people to do even more good," says Hein. "It's humbling to see that Shakespeare quote in action: 'How

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 134 of 139

far that little candle throws his beams! So shines a good deed in a naughty world.”

Giving back was baked into the show since the first workshop at Sheridan College in Ontario, where a hat was passed to raise money for animal shelters overwhelmed with new kittens. A benefit concert planned for later this month at the Gander airport will do the same “because kittens never stop,” Hein says, laughing.

Since its debut, the musical — under director Christopher Ashley, who won a Tony for his work — has not changed, but it has seemed to take on different issues, depending on real events swirling at the time.

The show’s first preview at its pre-Broadway run at Seattle Rep — Nov. 13, 2015 — came just hours after 130 people were killed in a coordinated terrorist attack in Paris. Offstage, the creators wondered what to do. Should they say something? Change the show?

“I think it was Chris Ashley who said, ‘I think we just put on the show. I think this show says look for the helpers. It says, remember there’s more of us trying to do good than there are people trying to do harm. It says so much just by telling the story.’”

When Ivanka Trump and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau saw it in 2017 on Broadway, the issue was immigration and walls. Trudeau got onstage and said he was pleased, “the world gets to see what it is to lean on each other and be there for each other through the darkest times.”

The COVID-19 pandemic gave the musical a different color, a sense of entering a period of uncertainty and reinforcing the notion of a community coming together. It was no surprise to Sankoff and Hein that the show’s costume department immediately started sewing masks for frontline workers.

“At a time when people were actually out of work and terrified that their industry wasn’t going to come back, so many of our company were saying, ‘How can I also help?’” recalls Sankoff.

While the terror attacks are ever-present in the musical, the focus is on the Canadian response. The words “World Trade Center” and “terrorist” are each uttered only once. The creators like to call it a “9/12 story.”

“We really did not want to do a show that was about 9/11,” says Hein, who was with his wife in New York on that fateful day. “We wanted to do a show about Newfoundland and how they had responded because that gave us hope, contrasting what we had felt on that day.”

The Broadway version may soon be gone, but the future is still bright for “Come From Away.” There’s a North American tour, a production in London and one touring Australia. A version in Finland opens this month, one recently opened in Holland, another in Argentina and one in Sweden.

“What’s amazing is how universal this story is. You have to change elements of it within a language and within a culture. But the concept of welcoming strangers and a world coming together is something that people are, I think, really hungry for,” says Hein.

He and his wife and their 9-year-old daughter will be spending the 9/11 anniversary in Gander, at one of several concerts and benefits planned to commemorate the 21st year after the attacks.

“9/11 is a national day of service. But I think what we’ve also learned is that any day can be a day of service — at any moment,” says Hein. “Kindness is a daily practice and one that we can all use a reminder for each day.”

San Quentin inmates find community through tennis

By JANIE McCAULEY AP Sports Writer

INSIDE SAN QUENTIN STATE PRISON, Calif. (AP) — Stefan Schneider needed a nickname, or a handle as they call it in prison.

So the inmates quickly began brainstorming for the college tennis player making his first visit to San Quentin.

“Finesse,” offered 22-year-old Braydon Tennison.

“Twinkle Toes,” suggested another inmate named Kenny, who preferred not to give his last name out of respect for his victim’s family.

A winner — Twinkle Toes immediately stuck.

“Twinkle for short,” Tennison said with a grin. “We couldn’t give him a hardcore one because he looks

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 135 of 139

like such a nice kid.”

Later, “Ten” beamed and clapped as the now-20-year-old Schneider showed everyone his strong game. “See, I knew you were taking it easy,” Tennison said emphatically.

For a few hours, these prisoners were just tennis players out for some competitive fun and a chance to forget their life behind bars for a little while — even with the cell blocks in view at every direction.

Hundreds of inmates fill San Quentin’s sprawling exercise yard every Saturday morning to work out in all ways — walking lunges, chin-ups, pull-ups and pushups, jabs into a punching bag, abdominal moves, even bench-pressing picnic tables. There are basketball and baseball games going simultaneously in the space some three football fields in size.

Every corner is filled with activity and energy. Others wait their turn for haircuts or to play checkers, dominoes and horseshoes.

A single tennis court sits on one side of the grounds, its back fences so close to the lines that a well-placed lob will send someone crashing into the chain links with little chance at keeping a point alive. A half-dozen regulars start playing at straight up 8 a.m.

“Are you ready, Ten?” hollered inmate James Duff, beaming. He picked up tennis only last August and already is a highly skilled player.

Tennison — who notes “you’ll never believe my last name, I was meant to play”— cherishes the chance to be back on the court. The 6-foot-3 lefty began playing tennis in high school at 16.

