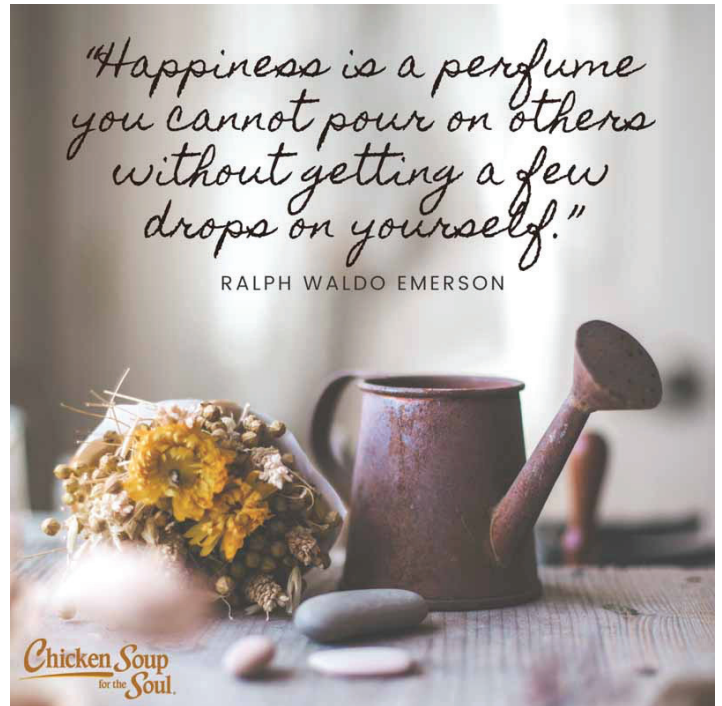


# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 1 of 81

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- Simon interns at City Hall](#)
- [2- Dinger interns at Lori's Pharmacy](#)
- [3- Weekly Vikings Recap - Week 6](#)
- [4- Tigers have clean sweep at Britton-Hecla](#)
- [5- Thats Life/Tony Bender](#)
- [6- Weather Pages](#)
- [10- Daily Devotional](#)
- [11- 2022 Community Events](#)
- [12- Subscription Form](#)
- [13- News from the Associated Press](#)



St. John's Lutheran: Bible Study, 2:45 p.m.; Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran Confirmation, 6 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.

Groton CM&A: Kids' Club, Youth Group and Adult Bible Study begins at 7 pm

UMC: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; UMYF Pumpkin Carving/Painting, 7 p.m.

## Thursday, Oct. 27

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

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: Spaghetti, corn..

## Friday, Oct. 28

Senior Menu: Chicken alfredo, broccoli, spinach salad, mandarin oranges, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Biscuits and jelly.

School Lunch: Cheese bread sticks with marinara.

## Groton Community Calendar

### Tuesday, Oct. 25

Roast pork, mashed potatoes with gravy, parsley buttered carrots, apple sauce, Molasses cookie, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast sandwich.

School Lunch: Tacos with toppings.

8:30 a.m.: ASVAB Testing (Grades 11 and 12 (optional))

UMC: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

### Wednesday, Oct. 26

Chicken enchiladas, Spanish rice, refried beans, tossed green salad, fruit cobbler.

School Breakfast: Eggs and breakfast potatoes.

School Lunch: Garlic cheese bread, peas and carrots.

**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

## Simon interns at City Hall



Cole Simon, son of Nick and Jamie Simon, is working as an intern in Groton City Hall.

"I've always enjoyed math and working with numbers, so helping the City to keep track of its finances and business work is very interesting to me," Simon stated. "Maintaining accurate records and proper filing of that information is vital to the city's operation, even in a small town like Groton."

"I have been working on the baseball financial information by setting up an Excel spreadsheet which makes it easier to follow income, expenses, etc.," he explained. "I will be working mainly with April Abeln, helping her with the payroll, utilities, and even doing some library work."

"I enjoy working here in City Hall with the willing help of the other workers," Cole smiled. "They are friendly and explain what is needed."

"Probably the hardest part of this job is keeping track of all of the essential documents on the computer," he admitted. "The job requires working with large numbers and income vs. expenses."

"In addition to this internship, I participate in basketball, spring baseball, track, and golf," Simon listed. "After I graduate from high school, I plan to attend either NSU or USD to get a degree in business."

- Dorene Nelson

## Dinger interns at Lori's Pharmacy



Jackson Dinger, son of Weston Dinger and Elizabeth Bahr, is currently an intern at Lori's Pharmacy.

"I chose to do my internship at the drug store because I plan to go into Pharmacy after high school," Dinger explained. "I do a variety of jobs, such as counting pills and putting the medication back in the correct place."

"The medication is all arranged alphabetically," he said, "so it is very important that the correct order is kept. Everything is double checked and very organized."

"Even though counting pills seems like an easy job, it is actually the most difficult responsibility that I have," Dinger admitted. "These medications are vital for our customers' health and well-being, so too many or too few can become a serious issue!"

"I enjoy working at the drugstore since it is interesting and not very stressful," he smiled. "The other people working here are very helpful and patient with me as I learn how to do my job."

"I am on the Robotics team and have been since the sixth grade," Dinger said. "I also play in the French horn in the flex band for the pops concert."

"After I graduate from high school, I plan to attend SDSU and major in Pharmacy," Jackson explained. "Admission into the program is limited and requires six years of higher education."

- Dorene Nelson

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 3 of 81

## Weekly Vikings Recap - Week 6

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

After starting the season with an impressive 5-1 record, the Minnesota Vikings got a much-deserved bye this week. Rarely, do teams want a bye this early in the season, but I think given the circumstances, the Vikings would take it. Although the Vikings are sitting with a 5-1 record and a two-game lead in the NFC North division, it still does not feel like the Vikings have played their best football yet this season. Could it be that this Vikings team is overachieving? Or could it be that they are still working out the kinks of learning an entirely new system on both the offensive and defensive side of the ball? I think it's the latter.

Coming into this season, the Vikings, for the first time since 2014, had both an entirely new offense and an entirely new defense to learn. Rarely, does a team succeed right away given those circumstances. However, the Vikings have managed to find themselves with the second-best record in the NFL despite the heavy learning curve that comes with all that. Perhaps the team can use this bye week not only to get some rest but to get an even better grasp of the system they are running.

Another positive about this bye week is the other teams who are on it as well. The Buffalo Bills, Philadelphia Eagles, and Los Angeles Rams all join the Vikings on the early bye week. What's unique about those teams listed is where they rank amongst the NFL's best teams. The Bills are currently the odds-on favorite to win the Super Bowl, the Philadelphia Eagles are the only remaining undefeated team in the NFL, and the Los Angeles Rams, despite their poor performance so far this season, are the current defending Super Bowl champions. For Minnesota, it might be beneficial, come playoff time, that the teams they will have to go through to win the Super Bowl will have the same number of games in a row as they did to finish up the season.

Looking forward, the Vikings have total control of their destiny. After the bye week, the Vikings will get two games against the Arizona Cardinals and Washington Commanders, two teams they should beat easily. After that, the Vikings will head to Buffalo where they will get to compare themselves against the NFL's best in the Buffalo Bills. Although I do not expect to win that game against Buffalo, it will be a great measuring stick to see how close the Vikings are to being a true Super Bowl Contender.

Although I do not want to get too far ahead of myself in the schedule, it is important to note that the Buffalo game looks to perhaps be the only remaining game on the schedule where the Vikings will not be favored. For the most part, the toughest remaining Vikings games will be played at US Bank Stadium where the Vikings statistically have one of the best home-field advantages. If the Vikings can just take care of business in those games, they can get to week 17 in Lambeau Field against the Green Bay Packers with the NFC North division already locked up. And, then the Vikings could go to Chicago for the regular season finale with a shot to play for specific seeding in the playoffs.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 4 of 81

## Tigers have clean sweep at Britton-Hecla

Groton Area went 7-0 in volleyball sets with Britton-Hecla on Monday. The matches were played in Britton and were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM.

Groton Area's varsity team struggled in the early part of the first set. Trailing 15-10, Coach Chelsea Hanson called time-out. Hanson said she told the girls that most of the Britton-Hecla's points were scored by Groton and most of Groton's points were scored by Groton. She said they needed to reverse that trend. Coming out of the time-out, Groton Area scored five straight points to tie the set at 15. Britton-Hecla still kept the upper hand before Groton Area got its first lead at 18-17. The Tigers went on to win, 25-21.

The second set was tied five times in the early part before the Tigers got the upper hand and went on for a 25-17 win. Groton Area commanded the third set and never trailed and had a 12-point run en route to a 25-7 win.

Anna Fjeldheim led the Tigers with 12 kills, 21 digs, one assist and one ace serve. Sydney Leicht had seven kills, 21 digs and an ace serve. Lydia Meier had seven kills while Aspen Johnson had five kills, Laila Roberts had 15 digs, three ace serves and two kills, Emma Kutter had three kills, Carly Guthmiller had two kills and an ace serve, Jerica Locke had a kill and an ace and Eliabeth Fliehs had 29 assists and one kill.

Alyssa James led Britton-Hecla with five kills while Emma Kraft had four kills.

Game sponsors on GDILIVE.COM were Bahr Spray Foam, John Sieh Agency, Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Locke Electric, Dacotah Bank, SD Army National Guard with Brent Wienk, Milbrandt Enterprises Inc and Groton Area Chamber of Commerce.

Next up will be regions next Tuesday. Groton will more than likely play Webster, but Milbank is also a possibility. The location will either be Redfield or Roncalli. It will all depend on Tuesday's matches.

Groton Area won the junior varsity match, 25-16 and 25-14. Emma Kutter had 11 kills, Jaedyn Penning had six kills and three ace serves, Rylee Dunker had four kills and two ace serves, Faith Traphagen four kills and an ace, Chesney Weber three ace serves and a kill and Talli Wright two kills.

Justin Hanson provided the play-by-play action for the varsity and JV matches.

Groton Area won the C match, 25-19 and 25-11. In the first set, Groton Area had a nine-point run which included five ace serves by Chesney Weber. Weber led the Tigers with seven kills and seven ace serves, Rylee Dunker and Talli Wright each had four kills and four ace serves, Cali Tollifson had five kills, Kella Tracy three ace serves and two kills and Emerlee Jones had three kills and an ace.

The match on GDILIVE.COM was sponsored by Craig and Tasha Dunker.

## Thats Life/Tony Bender

### Willie Jangula is good for america

There are still two places in McIntosh County where they'll pump your gas—Curt's Service in Wishek, and what used to be Willie's Service in Ashley. Willie recently retired, so the corner gas station with the fading Sinclair colors is now called Brad's Service.

They're good people. They'll still fill your tank with a smile (or at least not a scowl) and provide road service when you're in a pinch, but I'll admit I miss my weekly conversations with Willie through a rolled-down window about things like the price of scrap iron.

Willie's pretty much cornered the market on that stuff, and in the process has cleaned up a lot of farmyards. Free, even. I guess you could say Willie Jangula is good for America. McIntosh County, at least.

He calls me "Lucky," and I guess I am, but in no way do I have as much money as he accuses me of having. He did always let me charge my fills and settle up monthly, part of a quaint, bygone Era of Trust that isn't quite bygone in Ashley. Or Wishek, for that matter. Here, a handshake still works.

The uniform's always been the same. Gray pants and a gray work shirt unbuttoned two buttons too many. A bolt through one ear for a earring. Like Frankenstein or something. Mischievous smirk.

I had an X-ray on a balky shoulder at Ashley Medical Center last week and mock-complained at the desk afterward. Their eyes got big. You see, the technician had declined to let me take my shirt off. Wasn't necessary, she said. In fact, she seemed kind of desperate to keep me buttoned up.

"I haven't looked this good without my shirt on in years," I whined. "She kind of hurt my feelings." The nurses nodded sympathetically. "Wouldn't let me go disco..." More concerned nodding. "Or full-on Willie Jangula!"

They roared.

Willie's been an institution in the 25 years I've been here although a few malcontents might contend he should be institutionalized. Certainly not mythologized. For one, the Lutheran minister who penned a Letter to the Editor to complain about the foul language echoing from Willie's seasonally-open garage doors down to the neighborhood of churches of various denominations clustered next door like God's own Alamo.

I'm not familiar with the brand, but Willie used to complain loudly and colorfully about those "Effing" brakes and those "Effing" mufflers frozen to those "Effing" tailpipes, and what is the effing world, coming to, anyway?

To hear Willie tell it, he'd effing settled down before I moved here. Stopped drinking. Started behaving. So, I guess I've only known Mellow Willie, the accomplished folk artist who can create steel magnolias and fantastic animals—snakes and such—with a cutting torch and welding rods. I've offered to sell his creations at a significant markup so I can finally have as much money as he thinks I have but so far he's ignored my offer.

I've long contended that the biggest characters emerge from small towns. Like the goldfish that becomes a whale in a stock tank. There's an ease, elbow room, freedom here, that facilitates eccentricity. I grew up in a town like that. I was the kid befriended by retired farmers because I listened to their stories and half-believed them. I was the kid whose oil change duties were interrupted when the bell rang at Cenex. I was the kid who filled your tank. So, if I get nostalgic about this sort of thing, well, patience, dear reader.

One day, I glanced out my office window and saw Willie striding past Ashley SuperValu like Stevie Wonder, sunglasses on, an empty leash floating ahead of him. No explanation. Just Willie and an invisible guide dog.

On Valentines Day, I convinced him to run a "Free Kiss From Vern With a Fill" promotion just to torture Vern Geiszler. The widows came out in droves—they filled up lawnmowers and weed whackers—but were sorely disappointed to only receive a Hershey's Kiss from a beleaguered Vern at the end of the transaction.

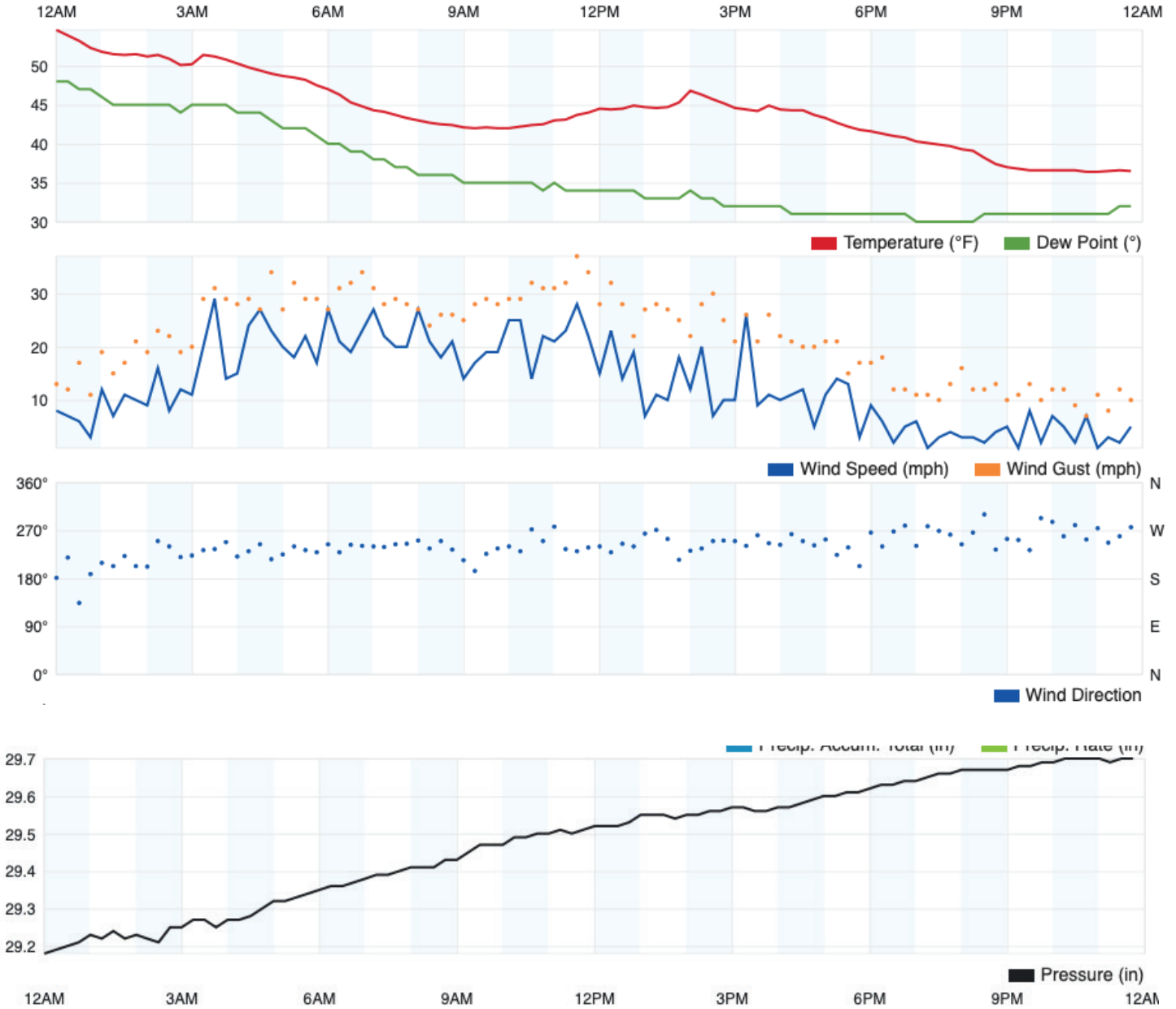
They're advertising a "surprise retirement party" for Willie in the paper this week. I'm not sure how that works exactly, whether it expresses confidence that our newspaper advertising is really going to pack them in or that Willie doesn't have a subscription. Or both. But mine is not to question when it comes to Willie Jangula.

I'm going to the party. Gonna walk in with my shirt unbuttoned down to my navel.

# Groton Daily Independent




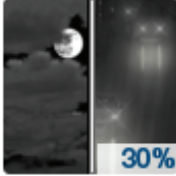

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 6 of 81

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 7 of 81

Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
				
Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Chance Rain	Chance Rain
High: 60 °F	Low: 21 °F	High: 59 °F	Low: 38 °F	High: 55 °F

## About Average...

Today



H: 54 - 60°F

L: 20 - 28°F

Wednesday



H: 54 - 60°F

L: 32 - 40°F

Thursday



H: 51 - 57°F

L: 30 - 38°F



Aberdeen, SD

High temperatures over the next few days will be close to average with some light precipitation possible for eastern counties on Thursday.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 8 of 81

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 55 °F at 12:00 AM

Low Temp: 36 °F at 10:49 PM

Wind: 37 mph at 11:21 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 10 hours, 30 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 81 in 1989

Record Low: 10 in 1942

Average High: 54°F

Average Low: 29°F

Average Precip in Oct.: 1.83

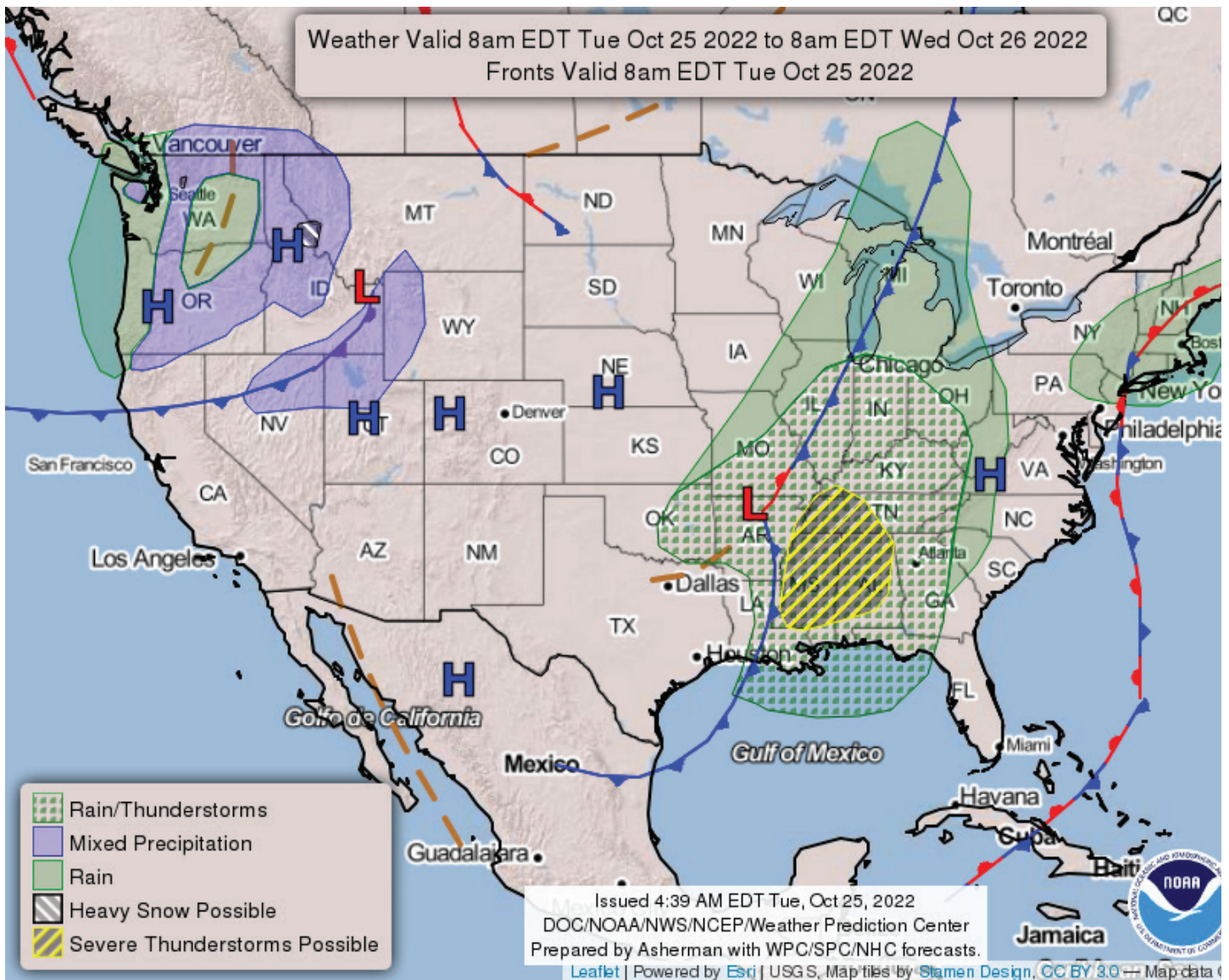
Precip to date in Oct.: 0.45

Average Precip to date: 20.16

Precip Year to Date: 16.50

Sunset Tonight: 6:31:54 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:02:20 AM





# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 9 of 81

## Today in Weather History

October 25, 1954: A storm dumped snow over the region with the highest snowfall amounts at Devils Tower with sixteen inches. Other snowfall totals from the area included four inches in Colony and Faith, eight inches in Custer and Lead, and eleven inches in Spearfish.

1918: The Canadian steamship Princess Sophia carrying miners from the Yukon and Alaska becomes stranded on Vanderbilt Reef. A strong northerly gale hampers rescue attempts the day before. The ship sinks on this day, killing the 268 passengers and 75 crewmen on board.

1921: A devastating category 3 hurricane struck near Tarpon Springs, Florida. The storm caused 8 fatalities and is the latest in the calendar year a category 3 hurricane or stronger made landfall in the US.

1975: GOES-1, which was launched on October 16th, produced its first image of the earth on this day.

1977: Dutch Harbor in Alaska reported a barometric pressure reading of 27.31 inches (925 millibars) to establish an all-time record for the state.

1981 - A northbound tornado caused two million dollars damage to Bountstown, FL, in less than five minutes. Fortunately no deaths occurred along its six mile path, which was 30 to 100 yards in width. Radar at Apalachicola had no indication of a tornado or severe weather. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - A storm system moving across the Saint Lawrence Valley produced 40 to 50 mph winds east of Lake Ontario. High winds downed some trees around Watertown NY, and produced waves seven feet high between Henderson Harbor and Alexandria Bay. Mason City IA and Waterloo IA tied for honors as cold spot in the nation with record lows for the date of 19 degrees. Severe thunderstorms in Oklahoma and northern Texas produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 65 mph. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms erupted over northeastern Texas during the late evening producing softball size hail at Newcastle and Jonesboro. Low pressure over James Bay in Canada continued to produced showers and gale force winds in the Great Lakes Region. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Low pressure over Nevada produced high winds in the southwestern U.S., and spread heavy snow into Utah. Winds gusted to 63 mph at the Mojave Airport in southern California. Snowfall totals in Utah ranged up to 12 inches at Snowbird, with 11 inches at Alta. "Indian Summer" type weather continued in the central and eastern U.S. Twenty cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 77 degrees at Alpena MI and 81 degrees at Saint Cloud MN were the warmest of record for so late in the season. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2003: A fire began in the Cuyamaca Mountains spread quickly due to Santa Ana Winds. As of 2017, this fire, called Cedar Fire, remains the largest recorded wildfire in California history, burning 273,246 acres.

2008: A storm packing winds of more than 60 mph hits central Alberta. In Edmonton, the strongest October wind ever recorded reaches 64 mph, cutting power to 4,000. The winds blow free sheet metal, parts of billboards, garbage cans, and pieces of trees around the city.

2017: The high temperatures in Denver, Colorado was 84 degrees. By the morning hours on the 27th, the temperature fell to 13 degrees, a 71-degree change.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 10 of 81

Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### RIGHT WAY – WRONG WAY

"Have you ever made the same mistake twice?" he asked.

"What is this," I asked in a taunting voice, "a trick question?"

"No, I'm serious. You're a doctor; you're supposed to be smart. I was just wondering," was his response as he shook his head.

"Of course I have," I replied. "In fact, I've made the same mistake several times."

"You have?" he responded in surprise. "I really thought you were smarter than that. I'm shocked."

I'm sure I'm not the only one who has repeated a mistake more than once. And it doesn't make me feel comfortable to think about it, either. But it's true.

Perhaps that's why Solomon wrote the same Proverb twice: "There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end, it leads to death." We need to be reminded of this fact.

There is an inherent danger in being successful: we tend to "think of ourselves more highly than we should." It's easy to do. We have a new opportunity, or there are some new challenges, and we "rise" to the occasion. We get a new burst of energy, we are excited about a second chance, and we are off and running, believing that we will succeed! No limits for me!

And, that's the time we need to pause and remind ourselves that "There is a way that may seem right..." It's very important to acknowledge the sovereignty of God and to admit our own limitations. When things go well, we must thank God for blessing us and give Him the credit. When they don't, we need to be aware that God is trying to get our attention.

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for this reminder. All too often we give ourselves credit when the glory is all Yours! May we do what we do through Your guidance. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end, it leads to death. Proverbs 16:25



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

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 11 of 81

## 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  
11/13/2022: Snow Queen Contest  
11/19/2022: 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

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 12 of 81

## 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

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 13 of 81

## News from the Associated Press

### SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Lotto America

17-19-22-31-52, Star Ball: 4, ASB: 5

(seventeen, nineteen, twenty-two, thirty-one, fifty-two; Star Ball: four; ASB: five)

Estimated jackpot: \$29,110,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: 45,000,000

Powerball

18-23-35-45-54, Powerball: 16, Power Play: 4

(eighteen, twenty-three, thirty-five, forty-five, fifty-four; Powerball: sixteen; Power Play: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$680,000,000

### Monday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

Aberdeen Roncalli def. Deuel, 25-14, 25-9, 19-25, 25-9

Bison def. Harding County, 20-25, 25-21, 19-25, 25-18, 15-11

Burke def. Wagner, 20-25, 24-26, 25-22, 25-20, 15-10

Chester def. Arlington, 25-9, 25-16, 25-13

Dakota Valley def. Tea Area, 25-18, 25-21, 25-20

Dupree def. Lemmon, 22-25, 25-20, 25-15, 25-16

Edgemont def. Pine Ridge, 25-21, 25-16, 25-21

Elkton-Lake Benton def. Estelline/Hendricks, 25-20, 25-20, 20-25, 25-16

Freeman def. Canistota, 25-22, 19-25, 25-18, 25-18

Garretson def. Sioux Valley, 25-17, 21-25, 25-16, 19-25, 15-9

Gayville-Volin def. Avon, 25-22, 24-26, 25-15, 25-19

Gregory def. Andes Central/Dakota Christian, 25-20, 17-25, 25-21, 22-25, 15-10

Groton Area def. Britton-Hecla, 25-21, 25-17, 25-7

Herreid/Selby Area def. Ipswich, 25-14, 21-25, 25-14, 25-17

Hot Springs def. Oelrichs, 25-3, 25-11, 25-11

Kimball/White Lake def. Colome, 25-12, 25-13, 25-14

Little Wound def. Bennett County, 25-20, 25-14, 25-11

Lyman def. Chamberlain, 25-21, 25-11, 21-25, 25-19

McCook Central/Montrose def. Hanson, 25-19, 25-16, 25-15

McIntosh def. McLaughlin, 25-12, 25-9, 25-12

Milbank def. Great Plains Lutheran, 25-16, 25-12, 25-17

Northwestern def. North Central Co-Op, 25-3, 25-9, 25-6

Oldham-Ramona/Rutland def. Iroquois/ Lake Preston Co-op, 25-12, 25-22, 25-22

Platte-Geddes def. Winner, 25-18, 20-25, 28-26, 25-13

Rapid City Christian def. St. Thomas More, 25-17, 26-24, 25-13

Sioux Falls Christian def. Lennox, 25-13, 25-12, 25-9

Tiospa Zina Tribal def. Flandreau Indian, 25-6, 25-8, 25-15

Tripp-Delmont/Armour def. Ethan, 25-17, 25-20, 25-15

Vermillion def. Parker, 25-9, 25-11, 25-20

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 14 of 81

Viborg-Hurley def. Alcester-Hudson, 25-21, 28-26, 25-23  
West Central def. Tri-Valley, 13-25, 19-25, 25-22, 26-24, 15-6  
Wolsey-Wessington def. Redfield, 25-19, 25-14, 25-19

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

## **EXPLAINER: Which states put marijuana on the ballot in 2022?**

By MIKE CATALINI Associated Press

Recreational marijuana could be legal in half the country if the handful of states with cannabis measures on ballots this November pass them.

Arkansas, Maryland, Missouri, North Dakota and South Dakota have measures on their ballots this fall for voters to consider legalizing recreational marijuana. They would join 19 states and the District of Columbia with recreational cannabis.

A decade since Colorado and Washington approved recreational cannabis, prohibitions have fallen across the country: in big, populous states like California and New York and smaller rural ones like Maine and Vermont. States in the Deep South have not legalized marijuana for recreational use, for the most part, but many have enacted medical cannabis programs.

Here's more on the states looking at legalizing recreational marijuana:

### WHERE IS THE MARIJUANA MOVEMENT HEADED NEXT?

— The Arkansas Supreme Court cleared the way in September for voters to consider whether people 21 and over could use recreational marijuana. The court reversed a decision by the Board of Election Commissioners, which said the proposal didn't explain the impact. Arkansas approved medical marijuana in 2016.

— Maryland lawmakers voted earlier this year to put the question on the ballot, asking voters if marijuana should be legal for those 21 and older. The proposed constitutional amendment says recreational marijuana wouldn't be legal until July 2023, with a transitional period between Jan. 1 and July 1.

— Missouri's amendment likewise would approve cannabis for those 21 and older. People also start buying and growing it for personal use as early as this year. Missouri voters approved medical marijuana in 2018. Missouri's Republican-led Legislature has failed to pass recreational marijuana use for years, leading advocates to go to voters for approval instead.

— A North Dakota ballot initiative succeeded in placing the recreational marijuana question before voters this year. That means if the question is approved those 21 and older could legally use marijuana at home as well as possess and cultivate a controlled amount of cannabis. The measure also sets up policies to regulate retail stores, cultivators, and other marijuana businesses.

— South Dakota voters passed a cannabis legalization amendment in 2020, but Gov. Kristi Noem backed a lawsuit challenging it, and the state Supreme court ruled it violated the state Constitution. This year, voters again will have a chance to weigh in on legalizing recreational marijuana for those 21 and over.

