

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 1 of 88

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- New Year's Ad: Olive Grove Golf Course](#)
- [2- New Year's Ad: S & S Lumber](#)
- [3- Coming up on GDILIVE.COM](#)
- [4- South Dakota Average Gas Prices](#)
- [5- Drought Monitor](#)
- [6- BBB- Boys lose to Clark/Willow Lake](#)
- [7- NSU Men's Basketball](#)
- [8- NSU Wrestling](#)
- [9- NSU Women's Basketball](#)
- [10- Chamber Jan. 4 meeting minutes](#)
- [11- Frost photos by Bruce Babcock](#)
- [15- SD Searchlight: South Dakota's multilingual population is growing. Advocates say more resources are needed.](#)
- [18- SD Searchlight: Native American outreach marks Attorney General Vargo's short term in office](#)
- [21- SD Searchlight: Two-and-a-half party system operating in Legislature](#)
- [22- SD Searchlight: U.S. House GOP backs McCarthy as speaker after tense and chaotic late-night session](#)
- [25- SD Searchlight: Biden honors more than a dozen Americans for upholding democracy on Jan. 6](#)
- [27- Weather Pages](#)
- [31- Daily Devotional](#)
- [32- 2022 Community Events](#)
- [33- Subscription Form](#)
- [34- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [35- News from the Associated Press](#)



School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 7 p.m.  
United Methodist: Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.  
Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:45 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.

## Groton Community Calendar

### Saturday, Jan. 7

Wrestling at Garretson Invitational, 8 a.m.  
Basketball hosts Sioux Falls Lutheran, Boys JV at 1 p.m., Girls JV at 2 p.m., Boys Varsity to follow. No Varsity girls game.  
Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 3:45-4:15 p.m.; SEAS Mass, 4:30 p.m.

### Sunday, Jan. 8

Open Gym: Grades JK-8; 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., Grades 6-12; 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.  
Emmanuel Lutheran Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday

### Monday, Jan. 9

Senior Menu: Swiss steak, mashed potatoes, carrots, frosted brownie, whole wheat bread.  
School Breakfast: Egg bake.  
School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, mashes potatoes.  
Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.  
Middle School Wrestling Invitational at Webster, 5 p.m.  
Boys Basketball hosts Sisseton with JV game at 6 p.m. followed by Varsity (Rescheduled from Dec. 15)  
School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.  
The Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

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

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

© 2023 Groton Daily Independent

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 2 of 88

We're getting ready for a Hole-In-One Year, thanks to you!

**2023**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**

**397-GOLF**  
Groton, South Dakota

Olive Grove  
Golf Course

*Thank you for your past patronage and we look forward to serving you in 2023!*



## S & S Lumber

**HARDWARE  HANK**

201 East Hwy 12 • 605/397-2361

# GDILIVE.COM



## **Basketball**

**Saturday, Jan. 7, 2023**

**SF Lutheran at Groton**



## **Livestreaming**

**Boys JV Game at 1 p.m.**

Sponsored by Craig & Tasha Dunker

**Girls JV Game to follow**

Sponsored by Mr. Anonymous

## **followed by Boys Varsity Game**

Sponsored by

Bary Keith at Harr Motors

Bierman Farm Service

Blocker Construction

Dacotah Bank

Groton Chamber of Commerce

Groton Ford

John Sieh Agency

Locke Electric

Spanier Harvesting & Trucking

Bahr Spray Foam

Thunder Seed with John Wheeting

Anyone wanting to sponsor a JV or C game, Call/Text Paul at 605-397-7460

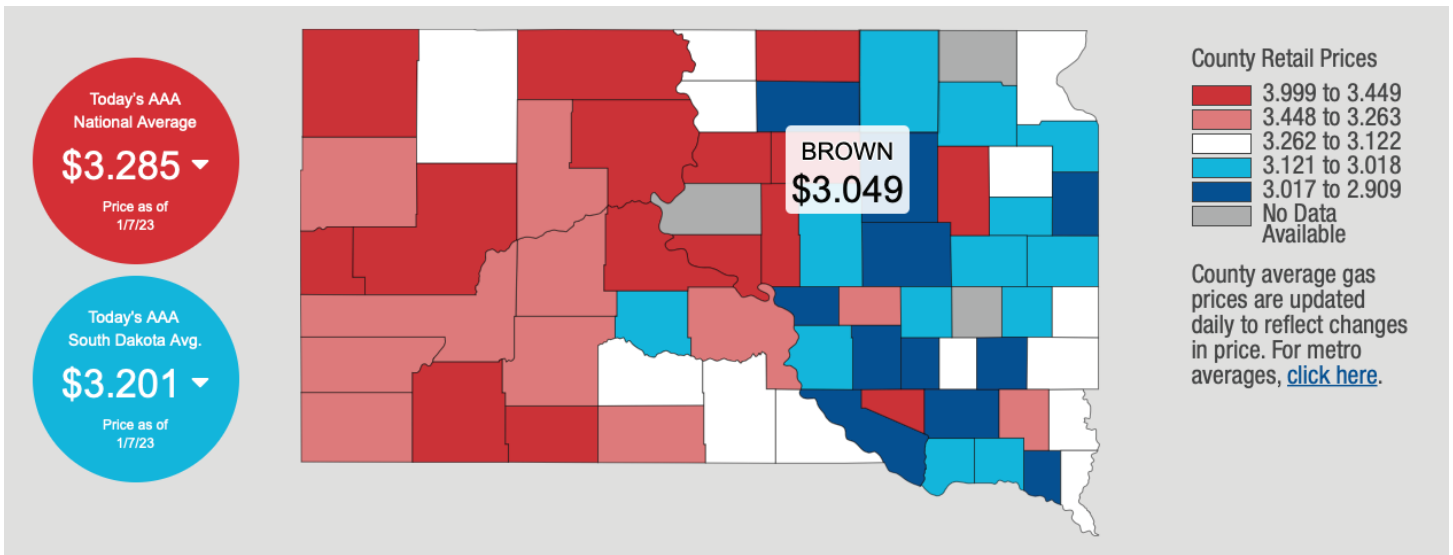
# Broton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 4 of 88

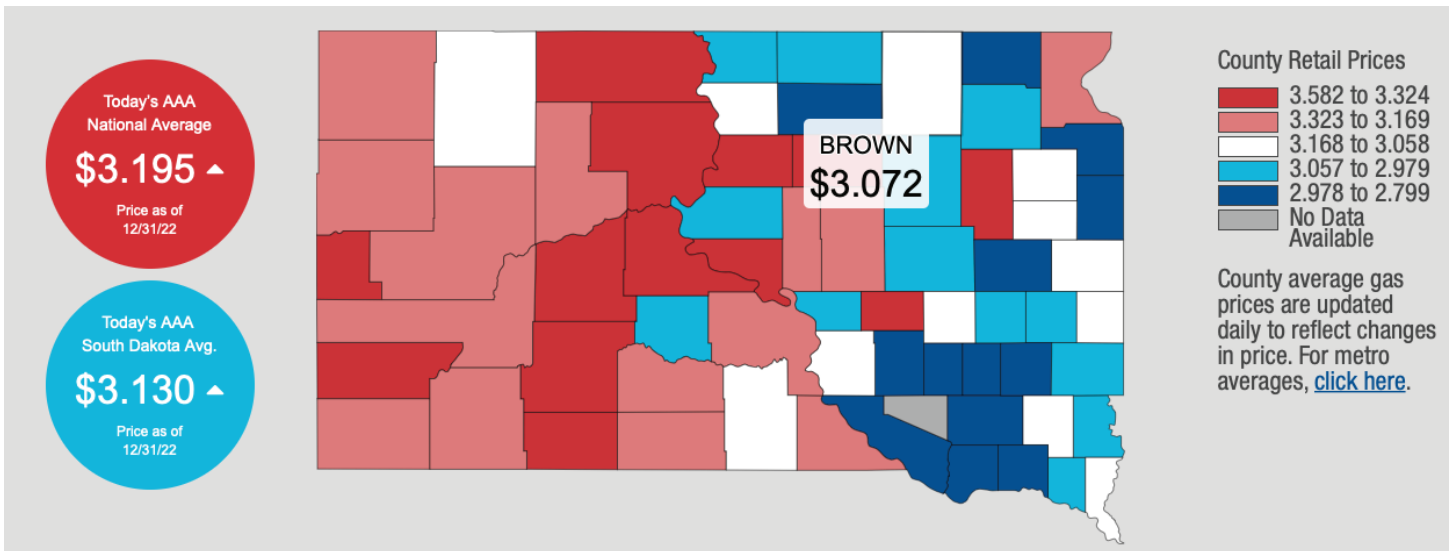
## South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.201	\$3.371	\$3.830	\$4.338
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.212	\$3.364	\$3.832	\$4.340
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.130	\$3.286	\$3.766	\$4.304
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.262	\$3.425	\$3.908	\$4.659
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.155	\$3.242	\$3.598	\$3.494

### This Week



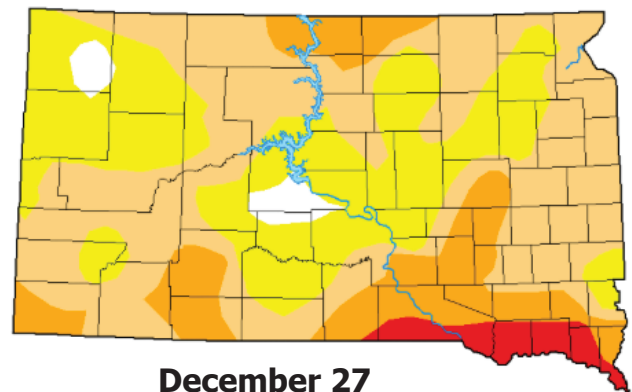
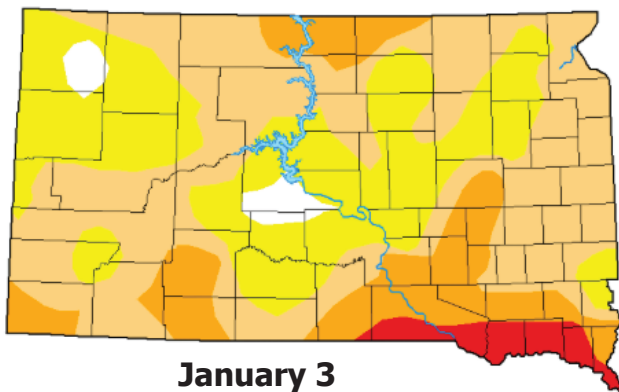
### Last Week



## Drought Classification



## Drought Monitor



Based on heavy precipitation (1 to 3 inches, liquid equivalent) this past week along with above-normal snowpack, a 1-category improvement was made to western Colorado. Beneficial precipitation also prompted improving drought conditions across north-central and northeastern Colorado. A decrease in the spatial coverage of extreme (D3) drought was made to central Nebraska. 12-month SPI and the long-term blend support the continued widespread severe (D2) to exceptional (D4) drought coverage for the central Plains. Norfolk, Nebraska, with a period of record dating back to 1888, had its driest year on record in 2022.

## Larson posts first double-double of the season against Clark/Willow Lake

The Groton Area boys basketball teams traveled to Clark Friday night, winning two of the three games that were played.

The afternoon started with the C team winning its game, 22-12. Groton Area led at the quarterstops at 5-4, 13-6 and 14-10. Gage Sippel led the Tigers with eight points followed by Keegen Tracy with six, Blake Pauli four, Logan Warrington two and Karter Moody and Turner Thompson each had one point. Will HOvde and Mato Denoyer each had four points to lead Clark/Willow Lake.

Taylor Diegel powered in three three-pointers to lift the Tigers to a 45-33 win in the junior varsity game. Diegel finished with 13 points while Keegen Tracy had eight, Logan Ringgenberg seven, Ryder Johnson and Braxton Imrie each had five, Gage Sippel four and Colby Dunker three. Tracy added two three-pointers while Imrie, Dunker and Johnson each made one.

Groton Area led at the quarterstops at 13-9, 30-14 and 43-24.

Tate Larson had a double-double night, the first for any team member this year, with 15 points, 12 rebounds and had three assists in Groton Area's loss to Clark/Willow Lake, 51-43.

Groton Area jumped out to a 10-2 lead, but then got stuck at 10 as the Cyclones whirled off 11 straight points to take a 13-10 lead. Groton Area got back on top and led at the first quarter break, 17-13. Groton Area had a 19-15 lead before the Cyclones would score 10 straight points to take a 25-19 lead. Clark/Willow Lake would lead at half time, 30-23. Kaplan Felberg went on a hot scoring drive for the Cyclones, hitting four three-pointers, as Clark/Willow Lake opened up a 17-point lead, 43-26 en route to a 45-32 lead at the end of the third quarter. Groton Area battled back in the fourth quarter and closed to within seven, 48-41, with two minutes left in the game. Miscues would thwart the rally and the Cyclones would pull out the Northeast Conference win.

Lane Tietz had 13 points, three rebounds, two assists and two steals. Cole Simon had six points and two steals. Taylor Diegel had four points, two rebounds and one steal. Ryder Johnson had three points, one rebound, one assist and one steal. Logan Ringgenberg had two points and one rebound. Jacob Zak had five rebounds and two steals.

Groton Area made 11 of 21 two-pointers for 52 percent, four of 15 three-pointers for 27 percent, had 24 rebounds, 15 turnovers, six assists, eight steals and 16 team fouls. Tietz made two three-pointers while Diegel and Johnson each made one.

Kaplan Felberg would lead the Cyclones with his seven three-pointers, tallying up 25 points. Brady Jordan and Trey Huber each had 11 points and Cole Brenden added four points.

All three games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM. Grandpa sponsored the C game, the Groton Chiropractic Clinic sponsored the junior varsity game, and the varsity sponsors were Bary Keith at Harr Motors, Bierman Farm Service, Blocker Construction, Dacotah Bank, Groton Chamber of Commerce, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Locke Electric, Spanier Harvesting & Trucking, Bahr Spray Foam, Thunder Seed with John Wheeting.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 7 of 88

## NSU Men's Basketball

### **Northern State Hands Augustana Sixth NSIC Loss of 2022-23**

Aberdeen, S.D. – The Northern State University men's basketball team cruised to an 86-64 victory over Augustana on Friday evening, led by Jacksen Moni with a career high 30 points. The Wolves led 48-29 at the half and out-rebounded the Vikings 38-29 in the win.

#### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 86, AU 64

Records: NSU 11-3 (7-1 NSIC), AU 7-8 (3-6 NSIC)

Attendance: 2512

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

- Northern shot 48.2% from the floor, 35.5% from the 3-point line, and 87.5% from the foul line in the win
- Defensively, they held Augustana to under 40.0% from the floor and forced eight turnovers which resulted in ten points
- In total, NSU recorded 26 points in the paint, 21 points off the bench, and six second chance points
- They drained 11 from beyond the arc and tallied a game leading 16 assists and five blocks
- Three Wolves scored in double figures in the win, while Michael Nhial led the team off the bench with nine points and seven rebounds
- The series between the Wolves and Vikings is now knotted up at 35-all

#### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

- Jacksen Moni: 30 points (career high), 60.0 field goal%, 4 rebounds, 1 assist
- Sam Masten: 13 points, 50.0 field goal%, 7 rebounds, 4 assists
- Josh Dilling: 10 points, 62.5 field goal%, 5 rebounds, 1 block, 1 steal
- Michael Nhial: 9 points, 7 rebounds

#### UP NEXT

The Wolves host Wayne State this evening from Wachs Arena. Tip-off time is set for 6 p.m. between the Wolves and Wildcats. Visit [nsuwolves.com/gameday](http://nsuwolves.com/gameday) for full game day promotions and information.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 8 of 88

## NSU Wrestling

### **Three Extra Point Wins Lead No. 21 Wolves to Dual Victory**

Moorhead, Minn. – The No. 21 Northern State University Wolves fought from behind in their Friday evening victory over Concordia College, Moorhead. The Cobbers are ranked No. 25 in the most recent NWCA Division III Poll. The Wolves tallied six bout victories in the dual win.

#### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 29, CC 13

Records: NSU 3-2, CC 5-2

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

- Landen Fischer opened the dual for the Wolves with a victory by fall at 5:44 over Kie Anderson; he led 8-1 prior to the pin
- Concordia Moorhead took the lead through the 133 and 141 pound weight classes with a major decision and victory by fall
- No. 11 Wyatt Turnquist knotted up the dual with a 10-2 major decision victory over Kellen Schauer
- The Cobbers gained their second lead of the evening in the following bout, however the Wolves rattled off four victories to seal the match
- Chase Bloomquist recorded a 7-1 victory over Elijah Hunt and Kelby Hawkins notched a 10-2 major decision over Ayden Friese
- Tyson Lien and No. 2 Cole Huss added a decision wins at 184 and 197 pounds, defeating Connor Chloupek with a score of 9-5 and Gabriel Zierden with a score of 12-7
- Northern closed out the evening with a forfeit victory at 285 pounds by Nathan Schauer

#### MATCH RESULTS

125: Landen Fischer (Northern State) over Kie Anderson (Concordia-Moorhead) (Fall 5:44)

133: Ty Bisek (Concordia-Moorhead) over Teagan Block (Northern State) (MD 8-0)

141: Cade Lundeen (Concordia-Moorhead) over Robert Coyle III (Northern State) (Fall 2:59)

149: Wyatt Turnquist (Northern State) over Kellen Schauer (Concordia-Moorhead) (MD 10-2)

157: Tyler Bents (Concordia-Moorhead) over Izaak Hunsley (Northern State) (Dec 7-3)

165" Chase Bloomquist (Northern State) over Elijah Hunt (Concordia-Moorhead) (Dec 7-1) : 0

174: Kelby Hawkins (Northern State) over Ayden Friese (Concordia-Moorhead) (MD 10-2)

184: Tyson Lien (Northern State) over Connor Chloupek (Concordia-Moorhead) (Dec 9-5)

197: Cole Huss (Northern State) over Gabriel Zierden (Concordia-Moorhead) (Dec 12-7)

285: Nathan Schauer (Northern State) wins by forfeit.

#### UP NEXT

Northern State opens their home schedule next Friday and Sunday with a pair of NSIC matches. The Wolves will face (RV) Minot State at 7 p.m. on Friday and No. 9 Upper Iowa at 2 p.m. on Sunday.



## NSU Women's Basketball

### **Fillipi Secures Comeback Victory over Augustana in Closing Seconds**

Aberdeen, S.D. – After trailing by as many as 13 points early in the fourth quarter, the Wachs Arena crowd came to life and rallied Northern State to a 62-60 victory over in-state foe Augustana. Rianna Fillipi delivered the dagger, sinking the game-winning layup on a tough drive to the rim with 1.6 seconds remaining.

#### THE QUICK DETAILS

Final Score: NSU 62, AU 60

Records: NSU 8-6 (3-5 NSIC), AU 12-3 (12-3 NSIC)

Attendance: 2,183

#### HOW IT HAPPENED

In a back-and-forth first quarter of play both teams shot over 50 percent from the field, with Augustana shooting 9-15 (60.0%) and Northern State shooting 8-15 (53.33%)

While both teams shooting cooled off in the second quarter, the Vikings used a 10-2 scoring run in the final five minutes of the period to take a 10-point lead into the halftime break

Madelyn Bragg scored seven of her nine points off the bench in the third quarter helping Northern out-score Augie 16-14 in the period after NSU delt with early foul trouble in the half

Jordyn Hilgemann brought the Wachs Arena crowd to their feet with 2:18 remaining in the game, knocking down a 3-pointer to bring the Wolves within three points (59-56)

NSU capitalized on the final possession of the game as Laurie Rogers was able to secure a held ball with the possession arrow pointing the Wolves direction and Jordyn Hilgemann secured another offensive rebound to set up Rianna Fillipi's game-winning drive to the basket

Northern closed the game on a 15-2 scoring run, the Vikings final made basket from the field came at the 6:23 mark in the fourth quarter on a Michaela Jewett 3-pointer

Northern State out-scored Augustana 37-25 in the second half, including 21-11 in the fourth quarter; the Wolves shot 13-33 (39.4%) compared to the Vikings 9-30 (30.0%) in the second half

#### NORTHERN STATE STATISTICAL STANDOUTS

Laurie Rogers: 15 points, 6 rebounds, 1 block, 2 steals

Rianna Fillipi: 13 points, 5 rebounds, 5 assists, 1 block, 5 steals

Jordyn Hilgemann: 10 points, 7 rebounds, 4 assists, 1 block

#### UP NEXT

Northern State will conclude their opening weekend of NSIC cross-division play as they battle Wayne State this afternoon. The Wolves and Wildcats are scheduled for a 4 p.m. tip-off in Wachs Arena.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 10 of 88

## Groton Chamber of Commerce January 4, 2023

12pm City Hall

• Individuals present: Christine Hilton, Kellie Locke, Katelyn Nehlich, Carol Kutter, April Abeln, and Doug Heinrich

• Minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Locke and seconded by Nehlich. All members present voted aye.

• Treasurer's report was given. Dacotah Bank checking account balance is \$30,633.95. \$2150.00 is in the Bucks account. Report was approved by Abeln and seconded by Locke. All members present voted aye. \$7,700.00 has been received for 2023 dues.

• Motion by Abeln and seconded by Heinrich to do a \$50 Facebook boosted post to encourage members to pay dues by February 1 . All members present voted aye. Post will list member benefits and mention our live Facebook hwy 12 sign drawing to be held February 15th at 12pm at City Hall. A Facebook event will be created for the drawing.

• All orders from the Chamber shirt reorder are done and have been delivered except for a special order due to sizing issues.

• It was suggested a picture of the golf course be added to the rack cards. Cards have not been ordered until a picture is found.

• Motion by Abeln and seconded by Heinrich to continue with Dakota Broadcasting radio ads for 2023 for \$160/month. All members present voted aye. Ads will run Tuesdays and Wednesdays and a generic ad will also be created. Nehlich will continue recording ads.

• Teri Foertsch was the winner of the \$50 Chamber Bucks from the Next Level Nutrition Christmas giveaway.

• Hilton reported on the Shop with a Cop event. 50 children received \$150 gift cards and shopped with 60 police officers. Breakfast was served at Wings & Rings for all prior to shopping and Santa was present.

• Heinrich was elected as Vice President. Locke will be Email Coordinator and Abeln will stay as Advertising Coordinator. New members are encouraged to attend meetings.

• Magnet advertising was not discussed further because representative was not present.

• Jim Lane has been contacted about wood sign lighting, but repairs have not been made.

• Kutter will reach out to Charity Hinman about her new "in home" daycare to see about a welcome visit. Josie Hoffman is opening an in-home daycare as well.

• Nehlich will send a list of 2023 Chamber members to Kay Daly to update our website after February 1 .

• Next meeting:

o February 1st at City Hall 12-1pm BYOL

• Upcoming events

o 01/29/2023 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed at the Community Center 10am-1pm

o 01/29/2023 85th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 11 of 88



**Nature's art work with frost this week.  
(Photo by Bruce Babcock)**

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 12 of 88



**Nature's art work with frost this week.  
(Photo by Bruce Babcock)**

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 13 of 88



**Nature's art work with frost this week.  
(Photo by Bruce Babcock)**

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 14 of 88



**Nature's art work with frost this week.  
(Photo by Bruce Babcock)**



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### **South Dakota's multilingual population is growing. Advocates say more resources are needed.**

**BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - JANUARY 7, 2023 5:00 AM**

Selene Zamorano-Ochoa says her friends and clients can't simply hop in a car and drive themselves to work or the grocery store like most other South Dakotans.

Instead, they use their smartphones to hail ridesharing services. That's because they can't speak English well enough to pass the state driver's license test.

In 2020, the South Dakota Legislature passed a bill that made the written portion of the exam available in Spanish. But, test-takers still must communicate with English-speaking examiners during the driving portion of the test, which has the effect of restricting some non-English speakers from earning their driver's license.

Zamorano-Ochoa said the experience is a reminder of the importance of learning the language for non-English-speaking immigrants.

"A lot of people don't make it to the second portion because they don't understand what they're telling them," said Zamorano-Ochoa, president and CEO of the South Dakota Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. "That helps them. If they know that it's needed, they'll find a way to learn the language just to pass that."

But as the state becomes increasingly multicultural and multilingual, advocates say there's a need for more resources to learn English and translate public information into immigrants' native languages.

#### **More multicultural, multilingual residents**

Between 2010 and 2020, South Dakota saw a population increase of 56,543 non-white people in the state, while the state's white population grew by 15,944, according to the 2020 census. The state's population of Spanish speakers increased by 75.1% in that same timeframe.

Beadle County has the highest percent of people who are Hispanic in the state at 14.3%. Minnehaha County is fourth with 6.1% and Pennington County is eighth with 5.1%.

Among the state's 50,757 multilingual residents, almost 11% — or about 5,400 people — don't speak English well or at all, based on 2021 American Community Survey data, produced by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Taneeza Islam is executive director for South Dakota Voices for Peace and South Dakota Voices for Justice. The organizations represent and advocate for immigrants and refugees in South Dakota, encouraging civic engagement for multilingual residents and offering free legal services for unaccompanied minors and immigrant survivors of violence in South Dakota.

"South Dakota is growing because of its multilingual population," Islam said. "To have communities that are fully engaged, we as a state, counties and cities have to do better to provide language access to keep communities engaged and sustain the same services that any English speaker can get."

#### **Limited translations available for resources, public information**

South Dakota's English common language law was passed by the Legislature and signed into law in 1995. The bill was sponsored by former state Sens. Mel Olson, D-Mitchell, and Mike Rounds, R-Pierre, who became governor in 2003 and currently serves as a U.S. senator for South Dakota.

The law requires that English be used in public documents, records and meetings. Exceptions include foreign language instruction, the justice system, instances when the "public safety, health or emergency services require the use of other languages," and — pursuant to a 2020 amendment — Spanish drivers' tests.

The 1995 bill was a preventative measure to keep the state from having to spend money translating its law books into several languages, including Lakota, Spanish and "whatever else people wanted them

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 16 of 88

printed in," Olson told South Dakota Searchlight.

"At that time, it was simply to prevent us from printing law books in different languages," Olson said, adding that most residents rarely pick up a law book. "The idea that it would be used as an anti-immigrant thing never occurred to us, because the focus was printing law books."

But nearly two decades later, Islam said several cities, counties and state agencies use a restrictive interpretation of the law, keeping a range of information, service guides and instructions for limited- or non-English-speaking residents out of reach.

"When you look at other states and communities doing this well, they're investing monetarily into it," Islam said. "It's part of their infrastructure. Every department needs to have language access."

South Dakota Searchlight viewed numerous state and local government websites in South Dakota and found none with a version translated into another language. There are some sites with a translation filter, but Zamorano-Ochoa said artificial intelligence translations aren't usually accurate. The state Department of Social Services and the state Department of Health refer non-English speakers to call a certain phone number for information.

The state's COVID-19 website offers several translated materials on mitigation of the virus in various languages, which are mostly provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. DSS offers a range of brochures and forms in Spanish, including how to access child care assistance and SNAP benefits, but none involving behavioral and mental health. The state Department of Corrections offers an inmate living guide in Spanish.

Under a 2000 executive order that built on the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the federal government and recipients of federal funds have "an obligation to make their services available to the populations they serve, regardless of what languages those individuals speak," according to government transparency organization Sunlight Foundation. However, enforcement of the executive order remains relaxed.

Several nonprofits and businesses across the state don't translate information either.

As the county with the highest percentage of its population speaking Spanish, Beadle County offers some information in Spanish. The State's Attorney's Office provides a translated version of Marsy's Law and has a few pamphlets on renters' rights and other general information.

Neither the Auditor's Office nor the Treasurer's Office has translated material.

"A lot of times we communicate with telephones with an app or they'll bring a translator with them," said Jacque McCaskell, Beadle County treasurer, whose office deals with property taxes, motor vehicle title transfers and registration renewals.

The Beadle County Jail translates virtually everything into three languages: Spanish; Karen, which is a southeast Asian language; and Micronesian, which is an oceanic language for Pacific islands. Just over 10% of Beadle County residents are Asian, according to census data.

Translated material includes jail rules, schedules, cleaning procedures and more, said Chad Sporrer, Beadle County jail administrator.

"They need to follow the rules just like everybody else does, so we have to provide that for them," Sporrer said.

Olson recognizes that aid is needed for immigrants and refugees settling in South Dakota, and said that if the common language law prevents transitional aid, then the Legislature should fix it.