“I would have kept playing but I got into legal trouble,” said Tennison, who also writes poetry and performs in prison Shakespearean plays. “I just have a supreme love for it, I love it. I’m just grateful to be somewhere I can play.”

The close-knit tennis crew gathers at every chance, many of them aiming to get out on the court every day, typically after their work shifts or college courses. They are thrilled to be outside again after almost constant lockdown for 2 1/2 years during the pandemic.

“It gives us a piece of community to get out of the mode of prison drudgery,” said Earl Wilson, San Quentin’s tennis team captain who has been incarcerated since 1985 — about 37 of his 60 years. “It gives us a sense of family. People love coming in and say it’s better coming in here because we don’t argue.”

That’s because they have their own tennis etiquette: Any close balls are typically called in to avoid confrontation.

That’s not to say there’s no trash talk. When he’s not playing baseball nearby, Kolby Southwood might join the tennis group and razz Matt “Doc” Montana by calling him “Grandpa” and slicing a short ball to make Montana run.

An ex-tennis pro and key leader in the players’ improvement, Montana easily holds his own. The 67-year-old former chiropractor is from the Bay Area and taught for 30 years. He has spent countless hours with some of the inmates, guiding them in fundamentals while always sending newcomers to the hitting wall so they can develop some rhythm on their own.

“I give these guys some tips to try to help them out,” said Montana, who stretches and does yoga on the court, too. “It’s been very difficult with the pandemic. We’ve had lockdown after lockdown.”

Montana, who has been in San Quentin for 3 1/2 years and takes sociology and psychology classes, is so grateful to have the court.

“When the bus came here and I saw the tennis court, I was like, ‘Ahhh,’” he recalled.

Kenny Rogers has found joy in trying something fresh as he serves his sentence. He has been in for 14 years and notes, “This tennis has been my new spark.”

Patrick Leong helps run the “Inside-Outside” program by coordinating those volunteer visiting players like Schneider to play doubles with inmates at San Quentin — California’s oldest correctional institution, and home of the state’s only gas chamber.

An English professor at Diablo Valley College, Leong also plays. He sports an old-school headband, and the inmates cheer fondly for their friend “Alley Pat” — the handle a nod to his precise accuracy down the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 136 of 139

lines.

Schneider and his mother, Margie Moran — a longtime tennis player from the East Bay suburb of Alameda who plays on several USTA teams at once — were some of the first visitors allowed into San Quentin for this program as pandemic restrictions lifted.

These unique sports programs aren't new. Golden State Warriors general manager Bob Myers played inside San Quentin five years ago, a tradition of the team's employees taking on the inmates. San Quentin also has hosted athletes in softball, soccer, flag football and a 100-mile running club.

The experience for those who are invited into the prison to participate is often life-changing, providing a profound glimpse into what it's like for a population that is largely forgotten.

"I wasn't expecting anything like that ... there are so many of them all in one place," Schneider said. "I really liked how they found a community for tennis with those 10 guys, and it seemed like they were having a lot of fun. They obviously are really good for the amount of time they've played, so it was pretty cool to see."

Wilson restrings the rackets, runs tennis team tryouts and is accountable for equipment.

He loves the days when players come in to give the San Quentin team much-needed competition. It brightens up the monotony of prison life.

Wilson's mom introduced him to tennis at around age 7. Yet he always stuck with the major sports growing up — football, basketball and baseball, which "conflicted with tennis" in the spring. Wilson hopes to one day play beyond the walls again.

"Keep learning, keep healthy and get to my mother before she passes," he said of what keeps him going after nearly four decades inside. "She's my rock."

"Whoa! Good shot, Stefan!" Wilson hollered.

"Yay, Kenny! Nice get!" cheered Moran.

Fist bumps. Rackets clinking to celebrate good shots or to encourage for the next chance. It felt an awful lot like a friendly day of tennis that could have been at any public park instead of inside these prison walls.

At the end of a 2 1/2-hour session on that sunny and warm mid-August morning, with a modest speaker under the bench quietly playing classic rock, Wilson brought the group together for a team huddle: "One, two, three, Inside-Outside tennis!"

They said their goodbyes, and the visitors made their way out the prison gates, only to see each other again in two weeks.

By then, Ten had practiced to take on Twinkle Toes — and the inmate proudly hit an ace serve past Schneider.

"I accomplished my goal! I aced Stefan!" he announced.

"It made his day," Moran said, overjoyed for Tennison's feat.

So, how about a nickname for Twinkle's mom, Moran?

A smiling Ten just shrugged, put a finger to his head as if pondering, then exhaled, "These things take time."