— Backers of a ballot measure to legalize recreational marijuana in Oklahoma got enough signatures to get the issue before voters there but not in time to get it on this November's ballot. They'll vote on it in March instead.

### CANNABIS IS OK SEEMINGLY EVERYWHERE NOW, AT LEAST MEDICAL MARIJUANA. WHERE IS IT ILLEGAL?

Federally, marijuana is still classified as a Schedule I drug, alongside heroin and LSD, and can carry criminal penalties for possession.

Idaho, Kansas and Nebraska are the only states that have not implemented any kind of public-use marijuana program, either medical or recreational, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures.

### WHAT ELSE IS CHANGING WITH MARIJUANA LAWS?

In October, Democratic President Joe Biden announced he was pardoning thousands of people for federal marijuana possession convictions.

He also directed the the secretary of Health and Human Services and the U.S. attorney general to review

how marijuana is categorized under federal law. The White House did not set a timeline for the review. Biden also said he believes that as federal and state marijuana laws loosen, there should be limitations on trafficking, marketing and underage sales.

## Russian court hears appeal by Griner against 9-year sentence

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian court on Tuesday started hearing American basketball star Brittney Griner's appeal against her nine-year prison sentence for drug possession.

Griner, an eight-time all-star center with the WNBA's Phoenix Mercury and a two-time Olympic gold medalist, was convicted Aug. 4 after police said they found vape canisters containing cannabis oil in her luggage at Moscow's Sheremetyevo Airport.

Griner took part in the Moscow Regional Court hearing via video call from a penal colony outside Moscow where she is imprisoned.

Griner's February arrest came at a time of heightened tensions between Moscow and Washington, just days before Russia sent troops into Ukraine. At the time, Griner was returning to Russia, where she played during the U.S. league's offseason.

Griner admitted she had the canisters in her luggage but testified she inadvertently packed them in haste and had no criminal intent. Her defense team presented written statements saying she had been prescribed cannabis to treat pain.

The nine-year sentence was close to the maximum of 10 years, and Griner's lawyers argued after the conviction that the punishment was excessive. They said in similar cases defendants have received an average sentence of about five years, with about a third of them granted parole.

Before her conviction, the U.S. State Department declared Griner to be "wrongfully detained" — a charge that Russia has sharply rejected.

Reflecting growing pressure on the Biden administration to do more to bring Griner home, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken took the unusual step of revealing publicly in July that Washington had made a "substantial proposal" to get Griner home, along with Paul Whelan, an American serving a 16-year sentence in Russia for espionage.

Blinken didn't elaborate, but The Associated Press and other news organizations have reported that Washington has offered to exchange Griner and Whelan for Viktor Bout, a Russian arms dealer who is serving a 25-year sentence in the U.S. and once earned the nickname the "merchant of death."

The White House said it has not yet received a productive response from Russia to the offer.

Russian diplomats have refused to comment on the U.S. proposal and urged Washington to discuss the matter in confidential talks, avoiding public statements.

In September, U.S. President Joe Biden met with Cherelle Griner, the wife of Brittney Griner, as well as the player's agent, Lindsay Colas. Biden also sat down separately with Elizabeth Whelan, Paul Whelan's sister.

The White House said after the meetings that the president stressed to the families his "continued commitment to working through all available avenues to bring Brittney and Paul home safely."

The U.S. and Russia carried out a prisoner swap in April. Moscow released U.S. Marines veteran Trevor Reed in exchange for the U.S. releasing a Russian pilot, Konstantin Yaroshenko, who was convicted in a drug trafficking conspiracy.

Moscow also has pushed for the release of other Russians in U.S. custody.

One of them is Alexander Vinnik, who was accused of laundering billions of dollars through an illicit cryptocurrency exchange. Vinnik was arrested in Greece in 2017 and extradited to the U.S. in August.

Vinnik's French lawyer, Frederic Belot, told Russian newspaper Izvestia last month that his client hoped to be part of a possible swap.

The newspaper speculated that another possible candidate was Roman Seleznev, the son of a Russian lawmaker. He was sentenced in 2017 to 27 years in prison on charges from a hacking and credit card fraud scheme.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 16 of 81

## Sunak takes over as UK prime minister amid economic crisis

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Rishi Sunak became Britain's third prime minister of the year on Tuesday, tasked with taming an economic crisis that has left the country's finances in a precarious state and millions struggling to pay their food and energy bills.

Sunak, who is the U.K.'s first leader of color, met King Charles III at Buckingham Palace, where the monarch officially asked the new leader of the governing Conservative Party to form a government, as is tradition.

Sunak clinched the leadership position Monday, seen by his party as a safe pair of hands it hopes will stabilize an economy sliding toward recession, and stem its own plunging popularity, after the brief, disastrous term of Liz Truss.

Her package of unfunded tax cuts spooked financial markets with the prospect of ballooning debt, drove the pound to record lows and forced the Bank of England to intervene — weakening Britain's fragile economy and obliterating her authority within her party.

Sunak — at 42 the youngest British leader in more than 200 years — acknowledged the scale of his challenge as well as the skepticism of a British public alarmed at the state of the economy and weary of a Conservative Party soap opera that has chewed through two prime ministers in as many months.

"I fully appreciate how hard things are," Sunak said outside the prime minister's 10 Downing Street residence. "And I understand, too, that I have work to do to restore trust after all that has happened. All I can say is that I am not daunted."

When he was Treasury chief, Sunak became popular with the public by handing out billions in support to shuttered businesses and laid-off workers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

But now he will have to oversee tax hikes and public spending cuts as he tries to bring inflation and government debt under control.

Acknowledging "difficult decisions to come," Sunak tried to draw a line under the chaos that engulfed Truss and her predecessor, Boris Johnson. He said his government "will have integrity, professionalism and accountability at every level."

Opponents already depict Sunak as out of touch with the concerns of ordinary people because of his privileged private school background, previous career as a hedge fund manager and vast wealth.

Sunak "comes into office as not a particularly popular prime minister, but with a reputation for some semblance of economic competence," said Alan Wager, research associate at the think tank U.K. in a Changing Europe. "The problem will be is he is seen as someone that's not broadly on the side of people. He's seen as someone that's broadly out of touch."

Much of Sunak's fortune comes through his wife Akshata Murty, whose father is the billionaire founder of Indian IT firm Infosys. The couple is worth 730 million pounds (\$826 million), according to the Sunday Times Rich List.

In April 2022, it emerged that Murty did not pay U.K. tax on her overseas income. The practice was legal — and Murty soon agreed to relinquish it — but it looked bad at a time when millions of Britons were struggling to make ends meet.

Sunak's top priorities will be appointing Cabinet ministers, and preparing for a budget statement that will set out how the government plans to come up with billions of pounds (dollars) to fill a fiscal hole created by soaring inflation and a sluggish economy — and exacerbated by Truss' destabilizing time in office.

That statement, set to feature tax increases and spending cuts, is currently due to be made in Parliament on Monday by Treasury chief Jeremy Hunt — if Sunak keeps him in the job.

Truss departed Tuesday after making a defiant public statement outside 10 Downing Street, seven weeks to the day after she was appointed prime minister. She announced her resignation on Thursday, acknowledging she could not deliver on her economic plans.

In her departing words Truss offered a defense of her low-tax vision and her brief term in office — despite the market mayhem triggered by her Sept. 23 budget package.



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 17 of 81

"I am more convinced than ever that we need to be bold and confront the problems we face," she said, before wishing Sunak success as "our country continues to battle through a storm."

Sunak's victory is a remarkable reversal of fortune just weeks after he lost to Truss in a Conservative election to replace Johnson. Party members chose her tax-cutting boosterism over his warnings that inflation must be tamed.

Sunak was chosen as Conservative leader after becoming the only candidate to clear the hurdle of 100 nominations from fellow lawmakers to run in the party election. Sunak defeated rival Penny Mordaunt, who may get a job in his government, and the ousted Johnson, who dashed back from a Caribbean vacation to rally support for a comeback bid but failed to get enough backing to run.

As well as stabilizing the U.K. economy, Sunak must try to unite a governing party that has descended into acrimony as its poll ratings have plunged.

Conservative lawmaker Victoria Atkins, a Sunak ally, said the party would "settle down" under Sunak.

"We all understand that we've now really got to get behind Rishi — and, in fairness, that's exactly what the party has done," she told radio station LBC.

## German president visits Kyiv as West mulls rebuilding plan

By ANDREW MELDRUM Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Germany's president arrived in Kyiv on Tuesday for his first visit to Ukraine since the start of Russia's invasion, as Western countries mulled a massive plan for Ukrainian rebuilding when the war eventually ends.

President Frank-Walter Steinmeier said after arriving that "it was important to me in this phase of air attacks with drones, cruise missiles and rockets to send a signal of solidarity to Ukrainians."

Eight months of pummeling by the Kremlin's forces has ruined homes, public buildings and the power grid. The World Bank estimates the damage to Ukraine so far at 350 billion euros (\$345 billion).

The German president, whose position is largely ceremonial, made it to Ukraine on his third try.

In April, he was planning to visit the country with his Polish and Baltic counterparts, but said his presence "apparently ... wasn't wanted in Kyiv." Steinmeier has been criticized in Ukraine for allegedly cozying up to Russia during his time as Germany's foreign minister.

Last week, a planned trip was put off because of security concerns.

Steinmeier's visit came as Ukrainians are bracing for less electric power this winter following a sustained Russian barrage on their infrastructure in recent weeks.

Citizens in the southern city of Mykolaiv lined up for water and essential supplies Tuesday as Ukrainian forces advanced on the nearby Russian-occupied city of Kherson.

In Berlin, meanwhile, European Union leaders brought together experts to start work on a "new Marshall Plan" for the future rebuilding of Ukraine — a reference to the U.S.-sponsored plan that helped revive Western European economies after World War II.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz said the meeting aims to discuss "how to ensure and how to sustain the financing of the recovery, reconstruction and modernization of Ukraine for years and decades to come."

Scholz, who co-hosted the meeting with European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, said he's looking for "nothing less than creating a new Marshall Plan for the 21st century — a generational task that must begin now."

Even so, one of Moscow's allies on Tuesday urged Russia to step up the pace and scale of Ukraine's destruction.

Ramzan Kadyrov, the regional leader of Chechnya who has sent troops from the region to fight in Ukraine, urged Moscow to wipe off the map entire cities in retaliation for Ukrainian shelling of Russia's territory. Authorities in Russia's Kursk and Belgorod regions that border Ukraine have repeatedly reported Ukrainian shelling that damaged infrastructure and residential buildings.

"Our response has been too weak," Kadyrov said in a statement posted on his messaging app channel. "If a shell flies into our region, entire cities must be wiped off the face of the Earth so that they don't ever

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 18 of 81

think that they can fire in our direction.”

Ukrainian authorities, meanwhile, sought to ease public fears over Russia’s use of Iranian drones to strike the country’s infrastructure, claiming increasing success in shooting them down.

Ukraine’s forces have shot down more than two-thirds of the approximately 330 Shahed drones that Russia has fired through Saturday, the head of Ukraine’s intelligence service, Kyrylo Budanov, said Monday. Budanov said Russia’s military had ordered about 1,700 drones of different types and is rolling out a second batch of about 300 Shaheds.

Although Russia and Iran deny that the Iranian-built drones have been used, the distinctive triangle-shaped Shahed-136s have rained down on civilians in Kyiv and elsewhere.

Britain’s Ministry of Defense said Russia was likely to use a large number of drones to try to penetrate the “increasingly effective Ukrainian air defenses” — to substitute for Russian-made long-range precision weapons “which are becoming increasingly scarce.”

Russia’s “artillery ammunition is running low,” the British report said Tuesday.

The Institute for the Study of War, in Washington, added that “the slower tempo of Russian air, missile, and drone strikes possibly reflects decreasing missile and drone stockpiles and the strikes’ limited effectiveness of accomplishing Russian strategic military goals.”

Kyiv also says it needs more war materiel.

“We need more weaponry, we need more ammunition to win this war,” Ukrainian Prime Minister Denys Shmyhal told reporters in Berlin. He added: “We need tanks from our partners, from all of our partners; we need heavy armored vehicles, we need additional artillery units, howitzers.”

Despite the reduced attacks, at least seven civilians were killed and another three wounded in the latest Russian shelling of the eastern Donetsk region, Ukraine’s presidential office said Tuesday.

The attacks came as the Russians pressed their offensive on the strategically placed towns of Bakhmut and Avdiivka and also shelled other areas in the Donetsk region, which is part of Ukraine’s industrial heartland of Donbas.

Ukrainian guerrillas reportedly staged several explosions in a Russian-held southern city.

A car bomb exploded Tuesday near an office building that houses the headquarters of the Federal Security Service, Russia’s top security agency, and a local television company, according to Ivan Fedorov, the mayor of the city of Melitopol.

The city’s Moscow-appointed administration in Melitopol said five people were injured by the explosion.

Melitopol is in the Zaporizhzhia region, part of which was captured by the Russian military early in the invasion. It was illegally annexed by Russia last month along with three other regions of Ukraine.

## Israeli troops raid gunmen’s hideout; 5 Palestinians killed

By MAJDI MOHAMMED Associated Press

NABLUS, West Bank (AP) — Israeli forces raided a stronghold of an armed group in the occupied West Bank’s second-largest city, blowing up a bomb lab and engaging in a firefight, the military said Tuesday. Five Palestinians were killed and 20 were wounded, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry.

The overnight raid in the old city, or kasbah, of Nablus, was one of the deadliest in the West Bank in 2022 and comes at a time of escalating tensions.

Television footage showed flames and smoke rising in the night sky over Nablus. The army said it used shoulder-launched missiles. Local residents reported a large explosion that rocked the old city and surrounding neighborhoods.

The target of the raid was a group of Palestinian gunmen calling themselves the Lions’ Den. The group was responsible for the recent fatal shooting of an Israeli soldier and several attempted attacks, the army said.

The five men killed in the raid were in their 20s and 30s, the Health Ministry said. Several of the wounded were in serious condition, the ministry said.

Israel’s caretaker prime minister, Yair Lapid, confirmed that Wadie Houh, a leader of the Lion’s Den group,

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 19 of 81

was killed in a shootout with Israeli troops overnight. In remarks at a conference, he said the operation was "an accurate and deadly strike at the heart of terror infrastructure trying to carry out attacks."

Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip staged a general strike in protest of Tuesday's killings. Stores remained shuttered throughout the day in Nablus, Ramallah, Gaza City and other Palestinian cities.

Elsewhere in the West Bank, the army said troops fired at a suspect who threw an explosive at them during an arrest raid near the village of Nebi Saleh. The Palestinian Health Ministry reported the death of 19-year-old Qusai al-Tamimi.

Ongoing Israeli arrest raids in the West Bank pose a serious challenge to the Palestinian self-rule government, which administers just over one-third of the territory.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas relies on security cooperation with Israel, particularly against his Islamic militant rivals, to remain in power. At the same time, this cooperation is deeply unpopular among Palestinians who chafe against Israel's open-ended occupation, now in its 56th year.

Younger Palestinians are particularly disillusioned. Small bands of gunmen have formed in some areas, first in the Jenin refugee camp, a stronghold of militants, and now in Nablus. These groups challenge the Palestinian Authority and carry out attacks against Israeli targets.

In Tuesday's raid, Israeli forces blew up a bomb lab in an apartment in Nablus, the military said. The statement said a number of militants were targeted and noted that Palestinians were reporting casualties. From the wording of the statement it was not immediately clear if some of those killed and wounded were hit in an initial ambush rather than a subsequent firefight.

Abbas' spokesman, Nabil Abu Rdeneh, issued a statement in which he described the ongoing Israeli raids as a war crime.

More than 125 Palestinians have been killed in Israeli-Palestinian fighting in the West Bank and east Jerusalem this year. The fighting has surged since a series of Palestinian attacks killed 19 people in Israel in the spring. The Israeli army says most of the Palestinians killed have been militants. But stone-throwing youths protesting the incursions and others not involved in confrontations have also been killed.

Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war and has built more than 130 settlements there, many of which resemble small towns, with apartment blocks, shopping malls and industrial zones. The Palestinians want the West Bank to form the main part of their future state. Most countries view the settlements as a violation of international law.

## Adidas ends partnership with Ye over antisemitic remarks

LONDON (AP) — Adidas has ended its partnership with the rapper formerly known as Kanye West over his offensive and antisemitic remarks, the latest company to cut ties with Ye and a decision that the German sportswear company said would hit its bottom line.

"Adidas does not tolerate antisemitism and any other sort of hate speech," the company said in a statement Tuesday. "Ye's recent comments and actions have been unacceptable, hateful and dangerous, and they violate the company's values of diversity and inclusion, mutual respect and fairness."

The company faced pressure to cut ties with Ye, with celebrities and others on social media urging Adidas to act. It said at the beginning of the month that it was placing its lucrative sneaker deal with the rapper under review.

Adidas said Tuesday that it conducted a "thorough review" and would immediately stop production of its line of Yeezy products and stop payments to Ye and his companies. The sportswear company said it was expected to take a hit of up to 250 million euros (\$246 million) to its net income this year from the move.

The move by Adidas, whose CEO Kasper Rorsted is stepping down next year, comes after Ye was suspended from Twitter and Instagram this month over antisemitic posts that the social networks said violated their policies.

He recently suggested slavery was a choice and called the COVID-19 vaccine the "mark of the beast," among other comments. He also was criticized for wearing a "White Lives Matter" T-shirt to his Yeezy collection show in Paris.

Ye's talent agency, CAA, has dropped him, and the MRC studio announced Monday that it is shelving a complete documentary about the rapper.

The Balenciaga fashion house cut ties with Ye last week, according to Women's Wear Daily. JPMorgan-Chase and Ye have ended their business relationship, although the banking breakup was in the works even before Ye's antisemitic comments.

In recent weeks, Ye also has ended his company's association with Gap and has told Bloomberg that he plans to cut ties with his corporate suppliers.

After he was suspended from Twitter and Facebook, Ye offered to buy conservative social network Parler.

Demonstrators on a Los Angeles overpass Saturday unfurled a banner praising Ye's antisemitic comments, prompting an outcry on social media from celebrities and others who said they stand with Jewish people.

## Conspiracy pushers target races for local election posts

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

SHELTON, Wash. (AP) — Sixteen candidates for local office circled around the atrium of the municipal building on a recent night in Shelton, a logging town near the southern crook of Puget Sound. One by one, they sat at tables of inquisitive voters for what was dubbed "candidate speed-dating."

As Auditor Paddy McGuire, a Democrat, navigated the room, he was bombarded with questions from voters, some of whom have spent the past two years marinating in paranoia about the 2020 presidential election. Were there illegal immigrants on the county's voting rolls? What sort of surveillance was used to make sure the drop boxes where voters can deposit mail ballots are secure? Did he illegally delete election data?

One table ahead was Steve Duenkel, a retired Boeing worker and Republican who is challenging McGuire for the office that oversees elections in Mason County, population 66,000. He told voters that mail-voting, which Washington state has used for decades, was inherently risky and that they couldn't be certain of who actually wins the election next month until there was further verification, like an audit.

A veteran election official who put off retirement this year because of what he sees as the risk Duenkel's challenge presents, McGuire is incredulous at the campaign against him.

"It's just hard, as somebody who grew up, as I said, believing in democratic values, that I'm being challenged by somebody who doesn't believe that our elections here, locally or nationally, are free and fair," McGuire said. "Particularly here in Mason County, where his party wins a lot more elections than my party does."

Election conspiracy theorists such as Duenkel are running for Congress, governor and secretary of state positions that oversee elections in state after state around the country. But an unknown number also are running for one of the 10,000 positions nationwide that administer local elections and oversee the people who actually hand out ballots, tally votes and report results.

There are as many as 1,700 elections this year for those offices, or for positions which then appoint election administrators, according to Democratic strategist Amanda Litman, whose organization is targeting those races. That creates a dizzying patchwork of places where election conspiracy theorists can penetrate the country's voting system.

"You're not going to know where the vulnerability will be," said Litman, whose group Run for Something has announced an \$80 million effort over three years to recruit and support Democratic local election officials. "They can come from any direction, in any state."

Conspiracy theorists who parrot former President Donald Trump's lies about the 2020 election already have made inroads in local election administration. In Macomb County, Michigan, the office hired someone to recruit poll workers who had protested against Democrat Joe Biden being declared the state's presidential winner. In Nye County, Nevada, the county commission pushed for the election office to hand-count ballots rather than use more reliable machines, leading one clerk to quit — only to be replaced by someone who falsely contended that Trump won the election two years ago.

The most prominent example is in western Colorado's Mesa County, where Republican clerk Tina Peters

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 21 of 81

faces multiple felony charges for her role in an alleged illegal download of voting machines' data — data that ended up on election conspiracy theory websites.

Peters has pleaded not guilty to the charges and contends she is the victim of political persecution. She's not charged with the actual download and distribution of the data from a voting machine, which was technically not a crime in Colorado at the time. The Democratic Legislature made it one in a voting bill inspired by the case.

During the speed-dating forum, McGuire warned that the number of Peters-like election deniers running for local auditors in the state may mean the Legislature there needs to adopt a similar measure to make it a felony. Duenkel, in contrast, sponsored a local screening of a movie made by Trump supporters that portrays Peters as a heroic whistleblower.

Reached by phone before the forum, Duenkel told a reporter he was "busy" and hung up. He did not respond to text messages afterward.

The two are the only men running for Mason County auditor, the local position that oversees elections. Due to the state's unusual top-two primary system, the county's voters already cast ballots for each of them in a head-to-head contest in August, with both advancing to the November election.

McGuire finished ahead of Duenkel, but by only 308 votes.

Just around the southern arm of Puget Sound from the state capital of Olympia, Mason County is the sort of largely rural community that was once solidly Democratic and is now increasingly Republican. Trump won it twice, besting Joe Biden by 4 percentage points there in 2020.

The cavernous lumber mill that looms at the end of Shelton's modest downtown was once locally owned and filled with nearly 1,000 union workers. It has since been bought by a multinational corporation and employs fewer than a-third of its original workforce. Much of the county's aging population lives outside town, in scenic nooks and crannies tucked into the evergreens.

An Olympia native, McGuire moved to Mason County from Washington, D.C., in 2014, planning to retire to a house surrounded by five acres of forest on a wooded peninsula. He had worked in Democratic politics in Oregon in the 1990s before bailing out of the campaign world and becoming Oregon's deputy secretary of state in 2000. He helped the state become the first in the nation to send every voter a ballot in the mail. He later went to Washington to help run the Pentagon's mail voting program for military personnel stationed overseas.

But in 2018, the county's auditor decided to retire, and asked McGuire if he'd run for her spot. He did and won with little controversy. He moved into an office on the second floor of the county building where he kept a collection of voting memorabilia, including a vial of chads from the disputed 2000 Florida presidential election.

Then came the pandemic and Trump's reelection campaign. The president cast doubt on mail voting, which is universal in Washington, and began to claim the election was being stolen from him before voting even finished. Citing the pandemic, McGuire limited the number of observers of the vote count in the 800-square-foot county voting office. He installed a video feed so people could watch remotely, but that didn't satisfy his critics.

"Voting, to me, is one of the fundamental rights of an American citizen," said Lindy Martinez, a retired cook. "If somebody is going to make it feel, like it is or isn't, like you can't see" how your vote is counted, she said, "then where's my rights?"

As Trump falsely protested his loss with rumors and vague allegations that would fuel the Jan. 6 assault on the U.S. Capitol, Martinez became more suspicious that something untoward had happened in her county. She joined a group called the Mason County Voter Research Project that went door to door, checking whether voters who cast ballots in 2020 actually lived where they were registered.

The group was headed by Duenkel. It issued a report claiming that it found 441 "anomalies" in the voter rolls, including possible votes by a dead person. But McGuire said the vast majority of the cases the office knew about or were simply erroneous. Only about 67 of the 44,000 voters had possible issues. A Seattle television station retraced the group's steps and found numerous errors in its report, including the allega-

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 22 of 81

tion that a dead person voted.

At one of the first tables he sat at during the "speed-dating" event, voters challenged Duenkel about the television station's report.

"They disputed some of the findings, but in the end they had to agree there were some things that couldn't be explained," Duenkel said.

The issue dogged him as he moved around the room.

"It feels like you're talking about pocket change," Chris McGee, a 63-year-old retired carpenter and self-identified liberal, told Duenkel when the candidate touted his door-to-door investigation.

"Small numbers matter," Duenkel shot back, noting that a recent city council race had been decided by five votes. "Think of it as if it were your bank account, and your bank said, 'Fifty dollars, what's the big deal?'"

Duenkel repeatedly told voters he was not claiming "fraud." But, at one table, after Duenkel described the purported "ghost voters" he said his door-knocking had uncovered, Marisa Kaneshiro, a legal assistant, responded incredulously, "You just alleged fraud right here!"

Another voter dropped in front of the candidate a copy of the local weekly newspaper with the headline "State Rebuts Duenkel Claims."

At one point, Duenkel seemed to argue that repeated wins by Democrats in the reliably blue state were partly responsible for conservative skepticism about voting.

"There are a lot of people who have lost confidence" in election security, Duenkel lamented. "They are seeing outcomes they don't believe in." That, he added, "is a subtle form of voter suppression."

McGuire faced pushback from voters, as well. At one table, several voters asked about security surrounding drop boxes — only one in the county has a video camera filming it. McGuire argued that the existing sensors, like motion detectors, were as good as they could do right now. Minutes earlier, Duenkel had earned nods and smiles criticizing drop box security.

"I'm not excited about drop boxes, I think that's fodder for misuse," Leslie Skelly, a 75-year-old retired restaurateur and a Republican at the table said afterward. He added that "I liked them both," but is leaning toward Duenkel.

Other voters at the table slammed McGuire over limiting observers during the 2020 count.

"I am proud of the fact that none of my staff got sick," he said.

At a final table, one woman confronted McGuire, unspooling a complex, jargon-laden story about a voting machine update after 2020 that she claimed deleted election data.

"Why haven't you told the people about the deletion of the web activity logs?!" she demanded as the moderators rang a cowbell, signaling the candidates had to move to the next table.

McGuire seemed baffled by the charge. "Well, you know about it," he said as he left.

Beanpole thin and gregarious, McGuire chatted amiably with attendees long after the event finished. Duenkel, more compact and soft-spoken, in a navy suit without a tie, shook several hands but left sooner.

Outside the building, Barbara Weingarden, a 51-year-old dietary worker who described herself as politically "non-denominational," said she was confused by Duenkel's intimations of voter fraud.

"Steve was bringing that in from Seattle, or other metro areas," she said, adding she was sure there was no cheating in her county. "We're a small community."

## Most in US want more action on climate change: AP-NORC poll

By MATTHEW DALY and NUHA DOLBY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly two-thirds of Americans think the federal government is not doing enough to fight climate change, according to a new poll that shows limited public awareness about a sweeping new law that commits the U.S. to its largest ever investment to combat global warming.

Democrats in Congress approved the Inflation Reduction Act in August, handing President Joe Biden a hard-fought triumph on priorities that his party hopes will bolster prospects for keeping their House and Senate majorities in November's elections.

Biden and Democratic lawmakers have touted the new law as a milestone achievement leading into the

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 23 of 81

midterm elections, and environmental groups have spent millions to boost the measure in battleground states. Yet the poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research finds that 61% of U.S. adults say they know little to nothing about it.

While the law was widely heralded as the largest investment in climate spending in history, 49% of Americans say it won't make much of a difference on climate change, 33% say it will help and 14% think it will do more to hurt it.

The measure, which passed without a single Republican vote in either chamber, offers nearly \$375 billion in incentives to accelerate expansion of clean energy such as wind and solar power, speeding the transition away from fossil fuels such as oil, coal and natural gas that largely cause climate change.

Combined with spending by states and the private sector, the law could help shrink U.S. carbon emissions by about two-fifths by 2030 and chop emissions from electricity by as much as 80%, advocates say.

Michael Katz, 84, of Temple, New Hampshire, said he thinks Biden has "done an amazing amount of work" as president. "I'm sort of in awe of what he's done," said Katz, a Democrat and retired photographer. Still, asked his opinion of the Inflation Reduction Act, Katz said, "I'm not acquainted with" it.

After learning about the law's provisions, Katz said he supports increased spending for wind and solar power, along with incentives to purchase electric vehicles.

Katz said he supports even stronger measures — such as restrictions on rebuilding in coastal areas damaged by Hurricane Ian or other storms — but doubts they will ever be approved.

"People want their dreams to come true: to live near the ocean in a big house," he said.

Leah Stokes, an environmental policy professor at the University of California, Santa Barbara, said she was not surprised the climate law is so little known, despite massive media coverage when it was debated in Congress, approved and signed by Biden.

The law was passed during the summer, when people traditionally pay less attention to news, "and it takes time to explain it," especially since many of the law's provisions have not yet kicked in, Stokes said.

Biden and congressional Democrats "delivered in a big way on climate," she said, but now must focus on helping the public understand the law and "winning the win."

Meredith McGroarty, a waitress from Pontiac, Michigan, said she knew little about the new law but supports increased climate action. "I have children I'm leaving behind to this world," she said.

McGroarty, 40, a Democrat, urged Biden and other leaders to talk more about the climate law's "effects on normal, everyday people. Let us know what's going on a little more."

Americans are generally more likely to support than oppose many of the government actions on climate change included in the law, the poll shows. That includes incentives for electric vehicles and solar panels, though relatively few say they are inclined to pursue either in the next three years.

About half of Americans think government action that targets companies with restrictions is very important, the poll shows, while about a third say that about restrictions on individuals. A majority of Americans, 62%, say companies' refusal to reduce energy use is a major problem for efforts to reduce climate change, while just about half say people not willing to reduce their energy use is a major problem.

Slightly more than half also say it's a major problem that the energy industry is not doing enough to supply power from renewable sources such as wind and solar, and about half say the government is not investing enough in renewable energy.

Overall, 62% of U.S. adults say the government is doing too little to reduce climate change, while 19% say it's doing too much and 18% think it's doing the right amount.

Democrats are more likely than others to think the federal government is doing too little on climate: 79% say that, compared to 67% of independents and 39% of Republicans. About three-quarters of Black and Hispanic Americans think there's too little action, compared to about half of white Americans.

And about three-quarters of adults under 45 think there's too little action on climate, significantly higher than the roughly half of those older who think that.

Robert Stavins, a professor of energy and economic development at the Harvard Kennedy School, said it makes sense for the government to step in to promote renewable energy on a large scale.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 24 of 81

"Individual action is not going to be sufficient in 10 or even 20 years," he said. "You need government policies to create incentives for industry and individuals to move in a carbon-friendly direction."

Americans want to own a car, "and they are not going to buy one that's expensive," Stavins said, so government needs to lower costs for electric vehicles and encourage automakers to produce more EVs, including widespread availability of charging stations. Biden has set a goal to install 500,000 charging stations across America as part of the 2021 infrastructure law.

On renewable energy, nearly two-thirds of U.S. adults say offshore wind farms should be expanded, and about 6 in 10 say solar panel farms should be expanded. Biden has moved to expand offshore wind and solar power as president.

Americans are divided on offshore drilling for oil and natural gas. Around a third say such drilling should be expanded, while about as many say it should be reduced; another third say neither.

Republicans were more likely than Democrats to be in favor of expanding offshore drilling, 54% to 20%.

## Zeldin's crime message resonates in New York governor's race

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — While many Republican candidates started this election year attacking Democrats over inflation, New York's Lee Zeldin had a different focus: crime.

The GOP candidate for governor has spent much of the year railing against a streak of shootings and other violent crimes, including a series of unprovoked attacks on New York City subways. He lamented stories of stabbings, people being shoved onto the tracks by strangers and a bizarre incident near Times Square in which several women in neon green leotards attacked and robbed two women on a train.