However, he worries that translating too much material can become a "permanent crutch" for immigrants and would become a financial burden on state and local governments.

"If you're going to live permanently in the United States, you need to learn English," Olson said. "I recognize that's going to take a while. For people, regardless of why or how they came here, to expect to have everything in their language isn't reasonable or cost-effective for business or government or social services. I realize that's a hardship, but that's the way it is for people all over the world."

English classes need to be more accessible & go beyond basics, advocates say Spanish-speaking immigrants moving to South Dakota recognize they need to learn English, Zamorano-Ochoa said. But many English-learning classes are held on weekdays during work hours.

New residents can't easily take hours off their jobs each week to attend classes, and evening weekday



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 17 of 88

classes are difficult because many Spanish-speaking residents have two jobs or are taking care of their families at that time.

Even then, if a person works in a field that has a high immigrant population that doesn't speak English among one another, such as construction, meatpacking or a dairy, an hour or two of an English class each week is the only time they are able to practice conversational English.

"It's not because they don't want to learn, but it's because they don't have time," Zamorano-Ochoa said. "They want to be part of society and learn English and be more confident in their daily lives. They want to feel empowered."

Additionally, many English classes teach basic English skills like "hello" and "goodbye." To fully integrate into society, residents need to learn more complex English skills, like how to understand labels at the grocery store, discussion at city council meetings, language in the workplace or state press releases.

The South Dakota Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is expanding resources for multilingual and non-English speaking South Dakotans by hosting workshops and English classes in the evenings and weekends in 2023 with focuses on language for specific industries, such as construction or food service.

The classes will aim to better equip students with language skills to move up in their careers and improve safety on the job.

As a member of the South Dakota Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Islam explored language access for multilingual voters in the state ahead of the 2022 election.

South Dakota's ballots and voting information can only be printed in English, due to the common language law. While non-English speakers can bring a translator with them to their polling place, that information isn't well known, and it can be burdensome to locate and bring a translator.

Islam and South Dakota Voices for Peace translated South Dakota District 14 ballots in Minnehaha County for the 2022 election, including translations in Spanish, Nepali and Swahili.

"How do you engage in a community where you don't know what's going on?" Islam said. "You think about the ripple effect of that – if the ballots are in English and I can't read them, I'm not going to vote and our communities aren't getting represented in the election."

While basic English knowledge is required for citizenship, the citizenship test only requires reading a sentence in English and explaining it at a reading level of about third-grade English.

"As we all know from initiated measures and amendments, that language can be very complicated," Islam said. "This is not an issue of learning English. This is an issue of citizens having a right to vote ... and making the most informed decision of what they're voting for."

"History is important to understand, so we don't make the same mistakes. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 dismantled barriers for black voters which included literacy tests and poll taxes," Islam added in an emailed statement. "Decision makers should want to provide access to voting to ensure a representative democracy, not mandate requirements that prevent a U.S. citizen's right to vote."

Many of Sioux Falls' non-English speaking residents were also left in the dark during the pandemic, Islam added. She said COVID-19 "exacerbated the great discrepancy between who has access to services and who doesn't," since nearly all public health information or social services information, such as food bank distribution or unemployment assistance, was in English.

"I think people are seeing more and more multilingual members coming to them for services, and at the end of the day, a service provider wants to provide that service," Islam said. "There are enough agencies seeing that, so there's more of an appetite for the conversation."

South Dakota Voices for Peace was one of over 50 organizations that received funding from the state Department of Health to develop a community health worker workforce, part of a federal grant. South Dakota has been working to develop a CHW workforce since 2015, with an aim to better connect minority groups that have historically encountered barriers to accessing health care.

Organizations involved include Voices for Peace, the Union Gospel Mission homeless shelter in Sioux Falls and health care systems such as Sanford and Avera Health.

Avera took a unique approach. It recruited a handful of Sioux Falls residents who are part of refugee

communities and sent them into their neighborhoods to find people who need them, said Julie Ward, vice president of diversity, equity and inclusion at Avera.

The team of six speaks 12 languages, ranging from Spanish to Amharic to Dinka. They not only help translate information for patients, but they identify barriers to public health that have been there for years. They also identify solutions that fit within those cultures.

That includes explaining the differences between a primary care physician and a specialty doctor, when to use the emergency room and how to potty train children to ensure their kids begin school at an appropriate age — aspects of typical life in America that weren't normal in their original country.

"If you think about those who grew up here and were educated in the U.S. and had an opportunity to go into higher education, health care is still difficult to navigate," Ward said. "Now add a language barrier, literacy barrier, education barrier and access barrier. It's just barrier on top of barrier."

For recent immigrants, living in the U.S. is often "just survival," said Angela Schoffelman, community program manager at Avera. The community health worker program gives them a better chance to understand their health needs, avoid a chronic or crisis illness, and establish trust in health care.

The diversity in Sioux Falls will only continue to grow, she added. It's important that everyone receives health care information in their own language so they have a full understanding — and that same treatment and understanding is needed for several aspects of daily life.

"This is a population that hasn't been served as well as they should be, and we can serve a need that's very clear in our community," Schoffelman said.

*Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan whose work has won national and regional awards. She's spent five years as a journalist with experience reporting on workforce, development and business issues within the state.*

## Native American outreach marks Attorney General Vargo's short term in office

**Final moves from temporary AG include creation of state, tribal collaboration commission**

**BY: JOHN HULT - JANUARY 6, 2023 6:35 PM**

Attorney General Mark Vargo stepped away from his post on Friday with a six-month legacy he hopes will serve as a building block to stronger relations between law enforcement and South Dakota's nine tribal nations.

Vargo was appointed by Gov. Kristi Noem following the impeachment and removal of former Attorney General Jason Ravensborg, who hit and killed a man with a car near Highmore in 2020.

In October, Vargo filled a position meant to lead investigations into missing and murdered indigenous persons (MMIP), as well as a position to lead anti-human trafficking efforts. The Legislature created the MMIP position in 2021. Ravensborg, embroiled in controversy over his actions surrounding the fatal 2020 crash, failed to fill it.

On Friday, Vargo bolstered his case for the long-term impact of his attorney generalship with two more announcements related to state and Native American collaboration.

The first came in the form of the newly created Jurisdictional Cooperation Commission, a group of state, local and tribal officials tasked with exploring mutual aid for public safety across state and tribal borders.

Vargo, who will be replaced by returning Attorney General Marty Jackley next week, will co-chair the commission alongside Tatewin Means. Means is a former Oglala Sioux Tribe attorney general who now serves as the executive director of the Thunder Valley Development Corporation in Pine Ridge.

Vargo's second announcement for Friday heralded the expansion of the Oyate Court, a Rapid City-based program in which tribal elders guide and craft culturally appropriate diversion plans for Native American defendants.

Vargo led the formation of the Rapid City court while serving as Pennington County State's Attorney, a

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 19 of 88

job to which he'll return next week. Pastor Jon Old Horse of Rapid City will act as adviser to Tripp County State's Attorney Zach Pahlke for the Oyate Court's expansion to that central South Dakota county.

Oyate Court is built on the principles of Peacemaking Circles, which served to resolve conflicts in pre-colonial times.

"We have generations of data in this country that show simply locking people up does not solve our community's problems," Old Horse said in a news release. "We have shown that using Peacekeeping Circles can be effective in a modern judicial setting."

Jackley said Friday that he intends to carry on each of Vargo's efforts to bridge the gap between state law enforcement and tribal leaders "because I think it's important to the state and to the office."

"I think everybody agrees that there are not sufficient law enforcement resources in Indian Country, and that affects all of South Dakota," said Jackley, who prosecuted cases originating in tribal areas as the U.S. attorney for the District of South Dakota from 2006 through 2009. "Whenever there's an opportunity to combine state, local, federal law enforcement, we're better able to protect Indians and non-Indians, which benefits everybody."

## **Vargo: Relationships key to collaboration**

Each move on tribal collaboration has its own specific set of goals, Vargo said, but each shares the goal of fostering trust and communication.

Tribal members have long felt as though their voices have been ignored by the criminal justice system, he said. Focusing on tribal needs and learning from tribal leaders through regular and explicit collaboration is one way to ensure that those voices are heard.

"That underlines the bedrock promise of the Attorney General's Office, which is that we're going to equal justice under law," Vargo said. "But to convey to people that they are both individually and collectively welcome, that they're respected, and that they're part of that promise, is just a message that needs to go out."

His immediate focus on hiring a coordinator for the new Office of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) was a relatively easy decision, he said. Very little work had been done. There were a handful of applications for the post from before his time, but it appeared that no one had bothered to review them. Vargo reposted the job and soon had 70 applicants.

"The legislation authorizing the MMIP coordinator already existed," he said. "I didn't have to wait for buy-in from outside organizations, I could just invite people to come in."

One of Vargo's main takeaways from his stint as the state's top law enforcement official has been the reminder that "my staff know more than I do." Following the lead of the experts and specialists in Pierre, he said, gave him an appreciation for the importance of listening for new and better ways of doing things.

Vargo sees that message as instructive for the work of the Jurisdictional Cooperation Commission, which includes prosecutors and officials from a wide variety of backgrounds and agencies.

The idea for a commission was sparked in part by efforts in Pennington County in September, when former Sheriff Kevin Thom inked a memorandum of mutual support with the Oglala Sioux Tribe in order to share information across borders.

"I felt that we had a little momentum built up there, and that this would really help amplify it," he said. "So instead of just dealing with the Oglala Sioux Tribe or just with Rosebud, I can sit in a chair here and talk to everyone."

Jackley said he plans to sit in on some of the commission's meetings, which will begin in February. He has high hopes for the commission, noting that previous state-tribal agreements had been born of relationships between his office and tribal governments, personal meetings and attendance at tribal events.

The flags of all nine South Dakota tribes are on display at the George S. Mickelson Law Enforcement Center in Pierre, which Jackley sees as an important signal of the office's willingness to listen and learn.

He also said it's long been important for tribal officials across the state to have his cell phone number and to know that he'll pick up the phone when help is needed.

"We have traditionally in law enforcement been in a better position than other political areas with tribal

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 20 of 88

relations, and it's because of what's at stake," Jackley said. "Law enforcement tends to rise above the political fray when it comes to public safety."

Vargo's efforts to formalize those relationships through the MMIP hire and the creation of the commission were also built in part through out-of-office outreach. He invited the Wambli Ska drum circle and Pastor Old Horse to offer prayers and song at the announcement of the MMIP office in September. Less than two months after hiring Allison Morrisette as the coordinator, he and Morrisette visited the Lakota Nation Invitational tournament in Rapid City to introduce her to the Native community and talk about the MMIP mission.

"Mark set a very inclusive tone during his term in office," Secretary of Tribal Relations Dave Flute said in a prepared statement. "The consultation he organized before hiring the MMIP coordinator was one of the most effective I have seen."

## Rebuilding vs. reopening

Rebuilding or enhancing relations with tribal entities struck Vargo as a place where he could make an impact in the run-up to Jackley's return to the office. Jackley served as attorney general until 2019, departing after an unsuccessful attempt to secure the GOP nomination for governor in 2018.

But "rebuilding" carried a different connotation when Vargo came to Pierre. Many people have asked him about the state of the Attorney General's Office, he said, suggesting that it was "broken."

Now, however, Vargo contends that the long-term public servants he met at the Mickelson Center quickly dispatched with the notion of a broken office.

"What was broken when I arrived was the reputation of the office, but its character remained strong," Vargo said. "I think a lot of what happened was that people projected what they believed about the attorney general onto the Attorney General's Office as a whole, and that was neither fair nor true."

In a third and final news release Friday, Vargo trumpeted the professionalism of the lawyers, detectives, crime lab analysts and others he worked with through the end of his term.

In his interview with South Dakota Searchlight, Vargo reiterated how impressed he's been by the civil servants who "kept their heads down" and worked through the steady stream of attention heaped upon Ravensborg and his attempts to fend off the fate that befell him in June, when he became the first and only statewide elected official in South Dakota history to be impeached and removed from office.

"Every single person that I've worked with over the last six months, probably at some point in the last four years thought about quitting. And every single one of them, when they thought about quitting, remembered why they started and stayed here to do the work that they believe in," Vargo said. "If you can't be inspired by the fact that you're surrounded by people who endured for the benefit of our common cause, then you're a pretty lousy human being, and I hope I'm not that bad."

*John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux falls Argus Leader.*

## COMMENTARY

### **Two-and-a-half party system operating in Legislature**

by **DANA HESS** ~ JANUARY 6, 2023 5:41 PM

The first week of the legislative session is feast and famine for Capitol reporters.

The famine is in the mornings when committees are supposed to meet. In that first week, some of them won't meet at all. Others will meet to "organize." Few, if any, will make any news that first week.

The feast is on Tuesday afternoon when the governor gives her State of the State address. Most of the news she was going to make was likely in January's budget speech, but there could be something in the State of the State worth writing about.

The State of the State is followed on Wednesday afternoon by the State of the Judiciary speech. There could be news there if the chief justice is asking for funding for new programs or more judges. On Thursday, the afternoon session is given over to the State of the Tribes address from a tribal president.

For a time there was some loose talk in the Legislature about a fourth speech that first week that would consider the State of the Legislature. The only time left for that speech was Friday afternoon and usually on Friday afternoons the Legislature clears out faster than freshmen at a suitcase college. They all want to head home rather than listen to another speech.

But while that fourth speech never became a reality, it does raise an interesting question: What is the state of South Dakota's Legislature?

The answer can be summed up in one word: odd.

In civics classes students learn about the two-party system of government. Currently the Legislature is working under a two-and-a-half party system. The half party is Democrats who have just four members in the 35-member Senate and seven members in the 70-member House. So few in number, they are of little consequence. The other two parties in the Legislature both call themselves Republicans. One group is what you would call traditional Republicans — small government, low taxes, that sort of thing. The other group believes in that, too, but on steroids.

This second group of Republicans has made significant inroads in the House, and it hasn't happened overnight.

As a Capitol reporter, I first became aware that there may be two Republican parties in 2017. At issue was HB 1053, a change in the Attorney Recruitment Assistance Program. The program, a joint effort of the State Bar Association, Unified Judicial System and participating counties, offered to bring attorneys to counties with populations of less than 10,000.

When all the counties that wanted attorneys had them, HB 1053 would expand the program to allow it to be of service to municipalities with populations of 3,500 or less. Keep in mind that the program already existed and was already funded. All HB 1053 did was expand it to include small municipalities.

It sounded to me, as a reporter and a taxpayer, like the kind of bill that legislators would welcome. A help for rural communities where those people who needed a lawyer wouldn't need to invest so much windshield time in going to an appointment in the next community.

They wouldn't be adding to the bureaucracy because the program already existed, and they wouldn't be spending any more money because the program was already funded. It sounds like a Republican's dream come true.

The bill was presented on the House floor by Rep. Tim Reed of Brookings. New to the House, it was Reed's first time presenting a bill on the floor. He must have wondered what he was doing wrong as his Republican colleagues kept rising to say what a bad bill he was offering.

Dan Kaiser of Aberdeen called it socialism, asking taxpayers in counties that didn't need the program to help pay for it.

Steven Haugaard of Sioux Falls said he was tired of the state picking winners and losers, explaining that the program would be better off funded by a private foundation.

Taffy Howard of Rapid City said taxpayers are tired of all the Legislature's spending.

Elizabeth May of Kyle came out on the side of taxpayers, too, saying that there would be ongoing costs

associated with the program.

HB 1053 had breezed through the House Judiciary Committee on a 9-1 vote. Later it would clear the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously and then fly through the Senate on a vote of 30-5. That wasn't the case in the House where the bill, while it was successful, saw 21 Republicans vote against it.

These are not your father's Republicans. They have never met a tax that they would want a taxpayer to pay. They want to live in a world with no abortions, no transgender people and no restrictions on the Second Amendment. They are quick to lecture rather than discuss, and they see compromise as a sign of weakness.

If they could muster 21 House votes in 2017 to keep people in rural communities from having access to lawyers, there's no telling what they could do in 2023 to education or health care or any of the hundreds of bills that go through the Legislature each year. No one knows how this session will turn out, but it's obvious that the civics textbooks need to change. In South Dakota, the Legislature no longer operates under a two-party system.

*Dana Hess spent more than 25 years in South Dakota journalism, editing newspapers in Redfield, Milbank and Pierre. He's retired and lives in Brookings, working occasionally as a freelance writer.*

## **U.S. House GOP backs McCarthy as speaker after tense and chaotic late-night session**

**BY: JENNIFER SHUTT AND ASHLEY MURRAY - JANUARY 7, 2023 12:02 AM**

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House elected Kevin McCarthy speaker early Saturday after most of the chamber's Republicans finally gathered behind him, ending a four-day stalemate that led to the most rounds of voting for a speaker since before the Civil War.

The California Republican was able to clinch the gavel on the 15th ballot by turning many of the 20 conservative GOP lawmakers who voted against him to his side through a combination of rules changes and promises that his leadership will be different from recent House GOP speakers.

McCarthy received 216 votes to 212 for Democrat Hakeem Jeffries of New York, with six Republican members voting present.

The agreement and the vote allowed the 434 current members of the chamber to be sworn in for the 118th Congress, and will allow other essential steps for the House like adopting the rules, officially forming up committees and passing bills to move forward.

McCarthy's campaign to become the nation's 55th speaker ran into a significant roadblock Friday just before midnight on the 14th ballot. Verbal disputes among Republicans that nearly turned physical broke out on the floor when McCarthy fell just short of gaining enough votes.

Tensions surrounding McCarthy's efforts to clinch the gavel he's been working towards for years led to a chaotic scene in the chamber as the California Republican walked from his seat to where Lauren Boebert of Colorado and Matt Gaetz of Florida were seated.

The two dissenters had voted present, in what originally seemed like a goodwill gesture to help lower the threshold of votes McCarthy needed to become speaker, without the two having to actually vote for him.

McCarthy and Gaetz appeared to strongly disagree, yelling at each other as North Carolina's Patrick McHenry tried to intercede to cool tensions and work toward getting McCarthy elected, as he has been for days.

North Carolina's Richard Hudson had to hold back Alabama's Mike Rogers from possibly getting into a physical altercation with Gaetz, in a tumultuous moment for the House Republican Conference, which has been in charge of the chamber since just Tuesday.

McHenry then called for the House to adjourn until Monday at noon. Republicans initially voted for adjournment, only switching their votes at the last seconds when McCarthy cheerfully led them in moving to stay in session for the 15th and last ballot.

The last of the Republican holdouts — Andy Biggs of Arizona, Eli Crane of Arizona, Bob Good of Virginia

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 23 of 88

and Matt Rosendale of Montana — voted present on the final ballot, lowering the threshold McCarthy needed to become speaker, but not actually giving him their full support. Boebert and Gaetz also voted present on the last ballot.

## Concessions to conservatives

McCarthy has made several concessions to the more conservative members of his party, many of them members of the House Freedom Caucus, including a change to the motion to vacate that will allow any one member to essentially call for a no-confidence vote on the speaker.

McCarthy also promised to cut spending, though he would need to broker a deal with the Democratic Senate and the Biden administration for that to actually happen.

The nominating speech for McCarthy on the 14th ballot came from McHenry, who is slated to become chairman of the powerful House Financial Services Committee.

"I'm one of the few members left on the Republican side who has had the pleasure of serving with Kevin for the entirety of his tenure in the House," McHenry said. "He's unflinchingly optimistic, the glass is always half full. That's been a hell of a trait, especially this week. He's relentless. The man does not quit."

California's Pete Aguilar, House Democrats' caucus chair, sought to remind Republicans of the two-year anniversary of the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol by pro-Trump rioters and the implications of GOP rule during a floor speech ahead of the 14th ballot vote.

"Today, we adjourned amidst utter confusion. Only this time, we're returning in the dark of night — not to cast a vote to bring this country together and to do our jobs, but one that will set the path toward division and default," Aguilar said before the vote.

## Late night after late night

Fifteen GOP holdouts moved to McCarthy's side during two rounds of voting Friday afternoon, signaling significant movement compared to the votes on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

But, that wasn't enough for McCarthy to reach the threshold needed to become speaker. Republicans allied with McCarthy called for the House to adjourn until 10 p.m., when two absent McCarthy supporters were expected to be back in the Capitol.

McCarthy in negotiations has promised changes in the rules of the House to win over his conservative foes. But no GOP leaders, nor the Republicans who switched to backing McCarthy on Friday, have released documents or a clear outline of all the changes by the time voting began, making their details or how they'd be enforced somewhat murky.

House Republicans did release an updated rules package late Friday, but that doesn't include every concession in writing.

Republican House leaders are reportedly planning to allow any member of the chamber to bring up a so-called motion to vacate, down from a previously planned five-member threshold, for a maneuver that essentially allows a no-confidence vote on the speaker.

In addition, conservatives won concessions about having representation on key committees and getting leaders to reduce spending to the fiscal 2022 level.

Any negotiations that touched on defense spending were of deep concern to defense hawks who represent districts with big Pentagon spending. Moving from the current fiscal 2023 level of about \$1.7 trillion back to the roughly \$1.5 trillion discretionary spending level of fiscal 2022 would represent significant reductions to nondefense accounts, since Republicans appear unlikely to cut defense spending.

The group also got an agreement to bring annual government funding bills to the floor under an open rule process, which allows any member of the House to offer amendments.

That practice hasn't been employed in years. Leaders in both parties have allowed the Rules Committee to filter amendments going to the floor for debate and votes, eliminating the risk of "gotcha" amendments or repetitive amendments that essentially make the same change.

McCarthy said after the vote to adjourn Friday afternoon that the ongoing disagreement over whether he should become speaker is actually good for the House GOP Conference

"This is the great part. Because it took this long, now we learned how to govern. So now we'll be able

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 24 of 88

to get the job done," he said.

## Switching to McCarthy

Dan Bishop of North Carolina, Josh Brecheen of Oklahoma, Michael Cloud of Texas, Andrew Clyde of Georgia, Byron Donalds of Florida, Paul Gosar of Arizona, Anna Paulina Luna of Florida, Mary Miller of Illinois, Ralph Norman of South Carolina, Andy Ogles of Tennessee, Scott Perry of Pennsylvania, Chip Roy of Texas, Keith Self of Texas and Victoria Spartz of Indiana all moved to backing McCarthy on the 12th ballot.

Spartz previously had been voting present in an effort to get the holdouts in a room to work out a deal. Maryland's Andy Harris then flipped his vote to McCarthy on the 13th ballot.

"If the agreement we were able to finalize over the last few days is implemented, it will be the greatest change in how the House operates and becomes much more responsive to the American people in at least two generations," Harris said in a written statement following his changed vote.

Biggs, Crane, Good and Rosendale voted against McCarthy on the 14th ballot, but all switched to present votes, along with Boebert and Good, on the 15th ballot.

Perry and the House Freedom Caucus members who shifted their support to McCarthy said the deal under negotiation will hold the speaker accountable, curb spending and allow for more conservative representation on committees.

"It is critically important that the Rules Committee reflects the body and reflects the will of the people and that is a part of this framework," Perry said.

## Challenging outlook for House

The drawn-out speaker process highlights how challenging it will be for McCarthy to move legislation across the House floor with a four-person majority.

While many of the bills the House Republican Conference plans to move will be partisan and unlikely to get floor votes in the Democratic Senate, Congress has several must-pass bills that House GOP leaders will need to negotiate with Senate Democratic leadership and the Biden administration.

Those bills have been central to the ongoing dispute within the House GOP about how the party will handle its 222-person majority during this Congress.

The more conservative members of the party want to use the dozen annual government funding bills, which are supposed to become law by the start of the fiscal year on Oct. 1, to leverage GOP policy goals.

They've also touted the need to raise the nation's debt limit sometime this year as another chance to hold up legislation in an effort to get some sort of agreement on how much the federal government spends annually.

The two deadlines and issues are separate, though some Republican lawmakers have switched them around or conflated them during interviews this week.

Congress has had several stalemates over government funding go past deadlines, leading to a funding lapse or a partial government shutdown. While the process has a significant impact on federal operations and the economy, it's nowhere near as catastrophic as a default on the debt would be.

The United States has never defaulted on its debts and just getting close to the deadline in 2011 led to a downgrade of the nation's credit.

Moody's Analytics Chief Economist Mark Zandi and Assistant Director Bernard Yaros wrote in a September 2021 report released amid the last round of brinkmanship on the debt limit that a default on the debt would "upend" global financial markets and the economy.

They added that "even if resolved quickly, Americans would pay for this default for generations, as global investors would rightly believe that the federal government's finances have been politicized and that a time may come when they would not be paid what they are owed when owed it."

## 'It will be difficult, no doubt'

Maryland Democratic Rep. Steny Hoyer, who is returning to the Appropriations Committee after stepping aside from leadership, said plans to bring the annual government funding bills to the floor under a process that will allow any member to offer amendments could become problematic for GOP leaders.

"Open rules don't work because what you have is filibuster by amendment," Hoyer said, noting that many



of the amendments will be "gotcha amendments" and not substantive policy proposals.

Oklahoma's Tom Cole said Friday night before the chamber met for the final round of votes that House Republicans can try to "encourage good behavior" so they don't get 4,000-page bills, but can't "impose our will on the Senate."

"It will be difficult, no doubt. But this is the process. And I always tell people, remember, your first bill that's passed is just simply your negotiating position," Cole said. "But it's going to change as it moves through the Senate. And the administration is certainly in a position to veto things, and you can veto things if you think they spend too little as well as if too much."

*Jennifer covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include congressional policy, politics and legal challenges with a focus on health care, unemployment, housing and aid to families.*

*Ashley Murray covers the nation's capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include domestic policy and appropriations.*

## **Biden honors more than a dozen Americans for upholding democracy on Jan. 6**

**BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA - JANUARY 6, 2023 5:01 PM**

WASHINGTON — On the second anniversary of the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, President Joe Biden on Friday awarded citizen medals to 14 Americans who protected democracy and law enforcement officers who defended the Capitol.

"Two years ago on Jan. 6 our democracy was attacked," Biden said at the White House. "Our democracy held because 'We the People' did not flinch. 'We the People' endured. 'We the People' prevailed."

This is Biden's first time in his presidency awarding the Presidential Citizens Medal, which is the second-highest award an American citizen can receive, second to the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Biden told the recipients that "history will remember your names, remember your courage, remember your bravery, remember your extraordinary commitments to your fellow Americans."

Among recipients of the Presidential Citizens Medal were Fulton County, Georgia, election workers Shaye Moss and Ruby Freeman, a mother and daughter who were targeted by Trump administration officials and falsely accused of voter fraud in the 2020 presidential election.

"Ruby and Shaye, you don't deserve what happened to you," Biden said. "But you do deserve the nation's eternal thanks for showing that dignity and grace of 'We the People.'"

Other recipients included:

Rusty Bowers, the former speaker of the Arizona House who resisted pressures to overturn 2020 election results.

Jocelyn Benson, the Michigan secretary of state who faced armed protesters outside her home when she resisted pressure over election results.

Al Schmidt, a former GOP commissioner in Philadelphia and member of the Philadelphia County Board of Elections who during the 2020 election faced threats for defending the integrity of the election.

### **Jan. 6 attack**

On Jan. 6, hundreds of pro-Trump supporters stormed the Capitol in an attempt to prevent members of Congress from certifying the results of the 2020 presidential election.

Trump was impeached for a second time for his role in the insurrection and a special investigation panel unanimously voted to refer him and others to the Justice Department for potential criminal charges, including inciting or aiding an insurrection.

The special House panel investigating Jan. 6 also found that Trump was directly involved in efforts to pressure state officials in Georgia, Arizona and elsewhere to overturn the 2020 election results in their states.

Some of those officials who were pressured were awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal at the White

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 26 of 88

House.

"It's not an exaggeration to say America owes you ... a debt of gratitude, one we can never fully repay unless we live up to what you did," Biden said to the recipients.

The president also posthumously awarded medals to law enforcement officers who died following the insurrection.

Those officers include the late Brian Sicknick, a Capitol Police officer who was injured while responding to the Jan. 6 attack and later died, and two officers who died by suicide, Jeffrey Smith and Howard Liebengood.

Others receiving medals were:

Harry Dunn, a Capitol Police officer who defended the Capitol during the insurrection and experienced racist slurs and harassment from the rioters.

