

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 1 of 77

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- NSU Mens Basketball](#)
- [2- Chamber Ad](#)
- [3- NSU Wrestling](#)
- [4- NSU Womens Basketball](#)
- [5- NSU Football](#)
- [6- School Board Agenda](#)
- [7- Bowling Scores](#)
- [7- Quinn Quacks and Quinn Column](#)
- [8- Sunday Extras](#)
- [26- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)
- [27- Thune's Weekly Column](#)
- [28- Johnson's Weekly Column](#)
- [29- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
- [31- EarthTalk -Coyotes](#)
- [32- COVID-19 Report](#)
- [33- Weather Pages](#)
- [37- Daily Devotional](#)
- [38- 2022 Community Events](#)
- [39- Subscription Form](#)
- [40- News from the Associated Press](#)



Groton Community Calendar

Sunday, Nov. 13

Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:45 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship/Congregational Meeting, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 7 p.m.

UMC: Conde Worship, 8:30 a.m.; coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday school and Christmas Program Practice, 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.; Fall Dinner, 11:30 a.m.

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

St. John's worship, 9 a.m.; Zion Lutheran worship, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Snow Queen Contest, 7 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 14

Senior Menu: Honey glazed chicken breast, parsley buttered potatoes, beets, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Mini waffles.

School Lunch: Taco salads.

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

Veteran's Day Program, 2 p.m., GHS Arena
1 p.m.: Senior Citizens Meet at the Groton Community Center.

Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

The Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 15

Senior Menu: Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, 3 bean salad, peach cobbler, cookie, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast sandwich

School Lunch: BBB Pulled Pork, nachos.

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

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

UMC: Bible Study, 10 a.m.; Conde Ad Council

Picture re-take day, 7:50 a.m. to 9 a.m.

FCCLA Blood Drive, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m., GHS Arena Lobby.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 2 of 77

Masten and the Wolves Roll to Victory in St. Joe

St. Joseph, Mo. – The (RV) Northern State University men's basketball team tallied their first win of the 2022-23 season Saturday evening, defeating tournament host Missouri Western State. The Wolves cruised to victory, out-scoring the Griffons by ten in the second half.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 68, MWSU 57
Records: NSU 1-1, MWSU 1-1
Attendance: 1600

HOW IT HAPPENED

- The Wolves scored 28 points in the first and 40 in the second, shooting 39.7% from the floor in the win
- The two teams traded the lead seven times with neither squad leading by more than four points in the first half
- The Wolves pulled away in the second half shooting 41.9% from the floor and holding the Griffons to a field goal percentage of 37.5
- Northern tallied a game high 32 rebounds, 15 assists, and ten steals
- NSU knocked down 11 from beyond the arc and scored 25 points off turnovers, 22 points in the paint, 15 points off the bench, and 11 second chance points
- Three Northern State Wolves scored in double figures, led by Sam Masten for the second straight night with 24

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

- Sam Masten: 24 points, 69.2 FG%, 5 assists, 4 rebounds, 3 steals
- Josh Dilling: 12 points, 4 rebounds, 1 steal
- Jacksen Moni: 11 points, 4 assists, 1 block
- Jordan Belka: 9 points, 50.0 FG%, 4 rebounds, 4 assists

UP NEXT

Northern host the Small College Basketball Champions Classic next Friday and Saturday from Wachs Arena. The Wolves will face off against Ferris State on Friday and Point Loma on Saturday, with games beginning at 6 p.m. each day.

GROTON'S EVENTS

Nov. 11-13 Front Porch
605 Christmas at the Barn
10am-5pm each day

Nov. 19 American
Legion Post #39 Turkey
Party 6:30pm

Nov. 24 Community
Thanksgiving at the
Community Center
11:30am-1pm

Dec. 3 Holiday Tour of
Homes & Silent Auction
at Olive Grove Golf
Course 4-7pm



Dec. 10 Santa Claus
Day at Professional
Management Services
9am-12pm



Jan. 29, 2023 Groton
Robotics Pancake Feed
at the Community
Center 10am-1pm



Jan. 29, 2023 85th Carnival of
Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm

GROTON
Chamber Of Commerce

120 N Main St., Groton, SD 57445

605-397-8422

GrotonChamber.com

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 3 of 77

Wolves Win by Fall, Literally, From DWU Open

Mitchell, S.D. – The No. 17 Northern State University wrestling team had 17 in action Saturday at the Dakota Wesleyan Open. Four Wolves placed from the meet, led by Tyson Lien as the runner-up at 174-pounds. Full match-by-match results for the Wolves in competition are linked above. In total, Northern State tallied 15 falls, 13 decision wins, five major decisions, and one technical fall.

HOW IT HAPPENED

- Lien went 3-1 on the day, falling only to the champion Bryce Dagele of St. Cloud State in a 3-2 decision; he notched wins over Dylan Zoucha of Wayne State (maj 10-1), Anthony Castro of MSU Moorhead (dec 7-5), and Jacob Tvinnerreim of Augustana (dec 3-2)
- Landen Fischer took third at 125 pounds going 2-1 overall; he recorded wins of Kevin Honas of Fort Hays State (maj 15-1), Ivan Lazo of Nebraska Kearney (maj 11-1), and no contests in his final two matches
- Brenden Salfrank added a sixth place finish in the same weight going 5-1 on the day; he tallied wins of Evan Fuchs of Briar Cliff (fall 2:25), Stephen Morena of St. Thomas (maj 11-1), Aidan Gerber of Briar Cliff (fall 1:27), John Babineau of Augustana (fall 1:09), and Archer Heelan of St. Cloud State (fall 1:54)
 - o Salfrank recorded a team leading four pins on the day
- Teagan Block was the final place winner of the day for the Wolves, taking fourth at 133-pounds with wins over Trey Reed of York (fall 4:23), Thomas Carillo of MSU Moorhead (dec 7-1), and Mason Turner of Fort Hays State (MFF)
- Robert Coyle III and Cory St. Martin both went 2-2 in the 141 pound bracket
- Coyle III tallied wins over Daniel Hinds of Northwestern (fall 2:12) and Drew Cooper (dec 6-4), while St. Martin notched victories over Wyatt Skuodas of Morningside (fall 2:59) and Hinds (fall 5:19)
- Carter Ban competed at 149-pounds going 4-2 with wins of Andy Garza York (TF 16-0), Drew Burgoon of Fort Hays State (dec 10-6), Justus Hulse of Fort Hays State (fall 2:31), and Adam Preseler (fall 6:11)
- Notching a 4-2 record of his own at 197-pounds, Marshall VanTassel notched wins over Derek Werner of Augustana (dec 5-2), Cesar Maddox of Briar Cliff (fall 0:13), Samuel Grove of MSU Moorhead (dec 6-1), and Tre Daro of Nebraska Kearney (dec 10-3)
- Tyson Stoebner posted a 2-2 record at 157-pounds with victories over Chase Egelston of Wayne State (fall 4:41) and Abraham Dirkz of Morningside (dec 5-2)
- Spencer Roth was also a 2-2 record holder with wins of Jamie Watts of York (fall 3:34) and Blaise Ronau of Fort Hays State (dec 9-3) at 165-pounds
- Tyler Voorhees posted a 2-2 record with wins over Christian Cobo of St. Thomas (maj 10-2) and Sebastian Zamorano of St. Cloud State (dec 13-6)
- Ryan Hirschorn opened his 2-2 day with back-to-back wins over Matthew Rodriguez (fall 4:49) and Ryan Tiers of Fort Hays State (fall 4:07)
- Jack Schoenhard went 1-2 at 125 pounds with a win by fall at 1:43 over Jacob Fox of Nebraska Kearney
- Trevor Reinke posted a 1-2 record with a win over Zach Kolbe of Dakota Wesleyan (dec 4-0) in the 149-pound bracket
- George Bolling went 1-2 at 285-pounds with a win over Cole Hennings of Dakota Wesleyan (dec 6-3)

UP NEXT

Northern State returns to action next Saturday from the Daktronics Open hosted by South Dakota State University in Brookings.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 4 of 77

Wolves Women Run Away from Hillcats with Strong Second Half

Moorhead, Minn. – After building a seven-point lead in the first half, Northern State used a pair of scoring runs in the second half to cruise to a 67-46 victory over Rogers State. The Wolves saw three players score in double figures in the win as Rianna Fillipi and Jordyn Hilgemann led Northern with 12 points each and Madelyn Bragg added ten points.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 67, RSU 46

Records: NSU 1-1, RSU 0-2

Attendance: 100

HOW IT HAPPENED

Northern State closed the first half of play with five unanswered points with a layup by Zoe Hardwick and a 3-pointer by Rachel Garvey to go into the break with a 28-21 lead

Layups by Rianna Fillipi and Madelyn Bragg powered a 6-0 Northern run and pushed the lead out to 14 points with 3:56 remaining in the third quarter

The Wolves closed the game on a 12-0 run in the final 2:57, creating a 21-point margin of victory

Northern State shot 21-29 (72.4%) from the free throw line

NSU forced 21 Hillcat turnovers in the game and converted on them for 25 points off turnovers

Hilgemann's 12 points set a new career high mark for the sophomore and Bragg scored in double figures for the first time in her Northern State career

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Rianna Fillipi: 12 points, 7 assists, 5 rebounds 3 steals

Jordyn Hilgemann: 12 points, 5 rebounds

Madelyn Bragg: 10 points, 7 rebounds

UP NEXT

Northern State will begin NSIC play next week with a mid-week showdown with MSU Moorhead on Wednesday night in Aberdeen. The Wolves and Dragons are set for a 6 p.m. tip-off at Wachs Arena.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 5 of 77

Wolves Football Unable to Find a Spark in Regular Season Finale

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University football team fell to Minnesota Duluth in their 2022 season finale. The Bulldogs controlled the contest, notching 14 points in the first half and another 14 in the second.

THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 7, UMD 28

Records: NSU 6-5, UMD 8-3

Attendance: 2593

HOW IT HAPPENED

- Duluth notched a rushing touchdown in the first and passing touchdown in the second, holding a 14-0 at the half
- Following the Bulldogs first touchdown of the contest Northern attempted a 25-yard field goal, which missed wide right
- Neither team put points on the board in the third and Duluth tallied two touchdowns to open the fourth
- Northern had a 46-yard scoring rush by Stanley Haskins Jr. called off in the third on a holding penalty by the offensive line
- The Wolves scored their lone touchdown of the contest with 57 seconds to play on a 29-yard pass by Anthony Vespo to Ben Noland
- In total, the game saw 16 penalties for 164 yards between the two teams; the second most for the Wolves this season
- NSU recorded 69 yards rushing and 189 yards passing with one touchdown, while UMD tallied 182 yards rushing and 139 yards passing with four touchdowns
- The Wolves defense held Duluth to a conversion rate of 18.2% on third down (2-of-11) and recorded two sacks
- The Northern offense converter on 4-of-11 third downs in the game, was unable to score on their lone red-zone chance, and threw two interceptions
- Madler threw for 125 yards in the game, completing 12-of-24 attempts, while Vespo notched the teams only touchdown of the game and threw for 64 yards
- Four players tallied five tackles or more in the game led by Trey King with a career high ten
- Luke Gunderson led the Wolves returners with 27 total yards, including a 19-yard long

NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

- Kaleb Skelly: 87 yards receiving, 12.4 yards per catch
- Trey King: 10 tackles, 3.0 tackles for a loss, 1.0 sack
- Felipe Alvear: 8 tackles, 7 solo stops
- Brennan Kutterer: 5 tackles, 1.5 tackles for a loss, 0.5 sack

SENIOR RECOGNITION

· Northern honored seniors Dominick Fiscelli, Nate Robinson, Luke Chuol, Brennan Kutterer, Hunter Hansen, Justin Streit, Jack Meyers, Caleb Schentzel, Jordan Graper, Jacob Schloe, Felipe Alvear, Jacob Howard, Zach Bohnenkamp, Collin Stoebner, Jordan Hillesheim, Greg Lux, and Michael Bonds prior to the game

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 6 of 77

GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

School Board Meeting

November 14, 2022 – 7:00 PM – GHS Library Conference Room

AGENDA:

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

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of October 11, 2022 board meeting as drafted or amended.
2. Approval of October 2022 District bills for payment.
3. Approval of October Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.
4. Approval of October 2022 School Lunch Report.
5. Approval of October 2022 School Transportation Report.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Approve specifications for MS/HS Facility HVAC project and set bid date.
3. Review ARS Roofing Inspection Report.
4. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Review 2022 District and School Report Cards.
2. Approve resignation of Emily Eichler, 1st Grade Teacher, at end of the 22-23 school year.
3. Approve hiring Amanda Tarpein, Food Service Staff, for 3.5 hours/day, \$14.00/hour.
4. Review Department of Health Food Service Inspection Reports from 10/20/22; Elementary [100/100], MS/HS [100/100].
5. Discussion or action on Managed Print Contract Expiration and Renewal.
6. Executive session pursuant SDCL1-25-2(1) personnel and SDCL1-25-2(3) legal issue.
7. Approve volunteer assistant coaches for winter sports.
 - a. Wrestling: Troy Zoellner, Wyatt Locke, Jeremy Krueger, Chris Ehresmann
 - b. Girls Basketball: Becky Hearnen
 - c. Boys Basketball: Jesse Zak
8. Discuss potential for football field and 1969 addition renovation.

ADJOURN

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 7 of 77

Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League Week #1 Results

Team Standings: Shihtzus – 3, Chipmunks – 3, Coyotes – 2, Foxes – 2, Cheetahs – 1, Jackelopes – 1
Men's High Games: Brad Waage – 204, Roger Spanier – 201, Brad Larson – 197
Women's High Games: Alexa Schuring – 188, Vicki Walter – 176, Darci Spanier – 156
Men's High Series: Brad Waage – 556, Roger Spanier – 538, Randy Stanley - 503
Women's High Series: Alexa Schuring – 456, Darci Spanier – 428, Vicki Walter – 413

Groton Prairie Mixed Bowling League Week #2 Results

Team Standings: Chipmunks – 7, Foxes – 5, Cheetahs – 4, Shihtzus – 3, Coyotes – 3, Jackelopes – 2
Men's High Games: Larry Frohling – 191, Brad Larson – 183, Mike Siegler – 183
Women's High Games: Michelle Johnson – 166, Brenda Waage – 164, Alexa Schuring – 159,
Men's High Series: Lance Frohling – 503, Mike Siegler – 498, Brad Waage – 496
Women's High Series: Michelle Johnson – 421, Alexa Schuring – 418, Sue Stanley – 406

Conde National League 11-7-22

Nov. 7, 2022 Team standings: Braves 20, Tigers 17, Pirates 16, Cubs 16, Giants 15, Mets 9
Men's High Games: Butch Farmen 213, 189; Brody Sombke 181; Topper Tastad 172
Men's High Series: Butch Farmen 570, Ryan Bethke 498, Chad Furney 458
Women's High Series: Joyce Walter 164, Vickie Kramp 159, Michelle Johnson 149
Women's High Series: Joyce Walter 466, Vickie Kramp 433, Michelle Walter 422

Quinn Quacks and Quinn Column

My friend's house has been on the market so long, he decided to put "mood lighting" on the For Sale sign. -- Quinn Quacks

= = = = =

Rix Quinn – What is the bell-shaped curve?

There's increasing emphasis for both private and public sectors to focus on "above average" people in certain skills. This clearly eliminates 50% of the population, who fall on the left side of the "bell-shaped curve."

And what is this "curve?" It's a scientific graph that resembles a mountain range. The top of this mountain represents the largest percentage of our population.

Let's say, for example, we want to graph "athletic proficiency," although why we'd want to graph anything is beyond me. (This also explains where I rank on the graph.)

The left slope of the graph represents those who fall "below average." The descending slope means "the further the drop below average, the fewer people in that category."

The right side of the descending curve represents "above average." This means the lower you fall on the right slope, the better athlete you are. And the better you are, the fewer people will share your skill level.

Here's the point: My goal is to rank "average" in every skill category.

Remember, the closer someone falls to average, the more opportunities. One can buy average-sized clothes, or expect to live about 77.28 years. That is great news, unless that person is already 78.

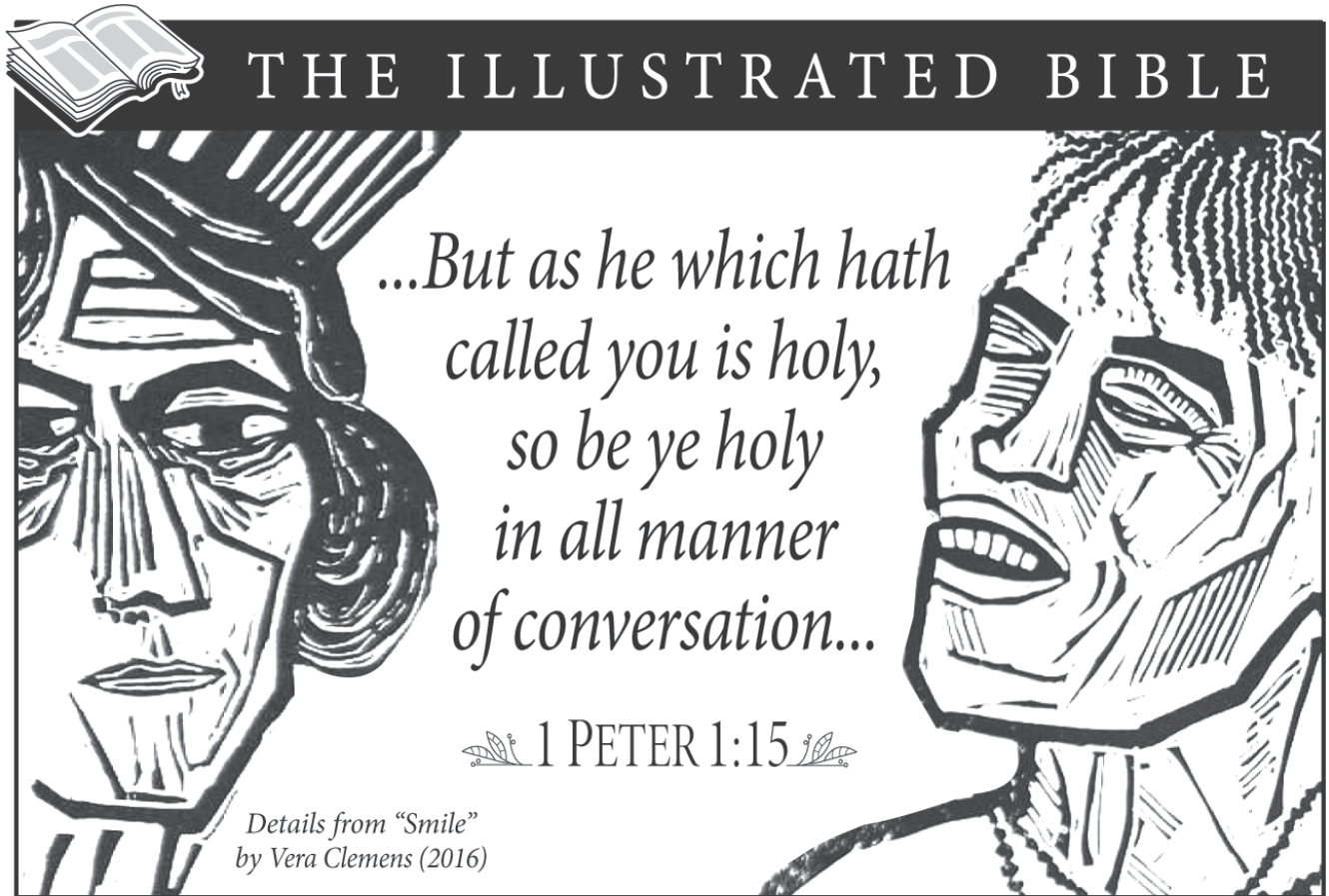
But if you get too far above average, people might expect great things. You'll expend so much effort reaching your potential you won't have time for fun stuff, like painting your moustache red for the holidays

I guess it's good to shine at some skill...but a dim bulb like me lasts longer, and doesn't waste near as much energy.

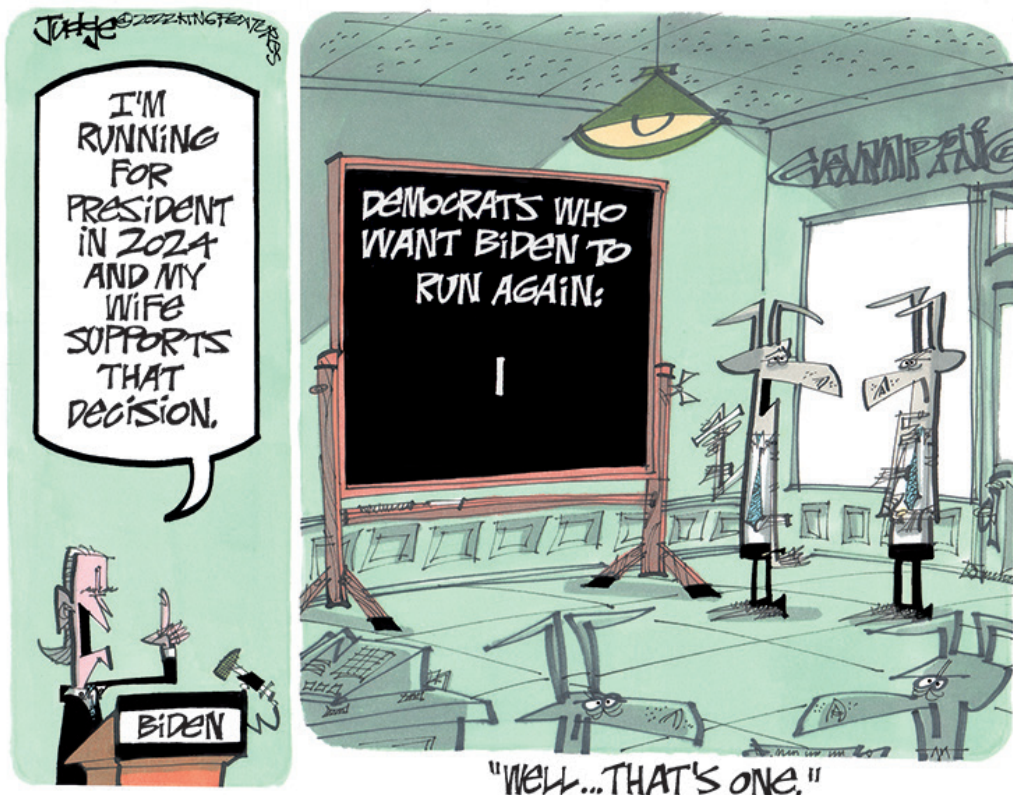
Rix's new Amazon Kindle e-book is now available for 99 cents. It's a Thanksgiving-related humor title called Turkey's Viewpoint. I hope you'll buy it and read it...and then leave a review.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 8 of 77



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BIBLE TRIVIA by Wilson Casey

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

2. How many churches does Jesus address in Revelation, also known as the Churches of the Apocalypse? 2, 7, 21, 30

3. Upon which mountain did Deborah defeat the forces of Sisera? *Tabor, Zeus, Sinai, Olives*

4. From James 3, what part of the body is like a fire? *Eyes, Legs, Tongue, Nose*

5. In John 13, who denied Jesus three times? *John, James, Luke, Peter*

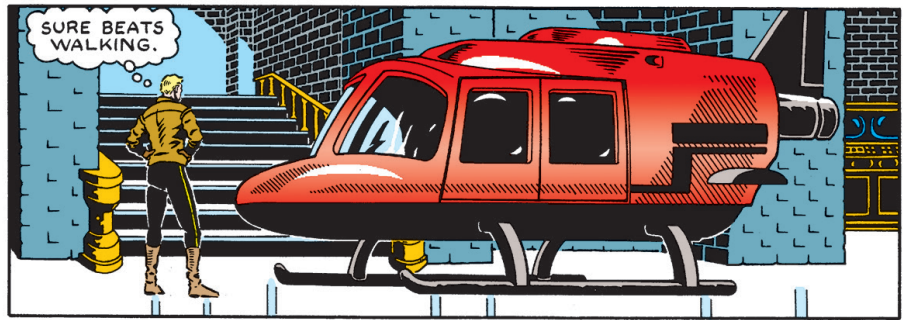
6. Who was the mate of Sapphira? *Moses, Ananias, Potiphar, Zimri*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) 7, 3) Tabor, 4) Tongue, 5) Peter, 6) Ananias

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

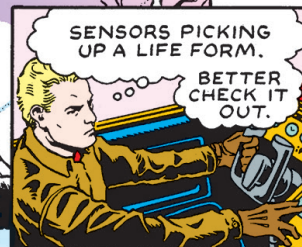
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 10 of 77



FLASH GORDON

FLASH MAKES HIS WAY OVER A SNOWSWEPT FOREST REGION ON THE PLANET MONGO.

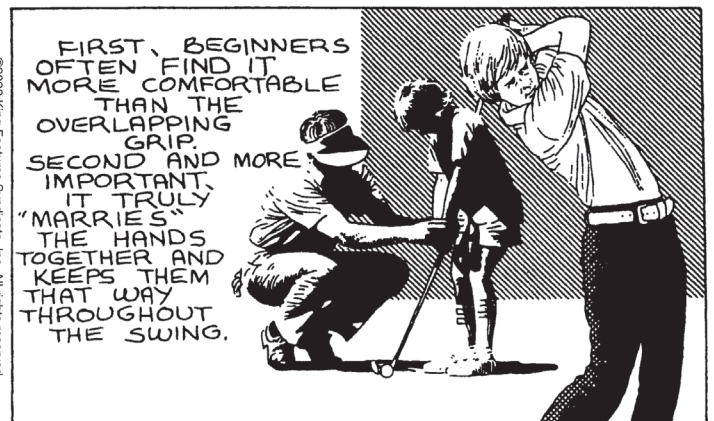
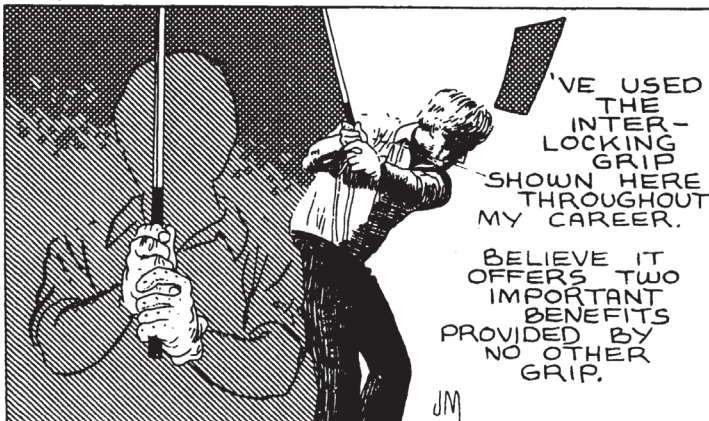


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JIM KEEFE 11-13



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



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Lowering BMI Before Surgery Can Provide Better Outcomes

DEAR DR. ROACH: I'm 72, and I have had arthritis for three years: two years in both knees, and one year in my right hip and the base of my spine. I am 5'3" and weigh 221 pounds, with a body mass index (BMI) of 39. I lost 23 pounds from January to June.