And in a personal twist, two teenagers were injured in a drive-by shooting outside his home earlier this month.

"I'll tell you what: A lot of people are telling me that they're keeping their head on a swivel more than ever before," Zeldin said outside a subway station in Queens days after a subway rider was pushed onto the tracks. "People are walking these streets in a way like they're in a combat zone."

Ahead of the Nov. 8 election, Republicans around the country are closing with a message that follows closely to what Zeldin has argued much of the year. In recent debates from Georgia to Michigan and Wisconsin, GOP contenders have blasted Democrats as inattentive to crime. And in New York, there are signs that the crime message is resonating as the race between Zeldin, a four-term U.S. congressman, and Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul tightens somewhat in the final stretch.

"New Yorkers in cities are very, very frustrated by several years of a visible and palpable spike in crime and erosion in quality of life," Democratic strategist Jon Reinish said. "There are voters on the table who would normally be off the table."

Zeldin and Hochul will meet Tuesday for their one debate before the general election.

Hochul is still seen as the favorite in the race. A Republican hasn't won the governor's mansion in New York since 2002, when Gov. George Pataki won reelection in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 terror attacks. In every governor's race in the state since 2006, the Democrat has won by a significant margin. Democrats outnumber Republicans by a 2-1 ratio, giving Hochul a distinct advantage even as her party faces headwinds nationally.

Siena College polling since July, including as recently as mid-October, has shown Hochul with a significant lead over Zeldin. But other recent polls have suggested Hochul has only a modest advantage.

"It's a lot closer race than anybody expected," said Thomas Doherty, a political strategist and aide to Pataki.

Even if Hochul wins, a weaker-than-expected performance at the top of the ticket could have implications for other Democrats on the ballot, particularly those competing in tighter contests in upstate and western New York. The party will need strong turnout, for instance, to keep U.S. Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney's Hudson Valley district or flip the Syracuse-area seat being vacated by Republican John Katko.

Zeldin's strategy has at times mirrored the moves of New York Mayor Eric Adams, a moderate who won



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 25 of 81

a crowded Democratic primary last year by focusing on crime rates and made a point on the campaign trail and as mayor to hold news conferences at crime scenes. It has also given Zeldin a campaign platform in New York City, a generally liberal bastion where Republican candidates face an uphill battle.

He has appeared outside New York City apartment buildings, bodegas and subway stops where violence unfolded and has declared crime to be out of control.

"There is rising crime on our streets and in our subways, and people who are in charge right now in Albany actually feel like they haven't passed enough pro-criminal laws," Zeldin said recently.

Rates of violent crime and killings have broadly increased around the U.S. since the coronavirus pandemic, in some places climbing from historic lows. While experts have pointed to a number of potential causes, including global upheaval related to the pandemic, Republicans have tried to focus blame on criminal justice reforms adopted after George Floyd's killing by police.

The reality is often more nuanced. Across New York, rates of murder, rape, robbery and assault have all increased since the pandemic, and all of those crimes except robbery have increased from 2012 to 2021, according to New York state data.

In New York City, murder rates are lower than they were two years ago, but rates of rape, robbery, assault and burglary are all up, according to New York Police Department data. Crimes on the city transit system are more than 40% higher than at the same point last year. But subway ridership has risen since last year, and the 1,800 crime complaints made thus far in 2022 on the subway system represent a tiny fraction of the traffic on a system that is seeing about 3.5 million riders a day.

Still, Hochul is paying attention to Zeldin's attacks and responding.

Over the weekend, she appeared with Adams in New York City to announce more police would be deployed in the subways, with officers on platforms in at least 300 stations during peak hours and transit officers to ride hundreds of additional trains per day, also during peak hours.

While she has stepped up her campaign attacks portraying Zeldin as "too extreme" and noting his ties to former President Donald Trump, her campaign ads have included a new public safety focus. Her campaign ad released Friday promised that, as governor, she is working to provide "a safe walk home at night, a subway ride free of fear, a safer New York for every child."

At an unrelated news conference Monday, Hochul dismissed the idea that she hadn't been talking about crime.

"I'm not letting the political theater out there affect what we've done. This is not a new issue for me, and I think that's what we established," she said.

Zeldin still faces plenty of hurdles of his own, perhaps most notably his alliance with Trump, who is unpopular in the blue state. After Trump wrongly claimed widespread election fraud in the 2020 presidential election, Zeldin, in his role as a member of the U.S. House, voted against certifying Joe Biden's victory.

Zeldin's ties to Trump became even more awkward this month when Trump, on the day he endorsed Zeldin, said American Jews need to "get their act together" and "appreciate" Israel "before it is too late." Jews constitute an important constituency in New York, and Zeldin is Jewish, but he has not addressed Trump's comment.

As the election approaches, Zeldin has sought to distance himself from the former president to a degree. When Trump endorsed him, Zeldin brushed aside the endorsement, saying "it shouldn't have been news" and noting that the former president "supported me before."

He has similarly tried to pivot away from abortion after sustained attacks from Hochul over the issue.

"I will not change and could not change New York's abortion law," Zeldin said in a new television ad.

Former New York Gov. David Paterson, a Democrat, said Zeldin's alliance with Trump is not as potent of an attack for Hochul with everything else New Yorkers are facing.

"Because of inflation and issues of crime and also other problems that we're having just in our quality of life, I think that voters are going to be a lot more pragmatic about how they're doing now as to how they were doing previously, than necessarily who supports who," Paterson said.

Pataki, the last Republican governor, made a point of stressing his support for abortion rights when he

won decades ago.

"The Democrats keep talking about abortion, and look — that might be the savior for them," said Doherty, Pataki's former aide.

But Doherty said if he were running a campaign, the only thing he would talk about is crime.

"It is something," he said, "that a Republican nominee for governor can ride into the Albany mansion."

## WhatsApp says service back after outage disrupts messages

The Associated Press undefined

LONDON (AP) — WhatsApp said service on the popular chat app has been restored following a brief outage Tuesday that left people around the world complaining that they couldn't send or receive messages.

According to Downdetector, which tracks outage reports, people started reporting problems around 3 a.m. EDT. About two hours later, users started posting online that WhatsApp was back to normal.

A WhatsApp spokesperson said the company was aware some people were having trouble sending messages and that it has fixed the issue and apologized for any inconvenience.

Meta, previously known as Facebook, bought WhatsApp in 2014. It's wildly popular especially outside of the U.S., where many people use it for everyday communication.

## UK court to hear Uyghur demands to ban Xinjiang cotton

LONDON (AP) — A Uyghur organization and a human rights group are taking the U.K. government to court to challenge Britain's failure to block the import of cotton products associated with forced labor and other abuses in China's far western Xinjiang region.

Tuesday's hearing at the High Court in London is believed the first time a foreign court hears legal arguments from the Uyghurs over the issue of forced labor in Xinjiang. The region is a major global supplier of cotton, but rights groups have long alleged that the cotton is picked and processed by China's Uyghurs and other Turkic Muslim minorities in a widespread, state-sanctioned system of forced labor.

The case, brought by the Munich-based World Uyghur Congress and the Global Legal Action Network, a nonprofit, is one of several similar legal challenges aimed at putting pressure on the U.K. and European Union governments to follow the lead of the United States, where a law took effect this year to ban all cotton products suspected of being made in Xinjiang.

Researchers say Xinjiang produces 85% of cotton grown in China, constituting one-fifth of the world's cotton. Rights groups argue that the scale of China's rights violations in Xinjiang — which the U.N. says may amount to "crimes against humanity" — means that numerous international fashion brands are at high risk of using cotton tainted with forced labor and other rights abuses.

Gearóid Ó Cuinn, the Global Legal Action Network's director, said the group submitted almost 1,000 pages of evidence — including company records, NGO investigations and Chinese government documents — to the U.K. and U.S. governments in 2020 to back its case. British authorities have taken no action so far, he said.

"Right now, U.K. consumers are systematically exposed to consumer goods tainted by forced labor," Ó Cuinn said. "It does demonstrate the lack of political will."

Researchers and advocacy groups estimate 1 million or more people from Uyghur and other minority groups have been swept into detention camps in Xinjiang, where many say they were tortured, sexually assaulted, and forced to abandon their language and religion. The organizations say the camps, along with forced labor and draconian birth control policies, are a sweeping crackdown on Xinjiang's minorities.

A recent U.N. report largely corroborated the accounts. China denounces the accusations as lies and argues its policies were aimed at quashing extremism.

In the U.S., a new law gives border authorities more power to block or seize cotton imports produced partly or wholly in Xinjiang. The products are effectively banned unless the importer can show clear evidence that the goods were not produced using forced labor.

The European Commission last month proposed prohibiting all products made with forced labor from

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 27 of 81

entering the EU market. The plans haven't been agreed upon yet by the European Parliament.

The British government's Modern Slavery Act requires companies operating in the U.K. to report what they have done to identify rights abuses in their supply chains. But there is no legal obligation to undertake audits and due diligence. In a statement, the U.K.'s Conservative government said it is "committed to introduce financial penalties for organizations that do not comply with modern slavery reporting requirements."

Lawyers representing the Uyghurs will argue at the High Court on Tuesday that the British government's inaction breaches existing U.K. laws prohibiting goods made in foreign prisons or linked to crime.

Former Conservative Party leader Iain Duncan Smith, one of the most vocal China critics in Britain's Parliament, said the U.K. has been "dragging its feet" on the issue because of "huge institutional resistance to change" after years of dependence on trade with China. Britain's Conservative government has not taken the China threat seriously enough, he argued.

"Treasury and the business department are desperate not to destroy ties with China and (officials) are still living in project kowtow," Duncan Smith said. Compared to the U.S. and the EU, "we are bringing up the rear" on the cotton issue, he added.

Earlier this month, Ó Cuinn's organization made a separate submission to the Irish government demanding a halt to the import of forced labor goods from Xinjiang. Meanwhile, lawyers representing a survivor of detention and forced labor in Xinjiang have also written to the U.K. government threatening to sue over the issue.

The claimant in that case, Erbakit Ortabay, said he was detained in internment centers, where he was tortured and beaten, and later forced to work for no pay in a clothing factory. Ortabay, who was eventually released in 2019, is currently seeking asylum in Britain.

Clothing is among the top five type of goods the U.K. imports from China, accounting for about 3.5 billion pounds (\$4 billion) in imports in 2021. The U.K. does not publish shipping data detailing trade with the Xinjiang region.

But Laura Murphy, a professor of human rights at Sheffield Hallam University, has identified 103 well-known international fashion brands -- including some trading in the U.K. -- at high risk of having Xinjiang cotton in their supply chains because they buy from intermediary garment manufacturers, which in turn are supplied by Chinese companies that source cotton in Xinjiang.

"What we find is that a lot of Xinjiang cotton is also sent out to other countries to be manufactured into apparel. So it's not always coming directly from there -- it might be coming from a company making clothes in Indonesia or Cambodia," Murphy said.

In the U.S., the new ban on Xinjiang cotton has forced apparel companies to step up tracking technologies to map out routes for their products' origin, according to Brian Ehrig, partner in the consumer practice of management consulting firm Kearney. The ban is also accelerating the migration of apparel production in China to other regions like Vietnam and Cambodia.

Some experts believe that the U.S. law has also compelled companies to block Xinjiang cotton products from other markets. Scott Nova, executive director of the Worker Rights Consortium, a labor rights monitoring organization, said even if companies want to reroute Xinjiang-linked products to other markets, it would require a "substantial reorganization" of their supply networks.

Figures from the China National Cotton Information Center show that sales of cotton produced in Xinjiang in the year to mid-June fell 40% from a year earlier to 3.1 million tons. The commercial inventory of cotton produced in Xinjiang was 3.3 million tons at the end of May, up 60% from a year earlier, according to Wind, a Chinese financial information provider.

## 'They took my big love': Ukraine woman searches for answers

By ERIKA KINETZ Associated Press

OZERA, Ukraine (AP) — Tetiana Boikiv peered from the doorway of the cellar at the Russian soldiers questioning her husband about his phone.

"Come up," her husband, Mykola Moroz, called to her. "Don't be afraid."

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 28 of 81

Moroz — Kolia to his friends — was trying to explain that the surveillance video they'd found was from his job as an electrician, all taken before the Feb. 24 invasion.

"I am a religious person," Kolia said. "I haven't hurt anyone."

But the two soldiers and their commander weren't listening. They put a bag over his head. Despairing, Boikiv demanded to know what they would do with the man she called her big, big love.

"Shoot him," one of the soldiers replied. They took him away.

She would never see Kolia again.

While atrocities in the nearby town of Bucha have captured the world's attention and become case number one for Ukraine's prosecutors, the slaughter there was not an aberration. Rather, it was part of a trail of violence that spread far and wide, often under the radar of prosecutors, to ordinary villages like Zdvyzhivka, a half hour north of Bucha, where Kolia lived.

Much of the violence was systemic, not random, conceived and implemented within the command structures of the Russian military, an investigation by The Associated Press and the PBS series Frontline found.

This story is part of an AP/FRONTLINE investigation that includes the War Crimes Watch Ukraine interactive experience and the upcoming documentary "Putin's Attack on Ukraine: Documenting War Crimes," which premieres 10/9c Oct. 25 on PBS.

Troops were instructed to block and destroy vestiges of "nationalist resistance," according to Russian battle plans obtained by the Royal United Services Institute, a prominent defense and security think tank in London. They did so with consistent brutality, hunting potential enemies on Russian intelligence lists and torturing and killing volunteer fighters, veterans and civilians suspected of assisting Ukrainian troops. The AP and Frontline interviewed dozens of witnesses and survivors, and reviewed audio intercepts and surveillance camera footage to document what happened.

These cleansing operations — zachistka, in Russian — took on a sharper edge as the line between civilians and combatants blurred. Ukraine has made it breathtakingly easy for anyone with a cell phone connection to report the position of Russian troops, and many civilians do. As Russian soldiers fought to suppress what has effectively become a crowdsourced resistance, they've swept up many civilians who have done nothing at all.

Ukrainian prosecutors say they will address every crime committed in this war, but they are scrambling to triage more than 40,000 war crimes investigations. Right now, their most pressing priorities are cases with promising evidence and high body counts, places like Bucha that gripped the public imagination. Kolia would die in a garden not far away, possibly at the hands of troops commanded by the same man who led the Bucha operation, but his death has gone largely unnoticed.

That left Boikiv on her own to find her missing husband and struggle to make sense of his death.

Each time a new body turned up in Zdvyzhivka — a bucolic village an hour north of Kyiv that Russians turned into a major forward operating base for their assault on the capitol — Father Vasyl Bentsa's phone would ring.

The village priest had taken it upon himself to document the deaths.

On Mar. 30, as Russian troops withdrew, the bodies of two unknown men, marked by torture, were found in the back garden of one of the biggest, ritziest houses in town. Bullets had ripped through the red wood fence nearby and casings littered the ground. By the next morning, when Bentsa arrived, three more bodies had appeared in the same spot.

There were no police, no prosecutors, no ballistics experts, no Ukrainian military around to call for help. There were just five men who needed names.

"We did not know at all who to contact," Bentsa said. "To leave the bodies like that for a long time was stupid. Clearly, we all know physiology — the human will decompose and smell. What would we do with them?"

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 29 of 81

Father Bentsa put on medical gloves and searched through the pockets of the corpses, looking for identification. He found none.

It didn't seem like the men had been dead very long. A woman from town who helped remove the blindfold from one of the corpses got fresh blood on her hands.

Bentsa snapped photographs and helped haul the bodies to a graveyard at the edge of the forest. He buried them together in a sandy pit, taking care to mark the spot with a rough wooden cross. "March 31, 2022," he scratched into the wood. "5 unknown men."

"It's a good thing someone had a pen," he said.

Fifteen minutes south, in Oзера, Boikiv kept hoping Kolia would reappear.

They'd met at the botanical garden in Kyiv on a church outing for singles. Boikiv had moved from her home in the city to the village of Oзера just a few months before Russia's invasion to build a new life with Kolia.

Their house had bright blue doors and rough wood siding painted in cheerful blues and green. Friends said Kolia had golden hands and could fix anything. Their back yard was stacked with construction materials to replace the roof, add brick cladding and build a new barn.

Kolia got up before dawn to bring Boikiv fresh flowers from the fields. When they were apart, he sent her photos of flowers on her phone.

"He was like a child deep inside," said Boikiv, who goes by Tania.

He liked to collect small, beautiful things — stones, stamps, postcards, pieces of glass. In the evenings they'd take turns cooking. He baked better apple pie than she did.

"Once Kolia said to me, Tania, what's the point in living for oneself? It's when you have somebody next to you, you can feel happy," she recalled. "Somebody to live for, somebody to bake for, somebody to work for."

After the Russians left, word went round that a priest from Zdvizhivka had photos of people who'd been killed.

As soon as the roads were clear of landmines, Boikiv and two neighbors went to talk with him. They found Father Bentsa in a large, hushed room filled with gilded Orthodox icons, where he had just finished mass.

Bentsa scrolled through the images of the dead on his phone.

At the third man, Boikiv froze. There was Kolia, dressed in his own clothes, with his own face, bloodied and beaten but intact. His hands were curled into fists and his body was fixed in a fetal position. The joints of his legs were bent at strange angles. One eye was swollen shut, and his skull had been crushed.

"My Kolia! Kolia!" she cried, grabbing the priest's phone.

Father Bentsa told her police had exhumed Kolia and four others from their common grave six days earlier. Boikiv and her neighbors drove home in silence.

Where was Kolia now?

Two other men from Oзера were also swept up by Russians looking for spotters and died together in the garden with Kolia. One actually was a spotter, reporting detailed information about the location of Russian troops to the Ukrainian military.

On March 21 — six days after Kolia was taken — Serhii Kucher heard someone hollering his name outside the house he'd taken refuge in, just around the corner from Boikiv's. When he walked outside, he saw his friend — a local driver named Andrii Voznenko — kneeling, shirtless in the cold, surrounded by Russians.

Kucher said a soldier held a gun to Voznenko's head and he confessed to acting as a spotter.

The soldiers demanded to know if Kucher was a spotter too and forced him to strip so they could search him for tattoos. They threatened to shoot him in the knees.

"They searched the house, every room, every crevice," Kucher said. "They threatened that if any data gets sent from anywhere within the village, 'We will come back and shoot you on sight.'"

Around 1 p.m., the Russians put a bag over Voznenko's head and drove him away. Two other eyewitnesses corroborated Kucher's account. They never saw Voznenko alive again.

Ivan Boiko, an Oзера local who works for the emergency services of Ukraine, told AP and Frontline that Voznenko was skilled at identifying Russian planes and vehicles.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 30 of 81

"I was sending all of this information to the headquarters of the Armed Forces of Ukraine, and the Ukrainian Army was hitting these positions," Boiko said.

Boiko said he lost contact with Voznenko around March 10, nearly two weeks before the Russians picked him up.

The day after Voznenko was taken, another Ozera man, named Mykhailo Honchar, was picked up. Eyewitnesses said Russian soldiers blindfolded him, bound his hands and legs and took him away after finding electronics equipment in his backpack.

In Syria and during the Arab Spring, civilians used their phones to document conflict. But never before has a government mobilized technology to gather information in such an organized, widespread way, as President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called on every citizen to help the war effort.

With a touch of the button from the start screen of Diia, Ukraine's e-government app, anyone can report Russian troop movements via a Telegram bot set up by the Ministry of Digital Transformation. Mykhailo Fedorov, the Minister of Digital Transformation, said on Twitter in April that in just five weeks the bot had collected 257,000 reports on military hardware, troops and war criminals.

The Security Service of Ukraine created its own Telegram bot and sent out SMS messages encouraging people to report Russian troop movements: "We will win together!"

"It does concern me because you are effectively turning citizens into intelligence assets," said Eliot Higgins, the founder of Bellingcat, an investigative group that has been working with crowdsourced documentation of atrocities for years. "It creates a risk for those civilians. ... Do we really want a government putting civilians in that position?"

Oleksiy Danilov, the head of Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, acknowledged the risks for civilians, but said the volunteers felt empowered by contributing to the defense of their country.

"The engagement of the locals was very important," Danilov said. "They risked their lives. They were helping their country."

Under the laws of war, civilians who pose a security threat can be detained, and soldiers could target civilians actively participating in hostilities, international human rights lawyers say. But under no circumstances is it legal to torture and kill civilians or combatants held as prisoners of war.

The degree of crowdsourced intelligence in Ukraine presents new legal questions.

"This really is a novel kind of issue," said Clint Williamson, a former U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues. "It's not contemplated under international humanitarian law."

But, he added, the Ukrainian government has every right to mobilize the population.

"It is still the choice of each individual as to whether they participate," he said.

Russian soldiers were sloppy about deciding who would live and who would die. Perhaps fear or rage clouded their judgment. Perhaps they didn't really care that much.

Three people picked up and tortured by Russian soldiers near Kyiv admitted to the AP, relatives or friends that they had been passing information about Russian troop positions to Ukrainian authorities. Two were later killed.

They day before Kolia was abducted, drone footage shows a fiery cloud bloom from the woods just outside Ozera as a Ukrainian rocket hit Russian artillery munitions. The strike was so accurate that it was "perfectly logical" for Russians to suspect a spotter who gave information, said Pierre Vaux, an expert in digital investigations at the Center for Information Resilience in London who analyzed the video.

But it looks like Kolia told the truth about not being involved. Cell phone tower records for Kolia's mobile phone numbers obtained by The AP show that his phone was last active on Feb. 25 — making it extremely unlikely that he sent in coordinates from the occupied town in the 18 days before his abduction.

---

Boikiv's first stop in her effort to find Kolia was the Bucha morgue.

By the time she arrived, spring was settling in over Bucha. Daffodils bloomed in front of ravaged houses. As the sun warmed the earth back to life, the bodies of Bucha began to stink.

The thick, sticky stench of the dead lingered around the morgue for weeks. The only immediate relief came from the scent of fresh cut pine wood in a small room packed with coffins.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 31 of 81

Anna Dolid, a psychologist on duty at the morgue, tried to ease things by explaining, step by step, the process of reclamation when evidence of crimes must be gathered. All corpses needed to be exhumed so proper investigations could be done. There would be autopsies at one of a half dozen local morgues, and only then could a body be handed over for burial.

People watched in horror as loved ones were dug up from their yards.

"It was chaos. No one understood what was happening," Dolid said.

She kept smelling salts on hand to revive those who fainted from the trauma and handed out rafts of prescriptions for sedatives.

The question that rips through people's grief, Dolid said, is why. Why did this happen? "It takes years to search for answers to these questions," she said.

If Boikiv couldn't get a why, she would settle for a where. But Kolia's name wasn't on the lists of bodies at the morgue. There were three large refrigerated trucks parked outside. Her Kolia was probably inside one of them.

Boikiv's friend from church opened each body bag and peered in at each dead face. He called her over once in a while to examine possible matches. She said they went through dozens of bodies.

They did not find Kolia.

A few days later, she got word that two unidentified bodies from Zdvyzhivka had come in. But the Bucha morgue was farming out overflow corpses to a half dozen other morgues. By the time Boikiv got back to Bucha, the Zdvyzhivka bodies were at the bottom of a stack of body bags in a refrigerated truck about to leave for the nearby town of Bila Tserkva.

Boikiv began to weep. If she couldn't hitch a ride on the truck, she threatened, she would climb in the back with all the dead people. She couldn't let Kolia slip away again. The driver made space for her in the cab.

When the truck was unloaded in Bila Tserkva, Boikiv peered in at the corpses from Zdvyzhivka. They were in such poor shape that it was hard to be sure. A nurse told Tania to look not just at the clothes, but also at the teeth.

"I opened the mouth and looked at the teeth," she said, flinching at the memory. "It wasn't him."

She kept looking, then spotted Kolia's shoe peeking out from a partially open bag.

By the time Boikiv set eyes on her husband again, Kolia had been dead for a month. His eyeballs had liquified into a kind of white jelly. His skin was stretched and dry, disintegrating. The stench was piercing.

"I asked the nurse what's with the eyes," Boikiv said. "She told me the eyes rot first."

She recognized her husband by the shape of his skull and his beard. She peered into Kolia's mouth and looked at his fillings.

"I didn't want to bring someone else to my house," Boikiv explained. "Even without the eyes, I could tell it was my husband."

The day of the funeral, friends from church trickled into the yard and stood around Kolia's coffin. The sky threatened rain.

"We will meet again, Kolia," Boikiv said, running her work gloves along the top of the casket. "I will give him a hard time for not listening to me, and not leaving when we had a chance. And how much time was I searching for him? How much I've travelled."

She felt a stab of panic. "I double-checked if it's him or not," she said in a low voice. "I am calm. I am calm."

The mourners sang, deep and slow, about coming closer to God, finding a place without sorrow. Under low slate clouds, they walked in a short procession to the cemetery behind the church.

Overhead, majestic storks circled instead of warplanes. As Boikiv went back home, neighbors embraced and sat together in front of their fences. They had survived, so far. They would bury their dead and life, somehow, would begin again.

"Everything is beautiful here. But Kolia is gone," Boikiv said, looking at a row of tall red tulips her neighbor had planted. Fat, warm drops of spring rain splattered the dirt.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 32 of 81

"They took my big love," she said.

All that's left now is the search for justice. For those who have lost loved ones, it is everything, and it is also nothing.

Around the time of the funeral, Father Bentsa knelt on the forest floor next to the pit where he had buried Kolia, Voznenko and Honchar. He still doesn't know the names of the other two men found in the garden. Police had left things behind when they took away the corpses, and Bentsa matched them with his photographs of the mangled bodies.

Here, Honchar's purple scarf.

There, the bloody cloth that bound Voznenko's eyes.

Kolia's black winter hat.

"Maybe one day it will be useful," he said. "If I bury them in the ground and there are no pictures, there's no evidence, no investigation."

How does one death – as deep a loss as the next – jump the line in the search for justice?

All across Ukraine, gardens and courtyards and basements were filling up with bodies. It was far from clear whether Kolia's would count.

The early signs did not reassure Boikiv. The only official documentation of his death she had was a slim strip of paper summarizing the autopsy, which struck her as deeply inadequate. It said her husband died of multiple gunshot wounds on March 25, 2022.

Boikiv had seen the photographs of Kolia's body and doubted it was bullets that killed him.

She gave a statement to Ukrainian authorities, but she said she hasn't heard from anyone since. She thinks she'd be able to identify the soldiers who took him, but no one has come around to ask. Most of what she learned about her husband's last days came from Father Bentsa.

If she believed that finding Kolia would bring her a measure of relief, it didn't turn out that way. Her search was over, but Kolia was still gone, and her house rang with silence.

She said the people responsible for her husband's death should be identified and punished. But she's not optimistic that will happen. Nor is she convinced it would matter much.

"You will not bring him back," she said. "It won't change anything."

She sat at home in the darkening light surrounded by reminders of what she has lost. The bed she'd brought to share with Kolia. The water from the well Kolia dug. The little blue and white plastic butterflies Kolia pinned to their buckling wallpaper.

She was thinking of leaving Ozera, but then who would eat the fruit from Kolia's garden?

"I understand that everything is in the hands of God," she said. "And the time will come when people will be punished for this. The judgment day is awaiting them."

## Renters face charging dilemma as U.S. cities move toward EVs

By GILLIAN FLACCUS Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Stephanie Terrell bought a used Nissan Leaf this fall and was excited to join the wave of drivers adopting electric vehicles to save on gas money and reduce her carbon footprint.

But Terrell quickly encountered a bump in the road on her journey to clean driving: As a renter, she doesn't have a private garage where she can power up overnight, and the public charging stations near her are often in use, with long wait times. On a recent day, the 23-year-old nearly ran out of power on the freeway because a public charging station she was counting on was busy.

"It was really scary and I was really worried I wasn't going to make it, but luckily I made it here. Now I have to wait a couple hours to even use it because I can't go any further," she said while waiting at another station where a half-dozen EV drivers circled the parking lot, waiting their turn. "I feel better about it than buying gas, but there are problems I didn't really anticipate."

The great transition to electric vehicles is underway for single-family homeowners who can charge their cars at home, but for millions of renters like Terrell, access to charging remains a significant barrier. People



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 33 of 81

who rent are also more likely to buy used EVs that have a lower range than the latest models, making reliable public charging even more critical for them.

Now, cities from Portland to Los Angeles to New York City are trying to come up with innovative public charging solutions as drivers string power cords across sidewalks, stand up their own private charging stations on city right-of-ways and line up at public facilities.

The Biden administration last month approved plans from all 50 states to roll out a network of high-speed chargers along interstate highways coast-to-coast using \$5 billion in federal funding over the next five years. But states must wait to apply for an additional \$2.5 billion in local grants to fill in charging gaps, including in low- and moderate-income areas of cities and in neighborhoods with limited private parking.

"We have a really large challenge right now with making it easy for people to charge who live in apartments," said Jeff Allen, executive director of Forth, a nonprofit that advocates for equity in electric vehicle ownership and charging access.

"There's a mental shift that cities have to make to understand that promoting electric cars is also part of their sustainable transportation strategy. Once they make that mental shift, there's a whole bunch of very tangible things they can — and should — be doing."

The quickest place to charge is a fast charger, also known as DC Fast. Those charge a car in 20 to 45 minutes. But slower chargers which take several hours, known as Level 2, still outnumber DC fast chargers by nearly four to one, although their numbers are growing. Charging an electric vehicle on a standard residential outlet, or Level 1 charger, isn't practical unless you drive little or can leave the car plugged in overnight, as many homeowners can.

Nationwide, there are about 120,000 public charging ports featuring Level 2 charging or above, and nearly 1.5 million electric vehicles registered in the U.S. — a ratio of just over one charger per 12 cars nationally, according to the latest U.S. Department of Transportation data from December 2021. But those chargers are not spread out evenly: In Arizona, for example, the ratio of electric vehicles to charging ports is 18 to one and in California, which has about 39% of the nation's EVs, there are 16 zero-emissions vehicles for every charging port.

A briefing prepared for the U.S. Department of Energy last year by the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory forecasts a total of just under 19 million electric vehicles on the road by 2030, with a projected need for an extra 9.6 million charging stations to meet that demand.

In Los Angeles, for example, nearly one-quarter of all new vehicles registered in July were plug-in electric vehicles. The city estimates in the next 20 years, it will have to expand its distribution capacity anywhere from 25% to 50%, with roughly two-thirds of the new power demand coming from electric vehicles, said Yamen Nanne, manager of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power's transportation electrification program.

Amid the boom, dense city neighborhoods are rapidly becoming pressure points in the patchy transition to electrification.

In Los Angeles, the city has installed over 500 electric vehicle chargers — 450 on street lights and about 50 of them on power poles — to meet the demand and has a goal of adding 200 EV pole chargers per year, Nanne said. The chargers are strategically installed in areas where there are apartment complexes or near amenities, he said.

The city currently has 18,000 commercial chargers — ones not in private homes — but only about 3,000 are publicly accessible and just 400 of those are DC Fast chargers, Nanne said. Demand is so high that "when we put a charger out there that's publicly accessible, we don't even have to advertise. People just see it and start using it," he said.

"We're doing really good in terms of chargers that are going into workplaces but the publicly accessible ones is where there's a lot of room to make up. Every city is struggling with that."

Similar initiatives to install pole-mounted chargers are in place or being considered in cities from New York City to Charlotte, N.C. to Kansas City, Missouri. The utility Seattle City Light is also in the early stages of a pilot project to install chargers in neighborhoods where people can't charge at home.

Mark Long, who lives in a floating home on Seattle's Portage Bay, has leased or owned an EV since

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 34 of 81

2015 and charges at public stations — and sometimes charges on an outdoor outlet at a nearby office and pays them back for the cost.

“We have a small loading area but we all just park on the street,” said Long, who hopes to get one of the utility’s chargers installed for his floating community. “I’ve certainly been in a few situations where I’m down to 15, 14, 12 miles and ... whatever I had planned, I’m just suddenly focused on getting a charge.”