Caroline Edwards, who was the first law enforcement officer who was injured by the rioters and continued to defend the Capitol after suffering a traumatic brain injury.

Michael Fanone, who served as a Metropolitan Police Department officer and was injured as he defended the Capitol during the attack. He later resigned and has pushed for congressional Republicans to acknowledge their role in spreading the false narrative that the 2020 presidential election was stolen.

Aquilino Gonell, who served as a Capitol Police sergeant and was injured during the attack.

Eugene Goodman, the U.S. Capitol Police officer who is credited with diverting rioters from the Senate floor, allowing senators and staff to evacuate.

Daniel Hodges, a Metropolitan Police Department officer who was injured while defending the Capitol.

## House ceremony

Separately, U.S. House Democratic leaders and members held a ceremony earlier in the day to remember the five law enforcement officers who died following the Jan. 6 insurrection. Following the attack, four law enforcement officers died by suicide.

"The violent insurrectionists stormed the Capitol and attempted to halt the peaceful transfer of power," House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said. "They failed because of the bravery and valor of the United States Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police Department officers who fought heroically to defend our democracy."

Family members of the officers read their loved one's name, followed by a bell to signify their remembrance.

Those officers included, Sicknick, Gunther Hashida, Kyle DeFreytag, Smith and Liebengood.

The children of U.S. Capitol Police Officer Billy Evans, read their dad's name. Evans died in a second attack on the Capitol in April 2021 when a driver rammed his car into a barricade on the north complex of the Capitol, slamming into Evans and another officer.

Jeffries later called for 140 seconds of silence, to acknowledge the 140 law enforcement officers who were injured on Jan. 6.

Former Democratic U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who was inside the Capitol during the insurrection, thanked the family members of the officers "for considering us worthy to share your grief," and "to honor your loss."

"We will always carry the memory of their families in our hearts," the California Democrat said.

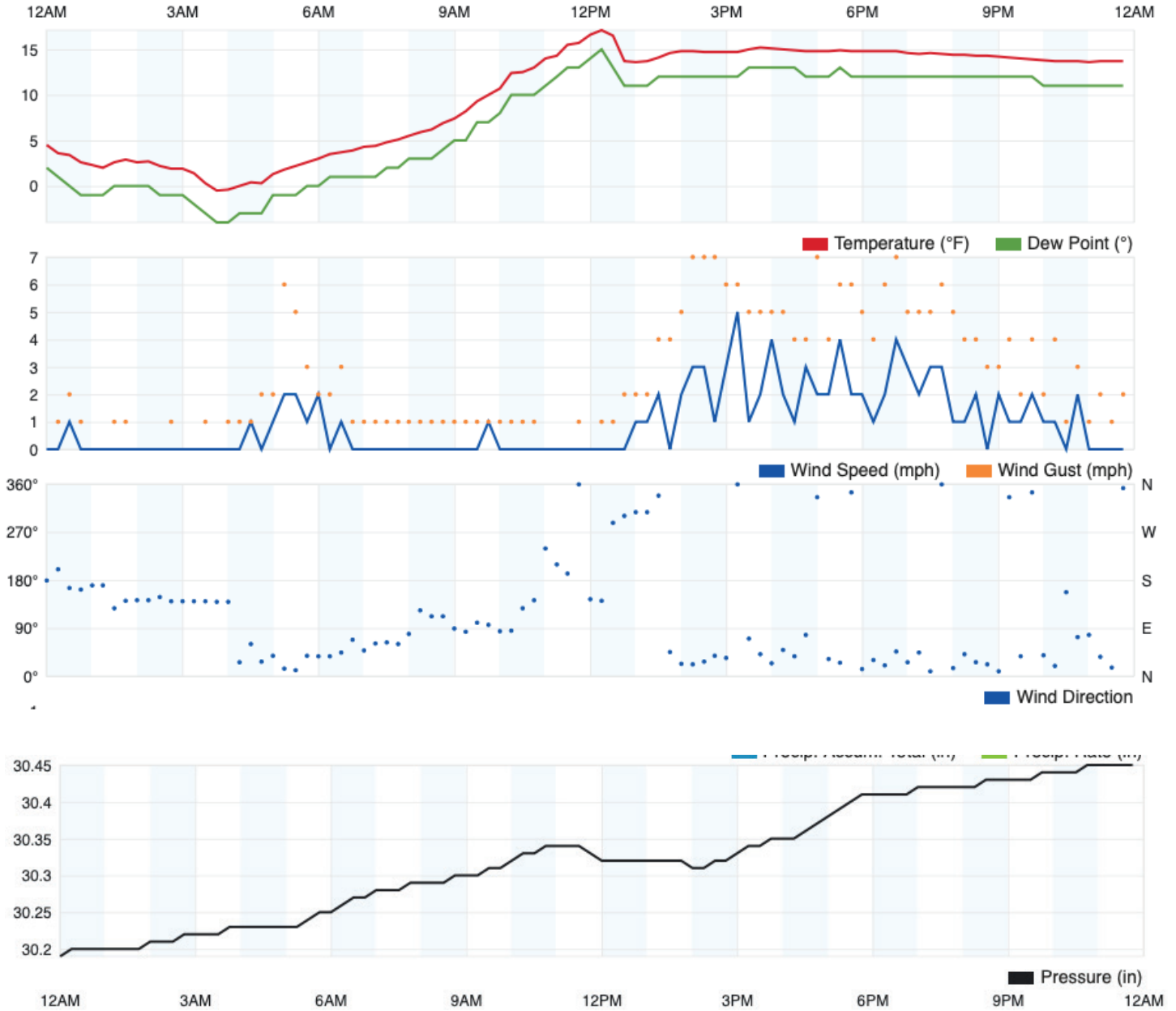
A handful of House Democrats and dozens of veterans the day before the second Jan. 6 anniversary held a press conference to call on the incoming House Republican leaders to condemn political violence and hold their members who supported the attack accountable for their actions.

*Ariana covers the nation's capital for States Newsroom. Her areas of coverage include politics and policy, lobbying, elections and campaign finance.*

# Groton Daily Independent

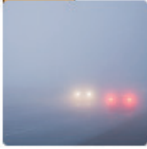






Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 27 of 88

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs









# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 28 of 88

Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Dense Freezing Fog and Areas Fog	Mostly Cloudy then Patchy Fog	Patchy Fog then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Partly Sunny
High: 18 °F	Low: 12 °F	High: 25 °F	Low: 8 °F	High: 21 °F	Low: 4 °F	High: 21 °F

## Foggy Today & Sunday Morning

Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
				
Low Clouds & Fog	Morning Fog			
HI: 15 to 28	HI: 24 to 35 LO: 6 to 13	HI: 20 to 36 LO: 7 to 19	HI: 20 to 36 LO: 6 to 16	HI: 24 to 32 LO: 12 to 19
<p><b>'Warmer' range for central SD &amp; 'Colder' range for far northeast South Dakota and western Minnesota</b></p>				
<p>Updated: 1/7/2023 2:31 AM Central   NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE  <small>OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION</small></p>				

Looks less and less likely we will get most of this fog and low clouds to move out today, though some clearing is not out of the question. Near normal temperatures remain in the forecast through the next several days.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 29 of 88

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 17.1 °F at 12:15 PM

Low Temp: -0.5 °F at 3:45 AM

Wind: 7 mph at 3:15 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 8 hours, 57 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 54 in 1963

Record Low: -39 in 1912

Average High: 23°F

Average Low: 2°F

Average Precip in Jan.: 0.15

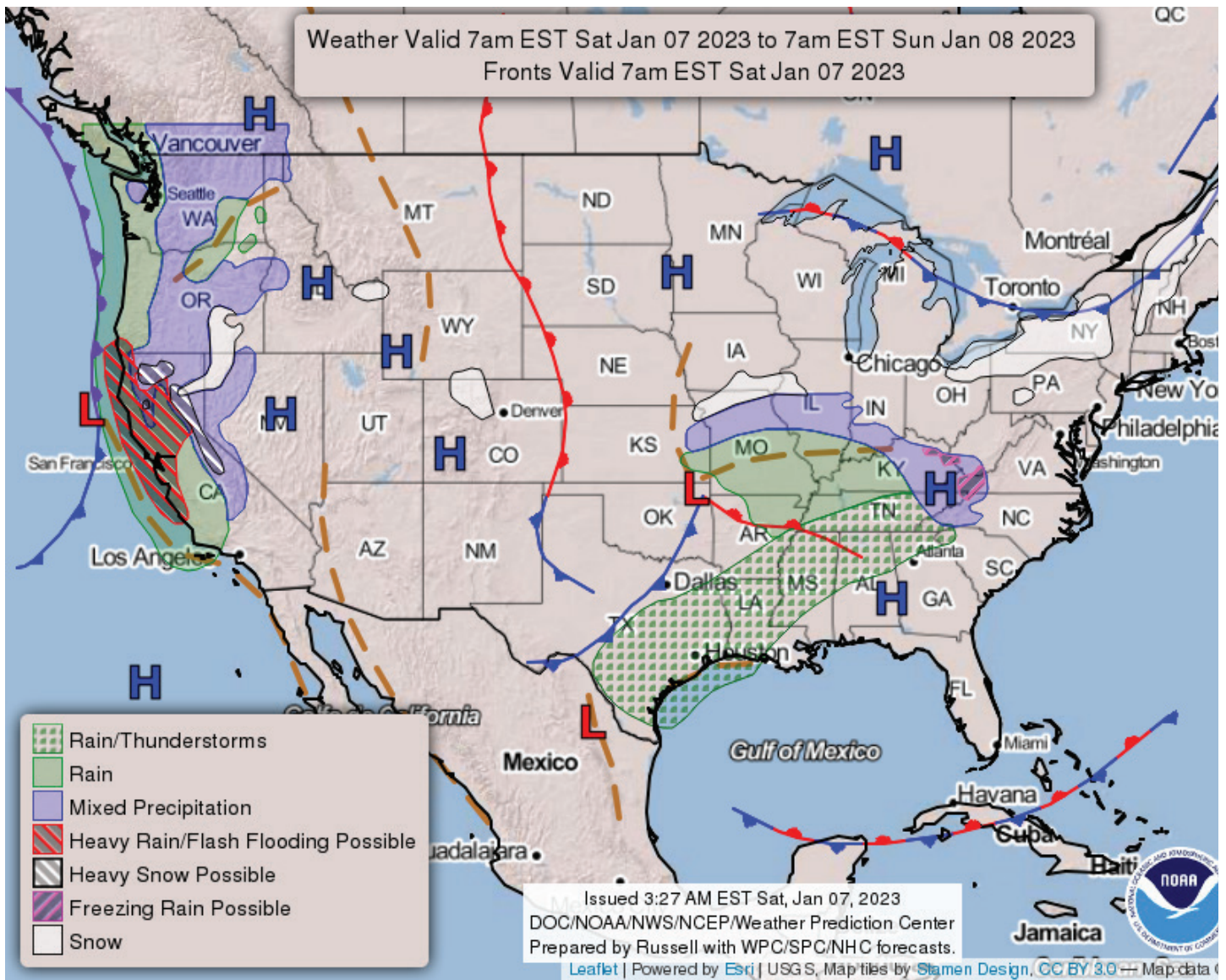
Precip to date in Jan.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 0.15

Precip Year to Date: 0.00

Sunset Tonight: 5:07:28 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:09:37 AM



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 30 of 88

## Today in Weather History

January 7, 1873: A blizzard raged across the Great Plains. Many pioneers, unprepared for the cold and snow, perished in the tristate region of southwest Minnesota, northwestern Iowa, and southeastern South Dakota. Visibility was down to three feet. Cows suffocated in the deep drifts, and trains were stuck for days. More than 70 people died; some bodies were not found until spring.

The following appears on pages 260-261 in the "History of Dakota Territory" by George Kingsbury. "On the 7th of January, 1873, a brother and sister of "John Foster," aged respectively fourteen and twelve years, went a short distance from home and soon afterward a blizzard came up suddenly. The children wandered in the storm to an old sod house that stood out on the prairie and there sought shelter from the driving snow. However, as the house was roofless, it afforded but poor protection against the blizzard, and the children perished, their bodies being buried in the snow. Our subject and the father were absent from home at the time. Weeks passed, and despite continued searching, the bodies of the children were not found, but in March, a neighbor dreamed that the children were in the old house, and on the 16th of that month, their bodies were found there."

January 7, 1980: A strong area of low pressure moved out of the northern Rockies across South Dakota and central Minnesota on January 6th and 7th. Heavy snow, along with very high winds, caused widespread blowing and drifting snow with low visibilities. Many roads were closed, and many motorists were stranded. Snowfall amounts across western and northern Minnesota were from 7 to 12 inches.

January 7, 1989: Heavy snowfall of 5 to 19 inches fell in the north and east-central South Dakota on the 6th and 7th. Snow and blowing snow reduced visibilities to near zero in many locations as winds gusted to near 50 mph. Part of Interstate 29 north of Sisseton closed the night of the 7th. Icy roads contributed to a school bus accident that injured eight boys. Extreme wind chills of 30 to 60 below also occurred. Snowfall amounts included 8 inches in Sisseton, with 12 to 19 inches across Marshall and Roberts counties.

This storm also affected northern Minnesota from the 6th through the 8th with heavy snowfall of 8 to 12 inches with local amounts of 24 to 26 inches. The heavy snow was followed by an Arctic intrusion, which brought in 35 to 50 mph winds. Snowdrifts were from 5 to 10 feet in some areas. The strong winds caused near-blizzard conditions along with extremely low wind chills.

1966: Tropical Cyclone Denise dropped 45 inches of rain on La Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean in 12 hours and 71.80 inches of rain in 48 hours through the 8th.

1989: Empty foundations are all that remain of four homes on the southwest end of Allendale, Illinois after an F4 tornado ripped through. The tornado was extremely rare due to its strength and the fact that it occurred so far north during the middle of meteorological winter.

2008: A rare, EF3 tornado tracked across southeastern Wisconsin. Experiencing a tornado in Wisconsin in January is extremely rare. In fact, it had only happened once between 1950 and 2007, when an F3 tornado affected parts of Green and Rock Counties on January 24, 1967. That tornado in South Central Wisconsin was part of a much larger outbreak of 30 tornadoes across mostly Iowa, Illinois, and Missouri. Wisconsin ended up with 30 tornadoes in 1967.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 31 of 88

Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### A TEACHING OF JESUS

We sometimes forget that there are many teachings in the New Testament that come from the Old Testament. "Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be heard" is one of those teachings.

Shortly after Jesus began His ministry of teaching and preaching, He said, "Blessed are the merciful for they will be shown mercy." However, Jesus did more than preach and teach "The Beatitudes," He brought them to life by the way He lived: what He did. If people were hungry, He fed them. If they were sick, He healed them. If they were blind, He gave them sight. If they were lost, He set them on the right path. If they were in darkness, He shed His light to guide them.

Solomon warns us that if we expect good things from God, we must "not shut our ears to the poor." Those who are poor and in need are just as important to God as the wealthiest. But the wealthy and those who have more than "the least of these" are obligated to have "open ears" and do something when they hear the cry of the poor. Closed ears and hardened hearts cannot expect God to have open ears and soft hearts when they cry to Him in times of need.

Persons who are unrighteous and self-centered and care only for themselves do not understand God's love and mercy and grace. If we love, as God loves, mercy and grace will flow from our hearts - as it does from His. Then our ears will be open and our hearts touched and our hands outstretched to bring hope and help and healing to the poor.

One more thought: No matter how "secure" we may think we are with what we have, there is no guarantee that our riches will last forever. We, too, may be forced to cry for His help!

Prayer: Help us, Father, to have ears and eyes that are open, heads that think of others, hearts that are tender, and hands that help and bring healing to those in need. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Whoever shuts their ears to the cry of the poor will also cry out and not be heard. Proverbs 21:13



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

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 32 of 88

## 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

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 33 of 88

## The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

### Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

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

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

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

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

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

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

## Groton Daily Independent

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

### Subscription Form

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

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

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

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

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Password \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 34 of 88



## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:  
01.06.23

3 20 46 59 63 13

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$1,100,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[GAME DETAILS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
01.04.23

2 12 30 37 46 1

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$33,970,000**

NEXT DRAW: 12 Hrs 59 Mins 41 Secs

[GAME DETAILS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
01.06.23

7 18 24 33 43 6

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 12 Hrs 29 Mins 41 Secs

[GAME DETAILS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
01.04.23

5 18 26 27 31

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$20,000**

NEXT DRAW: 12 Hrs 59 Mins 41 Secs

[GAME DETAILS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
01.04.23

22 25 32 41 46 23

TOP PRIZE:  
**\$10,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 12 Hrs 58 Mins 40 Secs

[GAME DETAILS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
01.04.23

12 32 56 67 68 26

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$325,000,000**

NEXT DRAW: 12 Hrs 58 Mins 40 Secs

[GAME DETAILS](#)

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 35 of 88

News from the  Associated Press

## Friday's Scores

The Associated Press

BOYS PREP BASKETBALL=

Baltic 50, Flandreau 31

Beresford 56, Chester 34

Brandon Valley 72, Brookings 36

Bridgewater-Emery 64, Freeman 28

Canton 59, Elkton-Lake Benton 49

Centerville 54, Burke 52

Clark/Willow Lake 51, Groton Area 43

DeSmet 66, Arlington 19

Elk Point-Jefferson 70, Alcester-Hudson 20

Ethan 61, Wessington Springs 58

Florence/Henry 71, Wilmot 30

Herreid/Selby Area 63, Langford 35

Hill City 72, Edgemont 8

Hitchcock-Tulare 71, Faulkton 37

Howard 55, Menno 31

Iroquois/ Lake Preston Co-op 56, Deubrook 46

Jones County 60, Wall 46

Lennox 65, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 52

Mitchell 51, Yankton 44

Northwestern 73, Britton-Hecla 42

Parker 65, McCook Central/Montrose 36

Philip 58, Bison 30

Rapid City Christian 55, Dickinson Trinity, N.D. 46

Sioux Falls Jefferson 56, Rapid City Central 48

Sioux Falls O'Gorman 61, Watertown 49

Sioux Falls Roosevelt 50, Rapid City Stevens 41

Sioux Falls Washington 79, Aberdeen Central 39

Sioux Valley 80, Garretson 48

Tea Area 65, Madison 40

Vermillion 65, Parkston 40

Wagner 66, Bon Homme 53

Warner 54, North Central Co-Op 23

Winner 79, Chamberlain 50

GIRLS PREP BASKETBALL=

Arlington 54, Madison 43

Belle Fourche 55, Sturgis Brown 15

Bishop Heelan Catholic, Sioux City, Iowa 50, Harrisburg 40

Bison 59, Philip 35

Bowman County, N.D. 61, Faith 48

Brandon Valley 61, Brookings 45

Canton 44, Elkton-Lake Benton 34

Castlewood 38, Flandreau 31

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 36 of 88

Centerville 69, Burke 34  
Colman-Egan 64, Canistota 49  
Dell Rapids St. Mary 77, Chester 41  
Elk Point-Jefferson 55, Alcester-Hudson 24  
Ethan 56, Wessington Springs 27  
Freeman 63, Bridgewater-Emery 26  
Herreid/Selby Area 49, Langford 34  
Hill City 39, New Underwood 22  
Howard 50, Menno 15  
Irene-Wakonda 54, Gayville-Volin 34  
Lennox 58, Mt. Vernon/Plankinton 49  
McCook Central/Montrose 40, Beresford 37  
Milbank 58, Britton-Hecla 25  
Mitchell 45, Yankton 27  
Rapid City Christian 74, Dickinson Trinity, N.D. 21  
Rapid City Stevens 66, Sioux Falls Roosevelt 28  
Sioux Falls Jefferson 62, Rapid City Central 43  
Sioux Falls O'Gorman 50, Watertown 42  
Sioux Falls Washington 51, Aberdeen Central 35  
Sully Buttes 65, Highmore-Harrold 28  
Timber Lake 60, Potter County 56  
Vermillion 62, Parkston 34  
Viborg-Hurley 62, Dakota Valley 37  
Wagner 67, Bon Homme 28  
Wall 48, Jones County 45  
Warner 41, North Central Co-Op 24

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

## Texas oil worker dead after falling into ND pit

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — A worker from Texas is dead after falling at an oil rig site in North Dakota.

Daniel Navarrete, 42, of New Braunfels, Texas, fell through an open hatch Thursday in a pit at a Nabors Industries rig north of New Town, according to Mountrail County Sheriff Corey Bristol.

Other workers tried to rescue Navarrete and even drained the pit, the Bismarck Tribune reported Friday, but Navarrete died at the scene.

Nabors Industries spokesperson Robin Davidson said a different entity — Devon Energy — owns and operates the site.

"Please know our hearts go out to the family and crews. We are supporting Devon to understand what occurred and what lessons can be learned from this tragic incident," Davidson told The Associated Press.

Devon Energy spokesperson Lisa Adams said the company is "devastated" by the death of Navarrete, who was a contractor.

"Safety is Devon's priority and we have shut down drilling operations while we work with local law enforcement, OSHA and Nabors," Adams added.

Several workers have died or been injured in Mountrail County's oil patch in recent years.

Last September an oil rig exploded at a well site owned by Chord Energy, sending three workers to a burn center.

In 2021 another explosion occurred at JM Oilfield Services when a water tanker blew out, killing a 33-year-old worker and injuring another.

Mountrail County is one of the state's largest oil-producing counties, and North Dakota is one of the

nation's largest oil-producing states.

## Authorities seize horses following neglect allegations

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — An animal neglect investigation has led authorities to seize more than a dozen horses from a South Dakota home.

The Rapid City Journal reported that the Pennington County Sheriff's Office seized 14 horses and two donkeys from the home just north of Rapid City on Thursday morning. A 72-year-old man has been arrested in connection with the case.

The animals were in a state of extreme neglect, the newspaper reported. The sheriff's office has not released the name of the property owner.

A neighbor said last week that she's been calling the sheriff's office about the animals since June 2021. She said horses were starving and being housed in pens with dead horses.

The South Dakota Animal Industry Board is also investigating.

## QB Gronowski goes from torn ACL to another FCS title shot

By STEPHEN HAWKINS AP Sports Writer

FRISCO, Texas (AP) — South Dakota State quarterback Mark Gronowski thought he had just twisted his ankle on the opening series of an unusual FCS title game two springs ago. It turned out to be much worse than that.

Nearly 20 months after tearing the ACL in his left knee on a 3-yard run, and then missing the 2021 fall season that quickly followed, Gronowski is back in North Texas for another title shot. The Jackrabbits play Missouri Valley Football Conference rival and perennial Football Championship Subdivision champion North Dakota State on Sunday.

"Most people only get one chance to play in a national championship, if ever. Just to have the second opportunity and get a kind of chance to redeem myself and redeem the entire team, it's a blessing," Gronowski said Friday from a room overlooking the field where he got hurt in May 2021. "I just remember walking in the first time, just being like 'Wow,' like I'm excited for this moment and I can't wait to be in this game. And that's kind of the feeling I have again right now."

The Jackrabbits (13-1) have won 13 in a row since a 7-3 loss at Big Ten team Iowa to open this season. That streak includes a 23-21 comeback win at defending champ North Dakota State in October — the same score of South Dakota State's title game loss to Sam Houston State, which blew a 10-point lead before its winning touchdown with 16 seconds left.

Gronowski was a true freshman during that pandemic-affected season when South Dakota State and veteran coach John Stiegelmeier made their first FCS title game. After the quarterback's 3-yard keeper on the first play and a 16-yard pass, he got hurt in a pile at the end of another 3-yard run before a third-down incompletion on his last snap.

In what is now his sophomore season, Gronowski has thrown for 2,743 yards and 23 touchdowns with only five interceptions. He also has 11 rushing scores.

"Mark's comeback and his contribution to our football team is far greater than what you see on the field or in the stats. He's our best leader," said Stiegelmeier, in his 26th season at his alma mater.

"The level of respect the guys have for him is unmatched," senior left guard Mason McCormick said. "It means the world to all of us that he's back here."

Gronowski had surgery the week after the title game, then spent about six weeks at home in Illinois before returning to campus in Brookings, South Dakota. He described the long journey coming back as a strenuous process that got monotonous at times. With the help of trainer Charlie Miller, he focused on each progressing goal, from walking again, to running, then cutting and throwing.

When Gronowski returned for this season's opener at Iowa, McCormick felt everybody "was holding their breath" before the first time the quarterback got hit.

"What I see now in January than what I saw in October, I see a young man who looks to be much more

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 38 of 88

healthy," said North Dakota State coach Matt Entz, whose team's third consecutive loss to the Jackrabbits was at home in mid-October. "I'm sure they weren't necessarily wanting to get him involved into the quarterback run game as much as they have of late."

Even though he couldn't play last season, Gronowski was still fully involved with the team. He got a different perspective wearing a headset on the sideline and signaling in offensive plays.

"That was really exciting for me, just because I got to be around everyone and still got to be a leader on the sidelines and kind of learn from the coaches on what they think," he said. "That has really helped me this season with pre-snap plans and kind of understanding defenses a little bit more."

None of that surprised his teammates or coaches. Stiegelmeier said the quarterback was already the team's best leader even before playing his first game.

"In the fall when we were stumbling around practicing ... I had players coming into my office saying, Mark's got to be our starting quarterback," Stiegelmeier said.

The quarterback who has now made it to FCS title games in both seasons he has played.

## Warning about aquifer's decline sets up big fight in Kansas

By JOHN HANNA Associated Press

TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Kansas water experts are sounding an alarm decades in the making: Farmers and ranchers in the state's western half must stop pumping more water out of a vast aquifer than nature puts back each year or risk the economic collapse of a region important to the U.S. food supply.

That warning is setting up a big and messy fight for the annual session of the Kansas Legislature set to open Monday.

The Kansas Water Authority is telling lawmakers that Kansas needs to break sharply with its decades-long policy of slowing depletion while still allowing water levels to drop in the Ogallala Aquifer. The aquifer covers roughly 175,000 square miles (453,000 square kilometers) in the western and Great Plains states of Texas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, Wyoming and South Dakota.

Most of those states have areas where depletion is a problem, but the call in Kansas to "halt" the declines has farmers, ranchers and politically influential agriculture groups preparing to battle proposals that would give them less control over water and possibly could force them to cultivate fewer acres, buy expensive new equipment or turn on a dime to grow different crops.

Imposing the Water Authority's policy means agribusinesses that drive the region's economy would have to consume less water — perhaps as much as 30% less in some areas. Lawmakers also would have to decide whether local officials would keep driving conservation efforts or if the state would be in charge.

"The easy part was making the statement. That didn't cost anybody anything," said Clay Scott, who farms in southwestern Kansas. "We're going to have to start paying for it, and we have to decide how that gets divvied up."

Kansas produces more than 20% of the nation's wheat and has about 18% of the cattle being fed in the U.S. The western third of Kansas, home to most of its portion of the Ogallala, accounts for 60% of the value of all Kansas crops and livestock. That's possible because of the water.

The recommendation on the Ogallala from the water authority, a planning and advisory commission, is a response to data showing that since widespread pumping began around 1940, much of the Ogallala has lost at least 30% of its available water and more than 60% in places in western Kansas. The Kansas Geological Survey had a team in western Kansas this week to measure well depths for updated figures.

"There are wells that are starting to run dry already, so this isn't a distant problem in some areas," said Tom Buller, executive director of the Kansas Rural Center, a nonprofit that promotes sustainable agriculture and family farming. "There isn't a lot of time to solve the problem."

The Water Authority's recommendation comes as much of the western U.S. continues to suffer through a megadrought fueled by climate change. Parts of Kansas have had drought conditions for a year, and more than half the state has been in extreme drought since mid-September.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is currently working on a plan to cut water use from the Colorado River

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 39 of 88

in western states by 15%, and Arizona is restricting large-scale farming. Nebraska last year launched a \$500 million canal project to divert water from the South Platte River in Colorado.

"We are told that the future, due to climate change, is going to get warmer and drier in western Kansas," said Connie Owen, director of the Kansas Water Office, which oversees long-term plans for preserving water. "That is making things worse, which is all the more reason that we have to deal with this now."

There's broad agreement, including among powerful agriculture groups and nervous farmers and ranchers, that Kansas needs to extend the aquifer's life.

But the path forward isn't yet clear for Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly and the Republican-controlled Legislature.