Shaken and stirred: Ukraine war hits James Bond's glassmaker

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

LA CHAPELLE-SAINT-MESMIN, France (AP) — For the glassmakers at iconic French tableware brand Duralex, the mornings have become a horror show. Daily updates from energy traders drop into their email inboxes, showing the asphyxiating upward climb of prices for the natural gas and electricity that power their energy-devouring business.

Before Europe's energy crisis — which took off after the COVID-19 pandemic and became a full-blown economic threat with Russia's war in Ukraine — the price charts were reassuringly stable. They have since become a terrifying succession of peaks and troughs, with Russia choking off cheap natural gas deliveries in a battle of wills with European leaders over their support for Ukraine.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 137 of 139

For Duralex, each price spike represents another bite from the bottom line of the 77-year-old company that counts generations of French families, Mongolian yak herders, Afghan diners and African tea drinkers among worldwide users of its glasses, bowls and plates. Actor Daniel Craig drank from one its "Picardie" tumblers, with a scorpion on his wrist, when playing James Bond in "Skyfall."

With energy costs burning through the firm's cash reserves and viability, Duralex President José-Luis Llacuna is taking radical but, he hopes, business-saving action: He's stopping production. The thunderous machines that turn incandescent blobs of molten glass into hundreds of thousands of tableware items each day will fall silent for a few months on Nov. 1.

Duralex will join a growing array of European firms that have reduced and halted production because they're hemorrhaging money on the energy needed to keep running.

"The first thing I do when I wake up in the morning is look at the daily change in electricity and gas prices," Llacuna said in an interview at the plant outside Orléans in central France.

"Needless to say, there's an incredible amount of volatility," he added. "It's truly a rollercoaster, and the outlook for the future is a complete unknown."

Facing the risks of power shortages, rationing and blackouts when demand surges this winter and of an expected recession as businesses shut down, Europe is scrambling for energy alternatives, stockpiling gas and urging consumers to save. European Union energy ministers struggled to find consensus at emergency talks Friday on the bloc's latest proposals for alleviating the crisis.

At Duralex, the costs of heating the furnace to above 1,400 degrees Celsius (above 2,500 Fahrenheit) with roaring torrents of flaming gas and of transforming the molten glass into tableware on the production lines manned by sweating workers are set to burn through 40% of the company's revenue if it keeps producing, "which is untenable," Llacuna said.

The production shutdown will last at least four months. The glass furnace can't be switched off entirely because that could destroy it. Instead, it will be maintained in a hot slumber, slashing the firm's energy use by half. The aim is to then fire it back up by the spring.

In the meantime, the 250 employees will work fewer days, with drops in pay just as inflation is gnawing at household budgets.

"It's very hard to stomach," said Michel Carvalho, a production line crew chief who has been with the company for 17 years.

"Around the world, everyone is suffering from this war," he said. "We're hostages. Absolutely. We're being used. Because being asked to stop work is hard. And we're not responsible for what is happening."

Duralex will fall back on its stockpiles to keep customers supplied during the stoppage. But competitors are circling, using the production halt as an argument to try to lure away the company's customers, Llacuna said. He is knocking on government doors for financial help, speaking by phone to the French economy minister last week.

A prolonged energy crisis, Llacuna warned, could be grim.

"It must not last three years," he said. "Because then European industry will die, and that will be dramatic."

Today in History: September 10, Perry defeats British

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Sept. 10, the 253rd day of 2022. There are 112 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Sept. 10, 1813, an American naval force commanded by Oliver H. Perry defeated the British in the Battle of Lake Erie during the War of 1812. (Afterward, Perry sent the message, "We have met the enemy and they are ours.")

On this date:

In 1608, John Smith was elected president of the Jamestown colony council in Virginia.

In 1846, Elias Howe received a patent for his sewing machine.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 138 of 139

In 1960, Hurricane Donna, a dangerous Category 4 storm eventually blamed for 364 deaths, struck the Florida Keys.

In 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court ordered the University of Mississippi to admit James Meredith, a Black student.

In 1963, 20 Black students entered Alabama public schools following a standoff between federal authorities and Gov. George C. Wallace.

In 1979, four Puerto Rican nationalists imprisoned for a 1954 attack on the U.S. House of Representatives and a 1950 attempt on the life of President Harry S. Truman were freed from prison after being granted clemency by President Jimmy Carter.

In 1987, Pope John Paul II arrived in Miami, where he was welcomed by President Ronald Reagan and first lady Nancy Reagan as he began a 10-day tour of the United States.