Other cities, like Portland, are working to amend building codes for new construction to require electrified parking spaces for new apartment complexes and mixed-use development. A proposal being developed currently would require 50% of parking spaces in most new multi-family dwellings to have an electric conduit that could support future charging stations. In complexes with six spaces or fewer, all parking spaces would need to be pre-wired for EV charging.

Policies that provide equal access to charging are critical because with tax incentives and the emergence of a robust used-EV market, zero-emissions cars are finally within financial reach for lower-income drivers, said Ingrid Fish, who is in charge of Portland’s transportation decarbonization program.

“We’re hoping if we do our job right, these vehicles are going to become more and more accessible and affordable for people, especially those that have been pushed out of the central city” by rising rents and don’t have easy access to public transportation, Fish said.

The initiatives mimic those that have already been deployed in other nations that are much further along in EV adoption.

Worldwide, by 2030, more than 6 million public chargers will be needed to support EV adoption at a rate that keeps international emissions goals within reach, according to a recent study by the International Council on Clean Transportation. As of this year, the Netherlands and Norway have already installed enough public charging to satisfy 45% and 38% of that demand, respectively, while the U.S. has less than 10% of it in place currently, according to the study, which looked at electrification in 17 nations and government entities that account for more than half of the world’s car sales.

Some European cities are far ahead of even the most electric-savvy U.S. cities. London, for example, has 4,000 public chargers on street lights. That’s much cheaper — just a third the cost of wiring a charging station into the sidewalk, said Vishant Kothari, manager of the electric mobility team at the World Resources Institute.

But London and Los Angeles have an advantage over many U.S. cities: Their street lights operate on 240 volts, better for EV charging. Most American city street lights operate on 120 volts, which takes hours to charge a vehicle, said Kothari, who co-authored a study on the potential for pole-mounted charging in U.S. cities.

That means cities considering pole-mounted charging must also come up with other solutions, from zoning changes to making charging accessible in apartment complex parking lots to policies that encourage workplace fast-charging.

There also “needs to be a will from the city, the utilities — the policies need to be in place for curbside accessibility,” he said. “So there is quite a bit of complication.”

Changes can’t come fast enough for renters who already own electric vehicles and are struggling to charge them.

Rebecca DeWhitt rents a house but isn’t allowed to use the garage. For several years, she and her partner strung a standard extension cord 40 feet (12 meters) from an outlet near the home’s front door, across their lawn, down a grassy knoll and across a public sidewalk to reach their Nissan Leaf on the street.

They upgraded to a thicker extension cord and began parking in the driveway — also a violation of their rental contract — when their first cord charred under the EV load. They’re still using their home outlet and it takes up to two days to fully charge their new Hyundai Kona. As of now, their best alternative for a full charge is a nearby grocery store which can mean a long wait for one of two fast-charging stations to open up.

“It’s inconvenient,” she said. “And if we didn’t value having an electric vehicle so much, we wouldn’t put up with the pain of it.”

## **Qatar's residents squeezed as World Cup rental demand soars**

By LUJAIN JO and ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — Where to sleep? It's among the biggest questions facing fans traveling to tiny Qatar for the World Cup amid a feverish rush for rooms in Doha. Some will sleep on cruise ships. Others will camp in the desert. Others will fly in from Dubai and elsewhere.

But in the run-up to the world's biggest sporting event in the world's smallest host country, the struggle for housing is hardly limited to tourists. Qatar's real estate frenzy has sent rents skyrocketing and priced long-term residents out of their own homes, leaving many in the lurch.

"Landlords are taking full advantage of the situation and there's nothing in place to support the people who already live here," said Mariam, a 30-year-old British resident whose landlord refused to renew her annual contract in September, then quadrupled her monthly rent — from 5,000 Qatari riyals (some \$1,370) to 20,000 riyals (\$5,490). Unable to afford the increase, she had no choice but to move out and is now staying at a friend's place.

"It's really demoralizing," she said, giving only her first name for fear of reprisals, like other renters interviewed in the autocratic nation. Others spoke on the condition of anonymity for the same reason.

Residents in the country, where expats outnumber locals nine to one, say the surging demand and shortage of rooms ahead of the World Cup has empowered landlords to raise rents by over 40% in many cases on short notice, forcing tenants to pack up and face an uncertain future.

The Qatari government acknowledged the "increased demand for accommodation" and encouraged tenants who believe they have been wronged to file a complaint with the government's rental disputes committee.

Some 1.2 million fans are expected to descend next month on the Gulf Arab sheikhdom, which has never before hosted an event on the scale of the World Cup.

Local organizers have sought to dispel fears of an accommodation crisis, pointing out that Qatar has set aside 130,000 rooms, available through the official website. The rooms, which are in hotels, resorts, specially built housing and three cruise ships at the port, start at around \$80, they say, although it's not clear how many low-budget options there are.

A price ceiling applies to 80% of the rooms, the government said in a statement to The Associated Press. It did not respond to questions about whether and how the cap has been implemented, and the ceiling — which is about \$780 for a five-star resort room — can go higher, depending on the room's amenities.

Many long-term occupants in hotels and apartments say they're being driven out to make room for players, staffers and fans.

"You're committed to either staying and paying the extra or leaving and not knowing whether you're going to have anywhere to live," said a British teacher whose landlord hiked his rent by 44%. The teacher sold all his furniture and is now crashing at a friend's place, worried sick about his future.

Other renters renewing their leases reported signs appearing on their apartments marking the buildings as "chosen by the government to host the 2022 World Cup guests and events."

The notice, seen by the AP, orders tenants to vacate so the building can be handed over for maintenance ahead of the tournament.

Local organizers have signed a deal with French hospitality company Accor to set aside some 45,000 rooms for fans.

Omar al-Jaber, the executive director of housing at Qatar's Supreme Committee of Delivery and Legacy, said the government played no role in contract terminations affecting long-term tenants.

"To be honest with you, we are not controlling what happens in the market," he told the AP.

A 48-year-old French pilates instructor said that when she signed her lease a year ago, her landlord promised he wouldn't kick her out during the World Cup. Yet just days before her lease renewal, she got a devastating message: Her landlord couldn't rent her the place for "personal reasons." The next day, her friend saw her room advertised on Airbnb for nearly \$600 more a month than she had paid.

"You're kicking out long-term residents for a one-month event?" she said. "People are angry. It's very

disruptive.”

Residents scrambling to find new homes because of the rent hikes say it’s nearly impossible to find suitable places within their budgets. Most two-bedroom apartments on the Pearl, an artificial island off Doha, go for over \$1,000 a night on Airbnb. Luxury apartments on the site can fetch a staggering \$200,000 a month.

“The accommodations that are left for us are not good at all,” said a 32-year-old Indian resident whose monthly rent will increase by over \$400 next month. “Suddenly if we can afford it, there’s no kitchen, it’s too far away or it’s divided by partitions. It’s very disturbing.”

Energy-rich Qatar has spared no expense in its grand plans for the first World Cup in the Arab world, promising that locals and expat residents will enjoy a lasting legacy, too.

“This tournament is for everyone who’s living in Qatar,” said al-Jaber. “We would like everyone to enjoy this tournament.”

But some say the tight squeeze shows the joyous event comes at a cost.

“It’s costing me a lot of stress and money,” said the British teacher who had to leave his apartment after seven years. “I’m having to pay for the World Cup.”

## Philippine airport partially reopens despite stuck plane

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine authorities allowed a major airport to partially reopen to international and domestic flights Tuesday despite the damaged Korean Air plane stuck in the grass near the runway after a near-tragic accident over the weekend.

The airport on Mactan island in Cebu province, the country’s second-busiest, is reopening from sunrise to sunset to help ease the large numbers of canceled commercial flights and stranded passengers due to the Korean Air mishap Sunday night.

The Airbus A330 flying from Incheon, South Korea, carrying 173 people, attempted to land twice before overrunning the runway on the third attempt in rainy weather, Korean Air Lines Co. said in a statement.

The 162 passengers and 11 crewmembers escaped through emergency slides without any reports of serious injuries, Korean Air and Philippine authorities said.

But more than 100 international and domestic flights have been canceled since the accident due to the stuck aircraft, which authorities expect to tow away from a grassy area at the end of the runway later Tuesday at the earliest. Philippine civil aviation officials said the unaffected part of Mactan airport’s only usable runway could be reopened to flights during the daytime when visibility is good after it was cleared of debris from Sunday’s accident.

The front underbelly of the plane was sheared off and its nose was heavily damaged. The plane lay tipped forward on a grassy area with its front landing wheel not visible and emergency slides deployed at the doors. A ripped-open, gash-like hole was also visible at the top of the plane above a front door.

Philippine officials said Monday the plane’s remaining fuel would be siphoned off before efforts begin to remove the aircraft at the runway’s end.

The terrifying close call prompted a public apology from Korean Air’s president and a vow from one of Asia’s most prominent airlines to take steps to prevent a recurrence.

“We always prioritize safety in all of our operations, and we truly regret the stress and inconvenience brought to our passengers,” Korean Air President Woo Keehong said in a statement.

A Philippine investigation was underway to determine the cause of the accident, including why the pilot was allowed and proceeded to land despite the rainy weather.

Other aircraft managed to land safely in the same weather shortly before the Korean Air plane touched down, a Philippine aviation official said.

## Japan Cabinet minister resigns over Unification Church ties

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japan’s economy minister submitted his resignation Monday over ties to the Unification Church after facing mounting criticism in a widening controversy involving dozens of governing party

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 37 of 81

lawmakers.

Daishiro Yamagiwa's resignation is a further blow to Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government, which has been rocked by his party's close ties to the controversial South Korean-based church following the assassination of former leader Shinzo Abe in July.

Yamagiwa faced opposition lawmakers' growing demands for his resignation after he repeatedly said he did not remember his past attendance at church meetings during overseas trips and posing for group photos with church leader Hak Ja Han Moon and other executives.

Kishida on Tuesday appointed former Health Minister Shigeyuki Goto to take Yamagiwa's place as the economy minister.

Kishida said Goto is a veteran politician who is "highly capable of giving explanation" and has "passion" for economic and social reforms. Kishida said he expected him to play a central role in coordinating and achieving key policy goals, including a major economic package that Kishida plans to announce later this week. Goto's appointment is to be official after a palace ceremony later Tuesday.

The Kishida government's support ratings have nosedived over his handling of the scandal and for holding a highly unusual state funeral for Abe, one of Japan's most divisive leaders who is now seen as a key link between the governing Liberal Democratic Party and the church. Abe sent a video message in 2021 praising Hak Ja Han Moon at a meeting of the church affiliate the Universal Peace Federation.

Since the 1980s, the church has faced accusations of devious business and recruitment tactics, including brainwashing members into turning over huge portions of their salaries to it.

"I just submitted my resignation" to Kishida, Yamagiwa told reporters Monday. He said he routinely discards documents and therefore could not clearly verify past contacts with the church and only provided explanations after reports of his past church ties surfaced.

"As a result, I ended up causing trouble to the administration," Yamagiwa said. "I attended the church's meetings a number of times and that provided credibility to the group, and I deeply regret that." He pledged to stay away from the church in the future.

A governing party survey in September found nearly half of its about 400 lawmakers had ties to the church, including Cabinet ministers, many of whom shared the church's conservative views and sent messages or attended church meetings, though not as followers of the church theology. Kishida has pledged to cut all such ties, and recently said he instructed the government to probe the church, with the possibility of revoking its legal status.

Media surveys show many Japanese want a clearer explanation of how the church may have influenced party policies.

Kishida said he accepted Yamagiwa's resignation because "as prime minister, I have to prioritize our work to push forward economic measures, an extra budget and support for victims of the church problems."

Yamagiwa, who was criticized for clinging to his post and stalling parliamentary sessions because of questioning by opposition lawmakers, was seen as having been forced to quit. He said he has no intention of resigning as a lawmaker because he did not break any law.

Former Prime Minister Abe was shot to death during an outdoor campaign speech in July. The suspect, Tetsuya Yamagami, told police he killed Abe because of his apparent link to a religious group he hated. A letter and social media postings attributed to Yamagami said his mother's large donations to the Unification Church bankrupted his family and ruined his life.

The church, founded in South Korea in 1954 by Sun Myung Moon, obtained religious organization status in Japan in 1968 amid an anti-communist movement supported by Abe's grandfather, former Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi.

The group acknowledged there have been cases in which it received "excessive" donations. It says the problems have been mitigated since it adopted stricter compliance measures in 2009 and has pledged further reforms.

The police investigation of Abe's killing led to revelations of widespread ties between the church and members of the governing party, including Abe, over their shared interests in conservative causes. The case also shed light on the suffering of adherents' relatives, some of whom say they were forced to join

the church or were left in poverty or neglected because of their parents' devotion.

Many critics consider the church to be a cult because of problems with followers and their families, including financial and mental hardships.

## Walker's chicken firm tied to benefits from unpaid labor

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Herschel Walker campaigns for the U.S. Senate as a champion of free enterprise and advocate for the mentally ill, felons and others at the margins of society. And the Georgia Republican has called for policies that blend those priorities.

"If someone comes out of prison, they should have incentives set up that the person has learned a trade, and you give an incentive for a company to hire him so he can make a living for himself," Walker said Aug. 17 in Kennesaw, Georgia.

Walker, who founded Renaissance Man Food Services in 1999 as part of America's sprawling food processing industry, then nodded to his business experience. "It's my responsibility now to help," Walker declared.

The argument blends several threads of Walker's bid to unseat Sen. Raphael Warnock, a Democrat, in a marquee midterm election matchup that could determine control of the Senate. A former college and professional football star, Walker styles himself as a businessman, unapologetic Christian and someone who has overcome mental health challenges with others' help.

"We have to become a society that want to help, not hurt anyone," he said in Kennesaw.

Yet an Associated Press review of federal court cases, alongside other public records and statements, offers a more complicated reality. One instance at the heart of Walker's business portfolio suggests he has benefited, through a firm he touts as a principal partner and supplier, from the unpaid labor of drug offenders routed from state courts to residential rehabilitation programs in lieu of prison.

It's not possible to quantify any financial gains Walker might have gleaned over the years from undervalued labor. But some lawyers have derided the operation in question, Oklahoma-based Christian Alcoholics & Addicts in Recovery Inc., as a residential "work camp" that profits from a "vulnerable workforce under the guise of providing alcohol and drug counseling and rehabilitation services."

CAAIR, as it is commonly known, began more than a decade ago sending residents to work at Simmons Foods Inc., a processing giant that Walker touts as a principal partner and supplier to his distributorship, Renaissance Man Food Services. State judges assigned convicted offenders to CAAIR, giving them a choice between the residential program and its requirements or serving time in conventional jails or prisons. Simmons would then contract with CAAIR for labor at its plants; CAAIR program participants were not paid.

U.S. courts have declared that type of arrangement legal, finding it akin to work programs for fully incarcerated inmates who fall outside the 13th Amendment's ban on involuntary servitude "except as punishment for crime." But many criminal justice experts are critical of such programs.

"Drug courts are typically a pretrial diversion program," said Jillian Snider, a former New York City police officer and now policy director for the criminal justice and civil liberties program at R Street, a center-right, free-market think tank based in Washington.

Snider described the ideal design as "almost like an outpatient program" focused on professional counseling and skills training, with some job responsibilities that include wages. Programs based more on work than on rehabilitation and skills training, Snider said, are "unique mostly to Southern states. It's just not something you see in the northeast and in the West."

A federal lawsuit, still pending against CAAIR and Simmons, has detailed how some participants were allegedly pressured to work when injured, compelled to attend religious services, and threatened with imprisonment if their work was unsatisfactory.

CAAIR, participants alleged in court, did not always provide necessary rehabilitative or psychiatric treatment, the kind that Walker has emphasized when he shares his personal story and advocates for people suffering from mental illness. CAAIR described its services in court filings as "a combination of work therapy and spiritual and religious counseling."

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 39 of 81

"If you're working full-time in a chicken facility, you don't have enough hours in the day to complete a full program," said Snider, explaining that "talking to professional counselors" and "being set up with real educational advancement opportunities and skills training" must be included. "There's a lot more components than working 12 hours a day cleaning chickens," she said.

Nonetheless, a trial court judge in 2020 rejected participants' assertions that the program violated federal labor law. CAAIR, the court ruled, remains a permissible component of the state criminal justice system. Participants' appeal is pending.

CAAIR CEO and co-founder Janet Wilkerson told The Associated Press she "never had any dealings" with Walker. She declined to comment further, citing ongoing litigation.

Neither Walker nor Renaissance Man Food Services was named as a defendant in the original suit, and Walker's campaign declined to comment on the matter, saying Simmons is not Walker's company. A Simmons representative did not respond to inquiries.

Yet in Walker's telling, Simmons is critical to his enterprise.

On the Renaissance website, Simmons is the only supplier or partner mentioned by name: "RMFS joins with Simmons Foods to bring quality poultry, pork and bakery products to the retail and food service marketplace." The website highlights one of its locations as Siloam Springs, Arkansas, where Simmons is based. The relationship dates back as early as 2006, according to Walker's previous statements to media.

Renaissance bills itself as a certified minority owned business — Walker is Black — that works with "supplier partners to meet the needs of our retail and food service customers." That suggests a relationship in which Walker partners with food processing firms to act as distributor so that an end-line business is buying from a minority-owned firm. For example, Walker's website denotes two "diversity supplier" awards from Marriott hotels.

Walker isn't always clear about the size and scope of Renaissance. He's said he employs hundreds of workers, with frequent mentions of a chicken-processing division in Arkansas. Further, he's claimed as much as \$80 million in gross sales. But when Renaissance filed federal paperwork to secure loans under the Paycheck Protection Program during the coronavirus pandemic, it reported eight employees. The company received about \$182,000 under the program. In another court case, Walker gave far more modest revenue figures, indicating the company averaged about \$1.5 million a year in profit from 2008 to 2017.

Walker's exaggerations could simply involve conflating some of Simmons' operations as his own.

His 2022 financial disclosure form submitted to the Senate list Renaissance as paying Walker a \$214,062.50 salary. Another business, H Walker Enterprises, brought Walker a \$3 million payout as sole shareholder. The website of H Walker Enterprises suggests Renaissance is a subsidiary. State records list the same corporate address in Dublin, Georgia, for both.

Wilkerson established CAAIR with her husband, Don, and others. It bills itself as a faith-based enterprise to rehabilitate addicts. Its programs launched in 2008 with six men, according to its website, and by 2015 housed 200 in three dorms.

Throughout the litigation, Simmons and CAAIR have forcefully defended their practices. But one thing has never been up for dispute: The men CAAIR sent to the chicken plants were not paid.

"CAAIR is a work-based program," lawyers wrote in their defense. "Participants ... are required to perform work without compensation at various nearby work-providers, including Simmons. This requirement is no secret."

In court filings, Wilkerson described drug defendants as "clients" rather than employees, and she characterized them as having chosen the program voluntarily after being fully apprised of the parameters.

Participants signed documents stipulating that they "did not come to CAAIR, Inc., seeking work," that CAAIR "did not offer (them) a job" and that they would "not receive wages" or other pay for "my stay at CAAIR, Inc." There was one potential exception: They "may be offered a gift package" if they finished the program.

"Simmons is a work-provider for CAAIR," Wilkerson wrote in her court filings. "Simmons pays CAAIR for the work performed by CAAIR participants at a rate well above minimum wage."

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 40 of 81

Wilkerson described an "intensive interview process" for "clients" referred to her program by the courts: "Prospective clients are required to read and sign paperwork acknowledging their understanding of the program."

The "Admission Agreement" promises a residential "program of recovery" including "individual and group counseling, nourishing foods (and) constructive physical activity which includes work training at a job site," along with the requirement of "working at a designated job site." The documents do not name any prospective companies, describe any training participants would receive or detail any labor they would perform.

The agreement included a behavioral code, with the threat of dismissal.

"Minor rules violations" included "failure to maintain a positive attitude," "failure to do assigned chores," "not shaving, showering and brushing your teeth every day," "not being a team player" and "failure to attend ... daily meetings," including "Bible study ... 12-step meetings ... small group."

Among the major violations: "theft," "bringing or using drugs or alcohol," "insubordination," "having money or credit cards on the premises," "failure to maintain your position at your assigned work provider," "horseplay or wrestling at any time," and "fraternizing with any females."

Those lists, participants were warned, were "not comprehensive," and that "other infractions" determined by staff "may also result in disciplinary procedures." Further, participants agreed to attend church services off premises during their first 12 weeks in residence. That came with a separate code: "No sleeping in church. ... Use the restroom before church services start. ... Clients may not ride with family to/from church."

Participants were "free to leave (the program) at any time," the documents state. But participants signed on to the knowledge that such an action could result in "consequences from the criminal justice system for early departure," and the documents make clear that "disciplinary procedures," up to and including "dismissal from the program" was at CAAIR staff's discretion.

In a separate federal case against another not-for-profit rehabilitation program, Simmons again defended its practices in a "friend of the court" brief submitted in 2020 to support DARP Inc.

Citing Simmons' relationship with CAAIR, Simmons lawyers wrote that "CAAIR operates on the same basic model" as DARP to "provide vocational opportunities for those struggling with drug and alcohol addiction." However, Simmons' lawyers said, that's not the same as an employee relationship requiring federal labor law protections — or even compensation.

"Plaintiffs participated in DARP for their own benefit and to achieve their own rehabilitation, not for the benefit of DARP" or any for-profit firm, the brief states. The lawyers said unpaid laborers receive a benefit beyond money: "a sense of self-worth and accomplishment."

## Fetterman, Oz meet for highly anticipated Pa. Senate debate

By MARC LEVY and STEVE PEOPLES Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Democrat John Fetterman and Republican Mehmet Oz will meet Tuesday for one of the most highly anticipated debates of the midterm elections as they wage a fierce contest for a U.S. Senate seat from Pennsylvania that could decide control of the chamber and the future of President Joe Biden's agenda.

Much of the focus is on Fetterman, who has spent the past several months fending off an escalating series of attacks from Oz about his health and fitness for office. Fetterman, who is Pennsylvania's lieutenant governor, had a stroke in May, a health scare that was so severe he said he "almost died."

But he has insisted he is prepared for the demands of the Senate. Since his stroke, Fetterman has struggled at times to speak clearly in public events. Independent experts consulted by The Associated Press, however, said he appears to be recovering remarkably well. He will use closed-captioning during the debate to help him process the words he hears.

Still, Tuesday's debate could prove to be a decisive moment in a race that represents the best chance for Democrats to flip a Republican-held Senate seat this year. It will provide an opportunity for Fetterman to prove that he has the stamina for the job and shift the focus to Oz, who Fetterman has argued is a carpetbagger from New Jersey with no understanding of the state. Oz, meanwhile, will have a high-profile



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 41 of 81

chance to unite Republicans and appeal to moderates who could decide the race.

"The debate looms very large, bigger than usual for a Senate debate," said Republican activist Charles Gerow, a veteran of two decades of Sunday TV political talk shows.

The high-stakes debate — the first and only in the contest — comes just two weeks before Election Day in what polls say is a close race to replace retiring two-term Republican U.S. Sen. Pat Toomey. It's the only major statewide debate happening this year in Pennsylvania since Democrat Josh Shapiro and Republican Doug Mastriano couldn't reach an agreement on terms for a gubernatorial debate.

Fetterman has grown as a national brand thanks in part to his extraordinary height, tattoos and unapologetic progressive stances. But the 53-year-old Pennsylvania Democrat's health has emerged as a central issue over the election's final weeks, even as candidates elsewhere clash over issues like abortion, crime and inflation.

Oz, trailing in the polls, had pushed for more than a half-dozen debates, suggesting that Fetterman's unwillingness to agree to more than one is because the stroke had debilitated him. Fetterman has insisted that one debate is typical — two is more customary — and that Oz's focus on debates was a cynical ploy to lie about his stroke recovery.

Meanwhile, Fetterman's lead in polls has shrunk as Oz's Republican allies poured tens of millions of dollars into a perennial battleground state that Biden won by just 1 percentage point in 2020.

Fetterman's allies fear that the 60-minute live televised debate may represent a no-win situation for the Democrat, even if the typical audience for a Senate debate is quite small. Much of the attention will likely focus on how Fetterman — who is blunt and plainspoken — can communicate in a high-pressure situation.

His campaign has acknowledged the built-in disadvantage of putting Fetterman on stage with Oz, a longtime TV personality who hosted "The Dr. Oz Show" weekdays for 13 seasons after getting his start as a regular guest on Oprah Winfrey's show in 2004.

"This was always going to be an away game for John Fetterman," said Mustafa Rashed, a Democratic political consultant based in Philadelphia.

The debate host declined to allow an AP photographer access to the event, and the AP declined to accept handout photos.

Fetterman's stroke happened just days before his resounding victory in the Democratic primary. Recovery kept him out of the public eye for much of the summer, though the campaign said he was meeting with aides, taking long daily walks, driving and doing household errands.

Oz, who was endorsed by former President Donald Trump, barely survived his own primary, beating Republican rival David McCormick by 951 votes out of more than 1.3 million cast after a dayslong recount.

Fetterman has rebuffed calls to release medical records or let reporters question his doctors, but last week he released a note from his primary care physician, who wrote that Fetterman is recovering well, shows no cognitive effects and "can work full duty in public office."

Fetterman acknowledges that he continues to stumble over the occasional word and that a common condition of his stroke — called auditory processing disorder — means that his brain's language network cannot quickly and accurately turn sound into meaning. That requires him to use closed-captioning during interviews and at the debate.

Malcolm Kenyatta, a Democratic state lawmaker who is campaigning for Fetterman after unsuccessfully challenging him in the primary, said Fetterman should talk about his priorities as a senator and be selective about which of Oz's attacks to respond to.

Fetterman should "to the extent possible ignore the clown show that's happening on the other side and, if he does that, I think that's a win," Kenyatta said.

## Ye dropped by talent agency, documentary on him scrapped

By LEANNE ITALIE AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — A completed documentary about the rapper formerly known as Kanye West has been shelved amid his recent slew of antisemitic remarks.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 42 of 81

MRC studio executives Modi Wiczuk, Asif Satchu and Scott Tenley announced in a memo Monday: "We cannot support any content that amplifies his platform."

Ye was recently restricted from posting on Twitter and Instagram over antisemitic posts that the social networks said violated their policies. He has also suggested slavery was a choice and called the COVID-19 vaccine the "mark of the beast." Earlier this month, Ye was criticized for wearing a "White Lives Matter" T-shirt to the showing of his latest collection at Paris Fashion Week.

Wiczuk and Satchu are co-founders and co-CEOs of MRC Entertainment. Tenley is the chief business officer. Shelving the documentary comes just days after the French fashion house Balenciaga cut ties with Ye, according to Women's Wear Daily.

In their lengthy memo, Wiczuk, Satchu and Tenley reach deep into the history of antisemitism.

"Kanye is a producer and sampler of music. Last week he sampled and remixed a classic tune that has charted for over 3000 years — the lie that Jews are evil and conspire to control the world for their own gain. This song was performed acapella in the time of the Pharaohs, Babylon and Rome, went acoustic with The Spanish Inquisition and Russia's Pale of Settlement, and Hitler took the song electric. Kanye has now helped mainstream it in the modern era," they wrote.

Ye's talent agency, CAA, has dropped him as well. That news Monday and the scrapped documentary comes after UTA CEO Jeremy Zimmer condemned Ye in a companywide memo denouncing antisemitism. Ye was briefly a client but returned to CAA after a year.

Others in Hollywood, including Ye's estranged wife, Kim Kardashian, and other members of her family, have also condemned antisemitism. Demonstrators on a Los Angeles overpass Saturday unfurled a banner praising Ye.

## Prosecutor: Women's stories show Weinstein's predatory power

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A prosecutor at Harvey Weinstein's sexual assault trial told jurors Tuesday that the accusers who will testify will tell uncannily similar stories of themselves as young aspiring women who were cornered in hotel rooms by a man who at the time was the definition of Hollywood power.

"Each of these women came forward independent of each other, and none of them knew one another," Deputy District Attorney Paul Thompson said during his opening statement at Weinstein's Los Angeles trial.

The 70-year-old former movie mogul, already serving a 23-year sentence in New York, is charged with multiple counts of rape and sexual assault in California.

The defense countered in its opening statement that the incidents either did not happen or were consensual sex that the women redefined in the wake of the #MeToo movement.

Weinstein, prosecutor Thompson said, lorded his status as "the most powerful man in Hollywood" over them, talking about the female A-list actors whose careers he had made before growing aggressive.

Thompson played a video presentation with composite photos of the women who will testify and quotes from prior testimonials. Most were aspiring actors. One was an aspiring screenwriter who thought she was going to pitch him a script.

All will testify that Weinstein ignored clear signs that they did not consent, the prosecutor said, including "their shaking bodies, their crying, their backing away from him, their saying 'no.'" Four women whom Weinstein is not charged with assaulting in the case will also testify about what he did to them to demonstrate his propensity for such acts, Thompson said.

Weinstein attorney Mark Werksman told jurors that what Weinstein did with the women was considered acceptable, "transactional" behavior in Hollywood, where young women were seeking roles and other advantages by having sex with the powerful movie magnate.

"You'll learn that in Hollywood, sex was a commodity," Werksman said.

The accusers Weinstein is charged with assaulting are expected to be identified only as Jane Doe in court, but they include Jennifer Siebel Newsom, an actor and documentary filmmaker who is married to California Gov. Gavin Newsom.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 43 of 81

Siebel Newsom had not yet met Weinstein and was an aspiring actor in 2005 when, according to his indictment, Weinstein raped her at a Beverly Hills Hotel.

Without using her name, both sides said she would testify. Werksman called her a very prominent citizen of California."

"She's made herself a prominent victim in the #MeToo movement," he added, "otherwise she'd be just another bimbo who slept with Harvey Weinstein to get ahead in Hollywood."

In a statement to The Associated Press, Elizabeth Fegen, who represents Siebel Newsom and two other Weinstein accusers, called the comments "despicable, desperate, dishonest."

"The defense is callously engaging in misogynistic name-calling and victim-shaming — but survivors will not be deterred," she added.

Werksman said Siebel Newsom and many other women in the case had contact, and even initiated dealings, with Weinstein in the years after the encounters, often referring to him affectionately.

In an attempt to head off this strategy, Thompson told jurors that they would hear from a psychologist who will dispel rape myths. Key among them is the idea that a sexual assault victim would not have further contact with their assailant.

Werksman said that Weinstein's consensual acts were transformed in October 2017 with "the asteroid called the #MeToo movement."

"He became the smoldering, radioactive center of it," Werksman said. "He is Hollywood's Chernobyl."

He said that there was suddenly "a new word" for the women, "victim."

The AP does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly. Siebel Newsom's identity was first reported by the Los Angeles Times, and her attorney has told the AP and other news outlets that she is among the women Weinstein is charged with sexually assaulting who will testify during the trial.

The first of Weinstein's accusers to testify, a model and actor who was living and working in Italy when she met him at a film festival in Los Angeles in 2013, said she was stunned to find him knocking at the door of her hotel room after interacting with him briefly earlier that evening.

She said she was more confused than frightened at first, so she let Weinstein in, but he grew more aggressive. She said he eventually forced her to perform oral sex.

"I was crying, choking," said the woman.

She grew increasingly emotional on the stand until she was sobbing so much that she could no longer speak.

With the court day near an end, Judge Lisa Lench called for a recess until Tuesday morning, when she'll return to the stand.

At the beginning of the day, Weinstein was wheeled into court wearing a suit, and climbed into a seat next to his attorneys.

Confusion arose when Thompson during his opening statement made no mention of one accuser who had been set to testify as recently as last week. Weinstein was indicted on 11 counts overall, four of which involved the woman who was not mentioned. The district attorney's office did not address why the woman was not referenced.

Outside court, Weinstein's attorney said no charges had been dismissed.

"The people left her out of their presentation, so I didn't mention her," he said. "It's a glaring absence, though, in their presentation."