In a pre-session interview, Kelly promised only to get affected parties together to negotiate a comprehensive solution. She added that following her narrow reelection in November, "I've got some political capital to spend to deal with what will be a very contentious issue."

Depletion of the Ogallala was one reason that in the Kansas House, the Water Committee last year considered a 283-page bipartisan proposal to set aside \$49 million a year for conservation efforts and other programs. The measure also would have reorganized those programs and made the official who grants rights to use water independent of the state Department of Agriculture. In addition, it would have curbed the power of big irrigators in local districts that manage groundwater use, including from the Ogallala.

Opponents included the Kansas Farm Bureau and the Kansas Livestock Association. Nothing ultimately passed after critics accused supporters of drafting it largely in secret. The committee's chair later retired.

The new Water Committee chair, Republican Rep. Jim Minnix, a southwestern Kansas farmer, said he hopes to work on incentives for local officials to be more aggressive about water conservation.

The state allows local districts to set restrictions, and one in northwest Kansas gets high marks from water experts and officials for cutting water use. In one area of 99 square miles (256 square kilometers), it set water-use rules, sought to cut consumption 20% and reduced it 35% over the past decade, according to Manager Shannon Kenyon.

Kenyon prizes local control but said the state should take charge where local officials haven't pursued enough conservation.

If local officials allow the water dry up, she said, "They are going to kill the economy in the state of Kansas," Kenyon said.

Some western Kansas farmers argue that the state's best move is to ramp up education about ways to conserve water and provide incentives to help farmers adopt them. Several of them, as well as local water officials, said agriculture has become more careful with water over the past several decades through new technology, new crop varieties and better farming practices.

Lee Reeve, whose family has farmed near Garden City in southwest Kansas for more than 100 years and now operates a cattle feed yard and ethanol plant, sees the Water Authority's language on halting depletion as "toxic," noting that farmers already are suspicious of government programs.

"There's just enough of this scare stuff out there that it's hard to get through to people that, 'Hey, there are things we can do,'" he said.

## Chaos in the House: McCarthy's plea, and begging for votes

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was the extraordinary moment that brought House Republicans to the brink — and ultimately the moment they found their way back.

Just one vote short of becoming speaker of the House, California Republican Kevin McCarthy stood from his chair and walked down the center aisle to the back of the chamber. It was nearing midnight, and he had already lost 13 votes for speaker over four long days. The room fell almost silent as it became apparent that the GOP leader was now asking — begging, really — the bombastic, blustering, defiant Florida Rep. Matt Gaetz to change his vote from "present" to "McCarthy."

Gaetz, who had hurled personal insults at McCarthy just hours earlier on the House floor, said no.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 40 of 88

McCarthy slowly walked back down the aisle, alone, head tilted to the ground. But he turned back around when he heard a scuffle behind him. Alabama Rep. Mike Rogers, a Republican ally of McCarthy, had angrily confronted Gaetz, telling him he would regret his decision. Lawmakers on the floor yelled in disbelief as Rogers was held back by a colleague.

McCarthy walked back to make sure the argument was over and then returned to his chair, defeated.

He lost the 14th vote. Allies moved to abruptly adjourn the House, their hoped-for unity seemingly coming apart.

Then tempers cooled. And within the hour, McCarthy and his allies had persuaded his other remaining opponents to vote "present" as well, lowering the vote total necessary for McCarthy to win and handing him the speakership by early Saturday morning — after a historic, remarkable and somewhat astonishing week of repeated votes.

"I hope one thing is clear," McCarthy said when he finally took the gavel after 1 a.m. "I never give up."

The chaos on the House floor came exactly two years after the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection. During a late-night session after that attack, McCarthy called it the "saddest day I've ever had" as a member of Congress. In the days afterward, McCarthy blamed then-President Donald Trump for encouraging his supporters who attacked the building and interrupted the certification of President Joe Biden. But just a few weeks later McCarthy traveled to see Trump in Florida and made amends.

The scene Friday was a different kind of chaos — but it was a full-circle moment for Republicans, who had ceded both chambers of Congress and the presidency to Democrats after the violent insurrection. While many of them denounced Trump at the time, McCarthy's Florida visit brought him back into the fold, and the former president was working the phones Friday evening, calling Gaetz and the other holdouts.

"He was with me from the beginning," McCarthy said after the final vote, noting Trump's phone calls as well.

While the U.S. House is often raucous, the week's events were almost surreal: vote after vote, defeat after defeat, and eventual success after picking off seemingly intransigent opponents.

McCarthy needed two more votes going into the Friday evening tally, which didn't start until 10 p.m., late enough to provide two of his supporters — one whose wife had given birth that week and another who was ill — time to return to Washington. McCarthy and his allies seemed confident walking in, but as the votes ticked off, it became clear he would be one short.

Two of McCarthy's closest lieutenants, North Carolina Rep. Patrick McHenry and Louisiana Rep. Garrett Graves, sat on either side of Gaetz during the vote, with Graves at one point on his knees. But Gaetz could only be partially swayed, and stood to say "present" when the roll call reached his name. It wasn't enough, and McCarthy approached him just before the vote was called, C-SPAN cameras tracking his short journey.

Gaetz was angrily pointing at McCarthy during the conversation. But Colorado Rep. Ken Buck, a McCarthy supporter who was standing nearby, said the exchange between the two men was pleasant, and that McCarthy just asked him to change his vote. Gaetz said his "present" vote was as far as he was going, Buck said.

McCarthy said afterward that Gaetz eventually "got everybody there to the point that nobody voted against me," persuading some of his fellow colleagues to vote "present" as well. In the end, no Republican voted against McCarthy.

They wanted to "make this conference united and work together," McCarthy said.

## McCarthy elected House speaker in rowdy post-midnight vote

By LISA MASCARO and FARNOUSH AMIRI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Kevin McCarthy was elected House speaker on a historic post-midnight 15th ballot early Saturday, overcoming holdouts from his own ranks and floor tensions that boiled over after a chaotic week that tested the new GOP majority's ability to govern.

"My father always told me, it's not how you start, it's how you finish," McCarthy told cheering fellow Republicans.



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 41 of 88

Eager to confront President Joe Biden and the Democrats, he promised subpoenas and investigations. "Now the hard work begins," the California Republican declared. He credited former President Donald Trump for standing with him and for making late calls "helping get those final votes."

Republicans roared in celebration when his victory was announced, chanting "USA! USA!"

Finally elected, McCarthy took the oath of office, and the House was finally able to swear in newly elected lawmakers who had been waiting all week for the chamber to formally open and the 2023-24 session to begin.

After four days of grueling ballots, McCarthy flipped more than a dozen conservative holdouts to become supporters, including the chairman of the chamber's Freedom Caucus.

He fell one vote short on the 14th ballot, and the chamber became raucous, unruly.

McCarthy strode to the back of the chamber to confront Republican Matt Gaetz, sitting with Lauren Boebert and other holdouts. Fingers were pointed, words exchanged and violence apparently just averted.

At one point, Republican Mike Rogers of Alabama, shouting, approached Gaetz before another Republican, Richard Hudson, physically pulled him back.

"Stay civil!" someone shouted.

Order restored, the Republicans fell in line to give McCarthy the post he had fought so hard to gain, House speaker, second in the line of succession to the presidency.

The few remaining Republican holdouts began voting present, dropping the tally he needed. It was the end of a bitter standoff that had shown the strengths and fragility of American democracy.

The tally was 216-212 with Democrats voting for leader Hakeem Jeffries, and six Republican holdouts to McCarthy simply voting present.

The night's stunning turn of events came after McCarthy agreed to many of the detractors' demands — including the reinstatement of a longstanding House rule that would allow any single member to call a vote to oust him from office.

Even as McCarthy secured the votes he needs, he will emerge as a weakened speaker, having given away some powers and constantly under the threat of being booted by his detractors.

But he could also be emboldened as a survivor of one of the more brutal fights for the gavel in U.S. history. Not since the Civil War era has a speaker's vote dragged through so many rounds of voting.

The showdown that has stymied the new Congress came against the backdrop of the second anniversary of the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, which shook the country when a mob of Trump's supporters tried to stop Congress from certifying the Republican's 2020 election defeat to Biden.

At a Capitol event Friday, some lawmakers, all but one of them Democrats, observed a moment of silence and praised officers who helped protect Congress on that day. And at the White House, Biden handed out medals to officers and others who fought the attackers.

"America is a land of laws, not chaos," he said.

At the afternoon speaker's vote, a number of Republicans tiring of the spectacle temporarily walked out when one of McCarthy's most ardent challengers, Gaetz, railed against the GOP leader.

Contours of a deal with conservative holdouts who had been blocking McCarthy's rise had emerged the night before, and took hold after four dismal days and 14 failed votes in an intraparty standoff unseen in modern times.

One significant former holdout — Republican Scott Perry, chairman of the conservative Freedom Caucus, who had been a leader of Trump's efforts to challenge the 2020 election — tweeted after his switched vote for McCarthy, "We're at a turning point."

Another Republican holdout, Byron Donalds of Florida, who was repeatedly nominated as an alternative candidate for speaker, switched Friday too, voting for McCarthy.

Trump may have played a role in swaying some holdouts — calling into a meeting of Republican freshmen the night before, and calling other members ahead of voting. He had urged Republicans to wrap up their public dispute.

As Republican Mike Garcia nominated McCarthy on Friday, he also thanked the U.S. Capitol Police who

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 42 of 88

were given a standing ovation for protecting lawmakers and the legislative seat of democracy on Jan. 6. But in nominating the Democratic leader Jeffries, Democrat Jim Clyburn recalled the horror of that day and told his colleagues, "The eyes of the country are on us today."

Electing a speaker is normally an easy, joyous task for a party that has just won majority control. But not this time: About 200 Republicans were stymied by 20 far-right colleagues who said McCarthy was not conservative enough.

The House adjourned Friday until late in the night, giving time for last-minute negotiations and allowing two absent Republican colleagues to return to Washington.

Newly elected Wesley Hunt of Texas arrived to vote for McCarthy — to applause, days after his wife had given birth — as did Ken Buck of Colorado.

The disorganized start to the new Congress pointed to difficulties ahead with Republicans now in control of the House, much the way that some past Republican speakers, including John Boehner, had trouble leading a rebellious right flank. The result: government shutdowns, standoffs and Boehner's early retirement when conservatives threatened to oust him.

The agreement McCarthy presented to the holdouts from the Freedom Caucus and others centers around rules changes they have been seeking for months. Those changes would shrink the power of the speaker's office and give rank-and-file lawmakers more influence in drafting and passing legislation.

At the core of the emerging deal was the reinstatement of a House rule that would allow a single lawmaker to make a motion to "vacate the chair," essentially calling a vote to oust the speaker. McCarthy had resisted allowing a return to the longstanding rule that former Speaker Nancy Pelosi had done away with, because it had been held over the head of Boehner. But it appears McCarthy had no other choice.

Other wins for the holdouts are more obscure and include provisions in the proposed deal to expand the number of seats available on the House Rules Committee; to mandate 72 hours for bills to be posted before votes; and to promise to try for a constitutional amendment that would impose federal limits on the number of terms a person could serve in the House and Senate.

Before Friday's ballots, Democratic leader Jeffries of New York had won the most votes on every ballot but also remained short of a majority. McCarthy had run second, gaining no ground.

The longest fight for the gavel started in late 1855 and dragged on for two months, with 133 ballots, during debates over slavery in the run-up to the Civil War.

## States target transgender health care in first bills of 2023

By HANNAH SCHOENBAUM Associated Press/Report for America

After a midterm election and record flow of anti-transgender legislation last year, Republican state lawmakers this year are zeroing in on questions of bodily autonomy with new proposals to limit gender-affirming health care and abortion access.

More than two dozen bills seeking to restrict transgender health care access have been introduced across 11 states — Kansas, Kentucky, Missouri, Montana, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Virginia — for the legislative sessions beginning in early 2023.

Bills targeting other facets of trans livelihood have been filed in many of the same states and are expected in several others with GOP majorities.

Gender-affirming health care providers and parents of trans youths are the primary targets of these bills, many of which seek to criminalize helping a trans child obtain what doctors and psychologists widely consider "medically necessary care."

Erin Reed, a researcher who tracks transgender legislation, said statehouses where Republicans expanded their margins in the midterms will likely double down on anti-trans legislation this year and reintroduce some of the more drastic measures that didn't pass in previous sessions.

Of the 35 anti-LGBTQ bills already introduced in Texas, three would classify providing gender-affirming care to minors as a form of child abuse, following a directive last year from Republican Gov. Greg Abbott that ordered child welfare agents to open abuse investigations into parents who let their children receive

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 43 of 88

gender-affirming care.

In Tennessee, the GOP-controlled legislature announced after Election Day that its first priority would be to ban medical providers from altering a child's hormones or performing surgeries that enable them to present as a gender different from their sex. The pre-filed bill would replace present law with more stringent restrictions.

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health said last year that teens experiencing gender dysphoria can start taking hormones at age 14 and can have certain surgeries at ages 15 or 17. The group acknowledged potential risks but said it was unethical to withhold early treatments, which can improve psychological well-being and reduce suicide risk.

Legislation pre-filed this week in Republican-controlled Oklahoma, which passed restrictions last year on trans participation in sports and school bathroom usage, seeks to ban gender-affirming care for patients under age 26 and block it from being covered under the state's Medicaid program.

"This is the worst anti-trans bill I have ever seen filed in any state," Reed said, noting that adult medical transition bans were a "hypothetical escalation" until recently.

Another Oklahoma proposal would prohibit distribution of public funds to organizations that provide gender-affirming procedures to patients younger than 21.

"It's irresponsible for anybody in health care to provide or recommend life-altering surgeries that may later be regretted," said the bill's sponsor, Republican state Rep. Jim Olsen. "Performing irreversible procedures on young people can do irreparable harm to them mentally and physically later in life."

A similar bill pre-filed in South Carolina, where Republicans control both chambers, also requires that trans adults older than 21 obtain referrals from their doctor and a licensed psychiatrist before they can begin treatment.

Cathy Renna, spokesperson for the National LGBTQ Task Force, said she views these bills as the product of "a permissible climate of hate," driven by disinformation and fearmongering, that made anti-LGBTQ rhetoric more palatable in the years since former President Donald Trump's election in 2016.

"We have politicians, celebrities and just folks in our communities who were given permission under Trump to kind of pick that scab and do and say harmful things without consequence," Renna said. "It unleashed a nightmare Pandora's box of sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, antisemitism."

"When you look at the last few years," she said of the LGBTQ community, "we feel like we're under attack in a way that we have not for decades."

Meanwhile, Democrats in some states are taking a more aggressive approach to transgender health protections.

A new California law, effective as of Jan. 1, shields families of transgender youth from criminal prosecution if they travel to California for gender-affirming health procedures, such as surgeries or hormone therapy, from states that ban such treatments for minors. Making California a refuge for trans youth and their parents, the law blocks out-of-state subpoenas and prohibits medical providers from sharing information on gender-affirming care with out-of-state entities.

Another California bill, filed in December, would expand those protections by prohibiting a magistrate from issuing an arrest warrant for violating another state's law that criminalizes helping someone obtain an abortion or gender-affirming care.

An Illinois lawmaker introduced a similar sanctuary bill late last year. The state House passed another bill Friday to increase protections for patients and providers of abortions and gender-affirming treatments.

And in Minnesota, where Democrats gained a trifecta of state government control in the midterm elections, a new bill would give the state jurisdiction in child custody cases involving parents who bring their children to Minnesota for gender-affirming health care.

Reed, a trans woman, is monitoring a growing list of other proposals across statehouses, including drag performance bans, bathroom usage restrictions, limits on LGBTQ discussions in schools and obstacles to changing the gender marker on a driver's license or birth certificate. But the rising age minimums proposed to access gender-affirming care are among her chief concerns.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 44 of 88

"Adult transition bans are coming into play, and I'm already hearing some talk of, 'Well, the brain doesn't finish developing until 25, so why not restrict it until then,'" she said. "Any further loss of autonomy is incredibly concerning."

## Ukraine hails U.S. military aid as cease-fire said to falter

By ANDREW MELDRUM Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's president is praising the United States for including tank-killing armored vehicles in its latest multibillion-dollar package of military aid, saying they are "exactly what is needed" for Ukrainian troops locked in combat against Russian forces.

The White House announcement Friday of \$3.75 billion in weapons and other aid for Ukraine and its neighbors on NATO's eastern flank came as Moscow said its troops are observing a short cease-fire for Orthodox Christmas, celebrated Saturday.

Ukrainian officials denounced the unilateral 36-hour truce as a ploy and said it appeared to have been ignored by some of Moscow's forces pressing ahead with the nearly 11-month invasion.

Russia's Defense Ministry insisted Saturday that its forces along the 1,100-kilometer (684-mile) front line were observing the cease-fire but returned fire when attacked.

The latest package of U.S. military assistance was the biggest to date for Kyiv. For the first time, it included Bradley armored vehicles — known as tank-killers because of the anti-tank missiles they fire.

In his nightly televised address on Friday, Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy called it "a very powerful package."

"For the first time, we will get Bradley armored vehicles — this is exactly what is needed. New guns and rounds, including high-precision ones, new rockets, new drones. It is timely and strong," he said.

He thanked U.S. President Joe Biden, U.S. lawmakers and "all the Americans who appreciate freedom, and who know that freedom is worth protecting."

Ukrainian officials dismissed the Kremlin-ordered cease-fire that started Friday for Orthodox Christmas Eve as a ploy to buy time for Russia's struggling invasion forces to regroup. Ukrainian and Western officials portrayed the announcement as a Russian attempt to grab the moral high ground and possibly snatch battlefield initiative and momentum from Ukrainian forces amid their counteroffensive of recent months.

The pause was due to end Saturday night — at midnight Moscow time, which is 11 p.m. in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv.

The Ministry of Defense in Britain, a leading supplier of military aid to Ukraine, said Saturday in its daily readout on the invasion that "fighting has continued at a routine level into the Orthodox Christmas period."

In the fiercely contested Luhansk region of eastern Ukraine, regional Gov. Serhiy Haidai reported continued Russian shelling and assaults. Posting Friday on Telegram, Haidai said that in the first three hours of the cease-fire, Russian forces shelled Ukrainian positions 14 times and stormed one settlement three times. The claim couldn't be independently verified.

Ukrainian authorities on Saturday also reported attacks elsewhere in the previous 24 hours although it wasn't clear whether the fighting was before or after the cease-fire's start.

The General Staff of the Armed Forces of Ukraine said Russian forces carried out a missile strike and 20 salvos with rockets, and targeted settlements in the east, northeast and south.

The head of Ukraine's eastern Donetsk region on Saturday reported two civilian deaths the previous day from Russian strikes in the fiercely contested city of Bakhmut and to its north, in Krasna Hora.

## China suspends social media accounts of COVID policy critics

BEIJING (AP) — China has suspended or closed the social media accounts of more than 1,000 critics of the government's policies on the COVID-19 outbreak, as the country moves to roll back harsh anti-virus restrictions.

The popular Sina Weibo social media platform said it had addressed 12,854 violations including attacks on experts, scholars and medical workers and issued temporary or permanent bans on 1,120 accounts.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 45 of 88

The ruling Communist Party had largely relied on the medical community to justify its tough lockdowns, quarantine measures and mass testing, almost all of which it abruptly abandoned last month, leading to a surge in new cases that have stretched medical resources to their limits. The party allows no direct criticism and imposes strict limits on free speech.

The company "will continue to increase the investigation and cleanup of all kinds of illegal content, and create a harmonious and friendly community environment for the majority of users," Sina Weibo said in a statement dated Thursday.

Criticism has largely focused on heavy-handed enforcement of regulations, including open-ended travel restrictions that saw people confined to their homes for weeks, sometimes sealed inside without adequate food or medical care. Anger was also vented over the requirement that anyone who potentially tested positive or had been in contact with such a person be confined for observation in a field hospital, where overcrowding, poor food and hygiene were commonly cited.

The social and economic costs eventually prompted rare street protests in Beijing and other cities, possibly influencing the party's decision to swiftly ease the strictest measures.

As part of the latest changes, China will also no longer bring criminal charges against people accused of violating border quarantine regulations, according to a notice issued by five government departments on Saturday.

Individuals currently in custody will be released and seized assets returned, the notice said.

The adjustments "were made after comprehensively considering the harm of the behaviors to the society, and aim to adapt to the new situations of the epidemic prevention and control," the official China Daily newspaper website said in a report on the notice.

China is now facing a surge in cases and hospitalizations in major cities and is bracing for a further spread into less developed areas with the start of the Lunar New Year travel rush, set to get underway in coming days. While international flights are still reduced, authorities say they expect domestic rail and air journeys will double over the same period last year, bringing overall numbers close to those of the 2019 holiday period before the pandemic hit.

The Transportation Ministry on Friday called on travelers to reduce trips and gatherings, particularly if they involve elderly people, pregnant women, small children and those with underlying conditions.

People using public transport are also urged to wear masks and pay special attention to their health and personal hygiene, Vice Minister Xu Chengguang told reporters at a briefing.

Nonetheless, China is forging ahead with a plan to end mandatory quarantines for people arriving from abroad beginning on Sunday.

Beijing also plans to drop a requirement for students at city schools to have a negative COVID-19 test to enter campus when classes resume Feb. 13 after the holiday break. While schools will be allowed to move classes online in the event of new outbreaks, they must return to in-person instruction as soon as possible, the city education bureau said in a statement Friday.

However, the end to mass testing, a highly limited amount of basic data such as the number of deaths, infections and severe cases, and the potential emergence of new variants have prompted governments elsewhere to institute virus testing requirements for travelers from China.

The World Health Organization has also expressed concern about the lack of data from China, while the U.S. is requiring a negative test result for travelers from China within 48 hours of departure.

Chinese health authorities publish a daily count of new cases, severe cases and deaths, but those numbers include only officially confirmed cases and use a very narrow definition of COVID-related deaths.

Authorities say that since the government ended compulsory testing and permitted people with mild symptoms to test themselves and convalesce at home, it can no longer provide a full picture of the state of the latest outbreak.

On Saturday, the National Health Commission reported 10,681 new domestic cases, bringing the country's total number of confirmed cases to 482,057. Three new deaths were also reported over the previous 24 hours, bringing the total to 5,267.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 46 of 88

The numbers are a fraction of those announced by the U.S., which has put its death toll at more than 1 million among some 101 million cases.

But they're also much smaller than the estimates being released by some local governments. Zhejiang, a province on the east coast, said Tuesday it was seeing about 1 million new cases a day.

China has said the testing requirements being imposed by foreign governments — most recently Germany and Sweden — aren't science-based and has threatened unspecified countermeasures. Its spokespeople have said the situation is under control, and reject accusations of a lack of preparation for reopening.

Despite such assertions, the Health Commission on Saturday rolled out regulations for strengthened monitoring of viral mutations, including testing of urban wastewater. The lengthy rules called for increased data gathering from hospitals and local government health departments and stepped-up checks on "pneumonia of unknown causes."

If a variant emerges in an outbreak, it is found through genetic sequencing of the virus.

Since the pandemic started, China has shared 4,144 sequences with GISAID, a global platform for coronavirus data. That's only 0.04% of its reported number of cases — a rate more than 100 times less than the United States and nearly four times less than neighboring Mongolia.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong also plans to reopen some of its border crossings with mainland China on Sunday and allow tens of thousands of people to cross every day without being quarantined.

The semi-autonomous southern Chinese city has been hard-hit by the virus and its land and sea border checkpoints with the mainland have been largely closed for almost three years. Despite the risk, the reopening is expected to provide a much-needed boost to Hong Kong's tourism and retail sectors.

## Iran executes 2 more men detained amid nationwide protests

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iran said it executed two men Saturday convicted of allegedly killing a paramilitary volunteer during a demonstration, the latest executions aimed at halting the nationwide protests now challenging the country's theocracy.

Iran's judiciary identified those executed as Mohammad Mehdi Karami and Mohammad Hosseini, making it four men known to have been executed since the demonstrations began in September over the death of Mahsa Amini. All have faced internationally criticized, rapid, closed-door trials.

The judiciary's Mizan news agency said the men had been convicted of killing Ruhollah Ajamian, a member of the Iranian Revolutionary Guard's volunteer Basij force, in the city of Karaj outside of Tehran on Nov. 3. The Basij have deployed in major cities, attacking and detaining protesters, who in many cases have fought back.

Heavily edited footage aired on state television showed Karami speaking before a Revolutionary Court about the attack, which also showed a reenactment of the attack, according to prosecutors' claims. Iran's Revolutionary Courts handed down the two other death sentences already carried out.

The tribunals don't allow those on trial to pick their own lawyers or even see the evidence against them. Amnesty International has said the trials "bore no resemblance to a meaningful judicial proceeding."

State TV also aired footage of Karami and Hosseini talking about the attack, though the broadcaster for years has aired what activists describe as coerced confessions.

The men were convicted of the killing, as well as "corruption on Earth," a Quranic term and charge that has been levied against others in the decades since the 1979 Islamic Revolution and carries the death penalty.

Activists say at least 16 people have been sentenced to death in closed-door hearings over charges linked to the protests. Death sentences in Iran are typically carried out by hanging.

At least 517 protesters have been killed and over 19,200 people have been arrested, according to Human Rights Activists in Iran, a group that has closely monitored the unrest. Iranian authorities have not provided an official count of those killed or detained.

The protests began in mid-September, when 22-year-old Amini died after being arrested by Iran's morality police for allegedly violating the Islamic Republic's strict dress code. Women have played a leading

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 47 of 88

role in the protests, with many publicly stripping off the compulsory Islamic headscarf, known as the hijab. The protests mark one of the biggest challenges to Iran's theocracy since the 1979 revolution. Security forces have used live ammunition, bird shot, tear gas and batons to disperse protesters, according to rights groups.

Also on Saturday, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei appointed a new hard-line chief of police, the official IRNA news agency reported. Gen. Ahmad Reza Radan replaced outgoing Gen. Hossein Ashtari after Ashtari's eight-year term of service ended.

Radan, who served as acting commander of police from 2008-2014, is known for his harsh handling of protesters during post-election turmoil in 2009. He also imposed measures against women wearing loose Islamic veils and young men with long hair.

The U.S. and Europe imposed sanctions on Radan for human rights violations in 2009 and 2010. He has been in charge of a police research center since 2014.

## Police: 6-year-old shoots teacher in Virginia classroom

By BEN FINLEY and MATTHEW BARAKAT Associated Press

NORFOLK, Va. (AP) — A 6-year-old student shot and wounded a teacher at his school in Virginia during an altercation inside a first-grade classroom Friday, police and school officials in the city of Newport News said.

Experts said a school shooting involving a 6-year-old is extremely rare, although not unheard of, while Virginia law limits the ways in which a child that age can be punished for such a crime.

No students were injured in the shooting at Richneck Elementary School, police said. The teacher — a woman in her 30s — suffered life-threatening injuries. Her condition had improved somewhat by late afternoon, Newport News Police Chief Steve Drew said.

"We did not have a situation where someone was going around the school shooting," Drew told reporters, later adding that the gunshot was not an accident.

Drew said the student and teacher had known each other in a classroom setting.

He said the boy had a handgun in the classroom, and investigators were trying to figure out where he obtained it. The police chief did not provide further details about the shooting, the altercation or what happened inside the school.

Joselin Glover, whose son is in fourth grade, told The Virginian-Pilot newspaper she got a text from the school stating that one person was shot and another was in custody.

"My heart stopped," she said. "I was freaking out, very nervous. Just wondering if that one person was my son."

Carlos, her 9-year-old, was at recess. But he said he and his classmates were soon holed up in the back of a classroom.

"Most of the whole class was crying," Carlos told the newspaper.

Parents and students were reunited at a gymnasium door, Newport News Public Schools said via Facebook.

The police chief did not specifically address questions about whether authorities were in touch with the boy's parents, but said members of the police department were handling that investigation.

"We have been in contact with our commonwealth's attorney (local prosecutor) and some other entities to help us best get services to this young man," Drew said.

Newport News is a city of about 185,000 people in southeastern Virginia known for its shipyard, which builds the nation's aircraft carriers and other U.S. Navy vessels.

Richneck has about 550 students who are in kindergarten through fifth grade, according to the Virginia Department of Education's website. School officials have already said that there will be no classes at the school on Monday.

"Today our students got a lesson in gun violence," said George Parker III, Newport News schools superintendent, "and what guns can do to disrupt, not only an educational environment, but also a family, a community."

