

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 1 of 82

## 1- Upcoming Events

1- Death Notice: Justin Birchem

2- Tiger netters take wind out of Cyclones

2- McGannon wins junior varsity race at Lee Park

2- Preschool Developmental Screening

3- West Nile Update – South Dakota, September 14, 2022

4- Weather Pages

8- Daily Devotional

9- 2022 Community Events

10- Subscription Form

11- News from the Associated Press

## **Friday, Sept. 16**

Senior Menu: Spaghetti with meat sauce, mixed vegetables, garlic toast, pears, sherbert.

School Breakfast: Biscuits and Jelly.

School Lunch: Fish nuggets, mashed potatoes.

7 p.m.: Football at Deuel (Clear Lake)

## **Saturday, Sept. 17**

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

3/4 and 5/6 football jamboree in Groton

Volleyball Tourney at Hamlin

9 a.m.: JH Volleyball at Redfield

9 a.m.: Groton Youth FB Jamboree (3rd-4th, 5th-6th)

Emmanuel: 9am 2nd Confirmation retreat for 9th graders



## **Death Notice: Justin Birchem**

Justin Thomas Birchem, 45, of Las Vegas and formerly of Hoven passed away peacefully in his sleep surrounded by family after a one-year battle with cancer.

He is survived by his parents, Larry & Peggy Birchem of Bowdle, sister, Jamie (Nick) Simon of Groton, brother, Jason (Kari) Birchem of Montrose, CO.

A Celebration of Life is pending for a future date.

# **NO OUTDOOR WATERING!**

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

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

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

© 2022 Groton Daily Independent

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 2 of 82

## Tiger netters take wind out of Cyclones

Groton Area's volleyball team earned 62 of the 75 points in a 3-0 win over Clark/Willow Lake Thursday in the Groton Area Arena. Game scores were 25-20, 25-16 and 25-17.

Anna Fjeldheim had five kills and two ace serves, Sydney Leicht had 12 kills and two ace serves, Carly Guthmiller four ace serves, Lydia Meier nine kills and three ace serves, Elizabeth Flihs two ace serves, one kill and one block, Jerica Locke two ace serves and a kill, Aspen Johnson 12 kills and one block and Emma Kutter four kills and one block.

Haylee Tormanen led the Cyclones with six kills. Clark/Willow Lake earned 23 of its 53 points.

Groton Area commanded the digs, 48-13, with Fjeldheim and Carly Guthmiller each having 11 and Leicht seven.

In total attacks, Groton Area was 92 of 105 with 44 kills. In serves, the Tigers were 60 of 72 with 14 ace serves. In sets, Elizabeth Flihs had 37 of the 40 assists with Laila Roberts having one.

Justin Hanson and Ryan Tracy were the guest commentators on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Bahr Spray Foam, John Sieh Agency, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Locke Electric, Dacotah Bank, SD Army National Guard, Milbrandt Enterprises Inc, Groton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Groton Area won the junior varsity matches, 25-17 and 25-10. Faith Traphagen had two kills and a block, Kella Tracy three kills, Chesney Weber three ace serves and two kills, Jerica Locke five ace serves, Rylee Dunker five kills and two ace serves, Jaedyn Penning three kills and one ace serve, and Emma Kutter had two kills.

Bob and Vickie Walter were the sponsors of the broadcast on GDILIVE.COM.

Groton Area won the C match by identical scores of 25-16.

## McGannon wins junior varsity race at Lee Park

Groton's cross country runners took part in the Aberdeen Roncalli meet held Thursday at Lee Park.

In the boys varsity division, Jacob Lewandowski placed 23rd with a time of 21:34 and Jayden Schwan placed 28th with a time of 22:00.

The boys junior varsity division, Tristin McGannon took first place with a time of 11:45. He was followed by Gavin Kroll in 16th place with a time of 14:07, Garrett Schultz was 21st with a time of 15:18, Nathan Unzen was 23rd with a time of 16:46, and Kayson Oswald was 25th with a time of 20:31.

In the girls junior varsity race, Ryelle Gilbert was fifth with a time of 14:01 and Carlee Johnson was 12th with a time of 15:16.

## Preschool Developmental Screening

### Groton Area Schools #06-6

Preschool Developmental Screening is for children ages 3-4 who reside in the Groton Area School District. The child needs to be 3 years of age before the screening date/day. This screening is not required to enter Kindergarten.

The screening consists of adaptive, personal/social, communicating/speaking, motor, and concepts skills. If you believe your child has difficulties in any of these areas please contact the school.

If your child is already receiving services or enrolled at Groton Elementary School they will not need to be screened. If your child has already been screened but you have concerns please contact the elementary school. If you are new to the district and have a child under the age of 5, we also ask you to contact the elementary school.

Screenings will be held on Friday, September 30 8:00-3:30. Information will be sent to families who have already been identified. Please contact Heidi Krueger at 605-397-2317 to schedule a screening time.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 3 of 82

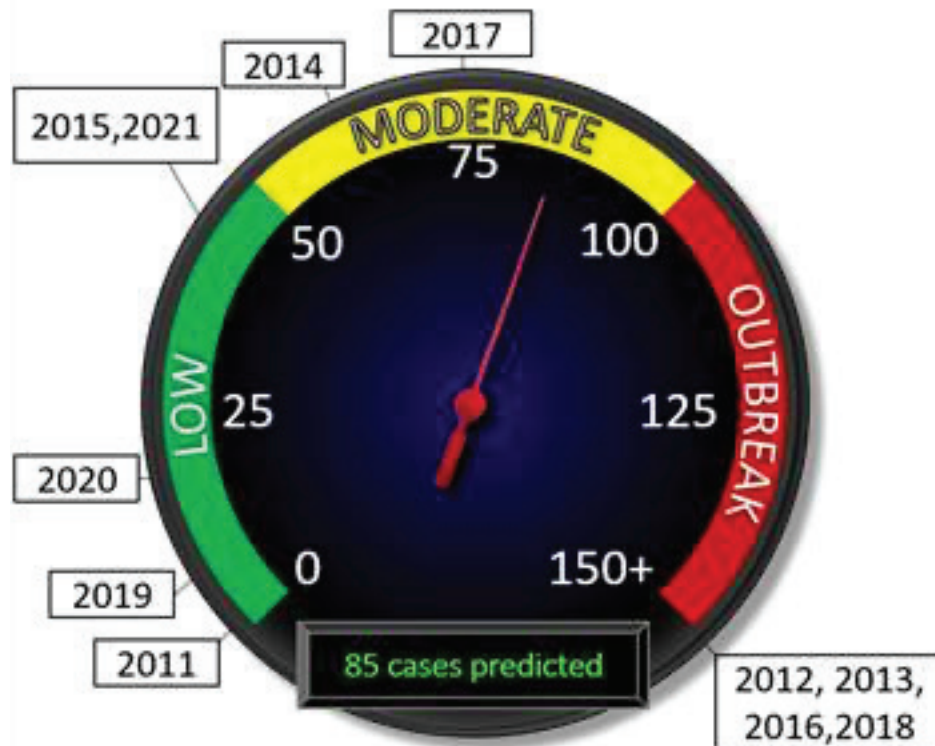
## West Nile Update – South Dakota, September 14, 2022

SD WNV (as of September 14):

- 37 human cases reported (Beadle, Bon Homme, Brookings, Brown, Brule, Clark, Codington, Day, Douglas, Hanson, Edmunds, Hamlin, Hanson, Jerauld, Kingsbury, Marshall, McCook, Mellette, Minnehaha, Miner, Spink, Sully, Turner, Union, Walworth)
- 7 human viremic blood donors (Brown, Hand, Minnehaha, Potter, Roberts, Spink)
- 7 counties with positive mosquito pools (Beadle, Brookings, Brown, Codington, Hughes, Lincoln, Minnehaha)

US WNV (as of September 6): 198 cases (AL, AZ, CA, CO, FL, GA, IN, IA, KS, LA, MA, MN, MS, MO, NE, NJ, NY, NC, ND, OH, PA, SD, TX, VA, WA, WY) and 11 deaths

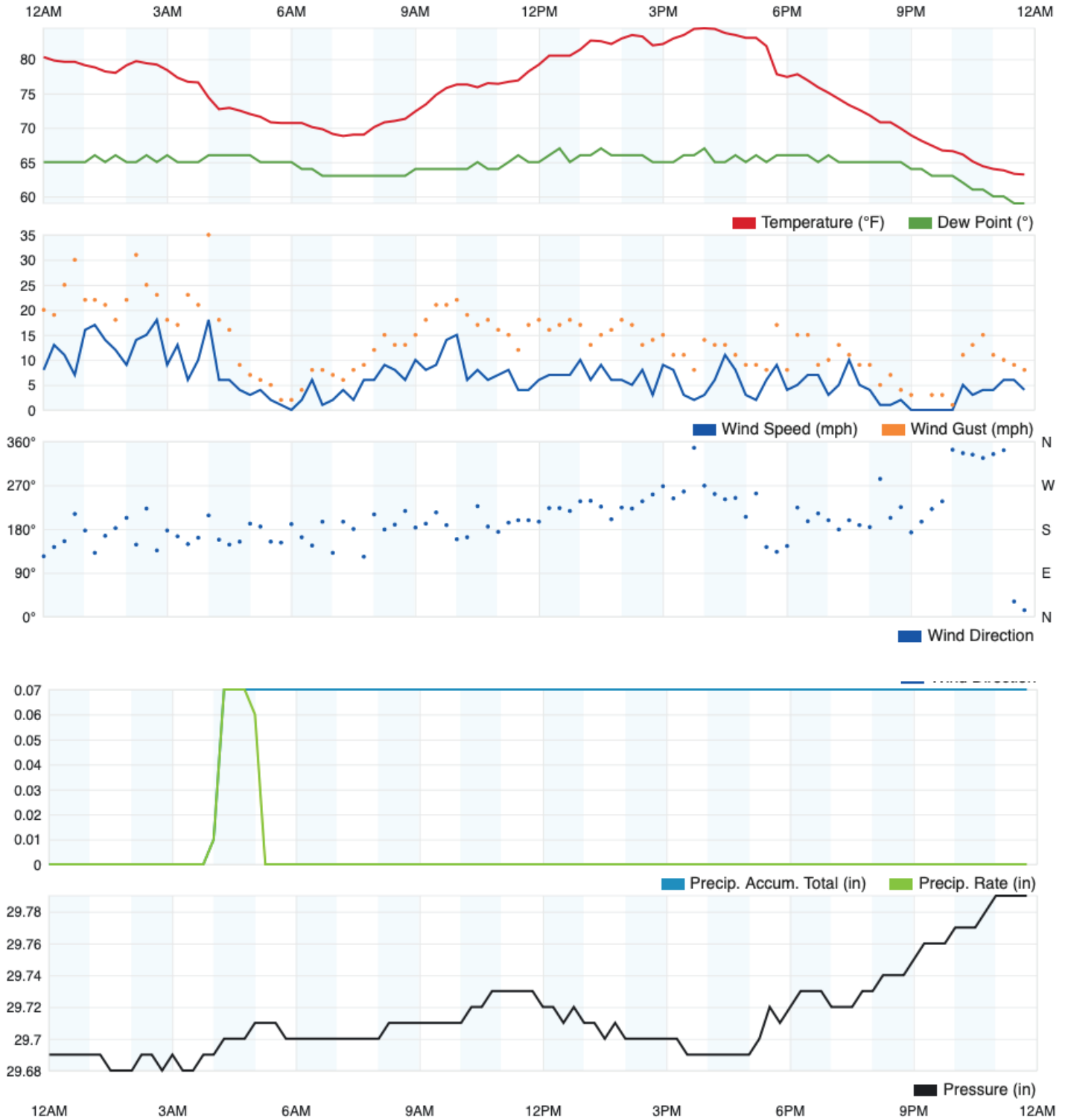
WNV Prediction Model – Total Number of Cases Projected for 2022, South Dakota (as of September 14 )



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 4 of 82

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs





# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 5 of 82

Today



Patchy Drizzle and Patchy Fog then Mostly Cloudy

High: 70 °F

Tonight



Partly Cloudy then Slight Chance T-storms

Low: 54 °F

Saturday



Chance T-storms

High: 73 °F

Saturday Night



Chance T-storms then Mostly Cloudy

Low: 51 °F

Sunday



Partly Sunny

High: 73 °F

## Morning

Patchy drizzle and/or fog. Take it slow on area roadways!

## Afternoon

Cloud cover gradually erodes, giving way to some sunshine from south to north across the area. High temperatures top out generally in the low to mid 70s.

**FRIDAY**  
Sept 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022

## Evening & Overnight

Shower and thunderstorm chances increase. A few could become strong to severe across south central SD.



Heads up for some patchy fog or drizzle as you head out this morning. Cloud cover lingers into the afternoon with highs in the 70s, and then another round of potential showers and thunderstorms moves in this evening and overnight as another low pressure system takes shape across the area.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 6 of 82

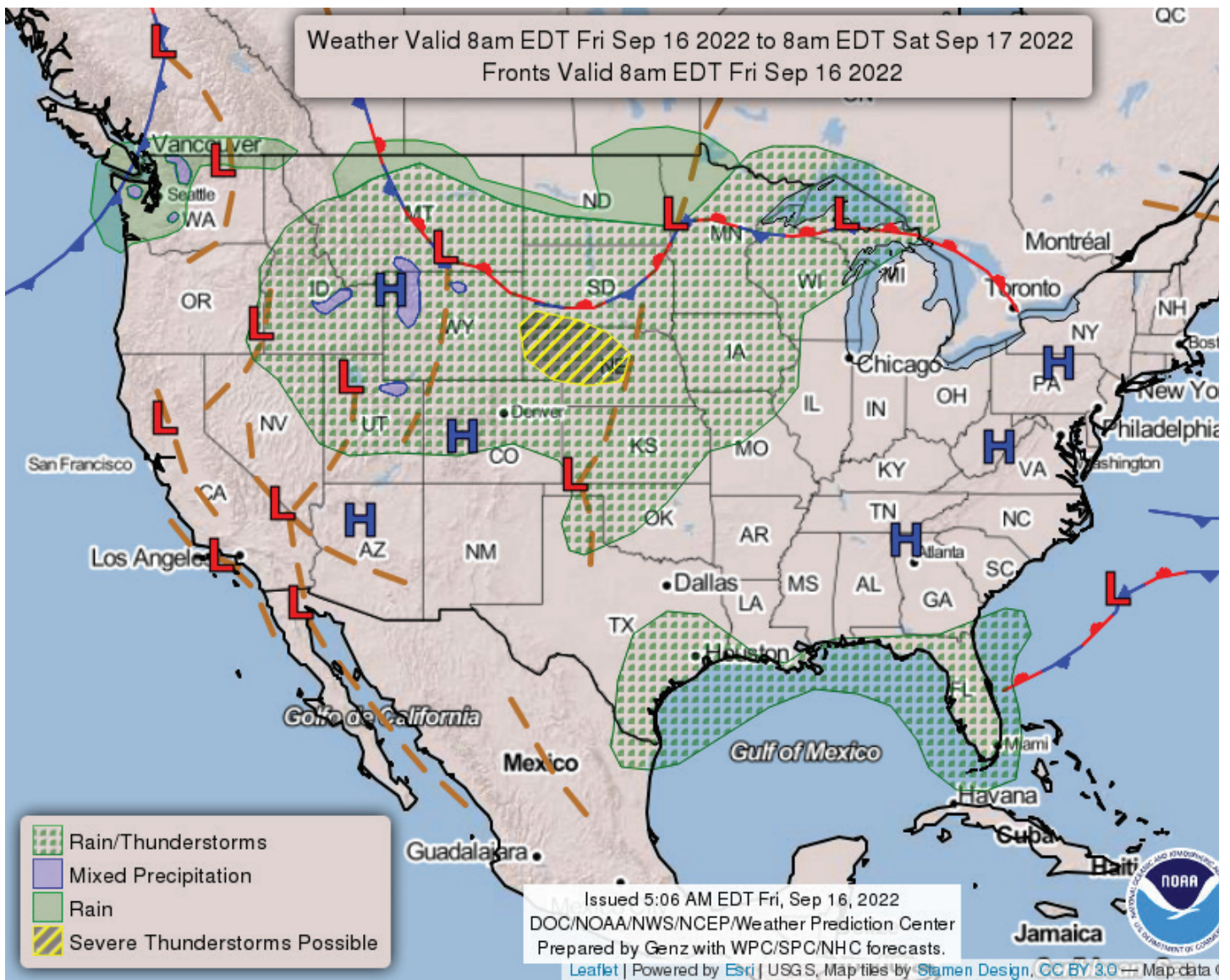
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 85 °F at 4:11 PM**  
**Low Temp: 63 °F at 11:57 PM**  
**Wind: 35 mph at 3:58 AM**  
**Precip: : 0.07**

## Today's Info

Record High: 96 in 1925  
Record Low: 20 in 1916  
Average High: 75°F  
Average Low: 47°F  
Average Precip in Sept.: 1.08  
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.07  
Average Precip to date: 17.42  
Precip Year to Date: 16.05  
Sunset Tonight: 7:43:18 PM  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:12:12 AM

Day length: 12 hours, 32 minutes





# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 7 of 82

## Today in Weather History

September 16, 1965: A heavy snow event brought widespread snowfall across the region with snowfall accumulations of 1 inch in Colony and Devils Tower, 2.6 inches at the Rapid City Airport, 4 inches in Oelrichs, 5.1 inches in Redig, and 8 inches in Lead, Spearfish, and Sundance.

September 16, 2006: Two weak tornadoes touched down briefly west and north of Clark in the late afternoon. No damage occurred.

1881: Iowa's earliest measurable snow of record fell over western sections of the state. Four to six inches was reported between Stuart and Avoca.

1888: An estimated F2 tornado struck Washington, DC. The tornado first touched down on the south side of the city then moved up Maryland Avenue. The National Museum and Botanical Gardens were damaged before the tornado lifted off the ground.

1928: The Okeechobee Hurricane, also known as the San Felipe Segundo Hurricane was one of the deadliest hurricanes in the history of the Atlantic basin. This Hurricane made landfall near West Palm Beach, Florida as a Category 4 storm during the evening hours of the 16th. The storm surge caused water to pour out of the southern edge of Lake Okeechobee, flooding hundreds of square miles as high as 20 feet. This storm killed over 4,000 people, including 2,500 in Florida.

1961: On September 16, 1961, Hurricane Esther was seeded by Navy planes in the inaugural experiment of what was to formally become Project STORMFURY next year. Esther was the first hurricane to be initially detected by satellite. On Sept. 10th, TIROS III imaged an area of disturbed weather a hundred miles southwest of the Cabo Verde Islands.

1984 - The remains of Tropical Storm Edourd began to produce torrential rains in the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas. Port Isabel reported more than 21 inches. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Overnight rains soaked Arkansas, with 5.25 inches reported at Bismarck. In the town of Malvern, up to four feet of water was reported over several downtown streets, with water entering some homes and businesses. Thunderstorms in Texas drenched Lufkin with 4.30 inches of rain in just three hours. Evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in Missouri. A small tornado near Kirksville lifted a barn thirty feet into the air and then demolished it. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Hurricane Gilbert moved ashore into Mexico. The hurricane established an all-time record for the western hemisphere with a barometric reading of 26.13 inches. Winds approached 200 mph, with higher gusts. Gilbert devastated Jamaica and the Yucatan Peninsula. (The Weather Channel) Hurricane Gilbert made landfall 120 miles south of Brownsville TX during the early evening. Winds gusted to 61 mph at Brownsville, and reached 82 mph at Padre Island. Six foot tides eroded three to four feet off beaches along the Lower Texas Coast, leaving the waterline seventy-five feet farther inland. Rainfall totals ranged up to 8.71 inches at Lamar TX. Gilbert caused three million dollars damage along the Lower Texas Coast, but less than a million dollars damage along the Middle Texas Coast. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms, representing what remained of Hurricane Octave, brought locally heavy rains to California, impeding the drying process for raisins and other crops. Sacramento CA was soaked with 1.53 inches of rain in six hours. At Phoenix AZ, the afternoon high of 107 degrees marked a record seventy-six days with afternoon highs 105 degrees or above. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2004: Hurricane Ivan turned northward over cooler waters, and made landfall in southern Alabama on September 16 as a Category 3 storm. Hurricane Ivan had a very unusual track almost making a huge circle.

Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### NATURAL OR NORMAL OR NEITHER

There are certain words that seem to “ignite” our emotions. When we hear them, we react without thinking, take positions that are rigid and resolute, deep-seated feelings surface causing fear and frustration, and may or may not cause problems. These words are usually attached to memories from our past but impact our actions and attitudes the moment we hear them. A good example would be the words “love” and “discipline.” On one occasion, Solomon used these two words in one verse: “To learn, you must love discipline.” The word “love” in this verse means “to hold dear or to desire actively.” So, if we want to learn God’s wisdom, we must give it a priority in our life and pursue it actively, believing that it will become a positive influence and assure us of God’s blessings.

“Discipline” in this verse means “to instruct,” or “to willingly be taught the truths of God’s Word.” And, for some this may be a problem. Often God’s instructions – His wisdom – are contrary to our selfish interests and ambitions. When it comes to learning and following God’s instructions, we choose not to “hold them dear to our hearts” and “have a desire to actively pursue them.” We look for moments of happiness and the immediate gratification of pleasures that quickly pass and leave painful memories.

In the final analysis, it’s “neither natural nor normal” to “desire” instruction that goes against our sinful “nature.” But, it is essential if we want the peace of God in our hearts and His presence in our lives and if we want the truths of His wisdom to guard us and guide us throughout life.

PRAYER: Help us, Lord, to be willing to open our hearts and accept Your truths. We know that they are the way to eternal life and the assurance of Your peace and protection. In Jesus Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: To learn, you must love discipline; it is stupid to hate correction. Proverbs 12:1



We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God’s grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God’s Word and we pray this good “seed” finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 9 of 82

## 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

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 10 of 82

## The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

### Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to [paperpaul@grotonsd.net](mailto:paperpaul@grotonsd.net)

## Groton Daily Independent

[www.397news.com](http://www.397news.com)

### Subscription Form

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State, Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Password \_\_\_\_\_

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

[paypal.me/paperpaul](https://paypal.me/paperpaul)



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 11 of 82

News from the  Associated Press

## Thursday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Webster, 26-24, 25-9, 25-14  
Baltic def. Flandreau, 25-14, 25-18, 25-9  
Belle Fourche def. Hot Springs, 21-25, 25-19, 23-25, 26-24, 15-10  
Bon Homme def. Irene-Wakonda, 25-18, 25-16, 25-21  
Chester def. Howard, 25-7, 25-21, 25-19  
Dakota Valley def. Canton, 25-14, 25-22, 25-13  
Dell Rapids St. Mary def. Deubrook, 25-14, 25-18, 25-23  
Deuel def. Sisseton, 19-25, 25-22, 25-23, 26-24  
Elk Point-Jefferson def. Tea Area, 20-25, 25-20, 25-20, 25-21  
Elkton-Lake Benton def. DeSmet, 25-11, 25-22, 25-10  
Estelline/Hendricks def. Oldham-Ramona/Rutland, 26-28, 25-19, 25-17, 25-21  
Ethan def. Corsica/Stickney, 25-20, 25-8, 25-18  
Faith def. Kadoka Area, 23-25, 25-21, 25-10, 26-24  
Florence/Henry def. Milbank, 25-18, 25-17, 25-17  
Hamlin def. Tiospa Zina Tribal, 25-14, 25-9, 25-15  
Harrisburg def. Huron, 25-21, 25-15, 21-25, 25-20  
Herreid/Selby Area def. Leola/Frederick, 28-26, 12-25, 25-22, 27-25  
Hill City def. Sturgis Brown, 25-13, 25-17, 25-22  
Hitchcock-Tulare def. Highmore-Harrold, 23-25, 21-25, 32-30, 32-30, 15-13  
Jones County def. Stanley County, 25-16, 27-25, 25-12  
Lakota Tech def. Red Cloud, 25-23, 25-17, 25-15  
Madison def. Vermillion, 18-25, 25-18, 25-23, 22-25, 15-13  
Miller def. Faulkton, 25-18, 26-24, 25-16  
Northwestern def. Ipswich, 25-15, 25-9, 25-12  
Parkston def. Lennox, 16-25, 25-19, 18-25, 26-24, 15-13  
Philip def. Harding County, 25-17, 26-24, 25-22  
Potter County def. McLaughlin, 25-15, 25-19, 25-14  
Redfield def. Britton-Hecla, 25-16, 25-19, 25-14  
Scotland def. Avon, 25-17, 21-25, 25-18, 25-23  
Sioux Falls Christian def. Jackson County Central, Minn., 25-12, 25-13, 25-13  
Sioux Falls Lincoln def. Aberdeen Central, 25-19, 25-15, 19-25, 26-24  
Sioux Falls Lutheran def. Sunshine Bible Academy, 25-16, 25-9, 25-16  
St. Thomas More def. Lead-Deadwood, 25-21, 21-25, 25-18, 25-18  
Tripp-Delmont/Armour def. Freeman, 21-25, 25-21, 25-15, 28-26  
Viborg-Hurley def. Bridgewater-Emery, 25-9, 25-21, 25-11  
Watertown def. Brandon Valley, 25-17, 17-25, 28-26, 22-25, 15-9  
Wessington Springs def. Crow Creek, 25-11, 25-20, 25-10  
West Central def. Chamberlain, 25-18, 25-10, 25-19  
Wolsey-Wessington def. Aberdeen Christian, 25-16, 25-12, 25-11  
Yankton def. Mitchell, 25-16, 25-21, 25-16  
Stuart Triangular=  
Boyd County, Neb. def. Gregory, 25-18, 25-21  
Stuart, Neb. def. Gregory, 25-23, 25-23, 25-17



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 12 of 82

Triangular=

Centerville def. Freeman Academy/Marion, 25-19, 25-6, 25-18

Gayville-Volin def. Centerville, 25-7, 25-10, 25-14

PREP FOOTBALL

Crow Creek 50, Cheyenne-Eagle Butte 0

Little Wound 50, Crazy Horse 0

POSTPONEMENTS AND CANCELLATIONS=

Oelrichs vs. Marty Indian, ccd.

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

## South Dakota Highway Patrol struggles with trooper shortages

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The South Dakota Highway Patrol is struggling with a shortage of officers after over two dozen left the agency this year, the head of the department told state lawmakers Thursday.

The departures leave the highway patrol's force short 22 troopers, which is nearly 10% of the force, Secretary of Public Safety Craig Price told the Legislature's Appropriations Committee. Even with a recent pay raise approved by Gov. Kristi Noem, the highway patrol's starting pay has lagged behind other law enforcement agencies in the state's largest cities and counties.

The shortage comes despite the Republican governor's attempts to recruit officers from across the country with promises that the state supports law enforcement officers. The highway patrol has lost 27 officers so far this year — more than any in the previous six years.

Price told lawmakers he hoped that a \$1.50 hourly wage increase would alleviate the shortages. But he added it's "likely that we will lose more in the next four months because of the way things have lined up."

Republican and Democratic lawmakers alike questioned Price aggressively at times Thursday. He pointed out that in exit interviews, departing officers cite either pay or benefits as their reason for leaving 39% of the time.

"We take this low-wage strategy, and then we are surprised that we have hiring and retention challenges," state Sen. Reynold Nesiba, a Democrat, said.

The appropriations committee pressed Price to return to the Legislature with a plan for addressing the troopers' departures.

"We are in this crisis mode," said Republican Sen. Jean Hunhoff as she challenged Price to come up with ways to retain officers.

## Federer, Serena retire; tennis moves on to Alcaraz, Swiatek

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

The timing of it all hardly could be more symbolic: Within a span of two weeks, Serena Williams plays what is believed to be her last match at age 40, Roger Federer announces he'll be retiring at 41, Iga Swiatek wins her third Grand Slam title at 21, and Carlos Alcaraz gets his first at 19.

After so much handwringing in recent years about what would become of tennis once transcendent superstars such as Williams and Federer leave the game — he told the world Thursday he will exit after the Laver Cup next week; she made her plans public last month, then lost in the third round of the U.S. Open on Sept. 2 — the sport does seem to be in good hands as it prepares to move on.

"They helped mold tennis into what it is today. We will miss them," Nick Bollettieri, a Hall of Fame coach, said about Federer and Williams.

"Having these youngsters being No. 1," said Bollettieri, who worked with the Williams sisters, Andre Agassi, Jim Courier, Monica Seles and Maria Sharapova, among others, "is going to make a big difference for the tours."

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 13 of 82

First of all, let's not forget: Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic are still around — even if injuries, in Nadal's case, and vaccination status, in Djokovic's case, have limited their ability to compete at their best or always. They combined to win three of the year's four Grand Slam titles, boosting Nadal's total to 22, the most for a man, and Djokovic's to 21.

Williams has 23, and Federer 20, and both have dozens of other trophies, Olympic medals, hundreds of weeks at No. 1 in the rankings, and so on.

They are standard-bearers not merely because of such statistics.

Williams became a celebrity as much as a record-breaking athlete and someone who helped expand the sport's audience while inspiring plenty of kids to take up tennis. She paid tribute to Federer on her Instagram account, saying "Welcome to the retirement club."

Federer became a widely respected ambassador of the game, attracting fans and new players from around the globe, too.

Now some of those fresh faces are prepared to step into the space that will open up for new champions, new prime-time slots on TV, new sponsorship deals, new interest.

One never knows how things will go in sports, of course, or what might happen in terms of injuries, say, or other potential roadblocks to a long and distinguished career, but Swiatek and Alcaraz sure do appear to be set up for success.

From their athleticism and shot-making, to their on- and off-court demeanors, to the teams that surround them — both work with a sports psychologist, for example — they are preternaturally mature.

Swiatek, No. 1 since Ash Barty's retirement six months ago, is the first woman to win two Grand Slam titles in a single season since 2016.

Alcaraz, No. 1 since Monday, is the youngest man to occupy that spot since the computerized rankings began in 1973. He's also the first teenager to win the U.S. Open men's championship since Pete Sampras in 1990 and to win any men's major since Nadal at the 2005 French Open.

Both turned to Twitter to remark on Federer's impending departure.

Swiatek's message, in part: "I want to thank you for everything you've done and everything you are for our sport. It's been a privilege to witness your career."

Alcaraz's, in part: "Roger has been one of my idols and a source of inspiration! Thank you for everything you have done for our sport!"

Because of his age — born two months before Federer's first Grand Slam title and two years before Nadal's first — Alcaraz grew up admiring both of those giants of the game.

Similarly, Swiatek was 2 when Federer's initial Slam arrived, 4 when Nadal's did. She was yet to be born when Williams captured her first major trophy at the 1999 U.S. Open.

Swiatek and Alcaraz learned tennis, learned what it takes to be champions, learned what success beyond the lines looks like, during as golden an era as their sport ever enjoyed.

With those two at the forefront, and plenty of other talent around — Naomi Osaka and Coco Gauff, Frances Tiafoe and Jannik Sinner, Casper Ruud and Ons Jabeur and so on — tennis just might be able to survive. Thrive? Could be.

"Roger certainly had the era of Novak and Rafa, two of the most incredible athletes and tennis players ever. That's what people know today. But there were other rivalries with Roger before them. And together, they understood, all of them, the importance of growing the game," said Tony Godsick, Federer's longtime agent. "Tennis is in such a good place. You look at this young kid, Alcaraz — he is coming. And there are other ones behind him. So tennis is in for a nice little pop here."