## **New US prisons chief pledges truth, reform for ailing system**

By MICHAEL R. SISAK and MICHAEL BALSAMO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The outsider brought in to reform the ailing federal Bureau of Prisons pledged Monday to hold accountable any employees who sexually assault inmates, reform archaic hiring practices and bring new transparency to an agency that has long been a haven of secrecy and coverups.

Colette Peters detailed her vision in a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press, her first since

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 44 of 81

becoming director nearly three months ago.

She said she wants to reorient the agency's recruiting and hiring practices to find candidates who want to "change hearts and minds" and end systemic abuse and corruption. She would not rule out closing problematic prisons, though there are no current plans to do so.

As Oregon's prison director, Peters developed the "Oregon Way" of running prisons, which aims to transform "environments inside correctional facilities to be more normal and humane," according to the state prisons' website. She oversaw sharp drops in Oregon's inmate population.

Skeptics within the federal prison system's rank and file have derided her approach as "hug a thug." Peters didn't mind that but offered a different term: "chocolate hearts."

Peters said her ideal prison worker is as interested in preparing inmates for returning to society after their sentences as they are in keeping order while those inmates are still locked within the prison walls.

"Our job, as you've heard me say before, is not to make good inmates. It's to make good neighbors," Peters said. "They're coming back to our communities, and so we need to hire the right people on the front end with that kind of thinking to help us do that."

It's a departure from the agency's previous recruiting model that stressed the law enforcement aspects of the job. Peters' approach is similar to how prisons are run in Norway, where the focus behind bars is more on rehabilitation and promoting a humane approach.

But Peters acknowledges major hurdles to reforming the Justice Department's largest agency, a behemoth of more than 30,000 employees, 158,000 inmates and an annual budget of about \$8 billion.

Peters has visited three federal prisons so far as director.

Two have been sources of the agency's biggest controversies: a federal women's prison in Dublin, California, where the warden and several other employees have been charged with sexually abusing inmates, and the federal prison in Sheridan, Oregon, where inmates say they were denied showers during a hunger strike and roughed up by a special tactical team.

On Tuesday she's scheduled to visit U.S. Penitentiary Atlanta with one of the agency's most vocal critics in Congress, Sen. Jon Ossoff, D-Ga. Ossoff's committee has been investigating the agency and clashed with her predecessor, Michael Carvajal.

Peters in the interview pointedly acknowledged the agency is facing a massive staffing crisis that is at the center of its myriad issues, which Carvajal had refused to do.

Low staffing has hampered responses to emergencies and slowed the implementation of the First Step Act, a criminal justice overhaul championed by Democrats and Republicans in Congress.

"We are looking for people who want to change hearts and minds, who want to make good neighbors and safety and security is a top priority," Peters said. "And so that is a paradigm shift, and I hope it's one that recruits the right people."

Peters said the staffing crisis, exacerbated by the coronavirus pandemic, has only worsened as the agency looks for new ways to recruit officers and retain its staff. A 2021 AP investigation found nearly one-third of federal correctional officer positions were vacant, forcing prisons to use cooks, teachers, nurses and other workers to guard inmates.

Now, the Bureau of Prisons finds itself not only competing with other law enforcement agencies and corporate employers, but with fast food restaurants offering signing bonuses. In some cities, the biggest hurdle has been huge cost of living burdens. And in rural communities, the agency has struggled to find many qualified applicants.

Peters also vowed to have zero tolerance for any employee who abuses their position or sexually abuses inmates in their care.

"We need to continue to hold people accountable, let people see and understand that if you engage in this type of egregious activity, you're going to prison," she said.

A year ago, the Justice Department took the bold step of closing one of its more troubled facilities: the crumbling Manhattan jail where financier Jeffrey Epstein killed himself in 2019.

Peters says the agency has yet to determine if the jail, the Metropolitan Correctional Center, will reopen

— a task that would require a pricey structural overhaul. She also isn't ruling out closing more prisons as repair bills pile up and inmate populations shift.

"We will always be analyzing the infrastructure," Peters said. "We have billions of dollars in back-loaded infrastructure repairs that need to happen at all of our institutions. At some point there's a return on investment where there's just the cost of repairing them are too high."

AP reporting has revealed rampant sexual abuse and other criminal conduct by staff, dozens of escapes, deaths and severe staffing shortages that have hampered responses to emergencies.

"I have said in this room I need to hear the good, the bad and the ugly," Peters said. "We cannot have any surprises. We have to know what is happening inside our agency so we can help."

The Bureau of Prisons has also started to "spot check" security cameras at prisons across the U.S. to ensure officers are conducting rounds to check on inmates held in segregated housing units, a major controversy after two officers who were supposed to be guarding Jeffrey Epstein falsified documents claiming to have checked on him while they were really sleeping and shopping online.

## Arizona sheriff steps up security around ballot drop boxes

By JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — The sheriff in metropolitan Phoenix said Monday he's stepped up security around ballot drop boxes after a series of incidents involving people keeping watch on the boxes and taking video of voters after they were apparently inspired by lies about the 2020 election.

On Friday, deputies responded when two masked people carrying guns and wearing bulletproof vests showed up at a drop box in Mesa, a Phoenix suburb. The secretary of state said her office has received six cases of potential voter intimidation to the state attorney general and the U.S. Department of Justice, as well as a threatening email sent to the state elections director.

People watching the boxes and voters showing up to vote have covered their license plates, according to photos shared on social media.

"Every day I'm dedicating a considerable amount of resources just to give people confidence that they can cast a vote safely, and that is absurd," Maricopa County Sheriff Paul Penzone said during a news conference. Penzone said his office has referred two incidents to county prosecutors for potential criminal charges.

Fueled by former President Donald Trump's false claims of fraud in 2020 and the debunked film "2,000 Mules," drop boxes have become a hotbed for conspiracy theories alleging without evidence that people illegally collected and deposited ballots in them.

Election security experts and Trump's own national security and Justice Department officials said there was no fraud sufficient to alter the outcome of the 2020 election. Dozens of lawsuits filed after the election were rejected, many by Trump-appointed judges.

Arizona, the state with the smallest margin of victory for President Joe Biden two years ago, now has some of the highest-profile midterm races in the country, including a Senate race that could tip the balance of power in Congress.

"Uninformed vigilantes outside Maricopa County's drop boxes are not increasing election integrity," Stephen Richer, the Maricopa County recorder, and Bill Gates, chairman of the county board of supervisors, said in a joint statement over the weekend. "Instead they are leading to voter intimidation complaints."

Richer and Gates are both Republicans.

Voters who filed with Democratic Secretary of State Katie Hobbs allege they were filmed and in some cases followed by people keeping watch on drop boxes.

"As we were getting up to our car, two individuals took pictures of our license plate and our car," one voter wrote. "I got out and asked what they were doing. They claimed they were taking pictures for 'election security' and I took pictures of them to report them to the DOJ for voter intimidation and harassments."

Asked at an unrelated event Monday whether he was concerned about reported intimidation in states like Arizona, and if the Justice Department would get involved, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland said the department has an obligation to "guarantee a free, fair vote by everyone who is qualified to vote, and

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 46 of 81

will not permit voters to be intimidated.”

A group of drop box watchers seen filming a drop box in Maricopa County last week told a local reporter they were with Clean Elections USA, a group that is gathering teams to watch drop boxes in several states this midterm season.

The group’s founder, Melody Jennings, said in a podcast interview last month that she wants 10 volunteers videotaping drop boxes nationwide, in shifts, day and night.

Jennings said that she wants volunteers to keep their distance from drop boxes and abide by local laws. But she added that they should sit in a visible place to act as a “human shield” that deters potential ballot “mules” from coming to drop boxes.

There’s no evidence for the notion that a network of Democrat-associated ballot “mules” has conspired to collect and deliver ballots to drop boxes, despite claims made in a film about the 2020 election.

Two left-leaning advocacy groups filed a lawsuit Monday against Clean Elections USA alleging the group’s ballot watching activities violate the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the Ku Klux Klan Act of 1871. The Arizona Alliance for Retired Americans and Voto Latino are asking the U.S. District Court in Phoenix to ban the group from gathering within site of drop boxes and filming voters.

Arizona state Sen. Kelly Townsend, who earlier this year praised and encouraged “all you vigilantes that want to camp out at these drop boxes,” wrote on Twitter Monday that wearing tactical gear while watching drop boxes “could be considered voter intimidation.”

“Don’t do it,” Townsend wrote.

Penzone, the sheriff, implored people to respect everyone’s right to vote and leave it to law enforcement officers to investigate suspected violations of the law. He said the intense focus on securing elections has pulled resources away from investigating crimes.

“But we’ll come and we’ll babysit polling sites because people have to misbehave if that’s what we have to do to protect democracy,” said Penzone, a Democrat.

## Japan steps up push to get public buy-in to digital IDs

By YURI KAGEYAMA AP Business Writer

TOKYO (AP) — Japan has stepped up its push to catch up on digitization by telling a reluctant public they have to sign up for digital IDs or possibly lose access to their public health insurance.

As the naming implies, the initiative is about assigning numbers to people, similar to Social Security numbers in the U.S. Many Japanese worry the information might be misused or that their personal information might be stolen. Some view the My Number effort as a violation of their right to privacy.

So the system that kicked off in 2016 has never fully caught on. Fax machines are still commonplace, and many Japanese conduct much of their business in person, with cash. Some bureaucratic procedures can be done online, but many Japanese offices still require “inkan,” or seals for stamping, for identification, and insist on people bringing paper forms to offices.

Now the government is asking people to apply for plastic My Number cards equipped with microchips and photos, to be linked to drivers licenses and the public health insurance plans. Health insurance cards now in use, which lack photos, will be discontinued in late 2024. People will be required to use My Number cards instead.

That has drawn a backlash, with an online petition demanding a continuation of the current health cards drawing more than 100,000 signatures in a few days.

Opponents of the change say the current system has been working for decades and going digital would require extra work at a time when the pandemic is still straining the medical system.

But the reluctance to go digital extends beyond the health care system. After numerous scandals over leaks and other mistakes, many Japanese distrust the government’s handling of data. They’re also wary about government overreach, partly a legacy of authoritarian regimes before and during World War II.

Saeko Fujimori, who works in the music copyright business, said she’s supposed to get My Number information from the people she deals with, but many balk at giving it out. And no one is all that surprised

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 47 of 81

she has trouble getting that information, given how unpopular it is.

"There is a microchip in it, and that means there could be fraud," said Fujimori, who has a My Number but doesn't intend to get the new card. "If a machine is reading all the information, that can lead to mistakes in the medical sector, too."

"If this was coming from a trustworthy leadership and the economy was thriving, maybe we would think about it, but not now," Fujimori said.

Something drastic may have to happen for people to accept such changes, just as it took a devastating defeat in World War II for Japan to transform itself into an economic powerhouse, said Hidenori Watanabe, a professor at the University of Tokyo.

"There's resistance playing out everywhere," he said.

Japanese traditionally take pride in meticulous, handcraft-quality workmanship and many also devote themselves to carefully keeping track of documents and neatly filing them away.

"There are too many people worried their jobs are going to disappear. These people see digitization as a negation of their past work," said Watanabe, who spells his last name with a "v" instead of the usual "b."

The process of getting an existing My Number digitized is time consuming and very analog, it turns out. One must fill out and mail back forms sent by mail. Last month's initial deadline was extended, but only about half of the Japanese population have a My Number, according to the government.

"They keep failing in anything digital and we have no memories of successful digital transformation by the government," said Nobi Hayashi, a consultant and technology expert.

Hayashi cited as a recent example Cocoa, the government's tracing app for COVID-19, which proved unpopular and often ineffectual. He says the digital promotion effort needs to be more "vision-driven."

"They don't show a bigger picture, or they don't have one," Hayashi said.

Koichi Kurosawa, secretary-general at the National Confederation of Trade Unions, a 1 million-member grouping of labor unions, said people would be happier with digitization if it made their work easier and shorter, but it was doing just the opposite at many Japanese work places.

"People feel this is about allocating numbers to people the way teams have numbers on their uniforms," he said. "They are worried it will lead to tighter surveillance."

That's why people are saying No to My Number, he said in a phone interview with The Associated Press.

Yojiro Maeda, a cooperative research fellow at Nagasaki University who studies local governments, thinks digitization is needed, and My Number is a step in the right direction.

"You just have to do it," Maeda said.

On Monday, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida acknowledged concerns about My Number cards. He told lawmakers in Parliament that the old health insurance cards will be phased out but the government will arrange for people to continue to use their public health insurance if they are paying into a health plan.

Japan's Minister of Digital Affairs, Taro Kono, acknowledged in a recent interview with The Associated Press that more is needed to persuade people of the benefits of going digital.

"To create a digitized society, we need to work on developing new infrastructure. My Number cards could serve as a passport that will open such doors," Kono said. "We need to win people's understanding so that My Number cards get used in all kinds of situations."

## Fla. Gov. DeSantis refuses to commit to serving full term

By STEVE PEOPLES and ANTHONY IZAGUIRRE Associated Press

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — A defiant Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis refused to commit to serving a full four-year term if reelected when pressed by his Democratic rival, Charlie Crist, at their only gubernatorial debate on Monday.

Crist, a former congressman and one-term governor, accused DeSantis, a rising Republican star considered a likely 2024 presidential contender, of being too distracted by his national political ambitions to lead properly. DeSantis skirted several attempts by Crist to get him to say he'd serve a full second term.

"I know that Charlie is interested in talking about 2024 and Joe Biden, but I just want to make things

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 48 of 81

very, very clear: The only worn-out old donkey I'm looking to put out to pasture is Charlie Crist," DeSantis said of his 66-year-old opponent.

Later, Crist slapped back, "You won't even say if you want to be the governor of Florida after this election."

There were several heated clashes during a raucous debate that covered the COVID-19 pandemic, abortion, crime, education and President Joe Biden. The meeting came on the first day of early voting across the state; already, more than 1.1 million votes have been cast, the most in the nation.

The Florida governor's race may not be the nation's most competitive election this fall, but it is no less consequential for DeSantis, a 44-year-old Harvard-educated Republican who could launch a presidential bid in the coming months. He hopes to use a strong reelection victory on Nov. 8 in Florida, a state he carried by just 32,000 votes out of 8.2 million cast four years ago, to demonstrate the breadth and strength of his support.

DeSantis has benefited from demographic shifts across Florida, a perennial swing state that has shifted to the right during his first term. Former President Donald Trump carried the state by more than 3 points in 2020 and Republicans now hold a registration advantage of nearly 300,000 voters.

Monday's debate offered voters in Florida and beyond a rare opportunity to see DeSantis under pressure. Like many leading GOP officials across the nation this fall, he has limited unscripted moments in recent months, save for periodic interviews with friendly conservative media.

The candidates faced each other, both in dark suits and purple ties, from behind wooden lecterns in Fort Pierce, Florida's Sunrise Theater. Both men seemed to relish the hourlong fight, which was interrupted repeatedly by the rowdy audience.

DeSantis' embrace of divisive cultural issues weighed heavily on the prime-time affair.

The Republican governor specifically defended his record to bar transgender girls from competing on public school teams intended for student athletes identified as girls at birth. He also fired back against Crist's criticism of laws DeSantis signed limiting discussions of race and sexual orientation in schools and his opposition to gender transition treatments for minors.

"You think you know better than any physician or any doctor or any woman," Crist said. "You need to lead by uniting people, not dividing them."

Yet DeSantis has delighted his supporters over and over with his extraordinary willingness to fight — whether facing political adversaries, the federal government or powerful Florida businesses. Crist, a former Republican governor who most recently served as a Democratic congressman, has tried to cast himself as a moderate alternative to lead the perennial swing state.

DeSantis' leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic and Hurricane Ian were also charged topics.

Crist noted that DeSantis closed businesses and schools across the state early on during the pandemic and then ignored science by opening them too soon, leading to tens of thousands of unnecessary deaths.

"We had one of the highest death rates in America, Ron," Crist said.

"He called for harsh shutdowns," DeSantis responded. "It would have thrown millions of Floridians into turmoil."

Over and over, DeSantis also sought to link Crist to Biden, whose popularity is sagging in Florida and across the nation. "Charlie Crist has voted with Joe Biden 100% of the time," DeSantis said, referring to the "Crist-Biden agenda."

The debate was postponed from earlier in the month because of Hurricane Ian, which left more than 100 people dead along the state's southwest coast. Thousands of homes were destroyed and several schools remain closed across Lee County, a major Republican stronghold.

The Category 4 storm exposed flaws in the state's fragile property insurance market, which has lost more than \$1 billion in each of the last two years. Hundreds of thousands of Floridians have had their policies dropped or not renewed.

Crist accused DeSantis of failing to address the insurance crisis. DeSantis accused Crist of being away during the storm.

"He was hiding out in Puerto Rico. He wasn't helping his community," DeSantis jabbed.

When the discussion turned to gun violence, both candidates said they would support the death penalty



for Florida school shooter Nikolas Cruz, who this month was sentenced to life in prison for murdering 17 people in the 2018 massacre at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High in Parkland.

DeSantis added that he would push the legislature to change state law requiring a unanimous jury for death sentences. That would put Florida in a distinct minority among the 27 states that still have the death penalty, where almost all require juror unanimity.

"I'm going to ask the Florida legislature to amend that statute so that one juror doesn't have veto power over appropriate punishment," DeSantis said.

Crist also sought to make abortion a key focus, following the playbook of Democrats across the nation in the wake of the Supreme Court's reversal of *Roe v. Wade*.

In April, DeSantis signed a law banning abortions at 15 weeks of pregnancy, with no exceptions for rape or incest. When asked by the moderator, DeSantis declined to say whether he supports a complete abortion ban.

"You deserve a better governor who cares about freedom and your right to choose," Crist said.

## 2 killed in shooting at St. Louis high school; gunman dead

By MICHAEL PHILLIS and JIM SALTER Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — An armed former student broke into a St. Louis high school Monday morning warning, "You are all going to die!" before fatally shooting a teacher and a teenage girl, and wounding seven others before police killed him in an exchange of gunfire.

The attack just after 9 a.m. at Central Visual and Performing Arts High School forced students to barricade doors and huddle in classroom corners, jump from windows and run out of the building to seek safety. One terrorized girl said she was eye-to-eye with the shooter before his gun apparently jammed and she was able to run out.

Speaking at a news conference Monday afternoon, police Chief Michael Sack identified the shooter as 19-year-old Orlando Harris, who graduated from the school last year.

Sack said the motive was still under investigation but "there's suspicions that there may be some mental illness that he's experiencing." Investigators later searched Harris' home, Sack said.

Authorities didn't name the victims, but the St. Louis Post-Dispatch identified the dead teacher as Jean Kuczka. Her daughter said her mother was killed when the gunman burst into her classroom and she moved between him and her students.

"My mom loved kids," Abbey Kuczka told the newspaper. "She loved her students. I know her students looked at her like she was their mom."

Sack said the other fatality was a 16-year-old female who died at the school.

Seven other 15- and 16-year-old students, four boys and three girls, were all in stable condition. Four students suffered gunshot wounds or graze wounds, two suffered bruises and one had a broken ankle.

Sack declined to say how Harris was able to get into the building, which has security guards, locked doors and metal detectors.

"If there's somebody who has a will, they're going to figure out, we don't want to make it easy for them," Sack said. "We just got to do the best we can to extend that time it takes them to get into the building to buy us time to respond."

Harris had the gun out when he arrived at the school and "there was no mystery about what was going to happen. He had it out and entered in an aggressive, violent manner."

Harris had nearly a dozen high-capacity magazines of ammunition with him, Sack said. "That's a whole lot of victims. ... It's certainly tragic for the families and it's tragic for our community but it could have been a whole lot worse."

St. Louis Schools Superintendent Kelvin Adams said seven security guards were in the school at the time of the attack, each stationed at an entrance of the locked building. One of the guards noticed the gunman trying unsuccessfully to get in at a locked door. The guard notified school officials, who contacted police.

Sack said the call about a shooter came in at 9:11 a.m. and officers arrived and had Harris down by 9:25 a.m. He and others praised the quick response of officers and other emergency responders.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 50 of 81

Central Visual and Performing Arts shares a building with another magnet school, Collegiate School of Medicine and Bioscience. Central has 383 students, Collegiate 336.

Monday's school shooting was the 40th this year resulting in injuries or death, according to a tally by Education Week — the most in any year since it began tracking shootings in 2018. The deadly attacks include the killings at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas, in May, when 19 children and two teachers died. Monday's St. Louis shooting came on the same day a Michigan teenager pleaded guilty to terrorism and first-degree murder in a school shooting that killed four students in December 2021.

Taniya Gholston said she was saved when the shooter's gun jammed as he entered her classroom. "All I heard was two shots and he came in there with a gun," the 16-year-old told the Post-Dispatch. "I was trying to run and I couldn't run. Me and him made eye contact but I made it out because his gun got jammed."

Two teachers recounted near-miss confrontations with the shooter.

Ashley Rench told The Associated Press she was teaching advanced algebra to sophomores when she heard a loud bang. Then the school intercom announced, "Miles Davis is in the building."

"That's our code for intruder," Rench said.

Students took refuge beneath her desk and behind her podium as the shooter tried to enter the locked classroom before giving up and going away.

"I don't know why he chose not to break my windows or shoot through the lock," she said.

Raymond Parks was about to teach a dance class for juniors when a man dressed in black approached. At first, Parks thought the man was carrying a broom or a stick. Then he realized it was a gun.

"The kids started screaming and running and scrambling. He walked directly into the two doors and pointed the gun over at me because I was in the front," Parks said.

For some unknown reason, Parks said, the shooter pointed the gun away from him and let Parks and the dozen or so students leave the room. "That's what I don't understand. He let me go," Parks said.

Janay Douglas' 15-year-old daughter got stuck in a hallway when the school was locked down. Douglas said she received a call from her daughter letting her know she heard shots.

"One of her friends busted through the door, he was shot in the hand, and then her and her friends just took off running. The phone disconnected," Douglas said. "I was on my way."

Kuczka, the slain teacher, taught health at Central for 14 years and recently began coaching cross-country at Collegiate, her daughter said. "She was definitely looking forward to retirement though. She was close," Abbey Kuczka said.

Kuczka's biography on the school website said she was the married mother of five and a grandmother of seven. She was an avid bike rider and was part of a 1979 national championship field hockey team at what is now Missouri State University.

"I cannot imagine myself in any other career but teaching," Kuczka wrote on the website. "In high school, I taught swimming lessons at the YMCA. From that point on, I knew I wanted to be a teacher."

The shooting left St. Louis Mayor Tishaura Jones shaken.

"Our children shouldn't have to experience this," Jones said. "They shouldn't have to go through active shooter drills in case something happens. And unfortunately that happened today."

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said additional action is needed to stop gun violence.

"Every day that the Senate fails to send an assault weapons ban to the president's desk or waits to take another common sense actions, is a day too late for families and communities impacted by gun violence," Jean-Pierre said.

The school district placed all of its schools on lockdown for the remainder of the day, and canceled all after-school activities, including sports.

## Leslie Jordan, versatile Emmy-winning actor, dies at 67

By LYNN ELBER and MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writers

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Leslie Jordan, the actor whose wry Southern drawl and versatility made him a comedy and drama standout on TV series including "Will & Grace" and "American Horror Story," has died.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 51 of 81

The Emmy-winner, whose videos turned him into a social media star during the pandemic, was 67.

"The world is definitely a much darker place today without the love and light of Leslie Jordan. Not only was he a mega talent and joy to work with, but he provided an emotional sanctuary to the nation at one of its most difficult times," a representative for Jordan said in a statement Monday.

The native of Chattanooga, Tennessee, who won an outstanding guest actor Emmy in 2005 for his part as Beverly Leslie in "Will & Grace," had a recurring role on the Mayim Bialik comedy "Call Me Kat" and starred on the sitcom "The Cool Kids."

Jordan's other eclectic credits include "Hearts Afire," "Boston Legal," "Fantasy Island" and "The United States vs. Billie Holiday." He played various roles on the "American Horror Story" series.

Production on Fox's "Call Me Kat" was suspended following Jordan's death. He had completed work on nine episodes.

He died Monday in a single car crash in the Hollywood area, according to reports by celebrity website TMZ and the Los Angeles Times, citing unidentified law enforcement sources.

Stars of "Will & Grace" mourned his loss.

"My heart is broken," Sean Hayes tweeted. "Everyone who ever met him, loved him. There will never be anyone like him. A unique talent with an enormous, caring heart. You will be missed, my dear friend."

"Crushed to learn about the loss of @thelesliejordan, the funniest & flirtiest southern gent I've ever known," tweeted Eric McCormack. "The joy and laughter he brought to every one of his #WillandGrace episodes was palpable."

The chief executive of GLAAD, the LGBTQ media advocacy group, lauded Jordan as a talented entertainer who "charmed audiences for decades with heartfelt characters on-screen and passionate LGBTQ advocacy off-screen."

Jordan was intent on helping to increase LGBTQ visibility in his native South and served as grand marshal for the Nashville AIDS Walk last year, Sarah Kate Ellis, GLAAD president and CEO, said in a statement.

Jordan earned an unexpected new following in 2021 when the longtime Los Angeles resident area spent time during the pandemic lockdown near family in his hometown. He broke the sameness by posting daily videos of himself on Instagram.

Many of Jordan's videos included him asking "How ya'll doin?" and some included stories about Hollywood or his childhood growing up with identical twin sisters and their "mama," as he called her. Other times he did silly bits like complete an indoor obstacle course.

"Someone called from California and said, 'Oh, honey, you've gone viral.' And I said, 'No, no, I don't have COVID. I'm just in Tennessee,'" said Jordan. Celebrities including Michelle Pfeiffer, Jessica Alba and Anderson Cooper, along with brands such as Reebok and Lululemon, would post comments.

Soon he became fixated with the number of views and followers he had, because there wasn't much else going on. By the time of his death, he amassed 5.8 million followers on Instagram and another 2.3 million on TikTok.

"For a while there, it was like obsessive. And I thought, 'This is ridiculous. Stop, stop, stop.' You know, it almost became, 'If it doesn't happen on Instagram, it didn't happen.' And I thought, 'You're 65, first of all. You're not some teenage girl.'"

The spotlight led to new opportunities. Earlier this month he released a gospel album called "Company's Comin'" featuring Dolly Parton, Chris Stapleton, Brandi Carlile, Eddie Vedder and Tanya Tucker. He wrote a new book, "How Y'all Doing?: Misadventures and Mischief from a Life Well Lived."

It was Jordan's second book, following his 2008 memoir, "My Trip Down the Pink Carpet," a personal take on Hollywood, fame, addiction, gay culture and learning to love oneself.

"That sort of dealt with all the angst and growing up gay in the Baptist Church and la, la, la, la, la. And this one, I just wanted to tell stories," he told The Associated Press in 2021. Among the anecdotes: working with Lady Gaga on "American Horror Story"; how meeting Carrie Fisher led to Debbie Reynolds calling his mother and the Shetland pony he got as a child named Midnight.

He turned many of his memories and observations of life into stage productions, including off-Broadway

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 52 of 81

runs of his musicalized memoir "Hysterical Blindness" and a 2010 version of his "My Trip Down the Pink Carpet," a show that alternated between stand-up comedy and spirited one-man show.

Those celebrities in mourning included Jackée Harry, Marlee Matlin and Kristen Johnston, who called Jordan "magical." Lynda Carter wrote he "put a smile on the faces of so many, especially with his pandemic videos. What a feat to keep us all laughing and connected in such difficult times."

In a 2014 interview with Philadelphia magazine, Jordan was asked how he related to his role in the 2013 film "Southern Baptist Sissies," which explores growing up gay while being raised in a conservative Baptist church.

"I really wanted to be a really good Christian, like some of the boys in the movie. I was baptized 14 times," Jordan said. "Every time the preacher would say, 'Come forward, sinners!,' I'd say 'Oooh, I was out in the woods with that boy, I better go forward.' My mother thought I was being dramatic. She'd say, 'Leslie, you're already saved,' and I'd say, 'Well, I don't think it took.'"

In 2007, Jordan discussed how a role as an Alcoholics Anonymous sponsor in the CW teen drama "Hidden Palms" reflected his life and included a valuable lesson.

"If there is anything that kids could walk away with it is that people who use drugs and alcohol are masking something," Jordan told the AP. "With me, it was my homosexuality. It was just easier to be gay when I was high. So I stayed high for 33 years. ... I don't know when it went from recreational to medicinal, but that's the line you cross where I needed a drink to get to a party, to be funny, to be me."

The actor changed course after a drunk-driving incident in December of 1997.

"I stayed sober, didn't take an aspirin. Nothing. And I worked my (expletive) off, and my career began to blossom."

Jordan first arrived in Los Angeles in 1982 on a Trailways bus "with a dream and \$1,200 pinned in my undershorts," hoping to make it as an actor. He was told his 4-foot-11 stature and accent would hold him back, but proved the naysayers wrong.

His big break came playing the role of a hapless ex-con in a 1989 episode of "Murphy Brown."

"When that episode aired, my agent called the next day and said, 'I've never seen anything like this. The phone is ringing off the hook.'"

## 1 plea, 1 alternate approach avert trial over Floyd's death

By AMY FORLITI Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Another long and painful trial over the killing of George Floyd was averted on Monday after one former Minneapolis police officer pleaded guilty to manslaughter and another agreed to take a more uncommon approach and let a judge decide his fate based on the evidence in the case.

J. Alexander Kueng and Tou Thao had been set to stand trial Monday on charges of aiding and abetting both murder and manslaughter in the May 25, 2020, killing of Floyd, who died after another officer knelt on the Black man's neck, sparking worldwide protests as part of a broader reckoning over racial injustice.

Instead, Kueng pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter in exchange for the murder count being dismissed. And Thao, who previously told the judge that it "would be lying" to plead guilty, agreed to what's called a stipulated evidence trial on the aiding and abetting manslaughter count. The two sides will work out agreed-upon evidence in his case, file written closing arguments and let Judge Peter Cahill decide guilt or innocence.

If Thao is convicted, the murder count — which carries a presumptive sentence of 12 1/2 years in prison — will be dropped.

The day's developments pushed the long process of prosecuting the officers involved in Floyd's death nearer an end. Derek Chauvin, the white officer who pinned Floyd's neck for 9 1/2 minutes as Floyd said he couldn't breathe and eventually grew still, was convicted in state court in spring 2021 and later pleaded guilty to federal charges. A fourth officer, Thomas Lane, was convicted of federal charges in February and pleaded guilty to state charges in May.

Kueng knelt on Floyd's back, Lane held his legs and Thao kept bystanders back during the restraint,

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 53 of 81

which was captured on video.

Attorney General Keith Ellison, whose office prosecuted the state cases, said in a statement that he hopes Kueng's plea can bring comfort to Floyd's family and "bring our communities closer to a new era of accountability and justice." He also said his office is looking forward to a swift resolution of Thao's case.

Thao waived his right to a jury trial, as well as his right to cross-examine the state's witnesses, call witnesses of his own and testify. But he preserves his right to appeal. His attorney, Bob Paule, told The Associated Press that this allows Thao to still litigate the issue of his guilt or innocence, and "it's ultimately up to the judge to decide whether this really constitutes aiding and abetting."

Legal experts say the approach is uncommon in a case like this and could benefit both sides.

"The stipulated bench trial allows him to maintain his innocence and to blame the court if he gets found guilty, rather than make any admissions himself," said Rachel Moran, a professor at the University of St. Thomas School of Law. "On the state's part, they also don't want to go to trial. They are exhausted, their witnesses are exhausted. ... They potentially get what they want, which is just a conviction and concurrent prison time, which is all they were looking for."

As part of his plea agreement, Kueng admitted that he held Floyd's torso, that he knew from his experience and training that restraining a handcuffed person in a prone position created a substantial risk, and that the restraint of Floyd was unreasonable under the circumstances.

Kueng agreed to a sentence of 3 1/2 years in prison, to be served at the same time as his federal sentence and in federal custody. He will be formally sentenced later and was being returned to federal custody — he has been at a prison in Ohio since early October.