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 48 of 88

Virginia law does not allow 6-year-olds to be tried as adults.

In addition, a 6-year-old is too young to be committed to the custody of the Department of Juvenile Justice if found guilty.

A juvenile judge would have authority, though, to revoke a parent's custody and place a child under the purview of the Department of Social Services.

A school shooting involving a 6-year-old is extremely rare, said James Alan Fox, a criminologist at Boston's Northeastern University.

Fox told The Associated Press Friday evening that he could think of one previous incident involving a child that age.

In 2000, a 6-year-old boy fired a bullet from a .32-caliber gun inside Buell Elementary near Flint, Michigan, 60 miles (96 kilometers) from Detroit, striking 6-year-old Kayla Rolland in the neck, according to an AP article from the time. She died a half-hour later.

Fox analyzed school shooting data sets going back to 1970 from the Center for Homeland Defense and Security, which is located at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. He said the data listed school shootings involving children ages 7, 8, 9 and older, but not 6-year-olds.

Another factor that stands out about the Virginia shooting is that it occurred in a classroom, Fox said. Many occur outside a school building where students are unsupervised.

From 2010 through 2021, there were more than 800 school-related shootings in K-12 schools that involved 1,149 victims. Thirty percent of those occurred in the school building, said Fox, who published the 2010 book, "Violence and Security on Campus: From Preschool Through College."

"There are students who killed teachers, more typically high school students," Fox said. "I don't know of other cases where a 6-year-old shot a teacher."

## Best of CES 2023: High-tech eyebrows and a boba tea robot

By ADRIANA MORGA, JAMES BROOKS and RIO YAMAT Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Tech companies showed off their latest products this week at CES, formerly known as the Consumer Electronics Show, with new developments in video as well as lifestyle enhancements with beverage and makeup gadgets.

Crowds of investors, media and tech workers have streamed into cavernous Las Vegas venues to see the latest tech from big companies and startups. The show runs through Sunday.

Here are some highlights:

### VIDEO CALLS WITH A TWIST

Tired of the same old Zoom calls? Zero Distance thinks it may have the answer.

The company's Wehead device helps people at a meeting feel like a remote attendee is in the room with them.

The device looks something like a machine you might find at the eye doctor, but with screens on the front. The person participating from afar looks like they're there in 3D and when they look around or nod, the machine also moves.

Wehead works with standard computer or smartphone webcams.

"If there are a few people around the table and just one screen, not everybody can see the screen, and the person in the laptop, he or she is not able to see everybody," Wehead creator Iliia Sedoshkin said. "That's the obvious application."

"But for people who spend like 40 hours a week in their home office, they don't see other people a lot. So feeling the real person in the room, using some space on your table, can give you less loneliness," Sedoshkin said.

The Wehead costs \$1,555, with a pro version available for \$4,555.

### A BOBA ROBOT

From milk tea to passion fruit, ADAM the robot can make any boba tea drink you like.

ADAM also can function as a bartender or barista, but it made boba tea for delighted CES attendees this



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 49 of 88

week who used digital touch screens to select their drinks.

"ADAM is intended to be basically a way to attract guests and a way to make drinks fully automated and very efficient," Timothy Tanksley of Richtech Robotics said.

The two-armed robot has two grip handles that can be customized to make specific drinks. While taking a break from mixing beverages, ADAM can dance to keep people entertained.

ADAM, which can be rented for events or hired full-time, is among a range of robots on display at CES this week doing a variety of tasks from disinfecting surfaces to making deliveries.

## NUT MILK ON DEMAND

During the pandemic shutdowns in 2020, California resident Luiz Rapacci had a hard time finding his favorite almond milk at grocery stores. He looked up online recipes to make his own, but they were messy and time-consuming.

Almost three years later, Rapacci has arrived at CES to unveil his nut milk brewing machine, the GrowUp brewer.

With GrowUp, customers can make nut milk at home in minutes with water and their chosen variety, from cashews and walnuts to almonds and pistachios, Rapacci said.

The machine costs \$599 and is available now for pre-order.

## PERFECT EYEBROWS

L'Oreal's Brow Magic is bringing augmented reality to your eyebrows.

The company's app scans your face and uses AR to make personalized recommendations for choices of shape, thickness and effect before you apply a primer. Then the Brow Magic device provides 2,400 tiny nozzles to brush over and paint your eyebrows.

L'Oreal developed Brow Magic in partnership with Prinker, which makes a device that quickly applies temporary tattoos.

The makeup in Brow Magic, which is expected to launch later this year, can last up to two days and be taken off with regular makeup remover.

## Utah murder-suicide underscores frequency of family killings

By SAM METZ and CLAUDIA LAUER Associated Press

ENOCH, Utah (AP) — City leaders in a small Utah town choked up this week as they expressed shock after a murder-suicide carried out by a fellow church member left eight people dead in their close-knit community, including five children who were classmates with their kids.

Though shocking, family mass killings are an all-too-common tragedy across the country. They've happened nearly every 3.5 weeks for the last two decades on average, according to a database compiled by USA Today, The Associated Press and Northeastern University.

Enoch, Utah, is one of more than 30 communities sent reeling by a family mass killing in the last two years, a list that includes communities of wealth and poverty and spares no race or class. A family mass killing — where four or more people were killed, not including the perpetrator — happened each of the last two years in places as large as Houston or as small as Casa Grande, Arizona, the database shows.

The circumstances of the killings are myriad: An argument over pandemic stimulus checks leaves four family members shot dead and two injured in Indianapolis; financial issues lead to authorities finding six children and their parents inside a house set ablaze in Oklahoma; an escalating custody battle in Ohio precedes a man and members of his family shooting the mother of his child and seven of her family members; a father loses his job, piles his wife and kids in the family station wagon and plunges it into the Detroit River.

Motives can remain speculative in family killings in which assailants take their own lives, but police often cite financial or relationship issues as the causes.

Enoch police are still investigating what led to the deaths discovered Wednesday, but authorities said Tausha Haight had recently filed a divorce petition against her husband Michael, a 42-year-old insurance agent who they believe killed her, their five children and Tausha's mother, who was staying at the family's

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 50 of 88

home.

Officials have not released information on the weapon they believe killed the adults and the children, who ranged in age from 4 to 17. A relative of Tausha Haight said Friday that the family was left "vulnerable" after Michael Haight removed guns he and his wife owned in the days before the murder-suicide.

Police went to the Haight's home on Wednesday in response to a welfare check call placed when Tausha Haight missed an appointment.

The news left mothers, fathers, teachers and churchgoers asking a question many communities face in the aftermath of mass shootings: How could this happen here?

City Councilman Rob Jensen said he was well aware such tragedies happen throughout the country, yet that did little to quell the shock he felt when the killings happened in his town.

"Especially in a small town, you don't anticipate this kind of thing. Nobody does," Jensen said. "Everyone knows this kind of thing can happen. But everyone wants to say that it's not them."

Family mass killings immediately capture the attention of people in a community, but rarely garner the level of national attention received by mass killings at schools, places of worship or restaurants, said James Alan Fox, a criminologist at Northeastern University who has studied familicides and mass killings for decades.

Fox, who helped compile and maintains the database for the AP and USA Today, said that's because it doesn't carry the same kind of fear with the public. He noted police often issue messages saying there is no danger to the public shortly after the killings are discovered.

"It's a nice safe community, but family massacres are independent of the crime rate in the local area," he said. "We are talking about internal factors, and I think that's why it's hard for people to see themselves in these situations and why the response is to mourn instead of fear."

Family mass killings are in fact the most common type of mass killing, making up about 45% of the 415 mass shootings since 2006, according to the database. They happen twice as frequently as mass shootings in which members of the public are killed.

Most, but not all, involve handguns, only about a third involve households with a previous occurrence of domestic violence and most of the assailants have no violent history or criminal past, Fox said.

There is no governmental agency tracking murder-suicides nationally, so a few years ago policy analysts at the Violence Policy Center — a nonprofit educational organization that conducts research and public education on violence in the U.S. — began tracking details from news accounts to produce an annual report. The latest version from 2020 looked at murder-suicides including many mass killings during the first six months of 2019.

The study found 81% of murder-suicides happened at home and 65% involved intimate partners. The study also found that among murder-suicides where more than three people aside from the assailant were killed, six of the 10 during those six months were incidents in which a person killed their children, partner and themselves.

Fox said most of the killings fall into two categories. The first is murder by proxy, in which the killer is motivated by anger or resentment and kills the children who are seen as an extension of their partner. The second is suicide by proxy motivated by despondency or depression, most often a job loss, and the assailant kills the children as an extension of themselves.

"He wants to spare them the misery of living in this awful world," Fox said. "Over the years, there's been an eclipse in community. There was a time decades ago if you had trouble feeding your family or if you had lost your job, neighbors would come over with casseroles and they would offer emotional support. Many people don't know their neighbors these days."

## Mega Millions jackpot rises to \$1.1 billion after no winner

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Another Mega Millions drawing, another night without a big winner.

No one hit all six numbers and won the estimated \$940 million jackpot, pushing the lottery prize to an estimated \$1.1 billion ahead of the next drawing Tuesday night.

The prize is now the third-largest in U.S. history.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 51 of 88

The numbers drawn late Friday were: 3, 20, 46, 59, 63 and gold Mega Ball 13.

There have been 24 drawings without a jackpot winner, stretching back for more than two months. The winless streak is largely due to the game's long odds of 1 in 302.6 million.

The new estimated prize of \$1.1 billion is for a winner who chooses an annuity paid annually over 29 years. Grand prize winners usually take the cash option, which for Tuesday night's drawing will be an estimated \$568.7 million.

"Mega Millions has just reached the \$1 billion mark again. It's especially nice to see the jackpot grow throughout the holidays and into the new year," Pat McDonald, the Ohio lottery director and lead director of the Mega Millions Consortium, said in a statement early Saturday. "As the jackpot grows, we encourage our players to keep within their entertainment budget and enjoy this jackpot run right along with us."

The only Mega Millions jackpots larger than the estimated \$1.1 billion opportunity on Tuesday have been the \$1.53 billion won in South Carolina in 2018 and \$1.33 billion winning ticket in Illinois in July, Mega Millions said in the statement.

Elijah Kouza, assistant manager of Buscemi's convenience store in Livonia, Michigan, said the Mega Millions jackpot drew numerous customers before Friday night's draw. The \$940 million prize was prominently advertised at the store and Kouza expected far more Mega Millions ticket sales than the 20 to 25 normally sold on a Friday.

"It's kind of hilarious to me, because if it's like \$100 million, people are like, 'Nah.' They'll pass," he said.

Mega Millions is played in 45 states as well as in Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

## Jan. 6 remembrance led by Dems as GOP wrestled with rebels

By ZEKE MILLER, MARY CLARE JALONICK and CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden conferred high honors on those who stood against the Jan. 6 Capitol mob two years ago and the menacing effort in state after state to upend the election, declaring "America is a land of laws, not chaos," even as disarray rendered Congress dysfunctional for a fourth straight day.

Democrats at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue commemorated the police officers attacked that day and the local election workers and state officials who faced fierce intimidation from supporters of former President Donald Trump as they fought to keep him in office after his defeat.

"Our democracy held," Biden said Friday in awarding Presidential Citizens Medals to about a dozen recipients from across the country in the White House East Room. "We the people did not flinch."

Yet democracy's vulnerability was equally on display at the Capitol as Republicans struggled to break their stalemate over the next House speaker, leaving that chamber in limbo for what should have been the first week under a GOP majority.

A resolution to the immediate crisis finally came after a series of concessions by the GOP leaders to appease its hard-right flank. In a vote sealed early Saturday after midnight, Rep. Kevin McCarthy of California got the majority he needed to become House speaker and get the chamber back to business.

Many hours earlier, lawmakers held a moment of silence to commemorate the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the building that drew mostly Democrats, with brief remarks from Democratic leaders past and incoming — Reps. Nancy Pelosi and Hakeem Jeffries — and none from the GOP.

The event was focused on the Capitol Police officers who protected the building Jan. 6 and families of law enforcement officers who died after the riot. Jeffries said 140 officers were seriously injured and "many more will forever be scarred by the bloodthirsty violence of the insurrectionist mob. We stand here today with our democracy intact because of those officers."

At the White House ceremony, Biden described the violence in evocative and at times graphic detail — the officer speared by a flagpole flying the American flag, the beatings, the bloodshed and racist screams from rioters who professed to be pro-law enforcement as they overran police and hunted for lawmakers.

"Sick insurrectionists," he said. "We must say clearly with a united voice that there is no place ... for voter intimidation or election violence."

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 52 of 88

Although the horrors of Jan. 6 came down on members of both parties, it is being remembered in a largely polarized fashion now, like other aspects of political life in a divided country.

Biden, in his afternoon remarks, played up the heroism of the honorees, whether in the face of the violent Capitol mob or the horde of Trump-inspired agitators who threatened election workers or otherwise sought to overturn the results.

But he couldn't ignore warning signs that it could happen again.

In the midterms, candidates who denied the outcome of 2020's free and fair election were defeated for many pivotal statewide positions overseeing elections in battleground states, as were a number of election deniers seeking seats in Congress.

Yet many of the lawmakers who brought baseless claims of election fraud or excused the violence on Jan. 6 continue to serve and are newly empowered.

Trump's 2024 candidacy has been slow off the starting blocks, but his war chest is full and some would-be rivals for the Republican presidential nomination have channeled his false claims about the 2020 race.

As well, several lawmakers who echoed his lies about a stolen election at the time were central in the effort to derail McCarthy's ascension to speaker — unswayed by Trump's appeals from afar to support him and end the fight.

The protracted struggle left the House leaderless, unable to pass bills and powerless to do much more than hold vote after vote for speaker until a majority was reached. Everything from national security briefings to helping their constituents navigate the federal bureaucracy was on pause because the members-elect couldn't yet take their oath of office.

Some Democrats saw a throughline from Jan. 6.

The chaos of the speaker's election was "about destruction of an institution in a different way," said Democratic Rep. Pramila Jayapal of Washington, one of the lawmakers who fled the rioters two years ago.

Then, the insurrectionists trapped some lawmakers in the House chamber but never breached it. They held up national business for hours that day.

Now some felt trapped in the same chamber by the repeated, fruitless votes for speaker.

"The stream of continuity here is extremism, elements of Trumpism, norms don't matter," says Democratic Rep. Mike Quigley of Illinois. "It's not about governing, it's about pontificating and advocating an extremist point of view."

At least nine people who were at the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, died during or after the rioting, including a woman who was shot and killed by police as she tried to break into the House chamber and three other Trump supporters whom authorities said suffered medical emergencies.

Two officers, Howard Liebengood of the Capitol Police and Jeffrey Smith of the Metropolitan Police, were at the Capitol that Jan. 6 and died by suicide in the days following the attack. Biden honored both Friday with posthumous medals.

A third officer, Capitol Police Officer Brian Sicknick, collapsed and died after engaging with the protesters. A medical examiner later determined he died of natural causes.

The Metropolitan Police announced months later that two more of their officers who had responded to the insurrection, Kyle DeFreytag and Gunther Hashida, had also died by suicide.

On Capitol Hill, the mostly Democratic lawmakers held a 140-second moment of silence in honor of those officers as some of their families said their names and a bell was rung in their honor.

"I wish we didn't have to be here," said Ken Sicknick, brother of Brian Sicknick, after the ceremony.

After the unsatisfying midterm election for Trump allies, the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 attack wrapped up its work with a recommendation to the Justice Department to prosecute the former president. A special counsel and ultimately Attorney General Merrick Garland will now decide whether to indict him.

While the congressional investigations have ended, the criminal cases are still very much continuing, both for the 950 arrested and charged in the violent attack and for Trump and his associates who remain under investigation. The second seditious conspiracy trial begins this week, for members of the far-right Proud Boys.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 53 of 88

In a measured but significant step, Congress in December amended the Electoral Count Act to limit the role of the vice president in counting electoral votes, to make it harder for individual lawmakers to mount objections to properly certified election results and to eliminate “fake electors” like those deployed by Trump allies in a bid to overturn his defeat to Biden.

After all that, Biden, who made it a tentpole of his agenda to prove to the world that democracies can deliver for their citizens, said he hoped that this was “the first time we’re really getting through the whole issue relating to Jan. 6. Things are settling out.”

But then came the fight for speaker, rare in the annals of Congress.

“And now, for the first time in 100 years, we can’t move?” Biden said earlier this week. “It’s not a good look. It’s not a good thing.”

“Look,” he went on, “how do you think it looks to the rest of the world?”

## **Biden faces Israel quandary with new Netanyahu government**

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s new government is little more than a week old but it’s already giving the Biden administration headaches.

Just days into its mandate, a controversial member of Netanyahu’s right-wing Cabinet riled U.S. diplomats with a visit to a Jerusalem holy site that some believe may be harbinger of other contentious moves, including vast expansions of Jewish settlement construction on land claimed by the Palestinians.

And, Netanyahu’s government adopted punitive measures against the Palestinians that run in direct opposition to several recent Biden moves to boost U.S.-Palestinian relations, including restoring assistance to the Palestinian Authority that had been cut during the Trump administration and allowing Palestinian officials to visit the United States.

The new government is an unwelcome complication for a Biden national security team seeking to shift attention away from the Middle East and toward rivals like China and Russia. It also comes as Republicans take control of the House of Representatives and are eager to cast Biden as unfriendly to Israel ahead of the 2024 presidential election.

Bracing for more turmoil, Biden is dispatching his national security adviser to Israel in mid-January in a bid to forestall potentially deepening rifts between his administration and its top Mideast partner. That visit by Jake Sullivan may be followed by other high-level trips to Israel, including one by Secretary of State Antony Blinken, according to administration officials.

Their message goes beyond warnings about inflaming tensions with Palestinians: It’s also about not cozying up with Russia, particularly now that Moscow is relying on Israel’s main enemy, Iran, in its war on Ukraine; and not upsetting the delicate Middle East security balance.

Since Netanyahu won hotly contested elections last year with huge support from the Israeli right, U.S. officials have sought to tamp down predictions of a collision course, saying they will judge his government on actions rather than personalities. Biden himself spoke of his years-long relationship with Netanyahu.

“I look forward to working with Prime Minister Netanyahu, who has been my friend for decades, to jointly address the many challenges and opportunities facing Israel and the Middle East region, including threats from Iran,” Biden said when Netanyahu took office Dec. 29.

Yet while Biden and Netanyahu have known each other for years, they are not close. Biden and former Obama administration officials who now work for Biden still harbor resentment toward the prime minister who, during his previous iteration as Israel’s leader, sought to derail their signature foreign policy achievement: the Iran nuclear deal.

Still, the administration is signaling it will engage with Netanyahu while avoiding more extreme members of his government. That approach wouldn’t be unprecedented in the region: The U.S. deals with Lebanon’s government while shunning members from the Hezbollah movement, a designated foreign terrorist organization that is nonetheless a domestic political power. But, it would be remarkable for the U.S. to take a similar approach with such a close ally.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 54 of 88

"We will be dealing directly with Prime Minister Netanyahu," State Department spokesman Ned Price said this week when asked about possible contacts with Israeli National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir's, whose visit to the site known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Muslims as the Noble Sanctuary prompted a major outcry.

The inclusion of Ben-Gvir, a West Bank settler leader, and other extreme right-wing figures in Netanyahu's government who are hostile to the Palestinians and opposed to a two-state resolution has put Israel and the United States on opposite paths.

On Thursday, the deputy U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Robert Wood, at an emergency meeting of the Security Council called by Arab states to condemn Ben-Gvir's holy site visit, underscored Biden's firm support for "the historic status quo," especially the "Haram Al-Sharif/Temple Mount."

Wood noted that Netanyahu had pledged to preserve the status quo — "We expect the government of Israel to follow through on that commitment," he said — and stressed that the administration placed a priority on preserving the possibility of a two-state solution.

But on Friday, Netanyahu's Security Cabinet approved a series of punitive steps against the Palestinian leadership in retaliation for the Palestinians pushing the U.N.'s highest judicial body to give an opinion on the Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

Those moves underscored the hardline approach to the Palestinians that Netanyahu's government has promised at a time of rising violence in the occupied territories.

The Security Cabinet decided to withhold millions of dollars from the Palestinian Authority and transfer those funds to a compensation program for the families of Israeli victims of Palestinian militant attacks. And, it will deny benefits, including travel permits, to Palestinian officials who "are leading the political and legal war against Israel."

Meanwhile, Biden's administration is moving in a diametrically opposed direction. Since taking office, the administration has reversed the Trump ban on aid and provided more than \$800 million in economic, development, security, and other assistance to the Palestinians and the UN agency for Palestinian refugees.

In the fall, the State Department obtained a Justice Department opinion that allows Palestinian officials to visit the United States and spend money in the U.S. despite laws barring such travel and transactions and a Supreme Court ruling that Congress has an enforceable role in the foreign policy process.

The administration "may reasonably assess that being prevented from hosting the PLO delegation in Washington would seriously impair the president's diplomatic efforts," the Justice Department said in a little-noticed Oct. 28th opinion.

Then, exactly one week before Netanyahu took office in late December, the State Department imposed but immediately waived terrorism sanctions against the Palestinian leadership, saying engagement with the Palestinians is a critical U.S. national security interest.

On Dec. 22, Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman notified Congress that she had imposed travel bans on senior leaders of the Palestinian Authority and Palestine Liberation Organization because they "are not in compliance" with requirements to tamp down and publicly condemn terrorist attacks against Israelis.

But, in the same notification, the State Department said Sherman had waived the travel bans "based on her determination that such a waiver is in the national security interests of the United States."

"An enduring and comprehensive peace between Israel and the Palestinians remains a longstanding goal of U.S. foreign policy," the department said. "A blanket denial of visas to PLO members and PA officials, to include those whose travel to the United States to advance U.S. goals and objectives, is not consistent with the U.S. government's expressed willingness to partner with the PLO and PA leadership."

Despite a more-than-\$3 billion annual assistance package to Israel and diplomatic backing in international forums, U.S. sway with Netanyahu appears limited.

The Biden administration has not yet followed through on its pledge to re-open the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem, which had historically served as the main contact point with the Palestinians, and it has made no move to re-open the Palestinian embassy in Washington. Both facilities were shut down during the Trump administration.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 55 of 88

Alon Liel, a former director-general of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, said further U.S. rapprochement with Palestinians may be the only way to influence Netanyahu. "If they really want to inflict pressure (on Israel), Biden tomorrow should say in the coming months, we will consider reopening the Palestinian embassy in Washington. Then they will see the earth shaking here," Liel said.

"But there is no sign of that," he said. "As long as they say, 'We're worried about your democracy,' those words are meaningless because there were so many words. There's nothing behind the words."

## Mexican capo's arrest a gesture to US, not signal of change

By CHRISTOPHER SHERMAN, MARK STEVENSON and FABIOLA SÁNCHEZ Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's capture of a son of former Sinaloa cartel boss Joaquín "El Chapo" Guzmán this week was an isolated nod to a drug war strategy that Mexico's current administration has abandoned rather than a sign that President Andrés Manuel López Obrador's thinking has changed, experts say.

Ovidio Guzmán's arrest in the Sinaloa cartel stronghold of Culiacan on Thursday came at the cost of at least 30 lives — 11 from the military and law enforcement and 19 suspected cartel gunmen. But analysts predict it won't have any impact on the flow of drugs to the United States.

It was a display of muscle — helicopter gunships, hundreds of troops and armored vehicles — at the initiation of a possible extradition process rather than a significant step in a homegrown Mexican effort to dismantle one of the country's most powerful criminal organizations. Perhaps coincidentally, it came just days before U.S. President Joe Biden makes the first visit by a U.S. leader in almost a decade.

López Obrador has made clear throughout the first four years of his six-year term that pursuing drug capos is not his priority. When military forces cornered the younger Guzmán in Culiacan in 2019, the president ordered him freed to avoid loss of life after gunmen started shooting up the city.

The only other big capture under his administration was the grabbing of a geriatric Rafael Caro Quintero last July — just days after López Obrador met with Biden in the White House. At that point, Caro Quintero carried more symbolic significance for ordering a DEA agent's murder decades ago than real weight in today's drug world.

"Mexico wants to do at least the bare minimum in terms of counter-drug efforts," said Mike Vigil, the DEA's former chief of international operations who spent 13 years of his career in Mexico. "I don't think that this is a sign that there's going to be closer cooperation, bilateral collaboration, if you will, between the United States and Mexico."

While capturing a criminal is a win for justice and rule of law, Vigil said, the impact on what he sees as a "permanent campaign against drugs" is nil. "Really what we need to do here in the United States is we need to do a better job in terms of reducing demand."

That was a key talking point when the U.S. and Mexican governments announced late in 2021 a new Bicentennial Framework for Security, Public Health and Safe Communities, replacing the outdated Merida Initiative.

The pact was supposed to take a more holistic approach to the scourge of drugs and the deaths they cause on both sides of the border. But underlining the frequent disconnect between diplomatic speech and reality, just two months later the U.S. government announced a \$5 million reward for information leading to the capture of any of four of El Chapo's sons, including Ovidio, signaling the U.S. kingpin strategy was alive and well.

"The Bicentennial understanding was a change on paper with respect to attacking drug trafficking and violence with a more important focus on what were supposedly public health programs — (but) without any budget," said Guadalupe Correa-Cabrera, an associate professor at George Mason University. In reality, "Mexico is bending to the United States' interests."

For decades, the U.S. has nabbed drug kingpins from Mexico, Colombia and points between, but drugs are as available and more deadly in the United States as ever, she said. "The kingpin strategy is a failed strategy."

The U.S. Department of Justice declined to comment on Ovidio Guzmán's arrest.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 56 of 88

López Obrador took office in December 2018 after campaigning with a motto of “hugs, not bullets.” He shifted resources to social programs to address what he sees as violence’s root causes, a medium- to long-term approach that did little for a country suffering more than 35,000 homicides per year.

“Something that has characterized, in my opinion, Mexico’s security policy in recent years is that it isn’t very clear. It has been a bit contradictory,” said Angelica Durán-Martínez, associate professor at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. That ambiguity makes it difficult to determine if there has really been a change, she said.

López Obrador’s government benefits from the detention of Guzmán in several ways. The arrest eases the armed forces’ humiliation after being forced by cartel gunmen to release him in 2019. It may soothe ill-feelings after his administration strictly limited U.S. anti-drug cooperation two years ago. And it may help diminish perceptions that López Obrador -- who has frequently visited Sinaloa and praised its people — has gone easier on the Sinaloa cartel than on other gangs.

For four years López Obrador has continued to shred his predecessors’ prosecution of the drug war at every opportunity. Experts say the respite allowed the cartels to get stronger, both in terms of organization and armament.

Guzmán during that time took a growing role after his father was sentenced to life in prison in the U.S. The younger Guzmán was indicted in Washington on drug trafficking charges along with another brother in 2018. He allegedly controlled a number of methamphetamine labs and was involved as the Sinaloa cartel expanded strongly into fentanyl production.

Synthetic drugs have been impervious to government eradication efforts, are easier to produce and smuggle, and are much more profitable.

The Sinaloa cartel hardly missed a beat when Guzmán’s father was sent to the U.S., so the capture of one of the so-called “Chapitos,” as the brothers are known, is never going to shake the operation.

Mexican security analyst Alejandro Hope said the detention of Ovidio Guzman probably came as the result of pressure or information from the U.S. government, and marks the tacit abandonment of López Obrador’s rhetoric about ditching the kingpin strategy.

For Hope, the detention is depressing, not only because it won’t fundamentally change the Sinaloa cartel’s booming export trade in meth and fentanyl, but because it reveals how little investigation Mexican authorities had done on Guzmán and the cartel since 2019.

“How great that they got Ovidio, applause, perfect,” Hope said. “What depresses me is that we’ve been at this (drug war) for 16 years, or 40 counting from the (murder of DEA agent Enrique) Camarena, and we still don’t have the ability to investigate.”

After Guzmán’s capture, Mexican officials said he was arrested on an existing U.S. extradition request, as well as for illegal weapons possession and attempted murder at the time they found him. On Friday, Interior Secretary Adán López Hernández said there were other Mexican investigations underway that they couldn’t talk about.

“We keep betting on the muscle, the military capabilities and not on the ability to investigate,” Hope said.