What is the BMI needed for an orthopedic surgeon to do a hip replacement for someone with osteoarthritis — without a broken hip? I recently had an assessment of my hip X-rays. I was told I'm at the outer cutoff of a BMI of 39, so I'm eligible for a hip replacement operation. Then, a few weeks later, I saw the surgeon, who ended up rejecting me — claiming that 39 isn't the outer limit, 35 is.

After a long talk, the surgeon said he'd do it for me, but I'd get a better result if I lose 20 more pounds and get my BMI down to 35. I felt jerked around, but said I'd wait and lose weight. I'm also trying to find a surgeon I like more than him.

So, what is the BMI needed for knee surgery: 35 or 39? — L.C.

ANSWER: There is no standard cutoff BMI for joint replacement surgery. It is true that people with a BMI over 40 are at higher risk for medical complications; however, it is also true that people with severe arthritis and a high BMI still get improvement in their quality of life with surgery. Denying a person a cost-effective surgery that can greatly improve their quality of life simply because of a BMI number (which, in itself, is a flawed metric) is inappropriate.

want to see a different surgeon, as it sounds like you were not treated well. However, the surgeon was right that surgical outcomes are better if a person can lose at least 20 pounds, according to a 2019 study. This included shorter lengths of stay in the hospital and a lesser chance of needing surgical revision. I wonder, though, if part of the benefit seen in the study was due to increased exercise prior to surgery, which is known to be beneficial in surgical outcomes.

DEAR DR. ROACH: My 45-year-old son has hemochromatosis. The treatment is phlebotomy of a pint of blood, sometimes every two weeks, until the iron level is normalized. My understanding is that the blood is discarded. Is there anything wrong with the blood? If not, I would think blood banks would welcome the donation. What are your thoughts on this subject? — E.B.

ANSWER: Hereditary hemochromatosis is caused by the body absorbing too much iron due to a genetic defect. With no way to get rid of iron, it builds up and damages many organs, especially the heart, bone marrow, joints and adrenal gland. As you say, the best treatment is to remove iron in the form of red blood cells. This is effective at preventing most of the organ damage if started quickly enough.

There has never been anything wrong with the blood of people with hereditary hemochromatosis, and the FDA here in the U.S. has always allowed the blood to be donated. However, until recently, the American Red Cross has not accepted blood donations from people with hereditary hemochromatosis. I am pleased to say that they have just changed their policy and will now be using this precious resource to help others, so long as the person meets all the criteria for being a blood donor. The blood will undergo all the standard and rigorous testing prior to being pronounced safe for use.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 12 of 77



Ryan Reynolds is a modern-day Scrooge and Will Ferrell is the Ghost of Christmas Present in "Spirited." Courtesy of AppleTV+

"Spirited" (PG-13) -- Diehard Christmas fans no longer have to wait until December to watch new holiday movies, especially with one of the most expected films of the 2022 season out on Nov. 18! "Spirited" reimagines the well-known tale of "A Christmas Carol" in a much more modern and grand sense. Ryan Reynolds is none other than Ebenezer Scrooge, while Will Ferrell portrays the Ghost of Christmas Present. Also part of the cast are Octavia Spencer, Sunita Mani and Patrick Page.

Full of musical numbers and so many jokes thrown between Ferrell and Reynolds, this release will put you right in the Christmas spirit. (AppleTV+)

"Falling for Christmas" (TV-PG) -- Lindsay Lohan (yup, you read that right) is making her return to acting for the first time in more than a decade, starring as Sierra Belmont, a "Paris Hilton" type who loses all memory of herself after a ski accident gone wrong. Sierra is found by single father and lodge owner Jake (Chord Overstreet), who gives her a place to stay while she waits to be found by her family. The magical circumstances that bring Sierra and Jake together, right in time for Christmas, put lots of love in the air. Lohan smartly decided to go back to her romantic-comedy roots, which no doubt begs the question of whether her public image will remain a controversy following this release. Out now. (Netflix)

"A Christmas Story Christmas" (PG) -- Releasing Nov. 17, yet another Christmas movie will already be out pre-December for viewers to enjoy. Dubbed as the official legacy sequel to the 1983 film "A Christmas Story," Ralphie Parker (Peter Billingsley) returns from the first film, 30 years later. After the death of the Old Man, the now grown-up Ralphie makes his way back to his former home on Cleveland Street with the intent to give his children a Christmas just like the one he had when he was a kid. Ralphie's longtime friends Flick and Schwartz also make appearances in the sequel. (HBO Max)

"Disenchanted" (PG) -- Speaking of sequels coming decades after the original, the sequel to the 2007 film "Enchanted" heads straight to streaming on Nov. 18. A majority of the original cast will reprise the roles, including Amy Adams as Giselle, Patrick Dempsey as her husband, Robert, James Marsden as King Edward and Idina Menzel as Queen Nancy. Giselle and Robert move with their now-16-year-old daughter, Morgan, from New York to a suburb called Monroeville, but when the move isn't going exactly as planned, Giselle gets an ingenious idea just to wish for happiness instead. Unfortunately, when the spell backfires, Giselle is forced to make a plan to save her family and her homeland from demise. (Disney+)

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 13 of 77



1. What does NKOTB stand for?
2. Which artist wrote and released "Moondance"?
3. Who released "Little Deuce Coupe"?
4. Who wrote and released "Say Goodbye to Hollywood"?
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "Pardon the way that I stare. There's nothing else to compare. The sight of you leaves me weak. There are no words left to speak."

Answers

1. New Kids on the Block, an American boy band from 1984 to 1994. They were originally called Nynuk until Columbia Records insisted they make a change.
2. Van Morrison. The song appeared on his album by the same name in 1970, but he didn't release the single until 1977.
3. The Beach Boys, in 1963. The Deuce Coupe was a 1932 Ford. The reference to the "flathead mill" in the lyrics means it had a 65 HP V8 engine.
4. Billy Joel, in 1976.
5. "Can't Take My Eyes Off You," by Frankie Valli in 1967. The song was used by NASA during the Endeavour space shuttle mission as a wakeup song for a crew member who was having a wedding anniversary. There was a different song for each of the 17 days of the mission.

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GRIN and BEAR IT *Wagner*



"Did I sound like that?"

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

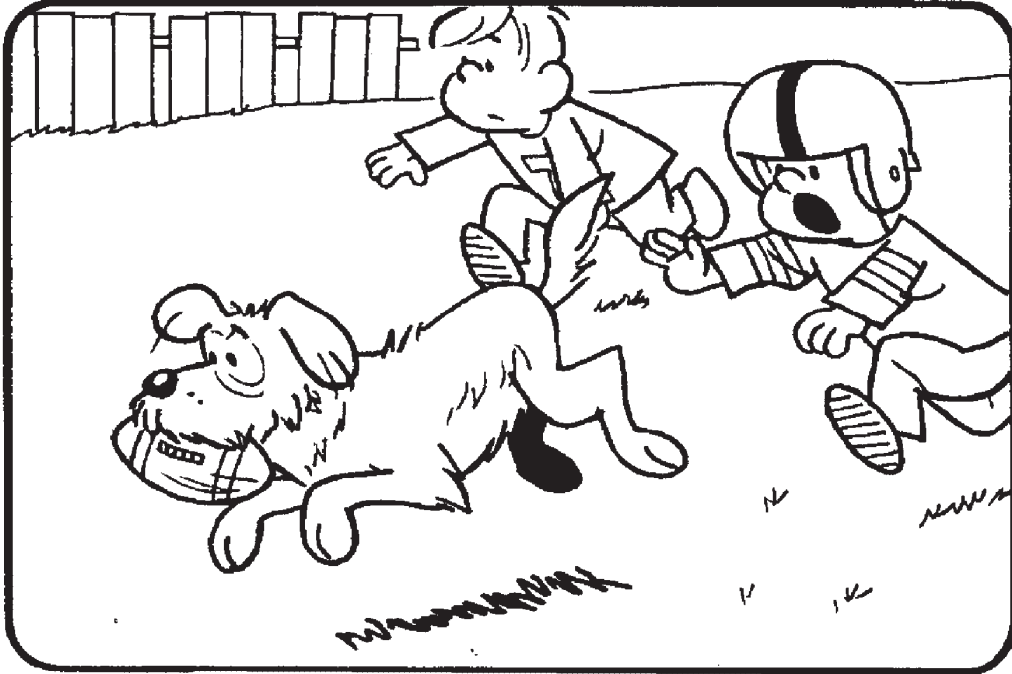


Groton Daily Independent

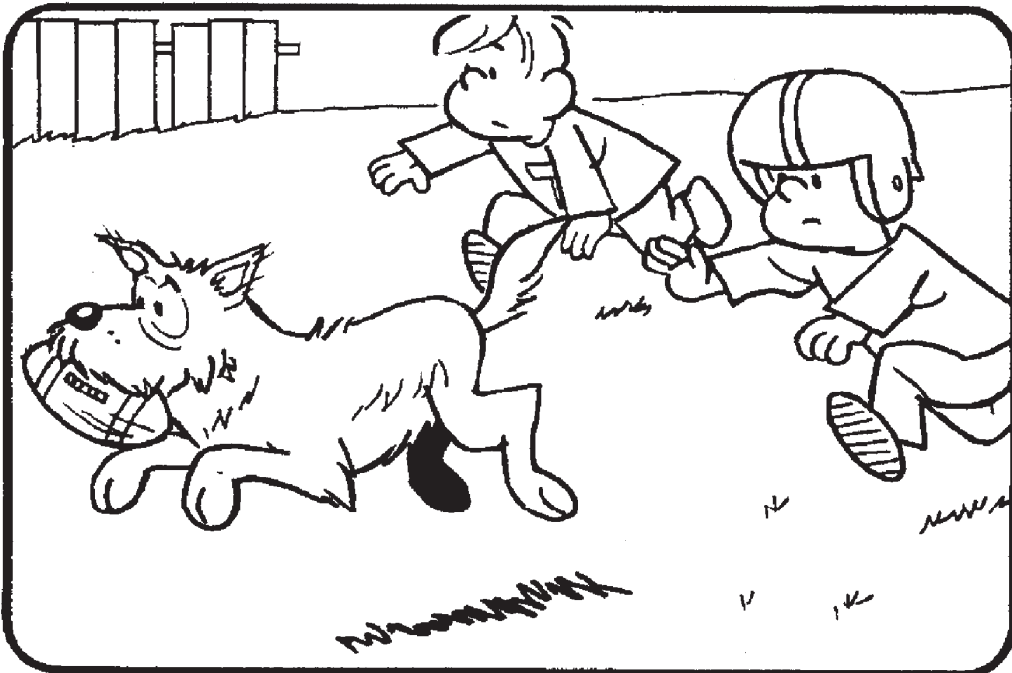
Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 14 of 77

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Fence is shorter. 2. Ears are different. 3. Dog is missing. 4. Helmet stripe is different. 5. Mouth is different. 6. Arm bands are missing.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 15 of 77



* Ounce marks come standard on most baby bottles, but they can be hard to see. You can use a permanent marker to make the lines bigger, especially the one you are most likely to want to see in the middle of the night!
-- R.G. in Indiana

* Before you set your new can of shaving cream on the sink edge, take this man tip from me: Borrow a bottle of clear nail polish and paint the bottom rim, extending up a quarter inch. It won't leave rust rings. Been doing this for years. -- M.W. in New York

* Cut the top off of a soda two liter to use as a funnel. They are very easy to cut and you have a funnel whenever you need one!

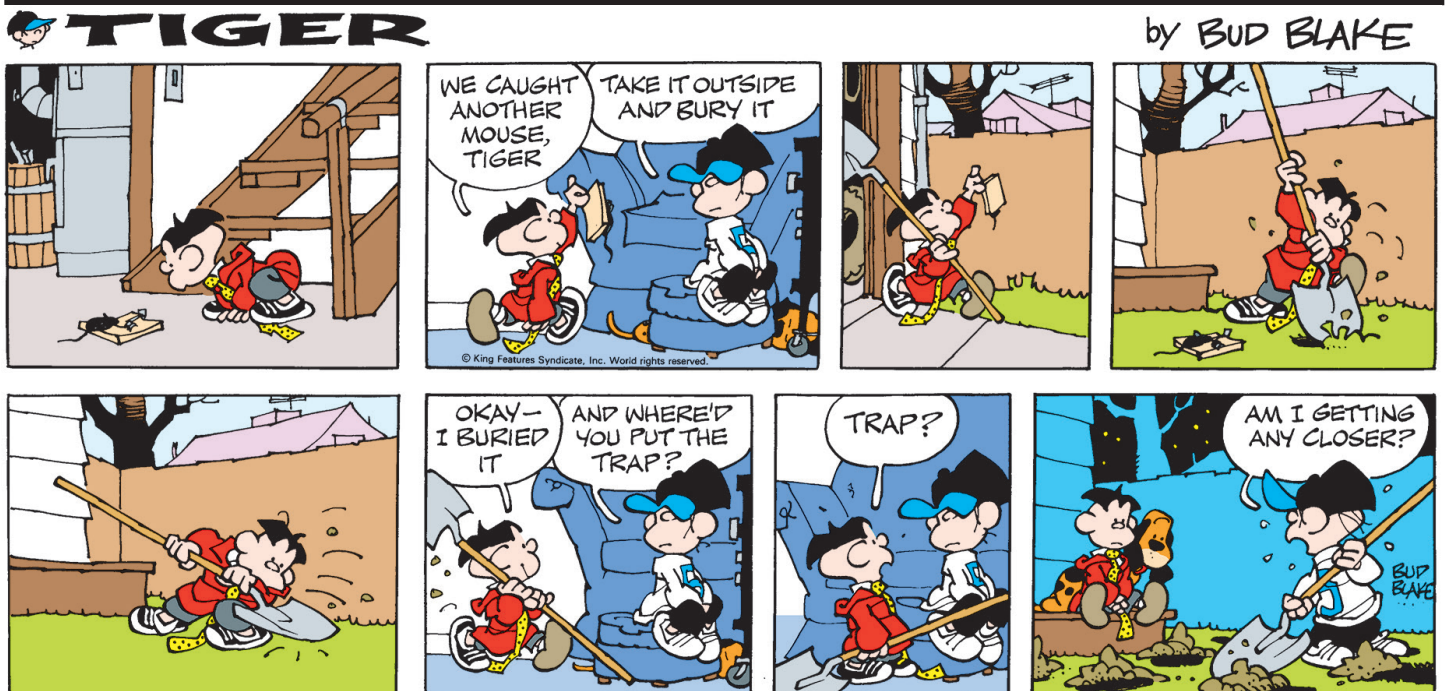
* Save and clean your prescription bottles; they make a really great container for bobbins. I take a spare piece of thread, ball it up a bit and tape it to the top of the container, too. Then I sit them all in a shoe box. I can see just from the tops which color I need to use. -- L.K. in Alabama

* If you use condiment bottles with a squeeze top, start saving them for snow season! Clean and fill with water, then add a few drops of food coloring. Make several of different colors. You can teach the children how to make different shades by mixing the drops. The kids can take them all out in the snow to "paint." Be sure to take photos of your temporary art.

* Use a piece of plastic mesh as a sink liner. Dishes set in the sink won't slide, but the water can still drip away down the drain.

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

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 16 of 77

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Stitched
- 5 Bol. neighbor
- 8 Urban haze
- 12 Rue the run
- 13 Six, in Sicily
- 14 "I did it!"
- 15 Corp. VIP
- 16 Not on
- 17 Goals
- 18 Summer goal
- 20 See to
- 22 Coffee variety
- 26 Macadamized
- 29 Galley item
- 30 Old Oldsmobile
- 31 "Sad to say ..."
- 32 Director Lee
- 33 Tarzan's transport
- 34 Dress

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

- 35 Author Umberto
- 36 Wedding rings
- 37 Rich coffee lightener
- 40 Coffin support
- 41 Serviette
- 45 No neatnik
- 47 Dos Passos trilogy
- 49 Early Peruvian
- 50 Actor Hackman
- 51 Computer key
- 52 Aussie hoppers
- 53 Turner and Danson
- 54 Filming site
- 55 Sicilian peak
- DOWN**
- 1 Easy targets
- 2 Beige
- 3 Timely query?
- 4 Gets comfy
- 5 For — (cheaply)
- 6 Ump
- 7 Present attachment
- 8 Shorthand pro
- 9 Variety of orange
- 10 Peculiar
- 11 Helium, for one
- 19 Succor
- 21 Mess up
- 23 Esteem
- 24 Transmit
- 25 Low digits
- 26 Walkway
- 27 Lotion additive
- 28 Wanderer
- 32 Amasses
- 33 "Twilight"
- character
- 35 Needle hole
- 36 Sheep call
- 38 Feelings, informally
- 39 Put into law
- 42 Shoelace snarl
- 43 PC picture
- 44 Houston acronym
- 45 Pvt.'s superior
- 46 Author Harper
- 48 Away from NNW

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 17 of 77

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Out on a Limb



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by Gary Kopervas

BREAKFAST
OF
OPTIMISTS

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 18 of 77

THIMBLE THEATRE PRESENTS
POPEYE
 BY RANDY MILHOLLAND

OLIVE, PAPPY'S GOT A NEW GIRLFRIEND AN' HE WANTS T'BRINGSK HER OVER.

LET ME HELP YOU GET READY!

I THINK WE GOTSK DIFFERENT IDEAS OF "GET READY."

WELL, IT'S HARD TO FIND LAND MINES ON SHORT NOTICE.

... AND ONCE I SAW THE GOOD IN YOUR DAD, I KNEW HE WAS THE ONE.

IT'S YE WOT BRINGSK THE GOOD OUTTA ME.

I SEE, TELL ME, WHAT MICROSCOPE DID YA USE TO FIND THIS "GOOD"?

SO YA TWO AINTSK BEEN DATIN' LONG?

ONLY A FEW WEEKS, BUT I FEEL LIKE I'VE KNOWN HIM HIS WHOLE LIFE.

THIS TEA HAS AN INTERESTING TASTE, ALMOST REMINDS ME OF—

COUGH! ENID, ME SWEET! YE OKAY?

END!? YER A DE-MING?

AND THAT'S WHY I BREWED THE TEA WITH HOLY WATER.

SHE LIKED YOUR DAD...

IT'S TRUE, PAPPY. I'M ACTUALLY A DEMON IN DISGUISE.

WHATTA RELIEF! I WAS WORRIED YE MIGHT BE TOO GOOD FER ME!

YOU KNOW I'M TRYING TO STEAL YOUR SOUL, RIGHT?

HEAR THAT? SHE THINKS I STILL GOTSK A SOUL!

I FOUND ME A KEEPER!

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R.F.D.

by Mike Marland

"HE'S GOT NO GAME!" HAS AN ENTIRELY DIFFERENT MEANING OUT HERE IN THE COUNTRY...

MILLIE DINER

MARLAND

DEER? HECK, HE HASN'T EVEN GOTTEN A PARTRIDGE THIS FALL!

MILLIE DINER

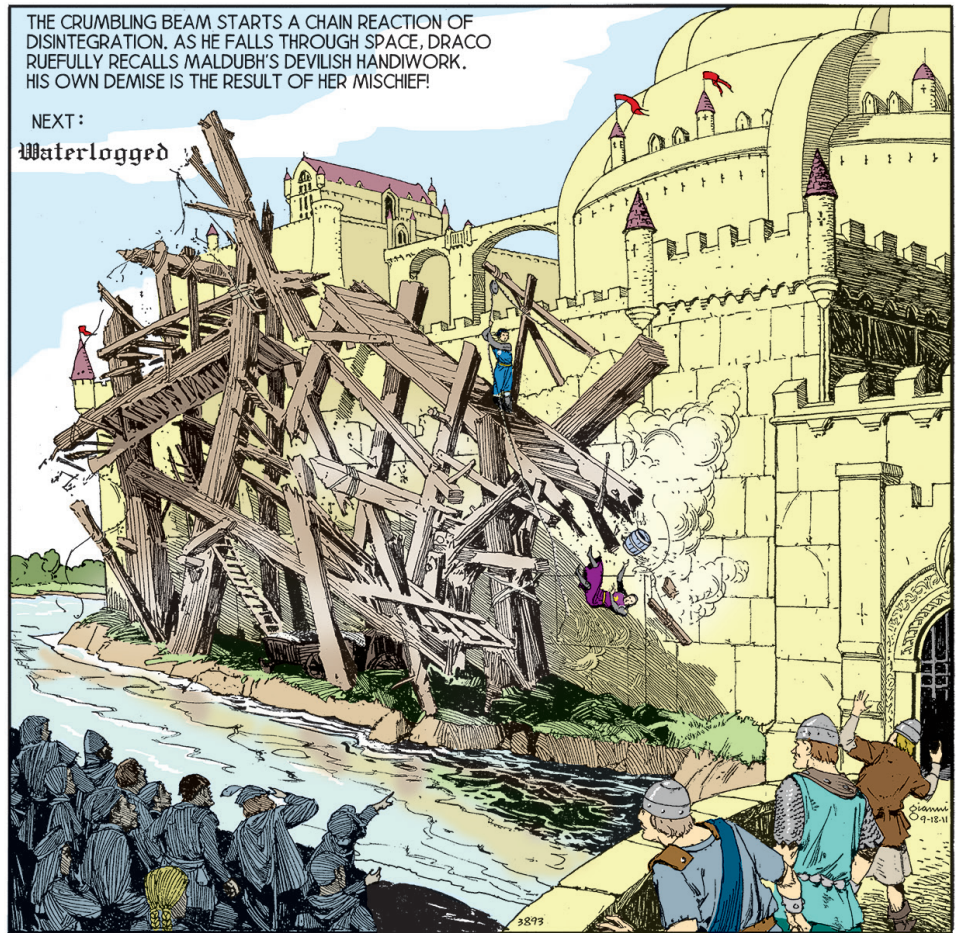
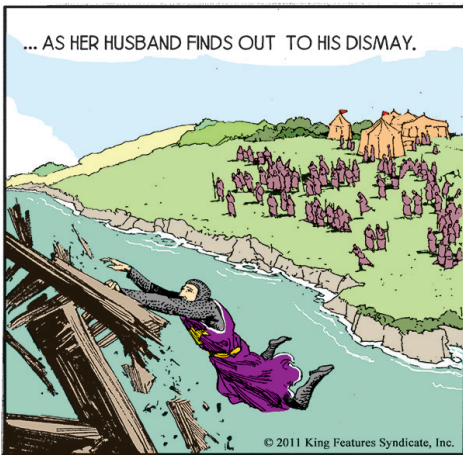
MILLIE DINER

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 19 of 77

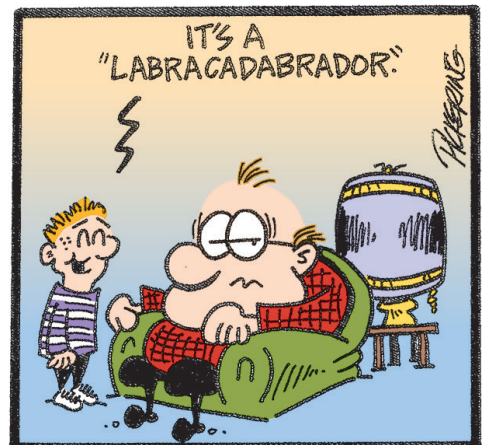
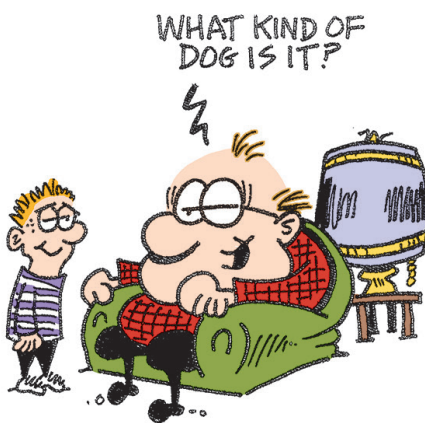


The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



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SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Scammers: More Dangerous Than Ever

To those of us who wander the internet: beware. The scammers, thieves and troublemakers have kicked things up a notch or two, and frankly it's getting a bit dangerous.

By dangerous, I mean when it comes to the safety of our personal information and money. These scammers will do nearly anything to get it.

You might come home to a voicemail message that asks you to call back. The scammers might pretend to be your bank or another company you know. They'll ask you to verify your account number to identify yourself. Don't do it. If the message comes to you in a text message, don't click that link.

If you've applied for a job, a scammer will ask for upfront fees or personal information.

You might get a call from a scammer pretending to be your insurance company or Medicare. They'll claim they need to verify your card number.

A scammer will pretend to be from your local town office and say that you haven't paid your property taxes and that you could be arrested if you don't send them money.

If you've tried to get rental assistance, a scammer might call to ask for your personal information as well as an upfront fee.

If there is a life event or occurrence, there is sure to be a scam involved somehow. The Federal Trade Commission scam alert webpage lists several right now: fake hurricane relief, fake Geek Squad invoices, fake student load aid, fake winter prep assistance, fake internet and cable offers ... and so much more.

If you're in the market for a new or additional cellphone, it could be the first step in foiling some of those scammers. How? By not giving the new number out to anyone but trusted family and friends.

Remember: Your name, number and email address are for sale out there. There are websites around the world that do nothing but collect this information ... and sell it to scammers. Do everything you can to stay off those lists.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 21 of 77

1. In 1972, what Montreal Expos pitcher threw Major League Baseball's first no-hitter in Canada with a 7-0 win over the New York Mets?