In 1991, the Senate Judiciary Committee opened hearings on the nomination of Clarence Thomas to the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 1998, President Clinton met with members of his Cabinet to apologize, ask forgiveness and promise to improve as a person in the wake of the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

In 2005, Cadaver dogs and boatloads of forensic workers fanned out across New Orleans to collect the corpses left behind by Hurricane Katrina; cleanup crews towed away abandoned cars and even began readying a hotel for reopening.

In 2015, New York State approved gradually raising the minimum wage for fast-food workers to \$15 an hour — the first time any state had set the minimum that high.

In 2016, John Hinckley Jr., the man who tried to assassinate President Ronald Reagan in 1981, was released from a Washington mental hospital for good. (Hinckley would be freed from all court oversight in June 2022.)

Ten years ago: An airstrike killed al-Qaida's No. 2 leader in Yemen along with six others traveling with him in a breakthrough for U.S.-backed efforts to cripple the terror network's operations in the impoverished Arab nation. Chicago teachers began a seven-day strike, idling nearly 400,000 students in the nation's third-largest school district. Andy Murray became the first British man since 1936 to capture a Grand Slam title, beating defending champion Novak Djokovic (NOH'-vak JOH'-kuh-vich), 7-6 (10), 7-5, 2-6, 3-6, 6-2 to win the U.S. Open in five grueling sets.

Five years ago: After cutting a trail of destruction across the Caribbean, Hurricane Irma blew ashore on the Florida Keys as a Category 4 storm with winds of 130 mph; it would destroy 1,200 homes and damage 3,000 others in the Keys. As Irma headed toward Georgia, Atlanta was under a tropical storm warning for the first time. As he flew home from Colombia, Pope Francis called on President Donald Trump to rethink his decision ending a program protecting young immigrants from deportation; he said anyone who considers himself "pro-life" should keep families together. Miss North Dakota, Cara Mund, was crowned Miss America in Atlantic City, N.J., after saying in an onstage interview that President Donald Trump was wrong to pull the United States out of the Paris climate accord.

One year ago: Republican leaders threatened responses ranging from lawsuits to civil disobedience after President Joe Biden's aggressive push to require millions of American workers to get vaccinated against the coronavirus. New U.S. studies showed that COVID-19 vaccines remained highly effective against hospitalizations and death, even when dealing with the extra-contagious delta variant. A judge ruled that a 19-year-old Wisconsin woman who admitted to helping stab a classmate when she was 12 years old to please online horror character Slender Man could be freed from a mental health institution where she had spent nearly four years.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Greg Mullavey is 89. Jazz vibraphonist Roy Ayers is 82. Actor Tom Ligon is 82. Singer Danny Hutton (Three Dog Night) is 80. Singer Jose Feliciano is 77. Actor Judy Geeson is 74. Former Canadian first lady Margaret Trudeau is 74. Political commentator Bill O'Reilly is 73. Rock musician Joe Perry (Aerosmith) is 72. Country singer Rosie Flores is 72. Actor Amy Irving is 69. Sen. Cynthia Lummis, R-Wyo., is 68. Actor-director Clark Johnson is 68. Actor Kate Burton is 65. Movie director Chris Columbus

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Sept. 11, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 066 ~ 139 of 139

is 64. Actor Colin Firth is 62. Rock singer-musician David Lowery (Cracker) is 62. Actor Sean O'Bryan is 59. Baseball Hall of Famer Randy Johnson is 59. Actor Raymond Cruz is 58. Rock musician Stevie D. (Buckcherry) is 56. Rock singer-musician Miles Zuniga (Fastball) is 56. Actor Nina Repeta (NY'-nuh ruh-PEHT'-ah) is 55. Rapper Big Daddy Kane is 54. Movie director Guy Ritchie is 54. Actor Johnathon Schaech (shehk) is 53. Contemporary Christian singer Sara Groves is 50. Actor Ryan Phillippe (FIHL'-ih-pee) is 48. Actor Kyle Bornheimer is 47. Actor Jacob Young is 43. Rock musician Mikey Way (My Chemical Romance) is 42. Olympic bronze medal figure skater Timothy Goebel (GAY'-bul) is 42. Ballerina Misty Copeland is 40. MLB All-Star first-baseman Joey Votto (VAH'-toh) is 39. Rock musician Matthew Followill (Kings of Leon) is 38. Singer Ashley Monroe (Pistol Annies) is 36. MLB All-Star first-baseman Paul Goldschmidt is 35. Singer Sanjaya Malakar (san-JY'-uh MA'-luh-kar) ("American Idol") is 33. Actor Chandler Massey is 32. Actor Hannah Hodson is 31. Actor Gabriel Bateman is 18.