More AP tennis: <https://apnews.com/hub/tennis> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## Queue for queen's coffin 'paused' as wait hits 14 hours

By MIKE CORDER, JILL LAWLESS and DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The flood of grief from the death of Queen Elizabeth II forced the British government

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 14 of 82

to call a temporarily halt to people joining a miles-long line to file past her coffin as it lay in state Friday, hours before King Charles III and his siblings were to stand vigil in the historic Westminster Hall.

A live tracker of the queue said it was "at capacity" and entry was being "paused" for six hours as waiting times reached 14 hours and the line stretched 5 miles (8km) from Parliament to Southwark Park in south London and then around the park.

Helena Larsen, 76, arrived just too late at the park.

"We have literally got here and they have shut it in front of us," she said, adding that she would likely wait in the area until the gates were reopened.

Caroline Quilty of London got to the line around 4 a.m. Friday.

"I think it is a moment in history, and if I did not come and celebrate it and see it and be part of it, I think I would really regret it," she said.

Meanwhile, a delegation of Chinese officials reportedly was barred from visiting the historic hall in the Houses of Parliament where the late queen's coffin is lying in state, as geopolitics cast a shadow over the solemn pageantry surrounding the monarch's death.

The Chinese ambassador to the U.K. has been banned from Parliament for a year after Beijing sanctioned seven British legislators last year for speaking out against China's treatment of its Uyghur minority in the far-west Xinjiang region.

The office of House of Commons Speaker Lindsay Hoyle declined to comment Friday on a report by American news outlet Politico saying the Chinese delegation would not be allowed into Westminster Hall.

Prime Minister Liz Truss's office also declined to comment on the Chinese delegation. "Admission to Parliament is a matter for Parliament," said spokeswoman Camilla Marshall.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said she had not seen the Politico report but that as host of the queen's funeral, the U.K. government should "follow the diplomatic protocols and proper manners to receive guests."

A Chinese delegation is expected to attend the queen's Monday funeral, which is in Westminster Abbey church and not Parliament. Organizers of the funeral have not published a guest list, and it was unclear who from China might attend.

The sanctioned British legislators wrote to officials this week to express concerns about the Chinese government having been invited to send representatives to the queen's state funeral.

Conservative lawmaker Tim Loughton told the BBC that the invitation to China should be rescinded, citing the country's human rights abuses and treatment of Uyghurs.

After a day out of the public eye Thursday, King Charles III traveled to Wales on Friday on the final leg of his tour of the nations that make up the United Kingdom.

Charles, who for decades before his accession to the throne was the Prince of Wales, visited Llandaff Cathedral in Cardiff for a service of prayer and reflection in honor of his late mother. After the service he and Camilla, the queen consort, got out of their car to greet crowds of wellwishers including flag-waving schoolchildren as people chanted "God save the king!"

The king was later traveling to the Welsh parliament, the Senedd, to receive condolences from legislators.

Charles returns to London later Friday and will briefly stand vigil at his mother's coffin in the evening with his siblings, Princess Anne, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward.

A day later, all eight of Queen Elizabeth II's grandchildren are expected to stand vigil beside her coffin for 15 minutes.

Charles' sons, Prince William and Prince Harry, will attend the vigil along with Princess Anne's children, Zara Tindall and Peter Philips; Prince Andrew's daughters, Princess Beatrice and Princess Eugenie, and the children of Prince Edward – Lady Louise Windsor and Viscount Severn.

William, who after his grandmother's death and his father becoming king is now the heir to the throne, is set to stand at the head of the coffin and Harry at the foot. Both princes, who are military veterans, will be in uniform.

Most senior royals hold honorary military roles and have worn uniforms at events to commemorate the



queen. Harry, who served in Afghanistan as a British army officer, wore civilian clothes during the procession of the queen's coffin from Buckingham Palace because he is no longer a working member of the royal family. He and his wife Meghan quit royal duties and moved to the United States in 2020.

The king requested both William and Harry wear uniforms at the Westminster Hall vigil.

Follow AP coverage of Queen Elizabeth II at <https://apnews.com/hub/queen-elizabeth-ii>

## China's Xi calls for effort to prevent 'color revolutions'

SAMARKAND, Uzbekistan (AP) — Chinese President Xi Jinping warned his Central Asian neighbors on Friday not to allow outsiders to destabilize them with "color revolutions" and offered to set up a regional counterterrorism training center.

Xi's comments at a security summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin and leaders from Central Asia, India and Iran reflect official Chinese anxiety that Western support for pro-democracy and human rights activists is a plot to undermine Xi's ruling Communist Party and other authoritarian governments.

"We should prevent external forces from instigating a color revolution," Xi said in a speech to leaders of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, referring to protests that toppled unpopular regimes in the former Soviet Union and the Middle East.

Xi offered to train 2,000 police officers, to set up a regional counterterrorism training center and to "strengthen law enforcement capacity building." He gave no details.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization was formed by Russia and China as a counterweight to U.S. influence. The summit is part of Xi's first trip abroad since shortly after the coronavirus pandemic began 2 1/2 years ago, highlighting the importance to Beijing of asserting itself as a regional leader.

The group also includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. Iran is an observer and has applied for full membership.

The one-day summit in the ancient city of Samarkand occurred against a backdrop of Russia's attack on Ukraine and fighting between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey, a "dialogue partner" of the group, attended the summit and planned to hold talks with Putin on the status of a deal under which wheat exports from Ukraine through the Black Sea resumed.

Xi is promoting a "Global Security Initiative" announced in April following the formation of the Quad by the U.S., Japan, Australia and India in response to Beijing's more assertive foreign policy. Xi has given few details, but U.S. officials complain it echoes Russian arguments in support of Moscow's actions in Ukraine.

China's relations with Washington, Europe, Japan and India have been strained by disputes about technology, security, human rights and territory.

Central Asia is part of China's multibillion-dollar Belt and Road Initiative to expand trade by building ports, railways and other infrastructure across an arc of dozens of countries from the South Pacific through Asia to the Middle East, Europe and Africa.

On Thursday, Putin held a one-on-one meeting with Xi and thanked the Chinese leader for his government's "balanced position" on the Ukraine war. Putin said he was ready to discuss unspecified "concerns" by China about Ukraine.

Xi, in a statement released by his government, expressed support for Russia's "core interests" but also interest in working together to "inject stability" into world affairs.

The Xi-Putin meeting "makes clear that the partnership between China and Russia indeed has limits," said Eurasia Group analysts in a report.

Xi's government, which said it had a "no-limits" friendship with Moscow before the attack on Ukraine, has refused to criticize Russia. Beijing and India are buying more Russian oil and gas, which helps Moscow offset Western sanctions.

"China has never approved of the Russian invasion" but is committed to "deepening strategic ties with Moscow as a counterweight to Western influence," they said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 16 of 82

China wants a negotiated end to the Ukraine war, said Li Xin, director of the Institute of European and Asian Studies of Shanghai University of Political Science and Law.

"China will not judge whether the special military operation of Russia is just or not," Li said.

The reference to stability "is mainly related to China-U.S. relations," said Zhang Lihua, an international relations expert at Tsinghua University.

"The United States has been using all means to suppress China, which forced China to seek cooperation with Russia and the role of the SOC," Zhang said.

After the meeting, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said views on international affairs by Moscow and Beijing "fully coincide. We don't have any differences."

Observers say Russia will likely grow increasingly reliant on China as a market for its oil and gas as the West moves to establish a price cap on Russian energy resources and potentially cut their imports altogether.

Russia was forced to pull back its forces from large swaths of northeastern Ukraine last week amid a swift Ukrainian counteroffensive. Ukraine regaining control of several Russian-occupied cities and villages represented Moscow's largest setback since its forces had to retreat from areas near the capital early in the war.

Putin also met with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, whose country is on track to join the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. Raisi said Moscow and Tehran were finalizing a treaty that would bring their relations to a "strategic level."

## Top China official wants high-tech cooperation with S. Korea

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The head of China's legislature called for cooperation with South Korea in advanced technology and supply chains, as he met South Korean leaders Friday amid concerns that their moves to solidify a military alliance with Washington could hamper Seoul's ties with Beijing.

Li Zhanshu, third in the Chinese Communist Party hierarchy and one of President Xi Jinping's closest confidants, is the highest-level Chinese official to visit South Korea since his predecessor did so in 2015. His trip is seen as part of efforts by Beijing to boost ties with neighboring countries ahead of a Communist Party congress next month that will likely grant Xi a third five-year term as leader.

Li's visit is also crucial for South Korea's government, which wants to assure Beijing that its push to strengthen its alliance with the U.S. and participate in U.S.-led regional initiatives won't target China, its biggest trading partner.

Li, chairman of the standing committee of China's National People's Congress, told a joint news conference with his South Korean counterpart that China supports "realizing cooperation in cutting-edge technology sectors and managing supply and industrial chains smoothly and stably."

He didn't elaborate. His comments are likely to reflect concerns in Beijing that its intensifying competition with the United States may lead to supply chain disruptions as some U.S. companies shift sourcing and production away from China. China also opposes South Korea's possible participation in a U.S.-led semiconductor alliance involving Taiwan and Japan.

Li's closeness to Xi suggests his comments reflect the thinking of Xi and his inner circle. Li, who is leading a 66-member Chinese delegation to South Korea, met South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol and other top officials later Friday.

Earlier this month, Li visited Russia, where he decried international sanctions against Moscow, underscoring Beijing support for Russia in its war on Ukraine despite claims of neutrality. On Thursday, Xi met Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of a regional gathering in Uzbekistan. Putin thanked Xi for his "balanced" approach to the Ukrainian crisis and blasted Washington's "ugly" policies.

Li's talks with Yoon have drawn keen attention because Yoon last month skipped an in-person meeting with U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who visited Seoul after a trip to Taiwan that angered China, which claims the self-ruled island as its territory. Yoon, who was on vacation, spoke by phone with Pelosi but faced domestic criticism that he had intentionally shunned her so as not to provoke China. Yoon was the

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 17 of 82

only head of government who didn't meet Pelosi face-to-face during her Asian trip, which also included Singapore, Malaysia and Japan.

Kim Heung-kyu, director of the U.S.-China Policy Institute at Ajou University in South Korea, said Li's visit is different from Pelosi's because she arrived after her contentious Taiwan trip. But he said China would still likely see symbolic significance in Li meeting with a South Korean president whom Pelosi failed to meet.

Some worry that Yoon's tilt toward Washington could trigger economic retaliation by China, as it did in 2017 when South Korea allowed the United States to base a Terminal High-Altitude Area Defense radar system, or THAAD, on its soil. China, which says the radar can spy on its territory, suspended group tours to South Korea and conducted an unofficial boycott of South Korean products.

During their meeting, Yoon said the THAAD issue must not be a sticking point in bilateral ties, and Li agreed on the need for close coordination to resolve sensitive issues, according to Yoon's office.

China is likely to be more cautious about launching another economic retaliation because it would push South Korea closer to the United States and worsen anti-Chinese sentiment in South Korea, according to Professor Kim Han-kwon of the Korea National Diplomatic Academy.

"In the case of the THAAD dispute, China shook public opinion in South Korea and caused South Korea to suffer economic losses," he said. "But eventually, they failed to get THAAD scrapped and anti-China sentiment grew in South Korea. There was also a public reevaluation of a boosting of the South Korea-U.S. alliance and of South Korea-U.S.-Japan security cooperation."

South Korea, the world's 10th-largest economy, is a major supplier of semiconductors, automobiles, smartphones and other electronic products. This makes it an attractive partner to both the United States and China.

Unless South Korea "openly pursues an anti-China policy, China will likely continue to stress a message of amity and cooperation with South Korea, rather than pressure, conflict and confrontation," said Kim, the institute director.

Cooperative relations with China are essential in efforts by Seoul and Washington to convince North Korea to give up its nuclear program. While there are questions about how much influence China has on North Korea, it's still believed to have the greatest leverage among regional powers because it is North Korea's last major diplomatic ally and main economic pipeline.

In his meeting with Li on Friday, South Korean National Assembly Speaker Kim Jin Pyo said South Korea hopes that China will play a constructive role with North Korea. Li said he and Kim agreed that establishing peace on the Korean Peninsula through dialogue would serve the interests of both nations.

---

Associated Press writers Kim Tong-hyung in Seoul and Joe McDonald in Beijing contributed to this report.

## Water begins receding in Pakistan's worst flood-hit south

By MUNIR AHMED Associated Press

Floodwaters are receding in Pakistan's worst-hit southern Sindh province, officials said Friday, a potentially bright sign in an ongoing crisis that has left hundreds of thousands of people homeless in the impoverished South Asian country.

The Indus River, which remained swollen until earlier this month, was now rushing at "normal" levels towards the Arabian Sea, according to Mohammad Irfan, an irrigation official in hard-hit Sindh. The water level in the past 48 hours receded as much as three feet in some of the inundated areas nearby, including the Khairpur and Johi towns, where waist-high water damaged crops and homes earlier this month.

A day earlier, engineers had opened a key highway in the southwestern Baluchistan province, allowing rescue workers to speed aid to those suffering in a race against the spread of waterborne diseases and dengue fever.

Still, hundreds of thousands of people in Sindh are living in makeshift homes and tents. Authorities say it will take months to completely drain the water in Sindh.

Nationwide, floods have damaged 1.8 million homes, washed away roads and destroyed nearly 400



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 18 of 82

bridges, according to the National Disaster Management Authority. The deluge has killed 1,508 people since mid-June, inundated millions of acres of land and affected 33 million people. More than half a million people have been left homeless. At one point, nearly a third of the impoverished country was underwater. Several economists say the cost of the disaster may reach \$30 billion.

Pakistani Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif has urged developed countries, especially those behind climate change, to scale up aid to his country. Sharif on Friday met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Uzbekistan on the sidelines of a summit of a security group and thanked him for sending aid, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said.

The previous day, scientists and experts in the latest study about ongoing floods in Pakistan said that the country's overall vulnerability, including people living in harm's way, was the chief factor in the disaster. But "climate change" also played a role in causing heavy rains, which triggered flooding in the country.

August rainfall in the Sindh and Baluchistan provinces -- together nearly the size of Spain -- was at least seven times normal amounts, while the country as a whole had more than triple its normal rainfall. That's according to the report by World Weather Attribution, a collection of mostly volunteer scientists from around the world who do real-time studies of extreme weather to look for evidence of climate change.

In Pakistan, the country's minister for climate change, Sherry Rehman, was the first to publicly blame the developed world for causing climate-induced unusually heavy monsoon rains, which started in June and are expected to continue this month.

"Pakistan, at least in the south, is totally inundated. Outside of Karachi, go a little further up in Sindh and you will see an ocean of water, with no break," she tweeted recently. "Where to place the tents, where to find dry ground? How to feed 33 million people plus? How to get them healthcare? Help us."

## Trump openly embraces, amplifies QAnon conspiracy theories

By DAVID KLEPPER and ALI SWENSON Associated Press

After winking at QAnon for years, Donald Trump is overtly embracing the baseless conspiracy theory, even as the number of frightening real-world events linked to it grows.

On Tuesday, using his Truth Social platform, the Republican former president reposted an image of himself wearing a Q lapel pin overlaid with the words "The Storm is Coming." In QAnon lore, the "storm" refers to Trump's final victory, when supposedly he will regain power and his opponents will be tried, and potentially executed, on live television.

As Trump contemplates another run for the presidency and has become increasingly assertive in the Republican primary process during the midterm elections, his actions show that far from distancing himself from the political fringe, he is welcoming it.

He's published dozens of recent Q-related posts, in contrast to 2020, when he claimed that while he didn't know much about QAnon, he couldn't disprove its conspiracy theory.

Pressed on QAnon theories that Trump allegedly is saving the nation from a satanic cult of child sex traffickers, he claimed ignorance but asked, "Is that supposed to be a bad thing?"

"If I can help save the world from problems, I'm willing to do it," Trump said.

Trump's recent postings have included images referring to himself as a martyr fighting criminals, psychopaths and the so-called deep state. In one now-deleted post from late August, he reposted a "q drop," one of the cryptic message board postings that QAnon supporters claim come from an anonymous government worker with top secret clearance.

A Trump spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment.

Even when his posts haven't referred to the conspiracy theory directly, Trump has amplified users who do. An Associated Press analysis found that of nearly 75 accounts Trump has reposted on his Truth Social profile in the past month, more than a third of them have promoted QAnon by sharing the movement's slogans, videos or imagery. About 1 in 10 include QAnon language or links in their profile bios.

Earlier this month, Trump chose a QAnon song to close out a rally in Pennsylvania. The same song appears in one of his recent campaign videos and is titled "WWG1WGA," an acronym used as a rallying cry

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 19 of 82

for Q adherents that stands for "Where we go one, we go all."

Online, Q adherents basked in Trump's attention.

"Yup, haters!" wrote one commenter on an anonymous QAnon message board. "Trump re-truthed Q memes. And he'll do it again, more and more of them, over and OVER, until (asterisk)everyone(asterisk) finally gets it. Make fun of us all you want, whatever! Soon Q will be everywhere!"

"Trump Sending a Clear Message Patriots," a QAnon-linked account on Truth Social wrote. "He Re-Truthed This for a Reason."

The former president may be seeking solidarity with his most loyal supporters at a time when he faces escalating investigations and potential challengers within his own party, according to Mia Bloom, a professor at Georgia State University who has studied QAnon and recently wrote a book about the group.

"These are people who have elevated Trump to messiah-like status, where only he can stop this cabal," Bloom told the AP on Thursday. "That's why you see so many images (in online QAnon spaces) of Trump as Jesus."

On Truth Social, QAnon-affiliated accounts hail Trump as a hero and savior and vilify President Joe Biden by comparing him to Adolf Hitler or the devil. When Trump shares the content, they congratulate each other. Some accounts proudly display how many times Trump has "re-truthed" them in their bios.

By using their own language to directly address QAnon supporters, Trump is telling them that they've been right all along and that he shares their secret mission, according to Janet McIntosh, an anthropologist at Brandeis University who has studied QAnon's use of language and symbols.

It also allows Trump to endorse their beliefs and their hope for a violent uprising without expressly saying so, she said, citing his recent post about "the storm" as a particularly frightening example.

"The 'storm is coming' is shorthand for something really dark that he's not saying out loud," McIntosh said. "This is a way for him to point to violence without explicitly calling for it. He is the prince of plausible deniability."

Bloom predicted that Trump may later attempt to market Q-related merchandise or perhaps ask QAnon followers to donate to his legal defense.

Regardless of motive, Bloom said, it's a reckless move that feeds a dangerous movement.

A growing list of criminal episodes has been linked to people who had expressed support for the conspiracy theory, which U.S. intelligence officials have warned could trigger more violence.

QAnon supporters were among those who violently stormed the Capitol during the failed Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection.

In November 2020, two men drove to a vote-counting site in Philadelphia in a Hummer adorned with QAnon stickers and loaded with a rifle, 100 rounds of ammunition and other weapons. Prosecutors alleged they were trying to interfere with the election.

Last year, a California man who told authorities he had been enlightened by QAnon was accused of killing his two children because he believed they had serpent DNA.

Last month, a Colorado woman was found guilty of attempting to kidnap her son from foster care after her daughter said she began associating with QAnon supporters. Other adherents have been accused of environmental vandalism, firing paintballs at military reservists, abducting a child in France and even killing a New York City mob boss.

On Sunday, police fatally shot a Michigan man who they say had killed his wife and severely injured his daughter. A surviving daughter told The Detroit News that she believes her father was motivated by QAnon.

"I think that he was always prone to (mental issues), but it really brought him down when he was reading all those weird things on the internet," she told the newspaper.

The same weekend a Pennsylvania man who had reposted QAnon content on Facebook was arrested after he allegedly charged into a Dairy Queen with a gun, saying he wanted to kill all Democrats and restore Trump to power.

Major social media platforms including YouTube, Facebook and Twitter have banned content associated with QAnon and have suspended or blocked accounts that seek to spread it. That's forced much of the

group's activities onto platforms that have less moderation, including Telegram, Gab and Trump's struggling platform, Truth Social.

## Ukraine combs mass burial site, says Russia 'leaves death'

By VASILISA STEPANENKO Associated Press

IZIUM, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian authorities were expected to begin recovering bodies Friday from a mass burial site in a forest recaptured from Russian forces, a delicate task that President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said would help show the world "what the Russian occupation has led to."

The site, containing hundreds of graves, was discovered close to Iziium after a rapid counteroffensive by Ukrainian forces retook the northeastern city and much of the Kharkiv region, breaking what had largely become a stalemate in the nearly seven-month war.

To bolster the offensive, the Biden administration announced another \$600 million package of military aid Thursday for Ukraine, including more of the weaponry that has helped its troops seize the momentum.

Associated Press journalists who visited the burial site Thursday saw graves amid the pine trees, marked with simple wooden crosses. Most were numbered — and the count went into the 400s.

It was not clear who was buried in many of the plots or how all of them died, though witnesses and a Ukrainian investigator said some were shot and others were killed by artillery fire, mines or airstrikes.

There was at least one mass grave, with a marker saying it contained the bodies of 17 Ukrainian soldiers. In his nightly televised address on Thursday, Zelenskyy said "more information — clear, verifiable information" about the burial site was expected Friday.

"The necessary procedural actions have already begun there," he said. "We want the world to know what is really happening and what the Russian occupation has led to."

Zelenskyy invoked the names of other Ukrainian cities where authorities said retreating Russian troops left behind mass graves of civilians.

"Bucha, Mariupol, now, unfortunately, Iziium," he said. "Russia leaves death everywhere. And it must be held accountable for it."

The marking of individual graves with wooden crosses differed from some other burial sites discovered earlier in the war and seen by AP reporters — including some around Kyiv that are being investigated as sites of possible war crimes. Bodies found outside the capital in the town of Bucha and elsewhere after Russian forces withdrew had been dumped together and buried without markers.

Iziium resident Sergei Gorodko said that among the hundreds buried in individual graves were dozens of adults and children killed in a Russian airstrike on an apartment building.

He said he pulled some of them out of the rubble "with my own hands."

Sergei Bolvinov, a senior investigator for Ukrainian police, told British TV broadcaster Sky News that some of the people buried were shot, while others died from artillery fire, mines or airstrikes.

The mass grave of Ukrainian soldiers could contain more than the 17 bodies mentioned on its marker, said Oleg Kotenko, an official with the Ukrainian ministry tasked with reintegrating occupied territories.

"We haven't counted them yet, but I think there are more than 25 or even 30," he said, basing his estimate on video footage of the site that Russian soldiers posted on social media.

Kotenko also said that individual graves marked with crosses contained civilians who died. He said he expected the bodies would be exhumed for DNA testing.

Before exhumation work could start, investigators with metal detectors scanned the site for any hidden explosives. Soldiers strung red and white plastic tape between the trees to mark off parts of the site. A few graves had wreaths of flowers hanging from the crosses, and some bore people's names.

Iziium was a key supply hub for Russian forces until they withdrew in recent days. Iziium city councilor Maksym Strelnikov told reporters in an online briefing from an undisclosed location this week that hundreds of people had died during the fighting and after Russia seized the town in March. Many died from shelling and couldn't get a proper burial, he said.

His claims could not be immediately verified, but similar scenes have played out in other cities captured

by Russian forces, including Mariupol.

Strelnikov said an untold number of people also died from lack of proper health care since the “medical infrastructure of the city was destroyed.” Most of the city’s pre-war population of 47,000 fled to Ukrainian-held territories. Strelnikov said 10,000 residents remain in the ruined city — bracing for more hardship with winter coming and most infrastructure destroyed.

Ukrainian Deputy Interior Minister Yevhen Enin said Thursday night that other evidence found after Kyiv’s sweeping advance into the Kharkiv region included multiple “torture chambers” where both Ukrainian citizens and foreigners were detained “in completely inhuman conditions.”

“We have already come across the exhumation of individual bodies, not only with traces of a violent death, but also of torture — cut off ears, etc. This is just the beginning,” Enin said in an interview with Ukraine’s Radio NV.

“All these traces of war crimes are now carefully documented by us. And we know from the experience of Bucha that the worst crimes can only be exposed over time,” Enin said.

The \$600 million in additional U.S. military aid announced Thursday will include more of the same types of ammunition and equipment that have helped the Ukrainian counteroffensive beat back Russian forces in large portions of the east and in the south. The White House said it was the 21st time that the Defense Department has pulled weapons and other equipment off the shelves to deliver to Ukraine.

The aid is “carefully calibrated to make the most difference on the battlefield and strengthen Ukraine’s hand at the negotiating table when the time is right,” Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement.

He praised the “admirable grit and determination” of Ukrainians “defending their homeland and fighting for their future.”

---

Associated Press journalist Hanna Arhirova in Kyiv contributed reporting.

---

Follow AP war coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/russia-ukraine>

## Treasury recommends exploring creation of a digital dollar

By FATIMA HUSSEIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration is moving one step closer to developing a central bank digital currency, known as the digital dollar, saying it would help reinforce the U.S. role as a leader in the world financial system.

The White House said on Friday that after President Joe Biden issued an executive order in March calling on a variety of agencies to look at ways to regulate digital assets, the agencies came up with nine reports, covering cryptocurrency impacts on financial markets, the environment, innovation and other elements of the economic system.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said one Treasury recommendation is that the U.S. “advance policy and technical work on a potential central bank digital currency, or CBDC, so that the United States is prepared if CBDC is determined to be in the national interest.”

“Right now, some aspects of our current payment system are too slow or too expensive,” Yellen said on a Thursday call with reporters laying out some of the findings of the reports.

Central bank digital currencies differ from existing digital money available to the general public, such as the balance in a bank account, because they would be a direct liability of the Federal Reserve, not a commercial bank.

According to the Atlantic Council nonpartisan think tank, 105 countries representing more than 95% of global gross domestic product already are exploring or have created a central bank digital currency. The council found that the U.S. and the U.K. are far behind in creating a digital dollar or its equivalent.

Treasury, the Justice Department, the Consumer Finance Protection Bureau, the Securities and Exchange Commission and other agencies were tasked with contributing to reports that would address various concerns about the risks, development and usage of digital assets. Several reports will come out in the next



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 22 of 82

weeks and months.

On Capitol Hill, lawmakers have submitted various pieces of legislation to regulate cryptocurrency and other digital assets.

The director of the National Economic Council, Brian Deese, told reporters that "we've seen in recent months substantial turmoil in cryptocurrency markets and these events really highlight how, without proper oversight, cryptocurrencies risk harming everyday Americans' financial stability and our national security."

"It is why this administration believes that now more than ever," he said, "prudent regulation of cryptocurrencies is needed."

Follow the AP's coverage of cryptocurrency at <https://apnews.com/hub/cryptocurrency>.

## Floods in Italy kill at least 10; rescues from roofs, trees

By FRANCES D'EMILIO undefined

ROME (AP) — Floodwaters triggered by heavy rainfall swept through several towns in a hilly region of central Italy early Friday, leaving 10 people dead and at least four missing, authorities said. Dozens of survivors scrambled onto rooftops or up trees to await rescue.

"It wasn't a water bomb, it was a tsunami," Riccardo Pasqualini, the mayor of Barbara, told Italian state radio of the sudden downpour Thursday evening that devastated his town in the Marche region, near the Adriatic Sea.

He said the flooding left the 1,300 residents of Barbara without drinking water and with spotty telephone service. A mother and her young daughter were missing after trying to escape the floodwaters were also missing, the mayor told the Italian news agency ANSA.

While firefighters reported at least seven confirmed deaths and three people missing, RAI state TV quoted the local prefect's office as saying there were 10 confirmed deaths. Two children, including a boy swept out of his mother's arms in Barbara were among four people still unaccounted for as of late Friday morning.

Some 50 people were treated at hospitals for injuries.

Many of the 300 firefighters on rescue operations waded through waist-high water in flooded streets, while others operated rubber dinghies to scoop up survivors along their path.

The fire department tweeted that dozens of people who were trapped in cars or had clambered up to rooftops or climbed trees to escape rising floodwaters had been brought to safety.

Police officers in the town of Sassoferrato recounted the rescue of a man trapped in a car. Unable to reach him, they extended a long branch, which the man grabbed onto and then officers pulled him to safety.

Helicopters were also deployed to rescue seven people in the more remote towns of the Apennine Mountains, which form the backbone of central Italy.

Floodwater invaded garages and basements and with its weight and force knocked down doors.

"It was an extreme event, more than an exceptional one," climatologist Massimiliano Fazzini told Italian state TV. He said that based on his calculations the amount of rain that fell, concentrated over four hours that included an especially heavy 15-minute period, was the most in hundreds of years.

In a space of a few hours, the region was deluged with the amount of rainfall it usually receives in six months, state TV said.

Some of the worst flooding struck in and around town of Senigallia, where a river overflowed its banks. Hamlets in the hills near the Renaissance tourist town of Urbino were also inundated when fast-moving rivers of water, mud and debris rushed through streets.

## Oktoberfest is back but shadowed by 'red hot' inflation

By MICHAEL FAULHABER and DANIEL NIEMANN Associated Press

MUNICH (AP) — Oktoberfest is back in Germany after a two-year pandemic interruption — the same

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 23 of 82

bicep-challenging beer mugs, fat-dripping pork knuckles, pretzels the size of dinner plates, men in leather shorts and women in cleavage-baring traditional dresses.

But while brewers are more than glad to see the return of the Bavarian capital's sudsy tourist centerpiece, both they and visitors are under pressure from inflation in a way that could scarcely be imagined the last time it was held in 2019.

For one thing, the 1-liter (2-pint) mug of beer will cost between 12.60 and 13.80 euros (\$12.84 and \$14.07) this year, which is an increase of about 15% compared with 2019, according to the official Oktoberfest homepage.

The event opens at noon Saturday when Munich's mayor taps the first keg and announces "O'zapft is," or "It's tapped" in Bavarian dialect.

For Germany's brewers, rising costs go much deeper than simply the price of a round at the festival's long wooden benches. They are facing higher prices all along their chain of production, from raw ingredients like barley and hops to finishing touches such as beer caps and packing material.

It's a mirror of the inflation running across the economy: Sky-high natural gas prices caused by Russia's war in Ukraine are boosting what businesses and consumers have to pay for energy, while recovering demand from the pandemic is making parts and raw materials hard to come by.

Brewing equipment is often fueled by natural gas, and prices for barley malt — or grain that has been allowed to germinate by moistening it — have more than doubled, to over 600 euros a ton. Glass bottles have risen by 80%, as glassmakers pay more for energy. Bottle caps are up 60%, and even glue for labels is in short supply.

"Prices for everything have changed significantly this year," said Sebastian Utz, head technician at Munich's historic Hofbraeu Brewery, which traces its roots in the city to 1589. "To brew beer you need a lot of energy ... and for refrigeration. And at the same time, we need raw materials — barley malt, hops — where procurement has increased in price."

The costs of everything — cardboard, stainless steel for barrels, wood pallets, cleaning supplies to keep the brewing tanks spotless — have gone up.

"These are prices that the German brewing industry has never seen before," said Ulrich Biene, spokesman for the historic family-owned Veltins Brewery in Grevenstein, which is not one of the brands sold at Oktoberfest.