2. A large piece of quartzite known as Howard's Rock is located in what college team's football stadium?

3. Name the Hockey Hall of Famer who holds the NHL record for goals (561) and points (1,374) by a player born in the United States.

4. Sisters Manuela, Katerina and Magdalena Maleeva were pro tennis players hailing from what country?

5. Philip Rivers, Russell Wilson, Mike Glennon and Erik Kramer all played quarterback for what college team?

6. What team won the gold medal in women's basketball at the 1992 Barcelona Summer Olympics? (Hint: The team no longer exists.)

7. What former golfer won 17 LPGA Tour events, including major wins at the 1992 and 1999 Nabisco Dinah Shore tournaments, during her pro career from 1988 to 2004?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. Bill Stoneman.

2. The Clemson Tigers.

3. Mike Modano.

4. Bulgaria.

5. The N.C. State Wolfpack.

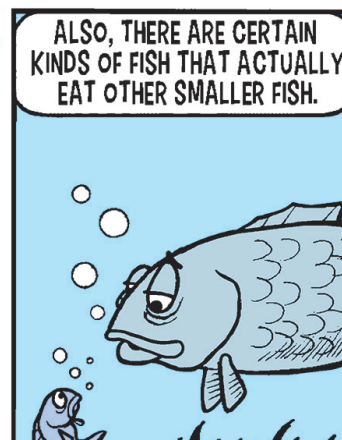
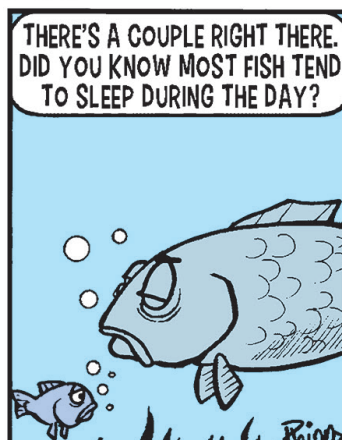
6. The Unified Team (consisting of former Soviet republics).

7. Dottie Pepper.

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Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





Pet Buying Scam Leaves Owner Heartbroken

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I got scammed! I can't believe it. For decades, I've purchased specific dog breeds from reputable breeders locally and up to a few hundred miles away. But last year I decided to purchase a dog from overseas, specifically Europe, because I wanted a specific breed and there were none available locally. Normally I would happily fly over myself to meet the prospective pet, but due to travel restrictions during the pandemic, that was not possible. There's a lot to my story of being scammed, but in the interest of time I will just say that I paid out several thousand dollars to a scammer who looked

very legitimate online, and at the end of the day, no dog ever arrived. I want to warn other people who are thinking about buying a dog from overseas to be very careful. If something seems too good to be true, it probably is. -- Heartbroken in Dallas

DEAR HEARTBROKEN: Thank you for sharing your story. It will help so many other potential owners to avoid pet-buying pitfalls.

Overseas pet-buying scams have increased dramatically in the past few years -- so much so that such purchases, especially from Eastern Europe, were banned temporarily. But scammers don't care about bans, and they'll do anything to get money from people who just want a pet.

If you haven't done so yet, report the scammer to authorities. File a report locally with your city's police department. If you wired money to the scammer, contact the service provider to report the incident. Report the incident on pet scam websites, social media and anywhere that pet owners chat. The International Pet And Animal Transportation Association has more strategies to report scammers here: www.ipata.org/pet-scams.

Were you scammed when trying to buy a pet? Tell us your story at ask@pawscorner.com.

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

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* If you've ever worried about damaging your cell-phone by accidentally sitting on it, you'll be glad to know that Samsung built a robotic posterior to test the durability of its smartphones. It can repeatedly exert up to 220 pounds of pressure to simulate the act of a human sitting on their device.

* More than 200 artificial languages have been created for use in books, TV and movies.

* Our 50-star U.S. flag was designed by Robert Heft, a 17-year-old student in Lancaster, Ohio. He made it for a high school history project and received a B-

from his teacher for lack of originality.

* NASA astronaut Leland Melvin sneaked his two rescue dogs, Jake and Scout, into Houston's Johnson Space Center for his official -- and unique -- photoshoot.

* In 2013, developers of a skyscraper in London, nicknamed the "Walkie-Talkie" due to its shape, realized that some design changes were seriously and immediately in order. The building reflected the sun onto the street below for two hours a day, with a beam so hot it melted parts of a Jaguar XJ parked nearby.


* Some beaches on the Japanese islands of Taketomi, Hatoma and Iriomote have star-shaped sand.

* Since the summer of 2020, so many orca whales have launched attacks on boats off the coast of Spain and Portugal that sailors have been advised to stay in port at night.

* Actor Mike Meyers originally gave the character of Shrek a thick Canadian accent but decided, after animation had begun, that a Scottish one would better suit the character. The film had to be re-animated and cost over \$4 million, or around 10% of its overall budget.

Thought for the Day: "Never allow a person to tell you no who doesn't have the power to say yes." -- Eleanor Roosevelt

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The difference between "garden" mums and "florist" mums is their hardiness. "Florist" mums are sold from grocery stores and flower shops, useful only as indoor potted plants for seasonal decor and won't survive a winter if you plant them outdoors. "Garden" versions are sold from nurseries as tough perennials meant for outdoor landscapes year round. - Brenda Weaver

Source: www.hgtv.com



by Freddy Groves

Health Record System Delayed ... Again

The Department of Veterans Affairs' electronic health record system will be delayed. Instead of putting out a shoddy product, the VA has elected to halt deploying the system until June 2023.

This comes after a previous delay that was announced last summer, which said that the deployment would be pushed back until January 2023.

It's apparently been one software glitch after the other at the locations they're using as testing -- problems with scheduling, referrals, medication, test results and medical orders. And more. Months ago the VA's Office of Inspector General uncovered many instances of patient harm resulting from the new program. Specifically, over 200 doctor orders went astray, sent to nobody knows where, resulting in 149 instances of patient harm -- at just one testing site.

They're calling this the "assess & address" period, and it's good that they're halting the expansion. Patient safety has to be at the top of the list, especially the issuing of prescription drugs.

Meanwhile, on the off chance that your local facility is a testing site, take charge of your care.

If you think you should have gotten an appointment or referral (maybe the doctor said so?), follow up. If you're awaiting a test result, call them. When a medical provider says you'll be given a prescription for a drug, write down the name of that drug and the dose. (Ask how it's spelled.) When you receive your drug, check it carefully. Go online to a drug checking website (www.drugs.com/pill_identification.html) and be sure the photo of the pill online matches what you received. Use a magnifying glass to look at the tiny numbers on your pills.

At this writing, my best guess about the sites where the program is being tested are: Mann-Grandstaff VA Medical Center, Wainwright Memorial VA Medical Center, Central Ohio Healthcare System and Roseberg and White City, Oregon.

A handful of senators, meanwhile, are saying that the program needs to be dumped, not only because of the patient safety concerns, but because the price tag has increased by billions of dollars.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 25 of 77

Wishing Well®

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

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

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1. MOVIES: Who voices the character of Timon in "The Lion King"?
2. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of parrots called?
3. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What are the main colors of Italy's flag?
4. SCIENCE: What instrument is used to measure wind speed and direction?
5. LITERATURE: Who wrote the young readers' novel "Looking for Alaska"?
6. U.S. STATES: In which state can you find Glacier National Park?
7. MEASUREMENTS: What is the study of measurements called?
8. TELEVISION: The characters in "Laverne & Shirley" live and work in which city?
9. GEOGRAPHY: Which two countries occupy the Iberian Peninsula?
10. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president signed into law a bill that made "The Star-Spangled Banner" the national anthem?

Answers

1. Nathan Lane.
2. A pandemonium.
3. Green, white and red.
4. Anemometer.
5. John Green.
6. Montana.
7. Metrology.
8. Milwaukee, Wisconsin.
9. Portugal and Spain.
10. Herbert Hoover.

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 26 of 77

South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Veterans are Heroes

I am proud to be Governor of the best state in America to live, work, and retire as a veteran. That's important – the state that sets the gold standard for Freedom should also lead the way in honoring those who defend our Freedoms. In the last four years, we found new ways to honor our veterans. In my second term, we will continue to build on those successes and honor the men and women who served us.

Remember, every veteran is a man or a woman who stood up, raised their right hand, and swore an oath to defend our homeland, our people, and our Constitutional Freedoms. They risk life and limb in that service, and their family loses valuable time with the ones they love. In return, we make a promise to support them when they finally leave military service. South Dakota lives up to that promise.

In South Dakota, we don't just talk the talk. We don't just say that we support our veterans. We take a top to bottom approach in state government to back those words up with action. Across our many departments and state agencies, we advocate for veterans. We help them start businesses, purchase the home of their dreams, go to college, or get help through our crisis hotline.

Our Department of Veteran's Affairs provides those services directly to our veterans and helps connect them with the folks who can get them the help they need. The Department also operates our State Veteran's Home in Hot Springs, which helps care for our heroes when the time comes for them to need long-term care.

These are not one-time actions. These are daily routines in which we find ways to promote our veterans.

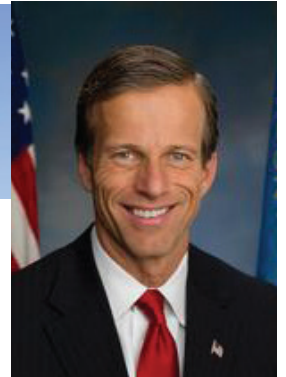
Truth be told, South Dakota has a lot to celebrate when it comes to our men and women in uniform. We also have both the best Army National Guard and Air National Guard units in America. And that's not just their biased Commander in Chief saying that – national honors and recognition have been bestowed on South Dakota guardsmen time and time again. They serve with excellence, no matter what mission we send them on.

A friend of mine recently came to visit South Dakota for a pheasant hunting trip and to help salute our veterans – Marine Staff Sergeant Johnny "Joey" Jones. Sergeant Jones was a bomb technician who lost his legs in an IED explosion in Afghanistan, and since then he has committed his life to advocating for veterans. His organization, Boot Campaign, works directly with veterans to treat the invisible wounds of war, like posttraumatic stress. And he travels the country raising awareness for the issues that veterans face in their daily lives.

It should not take losing our legs in war to motivate us to fight for our veterans. They answered the call to serve and gave everything for us – we must give what we can in return. We would not be able to enjoy the Freedoms we hold so dear but for their courage. We would not have this nation that we love but for their sacrifice.

This Veteran's Day, thank a veteran. But do more than that – think of what you can do to give back and to make a meaningful difference in a veteran's life. They deserve no less.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



In Sports and In Life

Whether you're lacing up for a state tournament, bundling up for a late-season high school football game, or setting up for the start of winter, the fall season is a great time of year for sports in South Dakota. As I travel throughout our state, it's great to see so many young South Dakota athletes giving it their all, working as a team, and achieving the goals they set out to accomplish together.

Like many South Dakotans, I grew up in a small town where everyone knows each other, looks out for each other, and supports the local sports teams with a passion. I consider myself lucky to have been raised in a town like Murdo – shout-out to the Jones County Coyotes – where South Dakota values like a strong work ethic, a firm belief in personal responsibility, and a sense of responsibility to the broader community run deep.

I've long since hung-up my jersey, trading my spots on the field and on the court for a spot in the stands, but I'm still proud that South Dakota's student athletes continue to embody these core values, excel as a team, and inspire the next generation of athletes to get in the game. They can be proud of the hard work and dedication they have given to their sport, and I'm confident our teams will continue to impress communities in every corner of our state.

Growing up in Murdo, playing and watching sports were important parts of my upbringing. In addition to being a World War II hero, my dad was a Big Ten basketball star, and he later served as a coach and the athletic director at our high school. His lessons about sports and life continue to guide me, and they serve as an important foundation for my work in the Senate.

My dad always emphasized humility and service – that your job is to make the team, not yourself, perform as well as possible. Dad didn't have much patience for ball hogs or players who were in it for personal glory. To him, as a member of a team, you should both help to make your teammates stronger and be humble enough to let your teammates make you stronger. I can practically hear my dad saying, "You should always make the extra pass." I've tried to carry these lessons with me throughout my life.

In many ways, experiences, relationships, and lessons from sports have also shaped other areas of my personal and professional life. One experience in particular sparked my interest in politics. After a basketball game my freshman year of high school, in which I had made five out of six free throws, one spectator greeted me and said, "You missed one." That spectator was then-U.S. Rep. Jim Abdnor, and this was the beginning of my long friendship with him. I could never have imagined that one day I would represent our state in the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, as he did.

I am humbled to have been entrusted to represent South Dakotans for another term in the Senate, and, much as I learned that night in high school, there's always more work to be done. In sports, as in life, we can always accomplish more when we work together for the good of the team. I look forward to continuing to work for our state and with the people who call South Dakota home. You make our state all that it is.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 28 of 77



CONGRESSMAN

DUSTY JOHNSON

Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



A Nation Worth Defending

Throughout our nation's history, more than 41 million servicemen and women have vowed to make the ultimate sacrifice for your freedom and mine. Veterans Day is a day to stop and remember those who have chosen service and sacrifice to protect their families, towns, states, and our country.

You and I, as citizens of the greatest country on earth, are privileged to have many freedoms granted to us. Yet without defenders of these freedoms, they could be lost. America's servicemembers work year-round to protect our country at home and abroad. Domestically they train and learn, provide safety within our borders and abroad, protecting American interests and our allies.

Just some of the rights we are granted as Americans are the freedom of speech, religion, and the right to vote—which we had the opportunity to participate in this week. Because of the dedication these servicemembers have shown, you and I had the opportunity to vote in our democratic republic—a government chosen by the people, for the people.

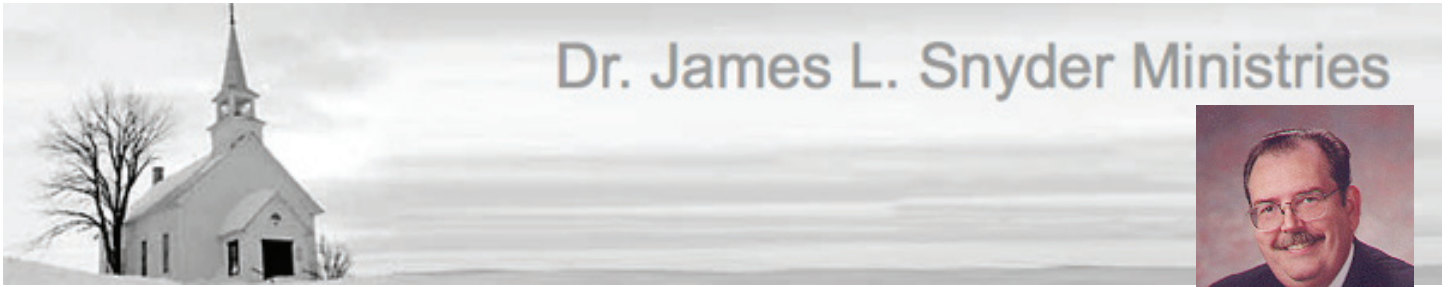
Throughout my time in Congress, I've had the opportunity to honor over 565 Vietnam Veterans through commemorative pinning ceremonies. Vietnam Veterans didn't get a proper welcome home after the war—while this welcome home is overdue, it's never too late to honor and say thank you to our veterans. I've also met and honored more than 300 veterans during their Honor Flights to D.C. The opportunity for veterans to travel to Washington, D.C. to see memorials dedicated to the wars in which they served that honor their service and their friends lost in battle is very special experience for all.

Another opportunity I have as a Member of Congress is nominating hardworking youth to attend a U.S. military service academy. These academies train and prep the best of the best to continue the great service, leadership, and dedication of our servicemembers from generations past.

America's freedoms and values are worth defending. Thank you for your service!

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 29 of 77



The Great Divide between Brain and Tongue



As my Uncle Fred used to say, one of the great benefits of getting old is that you know everything.

If you had ever met Uncle Fred, you would easily conclude that he certainly wasn't getting old.

Of course, there are things I have learned during my aging career that has been of great use to me.. If I weren't as old as I am, I wouldn't know all I know now.

Of all the things I have learned throughout my aging career, the most important one is that I have a great divide between my brain and my tongue. I would have thought that those two would be connected by this time in my life. I only wish Uncle Fred was alive so I could query him on the subject.

It took me a long time to realize that there was this disconnect between my brain and my tongue. It's been a slow process, and I'm not quite at the end of the tunnel yet, but I got my fingers crossed.

When young, I didn't have much problem along this line. I was quick on my tongue and thought I knew everything. The only thing I didn't know was what I didn't know. Oh, if only my brain were working today as I thought it was working when I was young.

I'm not sure what happened, but somewhere along the line, my brain retired, and I'm not quite sure where it is these days. But for some reason, my tongue has not yet retired.

The main arena of my trouble has to do with The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage. Her brain and tongue are connected and work well together. Neither one has yet retired, according to her.

Although she has given me many lessons along this line, I still have that great divide that has cost me a lot of frustration. If only my tongue would not work until my brain kicks in, things might be much better.

Quite often, when we're in some discussion, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage will stop, look at me and say, "Is that your brain talking or just your tongue?"

For the longest time, I had no idea what she was talking about.

Contrary to good old Uncle Fred, my experience in growing older is that my tongue works when my brain is in snooze mode. I'm not quite sure how this works, but I am in this dilemma for some reason.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 30 of 77

If only there was some way to get my brain and tongue connected and in good unity, I think my life would be better. At least, that's the thinking of The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage, and her brain is working.

If I could think three times more than I speak, I'm sure my life would be much different, maybe even in line with my wife.

The question I struggled with is, why does the brain slow down in life, but the tongue speeds up? What is the connection there? And, is there a way to control the tongue?

These are things I've been thinking about as I get older. If I believed my good old Uncle Fred, I would have more control of my tongue than I do. But the older I get, the less control I have over my tongue.

This is no more obvious than when The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and I discuss some subject. During the discussion, her brain is in complete control of her tongue. Or, so she says.

My tongue, on the other hand, is completely out-of-control.. When we have some discussion, my tongue begins talking about something that is not even related to the subject.

My wife then looks at me with a questionable stare and says, "What did you just say? And what does that have to do with what we're talking about?"

I have no way to respond to any question along those lines.

For years I've been trying to train my tongue to say, "Yes, dear. You're right." For some reason, my brain cannot remember those phrases.

Although I'm struggling along this line I have learned one thing. My brain has not let me down on a rather important issue.

That important issue is, always let your wife have the last word. That's hard for someone like me to do. My tongue sometimes is completely out-of-control, and not listening to what my wife is saying. She somehow irritates my tongue, and my brain has no idea what's going on.

Another important aspect is that my tongue is not connected to my ears. What I hear is not always what my tongue responds to. I think God gave me two ears on either side of my head to control my tongue in some regard.

No matter what I hear with my ears, my tongue has a different story to tell.

I have noticed of late that my brain is focused on one subject, my tongue is focused on another subject, and the twain shall never meet.

In my devotions this morning, I was reading 1 Peter 3:10, "For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile."

I don't know how much better that can be put. To refrain my tongue from evil is a great discipline in my daily life that offers great rewards throughout my life.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Why are coyote sightings so much more common in urban areas these days? Should I be worried about kids and pets outside? Is this a bad sign for the environment at large and is there a humane way to deter these carnivores from residential areas? -

- Max B., Norwalk, CT

Coyotes, known as the Song Dogs of North America, are the sole canid predator endemic to North America. They can be found as far north as Canada and Alaska, and as far south as Central America, but are most prevalent in the Great Plains, where they began their outward migration 100 years ago. Since the 1950s, they've managed to expand their territory by 40 percent, and can now be found anywhere from remote plains to bustling urban parks.

As many experts agree, the coyote is an incredibly adaptive animal. This evolutionary advantage has kept the species not only surviving, but thriving in response to human expansion. This is one of the reasons the coyote has prevailed where other species have faltered, and why their sightings have only increased along with urbanization. Coyotes are flexible creatures on many counts: their time of activity, their preferred habitat, even their diet. When they aren't eating rabbits or small rodents, coyotes can be seen eating small fruits like berries and apples, and even vegetables like carrots to maintain their daily caloric needs.

Coyotes also have flexible temperaments. They are aggressive enough to hunt small prey, but skittish enough to avoid deadly human contact. Indeed, coyotes are relatively harmless to humans (but they will definitely eat a small pet!). A 2021 study from Madison, Wisconsin discovered that most human-coyote interactions were benign, lacking any aggression by the coyotes whatsoever. When participants in the study were asked to pick a number from zero (calm) to five (aggressive), 90 percent chose zero.

That being said, they are not completely harmless to humans and should always be approached with caution. Last year, four people were injured by a coyote in San Francisco, including a four-year-old.

Counterintuitively, of all the factors influencing coyote population increases, one of the greatest may be population control. According to multiple studies conducted since the 1970s, the indiscriminate killing of coyotes, which has occurred for decades across all of North America, causes what is known as pack disruption, whereby normally "sterile" females become sexually active in a pack when an alpha male or female is killed. This phenomenon inevitably led to a positive feedback loop, where the encouragement of hunting reduced coyote population levels in the short-term, but increased them in the long-term.

Coyotes are considered a keystone species, meaning their presence or absence significantly influences an ecosystem. This also means their overabundance can lead to ecosystem disruption.

If you're looking to humanely deal with a coyote, hazing—waving your arms and yelling—is often considered the best method of deterrence. Keeping pets inside and livestock penned securely is also encouraged, as is the removal of any garbage or pet food that you may have outside. .



Coyotes are becoming more & more common in urban & suburban areas across the U.S. and there's not much we can do about it... Credit: Esteban Arango, Pexels.com.

Broton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 32 of 77

South Dakota COVID-19 Report

New Cases*

871
+39

Total Cases*

265,890

Currently Hospitalized

76
-5

New Hospitalizations

41

Total Hospitalized

11,974

[Click to Visit](#)

[SD COVID-19 Vaccination Coverage](#)

New Deaths

13

Total Deaths

3,078

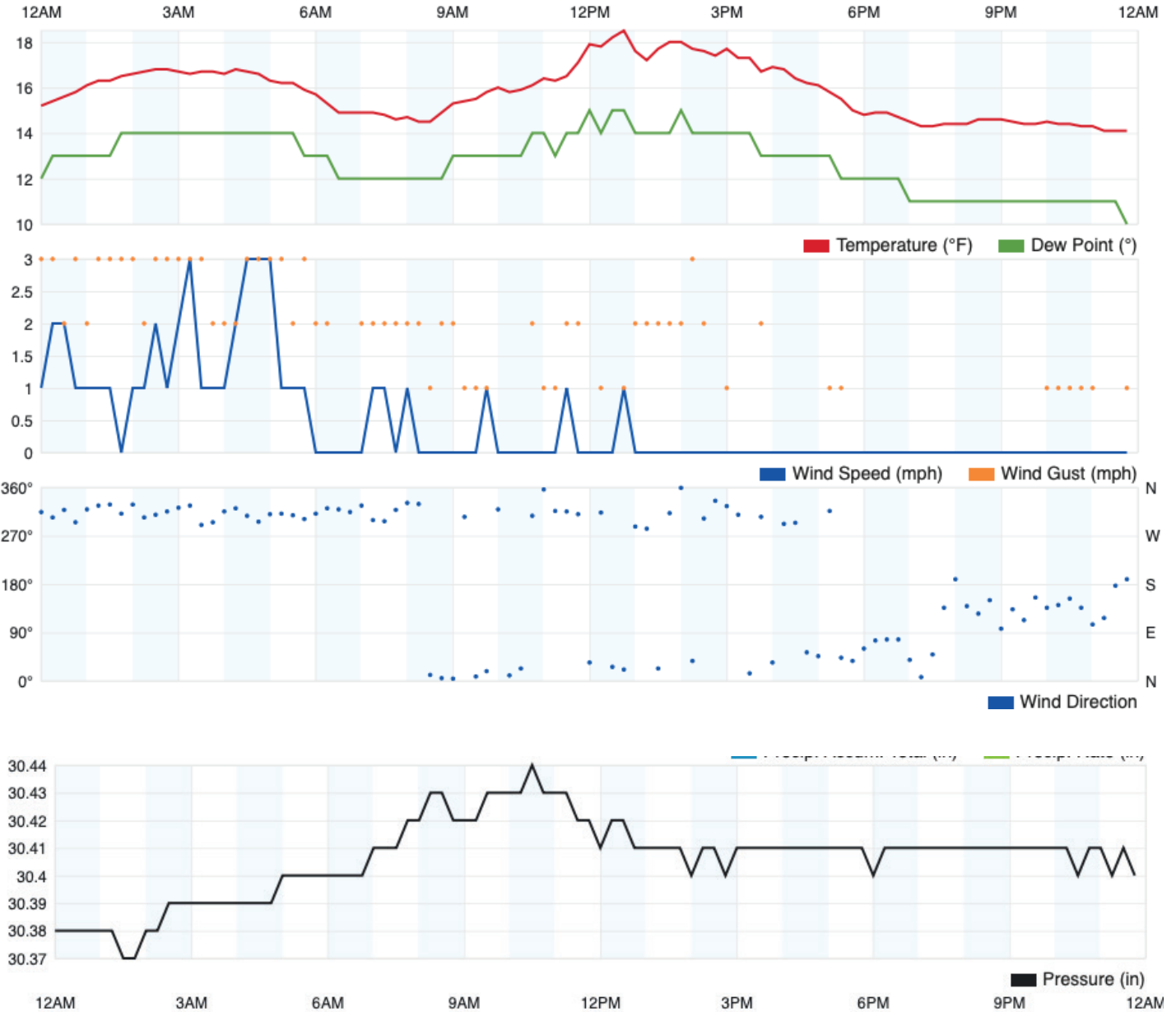
[Click to Visit](#)

[COVID-19 Community Levels](#)

Groton Daily Independent








Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 33 of 77

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



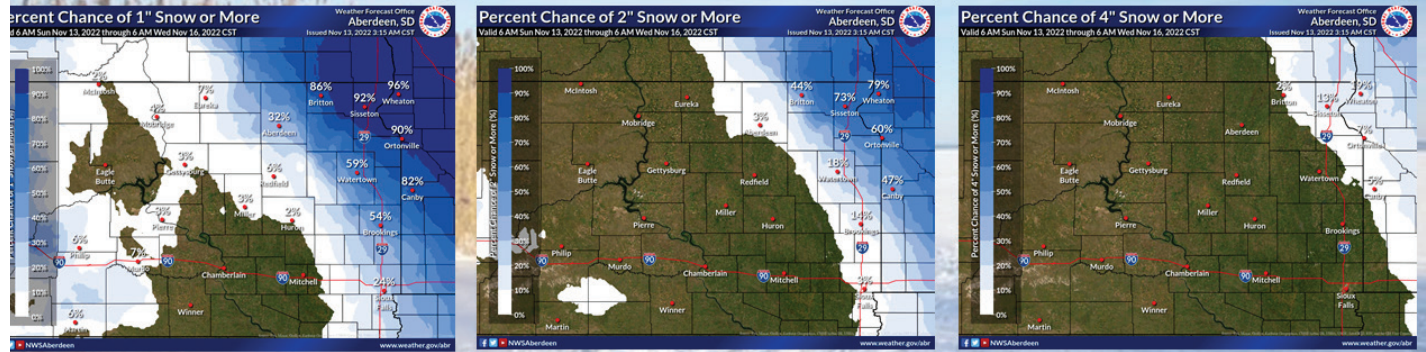
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 34 of 77

Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Chance Flurries	Chance Snow	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 27 °F	Low: 15 °F	High: 26 °F	Low: 12 °F	High: 23 °F	Low: 6 °F	High: 22 °F

Off And On Snow Chances

Between 6AM Sunday and 6AM Wednesday, a couple of rounds of snow will be possible, with maybe an inch or two of snow accumulation possible with each event.