Ben Crump and other attorneys for Floyd's family said in a statement that Kueng's plea shows justice takes time, adding: "We must never forget the horror of what we all saw in that 9-minute video, and that there rightfully should be both accountability for all involved as well as deep lessons learned for police officers and communities everywhere."

In Thao's case, both sides have until Nov. 17 to submit their materials to Cahill, who said he would decide within 90 days. If convicted of manslaughter, Thao would likely get about four years in prison, to be served at the same time as his federal sentence.

Thao, who has been at the federal medical center in Lexington, Kentucky, since early October, said in court that he wished to remain in Hennepin County sheriff's custody while his case proceeds, even though he would be in solitary confinement.

Cahill said in court that Thao had recently suffered a concussion, but he did not say how. When asked if there had been an incident at the federal prison, a spokesman for the Bureau of Prisons said he could not comment, citing privacy, safety and security reasons.

Someone familiar with the matter told the AP that Thao was attacked in prison on Friday but only suffered minor injuries. The person could not discuss details of the matter publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

John Baker, a lawyer and assistant professor of criminal justice studies at St. Cloud State University, said stipulated bench trials can be used when there are concerns about getting an unbiased jury and when a case hinges more on a legal question rather than evidentiary issues.

Mike Brandt, a Minneapolis defense attorney who is also monitoring the case, said: "I think there was incentive for everyone to settle these cases. The state probably had a reality check; that murder charges were questionable. And if they can get (a conviction) without the time and trouble, and frankly without putting the witnesses through all the trauma again, there's a huge benefit in that."

Chauvin was convicted of state murder and manslaughter charges last year and is serving 22 1/2 years in the state case. He also pleaded guilty to a federal charge of violating Floyd's civil rights and was sentenced to 21 years. He is serving the sentences concurrently at the Federal Correctional Institution in Tucson, Arizona.

Kueng, Lane and Thao were convicted of federal charges in February: All three were convicted of depriving Floyd of his right to medical care and Thao and Kueng were also convicted of failing to intervene

to stop Chauvin during the killing.

Lane, who is white, is serving his 2 1/2-year federal sentence at a facility in Colorado. He's serving a three-year state sentence at the same time. Kueng, who is Black, was sentenced to three years on the federal counts; Thao, who is Hmong American, got a 3 1/2-year federal sentence.

## Ukraine cites success in downing drones, fixes energy sites

By ANDREW MELDRUM Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian authorities tried to dampen public fears over Russia's use of Iranian drones by claiming increasing success Monday in shooting them down, while the Kremlin's talk of a possible "dirty bomb" attack added another worrying dimension as the war enters its ninth month.

Ukrainians are bracing for less electric power this winter following a sustained Russian barrage on their infrastructure in recent weeks. Citizens in the southern Ukrainian city of Mykolaiv lined up for water and essential supplies Monday as Ukrainian forces advanced on the nearby Russian-occupied city of Kherson.

Ukraine's forces have shot down more than two-thirds of the approximately 330 Shahed drones that Russia has fired through Saturday, the head of Ukraine's intelligence service, Kyrylo Budanov, said Monday. Budanov said Russia's military had ordered about 1,700 drones of different types and is rolling out a second batch of about 300 Shaheds.

"Terror with the use of 'Shaheds' can actually last for a long time," he was quoted as saying in the Ukrainska Pravda newspaper, adding: "Air defense is basically coping, 70% are shot down."

Both Russia and Iran deny that Iranian-built drones have been used but the triangle-shaped Shahed-136s have rained down on civilians in Kyiv and elsewhere.

"First of all, we have to be able to counter the drones," U.S. House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Monday at a press conference in Zagreb with Croatia's leader. "It is a dangerous technology and it must be stopped."

Britain's Ministry of Defense said Russia was likely to use a large number of drones to try to penetrate the "increasingly effective Ukrainian air defenses" — to substitute for Russian-made long-range precision weapons "which are becoming increasingly scarce."

That assessment came on top of a stark warning by Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu to his British, French, Turkish and U.S. counterparts over the weekend that Ukrainian forces were preparing a "provocation" involving a radioactive device — a so-called dirty bomb. Britain, France, and the United States rejected that claim as "transparently false."

A dirty bomb uses explosives to scatter radioactive waste in an effort to sow terror. Such weapons don't have the devastating destruction of a nuclear explosion, but could expose broad areas to radioactive contamination.

Russian authorities on Monday doubled down on Shoigu's warning.

Lt. Gen. Igor Kirillov, head of the Russian military's radiation, chemical and biological protection forces, said Russian military assets were on high readiness for possible radioactive contamination. He told reporters a dirty bomb blast could contaminate thousands of square kilometers.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Monday: "It's not an unfounded suspicion, we have serious reasons to believe that such things could be planned."

Ukraine has rejected Moscow's claims as an attempt to distract attention from its own plans to detonate a dirty bomb. German Defense Minister Christine Lambrecht on Monday dismissed as "outrageous" the Russian claim that Ukraine could use a dirty bomb.

The White House on Monday again underscored that the Russian allegations were false.

"It's just not true. We know it's not true," John Kirby, a spokesman for the National Security Council, said. "In the past, the Russians have, on occasion, blamed others for things that they were planning to do."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy suggested that Moscow itself was setting the stage for deploying a radioactive device on Ukrainian soil.

The country's foreign minister, Dmytro Kuleba, said Monday he has urged the United Nations' nuclear

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 55 of 81

watchdog to immediately send an inspection team to the country to dispel Moscow's claims. The International Atomic Energy Agency said in response that it was preparing "safeguards visits" in the coming days.

The U.N. Security Council scheduled closed consultations Tuesday at Russia's request on what it claimed was Ukraine's plans for a "dirty bomb."

On the battlefield Monday, his office said at least six civilians were killed and another five were wounded by Russian shelling of several Ukrainian regions over the past 24 hours, including Mykolaiv — where energy facilities were targeted — and the city of Bakhmut in the eastern Donetsk region.

Later in the day, the Ukrainian military reported they had "pushed the enemy out of" three villages in the eastern Luhansk region and one in Donetsk. Moscow has not immediately commented on the claim.

Russian authorities said Ukrainian troops fired rockets at the Kakhovka major hydroelectric power plant in the Kherson region. Vladimir Rogov, a senior member of the Russian-installed administration in the neighboring Zaporizhzhia region, said the plant hadn't sustained serious damage and continued to operate.

Russia and Ukraine have both accused each other of plotting to blow up the plant's dam to flood the area as Ukrainian forces pressed an offensive on Kherson, which was captured by Russian troops early in the war.

Russian officials also accused Ukrainian forces of shelling a car with three civilians in the Kherson region, killing one.

Ukraine's relentless artillery strikes on Kherson have cut the main crossings across the Dnieper River, which bisects southern Ukraine, and have left Russian troops on the west bank short of supplies and vulnerable to encirclement. The region is one of four that Russian President Vladimir Putin illegally annexed last month and put under Russian martial law last week.

Budanov, the Ukrainian intelligence chief, played down speculation that Russian forces were preparing an immediate exit from Kherson.

While Russian forces were helping tens of thousands of residents evacuate, "at the same time, they are bringing new military units in and preparing the streets of the city for defense," he said.

Meanwhile, Russian authorities removed monuments of 18th-century Russian military chiefs Alexander Suvorov and Fyodor Ushakov from Kherson to save them from Ukrainian shelling.

On Saturday, Russian-installed authorities told all residents of Kherson to leave "immediately" ahead of an expected advance by Ukrainian troops seeking to recapture the city, which sits on a key route to the Russian-occupied Black Sea peninsula of Crimea.

A poll released Monday from the Kyiv International Institute of Sociology showed 86% of Ukrainian respondents agreed that Ukraine's armed struggle with Russia should continue. Some 10% believed it was necessary to start negotiations with Russia even if Ukraine has to make concessions. The telephone poll of 1,000 adults from across Ukraine was conducted Friday through Sunday, it said.

Residents in Mykolaiv, northwest of Kherson, echoed the determination to fight on — even as their city endures shelling almost every night and residents must line up during the day for food and water.

"Ukraine is doing the right thing. Russians attacked us, and they must be beaten for that," said Mykolaiv resident Mykola Kovalenko, 76.

With an eye on the coming winter, Kyiv and seven other Ukrainian regions on Monday planned rolling blackouts as authorities worked to fix the damage to energy facilities caused by targeted Russian shelling. Zelenskyy appealed to local authorities to make sure Ukrainians heed a call to conserve energy.

"Now is definitely not the time for bright storefronts and signs," he said.

## Test scores show historic COVID setbacks for kids across US

By COLLIN BINKLEY AP Education Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The COVID-19 pandemic caused historic learning setbacks for America's children, sparing no state or region as it erased decades of academic progress and widened racial disparities, according to results of a national test that provide the sharpest look yet at the scale of the crisis.

Across the country, math scores saw their largest decreases ever. Reading scores dropped to 1992 lev-

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 56 of 81

els. Nearly four in 10 eighth graders failed to grasp basic math concepts. Not a single state saw a notable improvement in their average test scores, with some simply treading water at best.

Those are the findings from the National Assessment of Educational Progress — known as the “nation’s report card” — which tested hundreds of thousands of fourth and eighth graders across the country this year. It was the first time the test had been given since 2019, and it’s seen as the first nationally representative study of the pandemic’s impact on learning.

“It is a serious wakeup call for us all,” Peggy Carr, commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics, a branch of the Education Department, said in an interview. “In NAEP, when we experience a 1- or 2-point decline, we’re talking about it as a significant impact on a student’s achievement. In math, we experienced an 8-point decline — historic for this assessment.”

Researchers usually think of a 10-point gain or drop as equivalent to roughly a year of learning.

It’s no surprise that children are behind. The pandemic upended everyday life and left millions learning from home for months or more. The results released Monday reveal the depth of those setbacks and the size of the challenge schools face as they help students catch up.

Education Secretary Miguel Cardona said it’s a sign that schools need to redouble their efforts, using billions of dollars that Congress gave schools to help students recover.

“Let me be very clear: These results are not acceptable,” Cardona said.

The NAEP test is typically given every two years. It was taken between January and March by a sample of students in every state, along with 26 of the nation’s largest school districts. Scores had been stalling even before the pandemic, but the new results show decreases on a scale not seen before.

In both math and reading, students scored lower than those tested in 2019. But while reading scores dipped, math scores plummeted by the largest margins in the history of the NAEP program, which began in 1969.

Math scores were worst among eighth graders, with 38% earning scores deemed “below basic” — a cutoff that measures, for example, whether students can find the third angle of a triangle if they’re given the other two. That’s worse than 2019, when 31% of eighth graders scored below that level.

No part of the country was exempt. Every region saw test scores slide, and every state saw declines in at least one subject.

Several major districts saw test scores fall by more than 10 points. Cleveland saw the largest single drop, falling 16 points in fourth-grade reading, along with a 15-point decline in fourth-grade math. Baltimore and Tennessee’s Shelby County also saw precipitous declines.

“This is more confirmation that the pandemic hit us really hard,” said Eric Gordon, chief executive for the Cleveland Metropolitan School District. To help students recover, the school system has beefed up summer school and added after-school tutoring.

“I’m not concerned that they can’t or won’t recover,” Gordon said. “I’m concerned that the country won’t stay focused on getting kids caught up.”

The results show a reversal of progress on math scores, which had made big gains since the 1990s. Reading, by contrast, had changed little in recent decades, so even this year’s relatively small decreases put the averages back to where they were in 1992.

Most concerning, however, are the gaps between students.

Confirming what many had feared, racial inequities appear to have widened. In fourth grade, Black and Hispanic students saw bigger decreases than white students, widening gaps that have persisted for decades.

Inequities were also reflected in a growing gap between higher and lower performing students. In math and reading, scores fell most sharply among the lowest performing students, creating a widening chasm between struggling students and the rest of their peers.

Surveys done as part of this year’s test illustrate the divide. When schools shifted to remote learning, higher performing students were far more likely to have reliable access to quiet spaces, computers and help from their teachers, the survey found.

The results make clear that schools must address the “long-standing and systemic shortcomings of our education system,” said Alberto Carvalho, superintendent of Los Angeles schools and a member of the



National Assessment Governing Board, which sets the policies for the test.

Many parents may not understand just how far behind their children are academically. A spring survey by the national nonprofit Learning Heroes found the majority of parents believed their children were performing at or above their grade level in math and reading.

"There's a myth that parents just don't want to know. That the country just wants to get back to normal," said Sonja Santelises, chief executive officer of Baltimore City Public Schools. "But parents are very concerned."

Some parents blame schools for not clearly communicating learning gaps. In Nashville, a parent advocacy group is pushing the school system to share clearer information about student progress — and to create personal plans to help students catch up.

"Every student has the right to be taught to read, but we failed at that," said Sonya Thomas, a mother who is the executive director of Nashville PROPEL. "That's creating social emotional problems. That's creating workforce problems. That's creating life and death problems."

Other recent studies have found that students who spent longer periods learning online suffered greater setbacks. But the NAEP results show no clear connection. Areas that returned to the classroom quickly still saw significant declines, and cities — which were more likely to stay remote longer — actually saw milder decreases than suburban districts.

Los Angeles can claim one of few bright spots. The nation's second-largest school district saw eighth-grade reading scores increase by 9 points, the only significant uptick in any district. For other districts, it was a feat just to hold even, as achieved by Dallas and Florida's Hillsborough County.

Testing critics caution against putting too much stock in standardized exams, but there's no doubt that the skills it aims to measure are critical. Students who take longer to master reading are more likely to drop out and end up in the criminal justice system, research has found, and eighth grade is seen as a pivotal time to develop skills for math and science careers.

For Carr, the results raise new questions about what will happen to students who appear to be far behind in attaining those skills.

"We want our students to be prepared globally for STEM careers, science and technology and engineering," she said. "This puts all of that at risk. We have to do a reset. This is a very serious issue, and it's not going to go away on its own."

## What's behind worrying RSV surge in US children's hospitals?

By CARLA K. JOHNSON AP Medical Writer

Children's hospitals in parts of the U.S. are seeing a surge in a common respiratory illness that can cause severe breathing problems for babies.

RSV cases fell dramatically two years ago as the pandemic shut down schools, day cares and businesses. With restrictions easing in the summer of 2021, doctors saw an alarming increase in what is normally a fall and winter virus.

Now, it's back again. And doctors are bracing for the possibility that RSV, flu and COVID-19 could combine to stress hospitals.

"I'm calling it an emergency," said Dr. Juan Salazar of Connecticut Children's Hospital, where RSV has caused a shuffling of patients into playrooms and other spaces not normally used for beds. The institution explored using a National Guard field hospital, but has set aside that option for now.

A look at RSV and what the recent surge may mean:

WHAT IS RSV?

It stands for respiratory syncytial virus, a common cause of mild cold-like symptoms such as runny nose, cough and fever. Nearly all U.S. children normally catch an RSV infection by age 2.

People infected are usually contagious for three to eight days. Babies and people with weakened immune systems can spread RSV for up to four weeks. There is no vaccine for it, though several candidates are in testing.

WHO DOES IT AFFECT?

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 58 of 81

Everyone can get RSV. But it causes the most threat to infants, older adults and other vulnerable people, who can get serious airway and lung infections.

Among U.S. kids under age 5, RSV typically leads to 58,000 hospitalizations and up to 500 deaths in a year.

For adults 65 and older, RSV causes 177,000 hospitalizations and 14,000 deaths yearly.

For babies, the struggle to breathe can interfere with eating. "And that's really when we start to worry," said Dr. Melanie Kitagawa of Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, where more than 40 children have RSV.

"They're breathing fast, breathing deep. We see them using muscles in their chest to help them breathe," Kitagawa said. "These are kids who are having difficulty taking a bottle because their breathing is being impacted and they can't coordinate both at once."

**WHY IS THERE AN INCREASE NOW?**

The virus is encountering a highly vulnerable population of babies and children who were sheltered from common bugs during the pandemic lockdowns.

Immune systems might not be as prepared to fight the virus after more than two years of masking, which offered protection, according to Dr. Elizabeth Mack of Medical University of South Carolina.

"South Carolina is drowning in RSV," Mack said in a news release. The surge arrived earlier this year than normal, she said.

For babies, their mothers may not have been infected with RSV during pregnancy, which could have given the children some immunity.

U.S. health officials have noted a rise this month in national reports of respiratory illnesses, which they say is at least partly due to the early spread of flu in much of the South.

Last week, more than 7,000 tests came back positive for RSV, according to CDC figures. That's more than in previous surges.

**IS THERE A TREATMENT?**

There's no specific treatment, so it's a matter of managing symptoms and letting the virus run its course. Doctors may prescribe oral steroids or an inhaler to make breathing easier.

In serious cases, patients in the hospital may get oxygen, a breathing tube or a ventilator.

**WHAT DO DOCTORS RECOMMEND?**

Prevent the spread of viruses by washing hands thoroughly and staying home when you're sick.

During RSV season, an injection of an antibody-based medicine is sometimes prescribed to protect premature infants and other very vulnerable babies.

If you're worried your child is having a severe breathing problem, "do not hesitate" to go to an emergency department or call 911, said Dr. Russell Migita of Seattle Children's Hospital, where RSV is on the rise.

For less severe medical problems, Migita said, call your regular health care provider for advice, use telehealth or go to urgent care.

In Chicago on Saturday, Dr. Juanita Mora saw a family of five kids all with RSV, ranging from a 3-year-old to a teenager. Fearing what's ahead this winter, she's telling everyone to get a flu shot and a COVID-19 booster.

"We don't want a triple whammy, a triple pandemic," Mora said.

## 'It's about time': Celebrations of Diwali illuminate NYC

By MALLIKA SEN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The week dawned gloomily in New York, but the drab mist was little match for the holiday at hand: Diwali, the festival of lights that symbolizes the triumph over darkness.

Celebrated across South Asia in some fashion by Hindus, Jains, Sikhs and Buddhists, the multi-day festival has secured a sturdy foothold far from the subcontinent in places with significant diaspora populations — like New York.

"One thing I would say — the whole country celebrates, right? So it's lit up," fashion designer Prabal Gurung said of celebrations in Nepal, where Diwali is better known as Tihar. He sees signs of Diwali's

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 59 of 81

increased popularity in New York. But, he said, the whole city “is not celebrating yet — so I’m just giving them a year or two.”

Gurung was one of the hosts of Diwali New York, a glitzy soiree held Saturday at The Pierre, fittingly a Taj Hotel. The party, now in its third year, highlights Diwali by bringing together high-powered South Asians with other New York luminaries — people who “the world saw as leaders and role models,” said host Anita Chatterjee, CEO of A-Game Public Relations.

Five miles east of the five-star hotel, those already familiar with the holiday were embarking on preparations for their personal celebrations. Earlier Saturday, the first of the five-day celebration, the streets of Jackson Heights were replete with reminders of the festivities.

The many sweets shops of the Queens neighborhood, known for its South Asian community, were packed to the gills with little room for movement. In the stands outside Apna Bazaar, a grocery store, a sea of small clay pots and wicks for Diwali lamps lay alongside fresh bunches of cilantro and above bags of onions. Handwritten blue signs advertised Diwali specials for everything from 40-pound bags of rice to ghee, tea and pitted dates.

Every year, Sapna Pal comes to Butala Emporium to do her Diwali shopping. Carrying a basket brimming with tea lights and other decorations, the Delhi native said her Diwali celebrations in the United States are usually intimate family affairs because most people prefer to pray in their own homes.

When asked if she misses Diwali in India, Pal — who has lived in Queens for almost 25 years — responded: “Yes! Every day, every year, every year.” But she nonetheless still enjoys Diwali here, looking forward to the sweets — gulab jamun, rasmalai and different types of barfi are among her favorites — and the puja ceremonies.

Outside a Patel Brothers grocery store branch, Bhanu Shetty has run a pop-up Diwali stall for two decades. Her son Pratik says the temporary Flowers by Bhanu stall typically draws around 3,000 customers over three days. She is more circumspect: “People come.”

“We’ve always been known for flowers, but just for these three days we showcase all the temple offerings,” Pratik Shetty said, motioning to 3D stickers, garlands, stencils for the colored powder designs known as rangoli, pictures and, naturally, flowers. Most of the flowers are locally sourced, but the Diwali specialty is the \$5 lotus imported from India.

Ratan Sharma, a manager at India Sari Palace, says sweet shops and grocery stores are the biggest beneficiaries of the Diwali shopping. But his clothing store does well, too: “Once a year we give a benefit to the customers,” she said, “and they take advantage of it.” Sharma said the silk saris — typically on the more expensive end — are the most popular item during the annual Diwali sale.

Jackson Heights is a multiethnic, multi-religious neighborhood, and some stores still featured signs offering Eid sales. Suneera Madhani, the Pakistani American founder of Stax, attended the Diwali party at The Pierre as a gesture of South Asian solidarity. She says she would love to heighten Eid’s profile in New York in a similar manner.

The Diwali gala was certainly high-profile: Host Radhika Jones, the top editor at Vanity Fair, mingled with Ronan Farrow and Kelly Ripa, all clad in South Asian fashions. Chatterjee said her firm helped connect some non-South Asian attendees to designers, including fellow hosts Falguni and Shane Peacock.

The party was at times raucous, with several bear hugs that lifted grown men clear off the ground. Gurung, clad in a glittering Abu Jani-Sandeep Khosla ensemble, tore up the dance floor to the 2014 hit “Baby Doll.” He was subsequently handed blotting paper by a pink salwar kameez-clad Ripa, whose husband, actor Mark Consuelos, pat the table to the beat. Padma Lakshmi and Sarita Choudhury embraced for the camera, with the former demonstrating some hip-shaking thumkas.

“Our generation has really embraced our culture and the expression of it,” said another host, Anjula Acharia, Priyanka Chopra Jonas’ manager.

Normally, she’d be spending the holiday with her illustrious client. But, marveling at the progress Diwali has made outside of South Asia and its diaspora, she said she’s spending it this year with President Joe Biden.

“A few years ago, it really occurred to me: Diwali is not on the New York social scene in a way that I

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 60 of 81

felt like it deserved to be, needed to be and I wanted it to be," said restaurateur Maneesh Goyal, another host and the mastermind of the event.

While he said that Diwali is "personally" a day of reflection, it's also about celebrations and "happiness, positivity, bringing people together."

For Diwali to really permeate American culture, Gurung said, it will take "just us showing up consistently, constantly in the most graceful, beautiful, thoughtful way." The resonance of the holiday's themes alone — the victory of good over evil, light over dark — should do the rest of the work.

"It's the right time," he said. "And also, it's about time."

## US Border Patrol sends migrants places where no help waits

By CLAUDIA TORRENS and VANESSA A. ALVÁREZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When Wilfredo Molina arrived in the U.S. from his native Venezuela, he told border agents he wanted to go to Miami but didn't have an address. They directed him to what he thought was a shelter in midtown Manhattan but turned out to be a gray office building.

"It was a fake building. I didn't understand what it was," he said.

Molina was among 13 migrants who recently arrived in the U.S. who agreed to share documents with The Associated Press that they received when they were released from U.S. custody while they seek asylum after crossing the border with Mexico. The AP found that most had no idea where they were being sent — nor were they expected by anyone at the addresses listed on their paperwork.

Customs and Border Protection, which oversees the Border Patrol, did not respond to repeated questions about families and individuals interviewed and the addresses assigned to them.

But the snafus suggest a pattern of Border Patrol agents, particularly in Texas, sending migrants without friends or family in the United States to offices that get no notice. The places often don't have space to house migrants. Yet because those addresses appear on migrants' paperwork, important notices may later be sent there.

"We believe that Border Patrol is attempting to demonstrate the chaos that they are experiencing on the border to inland cities," said Denise Chang, executive director of the Colorado Hosting Asylum Network. "We just need to coordinate so that we can receive people properly."

Addresses on documents shown to AP included administrative offices of Catholic Charities in New York and San Antonio; an El Paso, Texas, church; a private home in West Bridgewater, Massachusetts; and a group operating homeless shelters in Salt Lake City.

A Venezuelan family that came to the American Red Cross' Denver administrative offices was referred to multiple shelters before someone volunteered to take them in. Migrants who came to New York ended up in shelters, hotels or temporary apartments that the city helped them find and pay for.

A surge in migration from Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua brought the number of illegal crossings to the highest level ever recorded in a fiscal year. In the 12-month period that ended Sept. 30, migrants were stopped 2.38 million times, up 37% from 1.73 million times the year before and surpassing 2 million for the first time.

The year-end numbers reflect deteriorating economic and political conditions in some countries, the relative strength of the U.S. economy and uneven enforcement of Trump-era asylum restrictions.

Many are immediately expelled under the asylum restrictions, a public health order known as Title 42, which denies people a chance at seeking asylum on grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19.

But others — including people from Cuba and Nicaragua, with which the U.S. has strained relations — are released with notices to appear in immigration court or under humanitarian parole. Those migrants must tell agents where they will live, but many can't provide an address.

"It almost seems as though, at the border, officials are simply just looking up any nonprofit address they can or just looking up any name at all that they can and just putting that down without actually ever checking whether that person has mentioned it, whether there's beds or shelter at that location, or whether this is even a location that can provide legal assistance," said Lauren Wyatt, managing attorney

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 61 of 81

with Catholic Charities of New York. "So clearly, this is not the most effective way to do this."

Most of the migrants interviewed in New York had hopped on taxpayer-funded buses that Texas and the city of El Paso have been sending regularly to the northeast city.

Republican Govs. Ron DeSantis of Florida, Greg Abbott of Texas and Doug Ducey of Arizona also have been sending migrants released at the border to Democratic strongholds, including Chicago, Washington, D.C., and Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts. They have been criticized for failing to notify local officials of plans. Republicans say they are highlighting issues with President Joe Biden's immigration policies.

The Biden administration recently agreed to accept up to 24,000 Venezuelans at U.S. airports if they apply for asylum online with financial sponsors, similar to how Ukrainians have been admitted since Russia's invasion. Mexico has said it will take back Venezuelans who cross the border into the U.S. and are expelled under Title 42 authority.

Yeysy Hernández, a Venezuelan who reached New York after taking one of El Paso's buses, says the address in her documents is for an El Paso church that wasn't expecting migrants and where she slept just one night. Now she worries immigration notices might be sent there.

Hundreds of immigrants have shown up at one of the offices for Catholic Charities of New York with documents listing the address. Wyatt said the group complained and the government promised to put an end to the practice by Aug. 1 — something that "obviously, hasn't happened."

The group also has received more than 300 notices to appear in immigration court for people the organization does not know, Wyatt said. It's also received deportation orders for migrants who failed to appear in court because their notices were sent to a Catholic Charities address.

Victor Quijada traveled with relatives last month to Denver after border agents sent the Venezuelan family to an American Red Cross office building. Once there, they were referred to a city shelter that also turned them away. They eventually found a shelter that took them in for a few days, but they felt unsafe.

"It was tough what we had to go through; from the things we had to eat to being on the streets — an experience I wouldn't wish on anyone," Quijada said.

Chang, from the Colorado Housing Asylum Network, eventually took the family into her home and her organization helped them lease an apartment. She said she knows of several migrants assigned to addresses of groups that can't help them.

"The five families that I've worked with in the last three months, all five were picked up off the street, literally sitting on the sidewalk with children," she said.

The building in midtown Manhattan where Molina went is an International Rescue Committee refugee resettlement office, but it provides only limited services to asylum-seekers there, said Stanford Prescott, a spokesman for the group.

Only one of the IRC's U.S. offices — in Phoenix — operates a shelter for asylum-seekers and most stay less than 48 hours. Yet its Dallas and Atlanta offices also have been listed on migrants' documents.

"We are deeply concerned that listing these addresses erroneously may lead to complications for asylum-seekers who are following a legal process to seek safety in the U.S.," Prescott said.

## Biden targets Nicaragua's gold in new move against Ortega

By JOSHUA GOODMAN and CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN undefined

MIAMI (AP) — The Biden administration is ratcheting up pressure on President Daniel Ortega's authoritarian rule in Nicaragua, threatening a ban on Americans from doing business in the nation's gold industry, raising the possibility of trade restrictions and stripping the U.S. visas of some 500 government insiders.

The actions, stemming from an executive order signed by President Joe Biden on Monday, are the latest and perhaps most aggressive attempt by the U.S. to hold the former Sandinista guerrilla leader accountable for his continued attacks on human rights and democracy in the Central American country as well his continued security cooperation with Russia.

Previous rounds of sanctions have focused on Ortega, his wife and vice president, Rosario Murillo, and members of their family and inner circle. But none of those moves have managed to loosen Ortega's grip

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 62 of 81

on power The latest target by Ortega's government: the Roman Catholic Church. In August, security raided the residence of a bishop, detaining him and several other clergy.

The new executive order greatly expands a Trump-era decree declaring Ortega's hijacking of democratic norms, undermining of the rule of law and use of political violence against opponents a threat to the U.S.' national security.

Together with the Treasury Department's simultaneous sanctioning of Nicaragua's General Directorate of Mines, the order all but makes it illegal for Americans to do business with Nicaragua's gold industry. It's the first time the U.S. has identified a specific sector of the economy as potentially off-limits and can be expanded in the future to include other industries believed to fill the government's coffers.

The executive order also paves the way for the U.S. to restrict investment and trade with Nicaragua — a move recalling the punishing embargo imposed by the U.S. in the 1980s during Ortega's first stint as president following the country's bloody civil war.

"The Ortega-Murillo regime's continued attacks on democratic actors and members of civil society and unjust detention of political prisoners demonstrate that the regime feels it is not bound by the rule of law," said Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Brian E. Nelson. "We can and will use every tool at our disposal to deny the Ortega-Murillo regime the resources they need to continue to undermine democratic institutions."

In her daily comments Monday to official media, Murillo did not directly mention the expanded U.S. sanctions, but said that Nicaraguans are "defenders of the national sovereignty."

She also read a letter from Ortega congratulating China President Xi Jinping who was named to another term as head of the ruling Communist Party Sunday, in which Ortega questioned the "aggressive imperial ambition" of the west.

Monday's action could signal the start of a new offensive taking aim at the broader economy — something the Biden administration has been reluctant to pursue for fear of adding to the country's hardships and unleashing more migration. For the fiscal year that ended in September, U.S. border agents encountered Nicaraguans nearly 164,000 times at the southwest border — more than triple the level for the previous year.

At the same time, frustrations have been building in Washington over the way Nicaragua's economic elites have largely remained silent amid Ortega's crackdown.

The Biden administration's targeting of the gold industry could sap Ortega's government of one of its biggest sources of revenue. Gold was the country's largest export in 2020 and the country, already the largest producer of the precious metal in Central America, is looking to double output in the next five years.

According to Nicaragua's Central Bank, the country exported a record 348,532 ounces of gold in 2021 and the country's mining association projects exports totaling 500,000 ounces in 2023.

Among foreign investors active in the country is Condor Gold, whose CEO, Mark Child, appeared in a photo with the Nicaraguan leader in a September presentation for investors prepared by the U.K.-based company.

"He is basically totally supportive of the project," Child said in a March interview following a 90-minute meeting with Ortega. "That meeting... basically gives a major green light for the construction of project finance and materially de-risks the project."

The Toronto and London-listed Condor has permits to build and operate three open pit mines, the most advanced of which is believed to hold 602,000 ounces of gold worth nearly \$900 million at current prices. Condor is partly owned by a company belonging to American mining engineer who has worked for decades in the country.

Shares in Condor were up slightly 2 cents, or 3.8%, following the U.S. announcement. However, another Toronto-listed junior mining company with operations in Nicaragua, Calibre Mining Corp, saw its share price plunge 17 cents, or 17%.

The Vancouver-based firm has several mining projects in Nicaragua believed to contain 2.9 million ounces of gold.