## Heart screening may not have prevented Hamlin’s collapse

By LINDSEY TANNER AP Medical Writer

Quick on-the-field emergency care from well-rehearsed medical personnel is widely credited with helping save Damar Hamlin’s life. But whether his cardiac arrest could have been prevented is much less certain.

Doctors say they’re still evaluating what caused Hamlin’s heart to stop after a tackle during Monday night’s game in Cincinnati. One possibility — a fluke type of chest trauma called commotio cordis — is impossible to predict or prevent.

Existing heart conditions are the most common cause of sudden cardiac arrest in young athletes. Some of them can be detected through tests including EKGs, which measure the heart’s electrical activity, and echocardiograms, ultrasound imaging exams that show how the heart muscle and valves are working.

These tests can’t detect all heart conditions and sometimes overlook ones that can be deadly. They



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 57 of 88

are routine in professional sports and used by about half of NCAA programs, said Dr. Andrew Peterson, a team physician for the University of Iowa.

The American Heart Association and American Academy of Pediatrics don't recommend them for routine use in high school and youth sports because false-positive results would exclude too many athletes, Peterson said.

Routine physical exams should include questions about family history of heart disease and worrisome symptoms including fainting episodes, rapid heart rate and chest pain during activity, said Dr. Mariell Jessup, the heart association's chief medical officer. Cardiac tests would be warranted to investigate those symptoms, she said.

"It's possible for somebody to get all the way to adulthood and not have their diagnosis made," she noted. "That particularly happens in populations that are under-resourced or don't have the ability to see a physician on a regular basis."

Hamlin's health history has not been made public. The 24-year-old Buffalo Bills safety remains hospitalized, but doctors say he's making remarkable progress, talking and breathing on his own.

Jessup said Hamlin "was extraordinarily lucky that there were people around who knew CPR" and that it was started right away.

He also benefited from the NFL's routine emergency medical drills held at stadiums before each game.

"The meeting is an essential checkpoint to ensure officials, team medical staff and gameday medical personnel are aware of all in-game player health and safety procedures and resources," according to online NFL player health and safety information.

Sudden cardiac arrest is among the things for which they try to prepare. It is the leading medical cause of death in young athletes, though it is rare, with an estimated 1 sudden cardiac death in 50,000 to 80,000 young athletes each year.

A rare cause of these deaths is commotio cordis, which occurs when someone receives a sharp blow to the chest in a certain spot during a specific time of the heart's rhythm cycle. The trauma causes the heart to quiver and stop pumping blood efficiently. It used to be nearly always fatal but awareness has improved survival to about 60%, said Dr. Mark Link of UT Southwestern Medical Center in Texas.

One of the most common heart conditions involved in athlete cardiac arrests can often be detected in echocardiograms. Hypertrophic cardiomyopathy is a genetic condition that can cause part of the heart muscle to thicken, making it harder for the heart to pump blood. Affected people don't always have symptoms and often go undiagnosed.

Former Baylor basketball player King McClure had no idea he was affected until he had a EKG and echocardiogram at the start of his freshman year in 2015.

The diagnosis was devastating: Doctors said he could die if he continued playing. One physician offered an option — an implanted defibrillator that shocks the heart to restore normal heartbeats.

The implanted device "has never activated, by the grace of God," said McClure, now 26 and an ESPN analyst.

McClure said he saw Hamlin's collapse and thought, "that could have been me. When you see things like that that hit so close to home, it kind of scares you," he said. "I'm just thankful that Hamlin is OK and that he's still here."

Julie West, of La Porte, Indiana, became an advocate for routine heart testing in schools, more widespread use of automated external defibrillators and routine cardiac emergency drills after her 17-year-old son, Jake, died of sudden cardiac arrest during football practice in 2013.

"For Jake, no one really knew what to do right away," she said. "The AED was in the coach's office. The coaches stepped in and did CPR," but it was too late.

AED awareness has increased since then, and AED procedures are emphasized at almost all level of sport, even high schools.

"It is part of our CPR renewal course," said Eric McCauliffe, the girls varsity basketball coach at Indian Lake-Long Lake in upstate New York. "We absolutely run through it and quiz coaches on the locations of

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 58 of 88

AEDs at each school as well.”

An autopsy revealed Jake had a rare hereditary heart condition that didn't cause symptoms and wasn't picked up during routine physical exams. His sister later had testing that revealed she has the same condition and she now wears an implanted defibrillator.

West was a teacher when Jake died and says she was trained for active shooters and fires, but not cardiac arrests.

“If they don't have a cardiac response plan, they're not prepared,” she said.

She formed a foundation that organizes EKG and echocardiogram screenings at Indiana schools.

West knows the tests aren't perfect, but for her, saving one life is worth it.

## Old NASA satellite falling from sky this weekend, low threat

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A 38-year-old retired NASA satellite is about to fall from the sky.

NASA said Friday the chance of wreckage falling on anybody is “very low.” Most of the 5,400-pound (2,450-kilogram) satellite will burn up upon reentry, according to NASA. But some pieces are expected to survive.

The space agency put the odds of injury from falling debris at about 1-in-9,400.

The science satellite is expected to come down Sunday night, give or take 17 hours, according to the Defense Department.

The California-based Aerospace Corp., however is targeting Monday morning, give or take 13 hours, along a track passing over Africa, Asia the Middle East and the westernmost areas of North and South America.

The Earth Radiation Budget Satellite, known as ERBS, was launched in 1984 aboard space shuttle Challenger. Although its expected working lifetime was two years, the satellite kept making ozone and other atmospheric measurements until its retirement in 2005. The satellite studied how Earth absorbed and radiated energy from the sun.

The satellite got a special sendoff from Challenger. America's first woman in space, Sally Ride, released the satellite into orbit using the shuttle's robot arm. That same mission also featured the first spacewalk by a U.S. woman: Kathryn Sullivan. It was the first time two female astronauts flew in space together.

It was the second and final spaceflight for Ride, who died in 2012.

## Family of slain Utah family says husband took guns from home

By SAM METZ and COLLEEN SLEVIN Associated Press

ENOCH, Utah (AP) — A Utah man who fatally shot his five children, mother-in-law and wife and then killed himself removed guns owned by himself and his wife days before the murder-suicide, leaving the family “vulnerable,” a relative said Friday.

The wife, Tausha Haight, told her extended family that her husband, Mike Haight, took the guns from the family's home this week, just two weeks after she had filed for divorce, sister-in-law Jennie Earl told The Associated Press.

She said she did not know how Tausha Haight felt about the removal but said it “left the family vulnerable,” noting that both Tausha and her mother, Gail Earl, were trained in gun safety and personal protection. Jennie Earl's comments came after the Earl family issued a statement lamenting the tragedy and revealing that guns had been removed.

“Protective arms were purposely removed from the home prior to the incident because all adults were properly trained to protect human life,” the Earl family said in a statement. “This is the type of loss that will continue to occur in families, communities and this nation when protective arms are no longer accessible.”

Enoch city manager Rob Dotson said local law enforcement were not involved, saying in an emailed statement that police “has never had reason and has never had to remove firearms.”

The revelation provides more insight into what happened in the days leading up to a shooting in a southern Utah home that occurred after Tausha Haight had filed for divorce on Dec. 21 from her husband

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 59 of 88

of 19 years.

The victims were found Wednesday when police did a welfare check at the residence, according city officials in Enoch, a small town of about 8,000 people located 245 miles (394 kilometers) south of Salt Lake City.

Without knowing the details about how the shootings unfolded it is not clear whether having those firearms in the home could have helped stop the bloodshed, Jennie Earl said. However, if either Tausha Haight or Gail Earl had a chance to defend their family, they would have been able to use the guns, she said.

"They could have because they had the skills to do it," she said.

Matt Munson, the attorney representing Michael Haight's family, did not respond to questions about the firearms in the home but sent a statement from his clients mourning the loss of the family and sending condolences to the Earls.

The family revealed the information about the guns being removed in a statement issued Friday that also lamented the "unthinkable tragedy" and called on the media and public to refrain from using the shooting for any "advocacy of political agendas."

"We would encourage reporting about the value of all human life, the great works of God that can render a forgiving heart, how religion can heal and enlarge our capacity for love, and a return to foundational principles of peace within our nation," the Earl family wrote.

Enoch officials have said they are aware of the divorce filing but don't know if that was the motive in the killings.

Enoch Police Chief Jackson Ames also said this week that officers investigated the 42-year-old man and his family a "couple of years prior," suggesting possible earlier problems inside the household, but he would not elaborate.

## California gets brief lull after damaging 'bomb cyclone'

By MARTHA MENDOZA, BRIAN MELLEY and JOHN ANTCHAK Associated Press

CAPITOLA, Calif. (AP) — California weather calmed Friday but the lull was expected to be brief as more Pacific storms lined up to blast into the state, where successive powerful weather systems have knocked out power to thousands, battered the coastline, flooded streets, toppled trees and caused at least six deaths.

Remnant showers from the latest storm, a "bomb cyclone," fell around the state and dangerous surf pounded the coast despite declining wave heights, while some areas enjoyed sunshine. A Southern California pier was damaged by high surf and winds overnight and will remain closed until it is repaired, officials said. Streets flooded in low-lying beach cities.

The next round of severe weather was predicted to arrive in Northern California on Friday night and spread south into the central region during the weekend, increasing flooding concerns due to already saturated soil. Heavy snow was forecast for the Sierra Nevada.

"A very active weather pattern across the Pacific Ocean will continue to push energetic and fast-moving low pressure systems toward the West Coast," the National Weather Service said. "California continues to take the brunt of the heavy precipitation and strong winds associated with these systems as we head into the first full weekend of 2023."

During the weekend, "the next moisture-laden Pacific cyclone is forecast to approach California with the next onslaught of heavy rain," the service said.

The storms are atmospheric rivers, long plumes of moisture stretching far out into the Pacific, and capable of dropping staggering amounts of rain and snow.

Downtown San Francisco had its wettest 10-day period since 1871 between Dec. 26 and Jan. 4 when 10.33 inches (26.24 centimeters) of rain fell. The all-time 10-day record was 14.37 inches (36.5 cm) in January 1862.

The storms have also been piling up much-needed snow in the drought-stricken state's mountains, where the snowpack supplies about a third of California's water supply.

"It has been a deep week with almost 5 FEET of snow (57.9 inches, 147 cm) falling in the last 7 days!" the UC Berkeley Central Sierra Snow Lab tweeted Friday.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 60 of 88

The statewide snowpack was 191% of normal to date and 76% of the April 1 average, which is usually the peak, according to the California Department of Water Resources.

Storms have been arriving in California since early November. A powerful New Year's weekend storm caused extensive flooding in Northern California's Sacramento County and four deaths. It undermined a massive oak tree that fell Monday and crushed a nursery school in Marin County. The school was empty at the time.

That storm was followed on Wednesday and Thursday by a "bomb cyclone," a shorthand reference to a storm intensified by a rapid plunge in air pressure through a process called bombogenesis.

Two deaths were reported, including a 2-year-old boy killed when a redwood fell on a mobile home. The seaside village of Capitola in Santa Cruz County about 60 miles (100 kilometers) south of San Francisco suffered possibly the worst damage as waves that were forecast to top 25 feet (7.6 meters) crashed into homes and restaurants at the mouth of Soquel Creek and knocked out a section of its historic wooden pier.

Hurricane-strength gusts as high as 101 mph (162 kph) toppled trees onto buildings and roads, knocked out power lines and blew down the roof on a gas station in South San Francisco.

National Weather Service meteorologist Warren Blier said the wind speed recorded on a Marin County hilltop was among the highest he could recall in a 25-year career.

The storms won't be enough to officially end the state's ongoing drought, now entering its fourth year, but they have helped. Not including the latest deluge, recent storms moved parts of the state out of the "exceptional drought" category in the U.S. Drought Monitor. Most of the state, though, remains in the extreme or severe drought categories.

## Global food prices in 2022 hit record high amid drought, war

ROME (AP) — Global prices for food commodities like grain and vegetable oils were the highest on record last year even after falling for nine months in a row, the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization said, as Russia's war in Ukraine, drought and other factors drove up inflation and worsened hunger worldwide.

The FAO Food Price Index, which tracks monthly changes in the international prices of commonly traded food commodities, dipped by 1.9% in December from a month earlier, the Rome-based organization said Friday. For the whole year, it averaged 143.7 points, more than 14% above the 2021 average, which also saw large increases.

The December decline was led by a drop in the price of vegetable oils amid shrinking import demand, expectations of increased soy oil production in South America and lower crude oil prices. Grain and meat were also down, while dairy and sugar rose slightly.

"Calmer food commodity prices are welcome after two very volatile years," FAO chief economist Maximo Torero said in a prepared statement. "It is important to remain vigilant and keep a strong focus on mitigating global food insecurity given that world food prices remain at elevated levels, with many staples near record highs, and with prices of rice increasing, and still many risks associated with future supplies."

Last year, the U.N. organization's Food Price Index hit the highest level since its records began in 1961, according to FAO data.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February exacerbated a food crisis because the two countries were leading global suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other products, especially to nations in parts of Africa, the Middle East and Asia that were already struggling with hunger.

With critical Black Sea supplies disrupted, food prices rose to record highs, increasing inflation, poverty and food insecurity in developing nations that rely on imports.

The war also jolted energy markets and fertilizer supplies, both key to food production. That was on top of climate shocks that have fueled starvation in places like the Horn of Africa. Ethiopia, Somalia and Kenya are badly affected by the worst drought in decades, with the U.N. warning that parts of Somalia are facing famine. Thousands of people have already died.

Prices for wheat and corn reached a record high last year, though they fell in December along with the costs of other grains, the FAO said. It said harvests in the Southern Hemisphere boosted supplies and

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 61 of 88

there was strong competition among exporters.

The organization's Vegetable Oil Price Index hit an all-time high last year, even as it tumbled in December to its lowest level since February 2021. For all of 2022, the FAO Dairy Price Index and Meat Price Index also were the highest since 1990.

## Hawaii eruption not dangerous but offers spectacular sight

By AUDREY McAVOY and JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Lava from Kilauea spurted high into the air and spread out across about 300 acres (120 hectares) of the Hawaii volcano's summit crater floor, creating a spectacular sight as the mountain began erupting again after a few weeks' hiatus.

Jillian Marohnic said the pool of lava that formed inside Halemaumau Crater was "the most beautiful" she had ever seen in her 25 years of watching the volcano.

"The lake was so high. And so full. It's sparkling," said Marohnic, who operates the Volcano Hideaways vacation rental business with her husband in the nearby village of Volcano.

"The surface of the lake looks like stained glass," she said.

Kilauea is one of the world's most active volcanoes. This latest eruption began Thursday, less than one month after Kilauea and its larger neighbor Mauna Loa went quiet. Kilauea last erupted from September 2021 through mid-December. Mauna Loa rumbled to life for the first time in 38 years when it erupted for about two weeks starting in late November.

The Hawaiian Volcano Observatory said Kilauea's latest eruption is expected to remain inside the summit crater, which is within Hawaii Volcanoes National Park and away from residential communities.

The observatory on Thursday raised Kilauea's alert level, but lowered it the next morning from warning to watch "because the initial high effusion rates are declining, and no infrastructure is threatened."

That is reassuring to Big Island Mayor Mitch Roth. "We're feeling pretty good about where it's at right now," he said Friday.

The beauty of the eruption is a big draw for visitors.

John Tarson, who owns EpicLava, a tour company, said he has been "nonstop" talking to tourists who want to see the volcano.

"A lot of people were on the island and left to go do whatever else they're doing in Hawaii and then learned about this. And now they're rerouting all their plans and coming back so that they can see this," he said.

On Thursday night, lava from Kilauea shot as high as 164 feet (50 meters) into the air -- roughly as high as the width of a football field -- but most so-called "lava fountains" were smaller, at 32 feet (10 meters) high.

The crater surface rose 32 feet (10 meters) by 7:30 p.m. Thursday as a result of all the new lava added, the observatory said.

By morning, the observatory said the lava fountains lost some vigor but were consistently 16 feet (5 meters) high.

This is typical behavior at the start of Kilauea eruptions, said Matt Patrick, a geologist at the observatory. "This is a cycle of collapse and refilling that Kilauea has done many, many times at its summit," he said.

These early days are the best time to see lava on the surface, he said.

Jody Anastasio, a spokesperson for the national park, said it may be hard to see the lava during the day but there will be a glow at night and all of the park's viewing areas will have good vantage points.

For Native Hawaiians, volcanic eruptions have deep cultural and spiritual significance. During Mauna Loa's eruption, many Hawaiians took part in cultural traditions, such as singing, chanting and dancing to honor Pele, the deity of volcanoes and fire, and leaving offerings known as "hookupu."

Kealoha Pisciotta, a cultural practitioner who lives on the slopes of Kilauea, encouraged Hawaiians in Hawaii and beyond to acknowledge akua — or gods and goddesses such as Pele, the deity of volcanoes and fire.

"Wherever you are, take time out today to reflect upon them and thank them for bringing new life and

new land," she said Friday.

## CES 2023: Startups aim to reduce global food waste

By BRITTANY PETERSON Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Avocados can be tricky. Their ripeness window is so narrow that a slew of memes poke fun at the fine art of deciding when to eat them.

Dutch entrepreneur Marco Snickers aims to solve that problem with an avocado scanner unveiled this week at the CES tech show in Las Vegas and designed for use in supermarkets. It uses optical sensing and AI technology to determine ripeness, displaying on a screen whether an avocado is firm or ready to eat.

Snickers' startup, OneThird, isn't just trying to reduce frustration in the kitchen. According to the United Nations, about one-third of food is wasted globally. That means all the carbon emitted to grow, ship and distribute that food was for naught.

"That's a huge problem," Snickers said. "That's a trillion dollar issue for our world and it has a huge impact on CO2 emissions and water usage."

OneThird is one of several start-ups at this year's CES working to solve different components of the problem, from helping the food industry limit what it throws away to offering rapid composting solutions to help keep food scraps out of methane-producing landfills.

OneThird already works with growers, distributors and others along the supply chain to predict the shelf life of avocados, tomatoes, strawberries and blueberries. It will further expand its ability to determine ripeness for more produce later this year, aiming to help reduce the amount of food that is wasted around the world. And it's testing the consumer-friendly avocado scanner at a supermarket in Canada this month.

Another Dutch entrepreneur, Olaf van der Veen, is working to empower restaurants to reduce food waste, the majority of which happens in a kitchen before a meal is even served to customers.

His device, Orbisk, uses a camera positioned over a trash can to scan whatever food is about to be tossed. In addition to seeing the type of food, amount and time of day, "we can see if it's on a plate, in a pan, on a cutting board, which gives circumstantial information on why it was lost," van der Veen said.

Orbisk organizes and shares that insight with the restaurant so they can understand their disposal patterns, helping them save money and reduce food waste, and with it, emissions and water use.

The startup's devices are positioned in commercial kitchens in about 10 European countries, with some clients as far as India.

He said that even after some surplus food is donated, there's more food waste per restaurant in the U.S. than in Europe. That's why the company is at CES, he said, hoping to expand its nascent market further.

Reducing the amount of wasted food is preferable, but keeping tossed food out of landfills is the next best option.

When food scraps are properly composted, they release carbon dioxide as part of the biological process of turning into nutrient-rich soil. When food is trapped in landfills, the decomposition process produces methane — a potent greenhouse gas that contributes significantly to global warming because it packs a stronger short-term punch more than 80 times stronger than even carbon dioxide.

The 2006 London Protocol banned dumping food waste into the ocean, prompting South Korea to set up a system of mandatory composting. While the infrastructure allows the country to properly dispose of nearly all its food waste, residents have to haul bags of food to designated curbside bins.

Reencle is designed to make that process easier. The metal bin is a hyper-fast composting system showcased at CES this year, and helps households reduce one kilogram (2.2 pounds) of food scraps by 90% volume in just 24 hours.

While the product has sold tens of thousands of units in South Korea, Reencle's parent company Hanmi Flexible hopes to expand to overseas markets, marketing director Jinhwi Bang said.

How is it so fast? The device uses self-replicating microorganisms to turn scraps into compost. Its competitor, Lomi, grinds and dehydrates food scraps, requiring the byproduct to be mixed with soil before composting, whereas Reencle says its byproduct can be composted directly.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 63 of 88

Mark Murray, Executive Director of Californians Against Waste, says he hopes people don't think advanced technology is needed to be able to compost.

But he says he understands that not everyone has a yard or a patio, and that "all of the tools in the toolbox have to be on the table."

Technology is part of the solution. But Murray says economic incentives and systemic change are the other key components to reducing global food waste.

"We need to make it more expensive to waste food," he said. "That'll create the incentive for commercial enterprises, for restaurants, for stores, for even consumers to invest in systems and technology for making sure that we don't waste food."

## Mexico gives account of violence after 'Chapo' son nabbed

By MARK STEVENSON and MARÍA VERZA Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — The operation to detain Ovidio Guzman, the son of imprisoned drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, unleashed firefights that turned the northern city of Culiacan into a war zone with 30 dead, authorities said Friday.

In a blow-by-blow description of the battles Thursday that killed 10 military personnel and 19 suspected members of the Sinaloa drug cartel, Defense Secretary Luis Cresencio Sandoval said cartel gunmen opened fire on troops with a half-dozen .50-caliber machine guns.

The army responded by calling in Blackhawk helicopter gunships to attack a convoy of 25 cartel vehicles, including truck-mounted cartel gun platforms. The running shootouts also killed one Culiacan policeman, and wounded 17 police officers and 35 military personnel.

The cartel then opened fire on the military aircraft, forcing two of them down with "a significant number of impacts" in each of the two aircraft, Sandoval said. The gang then sent hordes of gunmen to attack fixed-wing aircraft, both military and civilian, at the city's international airport.

One civilian airliner was hit. The gunmen also shot up airport buildings in a bid to prevent authorities from flying the captured cartel boss out of the city. But, Sandoval said, authorities anticipating the resistance had loaded Ovidio Guzman onto a military helicopter to fly him back to Mexico City.

The Mexican administration bagged the high-profile cartel figure days before hosting U.S. President Joe Biden.

Samuel González, who founded Mexico's special prosecutor's office for organized crime in the 1990s, said Guzmán's capture was a "gift" ahead of Biden's visit. The Mexican government "is working to have a calm visit," he said.

Juan Carlos Ayala, a Culiacan resident and Sinaloa University professor who studies the sociology of drug trafficking, said Ovidio Guzmán had been an obvious target for years.

"Ovidio's fate had been decided. Moreover, he was identified as the biggest trafficker of fentanyl and the most visible Chapos leader."

Ayala said the atmosphere was calmer Friday, "but there are still a lot of burned-out vehicles blocking the streets."

The scope of Thursday's violence was such that Sinaloa Gov. Ruben Rocha said cartel gunmen showed up at local hospitals, trying to abduct doctors and take them away to treat wounded fighters. Rocha said that gunmen would be treated if they showed up at hospitals, but that gunmen shouldn't try to abduct medical personnel.

"It got to the point that at one moment the doctors were saying, 'We're getting out of here,'" recalled Rocha, saying police reinforced security and convinced the doctors to stay.

Culiacan residents posted video on social media showing convoys of gunmen in pickup trucks and SUVs rolling down boulevards in the city on Thursday. At least one convoy included a flatbed truck with a mounted gun in the back.

Unlike a failed 2019 attempt to arrest Ovidio Guzman — the government said it had to release him to avoid further bloodshed — this time around there were fewer civilian casualties, just one 14-year-old boy

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 64 of 88

shot but expected to survive.

One difference was that the September 2019 raid was in the city of Culiacan itself around midday, while Thursday's raid was around dawn in a more sparsely populated area to the north.

Víctor Medrano, director of the Culiacan Chamber of Commerce, said that in 2019 "everything happened in broad daylight, and we were caught on the street or at work."

While most people stayed in their homes Thursday, by Friday people were starting to go back out on the streets, Medrano said. "There is still some fear ... but as they day goes on, there are greater number of people out," he said.

But Sergio Alvarez, head of another local business chamber, said that in some sense the effects of Thursday's violence were greater. "There were blockades across the whole city."

Ismael Bojórquez, director of the crusading local newspaper Ríodoce, said the cartel appears to have only grown stronger since 2019, when 13 people were killed in the failed raid.

"They (cartels) have taken advantage of these four years to organize themselves, arm themselves, strengthen their structures, their finances," he said. "I believe there are more weapons than three years ago. All of organized crime's armies have strengthened, not just the Chapitos, and this is the price that society is paying for this strategy of the federal government."

Thursday's violence was unusual in that it also targeted and forced the closure of Culiacan's airport, where one military plane and a civilian airliner were hit by bullets.

The commercial flight waited for its chance to take off as two large military planes landed with troops.

When the airliner was finally preparing to accelerate, passengers heard gunshots in the distance. Within 15 seconds the sound was suddenly more intense and much closer, and passengers threw themselves to the floor, some said.

They said they did not know the plane had been hit by gunfire until a flight attendant told them. No one was injured, but the plane hastily retreated to the terminal.

Guzmán was indicted by the United States on drug trafficking charges in 2018. According to both governments, he had assumed a growing role among his brothers in carrying on their father's business, along with long-time cartel boss Ismael "El Mayo" Zambada.

Foreign Affairs Secretary Marcelo Ebrard confirmed that the government had received a request in 2019 from the United States for Guzmán's arrest for purposes of extradition. He said that request would have to be updated and processed, but he added that first an open case in Mexico awaits Guzmán.

## 'RuPaul's Drag Race' cast push back against hate, threats

By JOHN CARUCCI Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — As the cast of "RuPaul's Drag Race" celebrated the new season, they credited the show's creator with popularizing drag and expressed concern about the protests and threats to the performance style at the heart of the long-running series.

"RuPaul really brought drag into the mainstream, truly made people aware that it's an art form more than anything" contestant Marcia Marcia Marcia told The Associated Press at Thursday's season 15 premiere in New York. The new season starts Friday on MTV.

"I think everyone was like fine with drag for a little bit," said the drag queen with the "Brady Bunch"-inspired name. "And now history is repeating itself and people are speaking out against it, which I think is so silly."

With a long and rich history, drag — the art of dressing as another gender, often for performance — has been attacked by right-wing politicians and activists who have falsely associated it with the "sexualization" and "grooming" of children. In recent months, protesters — sometimes bearing guns — have besieged drag story hours, during which performers read books to children. Bans on children at drag events have been floated. In late November, a shooter at a Colorado Springs nightclub turned a drag queen's birthday party into a massacre and was charged with hate crimes and murder.

Another contestant, Jax, said the threats, protests and hate were "disheartening" but not surprising:



# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 65 of 88

"Just like being a person of color, being a minority, growing up in certain communities, it's something that I've had to undergo my entire life."

"But we always prevail," Jax added. "We always prevail and we're always going to come out on top because we're on the right side of history and we love what we do and we're not doing anything to harm anybody. We're just trying to bring love to everything."

To contestant Loosey LaDuca, as well, this is nothing new: "It is really unfortunate that during this time, drag queens have become the new target. But LGBT people are no stranger to being the, you know, the public enemy."

Meeting threats with caution is fine, LaDuca said, but "we'll never be scared."

Last month, New York City Councilman Erik Bottcher attended a drag story hour in his district. He filmed and posted video of "dozens of homophobic protesters outside with the most disgusting signs verbally attacking the families and the drag queen." Two days later, he said, anti-drag activists vandalized the hallway outside his office and gained entry to his apartment building.

"Two of them were arrested. A third was arrested for assaulting one of my neighbors," he told the AP at the premiere. "This is all an attempt to intimidate those of us supporting drag story hour."

Contestant Irene Dubois has a theory about what's behind the vitriol aimed at drag performers.

"I think a man in women's clothing is inherently hilarious just because we're like, (gasps) 'That's not supposed to happen!'" Dubois hypothesized. "And it's when the men in women's clothing stop sort of doing the nudge, nudge, wink, wink and start actually enjoying the way they look in the women's clothing that people start to sort of say, 'Wait, hold on, hold on, hold on. You're supposed to be laughing at yourself. And if you're not laughing at yourself, we don't like it.'"

"RuPaul's Drag Race" judge Ross Mathews paints the progress and regression as "a pendulum swinging."

"The further we advance and the more that we are embraced, accepted, celebrated that pendulum — they're going to try to swing it back, to move our movement back," he says of anti-drag activists. "But you cannot put this genie back in the bottle. Darling, we are fabulous."