11/13/2022 0600AM to 11/16/2022 0600AM

Location	Snow Amount Potential			Chance of Seeing More Snow Than							
	Low End Snowfall	Expected Snowfall	High End Snowfall	>=0.1"	>=1"	>=2"	>=4"	>=6"	>=8"	>=12"	>=18"
Aberdeen, SD	<1	<1	1	89%	32%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Watertown, SD	<1	<1	2	96%	59%	18%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Miller, SD	0	0	<1	56%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Pierre, SD	0	0	<1	56%	3%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Sisseton, SD	1	3	4	98%	92%	73%	13%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Redfield, SD	0	<1	<1	68%	6%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Mobridge, SD	0	<1	<1	68%	4%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
Ortonville, MN	1	2	4	99%	90%	60%	7%	0%	0%	0%	0%

These snowfall amounts represent a 3-day total forecast

Visit www.weather.gov/abr for a detailed local forecast

Updated: 11/13/2022 4:47 AM CT

A couple of rounds of light snowfall are possible, the first showing up by this evening. Between today and Wednesday morning, the grand total amount of snow accumulation from these minor snow events could tally 2 to 3 inches. And temperatures still look to remain well below normal throughout the 7 day forecast.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 35 of 77

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 18 °F at 12:39 PM

Low Temp: 14 °F at 11:19 PM

Wind: 3 mph at 12:02 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 9 hours, 38 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 71 in 2016

Record Low: -11 in 1919

Average High: 44°F

Average Low: 20°F

Average Precip in Nov.: 0.38

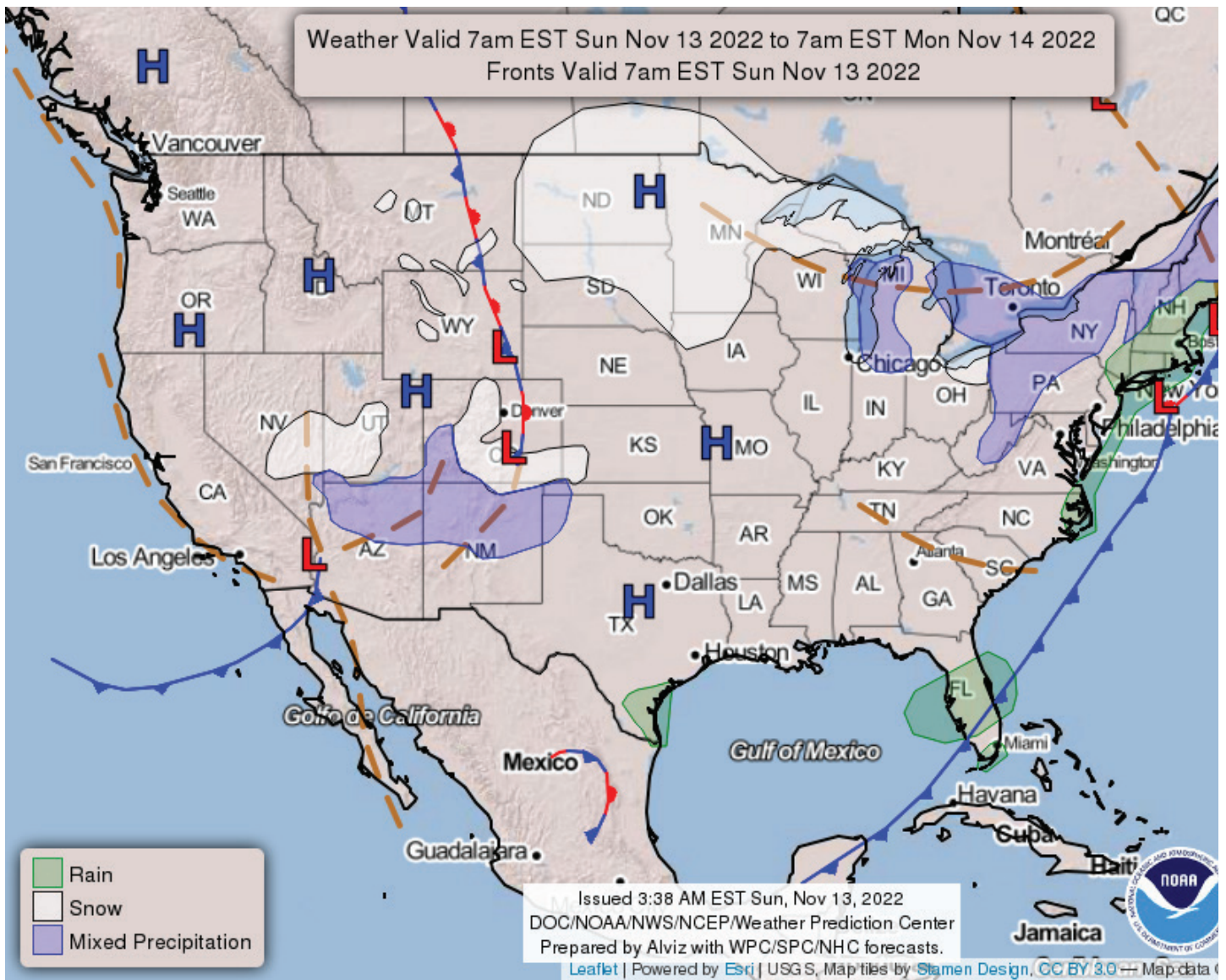
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 20.85

Precip Year to Date: 16.50

Sunset Tonight: 5:06:07 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:28:40 AM



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 36 of 77

Today in Weather History

November 13, 1985: Snowfall of 4 to 8 inches spread from the southwest part of South Dakota on the morning of the 13th to the northeast part of the state by early morning on the 14th. Winds gusted to 35 mph in the western half of the state and produced considerable blowing and drifting snow, which significantly reduced visibilities. The snowfall caused many accidents, including a four-vehicle pileup that occurred three miles east of De Smet in Kingsbury County, during the afternoon of the 13th. Some snowfall amounts include; 7.0 inches in Britton; 5.5 inches in Timber Lake and 5.0 inches in Leola.

1833: In 1833, observers were familiar with the Leonid meteor shower, but the event that year was very intense and leads to the first formulation of a theory on the origin of meteors. By some estimates, the 1833 Leonid meteor shower had 240,000 meteors in a nine-hour period.

1933 - The first dust storm of the great dust bowl era of the 1930s occurred. The dust storm, which had spread from Montana to the Ohio Valley the day before, prevailed from Georgia to Maine resulting in a black rain over New York and a brown snow in Vermont. Parts of South Dakota, Minnesota and Iowa reported zero visibility on the 12th. On the 13th, dust reduced the visibility to half a mile in Tennessee. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1946: General Electric scientists produced snow in the Massachusetts Berkshires in the first modern-day cloud seeding experiment. Scientist Vincent Schaefer dropped six pounds of dry ice pellets into a cloud over Pittsfield, MA. The cloud seeding experiment produced snowfall, as a 4-mile long cloud was converted into snow flurries. The success of the experiment became the basis of many weather modification projects.

1953 - Strong southeasterly winds associated with a Pacific cold front reached 70 mph at Sacramento CA to equal their all-time record. The previous record had been established in a similar weather pattern on December 12th of the previous year. (The Weather Channel)

1981 - A powerful cyclone brought high winds to Washington State and Oregon. The cyclone, which formed about 1000 miles west of San Francisco, intensified rapidly as it approached the Oregon coast with the central pressure reaching 28.22 inches (956 millibars). A wind trace from the Whiskey Run Turbine Site, about 12 miles south of Coos Bay in Oregon, showed peak gusts to 97 mph fifty feet above ground level. The wind caused widespread damage in Washington and Oregon, with 12 deaths reported. As much as four feet of snow fell in the Sierra Nevada Range of northern California. (Storm Data)

1987 - A storm moving off the Pacific Ocean produced rain and gale force winds along the northern and central Pacific coast, and heavy snow in the Cascade Mountains. Cold weather prevailed in the southeastern U.S. Five cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Asheville NC with a reading of 21 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Low pressure brought rain and snow and gusty winds to the northeastern U.S. A thunderstorm drenched Agawam MA with 1.25 inches of rain in fifteen minutes. Winds gusted to 58 mph at Nantucket MA. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thirty-two cities in the central and eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings warmed into the 70s as far north as Michigan and Pennsylvania. Afternoon highs in the 80s were reported from the Southern Plains to the southern Atlantic coast. Columbia SC reported a record high of 86 degrees, and the high of 71 degrees at Flint MI was their warmest of record for so late in the season. (The National Weather Summary)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 37 of 77

Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

FROM HUMILIATION TO EXALTATION

One evening when my son John came home from football practice, I noticed that his arms and hands had an unusual number of cuts and bruises on them. "What happened?" I asked.

"Have you ever noticed, Dad," he replied, "that pain is optional, but suffering isn't? I wanted to be on the starting team, so I knew it would take some 'pain' on my part. I'd been 'playing,' and now I wanted the coach to know I could be a 'winner' at football."

The Psalmist reminded us that Joseph was sold as a slave, and that "They bruised his feet with shackles and that his neck was put in irons, till what he foretold came to pass, till the word of the Lord proved him true."

Tucked away in the great plan that God has for each of us is our fair share of suffering. After Joseph was sold into slavery, he did not complain about his situation. He persevered through the horrible conditions that were placed on him. By honoring God, the King honored him.

When he was tempted by Potiphar's wife, he resisted her seductive behaviors. She did everything she could do to seduce him, but through his dependence on God, he did not give in to his passions. And, when she grabbed him physically, he was able to escape through God's strength. When she lied about him, he was thrown into prison. And, rather than becoming bitter, he became better. Because he was true to God, he triumphed and eventually became the premier of Egypt. His path to power was through pain and imprisonment. If we are true to God in our times of trial, we will be triumphant.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to be faithful to You, knowing that temptation and suffering is part of Your plan for us. Help us to trust You for the final triumph. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: And he sent a man before them - Joseph, sold as a slave. Psalm 105:17



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

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 38 of 77

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

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 39 of 77

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Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 40 of 77

News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

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

Dakota Cash

15-19-22-27-33

(fifteen, nineteen, twenty-two, twenty-seven, thirty-three)

Estimated jackpot: \$166,000

Lotto America

08-20-21-26-38, Star Ball: 10, ASB: 4

(eight, twenty, twenty-one, twenty-six, thirty-eight; Star Ball: ten; ASB: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$30,290,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: 207,000,000

Powerball

16-20-44-57-58, Powerball: 6, Power Play: 4

(sixteen, twenty, forty-four, fifty-seven, fifty-eight; Powerball: six; Power Play: four)

Estimated jackpot: \$59,000,000

Saturday's Scores

The Associated Press

PREP FOOTBALL=

SDHSAA Playoffs=

Class 11AAA=

Championship=

Sioux Falls Jefferson 48, Harrisburg 21

Class 11AA=

Championship=

Pierre 35, Tea Area 20

PREP VOLLEYBALL=

SDHSAA Playoff=

SoDak 16=

Class AA=

Rapid City Stevens def. Sioux Falls Roosevelt, 30-28, 20-25, 19-25, 25-19, 15-9

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

South Dakota State wins 10th straight, outright MVFC champs

BROOKINGS, S.D. (AP) — Mark Gronowski threw for 283 yards with a touchdown and he added a rushing score, and South Dakota Sate beat Illinois State 31-7 on Saturday to run the table in the Missouri Valley Football Conference for the first time in program history.

South Dakota State (10-1, 8-0 Missouri Valley Conference) set a school record for consecutive victories with 10. The previos mark of nine was first set in 1928 and was matched with a streak that carried over between the 1950 (last three games) and 1951 (first six games) seasons.

Jadon Janke caught five passes for 139 yards for SDSU, which is the outright conference champion. SDSU announced it set a regular-season average attendance record of 15,561.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 41 of 77

South Dakota State held Illinois State (5-5, 3-4) to seven first downs and 100 total yards.

South Dakota defeats Dakota State 82-64

VERMILLION, S.D. (AP) — Paul Bruns' 16 points helped South Dakota defeat Dakota State 82-64 on Saturday night.

Bruns was 7 of 13 shooting for the Coyotes (2-1). A.J. Plitzuweit shot 5 for 9, including 4 for 5 from beyond the arc to add 16 points. Kruz Perrott-Hunt was 4 of 16 shooting, including 3 for 8 from distance, and went 4 for 4 from the line to finish with 15 points.

Deshawn Kelly finished with 25 points for the Trojans (0-1). Sam Muller added 19 points, 11 rebounds and four assists for Dakota State.

South Dakota visits Mississippi State in its next matchup on Thursday.

Schuster's 3 TDs lead North Dakota past South Dakota, 28-19

GRAND FORKS, N.D. (AP) — Tommy Schuster threw three straight touchdown passes to propel North Dakota to a 28-19 win over South Dakota in a Missouri Valley Conference battle Saturday.

Schuster hit Bo Belquist from two-yards out with 10 seconds left in the first half to give the Fighting Hawks the lead, 14-13, at intermission. Schuster then went back to Belquist for a 3-yard touchdown and found Isaiah Smith on an 11-yard strike to take a 28-13 lead after three quarters.

Aidan Bouman, who threw two first-half touchdown passes to stake the Coyotes to a 13-7 advantage, added a third touchdown pass in the fourth quarter.

South Dakota converted just one of its three PAT attempts. Eddie Ogamba missed on the Coyotes first touchdown and had his kick blocked in the fourth quarter.

Schuster completed 24 of 28 passes for 243 yards and three touchdowns with an interception to lead North Dakota (7-3, 5-2).

Bouman was 15 of 27 for 151 yards passing and three touchdowns for South Dakota (3-7, 2-5).

North Dakota closes out the regular season at North Dakota State next Saturday.

South Dakota plays host to Northern Iowa in its season finale Saturday.

After Kherson success, Kyiv vows to keep driving out Russia

By SAM MEDNICK and JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

MYKOLAIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's president vowed to keep pushing Russian forces out of his country after they withdrew from Kherson, leaving behind devastation, hunger and booby traps in the southern Ukrainian city.

The Russian retreat from Kherson marked a triumphant milestone in Ukraine's pushback against Moscow's invasion almost nine months ago. Kherson residents hugged and kissed the arriving Ukrainian troops in rapturous scenes.

"We will see many more such greetings" of Ukrainian soldiers liberating Russian-held territory," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address Saturday.

He pledged to the people in Ukrainian cities and villages that are still under occupation: "We don't forget anyone; we won't leave anyone."

Ukraine's retaking of Kherson was a significant setback for the Kremlin and the latest in a series of battlefield embarrassments. It came some six weeks after Russian President Vladimir Putin annexed the Kherson region and three other provinces in southern and eastern Ukraine — in breach of international law — and declared them Russian territory.

The U.S. embassy in Kyiv tweeted comments Sunday by National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan, who described the turnaround in Kherson as "an extraordinary victory" for Ukraine and "quite a remarkable thing."

The reversal came despite Putin's recent partial mobilization of reservists, raising available troop numbers by some 300,000. That has been hard for the Russian military to digest.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 42 of 77

"Russian military leadership is trying and largely failing to integrate combat forces drawn from many different organizations and of many different types and levels of skill and equipment into a more cohesive fighting force in Ukraine," the Washington-based Institute for the Study of War, a think tank that tracks the conflict, commented.

British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace said the Kremlin will be "worried" by the loss of Kherson but warned against underestimating Moscow. "If they need more cannon fodder, that is what they'll be doing," he said.

Driving toward Kherson from the Mykolaiv region, AP reporters saw downed electrical lines, used projectile casings and the decomposed carcass of a cow. Several destroyed tanks lined the muddy road.

As Ukrainian forces on Sunday consolidated their hold on Kherson, authorities contemplated the daunting task of clearing out explosive devices and restoring basic public services in the city.

One Ukrainian official described the situation in Kherson as "a humanitarian catastrophe." The remaining residents in the city are said to lack water, medicine and food. There are shortages of key basics such as bread because of a lack of electricity.

Ukrainian police called on residents to help identify collaborators with Russian forces during the eight-month occupation. Ukrainian police officers returned to the city Saturday, along with public broadcasting services, following the departure of Russian troops.

The national police chief of Ukraine, Ihor Klymenko, said Saturday on Facebook that about 200 officers were at work in the city, setting up checkpoints and documenting evidence of possible war crimes.

In what could perhaps be the next district to fall in Ukraine's march on territory illegally annexed by Moscow, the Russian-appointed administration of the Kakhovka district, east of Kherson city, announced Saturday it was evacuating its employees.

"Today, the administration is the number one target for Ukrainian attacks," said the Moscow-installed leader of Kakhovka, Pavel Filipchuk.

"Therefore, by order of the government of the Kherson region, we, as an authority, are moving to a safer territory, from where we will lead the district," he wrote on Telegram.

Kakhovka is located on the left bank of the River Dnieper, upstream of the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station.

The deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, said six people died on Saturday as a result of Russian shelling.

Writing on Telegram on Sunday, he said four people were killed and one wounded in Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region, two were killed in the Kherson region, and two wounded in the central Dnipropetrovsk region.

In Kherson, photos on social media Saturday showed Ukrainian activists removing memorial plaques put up by the occupation authorities. A Telegram post by Yellow Ribbon, the Ukrainian resistance movement in the occupied regions, showed two people in a park taking down plaques picturing Soviet-era military figures.

Moscow's announcement that Russian forces were withdrawing across the Dnieper River, which divides both the Kherson region and Ukraine as a whole, followed a stepped-up Ukrainian counteroffensive in the country's south. In the past two months, Ukraine's military claimed to have retaken dozens of towns and villages north of the city of Kherson, and the military said that's where stabilization activities were taking place.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba sought to temper the excitement over the Russian retreat from Kherson.

"We are winning battles on the ground, but the war continues," he said from Cambodia, where he was attending a summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told journalists Sunday that a joint statement on the results of the summit was not adopted, since "the American side and its partners insisted on an unacceptable assessment of the situation in Ukraine and around it."

The Kremlin is angered by the support Ukraine receives from its Western allies, including the United States.

Southeast Asian leaders: region no proxy for any powers

By DAVID RISING and SOPHENG CHEANG Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Indonesia's president vowed Sunday not to let Southeast Asia become the front lines of a new Cold War amid increasing tensions between the United States and China, saying as his country took over the chairmanship of the influential Association of Southeast Asian Nations that it would not become "a proxy to any powers."

Joko Widodo said the 10-nation bloc with a combined population of some 700 million people "must be a dignified region" and "uphold the values of humanity and democracy" — principles that have been challenged by last year's military takeover in Myanmar and concerns about human rights in Cambodia.

"ASEAN must become a peaceful region and anchor for global stability, consistently uphold international law and not be a proxy to any powers," he said. "ASEAN should not let the current geopolitical dynamic turn into a new Cold War in our region."

As China has grown more assertive in the Asia-Pacific and pressed its claim to the self-governing democracy of Taiwan, the U.S. has pushed back, leading to increasing tensions.

Even as the ASEAN leaders met over the weekend in Phnom Penh, U.S. naval exercises with its partners in the so-called "Quad" group of nations — Australia, India and Japan — were underway in the Philippine Sea, east of Taiwan.

And on Saturday, China's military flew 36 fighter jets and bombers near Taiwan, ten of which flew across the median line in the Taiwan Strait that separates the island from the mainland, according to Taiwanese officials.

The flights come as part of Chinese President Xi Jinping's stepped up efforts to intimidate Taiwan by regularly flying fighter planes and bombers near the island and firing missiles into the sea around it.

In Sunday's East Asia Summit, which ran concurrently with the ASEAN meeting and included both the U.S. and China, U.S. President Joe Biden underscored that freedom of navigation and overflight must be respected in the East China and South China seas and that all disputes must be resolved peacefully and according to international law, according to the White House.

Biden said the U.S. will compete vigorously with China while keeping lines of communication open and ensuring that competition does not veer into conflict, while reaffirming the importance of peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait, the White House said.

The comments came just a day before a highly anticipated meeting between Biden and Xi at the Group of 20 summit in Bali.

In Japan's meetings with ASEAN leaders, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida also singled out China, expressing "serious concern over unilateral attempts to change the status quo by force in the East and South China seas as well as economic coercion," Japan's Foreign Ministry said.

"He also pointed out the importance of the peace and stability across the Taiwan Strait and highly valued ASEAN's call for utmost restraint."

At the opening of the East Asia Summit, Cambodian leader Hun Sen called for unity, telling the gathering attended by Biden, Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov that current global tensions have been taking a toll on everyone.

Without singling out any nation by name, Hun Sen said he hoped leaders would embrace a "spirit of togetherness in upholding open and inclusive multilateralism, pragmatism and mutual respect in addressing the existential and strategic challenges we all face."

"Many current challenges and tensions have been hindering our past hard-earned efforts to promote sustainable development and causing greater hardship to people's lives," he said.

Li Keqiang, meantime, told a meeting of ASEAN, China, Japan and South Korea that amid a "turbulent" global security situation, "unilateralism and protectionism are surging, economic and financial risks are rising, and global development is confronted with unprecedented challenges."

As major economies in East Asia, Li said the group needed to "stay committed to promoting peace,

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 44 of 77

stability, development and prosperity in the region and beyond, and to improving the people's wellbeing."

The East Asia Summit also included the leaders of Australia, New Zealand, South Korea, Japan and others.

Biden raised human rights concerns in Cambodia when he met with Hun Sen on Saturday. In a statement after the meeting, the White House said Biden urged the prime minister — an authoritarian ruler in a nominally democratic nation — to "reopen civic and political space" before its 2023 elections.

Biden, according to the White House, also pushed Hun Sen to release activists including Theary Seng, a Cambodian-American lawyer who was convicted of treason. Biden also raised concerns about activities at Ream Naval Base, whose expansion Cambodian officials have described as a collaborative effort between it and China.

Another topic Biden focused on was Myanmar, where the military junta overthrew the civilian government in February 2021 and arrested its democratically elected leader, Aung San Suu Kyi. As he met with Hun Sen, Biden stressed that the U.S. was committed to the return of democracy in Myanmar, which had steadily headed toward a democratic form of governance before the coup.

ASEAN has been struggling to get Myanmar to implement its five-point peace plan. The group has already banned leaders of Myanmar, a member state, from participating in its top-level events, such as the Phnom Penh summit.

ASEAN's plan calls for the immediate cessation of violence, a dialogue among all parties, mediation by an ASEAN special envoy, provision of humanitarian aid and a visit to Myanmar by the special envoy to meet all sides. Myanmar's government initially agreed to the plan but has made little effort to implement it.

ASEAN leaders agreed on a plan Friday that largely puts the onus on the upcoming Indonesian chairmanship of the group to develop measurable indicators and a timeline for Myanmar to implement the five-point consensus.

US Rhodes scholars chosen to begin Oxford studies in 2023

WASHINGTON (AP) — A new group of Rhodes scholars from the U.S. has been chosen for the prestigious academic program in a selection process that was conducted online for the third consecutive year.

The class of 32 scholars for 2023 was "elected entirely virtually, with both candidates and selectors participating remotely, safely, and independently," American Secretary of the Rhodes Trust Elliot F. Gerson said in a statement early Sunday. "As successful as the process was, we of course hope to return to in-person interviews and selection next year in cities across the country, as had been done for over a century."

Interviews for the 2021 and 2022 scholarship classes were conducted virtually because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The 2023 scholarship class, including 16 female and 16 male recipients, is expected to begin studies at the University of Oxford in England in October in pursuit of graduate degrees in social sciences, humanities and biological and physical sciences, the trust said.

The U.S. scholars, who are among students selected from more than 60 countries, were vetted by 16 independent district committees from a pool of more than 2,500 applications. From those applicants, 840 were endorsed by 244 U.S. colleges and universities.

After receiving the endorsements of their schools, most of the district committees chose 14 or more applicants for online interviews. The committees met separately Nov. 10-12 through a virtual platform and promoted 235 finalists from 73 colleges and universities, including nine schools that have not previously had a student win the scholarship, although there were no first-time winning institutions, the trust said.

The scholars' financial expenses for two to three years of study — averaging about \$75,000 per year — are covered by the Rhodes Trust, a British charity established to fulfill the bequest of Cecil Rhodes, a founder of diamond mining and manufacturing company De Beers.

The scholarships were created in 1902, with the inaugural class entering Oxford in 1903 and the first U.S. Rhodes scholars arriving in 1904, according to the website of the trust's American secretary.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 45 of 77

US, Japan, SKorea vow unified response to North Korea threat

By ZEKE MILLER and SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — President Joe Biden and the leaders of Japan and South Korea on Sunday vowed a unified, coordinated response to North Korea's threatening nuclear and ballistic missile programs, with Biden declaring that the three-way partnership is "even more important than it's ever been" when North Korea is stepping up its provocations.

Biden met separately with Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol before all three sat down together on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit in Cambodia.