Inflation hit an annual 7.9% in Germany in August, and a record 9.1% in the 19 countries that use the euro currency. Rising consumer prices in Europe have been fueled above all by Russia restricting supplies of natural gas, driving prices through the roof. That feeds through to electricity, because gas is used to generate power, and to the cost of a host of industrial processes that run on gas, such as making fertilizer, glass and steel. Farmers also are seeing higher costs for heating buildings and fertilizing crops.

All that gets built into the prices of things people buy, and those higher prices cut into their purchasing power.

Inflation is "running red hot in Germany" and could approach 10% by year's end, said Carsten Brzeski, chief eurozone economist at ING bank. The rate should fall next year as consumer demand weakens — but that is small consolation today.

In any case, Oktoberfest is a much-needed boost for Munich's hotels and food service industry.

"It's beautiful," Mayor Dieter Reiter said. "You can see the enthusiasm has returned." He downplayed concerns about such a big event during the pandemic, saying the spread of COVID-19 is "no longer the decisive factor" and adding, "Let's see how it goes."

Some 487 beer breweries, restaurants, fish and meat grills, wine vendors and others will serve revelers at Oktoberfest, and opening hours will be even longer than in the past, with the first beer tents opening at 9 a.m. and closing at 10:30 p.m. The last orders will be taken at 9:30 p.m.

In the years before COVID-19, about 6 million people visited the celebrations annually, many of them dressed in traditional Bavarian garb — the women in Dirndl dresses, the men in Lederhosen, or knee-length leather trousers.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 24 of 82

Oktoberfest, first held in 1810 in honor of the marriage of Crown Prince Ludwig of Bavaria to Princess Therese, has been canceled dozens of times during its more than 200-year history due to wars and pandemics.

AP Business Writer David McHugh contributed from Frankfurt, Germany.

## Suspended sculpture transforms Cape Town museum's atrium

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — Moody, brooding and floating, Malagasy artist Joel Andrianomearisoa's "The Five Continents of All Our Desires" is transforming the towering atrium of the Zeitz Museum of Contemporary African Art in Cape Town.

Malagasy's sculptures in black silk paper are suspended in the museum's multi-story central atrium. The constructions form a massive, slowly moving mobile that suggests geographical archipelagos and play off the building's massive concrete curving walls.

The structure originally served as grain silos at Cape Town's port, and the museum was created by scooping out several of the interior walls and this installation was made specifically for the atrium.

"It is a revelation and honor to host an artwork of this scale and ambition, Koyo Kouoh, the Zeitz Museum's executive director and chief curator said in a statement about "The Five Continents." "To hold, to speak, to listen and to love — sentiments and values that echo our mission are brought center stage with this incredible work."

The site-specific installation the museum commissioned from Andrianomearisoa includes a sound element and the artist's drawings.

Andrianomearisoa, born in 1977, works in Madagascar and France. In 2019, he represented Madagascar at the Venice Biennale and his work has been exhibited in the Smithsonian National Museum of African Art and at the Pompidou museum in Paris (2005).

His work is also in The Studio Museum in Harlem, New York and the Collection Yavarhousen in Antananarivo, Madagascar.

"The Five Continents of All Our Desires" will be on show in Cape Town until June 25, 2023.

## In Hong Kong, public grief over Queen doubles as dissent

By ZEN SOO and ALICE FUNG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Hundreds of Hong Kong residents are lining up in front of the British Consulate General for hours each day to pay their respects to Queen Elizabeth II, leaving piles of flowers and handwritten notes.

The collective outpouring of grief after her death last week is perhaps the most ardent among the former British colonies, where mourning has been generally subdued. It's seen by some experts as a form of dissent against increasingly intrusive controls by communist-ruled Beijing, which took over the territory in 1997.

Some Hong Kongers are nostalgic for what they view as a past "golden age" under Britain's not entirely democratic colonial rule, when the city of about 7 million people gained stature as a world financial center and tourism destination.

The queen's death has sparked a flurry of interest in British memorabilia, among other things.

The Queen is nicknamed "si tau por" in Hong Kong. Pronounced "see-tao-POHR" In the local Cantonese dialect, that translates to "boss lady."

"We used to call her 'si tau por' when we were under her rule. It's simply a way of showing respect to her. There was a feeling of kindness from her, she's not the kind of boss who is up above you," said CK Li, a resident who queued for over two hours to pay his respects.

Another resident, 80-year-old Eddie Wong, said she was there "out of true feelings" from her heart.

"People in Hong Kong love her," said Wong. "Because when we were under her rule, we enjoyed democracy and freedom and we were very grateful. I want to bid farewell to 'si tau por' who is in heaven."

With its July 1, 1997, takeover China promised to leave Hong Kong's Western-style civil liberties and

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 25 of 82

institutions intact for at least 50 years. Many raised in the former territory grew up hoping for still greater freedoms.

But following months of anti-government protests in 2019, Beijing imposed a tough national security law on the city, seeking to stamp out public dissent.

News outlets deemed overly critical of Beijing have been forced to shut down and dozens of activists have been arrested. The mass protests ended. Tens of thousands of Hong Kong residents have chosen to emigrate to the U.K. and other places such as Taiwan.

So far, the authorities have allowed the orderly, somber shows of respect to continue.

"I would imagine that some people are going there not so much for nostalgia reasons, but as a kind of protest, now that dissent is suppressed," said John Burns, an honorary professor of politics and public administration at the University of Hong Kong.

"Some people, for example, who agree with the kind of universal values that the U.K. stands for, and that were incorporated in our Bill of Rights at the end of colonialism could participate in this as a form of protest," Burns said.

Emotions in Hong Kong are running high, said former Democratic Party chairwoman and ex-lawmaker Emily Lau, given the city's political situation and its struggles in fighting COVID-19.

"There are some who are genuinely nostalgic and have sentimental feelings for the Queen, but there are also people who have grievances about the current situation in Hong Kong," Lau said.

"We cannot rule out that some have used this occasion to express that," she said.

At the same time, public figures in Hong Kong are being scrutinized over their response to the queen's passing, and drawing criticism if they are viewed as too admiring of her reign or British rule in general.

Commenters on mainland Chinese social media sites have blasted veteran actor Lau Kar-ying, for posting a selfie outside the British Consulate on Instagram with a caption including the line, "Hong Kong was a blessed land under her reign."

Harshly criticized for attributing Hong Kong's prosperity to British rule, Lau deleted the post and issued a video apology on the Chinese microblogging site Weibo. He appealed to people not to read too much into what he said.

"I am Chinese and I will forever love my motherland. I'm sorry," Lau said.

Not all Hong Kongers are sentimental about British rule. Some resent London's decision not to grant them full British citizenship, instead giving them British National Overseas passports before the handover, which do not guarantee a right to live in the U.K.

"The British took away the rights of those born in Hong Kong before 1997. They didn't protect those rights," said Leslie Chan, who said he had no plans to show his respects to the queen. "When the British government discussed with China about the future of Hong Kong, Hong Kongers were cut off from the discussion," he said.

Some in Hong Kong are only focusing on the last few decades of British rule before the handover to China, when the city became increasingly prosperous and the colonial government burnished its legacy with new parks, train lines and other modern amenities.

British rule in Hong Kong benefited the territory in some ways but colonialism is ultimately harmful for its hegemony and racism, said Burns.

"When you're talking about the benefits of colonialism, you cannot just take the last 10 years or 20 years in Hong Kong," he said. "You have to look at the whole thing."

## **LONDON DIARY: Reflections from the queue to mourn the queen**

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — A foreign correspondent, a consultant, a businessman, a retired accountant and his wife stand in a line for nearly eight hours.

That is how this story begins, once I claim my spot among a growing queue of mourners coming from all corners of the United Kingdom and the world to pay their last respects to Queen Elizabeth II in Eng-



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 26 of 82

land's capital.

It ends when the five of us exit the majestic hall — each in awe, in our own individual way, of the forces of change that swirl around us.

One step into the line, a volunteer named Kofi jots down my number; a wristband later confirms I am No. 3,017 in the queue.

I look back, and the chain of people has already grown by a dozen. It will stretch for miles along the south bank of the River Thames toward Westminster Hall, where the late queen is lying in state ahead of her funeral on Monday.

We were told to expect this. Long waiting times, potentially for 30 hours, in lines that could stretch more than five miles.

A single-zip backpack was all we were allowed to bring; food and drink would be tossed before entering the hall. I packed as I would for a hostile assignment: Layers and waterproofs to account for the notoriously moody weather. Protein bars and a fully charged power bank. An obscene number of pens. And good shoes.

The first challenge is finding the end of the ever-moving queue. I start from the beginning, near the Albert Embankment, and work my way through the sea of humans from all walks of life who are lined up in single file.

My fellow queuers and I assess each other silently. There is Ramakant and his wife Usha, a retired pair with a passion for mountains. Daniel, a jolly businessman from Essex, specializes in office refurbishment. There is a consultant whose identity I've sworn to secrecy because she was skipping work to stand in line.

In the course of our normal lives, we are unlikely to ever cross paths. But the forces of history have somehow bound us together, at least for these next few hours. Quietly, not explicitly, a sense of community has mysteriously formed between us.

We have different reasons for coming. Ramakant and Usha adored the queen. Daniel admired her dedication. For the unnamed consultant, saying goodbye to the queen was something she had to do "for myself."

Me? I was curious. Death has been on my mind lately.

A week prior, I had been in southern Iraq to witness thousands of pilgrims make their way to the holy city of Karbala to mark the Shiite religious observance of Arbaeen — a 40-day mourning period to commemorate the death of Imam Hussein, Prophet Mohammed's grandson.

I watched an endless procession of pious Iraqis recreate scenes from seventh-century Islam under the scorching 105-degree (40 degrees Celsius) sun. Men rode camels in Hejazi regalia and black-clad youth waved religious flags. Food stalls that dotted the many miles to the shrine gave out rice and beans.

Now I am witness to a dramatically different queue of mourners, there to mark the passing of a monarch whose 70-year reign encompassed the end of an empire. Unlike in the parched terrain of Iraq, people here are fearful it may rain.

The queue, observed: Readers engrossed in thick novels. Groups of friends chatting and sharing large bottles of champagne. A woman practicing tai chi.

"This is a once-in-a-lifetime experience," Ramakant says.

Usha marvels at how Elizabeth worked up until hours before she died, handling the transition of power from Boris Johnson to Liz Truss two days before her demise.

"Imagine all the things she has done behind the scenes, in the background, none of us know anything about," she says.

They can't believe Elizabeth is dead, despite the fact they knew she could not live forever. "Did you notice her fingertips?" Daniel says of Elizabeth's last appearance two days before her death. "They were see-through almost, weren't they?"

We are silent, listening to the gentle soundtrack of the Thames.

It's a good thing, he adds, that she died soon after Prince Philip, her husband of 74 years. It had been

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 27 of 82

the same with his parents; they died within two weeks of each other. "It's the best death, really."

The consultant ducks to avoid a TV crew. Later she scrolls social media, hoping not to find herself on international news broadcasts. A colleague calls, and she tells them she is just "getting lunch."

I ask: Why not just tell them you are here?

"It's just one of those things I want to do for myself, and not have to explain." \_\_\_\_

Suddenly, the line is moving. The queen's coffin has arrived in the Hall.

Everything that follows is the epitome of order. The line snakes quickly around the bank, down to the embankment, where we watch boats cruise by. Before us, in the late-afternoon sun, the gothic complex of Westminster glimmers.

Ramakant was an accountant and has spent his retirement years traveling the world with his wife. From Niagara Falls to Mt. Kilimanjaro, they have been everywhere. "The key," says Usha, "is not to wait until tomorrow."

"You might be dead," Ramakant says. To our left is the National COVID Memorial Wall, with one heart for each life lived and lost.

The consultant has to use the bathroom, but the line is now moving rapidly. So we share our location with her and, moments later, wave when we are many yards ahead and are reunited.

At the final stretch, we eye the security check just before the hall entrance. We are surprised by how fast the line has moved. A woman behind me complains to the volunteers who come to take away drinks: "I've got 30 hours' worth of alcohol in here!"

Ramakant is stopped from taking off his shoes before the X-ray. "This isn't like Gatwick!" jokes one policeman, invoking the name of one of London's airports.

Inside the hall, all falls silent and still. We look up at the lofty wood-beam ceilings. We look down, and there it is — the queen's coffin on a raised platform, surrounded by honor guards. On top, the imperial state crown glitters with its 3,000 diamonds.

The line divides in two, and each of us is given three seconds to pay last respects. A man in a tartan kilt and with a walking stick salutes. An elderly woman rises from her wheelchair and makes the sign of the cross. Daniel gets on one knee. Ramakant and Usha bow their heads. Then it is my turn. Outside, the sun is setting.

"We probably would never have met if it weren't for this," Daniel says afterward. Everyone exchanges numbers. "Even in death, she's still doing her work."

Total time elapsed: Just over 7½ hours.

Ramakant turns to me. "So," he says. "What will you write about us?"

---

Samya Kullab, Iraq correspondent for The Associated Press, is on assignment in London covering the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Follow her on Twitter at [http://twitter.com/samya\\_kullab](http://twitter.com/samya_kullab)

## **GOP nominee for Nevada gov. says he'll fight US abortion ban**

By GABE STERN Associated Press/Report for America

RENO, Nev. (AP) — The GOP's nominee for Nevada governor said Thursday he would fight against a national abortion ban if Congress were to pass one.

"It's the vote of the people within the state of Nevada, and I will support that," Joe Lombardo, who is generally anti-abortion, told reporters while campaigning in the state with Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin. "That is an issue that doesn't need to be in politics."

Nevada voters codified the right to abortion up to 24 weeks into law in a 1990 referendum. Any order to further restrict abortion would have to come from a vote of the people, not the state legislature, unlike in many other states.

Earlier this week, South Carolina Sen. Lindsey Graham proposed a near-total abortion ban after 15 weeks. The legislation undermined many GOP candidates' arguments this summer that the future of abortion rights in the U.S. would be decided by individual states.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 28 of 82

Lombardo, who is the Clark County sheriff, has long maintained that as governor he would respect the 1990 vote though he is Catholic and holds anti-abortion views.

Still, a nationwide abortion ban would supersede Nevada law, and it is unclear how Lombardo could fight one.

Lombardo's announcement came in contrast to some Republicans who have shied away or supported Graham's proposal. Republican April Becker, a candidate in Nevada's 3rd Congressional District, opposes abortion except for instances of rape and incest. But she told NBC News this week that she would vote against a nationwide abortion ban, calling it unconstitutional for Congress to regulate abortion.

Also on Thursday, New Mexico's Republican governor nominee proposed a referendum that could place new limitations on abortion access.

Following the Supreme Court's decision in June to overturn Roe v. Wade, Nevada Gov. Sisolak signed an executive order saying Nevada will not assist other states that try to prosecute residents who travel to Nevada for abortions. It also ensures medical boards and commissions that oversee medical licenses do not discipline or disqualify doctors who provide abortions.

Though he has stepped back from when he said he would overturn the executive order, Lombardo has maintained that he would "look at it from the lens of being a pro-life governor."

After Thursday's rally, Sisolak spokesperson Natalie Gould released a statement saying "Joe Lombardo is lying."

Lombardo and Youngkin spent the day holding events in both Las Vegas and Reno, where the Virginia governor evoked his own high-profile victory a year ago.

Lombardo attacked the Democratic incumbent Sisolak on education, crime and for closing nonessential businesses early in the COVID-19 pandemic. He talked of further diversifying Nevada's economy, more power for school decision-making to parents and expanding charter schools.

"This was a movement," Youngkin said of his victory later on. "And that movement is here now. It's your turn."

---

Stern is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues. Follow Stern on Twitter @gabestern326

## Ukrainian president: Mass grave found near recaptured city

By VASILISA STEPANENKO Associated Press

IZIUM, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian authorities found a mass burial site near a recaptured northeastern city previously occupied by Russian forces, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy announced Thursday night.

The grave was discovered close to Iziium in the Kharkiv region.

"The necessary procedures have already begun there. More information — clear, verifiable information — should be available tomorrow," Zelenskyy said in his nightly televised address.

Associated Press journalists saw the site Thursday in a forest outside Iziium. Amid the trees were hundreds of graves with simple wooden crosses, most of them marked only with numbers. A larger grave bore a marker saying it contained the bodies of 17 Ukrainian soldiers.

Investigators with metal detectors were scanning the site for any hidden explosives.

Oleg Kotenko, an official with the Ukrainian ministry tasked with reintegrating occupied territories, said videos that Russian soldiers posted on social media indicated there were likely more than 17 bodies in the grave.

"We haven't counted them yet, but I think there are more than 25 or even 30," he said.

Iziium resident Sergei Gorodko said that among the hundreds buried in individual graves were dozens of adults and children killed in a Russian airstrike on an apartment building.

He said he pulled some of them out of the rubble "with my own hands."

Zelenskyy invoked the names of other Ukrainian cities where authorities said retreating Russian troops

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 29 of 82

left behind mass graves of civilians and evidence of possible war crimes.

"Bucha, Mariupol, now, unfortunately, Iziium. ... Russia leaves death everywhere. And it must be held accountable for it. The world must bring Russia to real responsibility for this war," he said in the address.

Sergei Bolvinov, a senior investigator for Ukrainian police in the eastern Kharkiv region, told British TV broadcaster Sky News that a pit containing more than 440 bodies was discovered near Iziium after Kyiv's forces swept in. He described the grave as "one of the largest burial sites in any one liberated city."

Some of the people buried in the pit were shot. Others died from artillery fire, mines or airstrikes. Many of the bodies have not been identified yet, Bolvinov said.

Russian forces left Iziium and other parts of the Kharkiv region last week amid a stunning Ukrainian counteroffensive. On Wednesday, Zelenskyy made a rare trip outside the capital to watch the national flag being raised over Iziium's city hall.

Deputy Interior Minister Yevhen Enin said Thursday night that other evidence found after Kyiv's sweeping advance into the Kharkiv region included multiple "torture chambers" where both Ukrainian citizens and foreigners were detained "in completely inhuman conditions."

"We have already come across the exhumation of individual bodies, not only with traces of a violent death, but also of torture — cut off ears, etc. This is just the beginning," Enin said in an interview with Ukraine's Radio NV.

He claimed that among those held at one of the sites were students from an unspecified Asian country who were captured at a Russian checkpoint as they tried to leave for Ukrainian-controlled territory.

Enin did not specify where the students were held, although he named the small cities of Balakliya and Volchansk as two locations where torture chambers were found. His account could not be independently verified.

"All these traces of war crimes are now carefully documented by us. And we know from the experience of Bucha that the worst crimes can only be exposed over time," Enin said, in a reference to a Kyiv suburb where the bodies of hundreds of civilians were discovered following the Russian army's withdrawal from the area in March.

Earlier Thursday, Zelenskyy said that during the five months the Russians occupied the region, they "only destroyed, only deprived, only took away."

"They left behind devastated villages; in some of them there is not a single undamaged house. The occupiers turned schools into garbage dumps and churches — shattered, literally turned into toilets."

In other developments Thursday, Zelenskyy worked to add political momentum to Ukraine's recent military gains, while missile strikes that caused flooding near his hometown demonstrated Moscow's determination to reclaim the battlefield advantage.

A week after the Ukrainian counteroffensive, Zelenskyy met with European Union chief Ursula von der Leyen during her third wartime visit to Kyiv. Von der Leyen publicly conveyed the wholehearted support of the 27-nation bloc and wore an outfit in Ukraine's national colors.

"It's absolutely vital and necessary to support Ukraine with the military equipment they need to defend themselves. And they have proven that they are able to do this, if they are well equipped," she said.

Air raid sirens blared twice in Kyiv during von der Leyen's meeting with Zelenskyy, a reminder that Russia has long-range weapons that can reach any location in Ukraine even though the capital has been spared attacks in recent weeks.

Ukrainian officials said Russian missiles late Wednesday struck a reservoir dam near Kryvyi Rih, Zelenskyy's birthplace and the largest city in central Ukraine. The strikes flooded over 100 homes.

Russian military bloggers said the attack was intended to flood areas downstream where Ukrainian forces made inroads as part of their counteroffensive.

The head of the local government on Thursday reported a new attack on the dam and said emergency crews were working to prevent more water from escaping.

The first attack so close to his roots angered Zelenskyy, who said the strikes had no military value.

"In fact, hitting hundreds of thousands of ordinary civilians is another reason why Russia will lose," he said.



Hanna Arhirova in Kyiv and Joanna Koslowska in London contributed reporting.

Follow AP war coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/russia-ukraine>

## **Palestinian farmer discovers rare ancient treasure in Gaza**

By FARES AKRAM Associated Press

BUREIJ, Gaza Strip (AP) — Last spring, a Palestinian farmer was planting a new olive tree when his shovel hit a hard object. He called his son, and for three months, the pair slowly excavated an ornate Byzantine-era mosaic that experts say is one of the greatest archaeological treasures ever found in Gaza.

The discovery has set off excitement among archaeologists, and the territory's Hamas rulers are planning a major announcement in the coming days.

But it is also drawing calls for better protection of Gaza's antiquities, a fragile collection of sites threatened by a lack of awareness and resources as well as the constant risk of conflict between Israel and local Palestinian militants.

The mosaic was uncovered just a kilometer (half mile) from the Israeli border. The floor, boasting 17 iconographies of beasts and birds, is well-preserved and its colors are bright.

"These are the most beautiful mosaic floors discovered in Gaza, both in terms of the quality of the graphic representation and the complexity of the geometry," said René Elter, an archaeologist from the French Biblical and Archaeological School of Jerusalem.

"Never have mosaic floors of this finesse, this precision in the graphics and richness of the colors been discovered in the Gaza Strip," he said.

Elter says the mosaic pavement dates back to a time between the 5th and the 7th centuries. But he said a proper excavation must be conducted to determine when exactly it was built and whether it was part of a religious or secular complex.

Elter, who has conducted research in Gaza in the past, has not been able to visit the site but viewed a series of photos and videos taken by local research partners.

The Gaza Strip, a Palestinian coastal enclave sandwiched between Israel and Egypt, was a bustling trade route between Egypt and the Levant in ancient times. The coastal strip is full of remains of ancient civilizations, from the Bronze Age to the Islamic and Ottoman eras.

However, the treasures are rarely protected. In the past, they were looted. In recent years, some were damaged or destroyed by development projects or fighting with Israel. An Israeli-Egyptian blockade imposed after the Hamas militant group took over Gaza in 2007 has ravaged the economy, leaving few resources for the protection of antiquities.

Hamas itself pays little attention to preserving the sites as it struggles to meet the needs of a rapidly growing population. More than 2.3 million people are squeezed in the strip's just 300 square kilometers (115 square miles). In 2017, Hamas bulldozers destroyed large parts of a site containing remains from a 4,500-year-old Bronze Age settlement to make housing projects for its employees.

Early this year, bulldozers digging for an Egyptian-funded housing project in northern Gaza unearthed a Roman-era tomb.

Among the few preserved sites in Gaza are the St. Hilarion monastery, which spans from the late Roman Empire to the Islamic Umayyad period, and the site of a Byzantine church that was restored by international aid organizations and opened this year in the northern Gaza Strip.

While these sites also have mosaics, Elter said the latest discovery, in the central Gaza town of Bureij, is "exceptional."

The Hamas-run department of antiquities described the mosaic as "a big archaeological discovery" but refused to comment further, saying there will be a formal announcement later.

The owner of the land, who refused to be identified before the official announcement, has covered the unearthed portion of the mosaic floor with tin sheets. He said he hopes to receive compensation for

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 31 of 82

protecting the unique discovery on his property.

The patch of land holding the mosaic is about 500 square meters (5,400 square feet) and three dug-out spots reveal glimpses of the mosaic.

The largest of the holes in the ground, about 2 meters by 3 meters (6 feet by 9 feet), has the 17 drawings of animals. The other two show intricate patterns of tiles. Roots of an old olive tree have damaged parts of the mosaic, which appears to be about 23 square meters (250 square feet) altogether in size.

Elter said the discovery is in "immediate danger" because it is so close to the Israeli separation fence.

Such areas along the fence are often the scene of intermittent clashes or Israeli incursions. Just last month, Israel and Gaza's Islamic Jihad militant group fought a fierce three-day battle that included Israeli shelling of militant posts and the landing of some misfired Palestinian rockets in the area.

Elter also worries that excavations by inexperienced people could damage the site. His hope is a professional team can properly excavate, restore and protect the mosaic.

"It is imperative to quickly organize an emergency rescue intervention," Elter said.

## **Warming, other factors worsened Pakistan floods, study finds**

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Climate change likely juiced rainfall by up to 50% late last month in two southern Pakistan provinces, but global warming wasn't the biggest cause of the country's catastrophic flooding that has killed more than 1,500 people, a new scientific analysis finds.

Pakistan's overall vulnerability, including people living in harm's way, is the chief factor in the disaster that at one point submerged one-third of the country under water, but human-caused "climate change also plays a really important role here," said study senior author Friederike Otto, a climate scientist at Imperial College of London.

There are many ingredients to the still ongoing humanitarian crisis — some meteorological, some economic, some societal, some historic and construction oriented. Add to that weather records that don't go back far enough in time.

With such complications and limitations, the team of international scientists looking at the disaster couldn't quantify how much climate change had increased the likelihood and frequency of the flooding, said authors of the study. It was released Thursday but not yet peer reviewed.

What happened "would have been a disastrously high rainfall event without climate change, but it's worse because of climate change," Otto said. "And especially in this highly vulnerable region, small changes matter a lot."

But other human factors that put people in harm's way and weren't adequate to control the water were even bigger influences.

"This disaster was the result of vulnerability that was constructed over many, many years," said study team member Ayesha Siddiqi of the University of Cambridge.

August rainfall in the Sindh and Balochistan provinces -- together nearly the size of Spain -- was eight and nearly seven times normal amounts, while the country as a whole had three-and-a-half times its normal rainfall, according to the report by World Weather Attribution, a collection of mostly volunteer scientists from around the world who do real-time studies of extreme weather to look for the fingerprints of climate change.

The team looked at just the two provinces over five days and saw an increase of up to 50% in the intensity of rainfall that was likely due to climate change. They also looked at the entire Indus region over two months and saw up to a 30% increase in rainfall there.

The scientists not only examined records of past rains, which only go back to 1961, but they used computer simulations to compare what happened last month to what would have happened in a world without heat-trapping gases from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas — and that difference is what they could attribute to climate change. This is a scientifically valid technique, according to the U.S. National Academy of Sciences.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 32 of 82

Study co-author Fahad Saeed, a climate scientist at Climate Analytics and the Center for Climate Change and Sustainable Development in Islamabad, Pakistan, said numerous factors made this monsoon season much wetter than normal, including a La Nina, the natural cooling of part of the Pacific that alters weather worldwide.

But other factors had the signature of climate change, Saeed said. A nasty heat wave in the region earlier in the summer -- which was made 30 times more likely because of climate change -- increased the differential between land and water temperatures. That differential determines how much moisture goes from the ocean to the monsoon and means more of it drops.

And climate change seemed to slightly change the jet stream, storm tracks and where low pressure sits, bringing more rainfall for southern provinces than they usually get, Saeed said.

"Pakistan has not contributed much in terms of causing global climate change, but sure is having to deal with a massive amount of climate change consequences," said University of Michigan environment dean Jonathan Overpeck, who wasn't part of the study.

Overpeck and three other outside climate scientists said the study makes sense and is nuanced properly to bring in all risk factors.

The nuances help "avoid overinterpretation," said Stanford University climate scientist Chris Field. "But we also want to avoid missing the main message -- human-caused climate change is increasing the risks of extreme events around the world, including the devastating 2022 Pakistan flooding."

---

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

---

Follow Seth Borenstein on Twitter at @borenbears

---

Associated Press climate and environmental coverage receives support from several private foundations. See more about AP's climate initiative here. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## Chiefs rally past Chargers 27-24 in early AFC West showdown

By DAVE SKRETTA AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — In a showdown between the Chiefs and Chargers, two of the league's best teams led by two of the game's bright young quarterbacks, an unheralded seventh-round draft pick who a few years ago was working alongside his mother in a Wendy's restaurant stole the show.

The Chiefs' Jaylen Watson picked off Justin Herbert at the goal line early in the fourth quarter Thursday night, headed the other way and was never touched on a 99-yard go-ahead touchdown that propelled Kansas City to a 27-24 victory.

"I don't even remember what happened at that moment," Watson said later. "It's all so surreal."

Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes threw for 235 yards with TD passes to Jerick McKinnon and Justin Watson, and fill-in kicker Matt Ammendola was perfect in place of injured Harrison Butker. But it was the Chiefs' defense, and Watson's highlight-reel interception, that allowed Kansas City (2-0) to overcome its early problems in an early divisional test.

"The thing that I'm most proud of," Chiefs coach Andy Reid said, "is that we stuck together. Nobody pointed any fingers."

Two series after Watson's go-ahead touchdown, things got even worse for the Chargers (1-1) when Herbert was drilled by defensive end Mike Danna while delivering a throw. He left the field clutching his side, returned one play later, then threw an incompleteness that forced the Chargers to punt while trailing 24-17.

Clyde Edwards-Helaire promptly split the defense on a 52-yard run to set up a field goal for Kansas City.

Herbert, who finished with 334 yards and three touchdown passes, gamely tried to keep the Chargers alive. He threw a 36-yard dart on fourth down to extend their ensuing possession, then hit Joshua Palmer in the back of the end zone on fourth-and-goal to pull Los Angeles within 27-24 with just over a minute to go.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 33 of 82

Kansas City recovered the onside kick and ran out the clock to end the game.

"You're not going to see a quarterback in any level of football play tougher and do more for his team and will his team and give them a chance than him," Chargers coach Brandon Staley said of Herbert, who was getting X-rays and wasn't available after the game. "There's nobody who can do what he can do. Nobody. He showed a lot of guts. He showed what he shows us every day, that we're never out of the fight. He brought us back and gave us a chance."

The highly anticipated showdown between two of the league's most prolific quarterbacks, each surrounded by premier playmakers, turned out early on to be a defensive slugfest.

The Chargers held the Chiefs to 13 yards in the first quarter, thanks to relentless pressure from Joey Bosa and Khalil Mack and the fact that Derwin James Jr. was just about everywhere, and kept a team that scored 44 points last week in Arizona off the scoreboard until Mahomes slung a sidearm pass to McKinnon early in the second quarter.

The Chargers fared better offensively, even though Staley opted to play conservatively, twice punting on fourth-and-2 near midfield. Dustin Hopkins kicked an early field goal before Mike Williams, dominating smaller Chiefs defensive backs, put the Chargers in position for Zander Horvath to catch a short TD pass.

Staley finally went for it on fourth down on the opening drive of the second half. And one play after Austin Ekeler picked it up, Williams made a one-handed grab around Chiefs cornerback L'Jarius Sneed to give the Chargers a 17-7 lead.

The game appeared to be getting away from the Chiefs when Mahomes was intercepted by Asante Samuel Jr. on their next possession. But replays showed Samuel didn't control the ball and the call was overturned, and Mahomes capitalized on his second chance by throwing a 41-yard strike to Justin Watson for a touchdown.

The Chiefs tied it 17-all on the first play of the fourth quarter when Ammendola, who was signed earlier this week, knocked through a chip shot on fourth down at the goal line.

That set up Jaylen Watson's pick-6 and the first lead Kansas City had all night.