As part of Monday's actions, the Treasury Department also froze the U.S. assets of Reinaldo Lenin Cerna,

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 63 of 81

who it describes as a close adviser to Ortega. According to the Treasury Department, Cerna was the head of state security during Ortega's first presidency and allegedly helped carry out the assassination of the head of security for former dictator Anastasio Somoza.

Additionally, the State Department will also be pulling the U.S. visas of more than 500 Nicaraguan individuals and their family members who either work for the Ortega government or help formulate, implement and benefit from policies that undermine democracy in the country, U.S. officials told The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity to discuss the action. Previously it froze the U.S. assets of the defense minister and other members of the security forces tied to the shuttering of more than 1,000 nongovernmental organizations.

Previously, the Biden administration also sanctioned the state-owned mining company. It also reallocated the country's sugar quota, taking away a valuable U.S. subsidy worth millions of dollars every year.

Nicaraguans began fleeing their country in 2018, initially to neighboring Costa Rica, after Ortega violently put down massive street protests. Then in 2021 security forces began rounding up leading opposition leaders, including seven potential challengers to Ortega ahead of that year's presidential elections. Without a meaningful challenger, Ortega coasted to a fourth consecutive five-year term and Nicaraguans left their homeland in even larger numbers.

## **EXPLAINER: Why the British public is not choosing its leader**

By The Associated Press undefined

LONDON (AP) — Observers of British politics can be forgiven for scratching their heads in recent weeks as they watch the country reel through prime ministers without holding an election.

While the opposition Labour Party is demanding an election, the governing Conservatives have just chosen another leader from within their own ranks — Rishi Sunak, the third prime minister since September. They have the right to do so because of the way Britain's parliamentary democracy works.

### **BRITONS NEVER ACTUALLY VOTE FOR THEIR PRIME MINISTER**

Britain is divided into 650 local constituencies, and during an election voters tick a box for the representative they want to become their local member of Parliament. In most cases, this will be a member of one of the country's major political parties: the Conservatives, the Labour Party, the Liberal Democrats and the Greens.

The party that wins the majority of seats in the House of Commons gets to form a government, and that party's leader automatically becomes the prime minister. While coalitions are possible, Britain's voting system favors the two largest parties — the Conservatives or Labour. In most cases a single party will take an absolute majority of seats, as is the case for the Conservatives in the current Parliament.

The party of government can change leader according to its own rules, and that person becomes prime minister without the need for a national election.

**WILL THERE BE A GENERAL ELECTION SOON?** The last general election in Britain was in 2019 and constitutionally another is not required until 2024.

But with the selection of a third prime minister by just a tiny proportion of the population, a lot of Britons are beginning to wonder why they are not getting a chance to influence who their next leader is. The clamor for a general election in the near future is only likely to get louder.

The prime minister has the power to call an election earlier, but with the Conservative Party trailing well behind the opposition Labour Party in the latest polls, Sunak is unlikely to do so.

Lawmakers can also trigger an election by winning a vote of no-confidence in the government in the House of Commons, but that would require many Conservatives to vote against their own party's government.

## **AC/DC's Brian Johnson writes about his Cinderella lives**

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

Before he began tearing the roof off arenas as lead singer of hard rock icon AC/DC, Brian Johnson was

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 64 of 81

fixing roofs.

In his new memoir, the "Hells Bells" singer recounts how he went from being a vinyl car roof fitter in the northeast of England to leading one of the most hailed bands in the world.

It's a Cinderella story. Only Johnson, now 75, was a Cinderella at least three times, never giving up on his dream of singing in a rock 'n' roll band.

"I don't know what it is, I just never, ever sort of gave in," he said recently by phone from his home in Florida. "I was always willing to give something a shot when more pessimistic people wouldn't have. I always thought the glass was half-full."

"The Lives of Brian Johnson," from Dey Street Books, goes chronologically through his ups and downs growing up near Newcastle, ending with him joining AC/DC and recording the band's seminal "Back in Black" album.

"It wasn't so much to validate my life," he said of the book. "It was to validate the lives of all the wonderful people that I met that helped shape my life — friends from school, friends at the factories, friends in the music."

Music was his North Star and he recalls first hearing Little Richard sing "Awop bop/a-loo bop/awop bam boom" at 11 and freaking out. "Many have described that song, 'Tutti Frutti,' as the sound of rock 'n' roll being born — which is fitting, because my dream of becoming a singer was born in that moment, too," he writes.

Johnson was an apprentice engineer who sang on the side and was a young father and husband. To earn enough money for a P.A. system, he joined an airborne infantry regiment of the British Army.

He attended one of Jimi Hendrik's first shows in Britain, saw Sting perform when soon-The Police star was 15 and made friends with members of Slade and Thin Lizzy. He would meet Chuck Berry but it didn't go well. "Never meet your heroes," he writes.

Johnson, who would later pen the immortal lines "Forget the hearse/cause I'll never die," made his live debut in the deliciously named The Toasty Folk Trio, survived a horrific car crash and finally found some success in the band Geordie.

The band made it to the "Top of the Pops" — a show that was a crowning achievement for any nascent band. He gave up a good career at his engineering firm, but Geordie had only one Top 10 hit and soon fizzled out.

"At the age of 28, I'd lost everything. My marriage, my career, my house," he writes. He moved in with his parents and recalls once watching AC/DC on BBC. "I loved every second of it. But, of course, it was also a reminder that I'd had my shot and blown it."

Johnson rebuilt his life, becoming a windscreen fitter — later a car roof fixer — and founded Georgie II. He was happy. He had a little business and a little band. "I thought that was my second Cinderella story, but there was more to come," he says.

The book reveals the origin of his trademark cap: Once he rushed to a gig with no time to change, sweating glue and shards of glass into his eyes. His brother, Maurice, lent him his cloth driving cap as protection, an addition the fans loved.

Still, part of Johnson was unfulfilled. It was a meeting with singer Roger Daltrey that proved pivotal. The Who's frontman invited Johnson — then living with his band in an apartment with just four mattresses on the floor — over for a meal at his manor house.

On the day, Johnson recalls Daltrey riding toward him bare-chested and barefoot with no saddle, holding onto the mane of his galloping white horse ("If this isn't a rock star, I thought to myself, I don't know what is," he writes.)

"He said, 'I'm going to give you one piece of advice, Brian. Never give up. Do you understand me? Never, ever give up.' And I really took that to heart," Johnson recalled. "He's probably forgotten that he said that, but I didn't."

Bon Scott, the original lead singer of AC/DC died in 1980, and Johnson got an audition to replace him based on recommendations, including from Scott himself, who had heard him sing one night. Only years



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 65 of 81

later did Johnson realize they'd met.

At the audition, co-founder and rhythm guitarist Malcolm Young offered him a Newcastle Brown Ale, a nice nod to Johnson's heritage. And Johnson's first song with the band at the audition was Tina Turner's "Nutbush City Limits." ("It was the most electric moment of my life," he writes). Then they sang some AC/DC tunes. He got the job, of course.

Johnson's editor, Rowland White, an author whose most recent novel is "Into the Black," said the shape of Johnson's story is "extraordinary because it doesn't usually happen like that."

"He was happy with the idea that he'd given it a shot and he made his peace with that. And it's what makes the shot at AC/DC somehow more joyful because it was no longer something that he was straining for."

The book ends just as Johnson finally achieves his lifetime goal. If fans are hoping for more about the origins of AC/DC, he argues that's not his story to tell — it's for surviving members guitarist Angus Young, bassist Cliff Williams and drummer Phil Rudd. "That book belongs to the persons who were there from the start because that's what I want to hear," he said.

Johnson is a natural storyteller, and it was his manager who first suggested a memoir. Johnson resisted. "Every week there's a book out by some old actor or musician. And I've always gone, 'No, not another one.'"

But encouraged to write a few chapters, Johnson sat down with a yellow legal pad. A few years later, he had a book, which he has dedicated to his great-great-great-grandchildren.

Why? He recalls asking his father what his grandfather was like on their way to his funeral. He was "just a fella," his dad said. Then he asked what his father's grandfather was like and the answer was "how the hell would I know?"

"I thought, 'What a shame, what a pity,'" said Johnson. "Nobody knows anybody just a couple of generations later. So that's why I wrote it for my grandchildren. I hope the words in this book help to get to know me just a little more. And I hope there's a little bit of me in you, and I hope you have a long and lovely life."

## Abortion ruling means more and riskier births in Mississippi

By MICHAEL GOLDBERG Associated Press/Report for America

GREENWOOD, Miss. (AP) — In Mississippi, where health officials expect 5,000 more births each year as a result of the Supreme Court ruling upending abortion rights, children are more likely to die before their first birthday than in any other state.

Mississippi has the nation's highest fetal mortality rate, highest infant mortality rate, highest pre-term birth rate and is among the worst states for maternal mortality. Black women are nearly three times more likely to die due to childbirth than white women in Mississippi.

As the state's Republican leaders led the legal fight against abortion, Gov. Tate Reeves said he would do everything in his power to make Mississippi the "safest state in the nation for an unborn child."

But access to pre- and post-natal care has dwindled in Mississippi since the June ruling, making childbirth even more dangerous for poor women and children. The only neonatal intensive care unit in the state's impoverished Delta region closed in July under financial pressures, moving lifesaving care for ill or premature newborn babies about two hours away by car.

And now the publicly owned Greenwood Leflore Hospital has announced the permanent closure of its labor and delivery unit, saying it can't pay competitive wages and retain experienced nurses. The area's women will need to travel about 45 minutes to give birth at a hospital.

"If an emergency comes up and somebody lives in Greenwood or out in the country, where are they going to go? That could be a catastrophe," said Dr. Mark Blackwood, an OB/GYN based in the Delta.

Another hospital in coastal Mississippi also closed its labor and delivery unit, and several hospital systems are seeking buyers. All face more pressure due to the state's refusal to accept Medicaid expansion and the billions of federal dollars it would provide for health care in the state.

Months after the Dobbs ruling forced the closure of the state's last remaining abortion clinic, Mississippi

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 66 of 81

Attorney General Lynn Fitch credited the state's Republican women for "leading the cause," and Reeves celebrated "100 days of protecting babies & dismantling the abortion lie."

But health care analysts, doctors and pregnant women are expressing alarm as options for maternity care disappear.

More than 2.2 million women of childbearing age live in "maternity care deserts" in the U.S., and another 4.7 million live in counties with limited maternity care access, according to an Oct. 11 report by March of Dimes, which focuses on maternal and infant health. The nonprofit defines maternity care deserts as counties with no hospitals providing obstetric care, no birth centers, no OB/GYN and no certified nurse midwives.

The organization provided data to the AP showing that across all states, Mississippi has the eighth-highest percentage of such counties, which snake through the Delta, an agricultural flatland where persistent poverty shapes daily life.

Infrequent prenatal visits can increase risks to both mothers and babies, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation, which tracks health statistics.

"When parents have to travel further and further distances, they have to miss more work. It costs more money, more gas and more time off," said Dr. Anita Henderson, president of the Mississippi Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. "Our concern is that the ability for them to get those routine prenatal visits in a timely fashion will go down as well."

The Greenwood Leflore Hospital, whose slogan is "the right care at the right time," is warning expectant mothers to make arrangements to reach another hospital once they start having contractions. Meanwhile, pregnant women who arrive in a crisis will be stabilized in the emergency room, and then transferred to another facility that provides maternity care, hospital spokeswoman Christine Hemphill said.

Greenwood Leflore now directs expectant mothers to a hospital about 33 miles (53.1 kilometers) away in Grenada. Brenda Palmertree had two children there before moving closer to Greenwood, and finds it difficult to imagine driving that far while on the verge of giving birth. "If you go into labor you can't just stop it. Like, 'hello, stop for a minute I've got to drive 45 minutes.' It doesn't work that way," she said.

"In terms of pregnancies and deliveries, especially high-risk deliveries or emergency deliveries, we know that minutes matter," Henderson said.

Reeves and other Republican leaders have killed many proposals to expand Medicaid primarily to low-income workers whose jobs don't provide private health insurance, saying they don't want to encourage reliance on government help for people who don't need it.

About 60% of births in Mississippi in 2020 were financed by Medicaid, the foundation found — only Louisiana had a higher rate, at 61% — and Mississippi offers the federal minimum of two months of postpartum coverage. Mothers in Mississippi can access post-partum coverage for 12 months while the COVID-19 federal emergency declaration is in effect. If state legislators fail to make the extension permanent, coverage will roll back to two months when the emergency order is lifted.

Advocates for low-income women say extending that coverage could reduce maternal mortality.

But Republican lawmakers killed a bill in this year's legislative session that would have let mothers keep Medicaid coverage for a year after giving birth. Asked whether it could save lives, House Speaker Phillip Gunn said "that has not been a part of the discussions that I've heard."

Reeves' office did not respond to an Associated Press request for comment on how his administration plans to address the recent closure of maternity care units.

Social services are already strapped in Mississippi, which could be ill-prepared for the consequences of bringing an additional 5,000 pregnancies to term each year, the estimate offered by Dr. Daniel Edney, the state health officer. Child Protection Services Commissioner Andrea Sanders said in September that her agency might lack the staff to care for more foster children.

But in the Delta now, providers and patients have more immediate concerns as OB/GYN services become harder to obtain.

Greenwood Leflore Hospital ceased to operate a OB/GYN clinic across the street on October 15. The

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 67 of 81

University of Mississippi Medical Center has agreed to operate the clinic and the hospital is negotiating a long-term lease for the entire hospital with UMMC.

A nurse at Greenwood Leflore Hospital who asked that her name not be used because she wasn't authorized to speak about her employer wonders how the clinic will be able to operate without a nearby delivery unit.

"It's bad. We're all shocked at their decision. What sense would it make for them to have a clinic and then you have to drive 30-40 miles away?" the nurse said.

Two obstetricians have already decided to leave the clinic, according to the Greenwood Commonwealth. At least one said the distance between the clinic and the closest delivery unit would be too much to bear.

## Rishi Sunak, UK's next PM, faces major economic problems

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Former Treasury chief Rishi Sunak is set to become Britain's first prime minister of color after being chosen Monday to lead a governing Conservative Party desperate for a safe pair of hands to guide the country through economic and political turbulence.

The challenges facing the U.K.'s third prime minister this year are enormous: He must try to shore up an economy sliding toward recession and reeling after his predecessor's brief, disastrous experiment in libertarian economics, while also attempting to unite a demoralized and divided party that trails far behind the opposition in opinion polls.

In his first public statement, Sunak said "the United Kingdom is a great country, but there is no doubt we face a profound economic challenge."

"We now need stability and unity, and I will make it my utmost priority to bring our party and our country together," said Sunak, who at 42 is Britain's youngest prime minister in 200 years.

Sunak will be the first British prime minister with South Asian roots and its first Hindu leader — a milestone for a country with an extensive colonial past, and one that is still contested.

Elected party leader on the major Hindu festival of Diwali, Sunak takes over from Liz Truss, who quit last week after 45 tumultuous days in office. His only remaining rival, Penny Mordaunt, conceded and withdrew after failing to reach the nomination threshold of 100 Conservative lawmakers needed to stay in the race.

Sunak will now be asked by King Charles III to form a government and becomes the prime minister in a handover of power from Truss on Tuesday.

Victory is vindication for Sunak, who lost out to Truss in the Conservative election to replace former Prime Minister Boris Johnson over the summer when party members chose her tax-cutting boosterism over his warnings that inflation must be tamed.

Truss conceded last week that she could not deliver on her plans — but only after her attempts triggered market chaos and worsened inflation at a time when millions of Britons were already struggling with soaring borrowing costs and rising energy and food prices.

The party is now desperate for someone to right the ship after months of chaos — both during Truss' short term and at the end of Johnson's.

As finance minister, Sunak steered the economy through the coronavirus pandemic, winning praise for his financial support for laid-off workers and shuttered businesses.

He now faces the huge challenge of calming markets and trying to tame inflation at a time of weakened government finances, a worsening economic outlook and a wave of strikes. Treasury chief Jeremy Hunt, appointed by Truss 10 days ago, is due to make an emergency budget statement Oct. 31 — if Sunak keeps him in the job.

Britain also faces broader economic problems stemming from the pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the country's exit from the European Union in 2020. Sunak was a firm supporter of Brexit.

Sunak was cheered wildly by Conservative lawmakers during a packed private meeting in Parliament minutes after he won the contest on Monday.

Former Cabinet minister Chris Grayling said Sunak had urged the party "to unite and fix the problems

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 68 of 81

the country faces" and had got "a rapturous reception."

Therese Coffey, who was Truss' deputy prime minister, said the whole party should support Sunak now. "We need to get behind him," she said.

But Sunak still faces resentment from supporters of Johnson for quitting the government in July, a move that helped topple the then-leader. His background as an investment banker at Goldman Sachs and his wife's vast wealth — she is the daughter of an Indian billionaire — also fuel a sense he is out of touch with the struggles of ordinary people.

He takes the reins after Truss' proposal for aggressive tax cuts that would be paid for through government borrowing pummeled the value of the pound, drove up the cost of government borrowing and home mortgages, and forced emergency Bank of England intervention. Truss executed a series of U-turns and replaced her Treasury chief but faced rebellion from lawmakers in her party that obliterated her authority.

In the lightning-quick contest to replace her, Sunak's position strengthened after Johnson dramatically quit the race on Sunday night, ending a short-lived, high-profile attempt to return to the prime minister's job he was ousted from little more than three months ago amid ethics scandals.

The prospect of a return by Johnson had thrown the already divided Conservative Party into further turmoil. He led the party to a thumping election victory in 2019, but his premiership was clouded by scandals over money and ethics that eventually became too much for the party to bear.

He threw in the towel late Sunday despite insisting he was "well placed to deliver a Conservative victory" in the next national election.

The Conservative Party turmoil is fueling demands for a national election. Under Britain's parliamentary system, there does not need to be one until the end of 2024, though the government has the power to call one sooner.

Currently that looks unlikely. Opinion polls say an election would spell disaster for the Conservatives, with the left-of-center Labour Party winning a large majority.

Tim Bale, professor of politics at Queen Mary University of London, said the Conservative Party is "not out of the woods yet" even after choosing Sunak.

"And certainly I think voters, while possibly they may give Rishi Sunak a little bit of a bounce, a little bit of credit for not being Liz Truss, are certainly out of love with the Conservative Party as a whole," he said. "So I don't expect this to make an enormous amount of difference to the opinion polls."

## A swing state no more? GOP confidence grows in Florida

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

THE VILLAGES, Fla. (AP) — Democrats are increasingly concerned that Florida, once the nation's premier swing state, may slip away this fall and beyond as emboldened Republicans capitalize on divisive cultural issues and population shifts in crucial contests for governor and the U.S. Senate.

The anxiety was apparent last week during a golf cart parade of Democrats featuring Senate candidate Val Demings at The Villages, a retirement community just north of the Interstate 4 corridor. It was once a politically mixed part of the state where elections were often decided but now some Democrats now say they feel increasingly isolated.

"I am terrified," said 77-year-old Sue Sullivan, lamenting the state's rightward shift. "There are very few Democrats around here."

In an interview, Demings, a congresswoman and former Orlando police chief challenging Republican Sen. Marco Rubio, conceded that her party's midterm message isn't resonating as she had hoped.

"We have to do a better job of telling our stories and clearly demonstrating who's truly on the side of people who have to go to work every day," she said.

The frustration is the culmination of nearly a decade of Republican inroads in Florida, where candidates have honed deeply conservative social and economic messages to build something of a coalition that includes rural voters and Latinos, particularly Cuban Americans. Donald Trump's win here in 2016 signaled the evolution after the state twice backed Barack Obama. And while he lost the White House in 2020,

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 69 of 81

Trump carried Florida by more than 3 percentage points, a remarkable margin in a state where elections were regularly decided by less than a percentage point.

President Joe Biden will visit the state Nov. 1, exactly one week before Election Day, to rally Democrats. Demings said she's had two conversations with the president about campaigning together, but she could not confirm any joint appearances. And Charlie Crist, the Democratic nominee for governor, said he would attend a private fundraiser with Biden on the day of the rally, but he wasn't sure whether they would appear together in public.

"If we could squeeze in a little public airtime, that'd be a wonderful thing I would welcome," Crist said in an interview.

Still, the GOP is bullish that it can keep notching victories, even in longtime Democratic strongholds. Some Republicans are optimistic the party could carry Miami-Dade County, a once unthinkable prospect that would virtually eliminate the Democrats' path to victory in statewide contests, including presidential elections.

And in southwest Florida's Lee County, a major Republican stronghold, not even a devastating hurricane appears to have dented the GOP's momentum. In fact, Republicans and Democrats privately agree that Hurricane Ian, which left more than 100 dead, may have helped Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis broaden his appeal. On Monday, he'll participate in a debate against Crist in which he'll likely highlight his stewardship of the state during a searing crisis.

But the 44-year-old Republican governor has spent much of his first term focused on sensitive social issues. He's signed new laws banning abortions at 15 weeks of pregnancy with no exceptions for rape or incest, along with blocking critical race theory and LGBTQ issues from many Florida schools. He has also stripped millions of dollars from a major league baseball team that spoke out against gun violence and led efforts to eliminate Disney's special tax status for condemning his so-called "Don't Say Gay" bill.

On the eve of the hurricane, DeSantis shipped dozens of Venezuelan immigrants from Texas to Martha's Vineyard to call attention to illegal immigration at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Crist, a former congressman and onetime governor himself, acknowledged some voters "dig" DeSantis' focus on cultural issues, "but most Floridians are good, decent people." He noted that at least one Hispanic radio host has compared DeSantis to former Cuban dictator Fidel Castro.

"Customarily, when you come out of a primary, people will move to the middle. He's clearly not doing that, to say the least," Crist said of his Republican rival.

But to the horror of many Democrats, DeSantis could become the first Floridian to win a governor's race by more than 1 point since 2006. That kind of showing might lift Rubio in the U.S. Senate election while helping the GOP win as many as 20 of the state's 28 U.S. House seats.

Should DeSantis win big as expected, his allies believe he would have the political capital to launch a successful presidential campaign in 2024 — whether Trump runs or not.

"It's shocking and it's scary," state Democratic Party Chair Manny Diaz said about DeSantis' repeated willingness to use the power of his office to attack political rivals, whether individual opponents or iconic corporations like Disney.

DeSantis, who declined an interview request, has found success by bucking the conventional wisdom before.

He beat Democrat Andrew Gillum four years ago by 32,436 votes out of more than 8.2 million cast, a margin so narrow that it required a recount.

But in the four years since then, Republicans have erased a voter registration advantage that Florida Democrats had guarded for decades. When registration closed for the 2018 election, Democrats enjoyed a 263,269-vote advantage. As of Sept. 30, Republicans had a lead of 292,533 voters — a swing of nearly 556,000 registered voters over DeSantis' first term.

"We're no longer a swing state. We're actually annihilating the Democrats," said Florida GOP Chairman Joe Gruters, a leading DeSantis ally.

And while he says his party has focused on traditional kitchen-table issues, such as gas prices and infla-

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 70 of 81

tion, Gruters leaned into cultural fights — especially the Florida GOP's opposition to sexual education and LGBTQ issues in elementary schools — that have defined DeSantis' tenure.

"I don't want anyone else teaching my kids about the birds and the bees and gender fluidity issues," Gruters said.

Strategists in both parties believe Florida's political shift is due to multiple factors, but there is general agreement that Republicans have benefited from an influx of new voters since DeSantis emerged as the leader of the GOP resistance to the pandemic-related public health measures.

Every day on average over the year between 2020 and 2021, 667 more people moved into the state than moved away, according to U.S. Census estimates.

Part of the Republican shift can also be attributed to people living in rural areas of north Florida, remnants of the deep South, changing their registration to reflect their voting patterns. Many people registered as Democrats because generations before them did, but the so-called Dixiecrats still voted solidly Republican.

But that alone does not explain the Democrats' challenge this fall.

Democrats are particularly concerned about the trend in Miami-Dade County, home to 1.5 million Hispanics of voting age and a Democratic stronghold for the past 20 years, where the GOP made significant gains in the last presidential election. In two weeks, the region could turn red.

"We have seen so many Hispanics flock to the Republican party here in Miami-Dade County," Florida Lt. Gov. Jeanette Núñez said at an event with other party leaders last week. "I'm going to make a prediction right now: We are going to win Miami-Dade County come Nov. 8."

Meanwhile in southwest Florida, thousands of Republican voters are picking up pieces of their shattered homes and vehicles in the wake of Hurricane Ian, which left more than 100 people dead and caused tens of billions of dollars in damage.

Mangled boats and massive chunks of concrete docks still litter the coastline in Fort Myers, the county seat of Lee County, one of the nation's most Republican-leaning counties. Thousands of homes were destroyed and several schools remain closed nearly a month after the Category 4 hurricane made landfall.

Still, Matt Caldwell, the county property appraiser and a member of the state GOP, was confident about his party's political prospects.

"Most of the people, 90% of the people who live in the county are more or less back to life at this point," he said as he toured a Fort Myers marina covered by twisted metal and crumpled yachts.

Caldwell praised the Republican governor for being a regular presence during cleanup efforts, suggesting that voters across the political spectrum may reward him on Election Day.

DeSantis himself was upbeat as he delivered a storm update not far away in Punta Gorda over the weekend. The governor referred to the coming election, but focused his remarks on relief efforts.

"We've had success with bridges and all these other things partially because we have the community rallying together," DeSantis said. "Everyone's rowing in the same direction. It makes a difference."

## Thomas temporarily blocks Graham testimony in Georgia

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas on Monday temporarily blocked Sen. Lindsey Graham's testimony to a special grand jury investigating whether then-President Donald Trump and others illegally tried to influence the 2020 election in the state.

Thomas' order is intended to prevent Fani Willis, Fulton County district attorney, from compelling Graham to testify while the Supreme Court weighs the senator's request for a lengthier halt to the proceedings.

Willis has a deadline Thursday to tell the high court why Graham should have to answer the grand jury's questions. Lower courts have ruled that his testimony can take place.

Thomas acted on his own, as the justice who handles emergency appeals from Georgia.

## Oscar Tshiebwe, Drew Timme top AP preseason All-America team

By JOHN MARSHALL AP Basketball Writer

Oscar Tshiebwe was the consensus men's college basketball player of the year last season, an accom-

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 71 of 81

plishment usually followed by a jump to the NBA.

Kentucky's big man decided to take a different route. He's coming back — and he may be even better this season.

"He's a better passer. He's a better dribbler. He has a better feel. He talks," Kentucky coach John Calipari said. "Offensively he knows the plays better. And he's authentic."

Tshiebwe was a unanimous selection along with Gonzaga big man Drew Timme in The Associated Press preseason All-America team released Monday. They were joined by North Carolina forward Armando Bacot, Houston guard Marcus Sasser and Indiana forward Trayce Jackson-Davis on the team selected by a 59-person media panel that votes on the weekly AP Top 25.

Tshiebwe is the ninth AP national player of the year — Bill Walton and Ralph Sampson did it twice — to return for another season, according to Sportradar, and the first since Tyler Hansbrough came back to lead North Carolina to a national title in 2009.

The fourth-ranked Wildcats are hoping Tshiebwe can do the same for them.

The 6-foot-9, 260-pound forward from the Congo led the nation in rebounding at 15.1 per game while averaging 17.4 points. He shot 60% from the field, had 60 steals and 55 blocks, and finished the season with 16 consecutive double-doubles on the way to a school-record 28.

Instead of taking his game to the NBA, Tshiebwe opted to return when projections had him going in the second round of the 2022 draft.

"They (NBA scouts) want my game to expand a little bit," said Tshiebwe, who started his career at West Virginia. "They want me to be able to make one or two 3-pointers, They want me to catch the ball, drive and finish, and get better in dribbling."

Timme made a similar decision — two years in a row. The 6-10 senior was one of the nation's best big men each of the past two seasons, leading the Zags on deep NCAA runs, including a trip to the national title game in 2021. He was a second-team All-American for the second straight season a year ago after averaging 18.4 points and 6.8 rebounds.

Timme still had areas of his game he wanted to work on before heading to the NBA and hoped for one more shot at winning a national title with the second-ranked Zags. The NCAA's name, image and likeness deals made it an easier decision and, besides, college life is a lot of fun.

"We have a chance to do something special, I wanted to get my degree, there's things I want to work on, I want to build on," Timme said. "It was a culmination of a lot of things, but I really enjoy being a college kid."

Bacot also has a chance to do something special with the Tar Heels.

The 6-11 forward tied the NCAA record with 31 double-doubles last season and became the first to have six in the same NCAA Tournament while leading North Carolina to the national title game. The Tar Heels lost to Kansas, but are No. 1 in the preseason AP Top 25 and among the favorites to win it all with Bacot back.

"I don't go a day where we're not like saying, man, we can't wait to get to that," Bacot said of winning a national title. "Maybe that's not the best approach, but I mean, we're human."

Sasser was a key cog two years ago during the Cougars' first Final Four run since the Phi Slama Jama days, averaging 13.7 points while playing menacing defense.

The dynamic 6-2 guard got off to a strong start last season, but was limited to 12 games after breaking a bone in his left foot. He was named the American Athletic Conference preseason player of the year and a big reason the Cougars are ranked No. 3 in the AP preseason poll.

"It puts a target on your back every night, but it also gives me motivation every day in practice to go out there and work harder," Sasser said.

Jackson-Davis was a preseason All-American last season and led the Hoosiers in scoring (18.3) and rebounding (8.1). The 6-9 forward also helped Indiana reach the NCAA Tournament for the first time in six years, but the run ended with a first round loss to Saint Mary's.

With Jackson-Davis back, the No. 13 Hoosiers are the favorites to win the Big Ten and, they hope, make a deep March run.

"I think I have kind of set the stone of my individual legacy, being an All-American and doing all of those

things, but those don't really matter if you don't win something here," he said. "Winning is a big thing here, so winning a national championship and also winning a Big Ten title, those are my two main goals this year."

## Control of Congress: What's at play in the 2022 midterms?

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats have held both chambers of Congress and the presidency for the last two years, but they may not have such consolidated power for much longer.

Republicans are favored to win the House in the Nov. 8 midterm elections, bolstered by frustration over the economy and advantages in the redistricting process that takes place every 10 years. But Democrats are working to hold their ground, campaigning on maintaining access to abortion and other issues.

The outlook is murkier in the Senate, where Republicans are bidding to take back control. Several races in key battleground states are tight, leading Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell to say the chances of his party winning a majority are just 50-50.

A look at control of Congress and what will happen if Republicans win a majority in either chamber in the election:

### WHAT IF THE HOUSE FLIPS?

Democrats, led by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, have held the majority since 2018, when they won control in then-President Donald Trump's first midterm election. Republicans could take back the House if they net just five seats in dozens of competitive districts, and they are trying to win dozens.

History also gives Republicans reason for optimism. In the modern era, the party that's held the White House has lost congressional seats in virtually every first-term president's midterm election.

If Republicans win the House on Nov. 8, the GOP caucus will elect a new speaker and take power on Jan. 3, 2023. They will run every committee and decide what bills come to the House floor.

### WHAT WOULD A REPUBLICAN HOUSE LOOK LIKE?

House GOP Leader Kevin McCarthy has already unveiled his "Commitment to America," a broad outline of economic, border security and other policies that the GOP would propose in the early days of the next Congress.

A return to Republican power in the House would be a victory for Trump, who has fought Democrat-led efforts to hold him accountable for the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection. The vast majority of Republicans who are expected to return to Washington next year, along with most of those hoping to win a first term, are loyal to Trump and have followed his example in their policies and positions.

Among those allies are far-right members like Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene of Georgia, who was stripped of her committee assignments by Democrats because of her extreme rhetoric but would be part of a broad governing majority under a GOP House. Greene stood behind McCarthy as he introduced the "Commitment to America" in Pennsylvania last month.

### WHAT WOULD A GOP HOUSE MEAN FOR BIDEN?

Democratic priorities like access to abortion, addressing climate change and stricter gun control would immediately be sidelined. And most, if not all, of President Joe Biden's agenda would be effectively dead for the final two years of his term.