The U.S. president began by offering condolences for a crowd surge during Halloween festivities in Seoul that killed more than 150 people, saying the U.S. had grieved with South Korea. The meeting was heavily focused on North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's recent escalations, although Biden said the three leaders would also discuss strengthening supply chains and preserving peace across the Taiwan strait, while building on the countries' support for Ukraine in the face of Russian aggression.

Biden had also planned to seek input from Kishida and Yoon on managing China's assertive posture in the Pacific region on the eve of his face-to-face with President Xi Jinping.

"We face real challenges, but our countries are more aligned than ever, more prepared to take on those challenges than ever," Biden said. "So I look forward to deepening the bonds of cooperation between our three countries."

Both Yoon and Kishida discussed the ongoing displays of aggression by North Korea, which has fired dozens of missiles in recent weeks. The launches include an intercontinental ballistic missile 10 days ago that triggered evacuation alerts in northern Japan, and as the allies warn of a looming risk of the isolated country conducting its seventh nuclear test in the coming weeks.

Referring to the crowd surge that occurred in the Itaewon neighborhood in Seoul, Yoon said, through an interpreter: "At a time when South Koreans are grieving in deep sorrow, North Korea pushed ahead with such provocations which lays bare the Kim Jong Un regime's true inclinations."

U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan told reporters on Saturday that Biden would use the meetings to strengthen the three countries' joint response to the dangers posed by North Korea, officially known as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"What we would really like to see is enhanced trilateral security cooperation where the three countries are all coming together," he said. "That's acutely true with respect to the DPRK because of the common threat and challenge we all face, but it's also true, more broadly, about our capacity to work together to enhance overall peace and stability in the region."

Tensions on the Korean peninsula have skyrocketed in recent months as the North continues its weapons demonstrations and the U.S. and South Korea launched stepped-up joint defense exercises. Earlier this month, the South Korean military said two B-1B bombers trained with four U.S. F-16 fighter jets and four South Korean F-35 jets during the last day of "Vigilant Storm" joint air force drills. It was the first time since December 2017 that the bombers were deployed to the Korean Peninsula. The exercise involved a total of roughly 240 warplanes, including advanced F-35 fighter jets from both countries.

North Korea responded with its own display of force, flying large numbers of warplanes inside its territory.

The Biden administration has said it has sent repeated requests to negotiate with North Korea without preconditions on constraining its nuclear and ballistic missile programs, but that Kim Jong Un's government has not responded.

Biden has said he plans to press Xi to use China's unique sway over North Korea to curtail its aggressive behavior, as part of what is expected to be a wide-ranging meeting between the leaders on the margins of the Group of 20 gathering in Bali, Indonesia.

China "has an interest in playing a constructive role in restraining North Korea's worst tendencies," Sullivan said Saturday. "Whether they choose to do so or not is, of course, up to them."

Biden told reporters on Sunday that he's "always had straightforward discussions" with Xi, and that has prevented either of them from "miscalculations" of their intentions. Their meeting comes weeks after Xi

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 46 of 77

cemented his grip on China's political system with the conclusion of the Community Party congress in Beijing that gave him a norm-breaking third term as leader.

"His circumstances changed, to state the obvious, at home," Biden said of Xi. Biden maintained that his own have as well, saying that after Democrats retained control of the Senate in the midterm elections, "I know I'm coming in stronger."

Monday's meeting will be the first in-person sit-down between the leaders since Biden was elected. U.S. officials in the past have expressed frustration that lower-level Chinese officials have proven unable or unwilling to speak for Xi, and are hoping the face-to-face summit will enable progress on areas of mutual concern — and, even more critically, a shared understanding of each others' limitations.

"I know him well, he knows me," Biden said. "We've just got to figure out where the red lines are and what are the most important things to each of us, going into the next two years."

As president, Biden has repeatedly taken China to task for human rights abuses against the Uyghur people and other ethnic minorities, Beijing's crackdowns on democracy activists in Hong Kong, coercive trade practices, military provocations against self-ruled Taiwan and differences over Russia's prosecution of its war against Ukraine.

Xi's government has criticized the Biden administration's posture toward Taiwan — which Beijing looks eventually to unify with the communist mainland — as undermining China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. The Chinese president also has suggested that Washington wants to stifle Beijing's growing clout as it tries to overtake the U.S. as the world's largest economy.

Biden also spoke briefly with Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese, who has sought out his own meeting with Xi this week in an effort to ease Chinese sanctions against his country.

Ukraine war, tensions with China loom over big Bali summit

By ADAM SCHRECK and ELAINE KURTENBACH Associated Press

NUSA DUA, Indonesia (AP) — A showdown between Presidents Joe Biden and Vladimir Putin isn't happening, but fallout from Russia's invasion of Ukraine and growing tensions between China and the West will be at the fore when leaders of the world's biggest economies gather in tropical Bali this week.

The Group of 20 members begin talks on the Indonesian resort island Tuesday under the hopeful theme of "recover together, recover stronger." While Putin is staying away, Biden will meet with Chinese President Xi Jinping and get to know new British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Italy's Giorgia Meloni.

The summit's official priorities of health, sustainable energy and digital transformation are likely to be overshadowed by fears of a sputtering global economy and geopolitical tensions centered on the war in Ukraine.

The nearly 9-month-old conflict has disrupted trade in oil, natural gas and grain, and shifted much of the summit's focus to food and energy security.

The U.S. and allies in Europe and Asia, meanwhile, increasingly are squaring off against a more assertive China, leaving emerging G-20 economies like India, Brazil and host Indonesia to walk a tightrope between bigger powers.

Indonesian President Joko Widodo has tried to bridge rifts within the G-20 over the war in Ukraine. Widodo, also known as Jokowi, became the first Asian leader since the invasion to visit both Russia and Ukraine in the summer.

He invited President Volodymyr Zelenskyy of Ukraine, not a G-20 member, to join the summit. Zelenskyy is expected to participate online.

"One of the priorities for Jokowi is to ease the tension of war and geopolitical risk," said Bhima Yudhistira, director of the Center of Economic and Law Studies in Indonesia's capital, Jakarta.

Last year's G-20 summit in Rome was the first in-person gathering of members since the pandemic, though the leaders of Russia and China didn't attend.

This year's event is bracketed by the United Nations climate conference in Egypt and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit in Cambodia, which Biden and some other G-20 leaders are attending,

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 47 of 77

and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Thailand right afterward.

The American president vowed to work with Southeast Asian nations on Saturday, saying "we're going to build a better future that we all want to see" in a region where China is working to grow its influence. On Sunday, Biden huddled with the leaders of Japan and South Korea to discuss China and the threat from North Korea.

One question hanging over the Bali summit is whether Russia will agree to extend the U.N. Black Sea Grain Initiative, which is up for renewal Nov. 19.

The July deal allowed major global grain producer Ukraine to resume exports from ports that had been largely blocked for months because of the war. Russia briefly pulled out of the deal late last month only to rejoin it days later.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba on Saturday called for more pressure on Russia to extend the deal, saying Moscow must "stop playing hunger games with the world."

As leaders contend with conflicts and geopolitical tensions, they face the risk that efforts to tame inflation will extinguish post-pandemic recoveries or cause debilitating financial crises.

The war's repercussions are being felt from the remotest villages of Asia and Africa to the most modern industries. It has amplified disruptions to energy supplies, shipping and food security, pushing prices sharply higher and complicating efforts to stabilize the world economy after the upheavals of the pandemic.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is urging the G-20 to provide financial help for the developing world.

"My priority in Bali will be to speak up for countries in the Global South that have been battered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the climate emergency, and now face crises in food, energy and finance — exacerbated by the war in Ukraine and crushing debt," Guterres said.

The International Monetary Fund is forecasting 2.7% global growth in 2023, while private sector economists' estimates are as low as 1.5%, down from about 3% this year, the slowest growth since the oil crisis of the early 1980s.

China has remained somewhat insulated from soaring inflation, mainly because it is struggling to reverse an economic slump that is weighing on global growth.

The Chinese economy, the world's second largest, grew at a 3.9% pace in the latest quarter. But economists say activity is slowing under the pressure of pandemic controls, a crackdown on technology companies and a downturn in the real estate sector.

Forecasters have cut estimates of China's annual economic growth to as low as 3%. That would be less than half of last year's 8.1% and the second lowest in decades.

Chinese President Xi will be coming to the summit emboldened by his appointment to an unusual third term as party chairman, making him China's strongest leader in decades. It's only his second foreign trip since early 2020, following a visit to Central Asia where he met Putin in September.

Biden and Xi will hold their first in-person meeting since Biden became president in January 2021 on the event's sidelines Monday.

The U.S. is at odds with China over a host of issues, including human rights, technology and the future of the self-ruled island of Taiwan. The U.S. sees China as its biggest global competitor, and that rivalry is only likely to grow as Beijing seeks to expand its influence in the years to come.

The European Union is also reassessing its relationship with China as it seeks to reduce its trade dependency on the country.

Biden said he plans to talk with Xi about topics including Taiwan, trade policies and Beijing's relationship with Russia.

"What I want to do ... is lay out what each of our red lines are," Biden said last week.

Many developing economies are caught between fighting inflation and trying to nurse along recoveries from the pandemic. Host Indonesia's economy grew at a 5.7% pace in the last quarter, one of the fastest among G-20 nations.

But growth among resource exporters like Indonesia is forecast to cool as falling prices for oil, coal and other commodities end windfalls from the past year's price boom.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 48 of 77

At a time when many countries are struggling to afford imports of oil, gas and food while also meeting debt repayments, pressure is building on those most vulnerable to climate change to double down on shifting to more sustainable energy supplies.

In Bali, the talks are also expected to focus on finding ways to hasten the transition away from coal and other fossil fuels.

The G-20 was founded in 1999 originally as a forum to address economic challenges. It includes Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, South Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States and the European Union. Spain holds a permanent guest seat.

Some observers of the bloc, like Josh Lipsky, senior director of the Atlantic Council's GeoEconomics Center, question whether the G-20 can even function as geopolitical rifts grow.

"I'm skeptical that it can survive long-term in its current format," he said in a briefing last week.

That makes things especially tough on host Indonesia.

"This is not the G-20 they signed up for," Lipsky said. "The last thing they wanted was to be in the middle of this geopolitical fight, this war in Europe, and be the crossroads of it. But that's where they are."

Artemisia Gentileschi's 1616 nude to be digitally unveiled

By TRISHA THOMAS Associated Press

FLORENCE, Italy (AP) — Art restorers in the Italian city of Florence have begun a six-month project to clean and virtually "unveil" a long-censored nude painting by Artemisia Gentileschi, one of the most prominent women in the history of Italian art.

Swirling veils and drapery were added to the "Allegory of Inclination" some 70 years after Gentileschi painted the life-size female nude, believed to be a self-portrait, in 1616.

The work to reveal the image as originally painted comes as Gentileschi's contribution to Italian Baroque art is getting renewed attention in the #MeToo era, both for her artistic achievements but also for breaking into the male-dominated art world after being raped by one of her art teachers.

Her work was featured in a 2020 exhibit at the National Gallery in London.

"Through her, we can talk about how important it is to restore artwork, how important it is to restore the stories of women to the forefront," said Linda Falcone, coordinator of the Artemisia Up Close project.

"Allegory of Inclination" originally was commissioned for the family home of Michelangelo Buonarroti the Younger, the great-nephew of the famed artist. The building later became the Casa Buonarroti museum, and the painting was displayed until recently on the ceiling in a gilded frame. When lead conservator Elizabeth Wick removed the painting in late September, a shower of 400-year-old dust was released.

Wick's team of restorers is using ultraviolet light, diagnostic imaging and X-rays to differentiate Gentileschi's brush strokes from those of the artist that covered the nudity. The public can watch the project underway at the museum through April 23.

Restorers won't be able to remove the veils because the cover-up was done too soon after the original, raising the risk that Gentileschi's painting would be damaged in the process.

Instead, the restoration team plans to create a digital image of the original version that will be displayed in an exhibition on the project opening in September 2023.

Gentileschi arrived in Florence shortly after the trial in Rome of her rapist, during which the then-17-year-old was forced to testify with ropes tied around her fingers that were progressively tightened in a test of her honesty.

She also had to endure a physical examination in the courtroom behind a curtain to confirm that she was no longer a virgin. Eventually, her rapist was convicted and sentenced to eight months in prison.

"Somebody else would have been crushed by this experience," Wick said. "But Artemisia bounces back. She comes up to Florence. She gets this wonderful commission to paint a full-length nude figure for the ceiling of Casa Buonarroti. So, I think she's showing people, 'This is what I can do.'"

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 49 of 77

While in Florence, Gentileschi also won commissions from the Medici family. Her distinctive, dramatic and energetic style emerged, taking inspiration from the most renowned Baroque painter of the time, Caravaggio. Many of her paintings featured female heroines, often in violent scenes and often nude.

She was 22 when she painted "Allegory of Inclination," which was commissioned by Michelangelo Buonarroti the Younger. Another member of the family, Leonardo Buonarroti, decided to have it embellished to protect the sensibilities of his wife and children.

"This is one of her first paintings. In the Florentine context, it was her debut painting, the same year she was then accepted into the Academy of Drawing, which was the first drawing academy in Europe at the time," Falcone said.

With the younger Michelangelo as her patron, Gentileschi gained entry to the cultural milieu of the time.

"She was able to hobnob with Galileo and with other great thinkers. So this almost illiterate woman was suddenly at the university level, producing works of art that were then, you know, appreciated by the Grand Duke," Falcone said. "And she became a courtly painter from then on."

Faithful mates, hot tempers form primal life for gannets

By CALVIN WOODWARD, CAROLYN KASTER and LYNN BERRY Associated Press

PERCE, Quebec (AP) — Northern gannets share two maxims familiar to humans: "home sweet home" and "don't tread on me."

They pack together on a Bonaventure Island plateau like New York commuters jamming a subway, only they're louder. They are devoted parents and could teach humans a thing or two about loyalty in marriage.

Year after year, gannet pairs come separately from distant, scattered Atlantic waters to reunite, mate again and raise new chicks on the precise nesting spots they called home before heading south for the winter.

The island just off Quebec's Gaspé Peninsula offers remarkable insights into the northern gannets because they are easily accessible in vast numbers, seem to ignore humans and unlike many seabird species put up with being studied and tagged.

Their struggles to feed and breed in a warming climate are being closely watched by scientists.

Some of the lessons learned here and from other colonies about the life of the gannets:

MATES FOR LIFE: The gannets appear to be better than humans at monogamy, despite spending half the year apart, or perhaps because of that.

Marine biologist David Pelletier, an expert on their nest behavior who teaches at Cegep de Rimouski, found that 69% remain "faithful;" meaning they breed with the same mate for life; 22% are "divorced," meaning they find new mates; 9% are widowed.

By contrast, about one third of Americans who have ever been married have gone through divorce.

YES, BUT: It's all about home base, not romance, say the scientists — though does anyone really know what's in a gannet's heart?

"Gannets are above all faithful to their territory, which explains why they are still quite faithful to their partner," Pelletier said.

That primal need to reunite on the same exact patch of ground comes with a striking hostility to intruders from the neighborhood. The birds do not want the next gannet over to get in their territory, even as they reside barely a wingspan apart. That's when things get ugly. They nip, screech and may fight to exhaustion, sometimes death.

PARENTHOOD: The mates take turns going to sea for fish and feeding the young. They're so intent on nourishing their chicks that the fledglings grow larger and chubbier than their parents by the time of the winter migration south. They'll burn off that fat at sea as they learn over time how to dive and fly like the grownups.

YES, BUT: A chick that wanders from the nest is in great peril, both from other adult gannets that may attack it as an interloper and from its own parents, which may not recognize it as theirs when it returns.

"At a few weeks old, if it is attacked by adult gannets, it's fatal — whether it's its parents or not," Pel-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 50 of 77

letier said. "As it grows older, the chick develops a strong neck which allows it to withstand attacks by other gannets."

GANNET-SPEAK: The birds make a racket with their raucous calling and clacking, but their communication is a full body affair.

A gannet alone on the nest will often shake its head from side to side, then dip its head under each wing as if checking for body odor. Translation: stay away or else.

A hungry gannet tells its mate that it is leaving the nest to fish by pointing its beak straight up at the sky.

A gannet returning to the nest is welcomed by the mate with a click-clack-click-clack of bills that makes them sound like actors fencing in an old B movie.

If a chick pecks at a parent's beak, it is asking for food, which comes in the form of partially digested fish. Yum.

Saudi Arabia has 'green vision' at COP27, critics unmoved

By KELVIN CHAN AP Business Writer

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP) — Hydrogen cars and vehicles that capture their tailpipe pollutants. Computer mice made from recycled ocean waste plastic. Hundreds of millions of trees planted in the desert. Saudi Arabia's vision of an environmentally friendly future is on display just a short drive from the venue of the U.N. climate summit being held in Egypt.

What's not highlighted in the glossy gallery are the earth-warming fossil fuels that the country continues to pump out of the ground for global export. Fossil fuel emissions are the reason why negotiators from nearly 200 countries have gathered at the annual two-week conference, haggling over how pollution can be cut and how fast to do it.

In and around the conference, Saudi Arabia is presenting itself as a leader in green energies and eco-friendly practices, with flashy pavilions, glossy presentations and optimistic assessments of technologies like carbon capture, which can remove carbon dioxide from the air but is costly and years away from being deployed at scale.

"We have hugely ambitious goals and targets," Saudi climate envoy Adel al-Jubeir said at the two-day Saudi Green Initiative Forum on COP27's sidelines. "We want to be an example to the world in terms of what can be done."

The effort is part of a large push by Saudi Arabia, which has some of the world's largest reserves of oil and is a leader of the OPEC oil cartel, to make the case that the nation should be part of the transition to renewable energies while holding on to its role as the top global crude oil exporter. That vision is sharply contested by climate scientists and environmental experts, who argue that Saudi Arabia and other countries with large reserves of oil simply want to distract the world to continue with business as usual.

The Saudi energy minister, Prince Abdulaziz bin Salman al Saud, announced a raft of new green projects or updates to existing ones, from beefed up tree planting pledges to fresh solar energy projects in the pipeline.

Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman launched his Saudi Green Initiative at last year's COP26 conference in Glasgow, Scotland, with a target for "net zero" greenhouse gas emissions by 2060, which he changed to 2050 at the start of this year's meeting.

Still, energy exports are the Saudi economy's mainstay, earning \$150 billion in annual revenue, despite efforts to diversify revenue as the global transition away from fossil fuel reliance accelerates.

At the Saudi forum, officials and invited guest speakers from renewable energy companies held forth on topics like clean hydrogen, greening the desert, and a futuristic desert city project called Neom.

State-owned oil giant Saudi Aramco's CEO, Amin Nasser, said the world needs more investment in oil and gas, not less, a message at odds with the sentiment among many country delegations and climate experts and activists attending COP27.

"I'm concerned because of lack of investment in the oil and gas in particular," said Nasser, touching on

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 51 of 77

a frequent theme. Saudi Arabia has resisted calls to urgently phase out fossil fuels, warning that a premature switch has led to price spikes and shortages.

"Yes, there is good investment happening in the alternatives," such as wind and solar power, he said, adding that the amount of money spent on oil production capacity has fallen to \$400 billion a year from \$700 billion in 2014.

"That is not enough to meet global demand in the mid to long term," he said.

An Aramco spokesman said Nasser wasn't available for an interview.

Among the Saudi announcements, there were plans to set up a regional center to "advance emissions reductions" and one to host a regional climate week ahead of next year's COP meeting.

There's also a plan for 13 renewable energy projects with a total generating capacity of 11.4 gigawatts, though experts said that's a step back from numbers announced in previous years.

Once they're up and running, the new energy projects will cut carbon dioxide emissions by about 20 million tons a year.

Saudi Aramco plans to build the world's biggest carbon capture and storage hub, which will store up to 9 million tons of carbon dioxide when its up and running in 2027.

It's all part of the kingdom's pledged to cut emissions by 278 million tons a year by 2030. That's still small compared to about 10 billion metric tons of carbon spewed globally into the air annually.

The kingdom also upgraded its tree planting goal to 600 million by 2030, including mangroves, up from its 450 million initial target.

Climate experts weren't convinced.

"Saudi Arabia would be better placed to focus on cutting emissions rather than relying on carbon capture and storage and questionable reductions from planting trees, the offsets of which would simply allow them to continue increasing emissions from burning fossil fuels," said Mia Moasio, an energy policy expert focusing on Middle East and North Africa at the New Climate Institute think tank.

"To keep emissions on a 1.5°C pathway, all governments must focus on cutting fossil fuel emissions, not offsetting them."

The Climate Action Tracker, operated by the institute and its partners, rates Saudi Arabia as "highly insufficient."

The tracker analyzes nations' climate targets and policies compared to the goals of the 2015 Paris Agreement that spells out ideally limiting the Earth's temperature rise to 1.5 Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit).

Saudi authorities are promoting what they call a "circular carbon economy" to cut emissions from oil and gas operations, but the tracker says this it "only addresses a fraction of relevant emissions in Saudi Arabia and globally, as most emissions related to oil and gas come from fuel combustion rather than extraction and processing."

Saudi Arabia's oil and gas assets spew 900 million tons of emissions a year, according to an inventory of top known sources of greenhouse gas emitters compiled by the Climate TRACE coalition and launched at COP27.

There's also a plan for a greenhouse gas crediting and offsetting scheme next year, with few details. Carbon credits, which allow countries and companies to pay to reduce their carbon footprints, say by planting trees, have become increasingly controversial, with critics saying they're a license for polluting companies to keep polluting.

At least year's talks in Glasgow, Saudi Arabia faced accusations that its negotiators were working to block climate measures that would threaten demand for oil - a charge that the energy minister called a lie.

As negotiations on the final agreement head into their second and final week, watchdog groups warned about the influence of so-called petrostates and industry lobbyists. They counted 636 people linked to fossil fuel companies on the meeting's provisional list of participants, a quarter more than last year's tally.

"The Saudis may well be coming to COP27 with a green hat on and extolling the virtues of planting trees, but this is a state that continues to profit wildly from the destructive practices causing the climate crisis," said Alice Harrison, a campaigner at Global Witness, one of the groups that did the count. "Any

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 52 of 77

exhibitions, talks or shows to the contrary are pure greenwashing.”

Climate reshapes life for tenacious gannets on Quebec isle

By CALVIN WOODWARD, LYNN BERRY, CAROLYN KASTER and CHRISTINA LARSON Associated Press PERCE, Quebec (AP) — On Quebec’s Bonaventure Island, the ghosts of human habitation from years past and the birds that breed there now in extraordinary numbers tell the same story: of lives lived hard in a place of fairy-tale beauty.

You see this from the tender ages on the family gravestones of islanders who scratched out a living from the late 1700s to when Bonaventure went entirely to the birds a half century ago.

You see it from the tenacious colony of 100,000-plus northern gannets as they plunge into the sea for prey, soar back to their nests and fight at the least provocation, sometimes to the death, for their territory on a plateau high above the waters or in crannies of the cliffs.

Nothing is easy for the gannets. Not in this age of warming seas, competition with trawlers for fish, pollution, supercharged storms and the onset of avian flu.

That’s especially so when those perils are combined with their curious compulsion, shared by many seabirds, to return each spring to the exact spot they left the year before. For these spirited divas, the next nesting spot over just won’t do.

Worldwide, it remains difficult or impossible to tie any one massive die-off of seabirds or breeding calamity solely to global warming, for nature has its own jarring rhythms of abundance and deprivation.

But the evidence writ large, over decades, is unassailable: Warming and rising seas and the erratic weather events fueled by a changing climate are taking a heavy toll on seabirds. University of British Columbia researchers say seabird populations have fallen 70% since the mid-20th century.

Climate-related losses have, for example, hit albatrosses in the central Pacific, common murrelets and Cassin’s auklets along the U.S. West Coast, puffins off the Maine coast, penguins in South Africa, endangered roseate terns off New England, and brown pelicans on vanishing islands off southeastern Louisiana.

The struggles of many seabird species occur in marine wilderness far from humans. Those of the Bonaventure gannets, however, play out in plain sight, in a gift to scientists and the public, on the protected grounds of the Quebec government’s Parc national de l’Île-Bonaventure-et-du-Rocher-Perce.

The Bonaventure gannets display a “clumsy and funny little side on land which has nothing to do with what it is when it is at sea,” said David Pelletier, a leading Quebec researcher of the birds.

At sea the gannets are magnificent in their grace and power.

Using air currents off the water, they fly effortlessly high over the sea and dive nearly straight down in their hunt for fish, piercing the surface at 100 kilometers (60 miles) an hour like so many white missiles. Their black-tipped wings, which span 2 meters (6 feet), are tightly tucked behind them.

They dive in huge numbers near the island when mackerel — the prey that gives them the most energy — or herring or other smaller fish are abundant there.

It’s a sight that amazes even the most seasoned scientists every time. “It’s so wow,” said Magella Guillemette, a pre-eminent gannet researcher at the University of Quebec in Rimouski, as he described watching the feeding frenzy from his small boat in the thick of it.

With the island less than 3 kilometers (under 2 miles) from the Perce harbor, these Bonaventure birds are remarkably accessible to biologists and visitors who hike on trails thick with wildflowers in summer to see the birds up close. The clamor of the birds greets the hikers even before the full colony comes into view.

The gannets, unlike many other seabirds, seem utterly indifferent to humans. They gaze right through you with their porcelain blue eyes.

“It’s rare that we have the possibility to look at wild animals like this,” said Marie-Dominique Nadeau-Girard, the park’s services manager. “And they stay there, they don’t look at you, they live their life, and you’re just looking at them and learning.”

Guillemette’s student researchers are busy each summer studying the birds. Over the years, they have put leg bands and GPS systems on hundreds of them. What’s striking about gannets is that the research-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 53 of 77

ers can simply pick them up, without fear of disturbing their nests.

"You just catch that bird," Guillemette said. "You weigh them, you put some devices on them and then you put it back to the nest and it's just staying there."

THE ECO-SENTINELS

All of this makes the Bonaventure gannets ideal sentinels for the health of the marine ecosystem in the gulf and clattering storytellers to the planet. They form the world's second largest gannet colony and are easier to reach than the largest, on Scotland's remote Bass Island.

Québec's on-the-ground experts on the colony, Canadian government biologists, and seabird scientists globally say there is little to no question that global warming is reshaping the lives of the northern gannets. Warmer sea temperatures drive their prey to cooler depths, distant waters or both.