"This is what it's going to be. We know we're playing in the toughest division," Chiefs safety Justin Reid said. "We know we're going to get everyone's best shot. We have to come out and we have to perform."

## PRIME TIME

The game was the first in the \$13 billion, 11-year deal between the NFL and Amazon Prime to exclusively stream Thursday night games. Amazon founder Jeff Bezos joined NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell on the sideline before kickoff.

## INJURIES

Chargers C Corey Linsley (knee) and RT Trey Pipkins III (ankle) left in the third quarter. ... Chiefs WR Mecole Hardman hurt his ankle in the third quarter but returned to the game. ... Danna left in the fourth quarter with a calf injury.

## UP NEXT

The Chargers return home to face Jacksonville on Sept. 25. The Chiefs visit Indianapolis the same day.

More AP NFL coverage: <https://apnews.com/hub/nfl> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_NFL](https://twitter.com/AP_NFL)

## Charles' history with US presidents: He's met 10 of past 14

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hanging out with Richard Nixon's daughter Tricia at a White House "supper-dance." Swapping stories with Ronald Reagan about horseback riding. Bending the ears of Donald Trump and Joe Biden about climate change.

King Charles III, who became head of state following the death of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, has made the acquaintance of 10 of the 14 U.S. presidents who have held office since he was born in 1948.

He was just 10 when he checked off his first president in 1959. That was when Dwight Eisenhower visited the queen and her family at Balmoral Castle in Scotland, where she died on Sept. 8 after a 70-year-reign.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 34 of 82

"I guess you can't start too early," said Barbara A Perry, director of presidential studies at the University of Virginia's Miller Center. She noted that Charles' grandson, Prince George, was a toddler when Kensington Palace released a photograph of him shaking hands with Barack Obama during the president's trip to London in 2016.

Charles never met Harry Truman, Gerald Ford, Lyndon Johnson and John F. Kennedy, Perry said.

His encounters with U.S. presidents included what he recalled as an "amusing" weekend visit to Nixon White House in 1970 with his sister Anne, when the 20-year-old future king — one of the world's most eligible bachelors — sensed there was an effort afoot to set him up.

"That was the time when they were trying to marry me off to Tricia Nixon," he later recalled.

The king has chatted up presidents on his visits to the U.S. and met others when they traveled in the United Kingdom. He was in the company of Donald Trump, Obama, Bill Clinton and George W. Bush when he represented the British monarchy at the state funeral for former President George H.W. Bush in 2018 in Washington.

Charles met President Joe Biden last year at a climate change conference in Glasgow, Scotland.

The royal has visited America about 20 times since that memorable first trip in the Nixon years, he told CNN last year.

The royal siblings had been invited to Washington by Nixon's daughters and son-in-law, Tricia Nixon, Julie Nixon Eisenhower and her husband, David Eisenhower, grandson of President Eisenhower, for that three-day visit in July 1970.

The young VIPs had a packed schedule that included frolicking at the Camp David presidential retreat, a nighttime tour of Washington's monuments, museum visits, a luncheon cruise down the Potomac River to George Washington's estate at Mount Vernon, Virginia, a dance on the South Lawn for 700 guests, and a Washington Senators baseball game.

Charles and Nixon also met in the Oval Office. But if the president had his heart set a union between his family and the royals, it wasn't meant to be.

In June 1971, less than a year after Charles' visit, Tricia married longtime beau Edward Cox in the White House Rose Garden. A decade later, in July 1981, Charles married Lady Diana Spencer. They divorced in 1996.

Nixon, himself, had pushed for Charles to visit the U.S. for the perceived public relations bonanza, according to a January 1970 memo he sent his national security adviser, Henry Kissinger.

"I think this could do an enormous amount of good for U.S.-British relations," Nixon said. He wrote that he'd been told that Charles "is the real gem" of the royal family and "makes an enormously favorable impression wherever he goes."

Charles returned the praise in a thank-you note.

"The kindness shown to us at the White House was almost overwhelming and for that we are immensely grateful," the prince wrote to Nixon. "Both my sister and I take back to Britain the most heartwarming evidence of what is known as the special relationship between our two countries and of the great hospitality shown to us by you and your family."

Many of the former Prince of Wales' conversations with recent U.S. presidents centered on his interest in tackling climate change. Charles has campaigned for the environment for 50 years, but he acknowledged after becoming king that his new role requires that he set aside his activism on that and other issues.

Charles, 73, and Biden, 79, discussed global cooperation on the climate crisis last year while both attended a summit in Glasgow, Scotland. They also met at Buckingham Palace in June 2021 at a reception the queen hosted before a world leaders' summit in Cornwall.

Biden rejoined the 2015 Paris climate agreement after Trump as president withdrew the U.S. from the accord.

Biden and the king spoke on Wednesday, with Biden offering his condolences over the queen.

Trump has said that during his visit with Charles, the former prince "did most of the talking" and pressed him on climate during a scheduled 15-minute meeting that stretched to 90 minutes in 2019 at Charles' residence in London.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 35 of 82

During a three-day visit to Washington in 2011, Charles, an advocate of environmentally friendly farming, met with President Obama. In a speech, he praised Michelle Obama's campaign against childhood obesity and hunger, and U.S. manufacturers' efforts to produce healthier foods.

He criticized U.S. government subsidies for large-scale agriculture and encouraged increased business and government support for organic and environmentally friendly food production.

In his toast at a White House dinner in 2005, the future king told President George W. Bush that the world looks to the United States "for a lead on the most crucial issues that face our planet and, indeed, the lives of our grandchildren.

"Truly, the burdens of the world rest on your shoulders," he said.

In the remarks, Charles also said the trip reminded him of his first visit to America, "when the media were busy trying to marry me off to Tricia Nixon."

Visiting with Reagan in the Oval Office in 1981, the two discussed their interest in horseback riding as a steward brought tea. But it was not served the British way.

Of the experience, Reagan later wrote in his diary:

"The ushers brought him tea -- horror of horrors they served it our way with a tea bag in the cup. It finally dawned on me that he was just holding the cup and finally put it down on the table. I didn't know what to do," Reagan confessed.

AP News Researcher Rhonda Shafner in New York contributed to this report.

## **Biden, S. African leader to discuss Ukraine, trade, climate**

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. President Joe Biden and South African President Cyril Ramaphosa are set to meet Friday at the White House for talks on Russia's war in Ukraine, climate issues, trade and more.

Ramaphosa is among African leaders who have maintained a neutral stance in the aftermath of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with South Africa abstaining from a United Nations vote condemning Russia's actions and calling for a mediated settlement.

South Africa's international relations minister, Naledi Pandor, said Ramaphosa would emphasize the need for dialogue to find an end to the conflict during his meeting with Biden and in separate talks with Vice President Kamala Harris.

Pandor added that the issue will be South Africa's focus when it participates in the annual meeting of the U.N. General Assembly next week.

"We would want a process of diplomacy to be initiated between the two parties and we believe the U.N. must lead, the U.N. secretary-general in particular," Pandor said.

The White House meeting comes on the heels of U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken's visit to South Africa last month, in which he said the Biden administration sees Africa's 54 nations as "equal partners" in tackling global problems.

But the administration has been disappointed that South Africa and much of the continent have declined to follow the U.S. in condemning the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

During the Blinken visit, Pandor accused the U.S. and other Western powers of focusing on the Ukraine conflict to the detriment of crises around the globe.

"We should be equally concerned at what is happening to the people of Palestine, as we are with what is happening to the people of Ukraine," she said.

The Biden administration, meanwhile, has sought to underscore that Russia's blockade of Ukraine's Black Sea ports has led to scarcities in grain, cooking oil and fertilizer — resulting in disproportionate impact on Africans.

South Africa's neutral position is largely because of the support the Soviet Union gave during the Cold War era to Ramaphosa's African National Congress in its fight to end apartheid, South Africa's regime of repression against the Black majority that ended in 1994. South Africa is seen as a leader of the several African countries that will not side against Russia.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 36 of 82

Despite the differences on the war in Ukraine, the Biden administration recognizes the importance of strengthening relations in Africa as China has spent decades entrenching itself in the continent's natural resources markets. Improving relations with South Africa — one of the continent's biggest economies — is central to the U.S. effort.

John Stremlau, an international relations expert at the University of the Witwatersrand, said the talks underscore that the U.S. sees South Africa as having the "potential to lead Africa in a constructive way" on trade and other issues.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the two leaders would also discuss climate change and opportunities to increase trade and investment. Harris and Ramaphosa will discuss global health security, space cooperation and other matters, when they meet over breakfast at the vice president's residence, Jean-Pierre said.

South Africa's ambitious efforts to transition from coal to cleaner energy are expected to be discussed during the leaders' talks. The U.S., Britain, France and Germany announced a plan last year to provide \$8.5 billion in loans and grants over five years to help South Africa phase out coal.

Ramaphosa could also raise with Biden the failure of the United States and other wealthier nations to make good on a more than decades-old pledge — first made in 2009 and reaffirmed at the 2015 Paris climate talks — to spend \$100 billion to help developing nations deal with climate change.

Magome reported from Johannesburg.

## Mourners wait for hours, miles to farewell Queen Elizabeth

By JILL LAWLESS, MIKE CORDER and SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Thousands of mourners waited for hours Thursday in a line that stretched for almost 5 miles (8 kilometers) across London for the chance to spend a few minutes filing past Queen Elizabeth II's coffin while she lies in state. King Charles III spent the day in private to reflect on his first week on the throne.

The queue to pay respects to the late queen at Westminster Hall in Parliament was at least a nine-hour wait, snaking across a bridge and along the south bank of the River Thames beyond Tower Bridge. But people said they didn't mind the wait, and authorities brought in portable toilets and other facilities to make the slog bearable.

"I'm glad there was a queue, because that gave us time to see what was ahead of us, prepared us and absorbed the whole atmosphere," health care professional Nimisha Maroo said. "I wouldn't have liked it if I'd had to just rush through."

A week after the queen died at Balmoral Castle in Scotland after 70 years on the throne, the focus of commemorations was in Westminster — the heart of political power in London. Her coffin will lie in state at Westminster Hall until Monday, when it will be taken across the street to Westminster Abbey for the queen's funeral.

Buckingham Palace on Thursday released details about the service, the first state funeral held in Britain since the death of former Prime Minister Winston Churchill in 1965. Royalty and heads of state from around the world are expected to be among the 2,000 people attending, with a smaller, private burial service planned for later Monday at Windsor Castle.

The queen will be buried at Windsor alongside her late husband, Prince Philip, who died last year.

The guest list for the state funeral is a roll call of power and pomp, from Japan's Emperor Naruhito and King Felipe VI of Spain to U.S. President Joe Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron and the prime ministers of Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau — who first met the queen when he was a child and his father Pierre Trudeau was Canada's leader — said the queen was "one of my favorite people in the world."

"Her conversations with me were always candid, we talked about anything and everything, she gave her best advice on a range of issues, she was always curious, engaged and thoughtful," he said at a special

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 37 of 82

session of the Canadian parliament in Ottawa.

After a day of high ceremony and high emotions on Wednesday as the queen's coffin was carried in somber procession from Buckingham Palace, the king was spending Thursday working and in "private reflection" at his Highgrove residence in western England. Charles has had calls with Biden and Macron and has been speaking to a host of world leaders.

Prince William, the heir to the throne, and his wife Catherine, the Princess of Wales, visited the royal family's Sandringham estate in eastern England on Thursday to admire some of the tributes left by well-wishers. The couple walked slowly along metal barriers as they received bouquets from the public.

William told well-wishers that walking behind his grandmother's coffin on Wednesday had been "challenging" and "brought back memories" of the funeral of his mother, Princess Diana after her death in 1997, when William was 15.

"I said how proud his mother would have been of him, and he said how hard it was yesterday because it brought back memories of his mother's funeral," Jane Wells, 54, said after meeting the prince Thursday.

The queen left Buckingham Palace on Wednesday for the last time, borne on a horse-drawn carriage and saluted by cannons and the tolling of Big Ben, in a solemn procession through the flag-draped, crowd-lined streets of London to Westminster Hall.

Charles, his siblings and sons marched behind the coffin, which was topped by a wreath of white roses and the queen's diamond-studded crown on a purple velvet pillow. The military procession underscored Elizabeth's seven decades as head of state.

Her lying-in-state, meanwhile, allowed many Britons to say a personal goodbye to the only monarch most have ever known.

It's also a huge logistical operation, with a designated 10-mile (16 kilometer) queuing route lined with first aid points and more than 500 portable toilets. There are 1,000 stewards and marshals working at any given time, and 30 religious leaders from a range of faiths to talk to those in line.

Monica Thorpe said she walked for two hours to get to the back of the line and join the queue.

"People were just walking and walking and the policemen were like 'Keep going, keep going.' It was like the yellow brick road," she said.

Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby, the spiritual leader of the Church of England, wore a high-visibility vest emblazoned with the words "Faith Team" as he spoke to mourners. Welby, who will deliver a sermon at Elizabeth's funeral, paid tribute to the queen as "someone you could trust totally, completely and absolutely, whose wisdom was remarkable."

People old and young, dressed in dark suits or jeans and sneakers, walked in a steady stream through the historic hall, where Guy Fawkes and Charles I were tried, where kings and queens hosted magnificent medieval banquets, and where previous monarchs have lain in state.

After passing the coffin, most mourners paused to look back before leaving through the hall's great oak doors. Some were in tears; others bowed their heads or curtseyed. One sank onto a knee and blew a farewell kiss.

Keith Smart, an engineer and British Army veteran, wiped away tears as he left the hall. He had waited more than 10 hours for the chance to say goodbye.

"Everybody in the crowd was impeccably behaved. There was no malice, everybody was friends. It was fantastic," he said. "And then, to come into that room and see that, I just broke down inside. I didn't bow — I knelt to the floor, on my knees, bowed my head to the queen."

Follow AP coverage of the Queen at <https://apnews.com/hub/queen-elizabeth-ii>

## Ex-Nevada deputy AG arrested in 1972 Hawaii homicide

By SCOTT SONNER Associated Press

RENO, Nev. (AP) — A former deputy Nevada attorney general who ran for the state Supreme Court and was later affiliated with the infamous Mustang Ranch brothel has been arrested in Reno as a suspect in



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 38 of 82

a 1972 homicide in Hawaii.

Tudor Chirila Jr., 77, was being held Thursday in the Washoe County Jail without bail on a charge of being a fugitive from another state.

In a criminal complaint accusing Chirila of second-degree murder, Honolulu police said DNA evidence linked him to the fatal stabbing of 19-year-old Nancy Anderson.

The Honolulu Star-Advertiser first reported that Chirila was arrested Wednesday — five decades after police say he stabbed the teen more than 60 times and left her body in her Waikiki apartment on Jan. 7, 1972. Anderson had moved to Hawaii in October 1971 and was working at a McDonald's restaurant after graduating from high school the year before in Bay City, Michigan, the newspaper said.

It wasn't immediately clear if Chirila had an attorney or will be appointed one. Jail records don't indicate when he's scheduled to make his initial court appearance.

The criminal complaint filed this week in district court in Hawaii said police had reopened the cold case multiple times since the killing and received a tip in December that Chirila could be a suspect.

In March, police obtained a DNA sample from Chirila's son, John Chirila of Newport Beach, California, that identified him as the biological child of a DNA sample found at the crime scene, according to the criminal complaint.

On Sept. 6, Reno police served a search warrant and collected a DNA sample from Tudor Chirila at his Reno apartment. Two days later he tried to commit suicide, and on Wednesday was booked into the county jail in Reno, the Reno Gazette Journal reported Thursday.

Over the years, police in Hawaii investigated multiple suspects, including door-to-door knife salesmen who were there to try to sell knives hours earlier, the newspaper said. But the salesmen volunteered fingerprints and passed polygraph tests.

Other potential suspects questioned over the years included Anderson's former boyfriends and the property manager where she lived.

Chirila, a longtime attorney in Reno, Carson City and the Lake Tahoe area, served as a deputy attorney general in the late 1970s and ran unsuccessfully for the Nevada Supreme Court in 1994.

In a 1998 federal indictment, U.S. prosecutors in Reno identified him as the former president of a company, A.G.E. Corp., that served a front for Nevada brothel boss Joe Conforte.

The indictment accused Conforte and others of being part of an elaborate conspiracy to defraud the government in bankruptcy proceedings when the Mustang Ranch east of Reno was seized by the IRS, sold for back taxes in 1990 and illegally repurchased by Conforte and his cohorts.

The government claimed Conforte hid his assets during bankruptcy proceedings to cheat the government and buy back the legal brothel under hidden ownership, The Associated Press reported at the time.

Testifying as a government witness, Chirila acknowledged he knew the corporation was owned and controlled by Conforte, who had disappeared and was believed to be a fugitive in South America when the case went to trial in 1999.

Chirila filed suit against Conforte in 1998 seeking \$14 million in damages, alleging Conforte wrongly fired him for cooperating with federal prosecutors.

## **Veteran NY judge named as arbiter in Trump Mar-a-Lago probe**

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge on Thursday appointed a veteran New York jurist to serve as an independent arbiter in the criminal investigation into the presence of classified documents at former President Donald Trump's Florida home, and refused to permit the Justice Department to resume its use of the highly sensitive records seized in an FBI search last month.

U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon empowered the newly named special master, Raymond Dearie, to review the entire tranche of records taken in the Aug. 8 search of Mar-a-Lago and set a November deadline for his work. In the meantime, she continued to block the department from using for its investigation roughly 100 documents marked as classified that were seized.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 39 of 82

The sharply worded order from Cannon, a Trump appointee, will almost certainly slow the pace of the investigation and set the stage for a challenge to a federal appeals court. The department had given Cannon until Thursday to put on hold her order pausing investigators' review of classified records while the special master completes his work. The department said it would ask the Atlanta-based 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to intervene if she did not do so by then.

The Justice Department did not immediately comment on Thursday's ruling.

Cannon, who last week granted the Trump team's request for a special master over the objections of the Justice Department, made clear in her Thursday order that she was not prepared to blindly accept the government's characterizations of the documents, saying "evenhanded procedure does not demand unquestioning trust in the determinations of the Department of Justice."

She turned aside the department's position that Trump could not have any ownership interests in the documents, and said she was receptive to the possibility that the former president could raise valid claims of privilege over at least some of the records. She noted ongoing disagreements between the two sides about the "proper designation of the seized materials" and the "legal implications flowing from those designations."

"The Court does not find it appropriate to accept the Government's conclusions on these important and disputed issues without further review by a neutral third party in an expedited and orderly fashion," she wrote.

The selection of Dearie, a former federal prosecutor who for years served as the chief judge of the federal court based in Brooklyn, came after both the Justice Department and Trump's lawyers made clear they would be satisfied with his appointment as a so-called special master.

As special master, Dearie will be responsible for reviewing the entire inventory of documents taken during the search of Mar-a-Lago — the FBI says it recovered about 11,000 documents from the home during its search, including roughly 100 with classification markings — and segregating out any that may be covered by claims of executive privilege or attorney-client privilege. He is also tasked with identifying any personal materials of Trump's that should possibly be returned to him.

The Justice Department said last week that it did not believe that the special master should inspect records with classified markings or evaluate the former president's claims of privilege. Cannon rejected both positions Thursday, directing the special master to prioritize in his review the documents marked as classified, "and thereafter consider prompt adjustments to the Court's Orders as necessary." She set a deadline of Nov. 30 for the special master to complete the work.

The Justice Department has been investigating for months the hoarding of top-secret materials and other classified documents at the Florida property after Trump left office. Citing national security concerns, it has said its investigation would be harmed if the judge did not quickly lift her block on the department from continuing to make use of the classified records in its probe.

Cannon rejected that idea Thursday, saying "there has been no actual suggestion by the Government of any identifiable emergency or imminent disclosure of classified information arising from Plaintiff's allegedly unlawful retention of the seized property."

She added, "Instead, and unfortunately, the unwarranted disclosures that float in the background have been leaks to the media after the underlying seizure."

She also said nothing in her order barred the department from "conducting investigations or bringing charges based on anything other than the actual content of the seized materials," saying investigators were welcome to interview witnesses and collect information about the "movement and storage of seized materials."

Trump's lawyers had asked last month for a judge to name a special master to do an independent review of the records and filter out any that may be covered by claims of privilege. The Justice Department argued the appointment was unnecessary, saying it had already done its own review and Trump had no right to raise executive privilege claims that ordinarily permit the president to withhold certain information from the public and Congress.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 40 of 82

Cannon disagreed and directed both sides to name potential candidates for the role.

The Trump team recommended either Dearie or a Florida lawyer for the job. The Justice Department said Monday that, in addition to the two retired judges whose names it submitted, it would also be satisfied with a Dearie appointment.

Dearie served as the top federal prosecutor for the Eastern District of New York from 1982 to 1986, at which point he was appointed to the federal bench by then-President Ronald Reagan. He has also served on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court, which authorizes Justice Department wiretap applications in investigations involving suspected agents of a foreign power.

Dearie was chief judge of the district from 2007 to 2011, when he took senior status. But the Justice Department has said he remains active and had indicated to officials that he was available for the position and could work expeditiously if appointed to it.

Associated Press writers Michael Balsamo and Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report.

## 'Torment of hell': Ukraine medic describes Russian torture

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A volunteer Ukrainian medic held captive three months by Russian forces in Ukraine's besieged port city of Mariupol told U.S. lawmakers Thursday of cradling and comforting fellow prisoners as they died of torture and inadequately treated wounds.

Ukrainian Yuliia Paievska, who was captured by pro-Russian forces in Mariupol in March and held at shifting locations in Russian-allied territory in Ukraine's Donetsk region, spoke to lawmakers with the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, better known as the Helsinki Commission, a government agency created in part to promote international compliance with human rights.

Her accounts Thursday were her most detailed publicly of her treatment in captivity, in what Ukrainians and international rights groups say are widespread detentions of both Ukrainian noncombatants and fighters by Russia's forces.

Known to Ukrainians by the nickname Taira, Paievska and her care of Mariupol's wounded during the nearly seven-month Russian invasion of Ukraine received global attention after her bodycam footage was provided to The Associated Press.

"Do you know why we do this to you?" a Russian asked Paievska as he tortured her, she recounted to the commission. She told the panel her answer to him: "Because you can."

Searing descriptions of the suffering of detainees poured out. A 7-year-old boy died in her lap because she had none of the medical gear she needed to treat him, she said.

Torture sessions usually launched with their captors forcing the Ukrainian prisoners to remove their clothes, before the Russians set to bloodying and tormenting the detainees, she said.

The result was some "prisoners in cells screaming for weeks, and then dying from the torture without any medical help," she said. "Then in this torment of hell, the only things they feel before death is abuse and additional beating."

She continued, recounting the toll among the imprisoned Ukrainians. "My friend whose eyes I closed before his body cooled down. Another friend. And another. Another."

Paievska said she was taken into custody after being stopped in a routine document check. She had been one of thousands of Ukrainians believed to have been taken prisoner by Russian forces. Mariupol's mayor said that 10,000 people from his city alone disappeared during what was the monthslong Russian siege of that city. It fell to Russians in April, with the city all but destroyed by Russian bombardment, and with countless dead.

The Geneva Conventions single out medics, both military and civilian, for protection "in all circumstance." Sen. Ben Cardin, a Maryland Democrat and co-chair of the Helsinki Commission underscored that the conditions she described for civilian and military detainees violated international law.

Rep. Joe Wilson, R-S.C., called Russian President Vladimir Putin a war criminal.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 41 of 82

"It is critical that the world hear the stories of those who endured the worst under captivity," Wilson said. "Evidence is essential to prosecution of war crimes."

Before she was captured, Paievska had recorded more than 256 gigabytes of harrowing bodycam footage showing her team's efforts to save the wounded in the cut-off city. She got the footage to Associated Press journalists, the last international team in Mariupol, on a tiny data card.

The journalists fled the city on March 15 with the card embedded inside a tampon, carrying it through 15 Russian checkpoints. The next day, Paievska was taken by pro-Russia forces. Lawmakers played the AP's video of her footage Thursday.

She emerged on June 17, thin and haggard, her athlete's body more than 10 kilograms (22 pounds) lighter from lack of nourishment and activity. She said the AP report that showed her caring for Russian and Ukrainian soldiers alike, along with civilians of Mariupol, was critical to her release, in a prisoner exchange.

Paievska previously had declined to speak in detail to journalists about conditions in detention, only describing it broadly as hell. She swallowed heavily at times Thursday while testifying.

Ukraine's government says it has documented nearly 34,000 Russian war crimes since the war began in February. The International Criminal Court and 14 European Union member nations also have launched investigations.

The United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine says it has documented that prisoners of war in Russian custody have suffered torture and ill-treatment, as well as insufficient food, water healthcare and sanitation.

Russia has not responded to the allegations. Both the United Nations and the international Red Cross say they have been denied access to prisoners.

Paievska, who said she suffered headaches during her detention as the result of a concussion from an earlier explosion, told lawmakers she asked her captors to let her call her husband, to let him know what had happened to her.

"They said, 'You have seen too many American movies. There will be no phone call,'" she recounted.

Her tormentors during her detention would sometimes urge her to kill herself, she said.

"I said, 'No. I will see what happens tomorrow,'" she said.

—  
Lori Hinnant contributed to this report from Paris.

Follow AP's coverage of the Russia-Ukraine war at: <https://apnews.com/hub/russia-ukraine>

## Review: Ana de Armas digs deep as Marilyn in brutal 'Blonde'

By JOCELYN NOVECK AP National Writer

What a dream it must be to be Marilyn Monroe, a starstruck assistant tells her. "Everyone would give their right arm to be you!"

And we cringe, as we'll do many times during Andrew Dominik's brutal, bruising and often beautiful "Blonde," starring a heartbreaking Ana de Armas. This time, it's because we already know that Norma Jeane, the real person underneath, is giving so much more than her right arm to be Marilyn. An arm would be getting off easy. She's giving her body, her sanity, her dignity, her health and probably her very soul to be Marilyn.

There's a lot that "Blonde," written and directed by Dominik with some stunning cinematography by Chayse Irvin, is. Let's first clarify what it isn't.

It is not a biopic, not in a familiar sense. It is not chronological, nor an attempt at a complete account. Most crucially, it's not factual — it's based on a novel, "Blonde" by Joyce Carol Oates.

And as for the performance at its core — de Armas' committed, fearless, leap of faith of a performance — well, it's not an imitation. And so the complaints circulating about her accent, saying her native Cuban inflection sometimes peeks through, are absurd and irrelevant. De Armas digs so deep to play Marilyn, she could be speaking ancient Greek and it wouldn't affect the emotional truth she finds here.

What "Blonde" IS is ambitious. Far-reaching, at times perhaps too far. And frequently gorgeous, especially



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 42 of 82

in expertly rendered scenes of old-fashioned Hollywood glitz, mainly in black-and-white — the endless flashbulbs popping (and sounding like gunshots) on the red carpet, the fans ogling, their faces sometimes distorted by lust. There are wonderful recreations of scenes from movies like “Gentlemen Prefer Blondes” and “The Seven Year Itch.”

Less convincing are the moments when we see sperm traveling toward an egg to indicate pregnancy, or a fetus that talks reprovingly to its future mother. Subtlety is not a goal here. A yet thornier question involves the fine line between displaying the horrific exploitation of a character, and contributing to that exploitation. As with many works of art, even as skillful as this, there’s no easy answer, and different moments cut different ways.

We begin at the beginning — and an awful beginning it is. Young Norma Jeane (an affecting Lily Fisher) lives alone with her mother (Julianne Nicholson, superb and terrifying) who’s slowly descending into madness. On her birthday, her mother shows the little girl a picture of a handsome man who, she says, was her father. The girl will ache for him from that day forward. Life is not safe with her mother, and when the woman finally has a total breakdown (the mother-daughter scenes are traumatic) Norma Jeane soon ends up at an orphanage.

Flash forward to adult Marilyn, showing up for a big audition with a studio head — who rapes her. Later, when asked by future husband Joe DiMaggio how she got started in movies, her mind goes straight to the rape. Outwardly, she will say only, with hollow eyes: “I guess I was discovered.”

One of the stranger elements here is Marilyn’s (fictional) friendship with the sons of Edward G. Robinson and Charlie Chaplin, with whom she becomes a threesome in every way. Around this time she gets pregnant, and the studio arranges an abortion. When the ordeal is over, the song “Bye, Bye Baby” comes on the soundtrack — one of several on-the-nose music cues (when she’s dropped at the orphanage, we hear “Everybody Needs a Da-Da-Daddy” from Monroe’s “Ladies of the Chorus”).

DiMaggio, the retired baseball legend (an excellent Bobby Cannavale), promises Marilyn a decent, respectable life but is consumed by jealousy. He instructs the wife who calls him “Daddy” to do movies where she isn’t so sexy. That doesn’t quite work when “The Seven Year Itch” requires her to stand on the subway grate and have her white dress billow up around her waist. Dominik recreates this famous scene beautifully, and shows DiMaggio smoldering with rage while watching the shooting, amid ogling fans.

Like Cannavale, Adrien Brody is wonderfully cast as Marilyn’s next husband, playwright Arthur Miller, a cerebral man who is amazed at her actual intellect — she reads Chekhov! — and offers what she hopes will be a stable life in Connecticut. She gets pregnant but tragedy strikes again. Soon, Marilyn will be hitting the pills, the bottles, and the bottles of pills.

Then, of course, there is JFK. We don’t see the famous “Happy Birthday Mr. President” performance. But in 1962 (the year of her actual death) Marilyn is whisked by the president’s handlers to a hotel room, and the film never seems quite so depressing as in the sordid task that awaits her, presaged in her earlier, plaintive question to his men: “Am I room service?”

It’s probable this scene explains the film’s NC-17 rating. In any case it encapsulates the indignity that accompanied Norma Jeane’s transformation into one of the enduring figures of 20th century pop culture. If it was Marilyn that initially saved Norma Jeane, Dominik is saying, it was also Marilyn that overwhelmed her, suffocated her, and probably killed her.

“Blonde,” a Netflix release, has been rated NC-17 by the Motion Picture Association of America for “some sexual content.” Running time: 166 minutes. Three stars out of four.

---

MPAA definition of NC-17: No one 17 and under admitted.

---

Follow Jocelyn Noveck on Twitter at [www.Twitter.com/JocelynNoveckAP](http://www.Twitter.com/JocelynNoveckAP)

## **EXPLAINER: R. Kelly acquitted on rigging trial. Why?**

By MICHAEL TARM AP Legal Affairs Writer

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 43 of 82

CHICAGO (AP) — Federal prosecutors this week scored multiple convictions against R. Kelly at the singer's trial in Chicago, but they lost on the headline charge — that Kelly obstructed justice by rigging his 2008 state child pornography trial, at which jurors acquitted him.

Kelly co-defendant and longtime business manager Derrel McDavid was also acquitted on the same count, as well as three other charges.

After the verdict, U.S. Attorney John Lausch expressed disappointment in not winning convictions across the board. But he said Kelly was still looking at a prison sentence of 10 to 90 years. He said he was pleased Kelly was "finally being held accountable."

Sentencing is set for Feb. 23. Kelly, 55, is already serving a 30-year prison term imposed by a federal judge in New York for racketeering and sex trafficking.

At least one legal expert said obstruction of justice charges aren't generally hard to prove. "But in this case," said Phil Turner, a former federal prosecutor in Chicago, "the facts just weren't there."