Marcia Marcia Marcia had a simple message for critics of drag, which she says is "all about fun and expression": "If you have a problem with those things, I think you need to reevaluate."

In the end, contestant Princess Poppy hopes that it's the impact RuPaul has made on culture with "Drag Race" that will prevail.

"I feel like it's helped a lot of people who don't really quite understand drag people or gay people or drag queens," she said. "They don't really understand because they don't really understand what we're doing. But the show, it humanizes us, and it shows that we're people, too."

## Bills' Hamlin breathing on his own, joins team via video

By JOHN WAWROW AP Sports Writer

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — It was uplifting enough for the Buffalo Bills staff and players to see Damar Hamlin appear on the video screen in the team's meeting room Friday — "larger than life," as coach Sean McDermott put it — for the first time since the safety collapsed and had to be resuscitated on the field.

What sent everyone's emotions over the top was hearing Hamlin, his mouth and throat still raw shortly after having a breathing tube removed, softly say: "Love you, boys."

"Amazing. Touching. To see Damar, number one, through my own eyes, I know it's something I've been looking forward to, kind of needing to see," McDermott said. "And to see the players' reaction. They stood up right away and clapped for him and yelled some things at him. It was a pretty cool exchange."

Four days since his heart stopped after making what appeared to be a routine tackle in a game, the 24-year-old Hamlin from his hospital room in Cincinnati and the Bills enjoyed a moment of jubilation in celebrating the next step in what his doctors have termed a remarkable recovery.

"We got our boy, man. It's all that matters," left tackle Dion Dawkins said.

"To see the boy's face, to see him smile and to see him go like this in the camera," Dawkins said, flexing his muscles to mimic Hamlin, "it was everything. And then to hear him talk, it was literally everything."

# Broton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 66 of 88

That's what we needed."

Hamlin is now breathing and walking on his own, and traded in the writing pad he had been using to communicate. Though there is no timetable for his release, Hamlin's doctors said Thursday that both breathing on his own and showing continued signs of improvement are the final steps for him to be discharged from the University of Cincinnati Medical Center.

Hamlin spent his first two days in the hospital under sedation. Upon being awakened on Wednesday evening, Hamlin was able to follow commands and grip people's hands. The breathing tube was removed, the team said Friday, and Hamlin's "neurologic function remains intact."

The team did not say whether Hamlin's status remains critical or whether he's been moved from intensive care.

In what was an expected formality, the Bills placed Hamlin on the season-ending injured reserve list and activated rookie cornerback Christian Benford from IR. Benford has been sidelined since sustaining an oblique injury on Thanksgiving Day.

"The hair on the back of my neck stood up when he said, 'I love you boys,'" said general manager Brandon Beane, who returned to Buffalo on Thursday after spending the three days at Hamlin's bedside along with the player's family.

The turning point in Hamlin's recovery, for Beane, anyway, came Thursday morning when the two exchanged hugs.

"Just to be able to hug him and the grip strength that he had," Beane said, before recalling what he told Hamlin's father, Mario. "I told him, I'm not a crier, but man it was emotional and a lot of grown men in there crying yesterday. Something I'll never forget."

The reaction from around the NFL on Friday was just as heart-warming.

"Awesome. It's probably uplifting for the entire league," said New York Giants coach Brian Daboll, who spent the previous four seasons as the Bills offensive coordinator. "It gives you a boost because you're praying so hard for the young man."

The NFL announced plans to show support for Hamlin during all Week 18 games, including a pregame moment of support, painting Hamlin's No. 3 on the 30-yard line and pregame shirts with "Love for Damar 3." The Bills will also wear "3" jersey patches.

New York Jets rookie cornerback Sauce Gardner was already planning to wear Hamlin's No. 3 jersey during warmups before the team's game at Miami on Sunday.

"What a warrior. He's so strong, a fighter for sure," Gardner said. "I was just so happy he was able to come back to the world."

Interacting with Hamlin gave the Bills (12-3) some encouragement and allowed them to turn their attention to the season-ending home game against the New England Patriots (8-8) on Sunday.

"It's going to be a celebration of life and an ongoing life," Beane said, looking ahead.

"It's not only going to be a celebration of Buffalo, but the whole country, and I'm sure people internationally that have watched this situation," he added. "It's going to be a cool deal, and the only thing better is if Damar was out there by then. I don't know if that would happen, but anyway, we're excited for Sunday."

The sight of Hamlin collapsing, which was broadcast to a North American TV audience on ESPN's "Monday Night Football," has led to an outpouring of support from fans and players from across the league. Fans, team owners and players — including Tom Brady and Russell Wilson — have made donations to Hamlin's Chasing M's Foundation, which had raised just short of \$8 million by Friday afternoon.

## **Bills uplifted by Hamlin's recovery, place focus on Patriots**

By JOHN WAWROW AP Sports Writer

ORCHARD PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Whatever happens Sunday, when the Bills close the regular season hosting New England and beyond once the NFL playoffs begin, Buffalo general manager Brandon Beane won't feel disappointed.

During a year in which the Bills have endured a snowstorms that disrupted their schedule, mourned the

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 67 of 88

sudden death of tight end Dawson Knox's younger brother in August, rallied to the community's support in the aftermath of a mass shooting, and won games with little or no practice, Beane couldn't be more proud.

And he has reason to believe the resilience will show once again following a week in which the Bills went from being emotionally stunned by witnessing Damar Hamlin getting resuscitated on the field in Cincinnati on Monday night, to being joyously uplifted after the safety addressed his teammates by videoconference on Friday.

"I love you boys," Hamlin said in a soft voice.

"I probably get emotional if I talk too much about it, but I'm so proud of our organization, our team, just so many people, the way we've dealt with so much this year," Beane said. "Definitely not the way you draw it up. I don't know what's gonna happen the rest of season on the field, I really don't. This is a group of winners, and I will forever remember this team, this season."

For Beane, the game Sunday is far more than a showdown against an AFC East rival to close the season. Instead, it represents a celebration of life in knowing Hamlin is on the road to recovery.

The bond the Bills have built in dealing with adversity has brought them even closer in how players and coaches leaned on each other in the aftermath of Hamlin's collapse.

"This just put the cherry on top in a positive way," left tackle Dion Dawkins said. "It has definitely just made (the bond) a permanent glue."

As for whether the Bills believe they're physically and emotionally ready to play, quarterback Josh Allen didn't blink by responding: "I do."

Allen then cited the inspiring message Hamlin's father, Mario, delivered to the team on Wednesday in saying his son would want them to play.

"He demanded us," Allen said. "And you can't not honor his request to go out there and charge forward."

The Bills (12-3) are motivated despite having less riding on the outcome of the game than the Patriots (8-8). Buffalo has clinched its third consecutive AFC East title, but has lost the inside track to win the AFC's top seed. The NFL's decision to cancel Buffalo's game against Cincinnati pushed Kansas City (13-3) ahead of the Bills in the standings.

The one consolation is the league ruling the AFC championship game would be played at a neutral site should the Chiefs win the top seed and face Buffalo, should both teams win or lose on Sunday.

In New England, the Patriots need only to win to clinch their 13th playoff berth in 14 seasons. New England can also clinch a spot should the Dolphins and Steelers lose, and Jacksonville beats Tennessee.

The Patriots find themselves in the wild-card race by virtue of a 23-21 win over Miami — and despite losing four of their last six.

Not lost on coach Bill Belichick is the emotional weight that will serve as a backdrop on Sunday, when it comes to Hamlin.

"Everybody individually will have to process it like we've been doing. Expect it be an emotional scene and in the end we're going there to play our best football game," Belichick said. "I think everybody understands there's a balance and there's multiple things going on there."

## SHOW OF SUPPORT

Bills coach Sean McDermott said Belichick was among the many NFL coaches who reached out to him to provide support after Hamlin was hurt.

"I certainly appreciate his thoughts and prayers," McDermott said.

As for game preparation, the Bills essentially held one full practice on Thursday, with Wednesday and Friday's sessions serving mostly as walkthroughs.

"It kind of makes you, respectfully, chuckle a little about about what we've dealt with," McDermott said. "Hey, why not make it a short week on top of that."

## LAST DANCE?

Sunday's game could be the final time two of New England's longest tenured players suit up for the Patriots.

At age 37, special teams captain Matt Slater, on a one-year, \$2.6 million contract, is wrapping up his 15th season in New England. Safety Devin McCourty, a 2010 first-round pick out of Rutgers, turned 35 in

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 68 of 88

August after signing a one-year, \$9 million deal.

Slater has appeared in 222 games, which is second only to Tom Brady for the most games played by a Patriots player. McCourty has started all 204 games he's appeared in, missing just five regular-season games.

"You never know how football goes. But I'd be lying if I said I didn't think about it before the game, McCourty said.

"Just kind of think about that, let that settle in, just trying to make sure I stay in the moment, enjoy. But definitely gave it a few seconds," he said.

NO BAILEY

New England will play its final regular-season game without punter Jake Bailey

Bailey, a 2020 All-Pro, has been on injured reserve for the last seven games dealing with back issue. He was designated to practice on Dec. 21, but Belichick said on Friday that he will revert to IR and is done for the season.

Replacement Michael Palardy is averaging just 42.6 yards per punt, ranking at the bottom of the NFL.

## EXPLAINER: How armored vehicles aid Ukraine at critical time

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Looking ahead to a likely spring offensive, the U.S. and Germany are sending Ukraine an array of armored vehicles, including 50 tank-killing Bradleys, to expand its ability to move troops to the front lines and beef up its forces against Russia as the war nears its first anniversary.

The vehicles don't fulfill Ukraine's request for combat tanks. But they provide a strategic war-fighting capability as the season change brings muddy terrain and Ukraine launches an aggressive campaign to recoup territory taken by Russia, particularly in the east.

A look at the Bradley and other armored carriers, and what they bring to the fight:

WHAT ARE THEY AND HOW WILL THEY HELP?

No, they are not tanks.

The Bradleys and the 40 German Marders are among a wide variety of armored personnel carriers used by Western nations. They are designed to fit into what advanced militaries call a combined arms maneuver fight — the ability to use a wide range of ground, air and other weapons and fighting units in seamless coordination to win a battle.

The M2A2 Bradley is a medium-armored combat vehicle that has tracks rather than wheels, but is lighter and more agile than a tank. It can carry a crew of three and an additional five or six troops, and is seen as a critical way to move infantry squads safely into battle.

It is generally armed with a 25 mm gun mounted on the top, a machine gun and an anti-tank TOW missile launcher that can be used when the Bradley is stopped. "TOW" stands for "tube-launched, optically tracked, wire-guided," which means the missile is fired only at targets that troops can actually see on the battlefield, so it's very effective in open spaces such as deserts and large fields.

The Marder is similar, and can carry largely equivalent weapons.

In a combined arms fight, for example, Ukrainian forces could fire rounds of artillery and airstrikes into a Russian stronghold, and then quickly move infantry troops in armored vehicles to the front for a ground assault to take advantage of Russia's weakened state.

"It creates a dilemma for adversaries," said Bradley Bowman, senior director of the Center on Military and Political Power at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, adding that using the Bradleys will allow Ukraine's forces to exploit soft spots created by the artillery barrages. "It's a powerful combination."

Both Russia and Ukraine have suffered heavy losses of tanks and other armored vehicles in the last 10 months, so sending the Bradleys and Marders will help offset those losses.

WHY NOW?

The decision to send the Bradleys reflects a steady progression in the complexity and lethality of the weapons systems the U.S. and its allies have provided over the course of the war.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 69 of 88

Many condemn the pace as too slow, arguing that Ukraine needs everything it can get to repel the Russians and that some territory losses could have been prevented if the U.S. and its allies had moved faster.

Others counter that the types of weapons provided have shifted based on the changing nature of the war since it began last February, and the growing ability of Ukrainian troops to travel out of the country to get the training they need to operate and maintain the more complicated and high-tech systems.

White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby told reporters Friday that the Bradley will be helpful as the fight escalates in the eastern Donbas region, where there is "a lot of farmland, a lot of open ground." The decision, he said, reflects Ukraine's current military needs, but is "also taking a look at what the fight is likely to be going forward."

At the Pentagon, Laura Cooper, the deputy assistant secretary of defense for Russia and Ukraine, said this is the right time to provide Bradleys. "The Ukrainians have demonstrated a lot of growing proficiency in maintenance and sustainment," she said. She added that the U.S.-led training set to begin later this month will enable troops to operate, maintain and repair the weapons.

The U.S. and other allies are also using the winter months to send large amounts of weapons and equipment that Ukraine will need when fighting heats up in the spring.

## THANKS BUT NO TANKS

Ukraine has persistently asked for tanks, but the U.S. and other allies have resisted sending the heavier, more powerful and complex armored vehicles.

America's M1 Abrams tank, for example, carries a far more powerful gun and is more heavily armored, but weighs a lot more and uses jet fuel, rather than diesel. All of that makes it more difficult to maintain and sustain as troops are on the march.

"We absolutely agree that Ukraine does need tanks," said Cooper. "But we have to be cognizant of maintenance and sustainment considerations with tanks. And certainly we know that the Abrams tank, in addition to being a gas guzzler, is quite challenging to maintain."

She said that's why the U.S. partnered with the Netherlands to refurbish T-72 Soviet-era tanks that Ukrainian troops would already know how to use.

The U.S. and other Western nations have trained and practiced for decades on how to move troops in combat so that critical food, fuel and supplies keep pace with the forces. Russia's inability to do that was on display early in the war when its long troop convoy heading toward Kyiv stalled, because troops were without food and fuel due to a total logistical breakdown.

## WHEN WILL THE VEHICLES ARRIVE?

U.S. and German officials would not provide precise timelines for when the training would finish and how quickly the armored vehicles could arrive in Ukraine.

The Pentagon has said expanded combat training of Ukrainian forces will begin this month, and Cooper said the Bradley instruction will be built into that. "It will take a couple of months, basically, to get this capability fielded, to get the Ukrainians trained," she said.

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz had long been wary of pressure to supply the vehicles to Ukraine and insisted Germany wouldn't go it alone with such deliveries. That led to the tandem announcement with the U.S. commitment this week.

Scholz's spokesman, Steffen Hebestreit, told reporters in Berlin that the German vehicles should be ready to go to Ukraine in the first quarter of this year. Germany plans to train Ukrainian forces to use the vehicles, and Hebestreit said experts expect that process to take around eight weeks.

## Message from US asylum hopefuls: Financial sponsors needed

By GISELA SALOMON, ELLIOT SPAGAT and AMY TAXIN Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Migrants and asylum seekers fleeing violence and persecution in their home countries have increasingly found that protections in the United States are available to those with money or the savvy to find someone to vouch for them financially.

President Joe Biden announced a massive expansion of humanitarian parole Thursday for Cubans, Hai-

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 70 of 88**

tians, Venezuelans and Nicaraguans that is reserved for those who apply online, pay airfare and have a financial sponsor for two years.

It builds on a measure introduced in October to admit 24,000 Venezuelans to the United States for two years if they have sponsors — and, on the flip side, to quickly expel anyone crossing the border illegally back to Mexico, denying them a chance to seek asylum.

Maria Antonieta Diaz, a Venezuela-born accountant and entrepreneur living in the U.S. for more than two decades, sent a WhatsApp message to former classmates in Venezuela after the Biden administration offered humanitarian parole Oct. 12, asking if they needed a sponsor. She set up a website, circulated a signup sheet and got 40,000 responses from people seeking financial backing, some representing entire families.

Diaz vouched for a man who came with two adult sons but left behind his wife, a daughter and her spouse and a 6-month-old child because they could not afford \$200 passport renewals.

Many in the U.S. are reluctant to sponsor strangers, fearing they will be on the hook for any debts, Diaz said.

"It is not easy, it is not a perfect program, not everyone will be able to benefit," Diaz said in a phone interview from her office in Miramar, a suburb northwest of Miami.

Biden said Thursday that up to 30,000 Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans would be eligible for humanitarian parole every month, entitling them to work in the U.S. for two years. At the same time, Mexico agreed to accept the same number from those four countries who enter the U.S. illegally, even if they come seeking asylum.

U.S. officials pointed to a 90% drop in Venezuelan arrivals after October's policy shift, ending their short-lived status as the second-largest nationality at the border after Mexicans. The Biden administration granted parole under similar terms to 100,000 Ukrainians after Russia's invasion.

Asked about limiting parole to those with financial backing, U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas didn't answer directly, saying only that such policies for Venezuelans and Ukrainians succeeded.

"What we have seen is a tremendous thirst for these lawful programs," Mayorkas said at a news conference. "We find this to be a humane, lawful and orderly way."

Mayorkas said the policy will last as long as conditions dictate, potentially even beyond a pandemic-era rule known as Title 42, under which migrants have been denied a chance to seek asylum under U.S. and international law 2.5 million times on grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19. The U.S. Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments on Title 42 in February.

He said U.S. officials are also working on a plan under which people may seek asylum through scheduled appointments at border entry points.

Guerline Jozef, executive director of Haitian Bridge Alliance, said telling people who are fleeing extreme conditions in their countries to stay put is unacceptable, and questioned how someone in a dire situation traveling through the Americas without a phone or access to an embassy is supposed to use an app to get an appointment to apply for asylum.

"That is completely disconnected from the reality of people fleeing to seek asylum," Jozef told reporters Friday.

Under laws that grew out of World War II and the Cold War, asylum applicants must prove they face persecution at home under limited criteria such as race, political opinion or religious belief, without regard to financial status. Some who arrive at the border will later obtain asylum through the U.S. immigration courts, but not all will qualify.

Under the parole policy, Homeland Security can admit anyone "on a case-by-case basis for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit."

Critics to Biden's right, like former top Trump adviser Stephen Miller, called the parole expansion a "mass amnesty."

In October, Dr. Kyle Varner of Spokane, Washington, was overwhelmed with hundreds of responses when he posted on Facebook that he was open to sponsoring Venezuelans. He set aside a four-room house that he bought as an investment.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 71 of 88

Varner has backed 49 Venezuelans so far, most of whom he has never seen. Only eight have been approved and settled in Spokane.

Varner, 38, developed an affinity for Venezuelans as a medical student in Miami in 2012, surrounded by neighbors who left the South American country for a better life. As a doctor, he says he can provide medical care if needed, business contacts to find a job and assistance with online English learning.

"My idea is that I'm a launching pad for people to have a new life," he said. "I intend to do everything I can to advocate for the expansion of this program, and I also want to help Americans who want to be sponsors."

Few Venezuelans are so lucky to find someone like Varner, who has traveled four times to Cucuta, a Colombian city on Venezuela's border, to provide free medical care to fleeing Venezuelans.

Prospective volunteers may hesitate to provide tax returns or other required documents, said Parker Newburn, program coordinator for Home for Refugees, an aid group. Many Venezuelans have relatives in the United States but not all are in a position to sponsor, he said.

Jenderson Rondón, an opponent of Venezuela's government who met Varner in 2019 at the Colombian border, arrived in Spokane in November. He was unable to afford the flight, which the doctor paid for. He applied to work at restaurants and hospitals and hopes to save enough to sponsor his mother and sister, who are in Colombia and don't have valid passports.

"There are lots of people that cannot find a sponsor," said Rondón, who constantly receives messages in his Instagram account asking him about opportunities.

Venezuelan attorney Henry Nodales, 22, had never met the doctor but they had mutual friends. He borrowed from a friend to pay for the flight and hopes to earn enough to support his parents and sister back home.

"I have the miraculous opportunity to have legal status, a benefit that many do not have," he said.

## US approves Alzheimer's drug that modestly slows disease

By MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. health officials on Friday approved a closely watched Alzheimer's drug that's been shown to modestly slow the early stages of the brain-robbing disease, albeit with potential safety risks that doctors and patients will have to carefully weigh.

The drug, Leqembi, is the first that's been convincingly shown to slow the decline in memory and thinking that defines Alzheimer's by targeting the disease's underlying biology. The Food and Drug Administration approved it specifically for patients with mild or early cases of dementia.

Leqembi, from Japan's Eisai and its U.S. partner Biogen, is a rare success in a field accustomed to failed experimental treatments for the incurable condition. The delay in cognitive decline brought about by the drug likely amounts to just several months, but some experts say it could still meaningfully improve people's lives.

"This drug is not a cure. It doesn't stop people from getting worse, but it does measurably slow the progression of the disease," said Dr. Joy Snider, a neurologist at Washington University in St. Louis. "That might mean someone could have an extra six months to a year of being able to drive."

Snider stressed that the medicine, pronounced "leh-KEM-bee," comes with downsides, including the need for twice-a-month infusions and possible side effects like brain swelling and bleeding.

Approval came via FDA's accelerated pathway, which allows drugs to launch based on early results, before they're confirmed to benefit patients. The agency's use of that shortcut has come under increasing scrutiny from government watchdogs and congressional investigators.

Last week, a congressional report found that FDA's approval of a similar Alzheimer's drug called Aduhelm — also from Biogen and Eisai — was "rife with irregularities," including a number of meetings with drug company staffers that went undocumented.

Scrutiny of the new drug, known chemically as lecanemab, will likely mean most patients won't start receiving it for months, as insurers decide whether to cover it and for whom.

The drug will cost \$26,500 for a typical year's worth of treatment. Eisai said that price reflects the drug's

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 72 of 88

benefit in terms of improved quality of life, reduced burdens for caregivers and other factors. The company pegged its overall value at \$37,000 per year, but said it priced the drug lower to reduce costs for patients and insurers. An independent group that assesses drug value recently said the drug would have to be priced below \$20,600 to be cost-effective.

Some 6 million people in the U.S. and many more worldwide have Alzheimer's, which gradually attacks areas of the brain needed for memory, reasoning, communication and daily tasks.

The FDA's approval was based on one mid-stage study in 850 people with early symptoms of Alzheimer's who also tested positive for a type of brain plaque that is a hallmark of the disease.

Since then, Eisai has published the results of a larger 1,800-patient study that the FDA is expected to soon review to confirm the drug's benefit, setting up a decision on full approval later this year.

The larger study tracked patients' results on an 18-point scale that measures memory, judgment and other cognitive abilities. Doctors compile the rating from interviews with the patient and a close contact. After 18 months, patients receiving Leqembi declined more slowly — a difference of less than half a point on the scale — than patients who received a dummy infusion. The delay amounted to just over five months.

There is little consensus on whether that difference translates into real benefits for patients, such as greater independence.

"Most patients won't notice the difference," said Dr. Matthew Schrag, a neurology researcher at Vanderbilt University. "This is really quite a small effect and probably below the threshold of what we'd call clinically significant."

Schrag and some other researchers believe a meaningful improvement would require at least a difference of one full point on the 18-point scale.

Leqembi works by clearing a sticky brain protein called amyloid that's a key indicator of Alzheimer's. But it's not clear exactly what causes the disease. A string of other amyloid-targeting drugs have failed and many researchers now think combination treatments will be needed.

Aduhelm, the similar drug, was marred by controversy over its effectiveness.

The FDA approved that drug in 2021 against the advice of the agency's own outside experts. Doctors hesitated to prescribe the drug and insurers restricted coverage.

The FDA did not consult the same expert panel before approving Leqembi.

Rep. Rosa DeLauro of Connecticut — a frequent FDA critic — said in a statement Friday that she was "deeply concerned that FDA chose to forego" a panel meeting on the drug.

Schrag said many of the same concerns apply to both drugs.

"Is this slight, measurable benefit worth the hefty price tag and the side effects patients may experience?" he asked. "I have pretty serious doubts."

About 13% of patients in Eisai's study had swelling of the brain and 17% had small brain bleeds, side effects seen with earlier amyloid-targeting medications. In most cases those problems didn't cause symptoms, which can include dizziness and vision problems.

Also, several Leqembi users died while taking the drug, including two who were on blood-thinning medications. Eisai has said the deaths can't be attributed to the drug. The FDA label warns doctors to use caution if they prescribe Leqembi to patients on blood thinners.

Insurers are likely to only cover the drug for people like those in the company study — patients with mild dementia and confirmation of amyloid buildup. That typically requires expensive brain scans or a spinal fluid test. Doctors will need to perform a different type of scan to periodically check for brain swelling and bleeding.

A key question in the drug's rollout will be insurance coverage by Medicare, the federal health plan that covers 60 million seniors and other Americans. The agency severely restricted coverage of Aduhelm, essentially wiping out its U.S. market and prompting Biogen to abandon marketing plans for the drug.

Eisai executives said they have already spent months discussing their drug's data with Medicare officials. Coverage isn't expected until after the FDA confirms the drug's benefit, expected later this year.

"Once we have a Medicare decision, then we can truly launch the drug across the country," said Eisai's



U.S. CEO, Ivan Cheung.

Betsy Groves, 73, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2021. A former lecturer at Harvard's graduate school of education, she noticed she was having trouble remembering some student names and answering questions.

Her initial diagnosis, based on a cognitive examination, was later confirmed by a positive test for amyloid. Groves, of Cambridge, Massachusetts, says she is "more than willing" to try Leqembi, despite potential side effects and the need for infusions.

"For me, the minute that drug comes on the market — and I get my doctor's approval — I'm going to take it," Groves said.

## **Best of CES 2023: Canine communication and a calming pillow**

By ADRIANA MORGA, JAMES BROOKS and CARA RUBINSKY Associated Press  
LAS VEGAS (AP) — Tech companies are showing off their latest products this week at CES, formerly known as the Consumer Electronics Show.

The show officially opened Thursday, with crowds of investors, media and tech workers streaming into cavernous Las Vegas venues to see the latest tech from big companies and startups alike.

Here are some highlights:

### **'TALKING' PETS**

Have you ever wondered what your dog would say if it could speak to you?

FluentPet promises the next best thing — buttons the company says you can train your pet to push if it's hungry, needs to go outside or wants to play.

The buttons come in a hexagon-shaped plastic mat called a hextile. Hextiles can be connected to each other to form a bigger collection of buttons.

"We find that actually when dogs kind of know that they're being understood because they have the precision and specificity of the buttons, then they complain less because they're no longer wondering whether they actually communicated what they wanted to," said Leo Trottier, FluentPet CEO.

At CES, the company announced FluentPet Connect, a new app that notifies owners when their dog presses a button and collects data on how the buttons are used.

Fluent Pet's starter kit comes with hextiles, a speaker and six buttons for \$159.95. The app does not require a subscription.

### **A HIGH-TECH STROLLER**

Canadian startup Gluxkind's smart stroller is designed to make life easier for parents on the go.

The AI-powered stroller has a sensor that can tell when you've picked up a fussy baby, at which point it will roll in front of you while you walk without you having to touch it.

When the baby is in the stroller, you need to keep your hands on it, but the battery will help propel it, making it easier to push uphill. It stops automatically if it gets too far away from whoever is pushing it. It can also rock a baby back and forth.

The battery lasts for about eight hours and takes two to four hours to charge.

"I looked into the stroller market and were really surprised that we didn't find anything that has some kind of level of automation or motorization present," said Anne Hunger, who co-founded the company with husband Kevin Huang after their daughter was born in 2020.

The company is currently taking pre-orders for the stroller and hopes to deliver them beginning in July. Prices start at \$3,300.

### **A CALMING PILLOW**

Need a break? Japan's Yukai Engineering says its robotic fufuly pillow can help users relax by mimicking the rhythm of breathing.

The soft, fluffy pillow gently expands and contracts, vibrating as you hold it against your stomach. The idea is that you'll breathe more slowly and deeply as your breath starts to synch with the movement of the pillow.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 74 of 88

It was developed based on research done at the University of Tokyo.

Yukai CEO Shunsuke Aoki said the pillow can help remote workers who struggle to switch off from their jobs.

The version on display at CES is a prototype. The company is looking for partners and hopes to start producing it this year.

## ROBOT DOG

Meet Dog-E, the excitable robodog.

Unveiled by toy maker WowWee, Dog-E has more than a million possible combinations of lights, sounds and personality traits.

Dog-E begins as a blank canvas and develops its personality as you set it up.

The app-connected toy has audio sensors to hear sounds, touch sensors on its sides and body, and a tail that you can program to display lighted icons and messages when it wags.

Jessica Kalichman from WowWee says it's a good option for those who can't commit to owning a real pup, or perhaps for those with allergies.

"I do think for anyone that's either not ready to have a dog yet, this is a great test to take care of it, learn to feed it, nurture it, and really have that trial run for a family," she said.

WowWee expects to have Dog-E in stores in September. It will sell for \$79. The app to control the toy's movements does not require a subscription.