But the full impact of climate change is not yet established and overfishing may be an even greater danger.

In tandem, the threats from fishing and warming are forcing the gannets to go farther from their Bonaventure nests in search of food for their island chicks and themselves. The distance the birds fly on a single fishing trip has more than doubled in recent years to an average of 500 kilometers (300 miles), leaving one mate and the chick waiting several days or longer to be fed by the hunter, Guillemette said.

If the mate on the nest gets too weak from hunger, it may fly off for food, too, leaving the young one to starve or to wander from the nest and risk being killed by an adult. Like many seabirds, adult gannets are highly territorial and may kill any intruders to their nesting areas; AP journalists witnessed two such deadly attacks on the young on a day shortly before the winter migration.

Researchers have been able to draw a strong correlation between the supply of mackerel in the gulf and the number of chicks produced. In 2012, when there were almost no mackerel, only 4% of the nests produced a chick, Guillemette said, a record low attributed to unusually warm waters that year.

Since then, productivity has been highly variable year to year while remaining low on average, said seabird biologist Jean-François Rail of the Canadian Wildlife Service, an agency of Environment and Climate Change Canada.

"Everything points in the direction of reduced availability of mackerel and herring, which results in lower breeding success," he said.

What's clear is that birds now need to work harder to find food. Beginning in 2012, Guillemette's researchers began outfitting gannets with a GPS device, in little boxes taped above their tails, which lets them track how far they fly, how deep they dive, and how many times they dive each day.

In March, just as the spring fishing season was opening, Canada shut commercial fishing for Atlantic mackerel and spring herring in the southern Gulf of St. Lawrence, saying stocks had entered a "critical zone." Earlier efforts to restore stocks failed, in part because warmer waters had depleted the microscopic crustaceans that are the main food for the fish.

Mackerel is a star of the gulf ecosystem, not only for gannets. They're prized as a commercial species as well as bait for the lucrative lobster, crab and tuna fisheries. The gulf's abundant grey seals gobble as many as they can get. With all the competition for food, gannets have found ways to adapt, but at a cost.

This year, the Bonaventure colony also had to contend with the avian flu. The contamination rate was high in the spring, Guillemette said, but faded. Other colonies in Canada had it much worse.

COLONY LIFE

Over winter, northern gannets are solitary birds that live widely dispersed on the water — along the Atlantic coast from Maine to Florida, some even in the Gulf of Mexico. But mates reunite year after year on their breeding grounds, for 15 years or so, producing one chick each season.

They have a monogamous nature and an elaborate means of communicating mate to mate. In gannet-speak, a beak turned skyward signals it's time to go forage; mates clacking their bills together as if in a swordfight signal a welcome home after the hunt.

You might think they are lovebirds; alas, these sentinels are not sentimental.

"People are more romantic and think they are faithful to their partner, but it's not the case," Nadeau-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 54 of 77

Girard says with a laugh. "The gannet is faithful to his territory, his nest.

"And if the baby goes out of the nest, the parents won't recognize him because ... they recognize the nest, not the individual. Each time they see each other it's like they meet for the first time."

The nests are only 80 centimeters (30 inches) apart, center to center, and these are sizable birds. At certain vantage points, the colony appears as a carpet of white as far as the eye can see, dotted with the dark-feathered young ones, and all of it against the backdrop of sea and sky.

The birds arrive in April, lay their eggs in May and tend them until they hatch more than 40 days later. Then it's three months of raising the chicks. By the time of the southern migration in late September or early October, the young are plenty plump, weighing 1 kilogram (over 2 pounds) more than their parents. The extra fat will sustain them at sea as they learn to fly and dive for fish.

There are no training wheels for the portly juveniles. Instead, lots of practice beating their wings on the ground, followed by a departure from the cliffs that is part flight, part plop.

If they survive that, the journey south will teach them their grace and power on the wing and into the deep.

A MYSTICAL LANDSCAPE

From the town of Percé, the mainland cliffs with the red-roofed houses, the commanding Perce Rock and Bonaventure Island make for an iconic panorama, and a mystical one for the people of the Gaspé Peninsula and travelers from around the world.

When boats bring visitors to the island, park employees corral them to explain the trails and what they can and cannot do. Services are primarily in French. On a September day, the multilingual Rudiger Spraul pulled aside the English-speaking visitors to give them the drill.

He came from Germany, fell in love with the place and spent the summer and early fall working for the park until it closed last month after the gannets left for the winter. He looked out on the colony every day from a small food operation where visitors can picnic and hope they aren't leeward of the day's winds, for the colony can stink.

"It gave me so much peace that I decided I'm going to stay here," he said. "I'm actually an engineer. Now I'm selling sandwiches on this lonesome spot.

"The island is such a beautiful small little paradise. It's like time stands still there. You go there, you see that old houses, no people living for so many years, but still you can get the impression how it was there, how hard it was."

The island was settled in the late 18th century by cod fishermen, reaching its population peak of 172 in 1831. The last remaining families left in 1971 when it was taken over by the government to become part of the park.

Altogether, some 250,000 birds inhabit the teardrop-shaped island, about 3 kilometers (under 2 miles) at its longest. Seals frequent the rocks and shore and whales are a common sight. Foxes poke from island bushes and snag an occasional gannet on the colony's periphery.

They're all out making a living in a changing ecosystem that tests the ability of creatures great and small to adapt.

"The northern gannet is, for me, a resilient species, strong, capable of 'turning on a dime' ... as we say in Quebec, 'se tourner sur un 10 cents,'" said Pelletier, a teacher-researcher at Cégep de Rimouski, a public college.

How much and how fast must they pivot as their habitat and our planet continue to warm? What fish will be there for them in the spring, and how far and how deep will they be? Bonaventure's sentinels will be back next year to tell more of that tale.

After hurricanes, program aims to help alleviate stress

By REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

SLIDELL, La. (AP) — The 10 women gathered on yoga mats in a New Orleans suburb, the lights dimmed.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 55 of 77

"I'd like to invite you to close your eyes," instructor Stephanie Osborne said in a soothing voice from the front of the room. The only other noises were the hum of the air conditioner and the distant sounds of children playing in a nearby field.

For the next hour the women focused on various mindfulness exercises designed to help them deal with the stress of everyday life.

The six-week mindfulness program in Slidell, Louisiana, is the brainchild of Kentrell Jones, the executive director of East St. Tammany Habitat for Humanity, who was concerned about the health of her colleagues and others affected by Hurricane Ida, which ripped through this region east of New Orleans last year.

Participants meet for an hour once a week for six weeks beginning with the inaugural session this fall and plans for future sessions next year.

Prospective participants, who had to be living in the parish during Hurricane Ida, filled out a survey asking them questions such as whether they had struggled with lack of sleep or had problems paying bills or having to relocate since the hurricane. They don't have to be clients of Habitat for Humanity's housing programs, although some are.

Jones said the organization's clients have struggled with being displaced from their homes, trying to complete repairs while dealing with insurance and living through another hurricane season in which the calendar is filled with anniversaries of previous storms and everyone keeps an eye glued to the television for weather alerts.

One family she works with had to move to Mississippi in the aftermath of Ida while their tree-damaged home was repaired. Just as the repairs were completed, the husband died of a heart attack.

"You have people that are stressed," she emphasized.

The program hits on a growing concern — the long-term stress that extreme weather events such as hurricanes can take on the people who live through them. People who work in hurricane-affected areas often talk about the stress the long rebuilding process can take on people and the anxiety stirred up during hurricane season.

In late August, with anniversaries of Hurricanes Katrina and Ida looming, the New Orleans emergency preparedness social media feed reminded residents of something called the "anniversary effect," which might trigger feelings of depression or PTSD. After Hurricane Ian hit Florida in September, two men in their 70s took their own lives after seeing their losses.

In the north shore region of Louisiana, local mental health officials note that hurricanes are often followed by increased suicides in ensuing years. Nick Richard, who heads the local branch of the National Alliance on Mental Health, said that following 2005's Hurricane Katrina suicides climbed by 46% in 2007. Other events such as 2008's Hurricane Gustav or the 2016 floods have shown similar jumps.

Research also suggests extreme weather events such as hurricanes can have long-term health effects on survivors. A Tulane University study found hospital admissions for heart attacks were three times higher after Katrina than before the storm.

Another study published earlier this year looked at mortality rates for counties that experienced a tropical cyclone over a 30-year period, from 1988 to 2018. The research found there were increases for certain types of deaths, including cardiovascular and respiratory disease in the six months after landfall — suggesting death tolls often tabulated in the initial weeks after a storm might be undercounted.

The study's lead author, Robbie Parks, assistant professor of environmental health sciences at Columbia University, said while major hurricanes such as this year's Ian get a lot of attention, his research suggested repeated strikes with weaker cyclones also take a toll. He's concerned the full extent of events like hurricanes aren't being captured. It's an "incredible challenge" just counting the dead after a hurricane, he said.

"What if someone has a heart attack in the week after a hurricane?" he said. "Then you're getting into subjective territory."

One of the women taking part in the inaugural meditation course is Louise Mace of Slidell. She had just opened her shop selling home decor goods when Katrina wiped it out in 2005. Then, last year, Hurricane Ida's winds and a tornado damaged her roof; she's been battling with her insurance carrier ever since as

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 56 of 77

she lives in a camper.

The stress has taken a toll on Mace's health with her blood pressure jumping up and down. Her doctor recommended meditation and then she ran into Jones, who recruited her for the course. Mace said it has helped her learn techniques to deal with the stress and also to know she's not alone.

"You think you're dealing. You think you're fine. You're not. Listening to other people made it better," Mace said.

The program is funded by the Northshore Community Foundation. Susan Bonnett, the foundation's president and CEO, says in the immediate aftermath of events like hurricanes the foundation would receive funding requests around traditional post-disaster needs — tarps for damaged roofs, for example.

But the foundation also noticed funding requests for mental health services months after the storm. At the same time, there was a dearth of mental health services in the region so the organization started looking for creative ways like Kentrell's mindfulness proposal to address the problems they knew would build after events like Ida.

The mindfulness classes are designed to build skills that the participants can use to address any stresses in their lives, whether those are weather-related or something else like a conflict with a family member.

Instructor Stephanie Osborne says people don't always realize the mental strain that extreme weather can cause.

Take the lead-up to Hurricane Ian, for example, when it wasn't yet clear the storm was going to hit Florida and not Louisiana. Some of the women gathered outside the community room after the class and talked about whether they needed to book a hotel room in Baton Rouge or get gas for the generator. All of that buildup takes a toll, Osborne said.

"There is an anxiety, a stress around that, especially for folks who are struggling financially," she said. And if people aren't aware of how much anxiety they're holding inside, it can affect things like their health or their jobs: "It starts spilling out in other ways."

Biden-Xi summit: What Biden wants, what Xi wants

By SEUNG MIN KIM and JOE MCDONALD Associated Press

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — There won't be concessions from the U.S. side. No real deliverables, which is government-speak for specific achievements. Don't expect a cheery joint statement, either.

During President Joe Biden's highly anticipated meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping on Monday, the leaders will be circling each other to game out how to manage a relationship that the U.S. has determined poses the biggest economic and military threat.

At the same time, U.S. officials have repeatedly stressed that they see the two countries' interactions as one of competition — and that they want to avoid conflict.

Here's a look at what each side is hoping to achieve out of the leaders' first in-person encounter as presidents, to be held on the island of Bali in Indonesia:

FOR THE UNITED STATES

Essentially, Biden and other U.S. officials are trying to understand where Xi really stands.

In a news conference shortly before leaving Washington, Biden said he wanted to "lay out ... what each of our red lines are, understand what he believes to be in the critical national interests of China, what I know to be the critical interests of the United States."

That mission has become all the more imperative since the conclusion of the Communist Party congress in Beijing, during which Xi secured a norm-breaking third term as leader, empowering him even further.

It's a goal that will be much more readily achieved in person, White House officials say, despite Biden and Xi's five video or phone calls during the U.S. president's term.

Biden told reporters on Sunday that he's "always had straightforward discussions" with Xi, and that has prevented either of them from "miscalculations" of their intentions.

"I know him well, he knows me," Biden said. "We've just got to figure out where the red lines are and what are the most important things to each of us, going into the next two years."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 57 of 77

The U.S. president will want to send a message to Xi on White House concerns about China's economic practices. Taiwan is sure to come up, and Biden will want to emphasize to Xi that the U.S. will stand ready to defend the self-governing island should it come under attack by China. Biden also will seek to make clear his concerns about Beijing's human rights practices, as he has in their previous interactions.

Biden will also use the meeting to press for a more aggressive posture from Xi on Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The Chinese leader has largely refrained from public criticism of Vladimir Putin's actions while declining to actively aid Moscow by supplying arms.

"We believe that, of course, every country in the world should do more to prevail upon Russia, especially those who have relationships with Russia, to end this war and leave Ukraine," said U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan.

Finally, U.S. officials say they're eager to see where the two superpowers could actually collaborate. Though there are numerous areas in which Biden and Xi won't see eye to eye, the White House has listed several issues where they conceivably could, including health, counternarcotics and climate change.

FOR CHINA

Xi has yet to give a wish list for talks with Biden, but Beijing wants U.S. action on trade and Taiwan.

Perhaps most importantly, the Group of 20 gathering in Bali and the meeting with Biden give China's most powerful leader in decades a stage to promote his country's image as a global player and himself as a history-making figure who is restoring its rightful role as an economic and political force.

China pursues "increasingly assertive foreign and security policies aimed at changing the international status quo," Kevin Rudd, a former Australian prime minister who is president of the Asia Society, wrote in Foreign Affairs. That has strained relations with Washington, Europe and China's Asian neighbors, but Xi is unfazed and looks set to be more ambitious abroad.

The meeting is "an important event of China's head-of-state diplomacy toward the Asia Pacific," said a foreign ministry spokesman, Zhao Lijian. He said Xi will "deliver an important speech" on economic growth.

Zhao called on the Biden administration to "stop politicizing" trade and embrace Beijing's claim to sovereignty over Taiwan, the self-ruled island democracy that split with the mainland in 1949 and never has been part of the People's Republic of China.

Beijing wants Washington to lift tariffs imposed by former President Donald Trump in 2019 and to pull back on increasing restrictions on Chinese access to processor chips and other U.S. technology. Biden has left most of those in place and added curbs on access to technology that American officials say can be used in weapons development.

"The United States needs to stop politicizing, weaponizing and ideologizing trade issues," Zhao said.

Xi's government has stepped up efforts to intimidate the elected government of Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen by flying fighter planes near the island and firing missiles into the sea.

Beijing broke off talks with Washington on security, climate cooperation and other issues after U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan in August in a show of support for its government.

"The United States needs to stop obscuring, hollowing out and distorting the 'one-China principle,'" said Zhao, referring to Beijing's stance that Taiwan is obligated to join the mainland under Communist Party leadership.

Another goal for Xi: Don't get COVID-19.

The G-20 will be only Xi's second foreign trip in 2 1/2 years while his government enforces a severe "Zero COVID" strategy that shut down cities and kept most visitors out of China.

Xi broke that moratorium by attending a September summit with Putin and Central Asian leaders. But he skipped a dinner and photo session where Putin and others wore no masks.

Democrats keep Senate majority as GOP push falters in Nevada

By WILL WEISSERT, JILL COLVIN and SARA BURNETT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Democrats kept control of the Senate on Saturday, repelling Republican efforts to retake the chamber and making it harder for them to thwart President Joe Biden's agenda. The fate of

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 58 of 77

the House was still uncertain as the GOP struggled to pull together a slim majority there.

Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto's victory in Nevada gave Democrats the 50 seats they needed to keep the Senate. Her win reflects the surprising strength of Democrats across the U.S. this election year. Seeking reelection in an economically challenged state that has some of the highest gas prices in the nation, Cortez Masto was considered the Senate's most vulnerable member, adding to the frustration of Republicans who were confident she could be defeated.

"We got a lot done and we'll do a lot more for the American people," Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said Saturday night. "The American people rejected — soundly rejected — the anti-democratic, authoritarian, nasty and divisive direction the MAGA Republicans wanted to take our country."

With the results in Nevada now decided, Georgia is the only state where both parties are still competing for a Senate seat. Democratic incumbent Sen. Raphael Warnock faces GOP challenger Herschel Walker in a Dec. 6 runoff. Alaska's Senate race has advanced to ranked choice voting, though the seat will stay in Republican hands.

Democratic control of the Senate ensures a smoother process for Biden's Cabinet appointments and judicial picks, including those for potential Supreme Court openings. The party will also keep control over committees and have the power to conduct investigations or oversight of the Biden administration, and will be able to reject legislation sent over by the House if the GOP wins that chamber.

In Phnom Penh, Cambodia, for the summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Biden said of the election results: "I feel good. I'm looking forward to the next couple of years."

He said winning a 51st seat from the Georgia runoff would be important and allow Democrats to boost their standing on Senate committees.

"It's just simply better," Biden said. "The bigger the number, the better."

If Democrats manage to pull off a win in the House, it would mean full control of Congress for Democrats — and another chance to advance Biden priorities, which he has said include codifying abortion rights. The party still lacks the 60 votes in the Senate needed to move many kinds of major legislative changes.

Biden, who called to congratulate Cortez Masto, said he was still hopeful that Democrats could hold the House.

"It's a stretch," he acknowledged. "Everything has to fall our way."

The Senate fight had hinged on a handful of deeply contested seats. Both parties spent tens of millions of dollars in Pennsylvania, Arizona, Nevada and Georgia, the top battlegrounds where Democrats had hoped that Republicans' decision to nominate untested candidates — many backed by former President Donald Trump — would help them defy national headwinds.

Democrats scored a big win in Pennsylvania, where Lt. Gov. John Fetterman defeated celebrity heart surgeon Dr. Mehmet Oz, who was endorsed by Trump, to pick up a seat currently held by a Republican. Arizona Sen. Mark Kelly won reelection by about 5 percentage points.

A closely divided swing state, Nevada is one of the most racially diverse in the nation, a working-class state whose residents have been especially hard-hit by inflation and other economic turmoil. Roughly three-fourths of Nevada voters said the country is headed in the wrong direction, and about half called the economy the most important issue facing the country, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of 2,100 of the state's voters.

Heading into the midterm election, Republicans focused relentlessly on the economy, a top concern for many voters amid stubborn inflation and high gas and food prices. The GOP also hit Democrats on crime, a message that sometimes overstated the threat but nonetheless tapped into anxiety, particularly among the suburban voters who turned away from the party in 2018 and 2020. And they highlighted illegal border crossings, accusing Biden and other Democrats of failing to protect the country.

But Democrats were buoyed by voters angry about the Supreme Court's June decision overturning the constitutional right to an abortion. They also portrayed Republicans as too extreme and a threat to democracy, following the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol and Trump's false claims — repeated by many GOP candidates — that the 2020 election was stolen from him.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 59 of 77

Schumer said Democratic candidates' promises to defend abortion rights resonated with voters. He said the election results made him feel good about the country and its commitment to democracy.

"We knew that the negativity, the nastiness, the condoning of Donald Trump's big lie — and saying that the elections were rigged when there's no proof of that at all — would hurt Republicans, not help them," Schumer said. "But too many of them, and their candidates, fell into those traps."

Referring to Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan, Schumer said voters had rejected "extremist MAGA Republicans."

Nationally, VoteCast showed that 7 in 10 voters said the Supreme Court's decision on *Roe v. Wade* was an important factor in their midterm decisions. It also showed the reversal was broadly unpopular. And roughly 6 in 10 said they favor a law guaranteeing access to legal abortion nationwide.

Half of voters said inflation factored significantly in their vote, while 44% said the future of democracy was their primary consideration.

Beyond Congress, Democrats won key governors' races in Wisconsin, Michigan and Pennsylvania — battlegrounds critical to Biden's 2020 win over Trump. Republicans, though, held governors' mansions in Florida, Texas and Georgia — another battleground state Biden narrowly won two years ago.

Though the midterms failed to deliver Republican romps, Trump remains a major factor in the national party and plans to announce his a third run for the presidency Tuesday at his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida — setting up a potential rematch for the White House with Biden.

"I think the Republican Party is going to have to ... decide who they are," Biden said.

Two historic aircraft collide at Veterans Day show in Dallas

By LM OTERO and JILL BLEED Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — Two historic military aircraft collided and crashed Saturday during an air show in Dallas, exploding into a ball of flames and sending black smoke billowing into the sky. It was not clear how many people were on board.

Emergency crews raced to the crash scene at the Dallas Executive Airport, about 10 miles (16 kilometers) from the city's downtown. News footage from the scene showed crumpled wreckage of the planes in a grassy area inside the airport perimeter. Dallas Fire-Rescue told The Dallas Morning News that there were no reported injuries among people on the ground.

Anthony Montoya saw the two planes collide.

"I just stood there. I was in complete shock and disbelief," said Montoya, 27, who attended the air show with a friend. "Everybody around was gasping. Everybody was bursting into tears. Everybody was in shock."

Officials would not say how many people were on board the planes, but Hank Coates, president of the company that put on the airshow, said one of the planes, a B-17 Flying Fortress bomber, typically has a crew of four to five people. The other, a P-63 Kingcobra fighter plane, has a single pilot.

No paying customers were on the aircraft, said Coates, of Commemorative Air Force, which also owned the planes. Their aircraft are flown by highly trained volunteers, often retired pilots, he said.

A team of National Transportation Safety Board investigators will arrive at the scene of the crash on Sunday.

Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson said the NTSB had taken control of the crash scene, with local police and fire providing support.

"The videos are heartbreaking," Johnson said on Twitter.

The planes collided and crashed around 1:20 p.m., the Federal Aviation Administration said in a statement. The collision occurred during the Commemorative Air Force Wings Over Dallas show.

Victoria Yeager, the widow of famed Air Force test pilot Chuck Yeager and herself a pilot, was also at the show. She didn't see the collision, but did see the burning wreckage.

"It was pulverized," said Yeager, 64, who lives in Fort Worth.

"We were just hoping they had all gotten out, but we knew they didn't," she said of those on board.

The B-17, a cornerstone of U.S. air power during World War II, is an immense four-engine bomber used

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 60 of 77

in daylight raids against Germany. The Kingcobra, a U.S. fighter plane, was used mostly by Soviet forces during the war. Most B-17s were scrapped at the end of World War II and only a handful remain today, largely featured at museums and air shows, according to Boeing.

Several videos posted on social media showed the fighter plane appearing to fly into the bomber, causing them to quickly crash to the ground and setting off a large ball of fire and smoke.

"It was really horrific to see," Aubrey Anne Young, 37, of Leander, Texas, who saw the crash. Her children were inside the hangar with their father when it occurred. "I'm still trying to make sense of it."

A woman next to Young can be heard crying and screaming hysterically on a video that Young uploaded to her Facebook page.

Air show safety - particularly with older military aircraft - has been a concern for years. In 2011, 11 people were killed in Reno, Nevada, when a P-51 Mustang crashed into spectators. In 2019, a bomber crashed in Hartford, Connecticut, killing seven people. The NTSB said then that it had investigated 21 accidents since 1982 involving World War II-era bombers, resulting in 23 deaths.

Wings Over Dallas bills itself as "America's Premier World War II Airshow," according to a website advertising the event. The show was scheduled for Nov. 11-13, Veterans Day weekend, and guests were to see more than 40 World War II-era aircraft. Its Saturday afternoon schedule of flying demonstrations included the "bomber parade" and "fighter escorts" that featured the B-17 and P-63.

Videos of previous Wings Over Dallas events depict vintage warplanes flying low, sometimes in close formation, on simulated strafing or bombing runs. The videos also show the planes performing aerobatic stunts.

The FAA was also launching an investigation, officials said.

Democrat Katie Hobbs keeps lead in race for Arizona governor

By JONATHAN J. COOPER Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — The release of ballots on Saturday from Arizona's largest county netted Republican gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake a few thousand votes, but she's still trailing Democrat Katie Hobbs by tens of thousands of ballots.

Hobbs led Lake by 1.6 percentage points after the release of roughly 85,000 votes from Maricopa County. Approximately 270,000 ballots remain uncounted statewide, and Hobbs leads by about 35,000 votes.

Data analysts from both parties believe the count will eventually shift in Lake's favor, but it's not yet clear whether she will pick up enough votes to overtake Hobbs. Republicans have watched anxiously since Tuesday as Hobbs has defied their expectations and increased her lead each day, including Saturday when combined with results from the rest of the state.

About 50 conservative protesters gathered outside the fence around Maricopa County's election tabulation center in downtown Phoenix at midday Saturday to draw attention to their concerns about the slow pace of the vote count. Protracted counts are the norm in Arizona, where a record number of people returned mail ballots on Election Day.

A few protesters wore ballistic vests or carried handguns as a number of county sheriff's deputies nearby guarded the complex.

Arizona was central to former President Donald Trump's push to overturn the 2020 election and cast doubt on the legitimacy of Joe Biden's victory. Democratic Sen. Mark Kelly, who won his race Friday, pressed to move past false claims of a fraudulent election that have shaped the state's politics for the past two years.

"After a long election, it can be tempting to remain focused on the things that divide us," Kelly said Saturday in a victory speech at a Mexican restaurant in Phoenix. "But we've seen the consequences that come when leaders refuse to accept the truth and focus more on conspiracies of the past than solving the challenges that we face today."

Kelly's victory Friday combined with a win Saturday by Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada means Democrats will retain control of the Senate for the next two years.

Kelly won after distancing himself from Biden and building an image as an independent lawmaker not

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 61 of 77

beholden to his party. He cast himself in the mold of his predecessor, the late Republican John McCain, whose seat Kelly won in a special election two years ago. His victory this year gives him a full six years starting in January.

"Sen. McCain embodied everything it was to be a leader at a time when our state and our country remain divided," Kelly said.

Kelly's opponent, Republican Blake Masters, did not concede, saying in a statement that his team will make sure every legal vote is counted.

"If, at the end, Senator Kelly has more of them than I do, then I will congratulate him on a hard-fought victory," Masters said. "But voters decide, not the media; let's count the votes."

The AP declared Kelly the winner after the release of results from 75,000 ballots in Maricopa County made clear Masters could not make up his deficit.

Hours earlier, Masters said on Fox News that Maricopa County, which is by far the largest in the state, should stop counting ballots and start over because election officials had inadvertently mixed counted and uncounted ballots.