Jurors also acquitted Kelly of receiving child pornography and one count of producing child pornography. He was convicted of producing child pornography and enticing girls for sex. His attorney, Jennifer Bonjean, plans to appeal.

Here's a look at the trial-fixing charge:

## WHAT DID PROSECUTORS ALLEGE?

The claim was that Kelly and McDavid conspired to ensure key witnesses at the 2008 trial would lie about Kelly's sexual abuse of girls and refuse to testify.

Prosecutors also alleged Kelly and McDavid concealed critical evidence. Witnesses at the just-ended trial described their frantic scramble to recover lost Kelly videos of himself sexually abusing girls.

They offered six — and in at least one case seven — figure payoffs in cash for the return of videos, which prosecutors said they knew would lead to a conviction in 2008.

The conspirators, said prosecutors, applied particular pressure on a girl — now 37 and referred to in federal court as "Jane" — and her parents. State and federal prosecutors said she was the girl Kelly is seen sexually abusing on a VHS tape that was at the heart of the 2008 trial.

## DID THE PRESSURE WORK?

Prosecutors said it did.

Jane and her parents said they lied to a grand jury in the early 2000s about Kelly's sexual abuse, and they didn't testify at the 2008 trial. Jurors at that trial said they had no choice but to acquit Kelly because the victim did not testify.

"That jury was scammed. They were scammed by Robert Kelly and his fixers," prosecutor Jeannice Ap-penteng told jurors this week, using Kelly's given first name.

Federal prosecutors said the payoffs that started in the early 2000s included funding trips by Jane and her parents to the Bahamas and Cancun, Mexico.

Critically to their theory of the case, federal prosecutors also alleged Kelly intermittently paid Jane's rent — by then in her 30s — until just several years ago to ensure she kept quiet.

## WHAT WERE SOME OF THE CHALLENGES FOR PROSECUTORS?

Steps Kelly and others allegedly took to fix the 2008 trial happened two decades ago, so memories of how the purported crime unfolded have dimmed. At least four men who may have had direct knowledge of what happened have since died.

Among them was Jane's father, who died a year ago.

For the child pornography count, the evidence included video that jurors saw. On enticement, they heard directly from Kelly accusers — Jane, Nia, Pauline and Tracy. One of the enticement counts they didn't convict him on was related to an accuser who did not testify.

## WHAT WITNESSES DID PROSECUTORS CALL?

Their star witness was Jane.

On the stand, she said publicly for the first time that she was the girl in the video at the center of both the federal trial and the trial 14 years ago. She said she was 14 in the video and that the man was Kelly,

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 44 of 82

who would have been around 30.

She testified she lied to a state grand jury in 2002 when she said that it was not her. She said she wanted to protect Kelly, and added: "I also did not want that person to be me. ... I was ashamed."

Jane's mother, who went by "Susan," also testified. She said she lied to the state grand jury, in part because she and her husband felt threatened by Kelly and feared for their lives.

Susan said she, her husband and Kelly cried as the parents confronted Kelly about sexually abusing their daughter. While asking for forgiveness, she said Kelly also said: "You are either with us or against us."

She took Kelly's words as a threat. "We were very, very frightened," she said.

Another key witness was Kelly's ex-girlfriend Lisa Van Allen. She told jurors she stole a sex video around 2000 from a gym bag Kelly had that was full of such recordings on a rare occasion when he left it unattended.

Van Allen said McDavid told her in 2007 that she should have been killed for all the trouble she caused Kelly.

**WHAT DID DEFENSE LAWYERS TELL JURORS?**

They repeatedly attacked the credibility of the government's main witnesses, noting that most testified with immunity, including Jane, her mom and Van Allen.

"They came in here to tell the government's version of the truth," Bonjean, Kelly's lawyer, said.

**WHAT MIGHT HAVE JURORS HAD DOUBTS ABOUT?**

Kelly's payments for Jane's rent, what they were for and how long they lasted was critical to deciding guilt on the trial-fixing charge.

That's because the federal statute of limitation says someone can't be charged with such a conspiracy if it ceased within five years of an indictment.

Kelly and McDavid were indicted on that and other charges in 2019. So prosecutors had to show the conspiracy ran up to at least 2014. The rent payments to Jane after 2014, they say, was part of the continuous conspiracy.

Attorneys for Kelly and McDavid balked at the claim that the rent payments were hush money. They noted that Kelly remained friendly with Jane and her parents for many years after the 2008 trial. Jane testified, too, that she cared deeply for Kelly at least until his 2019 indictment.

Defense lawyers argued that, even if there ever was a conspiracy, it didn't last beyond 2014.

**WHAT WERE SOME OF OTHER ARGUMENTS?**

Defense attorneys said several core government interpretations of things Kelly said were a stretch.

For example, they said Kelly's remark to Jane's parents that "you are either with us or against us" could have meant any number of things — not only that Kelly would hurt them financially or otherwise.

Bonjean also questioned why Susan continued to mix with Kelly socially for the next 20 years, if she felt so threatened.

McDavid's lawyer, Beau Brindley, also mocked Van Allen's claim that McDavid threatened to kill her, sarcastically referring to his client as a "murderous accountant."

---

Joey Cappelletti and Amy Forliti in Minneapolis contributed to this report.

---

Follow Michael Tarm on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/mtarm> and find AP's full coverage of the R. Kelly trial at <https://apnews.com/hub/r-kelly>

## **Review: A classic battle epic in 'The Woman King'**

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

Viola Davis should have been leading armies this whole time.

In "The Woman King," the always regal Oscar-winner is a mass of muscle, battle wounds and world weariness as General Nanisca, the head of the Agojie, an all-female unit of warriors who protected the West African Kingdom of Dohemy in the 19th century. Directed by Gina Prince-Bythewood, who cannot

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 45 of 82

be pigeonholed, the film is a throwback of sorts to the big, exciting, emotional warrior epics that used to be all too common at the multiplex, with the twist that it's women not men driving the action.

But unlike some recent cinematic depictions of armies not entirely comprised of men, they didn't have to look to fantasy or the comic books to make "The Woman King" — just a history that isn't widely taught. More people probably know the Dora Milaje than the Agojie, who actually inspired the "Black Panther" fighters.

It is powerful that they are not immortal like Wonder Woman. There's no condescending Avengers-like battle moment. There are no superpowers or magic lassos of truth. The ropes here are just ropes, but deadly still. They also fight with machetes and, sometimes, fingernails, up against brutish men and often win. In other words, there's no tricks, Nanisca explains, just skill (and bruises and scars). There's a reason she's described by a young trainee as looking just like some old woman (any warrior should be so lucky to be old).

Written by Dana Stevens, "The Woman King" is a classic "one last fight" tale with a grizzled war veteran in Davis, a new recruit in Nawi (a compelling and complex Thuso Mbedu), and the one who takes her under her wing, Izogie (a terrific part for Lashana Lynch, of "Captain Marvel" and James Bond). Terence Blanchard lends a fittingly rousing score to the action, which, though brutal, is carefully constructed to keep that superhero PG-13 rating.

The world of the "The Woman King" is no paradise though. It's 1823 and there is rape and rampant hatred of women. There are slavers and colonizers around. The young trainee, Nawi, only arrives at the palace doorsteps after her father gives up on trying to marry her off to anyone who will take her, abusive or not. The women don't all get along, the king's brides look down at the soldiers. And Nanisca, too, looks at women's tears as a sign of weakness.

It's also a very Hollywood version of what may have happened as they prepare to go up against the powerful Oyo empire, with some convenient reveals, a love interest, a slightly idealized king figure (in John Boyega) and an old score someone needs to settle. This is not, in other words, a history lesson about the Agojie, though it could perhaps inspire some to seek that out or even write their own. That there are few true surprises isn't necessarily a bad thing, either. The film is exactly what you need it to be: An exciting and emotionally true spectacle that required a heck of a fight to simply exist.

I'll stop short of saying that Prince-Bythewood should have been directing these all along too, however. If she'd started and stayed with action, we wouldn't have gotten "Love & Basketball" or "Beyond the Lights," and what kind of cinematic landscape would that be? But we should all be so lucky that she gets to do this too.

"The Woman King," a Sony/TriStar Release in theaters now, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association for "sequences of strong violence, some disturbing material, thematic content, brief language and partial nudity." Running time: 134 minutes. Three stars out of four.

---

MPA Definition of PG-13: Parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

---

Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter: [www.twitter.com/ladbahr](https://www.twitter.com/ladbahr)

## Montana defies order on transgender birth certificates

By MATTHEW BROWN and AMY BETH HANSON Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — Just hours after a Montana judge blocked health officials from enforcing a state rule that would prevent transgender people from changing the gender on their birth certificate, the Republican-run state on Thursday said it would defy the order.

District Court Judge Michael Moses chided attorneys for the state during a hearing in Billings for circumventing his April order that temporarily blocked a 2021 Montana law that made it harder to change birth certificates.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 46 of 82

Moses said there was no question that state officials violated his earlier order by creating the new rule. Moses said his order reinstates a 2017 Department of Public Health and Human Services rule that allowed people to update the gender on their birth certificate by filing an affidavit with the department.

However, the state said it would disregard the ruling.

"The Department thoroughly evaluated the judge's vague April 2022 decision and crafted our final rule to be consistent with the decision. It's unfortunate that the judge's ruling today does not square with his vague April decision," said Charlie Brereton, director of the Department of Public Health and Human Services.

Brereton said the agency was keeping the rule it issued last week in place and an agency spokesperson said the department is waiting to see the judge's written order before considering its next steps.

ACLU attorney Malita Picasso expressed dismay with the agency's stance and said officials should immediately start processing requests for birth certificate changes.

"It's shocking that after this morning's hearing the department would allege there was any lack of clarity in the court's ruling from the bench," Picasso said. "It was very clear that Judge Moses expressly required a reversion to the 2017 policy, and anything short of that is a continued flagrant violation of the court's order."

Such open defiance of judge's order is very unusual from a government agency, said Carl Tobias, a former University of Montana Law School professor now at the University of Richmond. When officials disagree with a ruling, the typical response is to appeal to a higher court, he said.

"Appeal is what you contemplate — not that you can nullify a judge's orders. Otherwise, people just wouldn't obey the law," Tobias said. "The system can't work that way."

The move could leave state officials open to contempt of court charges, which in some cases can lead to jail time for offenders, Tobias said. He added that the attorneys representing the state were likely aware of the potential consequences but were "caught in the middle" between a recalcitrant agency and the judge.

The legal dispute comes as conservative lawmakers in numerous states have sought to restrict transgender rights, including with bans on transgender girls competing in girls school sports.

The Montana law said people had to have a "surgical procedure" before they could change the sex listed on their birth certificate, something Moses found to be unconstitutional because it did not specify what type of procedure was required.

Gov. Greg Gianforte's administration then created a new rule that blocked changes to birth certificates entirely, unless there was a clerical error.

Moses said during Thursday morning's hearing that his April ruling had been "clear as a bell" and compared the state's subsequent actions to a person twice convicted of assault who tries to change their name following a third accusation to avoid a harsher punishment.

"Isn't that exactly what happened here?" Moses asked. "I'm a bit offended the department thinks they can do anything they want."

One of the plaintiffs in the case, Amelia Marquez, said she was disgusted by the state's response.

"We have people that think that they're above the law and don't have to listen to the judiciary branch of our government," she said.

After learning the state planned to defy the court order, Shawn Reagor with the Montana Human Rights Network said the organization "will not stand by while the Gianforte administration blatantly disregards rulings from the courts to continue a vindictive attack on the trans community."

Only Tennessee, Oklahoma and West Virginia have sweeping prohibitions against birth certificate changes similar to what Montana has pursued, advocates for transgender rights say. Bans in Idaho and Ohio were struck down in 2020.

A Republican lawmaker who voted in favor of the 2021 law suggested Moses was biased in favor of the plaintiffs in the case. Moses was appointed to the court by former Gov. Steve Bullock, a Democrat.

"Like clockwork, Judge Moses issued yet another predetermined order in favor of liberal plaintiffs without thoroughly engaging with the legal issues at hand," Sen. Greg Hertz of Polson said in a statement.

The ACLU of Montana had asked Moses to clarify his order after the state health department enacted its new temporary rule effectively banning birth certificate changes a month after Moses handed down his temporary injunction in the case. That rule was made permanent last week.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 47 of 82

The state argued the injunction did not prevent the health department from making rules, but Moses said under case law the injunction reinstated the 2017 rules and any other changes are on hold while the case is decided.

State officials denied that the new rule preventing birth certificate changes was adopted in bad faith. Montana Assistant Solicitor Kathleen Smithgall said the state came up with the new rule to fill a gap in regulations after the 2021 law was blocked.

"Judge Moses mischaracterized the words of his own order, the parties' motives, and the state of the law," said Kyler Nerison, a spokesperson for Attorney General Austin Knudsen.

## **EXPLAINER: States scramble as US abortion landscape shifts**

By JULIE CARR SMYTH and ARLEIGH RODGERS Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — Almost three months after Roe v. Wade was overturned, the landscape of abortion access is still shifting significantly in some states, sometimes very quickly.

Changing restrictions and litigation in neighboring Indiana and Ohio this week illustrate the whiplash for providers and patients navigating sudden changes in what is allowed where.

Sister clinics who just weeks ago were sending patients from Ohio, where most abortions were banned, to Indiana, where the procedure was allowed, have now flip-flopped roles after the two states' access restrictions reversed, at least temporarily.

Here is a deeper look at the current state of the shifting national landscape:

### **WHAT CHANGED THIS WEEK?**

An Ohio judge blocked enforcement on Wednesday of the state's ban on most abortions after fetal cardiac activity is detected. The ban had been in effect since shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe on June 24. The judge's action allows abortions to resume in pregnancies up to 20 weeks' gestation for 14 days.

Then, on Thursday, a new Indiana law took effect that bans most abortions, marking its status as the first state in the nation to approve new abortion restrictions since the high court's abortion ruling. Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb signed the ban into law Aug. 5.

Under the new law, abortions are 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.

### **HOW IS THIS AFFECTING PROVIDERS?**

All seven Indiana abortion clinics lost their licenses Thursday under the state's new law, which allows abortions to only be performed in hospitals or outpatient surgical centers owned by hospitals. More than 98% of the state's abortions were done by those clinics in 2021.

Abortion clinics in the state told The Associated Press they will remain open to refer patients out of state, including to neighboring Ohio.

"I thought that today would be the worst day," Dr. Katie McHugh, a provider at the Indianapolis abortion clinic Women's Med, told the AP on Thursday. "But I think the worst day was yesterday, knowing that the patients that we saw in the office yesterday were the last ones that we would see, and knowing how much it meant for all of us that were there — the staff, the physicians and the patients — that we were able to provide that care to the last moment."

Dr. Alison Case — who since 2020 provided medication abortions at the South Bend abortion clinic Whole Woman's Health — will continue her work as a family practice doctor in Indianapolis.

She said she worries for the labor and delivery patients she oversees at a hospital in the city.

"I think there's going to be more people forced to carry their pregnancies to term, so I think we'll see more deliveries," she said. "But I think, important to note, we're also going to see more of these complications."

In Ohio, clinics were preparing for a high volume of patients coming in from surrounding states following the judge's ruling — though they realize it could be short-lived.

"Well, I never expected to be a surge state," said Iris Harvey, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 48 of 82

of Greater Ohio, using the new lingo of the field. "For 14 days, we might be."

Ohio clinics that had been prohibited from performing most abortions will resume those services beginning Friday.

## HOW IS THIS AFFECTING PATIENTS?

The shifting legal landscape has required patients in affected states to regroup, sometimes repeatedly. Kellie Copeland, executive director of Pro-Choice Ohio, an abortion rights advocacy group, said some have been unable to terminate their pregnancies.

Harvey said Planned Parenthood has set up a central location for abortion requests and hired additional staff, oftentimes social workers, to help people navigate various states' laws as they change.

McHugh said Women's Med received "dozens" of calls Wednesday from patients who could not schedule an abortion that day due to Indiana's 18-hour waiting period on the procedure.

"Every time it was a difficult conversation, because every time it was like breaking the news to someone that they couldn't get their care," McHugh said.

Lawyers were still reviewing whether patients traveling from Indiana to Ohio would be able to get anything but a surgical abortion. The two-pill regimen used in medication abortions would generally mean taking one pill in a permissive state and one in a restrictive state, the latter potentially breaking the law, providers said.

Anti-abortion groups continue to tout existing restrictions and the new ones being passed in the states in the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling.

"Ohio is pro-life and this law was supported by the people," said Margie Christie, president of the Right to Life Action Coalition of Ohio. "Women do not need abortion in Ohio. We have abundant resources for mothers and their children to thrive."

## WHEN WILL THE LANDSCAPE SHIFT AGAIN?

With Indiana's ban taking effect, the nation has 13 states with current bans on abortion at any point in pregnancy and one more, Georgia, with a ban on abortions after fetal cardiac activity can be detected — usually around six weeks, often before women realize they're pregnant.

Though it had not yet been signed by the governor, a ban approved by West Virginia lawmakers Wednesday had already prompted the state's only abortion clinic to close, pushing potentially more patients to neighboring Ohio. Arizona's ban is scheduled to kick in Sept. 24, with legal cases and legislative action expected to continue to change the status of abortion access of some states.

Then, on Nov. 8, abortion-related measures will be on ballots in at least five states. In California, Michigan and Vermont, voters will be asked to protect the right to abortion. In Kentucky, the question is whether to amend the state constitution to declare that it does not include the right to abortion. And Montana voters will decide on a measure to require medical care for infants born alive after an attempted abortion.

---

Reporter Geoff Mulvihill in Cherry Hill, New Jersey, contributed to this report. Arleigh Rodgers is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues. Follow Arleigh Rodgers on Twitter: @arleighrodgers

## EXPLAINER: Ethereum is ditching its 'miners.' Why?

By DAVID HAMILTON AP Technology Editor

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A complex software change to the cryptocurrency ethereum holds the potential to dramatically reduce its energy consumption — and resulting climate-related pollution. But the transition known as "the merge" is not going to do the trick by itself.

With the change enacted late Wednesday, ethereum — the world's second most valuable cryptocurrency after bitcoin — has effectively eliminated the energy-intensive task of "mining" new coins on its blockchain. Mining requires enormous computing power, which translates to huge energy consumption and, in many areas, greater greenhouse gas emissions at older power plants.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 49 of 82

By itself, however, the ethereum change won't eliminate crypto's expected environmental impact, although it's expected to help a great deal. The backers of bitcoin have so far shown little interest in doing away with mining.

## BACK UP A SECOND. WHAT IS CRYPTOCURRENCY?

Cryptocurrency is a type of digital money secured via encryption in a publicly viewable and purportedly unalterable way. Using these currencies, people can make direct financial transactions without any need for a bank or other financial intermediaries.

They run on constructs called blockchains, which consist of digitally signed transaction records that document every time a crypto coin is transferred or spent. Blockchains are also known as distributed ledgers because synchronized copies are stored on computers around the world; these copies also make it extremely difficult to alter, insert or destroy blockchain records.

## IS CRYPTO BAD FOR THE ENVIRONMENT?

Researchers who have studied cryptocurrency are alarmed by its enormous energy usage. A recent report by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy cited research findings that as of August 2022, annual electricity consumption for cryptocurrency exceeded that of individual nations such as Argentina or Australia.

This problem, however, isn't inherent to cryptocurrency. Most of that energy is used for mining, a computationally intensive process for verifying blockchain transactions that also distributes new coins as rewards for competing miners. Crypto mining favors well-resourced groups that can put together a lot of specialized computers and supply them with electricity as cheaply as possible.

That can have unexpected external effects. Prior to the plunge in cryptocurrency values earlier this year, demand for computer graphics cards soared, pushing up prices and emptying store shelves — much to the chagrin of gamers. Such cards turned out to be ideal for crypto mining rigs. Cities and states in the U.S. have also pushed back against crypto firms' plans to build mining sites in their jurisdictions, citing not only power usage but noise.

## SO WHAT DOES THE ETHEREUM CHANGE DO?

Primarily, the software update eliminates the need for miners. Where ethereum previously set miners against each other to solve complex cryptographic puzzles and win new coin as rewards, it now requires parties who want to help validate transactions to put some skin in the game by "staking" a certain amount of ether, the ethereum coin.

Parties from this pool are randomly chosen to validate a block of transactions; a wider group of ether holders will then check their work. Successful validators get paid a reward in ether that is generally proportional to the size of their stake and the length of time they've held it.

## WILL THAT HELP THE ENVIRONMENT?

The ethereum merge many not sound like much, but it could have dramatic effects. Alex de Vries, an economist and founder of the Digiconomist consultancy that focuses on the environmental impact of cryptocurrencies, calculates the shift will result in energy savings of between 99% and 99.99% for ethereum. (De Vries emphasizes that his work has not yet been peer reviewed.)

"It's a really small change to the code that's going to have a very big impact on environmental sustainability," he said. Prior to the merge, ethereum was doing up to 900 billion calculations per second that are now not needed anymore.

According to his calculations, ethereum was responsible for about 44 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions per year. If he's correct, these will now be drastically reduced.

On the other hand, bitcoin's energy usage and greenhouse gas emission is significantly larger than ethereum's — and there doesn't seem to be much enthusiasm for moving away from bitcoin mining.

Ethereum's merge was long planned and involved years of preparation by its developer teams, said Lena Klaassen, co-founder of the Crypto Carbon Ratings Institute, a German company that specializes in measuring crypto environmental impacts. "Such ambitions never existed for Bitcoin and thus I don't expect that Bitcoin will transition" away from mining any time soon, she said.



AP reporter Frank Jordans in Berlin contributed to this article.

## **Biden, Dems see both political, economic wins in rail deal**

By JOSH BOAK and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — While President Joe Biden was quick to hail Thursday's strike-averting rail agreement as a win for America, it was also a big win for him politically, allowing Democrats to sidestep what could have been an economic debacle before November's midterm elections.

Pressured to choose between labor and business, the president pushed hard for them to work together.

Prodded by a strategic late-night phone call from Biden — and fortified with Italian takeout — corporate and union negotiators spent 20 hours in intense talks at the Labor Department. They reached wee-hours common ground following an appeal to act in the shared interests of the nation, avoiding a strike that would have shut down railroads across the country.

By keeping the trains running, Biden overcame a major economic threat that doubled as a political risk. His fellow Democrats already face a difficult fight to maintain their narrow hold on power in Congress amid soaring inflation. Biden's own approval rating, though improving, is still underwater.

The tentative deal, which still requires approval from a dozen unions, would raise members' pay 24% over five years and improve work schedules and health care in a way that Biden said recognizes "the dignity of their work." Railroad companies could continue vital operations and avoid a costly shutdown, while being in a better place to recruit and retain employees.

"This agreement allows us to continue to rebuild a better America with an economy that truly works for working people and their families," Biden said Thursday in celebratory remarks in the Rose Garden. "Today is a win, I mean it sincerely, a win for America."

Members of one union, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers District 19, voted to reject the tentative agreement, but the IAM agreed to delay any strike by its members to allow more time for possible additional negotiations and for other unions to vote.

White House officials had worried that a rail shutdown, no matter how long, would have perilous economic consequences just as voters make up their minds ahead of the November elections. The settlement, instead, now provides Biden an opportunity to show his administration is delivering for voters, as dire news coverage yields to relief at the cost of only a few canceled Amtrak trains.

Through the talks, Biden managed to avoid the disruption without offending either labor or corporate constituencies. Biden, his advisers and Democrats across the country know the broadest possible coalition is needed to help candidates compete in midterms that have historically favored the party out of political power.

Biden intentionally chose not to dictate the terms of the agreement to either side, said Labor Secretary Marty Walsh.

"The president's focus was making sure that a contract was done that is satisfactory to everybody — and also prevented a major disruption to our economy," said Walsh, who moved the last six hours of negotiations into his office.

What initially appeared to be a worst-case scenario ultimately turned into a collective sigh of relief.

"This is the best outcome the Biden administration could have hoped for," said Jake Rosenfeld, a sociologist at Washington University in St. Louis who has researched the labor movement. He noted that the unions' requests for sick leave and reliable scheduling aligned with Biden's own values.

"Unlike in past labor disputes involving the railroads, the administration never had to put real pressure on the unions, but instead could act like an honest broker looking for a compromise between management and union positions," Rosenfeld said. "That keeps the administration in good graces with labor more broadly."

Business interests also praised the administration's efforts. John Drake, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce vice president of transportation policy, said Walsh came to the table with a level of expertise and the trust of stakeholders. That made it easier to finalize a deal.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 51 of 82

"The ramifications of a rail strike were so catastrophic that we couldn't even begin to catalog it," Drake said. "This is 100% a win."

Not everyone celebrated. Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell had proposed a measure on Wednesday that would have forced the unions to accept a contract. He criticized Senate Democrats for blocking his proposal, only to have aides stay silent on Thursday when asked whether the agreement was good for the economy.

Biden has gone out of his way to champion organized labor, often having members of local unions introduce him for speeches across the country.

UAW Local 598's Ryan Buchalski, introduced Biden on Wednesday at the Detroit auto show as "the most union- and labor-friendly president in American history" and someone who was "kickin' ass for the working class." Buchalski harked back to pivotal sitdown strikes by autoworkers in the 1930s.

In the speech that followed, Biden recognized that he wouldn't be in the White House without the support of unions such as the UAW and the IBEW electrical workers, saying that autoworkers "brung me to the dance."

About 16% of voters in the 2020 election came from union households, which backed Biden 56% to 42% in the narrowly decided race, according to AP VoteCast.

The president's approval took a major hit starting last year because of inflation worsened by supply chain disruptions for autos, furniture and other basic goods coming out of the pandemic recession. The problems intensified this year with a baby formula shortage and diminished supplies worldwide of food, oil and natural gas after Russia's February invasion of Ukraine. Consumer inflation hit a 40-year high in June, only to start drifting down in the two months since.

Biden's popularity has been regaining ground as gasoline costs have declined. A new poll by AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research shows his approval improving from a low of 36% in July to 45% in the most recent survey.

Estimates put the daily cost of a railroad shutdown at \$2 billion. A stoppage would have left stranded raw materials for factories, fuel and even the chemicals needed to treat wastewater. That would have been a potentially debilitating blow just eight weeks before Election Day, which could determine control of the House, Senate and state governments.

AFL-CIO President Liz Shuler said the deal will ultimately have an impact on the midterm elections because workers want officials who will stand up for them. The mix of the pandemic, high prices and economic inequality has left many workers at the breaking point and they want a different social contract, she said.

"That's what this election is all about — rewriting the rules of the economy," Shuler said.

AP Writer Christopher Rugaber contributed to this report.

## **Cruel or harmless? Pastors mixed on GOP migrant transports**

By PETER SMITH Associated Press

As Republican governors ramp up their high-profile transports of migrants to Democratic-run jurisdictions, the practice is getting a mixed reaction from Christian faith leaders — many of whom, especially evangelicals, have supported GOP candidates by large numbers in recent elections.

Some depict the actions as inhumanely exploiting vulnerable people for political ends, while others say it's a harmless way of calling attention to the impact of immigration on states near the southern border.

"Playing political games scores points — and the hypocrisy of the current immigration system is easy to point out," Ed Stetzer, a professor, dean and executive director of the Wheaton College Billy Graham Center in Illinois, said in a statement.

"However, it does not solve the actual problems. ... Let's fix the system," he added, "and stop turning people into pawns of political one-upmanship."

But the Rev. Robert Jeffress, senior pastor at First Baptist Church of Dallas and a prominent supporter of former President Donald Trump, who imposed restrictive immigration policies during his term, backed

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 52 of 82

the transports.

"Government officials who refuse to fulfill their biblical responsibility to protect our borders should be made to feel the effects of their lawless policies," Jeffress said via email.

"Busing illegal migrants to Washington D.C. or Martha's Vineyard is not exactly the same as sending them to Siberia," he continued. "Most Americans would love the opportunity to visit either destination."

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis flew immigrants on two planes to the upscale island of Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts on Wednesday, while Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has also dispatched migrants to cities with Democratic mayors. Most recently, on Thursday, two busloads from his state disembarked near Vice President Kamala Harris' residence in Washington. Arizona Gov. Doug Ducey also has adopted the policy.

The Republican governors are trying to draw attention to what they contend is failed border policy under the Biden administration.

Brent Leatherwood, president of the Southern Baptist Convention's public policy agency, the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission, said such actions "seem to be more about public relations."

"We have called long for strengthened border protections and at the same time (for) folks who are coming into this country to be treated in a way that respects the imago dei (image of God)," he said.

Most Americans, including Southern Baptists, "want a solution to our broken immigration system," Leatherwood added. "Let's cut down on some of these actions and instead come to the table and figure out a solution that actually respects human dignity."

Joshua Manning, pastor of the ethnically diverse Community Baptist Church in Noel, Missouri, a town of 1,800 with a large immigrant population, agreed that the transports are the wrong way to highlight a real problem.

"You shouldn't be loading people up and treating them as political props — that's dehumanizing," Manning said.

He said, however, that immigration is a tricky subject. Places that have declared themselves in support of migrants and asylum seekers may not "see the difficulties of everything that's associated with that," he said.

In the mostly Latino neighborhood of Corona, in New York City's Queens borough, the large congregation of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic church held a special service Wednesday to pray for the immigrants. In an interview, their pastor, the Rev. Manuel Rodriguez, called the transports a "horrible crime."

"All of us are horrified about the steady violation of human rights by Gov. DeSantis and other governors who are so inhumane and unethical to keep sending human beings to places where they weren't even informed that they'd be sent," Rodriguez said.

"You don't use human beings who are fleeing their homelands in fear, because of violence, hunger, persecution, because of the threat of rape ... as tools, as objects to make political points," he said.

---

Associated Press religion coverage receives support through the AP's collaboration with The Conversation US, with funding from Lilly Endowment Inc. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

## Doc accused of injecting drugs into IV bags, causing death

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas anesthesiologist was arrested on charges alleging that he injected nerve-blocking agents and other drugs into bags of intravenous fluids at the surgical center where he works, which led to the death of a co-worker and caused cardiac emergencies for several patients, authorities announced Thursday.

Dr. Raynaldo Rivera Ortiz Jr. was arrested Wednesday on a criminal complaint alleging that he tampered with a consumer product causing death and intentional drug adulteration, according to a statement from the U.S. attorney's office for the northern district of Texas. If convicted, he could be sentenced to life in prison.

Ortiz, 59, remained in the Dallas County jail without bond on Thursday. Records don't list an attorney for him.

According to the criminal complaint, a 55-year-old female coworker of Ortiz experienced a medical emer-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 53 of 82

gency and died June 21 immediately after treating herself for dehydration with an IV bag of what she thought was saline taken from the surgical center. An autopsy found that she died from a lethal dose of bupivacaine, a nerve-blocking drug that is rarely abused but often is used when an anesthetic is given.

On Aug. 24, an 18-year-old male patient experienced a cardiac emergency during routine sinus surgery, was intubated and transferred to an intensive care unit. Chemical analysis of the fluid from a saline bag used during his surgery revealed the presence of bupivacaine, the stimulant epinephrine and the topical anesthetic lidocaine, drugs that could have caused the patient's sudden symptoms, according to prosecutors.