Still, nothing becomes law without Biden's signature. Bills to fund the government, raise the debt ceiling and deal with military issues are necessary for government to function. Those bills are likely to become flashpoints in negotiations between the GOP, Democrats and the White House.

Biden, who served in the Senate for decades, has often touted his bipartisan credentials and said he wants to work with Republicans. But there would be little appetite for that in a GOP Congress that has made opposition to Biden its top priority.

### WHAT ABOUT THE SENATE?

While the Senate could tilt either way after the midterm elections, the majority party is still likely to have the slimmest of margins. That means Biden will be able to find a bit more common ground there,



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 73 of 81

no matter who is in charge. Much of Biden's legislative achievements in office have been the byproduct of bipartisan negotiations in the Senate.

Still, a Republican-led Senate could pass bills sent over by a GOP House, putting political pressure on Biden. And the GOP would regain control of committees and, with it, the power to conduct investigations and oversight of the administration.

A Republican Senate could also make life difficult for Biden by blocking or delaying passage of the president's judicial and executive branch nominees.

## WHAT IF DEMOCRATS WIN?

If Democrats were to hold the Senate and Republicans win the House, the two chambers would be unlikely to find much common ground. But Republicans could try to win over Democratic Senate moderates on some legislation.

If Democrats were able to keep the House and the Senate, they would likely restart negotiations on some of Biden's agenda items that were never passed, including his new package of social and economic programs that stalled amid internal Democratic disagreements.

## WHAT DOES THE HOUSE MAP LOOK LIKE?

The majority of House districts aren't competitive, thanks to a redistricting process that allows state legislatures to draw their own congressional lines if they decide to. Many legislatures draw lines to give advantages to one party or the other.

Still, dozens of seats are in play, including many of those held by Democrats who won in suburban districts in 2018, winning the majority for the party that year.

## **New this week: Scary movies, Lainey Wilson, 'Call of Duty'**

By The Associated Press undefined

Here's a collection curated by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists of what's arriving on TV, streaming services and music and video game platforms this week.

### MOVIES

— In the new Netflix film "The Good Nurse," Jessica Chastain plays an overworked ICU nurse and single mother who, after a patient's death, starts to suspect things about about her new colleague Charlie, played by Eddie Redmayne. Danish filmmaker Tobias Lindholm directed the thriller, streaming on Wednesday, off of a script "1917" and "Last Night in Soho" screenwriter Krysty Wilson-Cairns. For something more family friendly, Netflix also the stop-motion animation pic "Wendell & Wild," featuring the voices of Keegan-Michael Key and Jordan Peele as demon brothers. It's an original idea from director Henry Selick, who also directed the spooky but kid-friendly classics "The Nightmare Before Christmas" and "Coraline." "Wendell & Wild" starts streaming on Oct. 28.

— For some fresh Halloween scares, several well-reviewed thrillers are hitting video on demand on Tuesday First up is "Pearl," Ti West's technicolor horror prequel starring Mia Goth as a farmgirl in a pandemic plagued Texas town in 1918 whose dreams of movie stardom drive her a bit mad. There are references to everything from "Singin' in the Rain" to "The Wizard of Oz," but with a sinister, murderous edge. Before the film's premiere at the Venice Film Festival earlier this fall, West said, "I just had this interest in making, for lack of a better term, a children's movie that has a more demented adult story to it." Goth helped write the script too, which involves an epic monologue at the end done in almost a single take.

— Also coming to VOD on Tuesday is "Barbarian," the low-budget indie horror starring Justin Long that became a sleeper hit at the box office. "Barbarian" stars Georgina Campbell as a woman who is inadvertently double booked with a stranger ("It's" Bill Skarsgård) in a creepy Detroit-area Airbnb run by Long's character, a TV actor facing sexual misconduct allegations. Writer-director Zach Cregger said he pitched the movie, which has an unconventional structure that essentially resets itself midway through, to every studio that's made a horror in the last 15 years and everyone said no. To date, it's made over \$40 million against a \$4 million production budget.

— AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 74 of 81

## MUSIC

— Breakout country artist of the year Lainey Wilson's new studio album comes out Friday, featuring 14 tracks, all of which she co-wrote except one cover. Singles from "Bell Bottom Country" include the sweet first-love ditty "Watermelon Moonshine" and "Heart Like a Truck," with the lyrics: "I got a heart like a truck/It's been drug through the mud/Runs on dreams and gasoline." Wilson is the winner of the Academy of Country Music's New Female Artist of the Year Award in 2021 and won their coveted Song of the Year Award last year for her smash hit single, "Things a Man Oughta Know."

— It's time to celebrate Garbage. A new compilation called "Anthology" will be available on double transparent yellow vinyl and two CD editions, as well as through major online streaming platforms starting Friday. It'll contain the hits "Stupid Girl," "I Think I'm Paranoid," "Why Do You Love Me" and "Only Happy When It Rains." Among the 35 tracks is a rare recording called "Witness to Your Love." Lead singer Shirley Manson teased the compilation, saying it is "testimony to almost three decades of creative work together, our collective tenacity and our terrifying ability as a group to withstand ritual humiliation on a regular basis."

— It might be a tad early, but it's always time for a Louis Armstrong Christmas album. While Satchmo's holiday tunes are standard yuletide fare, he never released a Christmas album during his lifetime. Now, for the first time, "Louis Wishes You a Cool Yule" is being released digitally on Friday, followed by CD, red vinyl and a limited edition vinyl picture on Nov. 11 — marking his first-ever official Christmas album. The 11 tracks include "Cool Yule," "Christmas Night in Harlem" and the swinging "Zat You Santa Claus?" Fans of Armstrong can also check out the Apple TV + film "Louis Armstrong's Black & Blues," also dropping Friday, Oct. 28.

— "Till," director Chinonye Chukwu's fact-based account of Emmett Till's mother's quest for justice, was a powerful film, made that much more stirring by its score. The work by Abel Korzeniowski, who composed, orchestrated and conducted, is out Friday, and has stirring strings, dark pulses and thrilling sequences. Listen to "This Is My Boy" and try not to be moved. Korzeniowski says: "It is a tribute to those, who against all odds, and despite the world's indifference to their plight, continue to preserve their humanity."

— AP Entertainment Writer Mark Kennedy

## TELEVISION

— Get in the Halloween mood with Netflix's "Guillermo del Toro's Cabinet of Curiosities," an anthology produced by the Oscar-winning filmmaker with the aim of challenging "traditional" expectations of horror. The eight stories include "The Autopsy," based on a Michael Shea short story and starring F. Murray Abraham, Glynn Turman and Luke Roberts; the H.P. Lovecraft-based "Dreams in the Witch House," with Rupert Grint and Ismael Cruz Cordova, and "Lot 36," one of two episodes based on an original story by del Toro and starring Tim Blake Nelson and Elpidia Carrillo. Episodes will be released daily in pairs from Tuesday to Friday.

— "Putin's Attack on Ukraine: Documenting War Crimes," debuting Tuesday, on PBS' "Frontline" (check local listings), details the toll of Russia's war on Ukraine and the challenges of holding Russia to account for its actions. The documentary is part of a collaboration between "Frontline" and The Associated Press that includes gathering, verifying and cataloging potential war crimes and co-publishing stories and videos from AP and "Frontline" war reporting. The joint initiative, which includes the War Crimes Watch Ukraine interactive experience, has documented more than 500 incidents involving potential war crimes since Russia's invasion of Ukraine last February.

— A gunman's deadly attack on a house of worship, its causes and the aftermath are examined in HBO's "A Tree of Life: The Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting," debuting 9 p.m. EDT Wednesday. The film, directed by Trish Adlesic, delves into the 11 lives that were lost in the October 2018 tragedy and the effect on family members, survivors and the community at large. The attack also is viewed in the context of rising hate speech and actions. Michael Keaton, Billy Porter and Mark Cuban, the film's prominent executive producers, are natives of the Pittsburgh area. An original song, "A Tree of Life," is performed by Broadway and film star Idina Menzel.

— AP Television Writer Lynn Elber

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 75 of 81

## VIDEO GAMES

— The venerable “Call of Duty” series returns Friday for its annual round of gun-happy chaos. This year’s chapter, “Modern Warfare II,” comes from Activision’s Infinity Ward studio, generally regarded as the publisher’s premier storyteller for rock-solid single-player campaigns. Special ops Task Force 141 is back on the prowl, this time fighting a terrorist network and a drug cartel that have teamed up on a scheme to launch stolen missiles at the United States. As usual, there are plenty of options for multiplayer mayhem, from competitive battles royale to cooperative raids. The game is available for PlayStation 5, PlayStation 4, Xbox X/S, Xbox One and PC.

— “Bayonetta 3” brings Platinum Games’ flamboyant, demon-hunting witch — imagine a cross between Kim Kardashian and Tina Fey in full dominatrix gear — back to the Nintendo Switch on Friday. Longtime admirers might miss the original voice actress behind Bayonetta, who skipped this sequel due to a pay dispute and has called on her fans to boycott it. Still, devotees of Platinum’s brand of campy, high-octane hack-and-slash action won’t be able to resist the siren’s call, especially since this installment promises “a virtual coven of Bayonettas, each more fabulous than the last.”

## Brazil election: What to know about the high-stakes race

By CARLA BRIDI Associated Press

BRASILIA, Brazil (AP) — Brazil is days from a presidential election featuring two political titans and bitter rivals that could usher in another four years of far-right politics or return a leftist to the nation’s top job.

On one side is incumbent Jair Bolsonaro, a former army captain who built a base of hardcore support as a culture warrior with a conservative ideology. He has deployed government funds in what is widely seen as an effort to drum up last-minute votes. His adversary, former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, has sought to kindle nostalgia for his years presiding over an economic boom and social inclusion.

Here’s what you need to know about the Brazilian presidential runoff, which is on Oct. 30.

### HOW OFTEN ARE ELECTIONS IN BRAZIL?

Brazil holds general elections once every four years, choosing state and federal representatives as well as the president, governors and some senators. Mayors, city councilors and remaining senators are also chosen every four years, but on different years.

### HOW MANY TIMES CAN A PERSON BE ELECTED PRESIDENT IN BRAZIL?

There is no limit to the number of times one can be elected president in Brazil, but the person can only serve two consecutive terms. That is why da Silva, who was president from 2003 to 2010, can run this year.

### WASN’T THERE ALREADY A BRAZILIAN ELECTION?

Brazil held its first round of voting on Oct. 2, electing lawmakers at state and federal levels. Gubernatorial candidates garnering more than 50% of valid votes, which exclude blank and spoiled ballots, were also confirmed.

None of the 11 presidential candidates got an outright majority, setting up a runoff between da Silva, who had 48% of votes, and Bolsonaro with 43%. Polls had significantly understated the support for the president and his allies, prompting backlash.

### WHAT HAPPENS IN THE OCT. 30 ELECTION?

It’s a runoff for the presidency and for governorships in states where no candidate won a first-round majority. Most polls 2 1/2 weeks after the first round show da Silva retaining a slight lead over Bolsonaro.

### WHAT ARE BOLSONARO’S POLICIES?

During the campaign, Bolsonaro has often repeated his guiding principles: “God, Family, Country.” He portrays Brazil as spiritually ill and presents himself as a Christian soldier standing guard against cultural Marxism. He has loosened restrictions on the purchase of guns and ammunition and weakened oversight of environmental crime in the Amazon rainforest, which critics say caused the biome’s worst deforestation in 15 years and a surge of man-made fires.

He stresses his opposition to legalized abortion and drugs, while warning that da Silva’s return would produce the sort of leftist authoritarianism seen elsewhere in Latin America, persecution of churches,

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 76 of 81

sexual education in public schools and the proliferation of so-called gender ideology.

Recently, Bolsonaro has given government funds to poorer Brazilians, who traditionally have been inclined to vote for da Silva's Worker's Party. The Brazil Aid welfare program created during the COVID-19 pandemic was generous relative to other nations and a lifeline for many Brazilians. Recently, it was beefed up and extended through yearend, and Bolsonaro has said it will continue into 2023.

Other measures include a subsidy for cooking gas, assistance for truck and taxi drivers and refinancing of debts.

## WHAT ABOUT DA SILVA?

Da Silva, known universally as Lula, has focused on his prior terms, during which commodities exports surged and tens of millions of Brazilians joined the middle class. He has promised the poor — battered by economic distress for the better part of a decade — that they will again be able to afford three square meals a day and even weekend barbecues.

But he has been vague on how he would ensure return of those halcyon days. Like Bolsonaro, he promises to extend Brazil Aid welfare into 2023, without explaining how it will be financed. He has said the state will once again assume a prominent role in economic development.

Faced with Bolsonaro's attempts to lump him in with leaders of Cuba and Venezuela, da Silva has declined to denounce their autocratic practices, instead saying other nations' sovereignties must be respected, while also highlighting the fact he implemented no such policies during his presidency. In April, he said women should have the right to an abortion and then backtracked amid outcry, saying he is personally opposed.

A corruption conviction in 2018 barred him from that year's presidential race and allowed Bolsonaro to cruise to victory. But the Supreme Court in 2021 annulled his convictions, ruling that the presiding judge had been biased and colluded with prosecutors. That enabled his run this year.

## WHAT HAPPENS AFTER THE VOTE IN BRAZIL?

Many political analysts have expressed concern that Bolsonaro has laid the groundwork to reject election results if he loses and will attempt to cling to power — much like former U.S. President Donald Trump, whom he admires. Such alarm largely stems from the president's insistence that Brazil's electronic voting machines are prone to fraud, though he has never presented evidence for his claims.

## Rishi Sunak: UK's ex-Treasury chief gets his shot at PM job

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Rishi Sunak ran for Britain's top job and lost. Then he got another shot — and the chance to say "I told you so."

The former U.K. Treasury chief was runner-up to Liz Truss in the contest to replace the scandal-plagued Boris Johnson as Conservative Party leader and prime minister. But Truss quit after a turbulent 45-day term, and Johnson has abandoned a comeback attempt. That left Sunak out front, and he won the race Monday to be leader of the Conservative Party and will assume the office he missed out on less than two months ago.

Victory in the Conservative leadership contest is vindication for Sunak, who warned in the last campaign that Truss' tax-cutting economic plans were reckless and would cause havoc. And so they did.

Truss resigned last week after her package of tax cuts spooked financial markets, hammered the value of the pound and obliterated her authority.

Sunak will be Britain's first leader of color and the first Hindu to take the top job. At 42, he'll also be the youngest prime minister in more than 200 years, a political prodigy whose youthful looks, sharp suits, and smooth, confident manner saw him dubbed "Dishy Rishi" by the British media.

To win, Sunak had to overcome allegations by opponents that he was a turncoat for quitting Johnson's government as it foundered amid ethics scandals. The near-simultaneous resignations of Sunak and Health Secretary Sajid Javid on July 5 set off a chain reaction. Within 48 hours, some 50 members of the government had quit, and Johnson was forced to step down.

Sunak painted it as a matter of principle, saying he wanted to repair the "breakdown of trust" in politics.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 77 of 81

He also accused Truss of offering “fairy tales” by promising immediate tax cuts when he felt curbing soaring inflation was a bigger priority.

“I would rather lose having fought for the things that I passionately believe are right for our country, and being true to my values, than win on a false promise,” Sunak said in a BBC interview.

Sunak was born in 1980 in Southampton on England’s south coast to parents of Indian descent who were both born in East Africa. He grew up in a middle-class family, his father a family doctor and his mother a pharmacist, and says he inherited their hard-working ethos.

“I grew up working in the shop, delivering medicines,” he said during the campaign. “I worked as a waiter at the Indian restaurant down the street.”

He has described how his parents saved to send him to Winchester College, one of Britain’s most expensive and exclusive boarding schools.

There he mingled with the elite. Rivals recently dug up a clip from a 2001 television documentary about the class system in which the 21-year-old Sunak said he had “friends who are aristocrats, I have friends who are upper class, I have friends who are, you know, working class — well, not working class.”

After high school, Sunak studied politics, philosophy and economics at Oxford University — the degree of choice for future prime ministers — then got an MBA at Stanford University.

He worked for the investment bank Goldman Sachs as a hedge fund manager and lived in the U.S., where he met his wife, Akshata Murty. They have two daughters.

Returning to Britain, Sunak was elected to Parliament for the safe Tory seat of Richmond in Yorkshire in 2015. In Britain’s 2016 Brexit referendum, he supported leaving the European Union — a risky career move, since it went against the Conservative government’s policy.

When “leave” unexpectedly won, Sunak’s career took off. He served in several junior ministerial posts before being appointed chancellor of the exchequer — head of the Treasury — by Johnson in February 2020, just before the pandemic hit.

An instinctively low-tax, small state politician who idolizes former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, he nonetheless forked out billions in government money to keep people and businesses afloat during the pandemic. His furlough program, which paid the salaries of millions of workers when they were temporarily laid off, made him the most popular member of the government — a status he burnished with slick social media messages that rivals and critics said stressed his own brand more than the government’s.

But Sunak has had his wobbles over the years. Critics said a campaign to get people to eat in restaurants after lockdown restrictions were eased in the summer of 2020 contributed to another wave of COVID-19.

Others have said Sunak’s family’s vast wealth and Silicon Valley past put him out of touch with the struggles of ordinary people.

He also faced questions about his finances and those of his wife. Murty is the daughter of the billionaire founder of Indian tech giant Infosys, and the couple is worth 730 million pounds (\$877 million), according to the Sunday Times Rich List.

In April 2022, it emerged that Murty did not pay U.K. tax on her overseas income. The practice was legal, but it looked bad at a time when Sunak was raising taxes for millions of Britons. Sunak also was criticized for holding on to his American green card, which signifies an intent to settle in the U.S., for two years after he became Britain’s finance minister.

Sunak was cleared of wrongdoing, but the revelations still hurt. He was fined by police, along with Johnson and dozens of others, for attending a party in the prime minister’s office in 2020 that broke coronavirus lockdown rules. Outrage over those parties at a time when Britons were forced to stay home contributed to Johnson’s downfall. Sunak has said he attended inadvertently and briefly.

In his first leadership campaign, he depicted himself as the candidate of grown-up decisions and fiscal probity, criticizing Truss’ plans to lower taxes and increase borrowing, and vowing to get inflation under control.

That’s now a harder job than ever.

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 78 of 81

## World Series teed up: Harper, Phillies go deep, face Astros

By BEN WALKER AP Baseball Writer

Bryce Harper and Kyle Schwarber breaking the Bank in Philly. Yordan Alvarez launching moonshots in H-Town.

Dusty Baker trying for a most elusive win. Justin Verlander, too. A fired-up Harper and All-Stars J.T. Realmuto and Zack Wheeler, stepping onto baseball's biggest platform for the first time.

Yo! The Philadelphia Phillies, of all teams, are headed to the World Series. Against those back-for-more Houston Astros, y'all.

A pretty tasty matchup starting Friday night at Minute Maid Park, a Fall Classic full of vibrant sights, scents and sounds.

Think cheesesteaks, hoagies and water ice vs. BBQ brisket, Tex-Mex and Blue Bell ice cream.

The Phanatic and Phils fans need a late rally at Citizens Bank Park? Dial up something from "Rocky." Want to party in Houston? Sing and clap along with mascot Orbit to Moe Bandy's bouncy "Deep in the Heart of Texas" during the seventh-inning stretch.

Harper already has hit five home runs this postseason. In the signature swing of his career, his eighth-inning drive against San Diego on Sunday in Game 5 sent the Phillies into the World Series for the first time since 2009 and earned him the NL Championship Series MVP.

The Astros are 7-0 this postseason after finishing off a four-game sweep of the New York Yankees in the AL Championship Series. Alex Bregman's go-ahead single keyed a 6-5 win Sunday night.

After losing the World Series last year, Houston opened as a solid favorite to win the title this year, according to FanDuel.

Odds are, crowd might witness a Schwar-bomb or the Chas Chomp along the way.

But no possibility of seeing a sibling rivalry. Astros reliever Phil Maton broke a finger on his pitching hand when he punched his locker after a shaky performance in the regular-season finale, an outing that included giving up a hit to his younger brother, Phils utilityman Nick Maton.

City of Brotherly Love, not so much. But a nice treat for fans in both cities: The Philadelphia Eagles, the NFL's only unbeaten team, visit the Houston Texans on the travel day between Games 5 and 6, if those are needed.

Weather won't be an issue with the retractable roof in Houston. No telling what the elements will be with the open air in Philly.

With the likes of Jose Altuve, ALCS MVP Jeremy Peña, Rhys Hoskins and Alec Bohm, this World Series is a best-of-seven matchup representing some of the game's best present and future. Plus a good piece of the past — remember, these teams have played each other nearly 600 times.

There was the thrilling 1980 NL Championship Series, when Mike Schmidt, Pete Rose, Steve Carlton and the Fightin' Phils outlasted Nolan Ryan at the Astrodome on the way to their first World Series title.

Years later, closers Brad Lidge, Billy Wagner, Mitch Williams and Ken Giles spent time with both clubs. So did future Hall of Famers Joe Morgan and Robin Roberts.

And this neat piece of history — the Phillies were the first team to ever beat Houston, back in 1962 when the expansion Colt .45s lost at Connie Mack Stadium.

Funny, the Phillies are also the most recent team to beat the Astros. Way back on Oct. 3, Philadelphia opened the final series of the regular season with a 3-0 win at Houston, with Schwarber homering twice as Aaron Nola outpitched Lance McCullers Jr.

The Astros then closed out an AL-best 106-56 record by winning the next two behind Verlander and Framber Valdez — Philadelphia still leads 297-283 in their head-to-head matchups, mostly all before Houston moved from the National League to the American League in 2013.

Houston then swept Seattle in the AL Division Series and the Yankees in the ALCS featuring its winning formula of imposing starting pitching, a dominant bullpen and a lineup full of home run hitters such as Alvarez and Kyle Tucker.

This marks the Astros' fourth trip to the World Series in six years and their only title in 2017 was tainted

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 79 of 81

by an illegal sign-stealing scandal. Last season, they lost to Freddie Freeman and the underdog Atlanta Braves in six games.

At 73 and in his 25th season as a manager, Baker is looking for a crown to cap his ample resume.

"I mean, victories drive me. And I'll get it," he said during the ALCS. "You can't rush it before it gets here because it ain't here yet. So you just got to put yourself in a position to do it."

Verlander, the likely AL Cy Young Award winner after bouncing back from Tommy John surgery, is hoping to improve his 0-6 mark in seven career World Series starts.

The Phillies, meanwhile, looked like a big zero this year before getting to this point in October.

Stuck at 21-29 going into June, they fired manager Joe Girardi a few days later and put the interim tag on bench coach Rob Thomson. Then suddenly, the Phillies took off.

They overcame Harper's broken thumb, sidelining the two-time NL MVP for two months, beat out Milwaukee for the final playoff spot in going 87-75, and quickly topped NL Central champion St. Louis in the wild-card round. Philadelphia eliminated defending World Series champ Atlanta in the NLDS and topped San Diego in the NLCS.

Now, with Thomson having been rewarded with a two-year contract, the Phillies are the first third-place team in baseball history to reach the World Series.

Philadelphia lost to the Yankees in its last trip this far. A year earlier in 2008, Lidge capped off his remarkable year of going 48 for 48 in save chances to close out the Phillies' second title as a team led by Chase Utley, Jimmy Rollins and Ryan Howard beat Tampa Bay in five games.

Spurred by their rollicking home crowd, Harper and this bunch of Phils hope to add another banner.

Thomson is trying to join Jack McKeon (Marlins, 2003) and Bob Lemon (Yankees, 1978) as the only managers hired in midseason to win the title. To the 59-year-old Thomson, it's not such a surprise his team is in this position.

"Coming out of spring training ... we knew we had a good ballclub. We knew our bullpen was good, rotation was good, we had great offense," he said earlier in the playoffs. "We just got off to a little bit of a slow start and kind of spiraled."

"And we had ups and downs during the season, just like any other club does. But they knew that they were going to come out of it at some point and start winning again. And we did," he said.

## Climate Questions: How do we know humans triggered warming?

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Call it Law and Order: Climate Change. Scientists used detective work to pinpoint the prime suspect in Earth's warming: us.

They proved it couldn't be anything but carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from the burning of fossil fuels.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This story is part of an ongoing series answering some of the most fundamental questions around climate change, the science behind it, the effects of a warming planet and how the world is addressing it.

For more than 30 years top scientists from across the globe have worked together every several years to draft a report on climate change and what causes it and with each report — and increases in global temperatures — they have become more and more certain that climate change is caused by human activities. In the latest version of their report they said: "It is unequivocal that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land."

Scientists — including the late Ralph Cicerone, the former president of the National Academy of Scientists — have told The Associated Press their confidence in climate change being a human caused problem is equivalent to their certainty in understanding that cigarettes are deadly.

One way to show humans caused the warming "is by eliminating everything else," said Princeton Uni-

# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 80 of 81

versity climate scientist Gabe Vecchi.

Scientists can calculate how much heat different suspects trap, using a complex understanding of chemistry and physics and feeding that into computer simulations that have been generally accurate in portraying climate, past and future. They measure what they call radiative forcing in watts per meter squared.

The first and most frequent natural suspect is the sun. The sun is what warms Earth in general providing about 1,361 watts per meter squared of heat, year in year out. That's the baseline, the delicate balance that makes Earth livable. Changes in energy coming from the sun have been minimal, about one-tenth of a watt per meter squared, scientists calculate.

But carbon dioxide from the burning of fossil fuels is now trapping heat to the level of 2.07 watts per meter squared, more than 20 times that of the changes in the sun, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Methane, another powerful heat-trapping gas, is at 0.5 watts per meter square.

The sun's 11-year cycle goes through regular but small ups and downs, but that doesn't seem to change Earth's temperature. And if anything the ever so slight changes in 11-year-average solar irradiance have been shifting downward, according to NASA calculations, with the space agency concluding "it is therefore extremely unlikely that the Sun has caused the observed global temperature warming trend over the past century."

In other words, the sun had an alibi.

The other natural suspects — volcanoes and cosmic rays — had even less influence during the last 150 years of warming, scientists conclude.

The other way to show that it is carbon dioxide causing warming is by building what Vecchi calls "a causal chain."

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration records measured on a Hawaiian volcano show rising carbon dioxide levels as do ice records that go back thousands of years. But the key is what type of carbon dioxide.

There are three types of carbon-containing material. Some contain light carbon, or carbon-12. Some contain heavy carbon or carbon-13 and still others contain radioactive carbon-14.

Over the last century or so, there's more carbon-12 in the atmosphere compared to carbon-13 and less carbon-14 in recent decades, according to NOAA. Carbon-12 is essentially fossil carbon from long ago, as in fossil fuels. So the change in the ratio of carbon-12 to carbon-13 tells scientists the carbon in the air is more from burning fossil fuels than natural carbon, Vecchi said.

That's the fingerprint of burning coal, oil and natural gas.

## Today in History: October 25, George III takes the throne

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Oct. 25, the 298th day of 2022. There are 67 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Oct. 25, 1760, Britain's King George III succeeded his late grandfather, George II.

On this date:

In 1859, radical abolitionist John Brown went on trial in Charles Town, Virginia, for his failed raid at Harpers Ferry. (Brown was convicted and hanged.)

In 1881, artist Pablo Picasso was born in Malaga, Spain.

In 1910, "America the Beautiful," with words by Katharine Lee Bates and music by Samuel A. Ward, was first published.

In 1945, Taiwan became independent of Japanese colonial rule.

In 1960, the Bulova Watch Co. introduced its electronic "Accutron" model.

In 1962, during a meeting of the U.N. Security Council, U.S. Ambassador Adlai E. Stevenson II demanded that Soviet Ambassador Valerian Zorin confirm or deny the existence of Soviet-built missile bases in Cuba;



# Groton Daily Independent

Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 110 ~ 81 of 81

Stevenson then presented photographic evidence of the bases to the Council.

In 1971, the U.N. General Assembly voted to admit mainland China and expel Taiwan.

In 1983, a U.S.-led force invaded Grenada (greh-NAY'-duh) at the order of President Ronald Reagan, who said the action was needed to protect U.S. citizens there.

In 1986, in Game 6 of the World Series, the New York Mets rallied for three runs with two outs in the 10th inning, defeating the Boston Red Sox 6-5 and forcing a seventh game; the tie-breaking run scored on Boston first baseman Bill Buckner's error on Mookie Wilson's slow grounder. (The Mets went on to win the Series.)

In 1994, Susan Smith of Union, South Carolina, claimed that a Black carjacker had driven off with her two young sons (Smith later confessed to drowning the children in John D. Long Lake, and was convicted of murder). Three defendants were convicted in South Africa of murdering American exchange student Amy Biehl. (In 1998, all three were granted amnesty by South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.)

In 1999, golfer Payne Stewart and five others were killed when their Learjet flew uncontrolled for four hours before crashing in South Dakota; Stewart was 42.

In 2002, Democratic U.S. Sen. Paul Wellstone of Minnesota was killed in a plane crash in northern Minnesota along with his wife, daughter and five others, a week and a-half before the election.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama, seeking to shore up support among women, intensified his pressure on Mitt Romney to break any ties with a Republican Senate candidate, Richard Mourdock of Indiana, who said that if a woman became pregnant from rape it was "something God intended." Romney ignored the emotional social issue, holding to an optimistic campaign tone as he fought for victory in crucial Ohio.

Five years ago: Two women who said they had been lost at sea for nearly six months were rescued by a U.S. Navy ship in the Pacific. (The women said they had set out from Honolulu for what was supposed to be an 18-day journey to Tahiti in May but that they encountered a storm; records showed no severe weather in the area at the time, and other inconsistencies in their story came to light in the days after their rescue.) CBS News named correspondent Jeff Glor as anchor of the "CBS Evening News." The U.S. government announced that all incoming flights to the United States would be subject to new security screening procedures before takeoff.

One year ago: Republican Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed redrawn voting maps that paved a safer path for the GOP's slipping majority in the state. Sudan's military seized power, dissolving the transitional government and arresting the prime minister; thousands of people flooded the streets to protest the coup, and the Sudan Doctors' Committee said three protesters were killed when security forces opened fire. Hertz announced that it would buy 100,000 electric vehicles from Tesla, one of the largest purchases of battery-powered cars in history.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Marion Ross is 94. Basketball Hall of Famer Bob Knight is 82. Author Anne Tyler is 81. Rock singer Jon Anderson (Yes) is 78. Political strategist James Carville is 78. Singer Taffy Nivert (Starland Vocal Band) is 78. Rock musician Glenn Tipton (Judas Priest) is 75. Actor Brian Kerwin is 73. Actor Mark L. Taylor is 72. Movie director Julian Schnabel is 71. Rock musician Matthias Jabs is 66. Actor Nancy Cartwright (TV: "The Simpsons") is 65. Country singer Mark Miller (Sawyer Brown) is 64. Rock musician Chad Smith (Red Hot Chili Peppers; Chickenfoot) is 61. Actor Tracy Nelson is 59. Actor Michael Boatman is 58. Actor Kevin Michael Richardson is 58. Actor Mathieu Amalric is 57. Singer Speech is 54. Actor-comedian-TV host Samantha Bee is 53. Actor Adam Goldberg is 52. Actor-singer Adam Pascal is 52. Rock musician Ed Robertson (Barenaked Ladies) is 52. Actor Persia White is 52. Country singer Chely (SHEL'-ee) Wright is 52. Actor Leslie Grossman is 51. Violinist Midori is 51. Actor Craig Robinson is 51. Actor Michael Weston is 49. Actor Zachary Knighton is 44. Actor Mariana Klaveno is 43. Actor Mehcad (muh-KAD') Brooks is 42. Actor Josh Henderson is 41. Pop singer Katy Perry is 38. Rock singer Austin Winkler is 38. Singer Ciara is 37. Actor Krista Marie Yu (TV: "Dr. Ken") is 34. Actor Rachel Matthews is 29. Actor Conchita Campbell is 27. San Diego Padres outfielder Juan Soto is 24.