Megan Gilbertson, a spokeswoman for the county elections department, confirmed ballots were mixed at two vote centers but said there are contingencies to reconcile each batch and get an accurate count. She said that similar mistakes have been made before and that the process has been in place for decades and is overseen by observers from both parties.

"There is no legal process in place to stop counting and start over," Gilbertson said. "At Maricopa County, we follow the laws as they are written."

Outside the elections building in Phoenix, some protesters carried American flags, campaign signs for Lake or signs with slogans such as "Kari Lake Won," "Count The Votes" and "Hobbs is a Cheat."

Sheriff Paul Penzone said he pulled deputies from around the county and from other assignments to protect the ballots and the people counting them. Noting the protest was prompted by a tweet from a state lawmaker, Penzone urged elected officials not to summon demonstrators to the elections building.

Aaron Kotzbauer, a 52-year-old Republican from the Phoenix suburb of Surprise who voted for Lake and the other GOP candidates, said he protested at the elections office after Trump lost in 2020 and came again Saturday to "see if we could get some sunshine to disinfect the Maricopa County election center."

Cortez Masto wins in Nevada, giving Democrats Senate control

By NICHOLAS RICCARDI and KEN RITTER Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Democratic Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto won election to a second term representing Nevada on Saturday, defeating Republican Adam Laxalt to clinch the party's control of the chamber for the next two years of Joe Biden's presidency.

With Democratic Sen. Mark Kelly's victory in Arizona on Friday, Democrats now hold a 50-49 edge in the Senate. The party will retain control of the chamber, no matter how next month's Georgia runoff plays out, by virtue of Vice President Kamala Harris' tiebreaking vote.

Democrats' hold on the Senate is a blow to Republicans' high hopes of wresting away control of Congress in a midterm election that typically favors the party out of power. It was still unclear which party would control the House of Representatives as counting continued in razor-tight races in California and a smattering of other states.

Cortez Masto, the first Latina in the Senate, was considered the most vulnerable Democratic senator in the midterm elections, and the Republican Party had high hopes of flipping the seat. But despite an influx of spending on attack ads from national GOP groups, Cortez Masto managed to secure her reelection bid.

Nevada's vote count took several days partly because of the mail voting system created by the state Legislature in 2020 that requires counties to accept ballots postmarked by Election Day if they arrive up to four days later. Laxalt had an early lead that dwindled after late-counted ballots came in from the state's population centers in Las Vegas and Reno.

Cortez Masto, the state's former two-term attorney general, focused her Senate campaign on the in-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 62 of 77

creasing threat to abortion access nationwide and worked to court the state's Spanish-speaking residents and hourly wage earners, pointing out her support of a permanent pathway to citizenship for "Dreamers" and regularly visiting union halls and workers' groups.

Her fundraising far outpaced Laxalt's. She spent nearly \$47 million and had more than \$6 million in cash on hand through mid-October, according to OpenSecrets. Laxalt spent nearly \$13 million and had about \$3 million remaining during the same time.

Laxalt, a former Nevada attorney general himself who unsuccessfully ran for governor in 2018, focused on rising inflation and a struggling economy for much of his campaign, attempting to tie voters' financial woes to policies advanced by Democrats in Congress and Biden.

Former President Donald Trump, who twice lost Nevada in his White House runs, came to the state twice to rally for Laxalt and other Republican candidates.

Democrats had an uphill battle given the nation's turbulent economy, and Nevada exemplified the party's challenges. The state is one of the most diverse in the nation, and its largely working class population often lives paycheck to paycheck and has struggled with both inflation and the aftershocks of the shutdown of Las Vegas' tourist-based economy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Roughly three-fourths of Nevada voters said the country is headed in the wrong direction, and about 5 in 10 called the economy the most important issue facing the country, according to AP VoteCast, a survey of 2,100 of the state's voters.

Voters viewed the economy negatively, with VoteCast finding nearly 8 in 10 saying economic conditions are either not so good or poor. Only about 2 in 10 called the economy excellent or good. And about a third of voters said their families are falling behind financially.

But that didn't necessarily translate into anger at President Joe Biden or his party. About half considered inflation the most important issue facing the U.S., but they were evenly split over whether they think higher prices are due to Biden's policies or factors outside his control.

Nevada is also a famously live-and-let-live state, and Cortez Masto's message on preserving abortion rights resonated. According to VoteCast, 7 in 10 wanted the procedure kept legal in all or most cases.

US border agency leader resigns amid wave of migrants

By MIKE BALSAMO, COLLEEN LONG and ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of U.S. Customs and Border Protection has resigned from his job leading the nation's largest law enforcement agency as agents encounter record numbers of migrants entering the U.S. from Mexico.

Chris Magnus submitted his resignation to President Joe Biden on Saturday, saying it had been "a privilege and honor" to be part of the administration.

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Biden had accepted Magnus' resignation. "President Biden appreciates Commissioner Magnus' nearly forty years of service and the contributions he made to police reform during his tenure as police chief in three U.S. cities," she said.

Two people who were briefed on the matter told The Associated Press on Friday that Magnus was told to resign or be fired less than a year after he was confirmed. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to address the matter publicly.

Magnus's removal is part of a larger shakeup expected at Homeland Security as it struggles to manage migrants coming from a wider range of countries, including Venezuela, Cuba and Nicaragua. This comes as Republicans are likely to take control of the House in January and are expected to launch investigations into the border.

Migrants were stopped 2.38 million times at the Mexican border in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, up 37% from the year before. The annual total surpassed 2 million for the first time in August and is more than twice the highest level during Donald Trump's presidency, in 2019.

The Los Angeles Times was first to report on the ultimatum. In a statement to the newspaper, Magnus said he was asked by Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas to step down or be fired.

Funds vanish at bankrupt crypto exchange FTX; probe underway

By CATHY BUSSEWITZ Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Collapsed cryptocurrency trading firm FTX confirmed there was “unauthorized access” to its accounts, hours after the company filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection Friday.

The embattled company’s new CEO John Ray III said Saturday that FTX is switching off the ability to trade or withdraw funds and taking steps to secure customers’ assets, according to a tweet by FTX’s general counsel Ryne Miller. FTX is also coordinating with law enforcement and regulators, the company said.

Exactly how much money is involved is unclear, but analytics firm Elliptic estimated Saturday that \$477 million was missing from the exchange. Another \$186 million was moved out of FTX’s accounts, but that may have been FTX moving assets to storage, said Elliptic’s co-founder and chief scientist Tom Robinson.

A debate formed on social media about whether the exchange was hacked or a company insider had stolen funds, a possibility that cryptocurrency analysts couldn’t rule out.

Until recently, FTX was one of the world’s largest cryptocurrency exchanges. It was already short billions of dollars when it sought bankruptcy protection Friday and its former CEO and founder, Sam Bankman-Fried, resigned.

The company had valued its assets between \$10 billion to \$50 billion, and listed more than 130 affiliated companies around the world, according to its bankruptcy filing.

The unraveling of the once-giant exchange is sending shockwaves through the industry, with companies that backed FTX writing down investments and the prices of bitcoin and other digital currencies falling. Politicians and regulators are calling for stricter oversight of the unwieldy industry. Experts say the saga is still unfolding.

“We’ll have to wait and see what the fallout is, but I think we are going to see more dominoes falling and an awful lot of people stand to lose their money and their savings,” said Frances Coppola, an independent financial and economic commentator. “And that is just tragic, really.”

The timing and the extent of access that the assumed hacker appeared to achieve, siphoning money from multiple parts of the company, led Coppola and other analysts to theorize that it could have been an inside job.

FTX said Saturday that it’s moving as many digital assets as can be identified to a new “cold wallet custodian,” which is essentially a way of storing assets offline without allowing remote control.

“It does look as if the liquidators didn’t act fast enough to stop some kind of siphoning off of funds from FTX after it filed for bankruptcy, and that’s bad, but it just shows how complex this thing is,” Coppola said.

Initially, some people were hoping that perhaps all the missing funds were liquidators or bankruptcy administrators trying to move assets to a more secure spot. But it would be unusual for that to happen on a Friday night, said Molly White, cryptocurrency researcher and fellow with the Library Innovation Lab at Harvard University.

“It looked very different from what a liquidator might do if they were trying to secure the funds,” she said.

White also said there are signs of possible insider involvement. “It seems unlikely that someone who is not an insider could have pulled off such a massive hack with so much access to FTX systems.”

The collapse of FTX highlights the need for cryptocurrency to be regulated more like traditional finance, Coppola said.

“Crypto isn’t in the very early stages anymore,” she said. “We’ve got ordinary people putting their life savings into it.”

Trump vs. DeSantis: A simmering rivalry bursts into view

By STEVE PEOPLES and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump and Ron DeSantis have been on a collision course from the start. Eyeing the Florida governor as his most formidable foe within the Republican Party, the former president has sought to keep DeSantis in his place, often noting the role his endorsement played in lifting the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 64 of 77

relatively obscure congressman to the leader of one of America's largest states.

DeSantis, for his part, has long praised Trump and mimicked his style, but has notably declined to put aside his own White House ambitions as the former president prepares to seek his old job again. In the clearest sign of tension, the two held dueling Florida rallies in the final days of this year's midterm elections. At his event, Trump unveiled his new derisive nickname for DeSantis, calling him Ron DeSanctimonious.

The simmering rivalry between the Republican Party's biggest stars enters a new, more volatile phase after the GOP's underwhelming performance in what was supposed to be a blockbuster election year. DeSantis, who won a commanding reelection, is increasingly viewed as the party's future, while Trump, whose preferred candidates lost races from Pennsylvania to Arizona, is widely blamed as a drag on the party.

That leaves Trump in perhaps his most vulnerable position since he sparked the violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. As he moves forward with plans to announce a third presidential bid on Tuesday, Trump is turning to a playbook that has served him through decades of personal, financial and political turmoil: zeroing in on his enemies' perceived weaknesses and hitting them with repeated attacks.

"This is how President Trump fights," said Michael Caputo, a longtime adviser who worked on Trump's first campaign.

In the days since Tuesday's election, Trump has made racist remarks about Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, another potential Republican presidential candidate, saying his name sounds Chinese. He's blasted coverage from Fox News, which, like much of Rupert Murdoch's media empire, has shifted its tone on Trump in recent days. But much of his vitriol is directed at DeSantis, a sign of the threat Trump perceives from the Florida governor.

In a lengthy statement, Trump knocked DeSantis as an "average REPUBLICAN governor with great Public Relations" and voiced fury that DeSantis has not publicly ruled out challenging him.

The approach recalls Trump's strategy in 2016, when he cleared a field of nearly a dozen rivals with a scorched-earth approach that included insulting his then-rival Ted Cruz's wife's appearance and claiming that his father may have played a role in John F. Kennedy's assassination. (Cruz later became a top ally in Congress.)

His attacks only become more ruthless when he found himself against the wall. After the release of the "Access Hollywood" tape, in which Trump used vulgar language to brag of sexual assault, he responded by inviting the women who accused his rival Hillary Clinton's husband, the former president, of rape and unwanted sexual advances to a presidential debate.

"The strategy worked in 2016, no doubt about it. The difference now, and I say this with all respect for Ron DeSantis, he's never entered the ring with a pugilist like Donald Trump," said longtime Trump adviser Corey Lewandowski, who ran his 2016 primary campaign. "Mike Tyson has an old saying: Everyone had a plan until you get punched in the face."

The question is whether the insults will land differently when it comes to DeSantis. Among many of Trump's most loyal backers, DeSantis is seen as a member of the same team. In interviews over the last year at Trump's rallies and other conservative gatherings, Trump supporters often said they see DeSantis as Trump's natural successor. Many voiced disbelief that the two men would ever run against each other because they seem so closely aligned.

DeSantis' allies expect the governor to make a presidential announcement after the state legislative session, which ends in May. Until then, they expect him to focus on governing and avoid engaging directly with Trump, as he has done this week.

Regardless of when a formal presidential campaign is announced, DeSantis' supporters are encouraging him to take advantage of the interest he's generating at the moment. Some point to former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie as a cautionary tale, noting he generated widespread attention in 2012 as a potential presidential candidate. He demurred, and by the time he sought the White House in 2016, the energy had shifted to Trump.

"If you want to run for president, you've got to take your shot when it presents itself," said Matt Caldwell, a vocal DeSantis ally in Florida.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 65 of 77

DeSantis won reelection by a nearly 20-point margin, performing well even in many longtime Democratic strongholds. That victory, his supporters say, demonstrates the extent of his political appeal beyond the GOP's hardcore base, which stands in contrast with Trump. Caldwell noted that DeSantis' coalition included Latinos and suburban voters, voting blocs that Trump has largely alienated.

"The coalitions he's built, the bridges he's built, the voting groups that never touched a Republican before have now embraced Republicans and Republicanism in the form of the DeSantis administration," said Brian Ballard, a longtime Florida lobbyist who served as DeSantis' inaugural chairman and also raised millions for Trump. "He is certainly a leader and someone that I think has demonstrated the type of coalition building that we need to win back the White House."

Above all, Republican strategists say voters are looking for a winner.

Conservative radio host Erick Erickson, who has vacillated on Trump over the years, said many of his listeners are ready for DeSantis.

"They love Trump, thank him, wish him well and are ready to part ways," Erickson said. "Trump voters like Trump because they like winners who fight. That's exactly how they perceive DeSantis. The only guy between the two who is a loser is Trump."

Sensing weakness, some Republican establishment insiders have begun a series of preliminary conversations about how to use their resources to stop Trump in 2024, realizing that a crowded primary field might simply divide the electorate and allow Trump an easier path to the nomination. There is little sign the Republican establishment is ready or able to unify behind DeSantis or any single Trump alternative, however, even as some prominent Republicans begin to openly decry Trump as a political liability.

Other potential 2024 candidates, meanwhile, are waiting in the wings, with some hoping Trump and DeSantis will bloody each other so badly that voters will be eager for a less pugilistic alternative.

Sarah Longwell, a Trump critic who leads the Republican Accountability Project, said she's for "anybody but Trump" in 2024, but she's not necessarily excited about DeSantis.

"I hope there is a robust Republican primary," Longwell said. "I certainly want every Republican to run against Trump. But I also think the Republican Party can and should do better than a cheap imitation of Trump, which is what I think Ron DeSantis is."

Next week, DeSantis will be among several 2024 Republican prospects gathering in Nevada for a meeting of the Republican Jewish Coalition. The guest list includes former Vice President Mike Pence, former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and term-limited Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan. Trump declined an invitation.

The Republican Jewish Coalition's primary benefactor, Miriam Adelson, has vowed to stay neutral in the 2024 Republican primary, even after the group aggressively supported Trump in the last election.

Hogan, a fierce Trump critic for years, is increasingly expected to run for the Republican presidential nomination himself.

"Going forward, there is going to be a battle between whether we are the party that stands for common-sense conservative leadership, or whether we are the party than answers to the whims of one person," Hogan told The Associated Press. "I am sick and tired of the losing and grifting. It's time to get back to winning."

Prosecutors push 15-year sentence for Theranos' CEO Holmes

Federal prosecutors have asked a judge to sentence disgraced Theranos CEO Elizabeth Holmes to 15 years in prison, arguing she deserves a lengthy prison term because her massive scheme duped investors out of hundreds of millions of dollars by falsely convincing them her company had developed a revolutionary blood testing device.

Calling the case "one of the most substantial white collar offenses Silicon Valley or any other District has seen," prosecutors vehemently rejected defense attorneys' characterization that Holmes had been unfairly victimized, in part by media coverage.

Holmes is set to appear for sentencing on Nov. 18 in federal court in San Jose, California, nearly a year after she was convicted of three felony counts of wire fraud and one felony count of conspiracy to commit

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 66 of 77

fraud. She faces up to 20 years in prison for each count.

"She repeatedly chose lies, hype and the prospect of billions of dollars over patient safety and fair dealing with investors," Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert S. Leach wrote in a 46-page brief filed Friday. "Elizabeth Holmes' crimes were not failing, they were lying — lying in the most serious context, where everyone needed her to tell the truth."

Holmes' attorneys filed an 82-page document late Thursday calling for a lenient sentence of no more than 18 months, saying her reputation was permanently destroyed, turning her into a "caricature to be mocked and vilified."

Besides asking that Holmes receive a lengthy prison sentence, prosecutors called for the 38-year-old pay \$803,840,309 in restitution for her role in the yearslong scheme that turned her into one of the most widely respected and immensely wealthy entrepreneurs in the Silicon Valley and the United States.

"She preyed on hopes of her investors that a young, dynamic entrepreneur had changed healthcare. She leveraged the credibility of her illustrious board," Leach wrote. "And, through her deceit, she attained spectacular fame, adoration, and billions of dollars of wealth."

Leach also pointed to how, after Wall Street Journal reporter John Carreyrou exposed the scheme, Holmes "attacked him, along with his sources" and desperately tried to pin the blame on others.

"At trial, she blamed her COO (and longtime boyfriend), her board, her scientists, her business partners, her investors, her marketing firm, her attorneys, the media — everyone, that is, but herself," Leach wrote.

The company's former chief operating officer, 57-year-old Ramesh "Sunny" Balwani, was convicted on 12 felony counts of investor and patient fraud in July during separate trial. He is scheduled to be sentenced Dec. 7.

And Leach wrote that the health of actual patients was put into jeopardy by what Holmes had done.

"As money was drying up, she went to market with an unproven and unreliable medical device," he wrote. "When her lead assay developer quit as Theranos launched, she chillingly told the scientist: 'she has a promise to deliver to the customer, she doesn't have much of a choice but to go ahead with the launch.'"

Holmes' attorneys have argued that if U.S. District Judge Edward Davila does decide to send her to prison, she deserves a lenient sentence because she poses no danger to the public and has no prior criminal history.

Ethiopia, Tigray military leaders agree on peace roadmap

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Top military commanders from Ethiopia and its embattled Tigray region have agreed to allow unhindered humanitarian access to the region and form a joint disarmament committee following last week's truce.

The commanders, who since Monday have been meeting in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi, signed an agreement Saturday that they said calls for disengagement from all forms of military activities.

Both parties have agreed to protect civilians and facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid to the region of more than 5 million people, according to a copy of the agreement seen by The Associated Press.

The agreement states that disarmament will be "done concurrently with the withdrawal of foreign and non-(Ethiopian military) forces" from Tigray.

The lead negotiator for Ethiopia, Redwan Hussein, told the AP that Saturday's signing event created a conducive environment for ongoing peace efforts, noting that the next meeting of military leaders will "most likely" be held in Tigray in mid-December before a final meeting in Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, in January.

In a separate statement late Saturday, Ethiopia's federal authorities said that "efforts are being made to deliver humanitarian assistance to most of the Tigray region which is under (Ethiopian military) command."

That statement noted that representatives of Ethiopian and Tigrayan militaries meeting in Kenya discussed "detailed plans for disarmament" of Tigray forces, including an agreement on the entry of Ethiopian forces into the Tigrayan capital of Mekele.

The African Union-led talks in Nairobi followed the cessation of hostilities agreement signed by Ethiopia and Tigray leaders in South Africa last week.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 67 of 77

Former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, who is helping to facilitate the talks, said Saturday that "humanitarian aid should have resumed like yesterday." Former Kenyan president Uhuru Kenyatta, who is also involved in the talks, thanked the commanders for their commitment to peace.

The Tigray conflict began in November 2020, less than a year after Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for making peace with Eritrea, which borders the Tigray region and whose fighters have been fighting alongside Ethiopian federal troops in Tigray.

Eritrea is not explicitly mentioned in the peace papers, and a diplomat who attended the talks in Nairobi said the issue of Eritrea was a sticking point this week.

The brutal fighting in Tigray, which spilled into Amhara and Afar regions as Tigrayan forces tried to break the military blockade of their region, reignited in August after months of lull that allowed thousands of trucks carrying humanitarian aid into Tigray.

The war in Africa's second-most populous country, which marked two years on Nov. 4, has seen abuses documented on both sides, with millions of people displaced and many near famine.

Phone and internet connections to Tigray are still down, and foreign journalists and human rights researchers remain barred, complicating efforts to verify reports of ongoing violence in the region.

Ukrainian police, TV broadcasts return to long-occupied city

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

MYKOLAIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian police officers returned Saturday, along with TV and radio services, to the southern city of Kherson following the withdrawal of Russian troops, part of fast but cautious efforts to make the only regional capital captured by Russia livable after months of occupation. Yet one official still described the city as "a humanitarian catastrophe."

People across Ukraine awoke from a night of jubilant celebrating after the Kremlin announced its troops had withdrawn to the other side of the Dnieper River from Kherson. The Ukrainian military said it was overseeing "stabilization measures" around the city to make sure it was safe.

The Russian retreat represented a significant setback for the Kremlin some six weeks after Russian President Vladimir Putin annexed the Kherson region and three other provinces in southern and eastern Ukraine in breach of international law and declared them Russian territory.

The national police chief of Ukraine, Ihor Klymenko, said Saturday on Facebook that about 200 officers were at work in the city, setting up checkpoints and documenting evidence of possible war crimes. Police teams also were working to identify and neutralize unexploded ordnance and one sapper was wounded Saturday while demining an administrative building, Klymenko said.

Ukraine's communications watchdog said national TV and radio broadcasts had resumed and an adviser to Kherson's mayor said humanitarian aid and supplies had begun to arrive from the neighboring Mykolaiv region.

But the adviser, Roman Holovnya, described the situation in Kherson as "a humanitarian catastrophe." He said the remaining residents lacked water, medicine and food — and key basics like bread went unbaked because a lack of electricity.

"The occupiers and collaborators did everything possible so that those people who remained in the city suffered as much as possible over those days, weeks, months of waiting" for Ukraine's forces to arrive, Holovnya said. "Water supplies are practically nonexistent."

The chairman of Khersonoblenergo, the region's prewar power provider, said electricity was being returned "to every settlement in the Kherson region immediately after the liberation."

Despite the efforts to restore normal civilian life, Russian forces remain close by. The General Staff of Ukraine's armed forces said Saturday the Russians were fortifying their battle lines on the river's eastern bank after abandoning the capital. About 70% of the Kherson region still remains under Russian control.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address Saturday that Ukrainian forces have established control of more than 60 settlements in the Kherson region and "stabilization measures are also ongoing in Kherson itself."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 68 of 77

"Everywhere in the liberated territory, our explosives technicians have a lot of work to do. Almost 2,000 explosive items have already been removed," Zelenskyy said. "Before fleeing from Kherson, the occupiers destroyed all critical infrastructure — communication, water supply, heat, electricity."

Photos on social media Saturday showed Ukrainian activists removing memorial plaques put up by the occupation authorities the Kremlin installed to run the Kherson region. A Telegram post on Yellow Ribbon, Ukrainian resistance movement, showed two people in a park taking down plaques picturing Soviet-era military figures.

Moscow's announcement that Russian forces were withdrawing across the Dnieper River, which divides both the Kherson region and Ukraine, followed a stepped-up Ukrainian counteroffensive in the country's south. In the last two months, Ukraine's military claimed to have reclaimed dozens of towns and villages north of the city of Kherson, and the military said that's where stabilization activities were taking place.

Russian state news agency Tass quoted an official in Kherson's Kremlin-appointed administration on Saturday as saying that Henichesk, a city on the Azov Sea 200 kilometers southeast of Kherson, would now serve as the region's "temporary capital."

Ukrainian media derided the announcement, with the Ukrainska Pravda newspaper saying Russia "had made up a new capital" for the region.

Across much of Ukraine, moments of jubilation marked the exit of Russian forces, since a retreat from Kherson and other areas on the Dnieper's west bank would appear to shatter Russian hopes to press an offensive west to Mykolaiv and Odesa to cut off Ukraine's access to the Black Sea.

In Odesa, the Black Sea port, residents draped themselves in Ukraine's blue-and-yellow flags, shared Champagne and held up flag-colored cards with the word "Kherson" on them.

But like Zelenskyy, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba sought to temper the excitement.

"We are winning battles on the ground, but the war continues," he said from Cambodia, where he was attending a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Kuleba brought up the prospect of the Ukrainian army finding evidence of possible Russian war crimes in Kherson, just as it did after Russian pullbacks in the Kyiv and Kharkiv regions.

"Every time we liberate a piece of our territory, when we enter a city liberated from Russian army, we find torture rooms and mass graves with civilians tortured and murdered by Russian army in the course of the occupation," Ukraine's top diplomat said. "It's not easy to speak with people like this. But I said that every war ends with diplomacy and Russia has to approach talks in good faith."

U.S. assessments this week showed Russia's war in Ukraine may already have killed or wounded tens of thousands of civilians and hundreds of thousands of soldiers.

Elsewhere, Russia continued its grinding offensive in Ukraine's industrial east, targeting the city of Bakhmut in the Donetsk region, the Ukrainian General Staff said.

Donetsk Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko reported Saturday that two civilians were killed and four wounded over the last day as battles heated up around Bakhmut and Avdiivka, a small city that has remained in Ukrainian hands.

Russia's push to capture Bakhmut demonstrates the Kremlin's desire for visible gains following weeks of setbacks. It would also pave the way to move onto other Ukrainian strongholds in the heavily contested Donetsk region.

In the Dnipropetrovsk region west of Donetsk, Russia troops again shelled communities near the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, the Ukrainian regional governor said.

Midway through UN climate talks, Egypt pushes to bridge gaps

By SAMY MAGDY The Associated Press

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP) — Egypt is pushing to bridge the gaps between negotiating parties at the United Nations' climate conference as negotiators Saturday finalize draft deals as the first week of the summit wraps up in the seaside resort of Sharm el-Sheikh.

Environment Minister Yasmine Fouad said the biggest challenge for Egypt as a host country is to have

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 69 of 77

negotiators “convinced on different issues,” including funds for nations to adapt to climate change and a consensus on ‘loss and damage’ — finance from industrialized nations to poorer, vulnerable ones who are suffering climate-related harms.

Speaking to The Associated Press at the climate summit, also known as COP27, Fouad said the host nation is also working to advance the working program aimed at limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times in line with the Paris agreement. Egypt has said it will pressure other nations to implement climate promises made at previous conferences.

“There is a kind of agreement that we need to push the agenda forward,” Fouad said of negotiations. “But it depends on all of us on that.”

Finance is another major challenge for developing nations looking to curb emissions, transition to renewable energy and protect their vulnerable communities from climatic shocks, such as drought and flooding. For the first time, this year’s summit agenda also included the issue of loss and damage.