The surgical center staff concluded that the incidents suggested a pattern of intentional adulteration of IV bags used at the center. They identified 10 additional unexpected cardiac emergencies that occurred during otherwise unremarkable surgeries between May and August, which was an exceptionally high rate of complications over such a short period, according to the complaint.

The incidents began two days after Ortiz was notified of a disciplinary inquiry of an incident during which he allegedly "deviated from the standard of care" during an anesthesia procedure when a patient experienced a medical emergency. Ortiz, who had a history of disciplinary actions against him, expressed concern to other physicians over the disciplinary action and complained that the center was trying to "crucify" him.

The complaint alleges that all of the incidents occurred around the time Ortiz performed services at the facility, but none happened while he was on vacation.

In one instance captured in the surveillance video, agents observed him walking quickly from an operating room to an IV bag warmer, placing a bag inside, visually scanning the empty hallway and walking quickly away. Just over an hour later, a 56-year-old woman suffered a cardiac emergency during a scheduled cosmetic surgery after a bag from the warmer was used during her procedure, according to the complaint.

In another instance recorded on video, agents saw Ortiz leave his operating room with an IV bag concealed in what appeared to be a paper folder, swap the bag with another from the warmer and walk away. Roughly half an hour later, a 54-year-old woman suffered a cardiac emergency during a scheduled cosmetic surgery after a bag from the warmer was used during her procedure.

## As Roger Federer retires, an appreciation of his career

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

Roger Federer never let 'em see him sweat.

He played tennis with a style that only rarely betrayed the effort behind the masterful serving, the rare-in-its-day attacking and the flawless footwork. He was not one to grunt loudly on shots or celebrate wildly after them.

The way he wielded a racket helped him to win, yes, and win a lot, to the tune of 20 Grand Slam championships — a half-dozen more than any man before him — across a 15-year stretch, and 103 tournament titles in all, plus a Davis Cup trophy and Olympic medals for Switzerland, and spend week after week at No. 1 in the rankings. It also helped him manage to avoid serious injuries for so long and achieve the consistent excellence over decades he prized.

"Every time people write me off, or try to write me off, I'm able to bounce back," Federer once said in an interview with The Associated Press. On Thursday, at a little more than a month past his 41st birthday and after a series of knee operations, he announced that there would be no more comebacks.

It is a loss for tennis, to be sure, and a loss for the sports world. The news arrives less than two weeks after Serena Williams, who owns 23 Grand Slam singles titles, played what she indicated would be the last match of her own illustrious career shortly before she turns 41.

"Some depart, others come and the world keeps going," one of Federer's great rivals, Rafael Nadal, said recently. "It's a natural cycle."

OK, the world will keep going. But tennis will not be the same.

Not without Williams, who was feted at the just-concluded U.S. Open. And not without Federer, whose last tournament came last year at Wimbledon, and whose final appearance on court will be next week in London at the Laver Cup, a team event his management group founded.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 54 of 82

Tennis will miss Federer, the player. And Federer, the statesman and ambassador who spoke several languages. And Federer, the instantly recognizable global pitchman who brought his sport to places all over the world that didn't even have tournaments through exhibitions to raise money for his charitable foundation.

Once a tantrum-throwing kid — on the court and off, where he would overturn a chess table when losing to his father — who grew up admiring basketball stars such as Michael Jordan and soccer players more than tennis players, Federer became a symbol of his sport and someone known as much for the way he carried himself as the hardware he accumulated.

"He was the epitome of a champion; class, grace, humility, beloved by everyone," Hall of Famer Chris Evert wrote on Twitter.

He became friends with Vogue editor Anna Wintour and showed up at the Met Gala. He had a special jacket with a gold "15" on it to don right there on Centre Court after winning Wimbledon in 2009 to break Pete Sampras' men's mark of 14 career major trophies. He kept playing, and winning, well past an age that is customary for that sort of thing in tennis, to the point that his two sets of twins — now ages 13 and 8 — eventually were able to be present in courtside guest boxes. He returned after left knee surgery in 2016, the first significant absence of his career, and used a larger racket head and a rebuilt backhand to collect his last three Slams.

"There won't be anybody like him," said Tony Godsick, Federer's agent since 2005. "There will be people who will win more tournaments or will have more Grand Slams. There will always be a new No. 1. There will always be someone holding a trophy up. But no one has had such a big impact and will continue to have such a big impact."

When it came to defining success, Federer cared about longevity as much as anything. He was proud of facing — and defeating — stars from an earlier generation (Sampras and Andre Agassi), from his own generation (Andy Roddick, Lleyton Hewitt, Marat Safin), from the next generation (Rafael Nadal, Novak Djokovic, Andy Murray, Stan Wawrinka) and from the current crop (Daniil Medvedev, Stefanos Tsitsipas).

He chased the first group, dominated the second, dueled with the third — Nadal, with 22, and Djokovic with 21, eventually surpassed Federer's Grand Slam total — and set an example for the fourth.

Aside from those major trophies won from 2003 to 2018, Federer put together unprecedented stretches of elite play, appearing in 10 consecutive Grand Slam finals (and 18 of 19), along with 23 semifinals and 36 quarterfinals in a row.

His contests against Nadal, now 36, and Djokovic, 35, were happenings, tantalizing matchups against a backdrop of differing ways of play and contrasting personalities.

"I was lucky enough to play so many epic matches that I will never forget," Federer wrote in the section of his goodbye post addressed to his competitors. "We battled fairly, with passion and intensity, and I always tried my best to respect the history of the game. I feel extremely grateful. We pushed each other, and together we took tennis to new levels."

Predicted to be a star from the time he won the Wimbledon junior title as a teenager — a sentiment that only built when he stunned Sampras in the fourth round there in 2001 — it took Federer a little time to get pointed in the right direction: He did not win a quarterfinal match in his first 16 Grand Slam appearances.

There were six first-round exits in that span, including at the 2003 French Open. So then came this concern: Might Federer not quite be as good as he, and others, thought?

It all came together at Wimbledon that year, where Federer claimed his first Grand Slam title at the tournament that always meant the most to him. And off he went.

"There was pressure from all sides; also from myself. I wanted to do better in Slams," Federer said that day. "I've always believed, but then in the end, when it happens, you don't think that it is possible. It's an absolute dream for me. I was always joking around when I was a boy: 'I'm going to win this.'"

He would end up with those men's-record eight at Wimbledon, plus six at the Australian Open, five at the U.S. Open and one at the French Open. He is one of eight men with a career Grand Slam, holds the records for most consecutive weeks at No. 1 in the ATP computerized rankings and for oldest to get there, and set a mark for most total weeks that Djokovic eclipsed.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 55 of 82

If anyone worried that Federer is gone for good, one of those athletes who wants to disappear after the playing days are done, he concluded his farewell note with these words: "To the game of tennis: I love you and will never leave you."

More AP tennis: <https://apnews.com/hub/tennis> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## Griner, Whelan families to meet Biden amid US-Russia talks

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden plans to meet at the White House on Friday with family members of WNBA star Brittney Griner and Michigan corporate security executive Paul Whelan, both of whom remain jailed in Russia, the White House announced Thursday.

"He wanted to let them know that they remain front of mind and that his team is working on this every day, on making sure that Brittney and Paul return home safely," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said at Thursday's press briefing at the White House.

The separate meetings are to be the first in-person encounter between Biden and the families and are taking place amid sustained but so far unsuccessful efforts by the administration to secure the Americans' release. The administration said in July that it had made a "substantial proposal" to get them home, but despite plans for the White House meetings, there is no sign a breakthrough is imminent.

"While I would love to say that the purpose of this meeting is to inform the families that the Russians have accepted our offer and we are bringing their loved ones home — that is not what we're seeing in these negotiations at this time," Jean-Pierre said.

She added: "The Russians should accept our offer. The Russians should accept our offer today."

Griner has been held in Russia since February on drug-related charges. She was sentenced last month to nine years in prison after pleading guilty and has appealed the punishment. Whelan is serving a 16-year sentence on espionage-related charges that he and his family say are false. The U.S. government regards both as wrongfully detained, placing their cases with the office of its top hostage negotiator.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken took the unusual step of announcing two months ago that the administration had made a substantial proposal to Russia. Since then, U.S. officials have continued to press that offer in hopes of getting serious negotiations underway, and have been following up through the same channel that produced an April prisoner swap that brought Marine veteran Trevor Reed home from Russia, said a senior administration official who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity in advance of Thursday's formal announcement.

The negotiations, already strained because of tense relations between Washington and Moscow over Russia's invasion of Ukraine, have also been complicated by Russia's apparent resistance to the proposal the Americans put on the table.

The Russians, who have indicated that they are open to negotiations but have chided the Americans to conduct them in private, have come back with suggestions that are not within the administration's ability to deliver, said the administration official, declining to elaborate.

The administration has not provided specifics about its proposal, but a person familiar with the matter previously confirmed it had offered to release Viktor Bout, a convicted Russian arms dealer who is imprisoned in the U.S. and who has long been sought by Moscow. It is also possible that, in the interests of symmetry, Russia might insist on having two of its citizens released from prison.

Biden spoke by phone in July with Griner's wife, Cherrille, and with Whelan's sister, Elizabeth, but both families have also requested in-person meetings. On Friday, Biden plans to speak at the White House with Cherrille Griner and with the player's agent in one meeting and with Elizabeth Whelan in the other, according to the official.

The meetings are being done separately so as to ensure that each family has private time with the president. But the fact that they are happening on the same day shows the extent to which the two cases have become intertwined since the only deal that is presumably palatable to the U.S. is one that gets both Americans — a famous WNBA player and a Michigan man who until recently was little known to the

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 56 of 82

public — home together at the same time,

In the past several months, representatives of both families have expressed frustration over what they perceived as a lack of aggressive action and coordination from the administration.

Cherelle Griner, for instance, told The Associated Press in an interview in June that she was dismayed after the failure of a phone call from her wife that was supposed to have been patched through by the American Embassy in Moscow left the couple unable to connect on their fourth anniversary.

Whelan's relatives have sought to keep attention on his case, anxious that it has been overshadowed in the public eye by the focus on the far more prominent Griner — a two-time Olympic gold medalist and seven-time WNBA all-star. They also conveyed disappointment when Whelan, despite having been held in Russia since December 2018, was not included in a prisoner swap last April that brought home Reed.

Friday's meetings were scheduled before news broke this week of an unconnected trip to Russia by Bill Richardson, a former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations who has been a veteran emissary in hostage and detainee cases. Administration officials reacted coolly to that trip, with State Department spokesman Ned Price saying Wednesday that dialogue with Russia outside the "established channel" risks hindering efforts to get Griner and Whelan home.

Administration officials say work on hostage and detainee cases persists regardless of whether a family receives a meeting with the president, though there is also no question such an encounter can help establish a meaningful connection.

Biden met in the Oval Office in March with Reed's parents after the Texas couple stood with a large sign outside the White House calling for their son's release. The following month, he returned home.

Follow Eric Tucker at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

## Democrats punt same-sex marriage vote until after election

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats are punting a vote to protect same-sex and interracial marriages until after the November midterm elections, pulling back just days after Majority Leader Chuck Schumer vowed to put the Senate on the record on the issue "in the coming weeks."

The delay was requested by key senators who have been negotiating changes to the legislation and comes at a time when many Republicans have been signaling opposition.

Wisconsin Democratic Sen. Tammy Baldwin, the lead champion of the bill, had predicted they would be able to secure the 10 Republican votes needed to break a filibuster and push it to passage. But hopes dimmed in recent days as some Republicans raised concerns about whether the bill would protect the rights of religious institutions, business owners or others who oppose same-sex marriage.

The decision adds to the uncertainty facing the legislation, as it gives interest groups and other lawmakers opposing the bill more time to rally Republicans against it. But supporters hope that by pushing the vote back, they will relieve election-year pressure from some conservative voters and persuade more Republicans to support the legislation.

"We've asked Leader Schumer for additional time and we appreciate he has agreed," Baldwin said in a statement, along with other members of the bipartisan group that is negotiating the bill. "We are confident that when our legislation comes to the Senate floor for a vote, we will have the bipartisan support to pass the bill."

The statement from Baldwin, Democratic Sen. Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona and Republican Sens. Susan Collins of Maine, Rob Portman of Ohio and Thom Tillis of North Carolina came after a meeting with Schumer, who had been considering a vote as soon as next week.

A spokesman for Schumer said he is "100 percent committed" to holding a vote.

"Leader Schumer will not give up and will hold the bipartisan group to their promise that the votes to pass this marriage equality legislation will be there after the election," said Schumer spokesman Justin Goodman.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 57 of 82

Democrats and the small group of Republicans have moved to safeguard same-sex marriage following the Supreme Court decision over the summer that overturned *Roe v. Wade* and the federal right to an abortion. Lawmakers fear the court's ruling, and a concurring opinion from Justice Clarence Thomas, indicate that an earlier high court decision protecting same-sex marriage could come under threat.

"We all want to pass this quickly," Schumer said last week. "I hope there will be 10 Republicans to support it."

The Senate push for the historic vote — and the openness by some Republicans to back it in an election year — reflects a large shift on the issue since the Supreme Court's 2015 *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision legalizing gay marriage nationwide. Polling shows widespread public support for allowing such unions.

The bipartisan group has been working closely with the GOP senators who are open to the legislation but have religious liberty concerns. They finalized an amendment this week that would clarify that the legislation does not affect the rights of such private individuals or businesses — rights that are already enshrined in law. The legislation requires the federal government and states to recognize all marriages that were legal where they were performed, along with interracial marriages.

"Through bipartisan collaboration, we've crafted commonsense language that respects religious liberty and Americans' diverse beliefs, while upholding our view that marriage embodies the highest ideals of love, devotion, and family," the group said in the statement.

But some Republicans who had wavered on the bill were not yet on board.

Responding to the group's statement Thursday, the White House emphasized again that the administration was leaving the mechanics of the legislation — such as the timing of a vote — to the Senate.

"We believe the Senate should find consensus just as the American people have," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Thursday.

The bill protecting same-sex marriage cleared the House in a July vote with the support of 47 Republicans — a larger than expected number that gave the measure a boost in the Senate. But as the weeks went on, more Republicans raised religious liberty issues.

Another proposed tweak to the bill would make clear that a marriage is between two people, an effort to ward off some far-right criticism that the legislation could endorse polygamy.

It's not clear how many Republicans would support the bill. In addition to Collins, Portman and Tillis, a fourth GOP senator, Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski, has supported same-sex marriage in the past. Wisconsin Sen. Ron Johnson, who is up for reelection this year, has said he doesn't see a "reason to oppose it" but has talked on both sides of the issue in recent weeks.

Most Republicans opposing the legislation have said it is simply unnecessary because the court ruling still stands. But others have gone further.

One group that has been opposed, the conservative Alliance Defending Freedom, has pushed back on the legislation.

"In the grander scheme, the Respect for Marriage Act is a way of putting an exclamation mark on the sexual revolution and its ideology," wrote Ryan Womack, who works for the group, in a blog posted on its website.

---

Associated Press writer Seung Min Kim contributed to this report.

## Alabama sidesteps compensation for survivor of '63 KKK blast

By JAY REEVES Associated Press

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Sarah Collins Rudolph lost an eye and still has pieces of glass inside her body from a Ku Klux Klan bombing that killed her sister and three other Black girls at an Alabama church 59 years ago, and she's still waiting on the state to compensate her for those injuries.

Gov. Kay Ivey sidestepped the question of financial compensation two years ago in apologizing to Rudolph for her "untold pain and suffering," saying legislative involvement was needed. But nothing has been done despite the efforts of attorneys representing Rudolph, leaving unresolved the question of payment even though victims of other attacks, including 9/11, were compensated.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 58 of 82

Rudolph, known as the "Fifth Little Girl" for surviving the infamous attack on 16th Street Baptist Church, which was depicted in Spike Lee's 1997 documentary "4 Little Girls," has been rankled by the state's inaction.

Speaking in an interview with The Associated Press, Rudolph said then-Gov. George C. Wallace helped lay the groundwork for the Klan attack with his segregationist rhetoric, and the state bears some responsibility for the bombing, which wasn't prosecuted for years.

"If they hadn't stirred up all that racist hate that was going on at the time I don't believe that church would have been bombed," said Rudolph.

Rudolph attended a White House summit about combatting hate-fueled violence on Thursday, the anniversary of the bombing, and was recognized by President Joe Biden.

"I visited the church on this day in 2019, and I'll visit with you and always remember what happened," Biden told Rudolph.

In Birmingham, hundreds gathered at the church for a commemorative service and wreath-laying at the spot where the bomb went off.

Rudolph said she still incurs medical expenses from the explosion, including a \$90 bill she gets every few months for work on the prosthetic she wears in place of the right eye that was destroyed by shrapnel on Sept. 15, 1963. Anything would help, but Rudolph believes she's due millions.

Ishan Bhabha, an attorney representing Rudolph, said the state's apology — made at Rudolph's request along with a plea for restitution — was only meant as a first step.

"She deserves justice in the form of compensation for the grievous injuries, and costs, she has had to bear for almost 60 years," he said. "We will continue to pursue any available avenues to get Sarah the assistance she needs and deserves."

Five girls were gathered in a downstairs bathroom at 16th Street Baptist Church when a bomb planted by KKK members went off outside, blowing a huge hole in the thick, brick wall. The blast killed Denise McNair, 11, and three 14-year-olds: Carole Robertson, Cynthia Morris, also referred to as Cynthia Wesley, and Addie Mae Collins, who was Rudolph's sister.

Three Klan members convicted of murder in the bombing years later died in prison, and a fourth suspect died without ever being charged. The bombing occurred eight months after Wallace proclaimed "segregation forever" in his inaugural speech and during the time when Birmingham schools were being racially integrated for the first time.

The church itself has gotten government money for renovations, as has the surrounding Birmingham Civil Rights National Monument, formed by President Barack Obama in 2017 in one of his last acts in office. "But not me," Rudolph said.

Ivey, at the time of the apology, said in a letter to Rudolph's lawyer that any possible compensation would require legislative approval, said press secretary Gina Maiola.

"Additionally, in attorney-to-attorney conversations that ensued soon after, that same point was reiterated," she said.

No bill has been introduced to compensate Rudolph, legislative records show, and it's unclear whether such legislation could win passage anyway since conservative Republicans hold an overwhelming majority and have made an issue of reeling in history lessons that could make white people feel bad about the past.

While the Alabama Crime Victims' Compensation Commission helps victims and families with expenses linked to a crime, state law doesn't allow it to address offenses that occurred before the agency was created in 1984.

Rudolph has spent a lifetime dealing with physical and mental pain from the bombing. Despite her injuries and lingering stress disorders, Rudolph provided testimony that helped lead to the convictions of the men accused of planting the bomb, and she's written a book about her life, titled "The 5th Little Girl."

Rudolph's husband, George Rudolph, said he's frustrated and mad over the way his wife has been treated. Victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks were compensated, he said, as were victims of the Boston Marathon bombing in 2013.

"Why can't they do something for Sarah?" he said.

Reeves is a member of AP's Race and Ethnicity Team.

## House OKs bill to curb political interference with census

By MIKE SCHNEIDER and KEVIN FREKING Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House passed legislation Thursday intended to make it harder for future presidents to interfere with the once-a-decade census that determines political power and federal funding, a move that comes in response to the Trump administration's failed effort to make a citizenship question part of the 2020 headcount.

The legislation was approved 220-208 with only Democratic lawmakers voting for it. The bill requires the Commerce secretary to certify to Congress that any new question sought on a future census be adequately studied and tested, and that the Government Accountability Office conduct a review of the certification.

It also seeks to limit political influence by mandating that a U.S. Census Bureau director can be fired only in cases of neglect of duty or malfeasance in office. It vests the director with all technical, operational and statistical decisions and says a deputy director has to be a career staffer with experience in demographics, statistics or related fields.

"Partisan manipulation of the census is simply wrong," said Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y., who chairs the Committee on Oversight and Reform, which investigated the Trump administration's efforts to add the citizenship question. "My bill would protect the census and ensure this cannot happen again regardless of which party is in power."

Republicans unanimously opposed the bill, saying it places more power in the hands of unelected bureaucrats, reducing accountability.

Rep. James Comer, R-Ky., said that the changes are designed to make it easier for future census results to favor Democratic-leaning states over Republican-leaning states by making it harder to overrule the director even when the president or Congress is concerned about decisions they believe will yield an unfair or inaccurate count.

The bill faces an uphill climb in the evenly divided Senate given the party-line vote in the House. But Sen. Gary Peters, the Democratic chairman of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, said "clearly we will take a very serious look at it."

The census determines how many congressional seats each state gets and the distribution of \$1.5 trillion in federal spending each year. Its results are used for redrawing political districts. The 2020 census was one of the most challenging in recent memory because of the attempts at political interference, the COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters.

In the years leading up to the 2020 census, the Trump administration unsuccessfully tried to add a citizenship question to the census questionnaire, a move that advocates feared would scare off Hispanics and immigrants from participating, whether they were in the country legally or not. The Supreme Court blocked the question.

The Trump administration also unsuccessfully tried to get the Census Bureau to exclude people in the country illegally from population figures used for divvying up congressional seats among the states, also called the apportionment numbers. The Trump administration tried to end data collection and processing earlier than the revised schedule put out by the Census Bureau in response to the pandemic, a move critics saw as an attempt by the administration to release the apportionment numbers while President Donald Trump was still in office.

The apportionment numbers were released in April 2021, four months after President Joe Biden took office and Trump left.

Critics claimed the citizenship question was inspired by a Republican redistricting expert who believed using citizen voting-age population instead of the total population for the purpose of redrawing of congressional and legislative districts could be advantageous to Republicans and non-Hispanic whites.

Even though many of the Trump administration's political efforts failed, some advocates believe they did have an impact, with significantly larger undercounts of most racial and ethnic minorities in the 2020

census compared to the 2010 census.

The Black population in the 2020 census had a net undercount of 3.3%, while it was almost 5% for Hispanics and 5.6% for American Indians and Native Alaskans living on reservations. Those identifying as some other race had a net undercount of 4.3%.

With the legislation, "we are reaffirming our commitment that every person in every community is counted," Rep. Judy Chu, D-Calif., and chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus.

## **Biden plans floating platforms to expand offshore wind power**

By MATTHEW DALY and JENNIFER McDERMOTT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration on Thursday announced plans to develop floating platforms in the deep ocean for wind towers that could power millions of homes and vastly expand offshore wind in the United States.

The plan would target sites in the Pacific Ocean off the California and Oregon coasts, as well as in the Atlantic in the Gulf of Maine.

President Joe Biden hopes to deploy up to 15 gigawatts of electricity through floating sites by 2035, enough to power 5 million homes. The administration has previously set a goal of 30 GW of offshore wind by 2030 using traditional technology that secures wind turbines to the ocean floor.

There are only a handful of floating offshore platforms in the world — all in Europe — but officials said the technology is developing and could soon establish the United States as a global leader in offshore wind.

The push for offshore wind is part of Biden's effort to promote clean energy and address global warming. Biden has pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030. A climate-and-tax bill he signed last month would spend about \$375 billion over 10 years to boost electric vehicles, jump-start renewable energy such as solar and wind power and develop alternative energy sources like hydrogen.

"Today we're launching efforts to seize a new opportunity — floating offshore wind — which will let us build in deep water areas where turbines can't be secured directly to the sea floor, but where there are strong winds that we can now harness," White House climate adviser Gina McCarthy said at a news conference Thursday.

Deepwater areas in the Pacific especially have potential to vastly expand offshore wind energy in the U.S., McCarthy and other officials said.

McCarthy acknowledged that the floating technology is at an early stage. But she said "coordinated actions" by federal and state officials, working with the private sector, can position the U.S. "to lead the world on floating offshore wind and bring offshore wind jobs to more parts of our country, including the West Coast."

Two pilot projects are planned off the north and central California coast, and a third is planned in southern Oregon, officials said.

Oregon Gov. Kate Brown said her state and California have some of the best wind resources in the world, but called floating platforms crucial to develop them due to the depth of the ocean floor along the West Coast.

Heather Zichal, CEO of the American Clean Power Association, an industry group, called the announcement a "game changer" that will spark investment in a new domestic supply chain and allow the U.S. to lead in this emerging technology. Along with incentives in the sweeping climate-and-tax bill, Zichal said she expects costs for offshore wind development to dramatically decrease, allowing deployment of clean energy at the scale needed to take action to address climate change.

The Energy Department announced nearly \$50 million, including funding from the bipartisan infrastructure law Biden signed last year, for research, development and demonstration work to support floating offshore wind platforms. Officials aim to cut the cost of floating offshore wind energy 70% by 2035, to \$45 per megawatt hour, Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said.

"We think the private sector is going to quickly see the real opportunity here not only to triple the country's accessible offshore wind resources but to make the U.S. a global leader in manufacturing and

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 61 of 82

deploying offshore wind," she said.

Emerging technology for floating platforms "means there's real opportunity for greater energy security," affordability "and course tens of thousands of good-paying in-demand jobs," such as electricians, engineers, ship builders and stevedores, Granholm said.

The Biden administration "is all-in on making floating offshore wind a real part of our of our energy mix and winning the global race to lead in this space," Granholm said. "And that's why we set this big, hairy audacious goal" of 15 gigawatts of floating offshore wind by 2035.

Interior Secretary Deb Haaland said her department has approved the nation's first two major offshore wind projects in federal waters and has begun reviewing at least 10 more. An offshore wind lease sale off the New York and New Jersey coast set new records, she said, and a lease sale also was held in North Carolina. Seven lease sales for offshore wind projects are planned by 2025.

More than half of the nation's offshore wind resources are in deep waters where traditional offshore wind foundations are not economically feasible, Haaland said, adding that "floating wind will help us reach areas once not attainable. And this is critical because floating wind will help us build on the administration's goal of 30 gigawatts of offshore wind by 2030."

The world's first floating wind farm has been operating off Scotland's coast since 2017. Norway-based Equinor, which operates the 30-megawatt Hywind Scotland project, is currently building a huge, floating offshore wind farm off Norway to provide electricity for offshore oil and gas fields.

Lauren Shane, a spokeswoman for Equinor in the United States, said the company is upbeat about floating offshore wind and will evaluate possible opportunities in the U.S. "We're excited about the development of offshore wind in the U.S.," she said.

Another offshore wind developer with projects in the United States, Denmark-based Ørsted, also applauded the administration's efforts.

"The administration's innovation priority is well-placed, and with the right investment and public-private partnerships," floating platforms "can expand deployment, drive down costs and bring more clean energy to millions of Americans," said Bryan Stockton, head of regulatory affairs for Ørsted North America.

McDermott reported from Providence, Rhode Island.

## Cardi B pleads guilty, resolving case over NYC club brawls

NEW YORK (AP) — Grammy-winning rapper Cardi B resolved a yearslong criminal case stemming from a pair of brawls at New York City strip clubs by pleading guilty Thursday in a deal that requires her to perform 15 days of community service.

The 29-year-old "WAP" singer agreed to a conditional discharge just as her case was about to go to trial, saying in a statement: "Part of growing up and maturing is being accountable for your actions."

Cardi B, a New York City native whose real name is Belcalis Almanzar, pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor charges stemming from the August 2018 fights. Ten other counts, including two felonies, were dismissed. Two co-defendants also pleaded guilty.

According to prosecutors, Cardi B and her entourage were targeting employees of Angels Strip Club in Flushing, Queens, over an apparent personal dispute.

In one fight, chairs, bottles and hookah pipes were thrown as the group argued with a bartender. She and another employee had minor injuries.

"No one is above the law," Queens District Attorney Melinda Katz said in a statement. "In pleading guilty today, Ms. Belcalis Almanzar and two co-defendants have accepted responsibility for their actions. This Office is satisfied with the resolution, which includes appropriate community service."

In 2019, Cardi B rejected a plea deal that would have given her a conditional discharge. Prosecutors then presented the case to a grand jury and obtained an indictment that included the two felony charges.

"I've made some bad decisions in my past that I am not afraid to face and own up to," said Cardi B, adding that she wanted to set a good example for her two children.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 62 of 82

"These moments don't define me and they are not reflective of who I am now," she added. "I'm looking forward to moving past this situation with my family and friends and getting back to the things I love the most—the music and my fans."

Cardi B's chart-topping hits include "I Like It" and the Maroon 5 collaboration "Girls Like You."

## Oz, Fetterman both target suburbs in key Pa. Senate race

By MARC LEVY Associated Press

BLUE BELL, Pa. (AP) — In a community college gymnasium in an affluent Philadelphia suburb, John Fetterman strode on to a makeshift stage to cheers and stood at a podium beneath a massive "Women for Fetterman" banner.

As the crowd of mostly women looked on, Fetterman unfurled a pink T-shirt emblazoned with his Democratic Senate campaign's familiar industrial-style lettering.

"My name is John —" he shouted, craning his neck to read the front of the shirt — "Fetterwoman!" The crowd roared in appreciation.

With the fall campaign election season kicking into high gear, Fetterman and his Republican rival, Dr. Mehmet Oz, are making a beeline for Philadelphia's heavily populated suburbs. The candidates in one of the nation's premier Senate races are holding rallies, bringing in surrogates and launching hard-edged TV ads aimed at wooing influential swing voters, particularly women.

For decades, Philadelphia's suburbs have been an important indicator of success for statewide candidates in the presidential battleground state, with the large number of swing voters there.

In the 2020 presidential election, the onetime Republican stronghold was decisive in President Joe Biden's victory in Pennsylvania, with moderate GOP voters joining with Democrats to produce an insurmountable deficit for Donald Trump.

For Oz, a celebrity heart surgeon and the former host of the daytime TV show "The Dr. Oz Show," turning around Trump's suburban slump and gaining ground with moderates is critical: Polls show he is not just trailing Fetterman, but also other down-ballot Republican candidates, campaign strategists say.

Fetterman has made abortion rights a prominent theme in the suburbs to invigorate female voters after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in June. Oz, meanwhile, avoids mention of Trump or abortion in the suburbs but paints Fetterman as soft on crime and unfit to serve because of a stroke he suffered in May.

A few days after rallying with Trump in northeastern Pennsylvania, Oz appeared with former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, a potential 2024 Republican presidential candidate, at a "Dose of Reality" town hall in Delaware County.

Besides airing a laundry list of grievances with national Democrats and Biden, Haley, Oz and other speakers at the Springfield banquet hall warned the crowd that Fetterman wanted to make their communities less safe.

"He's out trying to release people who've been convicted by a jury and sentenced by a judge for murder," Oz said.

Fetterman, as lieutenant governor and chair of the state Board of Pardons, has pushed for more commutations of life sentences for people convicted decades ago of murder or as accessories to murder.

They lampooned Fetterman's typical choice of dress — shorts and a hoodie — and suggested that Fetterman is avoiding reporters and debates because he is lying about the severity of the stroke's effects.

"If he can't live up to 110% of the job, he should have the courage to step out and say, 'I can't do it,'" Haley said. "But let me tell you someone who can do it," she said, calling Oz a "pro-family, pro-child, pro-parent, pro-education, pro-business freedom fighter."

Fetterman's campaign maintains that he is expected to make a full recovery — he still speaks haltingly and struggles to quickly respond to words he hears — and that Oz is desperately trying to find anything to help him make up ground in polls.

Meanwhile, as Oz tries to shift the focus of the campaign away from abortion rights, the issue shows

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 63 of 82

no sign of waning from voter's minds. On Tuesday, Republican Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina proposed a federal 15-week abortion ban bill, which Democrats seized on as an example of the extreme policies that Republicans will pursue if they win control of Congress in November.

In a statement issued after Graham's proposal, Oz — who has said he opposes abortion from conception, but with exceptions to protect the life of the mother and in cases of rape and incest — sidestepped a direct answer on what he thought of the bill.

"As a senator, he'd want to make sure that the federal government is not involved in interfering with the state's decisions on the topic," Oz's campaign said in the statement.

Noting Oz avoided saying whether he would support Graham's bill, Fetterman suggested that Oz's position of leaving the issue up to the states would result in far stricter bans in some places.

Fetterman's campaign says the abortion issue will be decisive in November — helping counter inflation and national political headwinds for Democrats — and featured it at Sunday's "Women for Fetterman" event in the gymnasium of Montgomery County Community College.

"Women are the reason we can win," Fetterman told the cheering crowd. "Let me say that again. Women are the reason we win. ... Don't piss women off!"

In interviews in suburban Philadelphia, voters who support abortion rights said they would vote for Fetterman.

For Sheila Dougherty, 50, a registered Democrat from Clifton Heights, Oz's position on abortion is a nonstarter.

"I'll always vote for the candidate who is for women's rights, so I won't be voting for a Republican," Dougherty said.

Donna McMenamin, 66, a Republican from Folsom who supports abortion rights, said she was worried by one attack ad she saw on TV that claims Fetterman wants to release state prison inmates who are hardened criminals — which Fetterman's campaign has called a lie. He has endorsed recommendations by prison reformers that the state can release more geriatric or rehabilitated prisoners without harming public safety.

Still, she said the most important factor in her vote was rejecting any candidate aligned with Trump, whom she detests. Instead, she will vote for Fetterman this year "because he's not a Republican."

For Oz supporters in the suburbs, his stance on crime and abortion — and whether they agree with it — is less important than other issues.

Steve Erfle, 51, a Republican from Blue Bell, said he will vote for Oz and other Republicans on the ballot — regardless of any other disagreements he has with them — because he wants smaller government and worries that "things have gone a little far left."

"They're not my best friends, I just want their policies," he said.

Diane Wysocki, 50, leaving Oz's event in Springfield with an Oz lawn sign under her arm, said she agrees with Oz's stance on abortion. But more than that, she appreciated Trump's endorsement of Oz and sees Oz as savvy and genuine.

Still, she worried about whether her fellow suburbanites will embrace Oz, noting that many of her neighbors are Democrats and that even some Republicans she knows think that Oz — a recent New Jersey transplant — is just running because he's wealthy.

"If I put this out on my lawn," Wysocki said, motioning to her Oz sign, "this is very scary to people."

---

Follow Marc Levy on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/timelywriter>.

---

Follow AP for full coverage of the midterms at <https://apnews.com/hub/2022-midterm-elections> and on Twitter, [https://twitter.com/ap\\_politics](https://twitter.com/ap_politics).

## From carmakers to refiners, industries brace for rail strike

By The Associated Press undefined

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 64 of 82

Car buyers might not get the vehicle they want on time, commuter rail lines could see service disrupted, and shipments from everything from oil to livestock feed could be snarled.

Those are just a few of the wide-ranging impacts a walkout by U.S. rail workers would have on the country's industries and economy. A strike could happen if the railroads and unions can't settle their differences before an early Friday walkout deadline.

Here's how some industries are gauging the potential impacts and getting ready for the possible work stoppage.

## AUTO INDUSTRY

Nearly all new vehicles that travel more than a couple hundred miles from the factory to their destination are shipped by rail because it's more efficient, said Michael Robinet, an executive director for S&P Global Mobility. So it's almost a certainty that new vehicles coming to the U.S. from Mexico or other countries will be delayed, he said.

"It's not like there's extra truck capacity to take all the vehicles that the railroads can't carry," Robinet said.

Automakers might be hampered in building vehicles, too, because some larger parts and raw materials are transported by rail. But Robinet said automakers will go to great lengths to get the parts to keep their factories running as much as possible.

Mike Austin, senior mobility analyst for Guidehouse Research, said the strike could make new vehicles even more scarce, driving prices up beyond current record levels. That could raise inflation "as other goods aren't moving through the rails."

Carlos Tavares, CEO of Stellantis, said Wednesday at the Detroit auto show that his company will wind up apologizing to customers because their orders may not arrive on time.

## COMMUTING

Metra commuter rail service, which operates in the Chicago area, said Wednesday that it would suspend operations on four of its 11 lines on Friday if a work stoppage occurs. Some disruption on those lines would begin after rush hour Thursday night. In Minnesota, the operators of a commuter rail line that carries workers along a densely populated corridor from Minneapolis to northwestern suburbs and towns warned that service could be suspended as early as Friday.

In the Puget Sound region of Washington state, any strike would cancel the rail service until employees return to work, said David Jackson, a spokesman for the regional transit agency Sound Transit. Some Caltrain riders in the San Francisco Bay Area could be impacted by a rail strike, officials said.

The Maryland Transit Administration warned this week that a strike would mean the immediate suspension of service on two of its three MARC commuter rail lines.

Amtrak, meanwhile, said that starting Thursday, all its long-distance trains are canceled to avoid possible passenger disruptions while en route.

## ENERGY

A strike could have a significant impact on the energy industry, and could hurt consumers who would likely end up paying more for gasoline, electricity and natural gas. Refineries might have to halt production if they can't get the deliveries they need, or if they don't have access to rail to ship gasoline.

No one wants to risk leaving flammable chemicals stranded on the railroad tracks if a strike occurs. That's why railroads began curtailing shipments of hazardous materials on Monday to protect that dangerous cargo.

Roughly 300,000 barrels of crude oil move by rail each day, which could supply about two mid-size refineries, according to AFPM. And about 5 million barrels of propane, representing a third of U.S. consumption, are moved by rail monthly, the group said.

Roughly 70% of ethanol produced in the U.S. is shipped by rail, and ethanol accounts for about a tenth of U.S. gasoline volume, according to S&P Global Commodity Insights. Nearly 75% of the coal moved to electric utilities in the first half of 2022 was moved by rail, the group said.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 65 of 82

## AGRICULTURE

Livestock producers could see problems almost immediately if shipments of feed abruptly ended, according to the National Grain and Feed Association.

Meat and poultry groups noted the reliance on rail for shipments of feed and called for a quick resolution of the rail dispute. Every week, the nation's chicken industry receives about 27 million bushels of corn and 11 million bushels of soybean meal to feed chickens, said Tom Super, senior vice president of the National Chicken Council.

## RETAIL

Experts say retailers have been shipping goods earlier in the season in recent months as a way to protect themselves from potential disruptions. But this buffer will only slightly minimize the impact from a railroad strike, which is brewing during the critical holiday shipping season, said Jess Dankert, vice president of supply chain at the Retail Industry Leaders Association, a retail trade group that counts more than 200 retailers like Best Buy as its members. She noted that retailers are already feeling the impact from the uncertainty as some freight carriers are limiting services.

Dankert noted that retailers, noticing a slowdown in shipments, are now making contingency plans like turning to trucks to pick up some of the slack and making plans to use some of the excess inventory that it has in its distribution centers.

But she noted that there are not enough trucks and drivers to meet their needs. That scarcity will only drive up costs and make inflation worse, she said.

"As we have seen in the past two and half years, if there is a breakdown anywhere along the supply chain, one link falters, you see that ripple effect pretty quickly and those effects just spread from there," Dankert said.

This story was first published on September 14, 2022. It was updated on September 15, 2022 to correct the spelling of Jess Dankert.

## Meet Little Amal: A puppet celebrating New York City's roots

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City's latest celebrity visitor is stopping traffic even in this jaded, larger-than-life town.

Little Amal, a 12-foot puppet of a 10-year-old Syrian refugee, is on a 17-day blitz through every corner of the Big Apple as part of a theater project hoping to raise awareness about immigration.

"When we talk about migration and refugees, we tend to forget that more than half of the people we're talking about are children," said playwright and director Amir Nizar Zuabi, the artistic director of Little Amal Walks NYC. "The reality is they're children and all children are beautiful in their own special way. And I think that's what Amal brings to the table."

She will visit tourists meccas — Times Square, Grand Central Station, the American Museum of Natural History and Central Park, among them — and also communities far from the glitz of Manhattan, like Corona in the Queens borough and Bedford-Stuyvesant in Brooklyn.

"The role of the project is to talk about displacement, to talk about immigration, to talk about vulnerability in different contexts and, of course, each locality," said Zuabi.

At each of the 55 planned stops, organizers have reached out to community artists and leaders to create a special event anchored by the place visited. So Amal will join kids her age to hear a reading of the inclusive picture book "Julián Is a Mermaid" at the Brooklyn Public Library. And when she goes to Harlem she will listen to a drum circle performed by students from the Harlem School of the Arts and be accompanied by a stilt walker from Kotchenga Dance Company.

Yazmany Arboleda, a Colombian American artist who is creative producer of the New York visit, calls it



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 66 of 82

one of the largest scale theatrical experiences ever built in the city: "This is the biggest stage on Earth and it comes from all the pluralism, of all the stories, of all the people who live here."

The puppet comes to the city after completing a 5,000-mile trek across Europe, from the Syrian-Turkish border to Manchester in northwest England. She has traveled through 12 countries — including greeting refugees from Ukraine at a Polish train station and stopping at refugee camps in Greece — and met with Pope Francis.

"New York is interesting because it is a city built from displacement, forced migration and migration. These are the elements that created the city. And the city looms tall and has a very, very interesting engine of creativity, of innovation, of audaciousness. So bringing this project here is very interesting for us," said Zuabi.

During a recent rehearsal at the performing arts institution and project co-producer St. Ann's Warehouse in Brooklyn, Zuabi stressed the core idea with his 10 puppeteers, four of which are needed to manipulate the puppet at any one time.

"She is a 10-year-old lost in the city. Whenever you are in doubt, go back to that," he told them as they stretched in a circle. "She's never safe in this city. If we understand that, I think we can make real magic."

Some other stops for the puppet — designed and built by Handspring Puppet Company — include salsa dancing in Washington Heights, walking along the Coney Island boardwalk and listening to drummers in Jackson Heights. At Grand Central Station on Thursday, she loomed over admiring pedestrians, who gazed up and took pictures.

"We often focus on the plight of the immigrant or the refugee, and I think what this work does is really bring our attention to the promise and the beauty," said Arboleda. "As she walks through New York, we're all going to be learning along."

One of Amal's stops will be Liberty Island, where she'll come face-to-toe with the Statue of Liberty, who welcomes the "huddled masses yearning to breathe free."

"The core of this project is empathy, is to fight indifference, because indifference is like a stone. You can't turn it. It's what it is. The minute you start cracking indifference, something happens," said Zuabi.

Mark Kennedy is at <http://twitter.com/KennedyTwits>

## Roger Federer says he is retiring from pro tennis at age 41

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

Roger Federer is retiring from professional tennis at age 41 after a series of knee operations, closing a career in which he won 20 Grand Slam titles, finished five seasons ranked No. 1 and helped create a golden era of men's tennis with rivals Rafael Nadal and Novak Djokovic.

Federer posted what he called a "bittersweet decision" via both a written statement and an audio clip on Thursday, less than two weeks after 23-time major champion Serena Williams played what is expected to be the last match of her career.

Combined, the exits by two of the greatest athletes in their sport's history represent a significant turning of the page.

"As many of you know, the past three years have presented me with challenges in the form of injuries and surgeries. I've worked hard to return to full competitive form," said Federer, who is home in Switzerland. "But I also know my body's capacities and limits, and its message to me lately has been clear."

Federer has not competed anywhere since Wimbledon in July 2021, and so, in that sense, his news is not all that surprising.

But he had appeared at an event marking the 100-year anniversary of Centre Court at the All England Club this July and said he hoped to return to play there "one more time."

He also had said he would return to tournament action in his home country at the Swiss Indoors in October.

In Thursday's announcement, Federer said his farewell event will be the Laver Cup in London next week.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 67 of 82

That is a team event run by his management company.

"I knew a few weeks ago that his rehabilitation with his knee wasn't going as well as he had hoped. A few weeks after Wimbledon, he informed me that the knee was not reacting as well as it should and that he was thinking about figuring out a way to end his career," Tony Godsick, Federer's agent since 2005, said in a telephone interview Thursday.

"I had suggested to him years ago that he should stop. Not many tennis players at his level push into their 40s. But he was always interested in challenging himself," Godsick said. "And at the end of the day, after 1,500-plus matches, the tires finally wore out. And he's got things to do in his next stage."

Federer and his wife, Mirka — a tennis player, too; they met as athletes at an Olympics — have two sets of twins, girls who are 13 and boys who are 8.

Federer leaves the sport with a total of 103 tour-level titles on his substantial resume and 1,251 wins in singles matches, both second only to Jimmy Connors in the Open era, which began in 1968. Federer's records include being the oldest No. 1 in ATP rankings history — he returned to the top spot at 36 in 2018 — and most consecutive weeks there (his total weeks mark was eclipsed by Djokovic).

The dominance Federer displayed at the height of his powers is unrivaled, including reaching 10 consecutive Grand Slam finals, winning eight, from 2005-07, a run that also extended to 18 of 19 major finals into 2010.

In a sport where changes in surface and other conditions can make even the best players thrilled with a showing here or there into the second week of a Slam, Federer compiled streaks of 36 quarterfinals in a row and 23 semifinals in a row from 2004 to 2013.

"Roger Federer is a champion's champion. He has the most complete game of his generation and captured the hearts of sports fans around the world with an amazing quickness on the court and a powerful tennis mind," Hall of Famer Billie Jean King said. "He has had a historic career with memories that will live on and on."

When Federer won his first Grand Slam title at Wimbledon in 2003, the men's record for most major trophies was held by Pete Sampras, who had won his 14th at the U.S. Open the year before in what turned out to be the last match of the American's career.

Federer would go on to blow way past that, ending up with 20 by winning eight championships at Wimbledon, six at the Australian Open, five at the U.S. Open and one at the French Open. His 2009 trophy at Roland Garros allowed Federer to complete a career Grand Slam.

His serving, forehand, footwork and attacking style will all be remembered. Also unforgettable were his matches against younger rivals Nadal, 36, and Djokovic, 35, who both equalled, then surpassed, Federer's Slam total and are still winning titles at the sport's four biggest tournaments.

"I wish this day would have never come," Nadal said. "It's a sad day for me personally and for sports people around the world. I said it to you when we spoke and now it's here. It's been a pleasure but also an honor and privilege to share all these years with you, living so many amazing moments on and off the court."

Nadal now leads the men's major championship count with 22, one ahead of Djokovic.

"I was lucky enough to play so many epic matches that I will never forget," Federer said in Thursday's announcement.

Addressing his "competitors on the court" — although not by name — he wrote: "We pushed each other, and together we took tennis to new levels."

Federer's last match anywhere came on July 7, 2021, when he lost at Centre Court in the Wimbledon quarterfinals to Hubert Hurkacz 6-3, 7-6 (4), 6-0.

Soon after, Federer had surgery to repair damage to his meniscus and cartilage in his right knee — his third operation on that knee in a span of 1 1/2 years.

"Tennis has treated me more generously than I ever would have dreamt," Federer said Thursday, "and now I must recognize when it is time to end my competitive career."

More AP tennis: <https://apnews.com/hub/tennis> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## As 'buy now, pay later' plans grow, so do delinquencies

By KEN SWEET AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans have grown fond of “buy now, pay later” services, but the “pay later” part is becoming increasingly difficult for some borrowers.

Buy now, pay later loans allow users to pay for items such as new sneakers, electronics, or luxury goods in installments. Companies such as Affirm, Afterpay, Klarna and PayPal have built popular financial products around these short-term loans, particularly for younger borrowers, who are fearful of never-ending credit card debt.

Now, as the industry racks up customers, delinquencies are climbing. Inflation is squeezing consumers, making it tougher to pay off debts. Some borrowers don't budget properly, particularly if they are persuaded to take out multiple loans, while others may have been credit risks to begin with.

“You have an industry with a higher concentration of subprime borrowers in a market that hasn't been effectively tested through (this type of economy), and you have a kind of a toxic brew of concerns,” said Michael Taiano, an analyst with Fitch Ratings, who co-wrote a report in July highlighting some of the concerns with the industry.

The most popular type of buy now, pay later loans allow for four payments over six weeks — one payment at the time of purchase and three others that borrowers often try to sync up with pay periods. Longer-term loans for bigger purchases are also available. Most of the short-term loans have no interest attached to them. Companies that do charge interest can clearly state upfront how much a borrower will pay in financial charges.

Given those features, consumer advocates and financial advisors initially had seen buy now, pay later plans as a potentially healthier form of consumer debt if used correctly. The biggest concern had been late fees, which could act as a hefty finance charge on a small purchase if a borrower is late on a payment. The fees can run as high as \$34, plus interest. But now as delinquencies are rising, and companies are being more aggressive in marketing their products, advocates see a need for additional regulation.

The industry is growing rapidly, according to a report released Thursday by the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. Americans took out roughly \$24.2 billion in loans on buy now, pay later programs in 2021, up from only \$2 billion in 2019. That industry-wide figure is only expected to jump even more. Klarna's customers bought \$41 billion worth of product on its service globally in the first six months of the year, up 21% from a year ago. PayPal processed more than \$4.9 billion in buy now, pay later transactions in the second quarter, more than triple a year earlier.

Jasmine Francis, 29, a technology analyst based in Charlotte, North Carolina, said she first used a buy now, pay later service in 2018 to buy clothes from fast-fashion brand Forever21.

“I remember I just had a cartful,” she said. “At first, I thought, ‘Something's gotta go back,’ and then I saw Afterpay at checkout — you don't pay for it all right now, but you get it all right now. That was music to my ears.”

How healthfully customers are using buy now, pay later loans is unclear. Fitch found that delinquencies on these services rose sharply in the 12 months ended March 31, while credit card delinquencies remained steady. And according to the CFPB, a growing percentage of loans the industry is making are being charged off — or loans it considered so delinquent that they were likely uncollectible. The industry's charge-off rate was 2.39% in 2021, a figure that is now likely higher given the economic turmoil this year. In 2020, that figure was 1.83%.

“This upward trend on delinquencies is continuing,” said Rohit Chopra, director of the CFPB, in a call with reporters.

Credit reporting company TransUnion found that buy now, pay later borrowers are using the product just as much as credit cards, piling on debt on top of additional debt. A poll by Morning Consult released this week found 15% of buy now, pay later customers are using the service for routine purchases, such as

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 69 of 82

groceries and gas, a type of behavior that sounds alarm bells among financial advisors. The CFPB report also found a small, but growing number of Americans using these products for routine purchases as well.

"If these buy now, pay later plans are not adequately budgeted for, they can have a cascading impact across a person's entire financial life," said Andre Jean-Pierre, a former Morgan Stanley wealth advisor who now runs his own financial planning firm focused on helping Black Americans adequately save and budget.

Another concern among advisers and consumer advocates, as well as Washington lawmakers and regulators, is the ease with which consumers can layer on these installment loans.

Speaking at a hearing of the Senate Banking Committee Tuesday about new financial products, Sen. Sherrod Brown, D-Ohio, noted the benefits of plans that allow consumers to pay for things in installments. But he also criticized the way in which the industry promotes the plans.

"Ads encourage consumers to use these plans for multiple purchases, at multiple online stores — racking up debt they cannot afford to repay," Brown said.

The short-term loans are potentially problematic because they're not reported on a consumer's credit profile with Transunion and Experian. Further the buy now, pay later industry's customers skew young — meaning they have little credit history. Hypothetically a borrower could take out several short-term loans across multiple buy now, pay later companies — a practice known as "loan stacking" — and they would never appear on a credit report. If a person puts too many items on buy now, pay later plans, budgeting could be difficult.

"It's a blind spot for the industry," Taiano of Fitch said.

In a statement, the buy now pay later industry trade group pushed back on the characterization that its products could saddle borrowers with too much debt.

"With zero to low-interest, flexible payment terms, and transparent terms and conditions, BNPL helps consumers manage their cash flow responsibly and live healthier financial lives," said Penny Lee, CEO of the Financial Technology Association.

Meanwhile providers of buy now, pay later services see rising delinquencies as a natural consequence of growth, but also an indication that inflation is hitting Americans most likely to use these services the hardest.

"We have seen some stress (among those with the lowest credit scores), and those are starting to have a hard time," said Max Levchin, founder and CEO of Affirm, one of the largest buy now, pay later companies.

"I would not call it a sort of preamble to a potential downturn, but it's not the same kind of a smooth sailing it's been," he said, adding that Affirm is taking a more conservative approach towards lending.

Buy now, pay later took off in the U.S. after the Great Recession. The product, analysts said, largely has not been tested through a great period of financial distress, unlike mortgages or credit cards or auto loans.

Despite these concerns, the consensus is buy now, pay later companies are here to stay. Affirm, Klarna, Afterpay, which is owned by Block Inc., as well as PayPal and others are now widely embedded in Internet commerce.

Further, the industry's growth is attracting more players. Technology titan Apple earlier this summer announced Apple Pay Later, where users can put purchases on a four-payment plan over six weeks.

"I generally plan purchases that I make using PayPal 'Pay in 4' so that my due dates for purchases land on my pay dates, as the due dates are every other week," said Desiree Moore, 35, from Georgia.

Moore said she tries to use buy now pay later plans to cover purchases not in her usual monthly budget, so not to take money away from the needs of her children. She has been increasingly using the plans with inflation making items more expensive and is so far able to keep up with the payments.

Francis, the technical analyst, said it's now common among her friends to pay for travel with the installment loans, to not completely drain their bank accounts in case of emergencies.

"If I come back home from vacation and have two flat tires, and I just spent all that money on plane tickets, that's \$400 you don't have at the moment," she said. "Most people don't have savings. They just have enough for those flat tires."

---

This story has been corrected to say PayPal's volume of buy now, pay later transactions was \$4.9 billion.



An earlier version incorrectly reported the \$4.9 billion as revenue from such transactions.

AP Personal Finance Reporter Cora Lewis contributed to this report from New York.

## Declassified report shows US predictions of IS group threat

By NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. intelligence officials predicted two years ago that the Islamic State group would likely regain much of its former strength and global influence, particularly if American and other Western forces reduced their role in countering the extremist movement, according to a newly declassified report.

Analysts said many of the judgments in the 2020 report appear prescient today, particularly as the group is resurgent in Afghanistan following President Joe Biden's withdrawal of American forces last year.

The Islamic State group is no longer controlling huge swaths of territory or staging attacks in the United States as it did several years ago before a major U.S.-led offensive. But it is now slowly rebuilding some core capabilities in Iraq and Syria and increasingly fighting local governments in places including Afghanistan, where an affiliate of the IS group, also known by the acronym ISIS, is fighting the ruling Taliban following the U.S. withdrawal.

"If the United States and our partners pull back or withdraw further from areas where ISIS is active, the group's trajectory will increasingly depend on local governments' will and capability to fill the resulting security voids," says the report, originally published in classified form in May 2020, months after then-President Donald Trump's administration reached an agreement with the Taliban to pull out American troops.

Biden and top national security officials have cited the recent strike killing al-Qaida head Ayman al-Zawahri as evidence that America maintains an "over-the-horizon" counterterrorism capacity in Afghanistan after the withdrawal. U.S. special forces also killed the head of the Islamic State group in a February raid in northwest Syria.

"The fact of those operations are, I think, reflective how serious this threat environment remains," said Christy Abizaid, director of the National Counterterrorism Center, on Thursday. But she added that analysts believe the terrorist threat to the U.S. homeland is "less acute than we've seen it" at any time since the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks.

Analysts have recently seen growth in IS group branches around the world, particularly in Africa, said Abizaid, who spoke at the Intelligence and National Security Summit outside Washington.

"Afghanistan is a really interesting story along those lines about where the ISIS affiliate is and how we continue to be concerned about it," she said.

Some outside analysts say al-Zawahri's apparent presence in downtown Kabul suggests that extremist groups are more comfortable operating in Afghanistan — and that it will be tougher to counter the Islamic State group as it grows across the country.

Bruce Hoffman, senior fellow for counterterrorism at the Washington-based Council on Foreign Relations, called the May 2020 report "very clear-eyed and forthright."

"It's very different operating against ISIS in the isolated mountain redoubts or deep valleys of Afghanistan," he said. "The advantages that enabled us to so brilliantly take out al-Zawahri, I would guess, are absent outside of Kabul."

While the White House last month released declassified points from an intelligence assessment saying al-Qaida had not reconstituted in Afghanistan, the points did not address the Islamic State in Khorasan, the local IS group affiliate. IS-K was responsible for killing 13 U.S. troops outside the Kabul airport during the withdrawal and has continued to mount an insurgency against the Taliban now in control of the country.

The National Security Council said in a statement that the U.S. is working to deny "ISIS-K access to financing, disrupt and deter foreign terrorist fighters from reaching Afghanistan and the region, and counter ISIS-K's violent extremism."

The May 2020 report was declassified this August and published online last week by the U.S. Office of the Director of National Intelligence. The ODNI periodically declassifies and releases older intelligence as-

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 71 of 82

assessments. A spokesperson for the ODNI's National Counterterrorism Center declined to answer questions about the assessment or address the intelligence community's current view on the Islamic State group.

The report predicts that the Islamic State group's global branches are likely to increase its "capability to conduct attacks in many regions of the world, including the West." The U.S. would more likely face attacks from people inspired by the group's ideology than plots directed or supported by the group, the report said.

Pressure by local governments where the IS group is active and their international partners "almost certainly will shape the scale of ISIS' resurgence in Iraq and Syria and its expansion worldwide," the report said.

Experts commonly agree with the report's predictions, said Colin Clarke, an expert on counterterrorism who is director of research for The Soufan Group, an intelligence and security consultancy. But top intelligence analysts would have been involved in drafting and reviewing the assessment, formally known as a national intelligence estimate, he said.

Clarke noted several recent IS-linked attacks in Afghanistan, including an apparent suicide bombing outside the Russian embassy in Kabul that killed two diplomats, as well as ongoing fighting between militants and U.S.-backed forces at a sprawling camp in Syria.

"There are some things that have happened in the last few weeks," he said, "that make you wonder if the situation is not more dire than is being presented."

Follow the AP's coverage of the Islamic State group at <https://apnews.com/hub/islamic-state-group>.

## Rail workers win key concessions in deal to prevent strike

By JOSH FUNK AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Here's what's in the tentative agreement that railroad unions secured to prevent a potential freight railroad strike.

The final deal was negotiated by the unions that represent engineers and conductors, but all 12 of the rail unions will likely benefit from the concessions railroads made because the unions that agreed to deals earlier all had provisions in their deals that will allow them to do that.

The raises workers will receive as part of this deal will be the biggest ones they have received in more than four decades. The railroad industry has said that average rail worker salaries will reach \$110,000 by the end of this five-year deal in 2025.

The financial terms of the deal closely follow the recommendations made by the Presidential Emergency Board last month after those arbitrators met with both sides.

Businesses that rely on the railroads said a strike would be devastating, and the Association of American Railroads trade group estimated that a work stoppage would cost the economy more than \$2 billion a day. The talks included all the major U.S. railroads, including BNSF, Union Pacific, Norfolk Southern, CSX, Kansas City Southern and the U.S. operations of Canadian National. Canadian Pacific negotiates separately with its unions.

### HOW BIG ARE THE RAISES?

Railroad workers will receive 24% raises and \$5,000 in bonuses in the deal that is retroactive to 2020. So rail workers will receive sizeable back pay of more than \$11,000 on average once this deal is ratified.

### HOW MUCH TIME OFF WILL WORKERS GET?

The deal includes one additional paid leave day a year, but railroads also agreed to let workers take unpaid time off for doctor's appointments and medical procedures without being penalized under their attendance rules.

The unpaid time off is a key concession that addressed some of the unions' concerns about working conditions. Under the current system at BNSF and Union Pacific, workers receive a set number of points, and they lose points any time they take time off. If workers use up all their points, they can be disciplined or even fired.

### WHAT ABOUT HEALTH INSURANCE?

Workers will have to pay a larger share of their health insurance costs, but their premiums will be capped

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 72 of 82

at 15% of the total cost of the insurance plan. Currently, railroad workers pay \$228.88 per month for their health insurance, which is about 12.6% of the total cost of the plan.

The railroads also agreed to increase the amount they will pay for hearing benefits and for speech therapy and other treatment of autism.

## WHAT'S NEXT?

Members of all 12 railroad unions will have to vote on these deals. Already one union rejected a deal Wednesday that was based closely on the Presidential Emergency Board's recommendations but two other unions approved similar deals. These latest concessions may help secure the support of the union that rejected a deal.

## WILL WORKERS SUPPORT THE DEAL?

The recommendations from the Presidential Emergency Board provided significant raises, but didn't address union concerns about working conditions. Many railroad workers spoke out on social media saying they would vote against a deal that only delivered what the Presidential Emergency Board recommended. It remains to be seen whether the railroads' concessions on time off are enough to get workers support.

Earlier this summer, railroad workers voted overwhelmingly to authorize a strike if both sides couldn't agree to a deal. Many workers are frustrated with current working conditions after the major railroads cut nearly one-third of their workforce over the past six years. Hundreds of railroad workers have left the industry this year as the same time the railroads have been aggressively hiring new employees.

The railroads need additional employees to handle all the freight. Shippers have complained loudly this year about delayed deliveries and poor service, and federal regulators have demanded that railroads improve their service.

## Nevada looks to conservation as the Colorado River dwindles

By DANIEL ROTHBERG The Nevada Independent

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Only a few miles from the Las Vegas Strip, in the Mojave Desert, is an unlikely scene: A county park with walking trails and thick vegetation that circles a vibrant rush of flowing water.

Known as the Las Vegas Wash, the water running through this channel is a crucial part of how Nevada has managed to keep its net Colorado River use below its allocation, despite booming population growth and two decades of persistent drought, worsened by a changing climate.

Every time a shower or a faucet is turned on in Las Vegas, the water flowing down the drain is treated at wastewater plants and recycled. The treated water is discharged into the wash, which flows into Lake Mead, a declining Colorado River reservoir held back by the Hoover Dam. Once there, the water can be used for a second time, effectively increasing Nevada's overall portfolio.

"It allows Las Vegas to exist in its present form," said John Hiatt, a conservationist who sits on a coordination committee for the wash. "(Without it), we'd be half our size and really struggling."

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is part of a collaborative series on the Colorado River as the 100th anniversary of the historic Colorado River Compact approaches. The Associated Press, The Colorado Sun, The Albuquerque Journal, The Salt Lake Tribune, The Arizona Daily Star and The Nevada Independent are working together to explore the pressures on the river in 2022.

When the Colorado River Compact was negotiated in the early 1900s, only about 5,000 people lived in Clark County, home to Las Vegas. Few envisioned the massive growth that has turned the desert into a sprawling paved landscape of nearly 2.2 million people — and growing.

Accordingly, the compact gave Nevada the smallest cut of the Colorado River: 1.8 percent, or just 300,000 acre-feet (an acre foot is the amount of water needed to fill an acre to a depth of one foot). The small share has meant Nevada has long had to live on a tight water budget and rely on conservation measures that are only now being considered by other Western states.