Rich nations have already fallen short on a pledge to mobilize \$100 billion a year by 2020 in climate finance for poor nations. This has opened up a rift of distrust that negotiators are hoping to close with fresh pledges. But needs are growing, and a new, higher target needs to be set from 2025 onward, some nations say.

Egypt needs up to \$264 billion investment in the next seven years to achieve its adaptation and mitigation agenda, the minister said. Much of the country’s infrastructure depends on fossil fuels, and its coastal regions, including parts of the fertile-rich Nile Delta, are increasingly threatened by the rising sea levels.

“Finance is the bottleneck of any green transition,” Fouad said.

Egypt, the most populous Arab country with over 104 million people, is already facing uphill economic challenges partly as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and the ongoing Russian war in Ukraine.

The Egyptian government announced several deals in recent days with western nations and global development banks to make its energy and transport sectors cleaner, including a \$500 million package to finance and facilitate its transition to clean energy. The package, which was announced Friday by U.S. President Joe Biden, would help Egypt reach its goal of producing 42% of its electricity generation from renewable sources in 2030 — five years earlier than previously planned.

Fouad also spoke about measures to reduce air pollution in its main cities, particularly Cairo.

Environmental groups have in recent months criticized the government for razing green areas and cutting trees that were lining streets, as part of sweeping urban redevelopment projects that are transforming much of historic Cairo, including the well-known Heliopolis neighborhood.

The minister defended the measures, saying they were necessary.

“Sometimes you need to have a street widened so that there is no traffic jam” and that would have a positive impact on air quality, Fouad said.

She added that the government is no longer reducing its green areas and plans to plant 100 million trees across the country.

Twitter drama too much? Mastodon, others emerge as options

By BARBARA ORTUTAY AP Technology Writer

Twitter has been a bit of a mess since billionaire Tesla CEO Elon Musk took the helm, cutting the company’s workforce in half, upending the platform’s verification system, sparring with users over jokes and acknowledging that “dumb things” might happen as he reshapes one of the world’s most high-profile information ecosystems.

On Thursday, amid an exodus of senior executives responsible for data privacy, cybersecurity and complying with regulations, he warned the company’s remaining employees that Twitter might not survive if it can’t find a way to bring in at least half its revenue from subscriptions.

While it’s not clear if the drama is causing many users to leave — in fact, having a front-row seat to the chaos may prove entertaining to some — lesser-known sites Mastodon and even Tumblr are emerging as new (or renewed) alternatives. Here’s a look at some of them.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 70 of 77

(Oh, and if you are leaving Twitter and want to preserve your tweet history, you can download it by going to your profile settings and clicking on “your account” then “download an archive of your data.”)

MASTODON

Sharing a name with an extinct mammal resembling an elephant, Mastodon has emerged as a frontrunner among those curious about life beyond the blue bird. It shares some similarities with Twitter, but there are some big differences — and not just that its version of tweets are officially called “toots.”

Mastodon is a decentralized social network. That means it’s not owned by a single company or billionaire. Rather, it’s made up of a network of servers, each run independently but able to connect so people on different servers can communicate. There are no ads as Mastodon is funded by donations, grants and other means.

Mastodon’s feed is chronological, unlike Facebook, Instagram, TikTok or Twitter, which all use algorithms to get people to spend as much time on a site as possible.

It can be a tad daunting to try to sign up to Mastodon. Because each server is run separately, you will need to first pick one you want to join, then go through the steps to create an account and agree with the server’s rules. There are general and interest- and location-based ones, but in the end it won’t really matter. Once you’re in, the feed is reminiscent of Twitter. You can write (up to 500 characters), post photos or videos, and follow accounts as well as see a general public feed.

“We present a vision of social media that cannot be bought and owned by any billionaire, and strive to create a more resilient global platform without profit incentives,” Mastodon’s website says.

Currently, the site has more than 1 million users, nearly half of whom signed up after Musk took over Twitter on Oct. 27, according to founder Eugen Rochko.

Another option, Counter Social, also runs an ad-free, chronological social platform that’s funded by users. To prevent foreign influence operations, Counter Social says it blocks access to Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, Pakistan and Syria. It boasts of offering one-click translation into over 80 languages. It has over 63 million monthly users, according to its website.

CLUBHOUSE

Remember Clubhouse, back when we were all under lockdown and couldn’t talk in person? It’s the buzzy audio-only app that got somewhat overshadowed by copycat Twitter Spaces, which also lets people talk to each other (think conference call, podcast or “audio chat”) about topics of interest.

Once you join, Clubhouse lets you start or listen into conversations on a host of topics, from tech to pro sports, parenting, Black literature and so on. There are no posts, photos or videos — only people’s profile pictures and their voices. Conversations can be intimate, like a phone call, or might include thousands of people listening to a talk by boldface names, like a conference or stage interview.

SUBSTACK and MEDIUM

For longer reads, newsletters, and general information absorption, these sites are perhaps closest to the blog era of the early 2000s. You can read both without signing up or paying, but some writers, creators and podcasters create premium content for paying subscribers.

TUMBLR

Tumblr, which was all but left for dead, appears to be enjoying somewhat of a resurgence. The words/photos/art/video site is known for its devoted fan base and has been home to angry posts from celebrities like Taylor Swift. It angered many users in 2018 when it banned porn and “adult content,” which made up a big part of its highly visual and meme-friendly online presence and led to a large drop in its user base.

Onboarding is simple, and for those who miss the early years of social media, there’s a decidedly retro, comforting feel to the site.

T2 or TBD?

Gabor Cselle, a veteran of Google who worked at Twitter from 2014 to 2016, is determined to create a better Twitter. For now, he’s calling it T2 and says the Web domain name he purchased for it — t2.social — cost \$7.16. T2, which may or may not be its final name, is currently accepting signups for its waitlist, but the site is clearly not yet functioning.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 71 of 77

"I think Twitter always had a problem in figuring out what to do and how to decide on what to do. And that was always kind of in the back of my mind," Cselle told The Associated Press. "On Monday, I decided to just go for it. I didn't see anyone else really doing it."

Twitter-style text and TikTok-style videos are one idea. Cselle says for this to work, the text really has to be "amped up" so it's not drowned out by the videos.

"My bet is that it's going to be easier and more efficient to build a better Twitter or public square now than fix the legacy problems at Twitter," Cselle added.

Cselle, of course, is not the only one jumping to the opportunity. Project Mushroom, for instance, plans a "safe place on the internet — a community-led open-source home for creators seeking justice on an overheating planet" and says it has received 25,000 early signups to its yet-to-launch platform.

"My sense is that things are going to further fragment into more ideological platforms and some will die and then we'll see some new consolidation emerge over the next couple of years," said Jennifer Stromer-Galley, a professor at Syracuse University who studies social media.

NEWS SITES

One of Twitter's most valuable features has been the way it allows people to find information within seconds. Was that just an earthquake? Twitter will tell you. Or at least it did.

While there is no perfect replacement for Twitter, staying up to date with local, national and international news is easier than ever. Apple and Google both offer news services that aggregate articles from a broad range of publication (Apple offers a premium subscription service that gets you access to more articles, while Google shows free stories first.) There's also Flipboard, which works kind of like a personal magazine curated to your interests.

Of course, subscribing to individual publications (or downloading a free news app such as the AP's AP News) is also an option.

Yes, you might have to pay for some of them and no, you won't get a blue check mark with your subscription.

Body with gunshot found in search for Tulsa massacre victims

By KEN MILLER Associated Press

A second body of a possible victim of the 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre has been found to have a gunshot wound, according to the city.

"Forensic anthropologist Dr. Phoebe Stubblefield discovered that one of the three sets of remains exhumed last week contained one victim with a gunshot wound," according to a statement late Friday from city spokesperson Carson Colvin.

In an effort to eventually confirm the remains are those of massacre victims, investigators are seeking signs of trauma, such as gunshot wounds, based on accounts at the time.

A portion of the bullet was removed from the head of the remains, according to the statement. The person's race and whether the remains are those of a massacre victim are not yet known.

Stubblefield did not immediately return a phone call to The Associated Press on Saturday.

The remains were in a plain casket and are believed to be that of an adult male, matching information in reports from 1921, and were in the area in Oaklawn Cemetery where 18 massacre victims were reportedly buried.

The first remains with gunshot wounds were found in June 2021 and are now with Salt Lake City-based Intermountain Forensics where DNA analysis is ongoing.

The current excavation of the cemetery in the search for victims of the 1921 Race Massacre began Oct. 26 and has uncovered 26 unmarked graves. The work is expected to continue through Nov. 18.

Four sets of the newly found remains have been exhumed and taken to an on-site lab for analysis.

A search for the graves of massacre victims began in 2020 and resumed last year with nearly three dozen coffins recovered.

Fourteen sets of the previously recovered remains were sent to Intermountain Forensics for testing, and

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 72 of 77

two of those have been found to have enough DNA to begin sequencing and start developing a genealogy profile.

None of the remains have been identified or confirmed as victims of the massacre, one of the worst known examples of white mob violence against Black Americans in U.S. history.

More than 1,000 homes were burned, hundreds more were looted, and a thriving business district known as Black Wall Street was destroyed in the racist violence.

Historians have estimated the death toll at between 75 and 300, with generational wealth being wiped out.

Droughts, rising seas put Cuba's agriculture under threat

By MEGAN JANETSKY Associated Press

BATABANO, Cuba (AP) — Yordán Díaz Gonzales pulled weeds from his fields with a tractor until Cuba's summer rainy season turned them into foot-deep red mud.

Now it takes five farmhands to tend to Díaz's crop. That shrinks Diaz's profit margin and lowers Cuba's agricultural productivity, already burdened by a U.S. embargo and an unproductive state-controlled economy.

Like the rest of the Caribbean, Cuba is suffering from longer droughts, warmer waters, more intense storms, and higher sea levels because of climate change. The rainy season, already an obstacle, has gotten longer and wetter.

"We're producing a lot less because of the weather," said Diaz, a 38-year-old father of two. "We're going to have to adapt to eating less because with every crop, we harvest less."

Diaz used to produce black beans, a staple of the Cuban diet and his most profitable crop. His black-bean production has dropped 70%, which he attributes to climate change. A month after Hurricane Ian hit Cuba, Diaz was farming malanga root, a Cuban staple that is more resilient to climate change, but less profitable than beans.

"We're just living in the present," Diaz said. "My future doesn't look very good."

Diaz used to buy supplies a year or two ahead of needing them but his earnings are so unpredictable now that he buys his supplies right before the harvest.

Agriculture has long been a relative bright spot in Cuba's struggling economy. The socialist government has had a relatively liberal hand with food producers, allowing them to pursue their economic interests more openly than others in Cuba.

Cuba has ample sun, water and soil, the basic ingredients needed to grow plants and feed animals. By changing the way nature functions in the Caribbean, however, climate change is tinkering with the raw elements of productivity.

When Ian hit Batabanó, about an hour south of Havana, it flooded fisherman Orbelis Silega's home and destroyed his fridge and TV. He was already struggling due to reduced fish stocks.

"The house was halfway full of water," said Silega, 54. "Everything was underwater."

Cubans are leaving the island in the highest numbers in decades.

American authorities encountered nearly 221,000 Cubans on the U.S.-Mexico border in fiscal year 2022. It was a 471% increase from the year before, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

As with everything in Cuba, the outflow is being driven by a complex mix of domestic management of politics and the economy, and relations with the U.S. and other countries.

A part of what's driving the flow is climate change, which cost Cuba \$65.85 billion in gross domestic product between 1990 and 2014 alone, 9% of its total GDP, according to Dartmouth College.

"Caribbean economies, tourism, agriculture and fishing, are at the forefront" of climate change, said Donovan Campbell, a climate-change expert at Jamaica's University of the West Indies.

The \$2 to \$3 that farm hand Romelio Acosta earns for 10 hours of work isn't enough to pay his expenses.

"Right now there's no money and there's no food," said Acosta, 77. "Everything is more expensive than people's salaries can pay for."

A Category 3 hurricane, Ian ravaged western Cuba at the end of September, killing three people, destroying 14,000 homes, damaging the power network and destroying Cuba's most-valued tobacco fields.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 73 of 77

Cuba was already in one of its worst economic, political and energy crises in decades, thanks to the coronavirus pandemic and the Russian war with Ukraine, among other factors.

Cuba had said that it would get nearly a quarter of its energy from renewable sources by 2030. But so far the country gets little more than 5% of its energy from renewables and still depends on oil from allies Venezuela and Russia.

The U.S. trade embargo "impedes us from accessing the resources we could have that would make it possible for us to recover from these events as quickly as possible," said Adianez Taboada, vice minister of Cuba's Science, Technology and Environmental Ministry.

Around Batabanó, the coastal town hit by Ian, mattresses soaked by the storm still hang on the wobbly wooden houses.

"You try to salvage what you can," Silega, the fisherman, said.

Life was already hard for him due largely to climate change, he said. Rising global temperatures ravage coral reefs, key marine ecosystems.

"This town without fish is nothing," Silega said. "The best fish, the ones that still appear, you have to go much further to find them."

State Supreme Court wins shaped by abortion, redistricting

By ANDREW DeMILLO Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Republicans have claimed key victories in state Supreme Court races that will give them an advantage in major redistricting fights, while Democrats notched similarly significant wins with help from groups focused on defending abortion access.

The expensive fights over court control in several states in Tuesday's election highlight just how partisan the formerly low-key judicial races have become. Observers say they're a sign of what to expect as legal battles over abortion, voting rights and other issues are being fought at the state level.

"Nothing about this election suggests to me that we're going to see these races quiet down anytime soon," said Douglas Keith, counsel at the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University's law school, which tracks spending in judicial races.

About \$97 million was spent on state Supreme Court elections during the 2019-2020 election cycle, according to the Brennan Center. Once this year's numbers are tallied, spending records are expected to be shattered in some of the 25 states that had races targeted by groups on the right and the left.

One of the biggest players was the Republican State Leadership Committee, which focused heavily on the court races in North Carolina and Ohio.

"Republican wins in the Tarheel State and Buckeye State ensure that the redistricting fights ahead in those states within the next decade are ruled on by strong conservatives who will follow the Constitution and don't believe it's their role to draw maps from the bench," said Dee Duncan, president of the committee's Judicial Fairness Initiative.

North Carolina's court flipped from a 4-3 Democrat majority to 5-2 Republican Tuesday night. The court in recent years has issued decisions favoring the Democratic majority in cases involving redistricting, criminal justice, education funding and voter ID laws.

At least \$15 million was spent on those races, with more than \$8 million from two super PACS — one on the left that focused primarily on abortion and one on the right that focused on crime. Despite the outside groups' involvement, candidates ran on a similar platform of keeping personal politics out of the courtroom.

"Now, we'll be watching to make sure that the justices sitting in those seats follow through on those promises," said Ann Webb, senior policy counsel at the American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina.

In Ohio, Republicans maintained their 4-3 majority on the court, with two GOP justices fending off challenges and a sitting Republican winning her bid for chief justice. The state's GOP governor, Mike DeWine, will appoint a justice to fill the resulting vacancy.

The results may expand the conservative bent of the court even further, with cases regarding the state's six-week abortion ban and redistricting on the horizon. Republican Chief Justice Maureen O'Connor, who

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 74 of 77

did not seek reelection, has sided with court's three Democrats on high profile cases.

But Democratic groups working to protect abortion rights ramped up efforts to defend seats after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down Roe v. Wade and saw victories in several other parts of the country.

In Illinois, which is surrounded by states with abortion bans that took effect after Roe was overturned, groups pushing to retain the state's Democrat court majority had warned a GOP takeover could result in similar threats to access.

"I don't think there's anyone who doesn't think abortion was the critical issue in these races," Terry Cosgrove, president and CEO of Personal PAC, an abortion rights group that spent nearly \$3 million supporting the Democrats in the races.

In Michigan, Democrats maintained their 4-3 majority on the Supreme Court after incumbent justices from opposing parties who had split on a key abortion ruling won reelection. Michigan's high court races are officially nonpartisan, though the state's political parties nominate candidates.

Democratic-backed Justice Richard Bernstein, who voted with the court's majority to put an abortion rights amendment on the ballot, won reelection along with Republican Justice Brian Zahra, who voted against it. Voters approved the measure Tuesday.

"The Michigan Supreme Court election was critical especially since we didn't know what the status of (the abortion rights amendment) would be," said Ashlea Phenicie, communications director for Planned Parenthood Advocates of Michigan, which spent nearly \$1 million on the races.

Kansas voters kept all six state Supreme Court justices who were on the ballot for separate yes-or-no votes on whether they remained on the bench another six years. The state's most influential anti-abortion group, Kansans for Life, pushed to remove five of them, largely over the court's 2019 decision declaring access to abortion a "fundamental" right under the Kansas Constitution.

Two of the six court members on the ballot were part of the 6-1 majority in that 2019 decision. Voters also retained the court's most conservative member, the only dissenter in the 2019 abortion decision.

Republican bids for court seats failed in even some of the most conservative parts of the country.

Kentucky Supreme Court Justice Michelle Keller defeated Joseph Fischer, a Republican lawmaker who sponsored the state's "trigger law" ending abortion following Roe's reversal. Fischer also was the lead sponsor of an anti-abortion constitutional amendment that voters rejected Tuesday.

Supreme Court Justice Robin Wynne in Arkansas, which has had some of the most contentious judicial races over the years, fended off a challenge from District Judge Chris Carnahan, a former executive director of the state Republican Party.

Arkansas' court seats are nonpartisan, but Carnahan had touted himself as a conservative and had the endorsement of the state GOP. A group formed by a Republican lawmaker ran TV ads calling Wynne, who served as a Democrat in the state Legislature in the 1980s, a liberal.

An unprecedented partisan pitch by Montana Republicans to install a party loyalist on that state's Supreme Court also fell short, with Justice Ingrid Gustafson defeating challenger James Brown, who had the backing of Gov. Greg Gianforte and other top Republicans. The unusually expensive campaign came as the court is preparing to hear challenges over Montana's abortion restrictions and voting access.

Gustafson called her win a sign that voters were more interested in experience than ideology.

"The people in Montana think our judiciary is doing a good job and it is a very, very small minority that has some sort of other agenda," she said.

McMullin loss in Utah raises independent candidacy questions

By SAM METZ Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Utah Democrats' decision to back an independent rather than nominate a member of their own party to take on Republican Mike Lee transformed the state's U.S. Senate race from foregone conclusion to closely watched slugfest.

Independent Evan McMullin, an anti-Trump former Republican best known for his longshot 2016 presidential bid, attracted millions in outside spending in his campaign against Lee. He forced the second-term

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 75 of 77

Republican to engage with voters more than in prior elections and emphasize an independent streak and willingness to buck leaders of his own party.

Ultimately, though, it wasn't even close. Lee is on his way to a double-digit win.

That's spurring a debate: Did Democrats' strategy create a blueprint to make Republicans campaign hard, compete for moderates and expend resources in future races? Or does the sizeable loss prove that Republicans' vice grip is impenetrable in the short term, no matter the strategy?

The answers could contain lessons for both red and blue states unaccustomed to competitive elections.

Some Democrats say supporting McMullin was worth it — it shifted the political conversation, made the race competitive and forced Lee to spend almost double what he spent in his 2016 campaign. But other Democrats say the strategy hurt down-ballot candidates who didn't have a strong top-of-the-ticket contender to help boost them.

"Building my bench in that sense is going to be so much harder. How do I convince candidates, going forward, that the Democratic Party will support them?" said Katie Adams-Anderton, Democratic Party chair in Utah's second largest county.

Utah is among the fastest growing states, and Democrats hope they will be able to compete as the electorate becomes younger and more urban. Yet Republicans currently hold both Senate seats and all four congressional seats, occupy every statewide office, and this week expanded their supermajorities in the Legislature.

Four years after running for U.S. Senate herself, Salt Lake County Mayor Jenny Wilson supported Democrats' decision to back McMullin. She credits it with making Lee sweat. Though McMullin lost, she said, coalescing behind an independent benefited voters by making the race competitive. She hopes putting Lee on his heels will influence how he governs and votes in the U.S. Senate.

"This was a unique moment, and I actually do think we've lost an opportunity by not electing Evan to help break up some of the hardened partisanship," she said, noting that whether backing an independent was a good strategy depended largely on circumstances.

Votes remain to be counted, but Lee is on track to defeat McMullin by double digits. That's a narrower margin than his 41 percentage-point victory in 2016 over grocery store clerk Misty Snow but wider than McMullin's team anticipated.

McMullin won 100,000 more votes than Utah Democrats' four congressional candidates did collectively, but preliminary results don't suggest his campaigning against the two-party system energized voters enough to substantially buoy turnout.

Independents have won Senate races in Vermont and Maine, yet in deeply red states like Utah, party politics remain entrenched and important to voters.

To put together a fragile coalition of Democrats, Republicans and independents, McMullin focused closely on threats to democracy. Rather than campaign on traditional midterm election issues, he attacked Lee's November 2020 text messages to Trump's White House chief of staff about ways to challenge President Joe Biden's victory.

Both Lee and Democrats skeptical of his candidacy criticized McMullin for being unclear on issues such as abortion or infrastructure spending.

"You say you want to put country over party. I respect that," Lee said at an October debate, addressing McMullin. "But parties are an important proxy for ideas. You see, because it's ideas more than parties that tell the people how you will vote."

Kael Weston, the Democrat Senate candidate who lost the party's backing when it lined up behind McMullin, acknowledged it would have been difficult for a Democrat to defeat Lee. But he said McMullin's focus came at the expense of local concerns, such as water or the closure of rural post offices. Focusing on those kinds of issues is the path to making elections competitive in red states, not becoming "Republican lite," he said.

Though outside spending from Democratic-donor funded PACs and conservative groups like Club for Growth reflect how the race was more competitive than usual, Weston said, McMullin's attempts to distance himself from Biden and Democrats hurt Democrats who were lower on the ballot.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 76 of 77

"If all you see for three months is, Joe Biden is evil and Democrat is a four-letter word, that has an effect," he said, noting the anti-McMullin television ads might have hurt Democratic candidates for statehouse seats.

Today in History: November 13, Paris attacks kill 130

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, Nov. 13, the 317th day of 2022. There are 48 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 13, 2015, Islamic State militants carried out a set of coordinated attacks in Paris on the national stadium, restaurants and streets, and a crowded concert hall, killing 130 people in the worst attack on French soil since World War II.

On this date:

In 1775, during the American Revolution, the Continental Army captured Montreal.

In 1789, Benjamin Franklin wrote in a letter to a friend, Jean-Baptiste Leroy: "In this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes."

In 1909, 259 men and boys were killed when fire erupted inside a coal mine in Cherry, Illinois.

In 1942, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed a measure lowering the minimum draft age from 21 to 18.

In 1956, the Supreme Court struck down laws calling for racial segregation on public buses.

In 1971, the U.S. space probe Mariner 9 went into orbit around Mars.

In 1974, Karen Silkwood, a 28-year-old technician and union activist at the Kerr-McGee Cimarron plutonium plant near Crescent, Oklahoma, died in a car crash while on her way to meet a reporter.

In 1979, former California Gov. Ronald Reagan announced in New York his candidacy for the Republican presidential nomination.

In 1982, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial was dedicated on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

In 1985, some 23,000 residents of Armero, Colombia, died when a volcanic mudslide buried the city.

In 2019, the House Intelligence Committee opened two weeks of public impeachment hearings with a dozen current and former career foreign service officials and political appointees scheduled to testify about efforts by President Donald Trump and others to pressure Ukraine to investigate Trump's political rivals.

In 2020, speaking publicly for the first time since his defeat by Joe Biden, President Donald Trump refused to concede the election. Masked workers in teams of two began counting ballots in counties across Georgia; the hand tally of the presidential race stemmed from an audit required by a new state law.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama put a hold on the nomination of Afghan war chief Gen. John Allen to become the next commander of U.S. European Command as well as the NATO supreme allied commander in Europe amid questions over documents and emails involving Allen and Tampa socialite Jill Kelley (a Pentagon investigation cleared Allen of professional misconduct). Christie's auctioned off the Archduke Joseph Diamond in Geneva for nearly \$21.5 million, a world auction record price per carat for a colorless diamond.

Five years ago: A second woman accused Alabama Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore of sexually assaulting her as a teenager in the late 1970s; Moore described the charge as "absolutely false" and a "political maneuver." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Moore should drop out of the race. (Moore went on to lose a special election to Democrat Doug Jones.) A North Korean soldier was shot several times by his comrades as he fled over the border to the South; he underwent surgery and recovered at a South Korean hospital. The Oakland Raiders broke ground on a 65,000-seat domed stadium in Las Vegas.

One year ago: Almost 200 nations at a climate conference in Scotland accepted a compromise deal aimed at keeping a key global warming target alive, though some were disappointed by a last-minute change put forward by India to "phase down" rather than "phase out" coal power. A prolonged gunbattle between rival gangs inside Ecuador's largest prison killed at least 68 inmates and wounded 25; authorities said it took most of the day to regain control.

Today's Birthdays: Journalist-author Peter Arnett is 88. Actor Jimmy Hawkins is 81. Blues singer John Hammond is 80. Country singer-songwriter Ray Wylie Hubbard is 76. Actor Joe Mantegna is 75. Actor Sheila

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, Nov. 13, 2022 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 129 ~ 77 of 77

Frazier is 74. Actor Tracy Scoggins is 69. Actor Chris Noth (nohth) is 68. Actor-comedian Whoopi Goldberg is 67. Actor Rex Linn is 66. Actor Caroline Goodall is 63. Actor Neil Flynn is 62. Former NFL quarterback and College Football Hall of Famer Vinny Testaverde (tehs-teh-VUR'-dee) is 59. Rock musician Walter Kibby (Fishbone) is 58. Comedian and talk show host Jimmy Kimmel is 55. Actor Steve Zahn is 55. Actor Gerard Butler is 53. Writer-activist Ayaan Hirsi Ali is 53. Actor Jordan Bridges is 49. Actor Aisha Hinds is 47. Rock musician Nikolai Fraiture is 44. Former NBA All-Star Metta Sandiford-Artest (formerly Ron Artest and Metta World Peace) is 43. Actor Monique Coleman is 42. Actor Rahul Kohli is 37. Actor Devon Bostick is 31.