Unlike other states, Nevada has one main river user: Las Vegas. It is responsible for more than 90 percent of the state's diversions, with additional water going to the Fort Mojave Indian Tribe, whose rights were recognized in a 1963 Supreme Court case, and other small water users.

# Proton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 73 of 82

For decades, Las Vegas has relied on wastewater recycling and removing water-guzzling lawns to stretch and conserve its small Colorado River share. But even with proactive management, it could face significant challenges and uncertainties when it comes to future population growth.

"We still have some room with the water resources we have today," said Assemblyman Howard Watts, a Democrat who has worked on water issues for years, including in the Legislature. "But eventually we're going to reach a point where we're going to go past that limit and that's when we really have to consider what a sustainable path is for Southern Nevada moving forward."

Many of the Southern Nevada Water Authority's future planning scenarios are premised on an ability to collaborate with other states to augment Las Vegas's current supply. Yet negotiations over the Colorado River have become increasingly difficult for the seven states that rely on the shrinking river and its reservoirs, including Lake Mead, which is dropping to critically low levels.

Nevada, even though it has a small slice of the Colorado River, has a huge stake in those talks. Las Vegas is reliant on the Colorado River. It's the source of about 90 percent of the city's water supply. The remainder comes from a local groundwater aquifer, which was historically overused.

Any other water in Nevada is far away. For years, Las Vegas had looked to import rural eastern Nevada groundwater hundreds of miles away as a potential supply. But local water managers shelved the controversial plan in 2020 amid legal challenges and concerns about environmental impacts. While it still owns ranches in eastern Nevada, the water authority has said its focus is on supplementing its supply through collaboration, including a recycling project in California.

How Southern Nevada has managed to grow, thus far, on such a tight supply has everything to do with the Las Vegas Wash, which empties into Lake Mead. Colby Pellegrino, deputy general manager of the Southern Nevada Water Authority, described the natural stream as something of a "a silent miracle." The wash enabled Las Vegas to scale-up one of the largest municipal water recycling programs in the nation — and increase its Colorado River share by about 85 percent.

Because nearly all indoor water in Southern Nevada is treated and returned to the wash, it has allowed Las Vegas to focus its conservation efforts on aggressive turf removal. This, combined with water recycling, has meant that Nevada has under-used its Colorado River apportionment.

As of Aug. 29, the state was forecast to use about 241,490 acre-feet of water, about 20 percent less than its 300,000 acre-foot allocation. Nevada, as a result, can easily absorb an 8 percent cut to its water supply next year without any significant changes to municipal water deliveries.

As for future growth, Pellegrino said "it depends on how we grow."

"The future of our growth has to have the smallest water footprint possible," she added.

Las Vegas is preparing for the realities of a shrinking river by setting even deeper restrictions for conservation — with a target goal of decreasing per capita water use from about 110 gallons per capita per day to 86 gallons per capita per day by 2035. The water authority's plan for doing so includes a transition from evaporative cooling, pool size limits and prohibiting new golf courses.

But with only 1.8 percent of the Colorado River, Las Vegas cannot fix the problem on its own. In a recent letter, water authority General Manager John Entsminger called for swift cuts aimed at stabilizing the Colorado River's reservoirs while longer-term agreements can be negotiated. The water authority has also led on pushing states to incorporate climate change in their planning.

Hiatt, on the Las Vegas Wash Coordination Committee, came to Southern Nevada in the 1970s, when the population of Clark County was about 350,000 people. He said he is concerned about what a future might look like as climate change continues altering the river's flows. If conserved water is only re-dedicated to new growth, he worries "we're going to be in the same position of pushing against our allotment — and our allotment may be significantly lower than it is now."

"It's hard to believe anyone is going to come out with more water," he added.

## Pastor-led group seeks missing migrants in border desert

By GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO Associated Press



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 74 of 82

IRONWOOD FOREST NATIONAL MONUMENT, Arizona (AP) — After strapping on knee-high snake guards and bowing his head to invoke God's protection, Oscar Andrade marched off into a remote desert at dawn on a recent Sunday to look for a Honduran migrant. His family said he had gone missing in late July "between the two hills where the backpacks are."

The Tucson-based Pentecostal pastor bushwhacked for three hours in heat that rose above 100 degrees (38 Celsius), detouring around a mountain lion, two rattlesnakes and at least one scorpion before taking a short break to call the aunt of another missing man. Andrade believed he found the young man's skull the previous day.

"Much strength, my dear sister," Andrade told her, while she repeated incredulously that the "guide" had assured her he left the young man with injured feet but alive. "Sometimes we don't understand, but there is a reason that God allowed this. And if you need anything, we're here."

On the fourth search for that 25-year-old man from the Mexican state of Guerrero, the pastor and his Capellanes del Desierto (Desert Chaplains) rescue and recovery group had found his ID card in a wallet 40 feet (12 meters) away from a skull and other bones, picked clean by animals and the relentless sun in the Tohono O'odham Reservation.

Since March, Andrade has received more than 400 calls from families in Mexico and Central America whose relatives – sick, injured or exhausted – were left behind by smugglers in the borderlands.

Forensic experts estimate 80% of bodies in the desert are never found, identified or recovered. But those that are, added to massive casualties like 53 migrants trapped in an abandoned trailer in San Antonio, Texas, in June and nine migrants swept away in the Rio Grande this month, point to one of the deadliest seasons on record on the always dangerous southwest border.

Fragile economies pummeled by the pandemic in Latin America, ruthless trafficking networks that control virtually all illegal crossings, and shifting U.S. asylum policies that affect migrants of different nationality and family status in drastically different ways all contribute to the toll – as does the Southwest's extreme heat.

Andrade, his group, and an Associated Press journalist accompanying them among towering saguaro cacti quickly came across evidence of distress on this popular smuggling route – abandoned backpacks, still full of clothes, coins and even deodorant, and half-full water jugs, several days' walk from the closest towns.

"To be out in the desert is more difficult than to be in a church," said the 44-year-old pastor and father of three teens, who sometimes join him and his wife, Lupita, on these missions. "Our commitment is firstly with God, and with the families."

The group didn't find the missing 45-year-old Honduran, but planned to look again; it usually takes several trips to locate remains in this desert.

It's one of the deadliest corridors, according to aid groups and the U.S. Border Patrol, for migrants who, fearing being rejected under a pandemic provision called Title 42, try to evade authorities instead of turning themselves in right after crossing or applying for protection legally.

From staging camps guarded by cartel scouts in areas where the border has no fencing or bollard barriers, the migrants – usually men from Mexico and Central America – walk north for more than a week. They have to cross dozens of miles of desert mountains and dry washes before reaching major highways where smugglers' vehicles will take them to destinations across the United States.

"Once a person told me, 'How can I believe, look where my brother is, who always did praise and worship,'" Andrade recalled during the recent search. "For God, there are no mistakes. Yes, there are painful things, like the young man from yesterday, who died because of some blisters."

Faith often motivates volunteer organizations providing aid along the border. The Capellanes, who search for the missing at least once a week in this rough desert, pray with the grieving families as they share updates and somber news.

Being a Christian ministry also reassures families, many of whom are targeted by fake ransom requests after they turn to social media looking for their missing relative. The aunt of the young man from Guerrero, who asked the AP not to use their names because his parents haven't been told yet of Andrade's discovery, said she had been targeted repeatedly.

To bring the comfort of God's word is what motivated Elda Hawkins to be one of the first volunteers to

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 75 of 82

join Andrade's group, she said at a recent church meeting. A dozen members gathered in a small Tucson church to pray for the young man, receive CPR credentials, and discuss a fundraising food drive.

"We can be a light of hope, for those about to die or for their families," Hawkins said.

Andrade's group doesn't charge families for the searches, though some contribute to the cost of gas for his truck ferrying the group down rough dirt roads to where they set out on foot. It also works closely with law enforcement, notifying the Border Patrol of every search and then local authorities if it finds human remains, as it has nearly 50 times.

Even then, the migrant's body still has a long journey home. It takes time for authorities to retrieve the remains, which are then subject to forensic analysis to determine the cause of death. Often, that's never established; in other cases, the cause is listed as "environmental," especially heat stroke and dehydration, said Dr. Greg Hess, chief medical examiner for Pima County.

His office, covering migrant deaths also in two adjacent border counties in southern Arizona, received 30 migrant bodies found in July alone, about half of them dead less than three weeks, said Mike Kreyche of Humane Borders, an aid group that maps border deaths.

That puts 2022 on track to match the last two years, when cases were almost double other years in the last decade recorded by the office. Along the entire US-Mexican border, since last fall Customs and Border Protection agents stopped migrants for crossing the border illegally more than 1.8 million times, historically an extraordinarily high number. The agency recorded 557 Southwest border deaths the previous year, the highest since it began tracking them in 1998.

Given how quickly a body decomposes in the desert, unless it's found within a day of dying, identification might require expensive and time-consuming DNA analysis, Hess said.

"The desert does a good job covering up crimes," said Mirza Monterroso, a forensic scientist and missing migrant program director for the Colibrí Center, a Tucson-based group that works with the examiner's office.

Her database has 4,000 missing migrants – 1,300 in Pima County alone – from reports from 14 countries and 43 U.S. states. She helps coordinate DNA analysis, costing more than \$1,100 per body with a bulk discount.

Consulates help cover some of those expenses, as well as the nearly \$4,000 it takes to repatriate the remains, which is what most families want, said Azhar Dabdoub, who manages a Tucson funeral home. It was arranging for flights of five migrants' bodies to Guatemala and one to El Salvador last week.

"This is what forced migration looks like at the end," he said, standing next to dozens of just-delivered caskets. They were customized with a small viewing window so families can see something of their relative, even if just a small belonging Dabdoub tapes to the glass.

As soon as the remains Andrade just found are recovered, Monterroso will start working on confirming if they are indeed the young Mexican man's. That might take up to a year unless there's a lucky break, like dental records.

The young man's aunt, who's lived in the United States since she was 14, told the AP from her home in New York that she still hopes for a miracle. But if the remains are his, "we fought to the end to recover what little is left."

"My nephew's dream died at the border, but a person shouldn't end up like this," she said, her voice breaking. "They left him in the desert because he had injured his feet."

A 38-year-old father of two from Mexico City nearly died the same way last week after he developed debilitating foot blisters near the Baboquivari Peak, just 14 miles (23 kilometers) north of the border in Pima County.

Without food for two days and now out of water, he called 911 and was helped down the mountain by Daniel Bolin, an agent with the Border Patrol's search, trauma and rescue team who said this was his fifth rescue this year in the same spot. Bolin brought him Gatorade and water before walking him down the precipitous mountain ridge for an hour to an area reachable by all-terrain vehicle.

The agency performed 3,000 rescues in the Tucson sector alone over the last 12 months, and another 911 call came from the same mountain that afternoon.

About then, sitting in the back of a Border Patrol truck and facing almost certain expulsion to Mexico,

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 76 of 82

the rescued man, who gave his name as Leonardo, said he lost his business during the pandemic and came to the United States to find the work he's been unable to get for two years.

"But now I don't think I'll come back here. I'm too old to walk," he said.

Asked about his future, he murmured "I don't know" and burst into sobs, tears rolling down his sunburned face.

—  
Associated Press religion coverage receives support through the AP's collaboration with The Conversation US, with funding from Lilly Endowment Inc. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

## 'Abbott Elementary' creator visits Kimmel, collects apology

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Abbott Elementary" creator-star Quinta Brunson took revenge on Jimmy Kimmel's Emmy prank with one of her own, then collected an apology from the late-night host whose bit was criticized as rude and worse.

Kimmel, who had distracted attention from Brunson's Emmy acceptance speech by lying pretend-drunk on stage, was delivering his monologue Wednesday when a pretty-in-pink Brunson appeared, award in hand.

"I have a little favor to ask," she said. "So you know how when you win an Emmy you only have 45 seconds to do an acceptance speech, which is like not that much time. And then ... you get less time because someone does a dumb comedy bit that goes on a bit too long?"

"I have heard of that happening in previous years," Kimmel replied.

"Well, I was wondering, or no, more demanding if I could I have a couple of extra minutes to thank, you know, a couple of extra people," Brunson said. Kimmel stepped back to cede the spotlight to his guest, and later in the show told Brunson he was sorry for what he'd done at the Emmys on Monday.

Brunson's and Kimmel's shows both air on ABC.

Brunson won the best comedy series writing award Emmy and found herself sharing the stage with Kimmel — who was flat on his back and dragged there by fellow presenter Will Arnett because Kimmel supposedly had too many "skinny margaritas." Kimmel gave Brunson a thumbs-up for her award but didn't budge, a decision that was blasted online as thoughtless by some and cited as an example of white-male arrogance by others.

"Abbott Elementary," a mockumentary set in an underfunded Philadelphia school, earned a total of three Emmy Awards for its freshman season, including one for co-star Sheryl Lee Ralph for best comedy supporting actress.

On Kimmel's show, Brunson received loud applause from the studio audience when she thanked "all of the fans of the show," then joined the host for a chat.

He started out with a one-liner — "Congratulations on your Emmy. I missed it, how did it go?" — then turned apologetic, beginning with an awkwardly qualified mea culpa.

"That was a dumb comedy bit that we thought it would be funny," he said. "Then people got upset, they said I stole your moment. And maybe I did. I'm very sorry if I did do that. I did do that, actually. ... The last thing I would ever want to do is upset you, because I think so much of you. I think you know that. I hope you know that."

"It's very kind of you to say that," Brunson replied, graciously, avoiding direct criticism of Kimmel. She said she was "wrapped up in the moment" after winning her first Emmy and with Arnett and Kimmel on stage with her.

"Honestly, I had a great night. It was a good night and a good time," she said.

Kimmel, who jokingly blamed Arnett for what happened, lauded Brunson's series and noted that he's never won an Emmy despite repeated trips to the awards.

"And I went one time and won," she said, delivering the dig with a smile.

Kimmel offered one last apology, adding, "I was dumb, and I've got news: It's gonna happen again."

Earlier Wednesday, Brunson and her cast mates fielded questions from TV critics during a virtual panel

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 77 of 82

discussion, with Ralph expressing her displeasure with Kimmel's Emmy act. "I was like, 'Oh, the disrespect, Jimmy,'" Ralph recalled.

She sarcastically referred to it as "lovely that he was lying on the floor during her wonderful acceptance speech. "I told him too, to his face, and he understood," said Ralph.

When Brunson was asked what she expected during her appearance with Kimmel, she said she was "anticipating that we are going to have a good old-fashioned time" and that she was intent on highlighting the season-two return of "Abbott Elementary" on Sept. 21.

Brunson said that she and Kimmel had already spoken but didn't detail their private conversation. Backstage at the Emmys on Monday, Brunson said the bit didn't bother her "that much" and noted that Kimmel has been a booster of her and "Abbott Elementary." If she decides she's mad at him, a smiling Brunson added, she might "punch him in the face" during her appearance on his show.

## **Biden approval rises sharply ahead of midterms: AP-NORC poll**

By JOSH BOAK and HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden's popularity improved substantially from his lowest point this summer, but concerns about his handling of the economy persist, according to a poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Support for Biden recovered from a low of 36% in July to 45%, driven in large part by a rebound in support from Democrats just two months before the November midterm elections. During a few bleak summer months when gasoline prices peaked and lawmakers appeared deadlocked, the Democrats faced the possibility of blowout losses against Republicans.

Their outlook appears better after notching a string of legislative successes that left more Americans ready to judge the Democratic president on his preferred terms: "Don't compare me to the Almighty. Compare me to the alternative."

The president's approval rating remains underwater, with 53% of U.S. adults disapproving of him, and the economy continues to be a weakness for Biden. Just 38% approve of his economic leadership as the country faces stubbornly high inflation and Republicans try to make household finances the axis of the upcoming vote.

Still, the poll suggests Biden and his fellow Democrats are gaining momentum right as generating voter enthusiasm and turnout takes precedence.

Average gas prices have tumbled 26% since June to \$3.71 a gallon, reducing the pressure somewhat on family budgets even if inflation remains high. Congress also passed a pair of landmark bills in the past month that could reshape the economy and reduce carbon emissions.

Republicans have also faced resistance since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* and its abortion protections. And Biden is openly casting former President Donald Trump as a fundamental threat to democracy, a charge that took on resonance after an FBI search of Trump's Florida home found classified documents that belong to the U.S. government.

This combination of factors has won Biden some plaudits among the Democratic faithful, even if Americans still feel lukewarm about his leadership.

"I'm not under any belief that he's the best person for the job — he's the best from the people we had to choose from," said Betty Bogacz, 74, a retiree from Portland, Oregon. "He represented stability, which I feel President Trump did not represent at all."

Biden's approval rating didn't exceed 40% in May, June or July as inflation surged in the aftermath of Russia invading Ukraine. But his string of wins over the past month continued on Thursday, after the poll was conducted, when he announced a tentative deal between railways and unions that avoided a strike that could have shut down the railroads and devastated the economy.

The president's rating now is similar to what it was throughout the first quarter of the year, but he continues to fall short of early highs. His average approval rating in AP-NORC polling through the first six months of his term was 60%.



# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 78 of 82

Driving the recent increase in Biden's popularity is renewed support among Democrats, who had shown signs of dejection in the early summer. Now, 78% of Democrats approve of Biden's job performance, up from 65% in July. Sixty-six percent of Democrats approve of Biden on the economy, up from 54% in June.

Interviews suggest a big reason for Biden's rebound is the reemergence of Trump on the national stage, causing voters such as Stephen Jablonsky, who labeled Biden as "OK," to say voting Democratic is a must for the nation's survival.

"The country has a political virus by the name of Donald Trump," said Jablonsky, a retired music professor from Stamford, Connecticut. "We have a man who is psychotic and seems to have no concern for law and order and democracy. The Republican Party has gone to a place that is so unattractive and so dangerous, this coming election in November could be the last election we ever have."

Republicans feel just as negative about Biden as they did before. Only about 1 in 10 Republicans approve of the president overall or on the economy, similar to ratings earlier this summer.

Christine Yannuzzi, 50, doubts that 79-year-old Biden has the capacity to lead.

"I don't think he's mentally, completely aware of everything that's happening all the time," said Yannuzzi, who lives in Binghamton, New York. "The economy's doing super poorly and I have a hard time believing that the joblessness rate is as low as they say it is."

"I think the middle class is being really phased out and families are working two and three jobs a person to make it," the Republican added.

Twenty-nine percent of U.S. adults say the economy is in good shape, while 71% say it's doing poorly. In June, 20% said conditions were good and 79% said they were bad.

Democrats are more positive now than they were in June, 46% vs. 31%. Republicans remain largely negative, with only 10% saying conditions are good and 90% saying they're bad.

About a quarter of Americans now say things in the country are headed in the right direction, 27%, up from 17% in July. Seventy-two percent say things are going in the wrong direction.

Close to half of Democrats — 44% — have an optimistic outlook, up from 27% in July. Just 9% of Republicans are optimistic about the nation's direction.

Akila Atkins, a 27-year-old stay-at-home mom of two, thinks Biden is "OK" and doesn't have much confidence that his solutions will curb rising prices.

Atkins says it's gotten a little harder in the last year to manage her family's expenses, and she's frustrated that she can no longer rely on the expanded child tax credit. The tax credit paid out monthly was part of Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package and has since lapsed.

The Census Bureau reported Tuesday that the expanded tax credit nearly halved the child poverty rate last year to 5.2%. Atkins said it helped them "stay afloat with bills, the kids' clothing, shoes, school supplies, everything."

Whatever misgivings the Democrat in Grand Forks, North Dakota, has about Biden, she believes he is preferable to Trump.

"I always feel like he could be better, but then again, he's better than our last president," she said.

The poll of 1,054 adults was conducted Sep. 9-12 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.9 percentage points.

Follow the AP's coverage of President Joe Biden at <https://apnews.com/hub/joe-biden>.

## US moved online, worked more from home as pandemic raged

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

During the first two years of the pandemic, the number of people working from home in the United States tripled, home values grew and the percentage of people who spent more than a third of their income on

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 79 of 82

rent went up, according to survey results released Thursday by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Providing the most detailed data to date on how life changed in the U.S. under COVID-19, the bureau's American Community Survey 1-year estimates for 2021 showed that the share of unmarried couples living together rose, Americans became more wired and the percentage of people who identify as multiracial grew significantly. And in changes that seemed to directly reflect how the pandemic upended people's choices, fewer people moved, preschool enrollment dropped and commuters using public transportation was cut in half.

The data release offers the first reliable glimpse of life in the U.S. during the COVID-19 era, as the 1-year estimates from the 2020 survey were deemed unusable because of problems getting people to answer during the early months of the pandemic. That left a one-year data gap during a time when the pandemic forced major changes in the way people live their lives.

The survey typically relies on responses from 3.5 million households to provide 11 billion estimates each year about commuting times, internet access, family life, income, education levels, disabilities, military service and employment. The estimates help inform how to distribute hundreds of billions of dollars in federal spending.

Response rates significantly improved from 2020 to 2021, "so we are confident about the data for this year," said Mark Asiala, the survey's chief of statistical design.

While the percentage of married-couple households stayed stable over the two years at around 47%, the percent of households with unwed couples cohabiting rose to 7.2% in 2021 from 6.6% in 2019. Contrary to pop culture images of multigenerational family members moving in together during the pandemic, the average household size actually contracted from 2.6 to 2.5 people.

People also stayed put. More than 87% of those surveyed were living in their same house a year ago in 2021, compared to 86% in 2019. America became more wired as people became more reliant on remote learning and working from home. Households with a computer rose, from 92.9% in 2019 to 95% in 2021, and internet subscription services grew from 86% to 90% of households.

The jump in people who identify as multiracial — from 3.4% in 2019 to 12.6% in 2021 — and a decline in people identifying as white alone — from 72% to 61.2% — coincided with Census Bureau changes in coding race and Hispanic origin responses. Those adjustments were intended to capture more detailed write-in answers from participants. The period between surveys also overlapped with social justice protests following the killing of George Floyd, who was Black, by a white Minneapolis police officer in 2020 as well as attacks against Asian Americans. Experts say this likely led some multiracial people who previously might have identified as a single race to instead embrace all of their background.

"The pattern is strong evidence of shifting self-identity. This is not new," said Paul Ong, a professor emeritus of urban planning and Asian American Studies at UCLA. "Other research has shown that racial or ethnic identity can change even over a short time period. For many, it is contextual and situational. This is particularly true for individuals with multiracial background."

The estimates show the pandemic-related impact of closed theaters, shuttered theme parks and restaurants with limited seating on workers in arts, entertainment and accommodation businesses. Their numbers declined from 9.7% to 8.2% of the workforce, while other industries stayed comparatively stable. Those who were self-employed inched up to 6.1% from 5.8%.

Housing demand grew over the two years, as the percent of vacant homes dropped from 12.1% to 10.3%. The median value of homes rose from \$240,500 to \$281,400. The percent of people whose gross rent exceeded more than 30% of their income went from 48.5% to 51%. Historically, renters are considered rent-burdened if they pay more than that.

"Lack of housing that folks can afford relative to the wages they are paid is a continually growing crisis," said Allison Plyer, chief demographer at The Data Center in New Orleans.

Commutes to work dropped from 27.6 minutes to 25.6 minutes, as the percent of people working from home during a period of return-to-office starts and stops went from 5.7% in 2019 to almost 18% in 2021. Almost half of workers in the District of Columbia worked from home, the highest rate in the nation, while

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 80 of 82

Mississippi had the lowest rate at 6.3% Over the two years, the percent of workers nationwide using public transportation to get to work went from 5% to 2.5%, as fears rose of catching the virus on buses and subways.

"Work and commuting are central to American life, so the widespread adoption of working from home is a defining feature of the COVID-19 pandemic," said Michael Burrows, a Census Bureau statistician. "With the number of people who primarily work from home tripling over just a two-year period, the pandemic has very strongly impacted the commuting landscape in the United States."

Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/MikeSchneiderAP>

## Fewer Americans file for jobless benefits again last week

By MATT OTT AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of Americans applying for unemployment benefits fell again last week to a four-month low even as the Federal Reserve continues its aggressive interest rate cuts to bring inflation under control.

Applications for jobless aid for the week ending Sept. 10 fell by 5,000 to 213,000, the Labor Department reported Thursday. That's the fewest since late May.

First-time applications generally reflect layoffs.

The four-week average for claims, which offsets some of the weekly volatility, fell by 8,000 to 224,000.

The number of Americans collecting traditional unemployment benefits inched up by 2,000 for the week that ended Sept. 3, to 1.4 million.

Hiring in the U.S. in 2022 has been remarkably strong even in the midst of rising interest rates and weak economic growth. The Federal Reserve has aggressively raised interest rates in an effort to bring down inflation, which generally also slows job growth.

Earlier this month, the Labor Department reported that employers added still-strong 315,000 jobs in August, though less than the average 487,000 a month over the past year. The unemployment rate ticked up to 3.7%, its highest level since February, but for a healthy reason: Hundreds of thousands of people returned to the job market, and some didn't find work right away, so the government's count of unemployed people rose.

The U.S. economy has been a mixed bag this year. Economic growth has declined in the first half of 2022, which, by some informal definitions, signals a recession.

But businesses remain desperate to find workers, posting more than 11 million job openings in July, meaning there are almost two job vacancies for every unemployed American.

Inflation continues to be the biggest obstacle for a healthy U.S. economy. The rise in consumer prices slowed modestly the past couple months, largely due to falling gas prices. But overall, prices for food and other essentials remain elevated enough that the Federal Reserve has indicated it will keep raising its benchmark interest rate until prices come back down to normal levels.

Most economists expect the Fed to raise its benchmark borrowing rate by three-quarters of a point when it meets next week.

The Fed has already raised its short-term interest rate four times this year and Chairman Jerome Powell has said that the central bank will likely need to keep interest rates high enough to slow the economy "for some time" in order to tame the worst inflation in 40 years. Powell has acknowledged the increases will hurt U.S. households and businesses, but also said the pain would be worse if inflation remained at current levels.

Some of that so-called pain has already begun, particularly in the housing and technology sectors. Online real estate companies RedFin and Compass recently announced job cuts as rising interest rates have tripped up the housing market.

Other high-profile layoffs announced in recent months include Tesla, Netflix, Carvana, and Coinbase.

# Groton Daily Independent

Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 81 of 82

## Today in History: September 16, GM is founded

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Friday, Sept. 16, the 259th day of 2022. There are 106 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Sept. 16, 2001, President George W. Bush, speaking on the South Lawn of the White House, said there was "no question" Osama bin Laden and his followers were the prime suspects in the Sept. 11 attacks; Bush pledged the government would "find them, get them running and hunt them down."

On this date:

In 1630, the Massachusetts village of Shawmut changed its name to Boston.

In 1810, Mexico began its revolt against Spanish rule.

In 1908, General Motors was founded in Flint, Michigan, by William C. Durant.

In 1940, Samuel T. Rayburn of Texas was elected Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1966, the Metropolitan Opera officially opened its new opera house at New York's Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts with the world premiere of Samuel Barber's "Antony and Cleopatra."

In 1972, "The Bob Newhart Show" premiered on CBS.

In 1974, President Gerald R. Ford announced a conditional amnesty program for Vietnam war deserters and draft-evaders.

In 1982, the massacre of between 1,200 and 1,400 Palestinian men, women and children at the hands of Israeli-allied Christian Phalange militiamen began in west Beirut's Sabra and Shatila refugee camps.

In 1987, two dozen countries signed the Montreal Protocol, a treaty designed to save the Earth's ozone layer by calling on nations to reduce emissions of harmful chemicals by the year 2000.

In 2007, contractors for the U.S. security firm Blackwater USA guarding a U.S. State Department convoy in Baghdad opened fire on civilian vehicles, mistakenly believing they were under attack; 14 Iraqis died. O.J. Simpson was arrested in the alleged armed robbery of sports memorabilia collectors in Las Vegas. (Simpson was later convicted of kidnapping and armed robbery and sentenced to nine to 33 years in prison; he was released in 2017.)

In 2013, Aaron Alexis, a former U.S. Navy reservist, went on a shooting rampage inside the Washington Navy Yard, killing 12 people before being shot dead by police.

In 2016, after five years of promoting a false conspiracy theory about Barack Obama's birthplace, Republican Donald Trump abruptly reversed course, acknowledging that the president was born in America, but then claiming the "birther movement" was begun by his Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton. (While the question of Obama's birthplace was raised by some backers of Clinton's primary campaign against Obama eight years earlier, Clinton had long denounced it as a "racist lie.")

Ten years ago: In appearances on Sunday news shows, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Susan Rice, said there was no evidence that the attack on the U.S. diplomatic outpost in Benghazi, Libya, was premeditated. But Libya's interim president, Mohammed el-Megarif, told CBS he had no doubt attackers spent months planning the assault and purposely chose the date, September 11.

Five years ago: Tropical Storm Maria, which would batter the Caribbean as a powerful hurricane, formed in the Atlantic. California lawmakers voted to move the state's presidential primary up by about three months to March, a move that would force candidates to mount expensive campaigns earlier.

One year ago: Health officials said the state of Florida had surpassed 50,000 coronavirus deaths since the start of the pandemic. A new study released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention linked the COVID-19 pandemic to an "alarming" increase in obesity in U.S. children and teenagers. A report published in JAMA Ophthalmology suggested that vision problems increased among Chinese schoolchildren during pandemic restrictions and online learning. Jane Powell, a star of Hollywood's golden age musicals, died at her Connecticut home at 92.



# Groton Daily Independent

**Friday, Sept. 16, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 071 ~ 82 of 82**

Today's Birthdays: Actor Janis Paige is 100. Actor George Chakiris is 90. Bluesman Billy Boy Arnold is 87. Movie director Jim McBride is 81. Actor Linda Miller is 80. R&B singer Betty Kelley (Martha & the Vandellas) is 78. Musician Kenney Jones (Small Faces; Faces; The Who) is 74. Actor Susan Ruttan is 74. Rock musician Ron Blair (Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers; Mudcrutch) is 74. Actor Ed Begley Jr. is 73. Country singer David Bellamy (The Bellamy Brothers) is 72. Actor Mickey Rourke is 70. Actor-comedian Lenny Clarke is 69. Actor Kurt Fuller is 69. Jazz musician Earl Klugh is 69. Actor Christopher Rich is 69. TV personality Mark McEwen is 68. Baseball Hall of Famer Robin Yount is 67. Magician David Copperfield is 66. Country singer-songwriter Terry McBride is 64. Actor Jennifer Tilly is 64. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Orel Hershiser is 64. Baseball Hall of Famer Tim Lincecum is 63. Actor Jayne Brook is 62. Singer Richard Marx is 59. Comedian Molly Shannon is 58. Singer Marc Anthony is 54. News anchor/talk show host Tamron Hall is 52. Comedian-actor Amy Poehler is 51. Actor Toks Olagundoye (tohks oh-lah-GOON'-doh-yay) is 47. Country singer Matt Stillwell is 47. Singer Musiq (MYOO'-sihk) is 45. Actor Michael Mosley is 44. Rapper Flo Rida is 43. Actor Alexis Bledel is 41. Actor Sabrina Bryan is 38. Actor Madeline Zima is 37. Actor Ian Harding is 36. Actor Kyla Pratt is 36. Actor Daren Kagasoff is 35. Rock singer Teddy Geiger is 34. Actor-dancer Bailey De Young is 33. Rock singer-musician Nick Jonas (The Jonas Brothers) is 30. Actor Elena Kampouris is 25.