## A FOLDABLE TREADMILL

If you want a treadmill but don't have much space, WalkingPad offers a solution — a lightweight treadmill that can be folded in two when not in use and stored against a wall or under a bed.

WalkingPad reaches speeds of 7.5 mph (12 kph). It also includes a detachable phone or tablet holder and tracks your exercises in a free app. Its creators envision it helping remote workers stay fit at home.

An early version of WalkingPad went viral on TikTok as influencers added it to videos about their daily work-at-home routines.

Walking Pad creator King Smith Fitness opened its first headquarters in Dallas in December.

## Orthodox celebrate Christmas in shadow of conflict

By JIM HEINTZ Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Orthodox Christians packed churches on Friday evening for Christmas Eve services, a holiday darkened for many by the conflict raging between Orthodox neighbors Russia and Ukraine.

Patriarch Kirill, leader of the Russian Orthodox Church, the world's largest Orthodox denomination, led elaborate services at Moscow's Christ the Savior Cathedral, with dozens of priests and officiants arrayed in rich vestments swinging smoking incense censers and chanting the liturgy.

A day earlier, Kirill called for a 36-hour ceasefire in Ukraine, which President Vladimir Putin agreed to but that Ukrainian officials scorned as an attempt to allow Russian forces to regroup. Reports of scattered fighting in Ukraine on Friday could not immediately be confirmed.

Kyiv residents ventured out into a light dusting of snow to buy gifts, cakes and groceries for Christmas Eve family celebrations, hours after the cease-fire was to have started.

In a video message, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy praised Ukrainians as "united as never before" and lamented that the conflict has forced many to abandon Christmas folk traditions that prohibit sewing and hunting.

"It is forbidden to sew and knit, but we weave camouflage nets and sew bulletproof vests, overcoming evil. Our ancestors did not go hunting in these days, but we fight so that we do not become prey and to defeat the beast," he said.

Ukrainians, like Russians and Orthodox in some other countries, conventionally observed Christmas on Jan. 7. But this year, the Orthodox Church of Ukraine, which is not aligned with the Russian church and one of two branches of Orthodoxy in the country, agreed to allow faithful to celebrate on Dec. 25. Many did so, but others held to the old ways.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 75 of 88

Putin attended services at the Annunciation Cathedral, one of several churches on the grounds of the Kremlin.

In Serbia, observers followed traditions such as the evening burning of dried oak branches and prepared for midnight services in churches, with the main one to be led by the Patriarch, Porfirije, in Belgrade's biggest church, St. Sava Temple.

Though most of his traditional Christmas message focused the position of ethnic Serbs in the predominantly ethnic Albanian Kosovo, the Serbian Patriarch said he was praying for the end of the war in Ukraine, which he said is being fueled from outside.

"It is with sadness that we watch the war conflicts and victims, in which, publicly or secretly, various participants are taking part," Porfirije said. "The consequences of the tragic, fratricidal conflict, incited on daily basis from outside, are horrible, and the war flames, like never before, are threatening the whole world."

The Serbian Orthodox Church has close ties with the Russian church and is highly critical of the West and its policies.

Bells pealed over the biblical town of Bethlehem on Friday as crowds holding crosses aloft filed through the rain-soaked streets to mark Orthodox Christmas.

Dozens of boys and girls marched through Bethlehem in the occupied West Bank for the annual scouts parade, playing Palestinian anthems and religious hymns on bagpipes and huge drums. The Greek Orthodox Patriarch of Jerusalem, Theophilos III, joined the faithful as they flocked the Church of the Nativity, revered by Christians as the traditional site of Jesus's birthplace. Similar celebrations took over the Christian Quarter of Jerusalem's walled Old City.

In Egypt, where Coptic Christians make up roughly 10% of the nation's population of 104 million, one of the year's most festive holidays was infused with grave uncertainty about the nation's economy.

In Cairo's northern suburb of Shobra and other Christian hubs, golden fairy lights and Christmas-themed decorations adorned the streets. Although Shobra is typically bustling with families buying gifts ahead of Orthodox Christmas, this year shop owners reported a drop in sales. The Egyptian pound has shriveled in value against the dollar, hitting to a new low earlier this week as the country faces a shortage of foreign currency spurred by Russia sending troops into Ukraine.

During his speech at Coptic Christmas Eve Mass in Cairo, Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi emphasized the harmful impact the fighting in Ukraine was having on the country.

"The world will be, after the current crisis, different from the world we saw before this. This economic crisis will affect many countries if the war continues this year or longer," el-Sissi said.

El-Sissi has attended several Christmas Eve services held by the country's Coptic Orthodox minority, in a public act of interfaith solidarity. In predominantly Muslim Egypt, Coptic Christians make up roughly 10% of the nation's population of 104 million and face various restrictions, including inter-religious marriages and church building.

A Christmas mass in Dohuk, in the Kurdish region of Iraq, drew Armenian faithful from across the city.

Worshippers prayed together and sang hymns in an old stone church, asking for health and peace. Christians once constituted a sizeable minority in Iraq, estimated at around 1.4 million. But their numbers began to fall amid the post-2003 turmoil when Sunni militants often targeted Christians. They received a further blow when the extremist Islamic State group swept through northern Iraq in 2014.

"I congratulate all Iraqi people from all sects, from the north of the country to the south," said Sahak Pedros, an Armenian Christian from Baghdad.

## Kremlin-ordered truce is uncertain amid mutual mistrust

By ANDREW MELDRUM Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — An uneasy quiet settled over Kyiv on Friday despite air-raid sirens that blared there and across Ukraine shortly after a Russian cease-fire declaration for Orthodox Christmas went into effect. Ukrainian and Western officials have scorned the truce as a ploy.

No explosions were heard in the capital. And reports of sporadic fighting elsewhere in Ukraine could not

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 76 of 88

immediately by confirmed. Clashes there could take hours to become public.

Kyiv residents ventured out into a light dusting of snow to buy gifts, cakes and groceries for Christmas Eve family celebrations, hours after the cease-fire was to have started.

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Thursday ordered his forces in Ukraine to observe a unilateral, 36-hour cease-fire. Kyiv officials dismissed the move but didn't clarify whether Ukrainian troops would follow suit.

The Russian-declared truce in the nearly 11-month war began at noon Friday and was to continue through midnight Saturday Moscow time (0900 GMT Friday to 2100 GMT Saturday; 4 a.m. EST Friday to 4 p.m. EST Saturday).

Air-raid sirens sounded in Kyiv about 40 minutes after the Russian cease-fire was to come into effect. The widely used "Alerts in Ukraine" app, which includes information from emergency services, showed sirens blaring across the country.

Russia's Defense Ministry alleged that Ukrainian forces continued to shell its positions, and said its forces returned fire to suppress the attacks. But it wasn't clear from the statement whether the attacks and return of fire took place before or after the cease-fire took effect.

The ministry's spokesman, Igor Konashenkov, reported multiple Ukrainian attacks in the eastern Donetsk, Luhansk and Zaporizhzhia regions. It was not possible to verify the claims.

United Nations staffers on the ground in Ukraine "have not seen reports of intense of major fighting," U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. But he cautioned that "they're not everywhere."

Putin's announcement Thursday that the Kremlin's troops would stop fighting along the more than 1,000-kilometer (680-mile) front line and elsewhere was unexpected. It came after the head of the Russian Orthodox Church, Patriarch Kirill, proposed a cease-fire for the Christmas holiday. The Orthodox Church, which uses the Julian calendar, celebrates Christmas on Jan. 7.

But Ukrainian and Western officials portrayed the announcement as an attempt by Putin to grab the moral high ground, while possibly seeking to snatch the battlefield initiative and rob the Ukrainians of momentum amid their counteroffensive of recent months.

"Now they want to use Christmas as a cover to stop the advance of our guys in the (eastern) Donbas (region) for a while and bring equipment, ammunition and mobilized people closer to our positions," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said late Thursday.

He didn't, however, state outright that Kyiv would ignore Putin's request.

In a Christmas Eve message to the nation, Zelenskyy called it "a holiday of harmony and family unity. And together we are all a big Ukrainian family.

"No matter where we are now — at home, at work, in a trench, on the road, in Ukraine or abroad — our family is united as never before. ... United in its belief in a single victory."

U.S. President Joe Biden has also expressed wariness about the Russian cease-fire, saying it was "interesting" that Putin was ready to bomb hospitals, nurseries and churches in recent weeks on Christmas and New Year's.

"I think (Putin) is trying to find some oxygen," Biden said.

U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price said Washington had "little faith in the intentions behind this announcement," adding that Kremlin officials "have given us no reason to take anything that they offer at face value."

The Institute for the Study of War agreed the truce could be a ruse allowing Russia to regroup.

"Such a pause would disproportionately benefit Russian troops and begin to deprive Ukraine of the initiative," the think tank said late Thursday. "Putin cannot reasonably expect Ukraine to meet the terms of this suddenly declared cease-fire, and may have called for the cease-fire to frame Ukraine as unaccommodating and unwilling to take the necessary steps toward negotiations."

And Anna Borshchevskaya, a senior fellow at the Washington Institute, said that whether or not the cease-fire holds, "I don't take it at face value."

"When Russia announces cease-fires, in the way Russia conducts war, there are usually ulterior motives," she said. "Historically, what the Russian government and Russian military usually do when they announce a cease-fire is to use it as a tactical opportunity, to just take a breather or gain a little bit of space."

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 77 of 88

Meanwhile, the U.S. reiterated its support for Kyiv on Friday with a new \$3.75 billion military assistance package for Ukraine and its neighbors on NATO's eastern flank. The latest tranche of assistance will for the first time include Bradley armored vehicles for Ukraine.

The armored carrier is used to transport troops to combat and is known as a "tank-killer" because of its anti-tank missile. White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said the Bradleys will be particularly useful to Ukraine in ongoing fighting in largely rural areas of eastern Ukraine.

Germany, too, plans to send armored personnel carriers by the end of March.

On the streets of Kyiv, some civilians said Friday that they spoke from bitter experience in doubting Russia's motives.

"Everybody is preparing (for an attack), because everybody remembers what happened on the new year when there were around 40 Shahed" Iranian drones, said capital resident Vasyl Kuzmenko. "But everything is possible."

At the Vatican, Pope Francis said he was sending wishes from his heart "to the Eastern churches, both the Catholic and the Orthodox ones, that tomorrow will celebrate the birth of the Lord." Speaking to thousands of faithful gathered in St. Peter's Square for the Epiphany feast day, Francis said, "In a special way, I would like my wish to reach the brothers and sisters of martyred Ukraine," and prayed for peace there.

## **EXPLAINER: What Bills-Bengals cancellation does to playoffs**

By ROB MAADDI AP Pro Football Writer

The NFL's decision to cancel the Bills-Bengals game has major playoff implications for several teams.

The league is changing the rules for the postseason to accommodate the cancellation after owners voted in a special meeting Friday in favor of a resolution recommended by Commissioner Roger Goodell and approved by the competition committee a day before.

Goodell said in a statement that the hope is to "limit disruption across the league and minimize competitive inequities."

The Bills-Bengals game was suspended Monday night after Buffalo safety Damar Hamlin collapsed and went into cardiac arrest and had to be resuscitated on the field. The 24-year-old was breathing on his own and able to talk Friday morning after having his breathing tube removed, and physicians said Thursday he was making "remarkable improvement."

Buffalo (12-3) entered Monday night needing a win to maintain the AFC's No. 1 seed. The Kansas City Chiefs (13-3) now hold that spot. Cincinnati (11-4) had a chance to earn the top seed with two more wins and a loss by the Chiefs.

**WHY DID THE NFL CANCEL THE BILLS-BENGALS GAME?**

Not playing the game to its conclusion will have no effect on which teams qualify for the postseason. No team would qualify for the postseason or be eliminated based on the outcome of the game.

Resuming the game would impact the 12 other teams in the postseason field because it would force the league to push the start of the playoffs back one week. The decision to cancel one game has the least effect on the majority of the league.

**WHAT ARE THE RULES CHANGES?**

Instead of canceling the game and awarding playoff seeding by winning percentage, the NFL implemented several changes.

The AFC championship game will be played at a neutral site if the participating teams played an unequal number of games and both could have been the No. 1 seed and hosted the game had all AFC clubs played a full 17-game regular season.

Those circumstances involve Buffalo or Cincinnati qualifying for the game as a road team. If Buffalo and Kansas City both win or tie this weekend, a Bills-Chiefs AFC title game would be at a neutral site.

If Buffalo and Kansas City both lose and Baltimore wins or ties, a Bills-Chiefs AFC title game would be at a neutral site.

If Buffalo and Kansas City both lose and Cincinnati wins, Bills or Bengals against Kansas City in the AFC

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 78 of 88

title game would be at a neutral site.

Also, if Baltimore defeats Cincinnati in Week 18, the Ravens would have two wins over the divisional opponent Bengals but would not be able to host a playoff game because Cincinnati will have a higher winning percentage for a 16-game schedule than Baltimore with a 17-game schedule.

Therefore, if Baltimore defeats Cincinnati and if those two clubs are scheduled to play a wild-card game against each other, the site for that game would be determined by a coin toss.

But if the Bengals win this weekend or if Baltimore and Cincinnati are not scheduled to play each other in the wild-card round, the game sites would be determined by the regular scheduling procedures.

**WHICH TEAMS ARE IMPACTED MOST BY THE CANCELLATION?**

The Bills, Bengals, Chiefs and Ravens, because of three neutral-site possibilities for the AFC championship game and the coin-flip option for home-field advantage for a potential Ravens-Bengals wild-card matchup.

**WHAT WAS THE NFL'S ALTERNATIVE?**

It's the first time since 1935 that every team will not play an equal number of games. The NFL's 2022 policy manual for game operations states "a team's standing in its division or in its conference" will be determined by winning percentage if a game is canceled. Due to the extraordinary circumstances surrounding the canceled game, the league proposed new rules.

**WHICH NEUTRAL SITE WOULD HOST THE AFC TITLE GAME?**

The league is exploring several options, including indoor and outdoor stadiums. Lucas Oil Stadium, home of the Indianapolis Colts, has a potential conflict because of a volleyball tournament.

## **EXPLAINER: What is ChatGPT and why are schools blocking it?**

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

Ask the new artificial intelligence tool ChatGPT to write an essay about the cause of the American Civil War and you can watch it churn out a persuasive term paper in a matter of seconds.

That's one reason why New York City school officials this week started blocking the impressive but controversial writing tool that can generate paragraphs of human-like text.

The decision by the largest U.S. school district to restrict the ChatGPT website on school devices and networks could have ripple effects on other schools, and teachers scrambling to figure out how to prevent cheating. The creators of ChatGPT say they're also looking for ways to detect misuse.

The free tool has been around for just five weeks but is already raising tough questions about the future of AI in education, the tech industry and a host of professions.

**WHAT IS CHATGPT?**

ChatGPT launched on Nov. 30 but is part of a broader set of technologies developed by the San Francisco-based startup OpenAI, which has a close relationship with Microsoft.

It's part of a new generation of AI systems that can converse, generate readable text on demand and even produce novel images and video based on what they've learned from a vast database of digital books, online writings and other media.

But unlike previous iterations of so-called "large language models," such as OpenAI's GPT-3, launched in 2020, the ChatGPT tool is available for free to anyone with an internet connection and designed to be more user-friendly. It works like a written dialogue between the AI system and the person asking it questions.

Millions of people have played with it over the past month, using it to write silly poems or songs, to try to trick it into making mistakes, or for more practical purposes such as helping compose an email. All of those queries are also helping it get smarter.

**WHAT ARE THE PITFALLS?**

As with similar systems, ChatGPT can generate convincing prose, but that doesn't mean what it says is factual or logical.

Its launch came with little guidance for how to use it, other than a promise that ChatGPT will admit when it's wrong, challenge "incorrect premises" and reject requests meant to generate offensive answers. Since then, however, its popularity has led its creators to try to lower some people's expectations.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 79 of 88

"ChatGPT is incredibly limited, but good enough at some things to create a misleading impression of greatness," OpenAI CEO Sam Altman said on Twitter in December.

Altman added that "it's a mistake to be relying on it for anything important right now."

"It's a preview of progress; we have lots of work to do on robustness and truthfulness."

CAN IT BE USED FOR WRITING SCHOOL PAPERS?

This is what ChatGPT said when The Associated Press asked it to answer that question in all caps from the perspective of a principal shouting a brief message through a school's PA system:

"DO NOT USE CHATGPT OR ANY OTHER AUTOMATED WRITING TOOL FOR SCHOOL PAPERS. THIS IS CHEATING AND WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. IF YOU ARE CAUGHT USING CHATGPT OR ANY OTHER AUTOMATED WRITING TOOL FOR SCHOOL PAPERS, THERE WILL BE SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES."

But when asked to answer the same question on its own, ChatGPT offered this more measured warning: "As a general rule, it is not appropriate to use ChatGPT or any other automated writing tool for school papers, as it is considered cheating and does not benefit the student in the long run."

WHAT DO SCHOOLS SAY?

Many school districts are still scrambling to figure out how to set policies on if and how it can be used.

The New York City education department said Thursday that it's restricting access on school networks and devices because it's worried about negative impacts on student learning, as well as "concerns regarding the safety and accuracy of content."

But there's no stopping a student from accessing ChatGPT from a personal phone or computer at home.

"While the tool may be able to provide quick and easy answers to questions, it does not build critical-thinking and problem-solving skills, which are essential for academic and lifelong success," said schools spokesperson Jenna Lyle.

HUMAN OR AI?

"To determine if something was written by a human or an AI, you can look for the absence of personal experiences or emotions, check for inconsistency in writing style, and watch for the use of filler words or repetitive phrases. These may be signs that the text was generated by an AI."

That's what ChatGPT told an AP reporter when asked how to tell the difference.

OpenAI said in a human-written statement this week that it plans to work with educators as it learns from how people are experimenting with ChatGPT in the real world.

"We don't want ChatGPT to be used for misleading purposes in schools or anywhere else, so we're already developing mitigations to help anyone identify text generated by that system," the company said.

DOES THIS THREATEN GOOGLE?

There's been some speculation that ChatGPT could upend the internet search business now dominated by Google, but the tech giant has been working on similar technology for years — it's just more cautious about releasing it in the wild.

It was Google that helped jumpstart the trend for ever-bigger, ever-smarter AI language models that could be "pre-trained" on a wide body of writings. In 2018 the company introduced a system known as BERT that uses a "transformer" technique that compares words across a sentence to predict meaning and context. Some of those advances are now baked into Google searches.

But there's no question that successive iterations of GPT — which stands for Generative Pre-trained Transformer — are having an impact. Microsoft has invested at least \$1 billion in OpenAI and has an exclusive license to use GPT-3.

HEY CHATGPT, CAN YOU PUT ALL THIS IN A RAP?

"ChatGPT's just a tool,

But it ain't no substitute for school.

You can't cheat your way to the top,

Using a machine to do your homework, you'll flop.

Plagiarism's a no-no,

And ChatGPT's text is not your own, yo.

So put in the work, earn that grade,

Don't try to cheat, it's not worth the trade."

## **WWE's Vince McMahon is back after misconduct investigation**

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN AP Business Writer

Vince McMahon is rejoining the board of WWE several months after he retired from the sports entertainment company during an investigation into alleged misconduct.

WWE said Friday that McMahon, the founder and majority shareholder of WWE, would return as executive chairman. It also announced a board shakeup.

Shares surged more than 22%.

McMahon retired as WWE's chairman and CEO in July. He had stepped down temporarily from the posts a month earlier. The Wall Street Journal reported over the summer that McMahon agreed to pay more than \$12 million over the past 16 years to suppress allegations of sexual misconduct and infidelity.

The Stamford, Connecticut, company said Friday that it would be looking at "all strategic alternatives to maximize shareholder value."

There have been rumors that WWE may be interested in selling the organization to another entertainment company.

McMahon appeared to address that possibility in a letter to the board, dated Dec. 20, but published Friday.

"I believe WWE has a unique opportunity during this critical juncture to maximize value for its shareholders and all other stakeholders," McMahon wrote. "Specifically, given the rapidly evolving media landscape in which more and more companies are seeking to own the intellectual property offered on their streaming platforms – I firmly believe that the best thing to do for all of WWE's shareholders and other stakeholders is to undertake a comprehensive review of strategic alternatives."

The company said in early November that an investigation of a special committee formed to look into the misconduct allegations was completed and that the committee was disbanded.

The company on Friday did not immediately return requests from The Associated Press seeking details about the findings of that committee. It did say at the time that the company was implementing some of the suggestions of the committee.

McMahon's return coincides with the airing of some of WWE's biggest premium live events of the year. The Royal Rumble takes place this month in Texas, while Wrestlemania, a two-day event, begins in April.

McMahon said in a prepared statement that he doesn't intend for his return to have any impact on the roles, duties or responsibilities of WWE's existing management team. His daughter, Stephanie McMahon, serves as co-CEO, along with Nick Khan. McMahon's son-in-law, Paul Levesque, who wrestled under the name Triple H, serves as chief content officer.

McMahon controlled a majority of company shares even after his retirement, giving him the power to engineer a board shakeup upon his return. Three board members, JoEllen Lyons Dillon, Jeffrey R. Speed and Alan M. Wexler, were ousted to make room for McMahon and two other board members, Michelle Wilson and George Barrios.

Vince McMahon has been among the most recognizable faces at WWE for decades.

When he purchased what was then the World Wrestling Federation from his father in 1982, wrestling matches took place at small venues and appeared on local cable channels.

WWE matches are now held in professional sports stadiums and the company has a sizeable overseas following.

The organization underwent a seismic transformation under McMahon with events like WrestleMania, a premium live production that draws millions of fervent viewers.

Revenue in 2021 exceeded \$1 billion for the first time and the company has television deals with Fox and NBCUniversal. It announced a multi-year expansion of its original programming partnership with A&E in May 2022.

WWE stars have become crossover sensations, including Hulk Hogan, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson, "Stone Cold" Steve Austin and John Cena.



## Jen Shah of 'Real Housewives' gets 6 1/2-year prison term

By LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Jennifer Shah, a tearful member of "The Real Housewives of Salt Lake City" who insisted she is not the character she plays on the show, was sentenced Friday to 6 1/2 years in prison for defrauding thousands of people, many of them vulnerable or older, in a telemarketing scam that stretched nearly a decade.

Shah, 49, was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Sidney H. Stein as a leader of a nationwide fraud that targeted people who were often unsophisticated electronically and could least afford to lose their money.

Shah pleaded guilty in July to a conspiracy charge. Prosecutors sought a 10-year prison term, which would have been a year under the federal sentencing guidelines' minimum recommendation but well above the three years in prison that Shah's lawyer suggested.

At the outset of Friday's hearing, Stein cautioned a courtroom packed with Shah's family and friends and members of the media that he was not sentencing the person people see on television.

Stein said that person was "simply a character. It's acting." And he added that the housewives program "involves role playing. ... It's a heavily scripted operation."

His words were echoed by Shah, who told the judge: "Reality TV has nothing to do with reality."

She apologized to the "innocent people" she said she'd hurt and pledged to pay \$6.5 million in restitution and forfeiture when she gets out of prison.

"I struggled to accept responsibility for the longest time because I deluded myself into believing ... that I did nothing wrong," Shah said, calling it her "own fractured reality."

"For years I blamed other people for putting me in this position," believing she was duped and manipulated, she said.

"I alone am responsible for my terrible decisions. It was all my fault and all my wrongdoing," Shah said. "I have no one to blame but myself. ... I wish I could have stood outside myself and seen the harm I was causing and changed course. I am profoundly and deeply sorry."

During the hearing, defense lawyer Priya Chaudhry said her client has undergone a dramatic transformation in recent months.

"Remorse can be genuine even if it shows up late. ... Her apology is real," she said.

After the sentencing, Shah left the courthouse without speaking to reporters. She will report to prison at a later date.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert Sobelman said Shah was a leader of a "clear and brazen fraud" that stretched from 2012 to March 2021 as bogus services were promoted as enabling people to make substantial amounts of money through online businesses. He called her the most culpable among more than 30 defendants.

"She always knew what she was doing wrong," he said, noting her efforts to slow the investigation into her misdeeds by lying to investigators and taking evasive actions to obscure her true role in the fraud.

In a presentence submission, prosecutors said she used profits from the fraud to live a life of luxury that included a nearly 10,000-square-foot mansion with eight fireplaces dubbed "Shah Ski Chalet" in the resort haven of Park City, Utah. The home, they said, is now listed for sale for \$7.4 million.

They said she also rented an apartment in midtown Manhattan, leased a Porsche Panamera, bought hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of luxury goods and funded various cosmetic procedures while cheating the Internal Revenue Service of hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The government said she also seemed to mock the charges against her by claiming that the "only thing I'm guilty of is being Shah-mazing" and then she profited from it by marketing "Justice for Jen" merchandise after her arrest as she directed others to lie while trying to conceal her conduct from investigators.

At sentencing, Shah said proceeds from merchandise sales, which have been shut down, will go to victims.

The judge, though, said victims may be made whole financially, but they "can't really be made whole emotionally."

"Their lives have been turned upside down," Stein said.

## Prince Harry's book exposes grief, war, drugs, family rifts

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Bereaved boy, troubled teen, wartime soldier, unhappy royal — many facets of Prince Harry are revealed in his explosive memoir, often in eyebrow-raising detail.

From accounts of cocaine use and losing his virginity to raw family rifts, "Spare" exposes deeply personal details about Harry and the wider royal family.

The Associated Press purchased a copy of the Spanish-language edition of the book ahead of its publication around the world on Tuesday. Its revelations have electrified the British media — but have been met with silence from Buckingham Palace.

### BROTHER AND SON

The book opens with a quote from American writer William Faulkner: "The past is never dead. It's not even past."

Harry's story is dominated by his rivalry with elder brother Prince William and the death of the boys' mother, Princess Diana, in 1997. Harry, who was 12 at the time, has never forgiven the media for Diana's death in a car crash while being pursued by photographers.

The loss of his mother haunts the book, which Harry dedicates to wife Meghan, children Archie and Lili "and, of course, my mother."

The opening chapter recounts how his father Prince Charles — now King Charles III — broke the news of his mother's accident, but didn't give his son a hug.

Harry reveals that years later he asked his driver to take him through the Pont de l'Alma tunnel in Paris, site of the fatal crash, hoping in vain that it would help end a "decade of unrelenting pain. He also says he once consulted a woman who claimed to have "powers" and to be able to pass on messages from Diana.

Harry adds that he and William both "begged" their father not to marry his long-term paramour Camilla Parker-Bowles, worried she would become a "wicked stepmother."

Harry also is tormented by his status as royal "spare" behind William, who is heir to the British throne. Harry recounts a longstanding sibling rivalry that worsened after Harry began a relationship with American actress Meghan Markle, whom he married in 2018.

He says that during an argument in 2019, William called Meghan "difficult" and "rude," then grabbed him by the collar and knocked him down. Harry suffered cuts and bruises from landing on a dog bowl.

Harry says Charles implored the brothers to make up, saying after the funeral of Prince Philip in 2021: "Please, boys. Don't make my final years a misery."

Neither Buckingham Palace, which represents King Charles III, nor William's Kensington Palace office has commented on any of the allegations.

### WILD TEENAGE YEARS

The memoir suggests the media's party-boy image of Harry during his teen and young adult years was well-deserved.

Harry describes how he lost his virginity at 17 — in a field behind a pub to an older woman who loved horses and treated the teenage prince like a "young stallion." It was, he says, a "humiliating episode."

He also says he took cocaine several times starting at the same age, in order "to feel. To be different." He also acknowledges using cannabis and magic mushrooms — which made him hallucinate that a toilet was talking to him.

### ARMY REVELATIONS

Harry spent a decade in the British Army, serving twice in Afghanistan. He says that on his second tour, as an Apache helicopter co-pilot and gunner in 2012-2013, he killed 25 Taliban militants. Harry says he felt neither satisfaction nor shame about his actions, and in the heat of battle regarded enemy combatants as pieces being removed from a chessboard, "Baddies eliminated before they could kill Goodies."

Veterans criticized the comments and said they could increase the security risk for Harry. Retired Col. Richard Kemp said it was "an error of judgment," and regarding enemy fighters as chess pieces is "not

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 83 of 88

the way the British Army trains people.”

“I think that sort of comment that doesn’t reflect reality is misleading and potentially valuable to those people who wish the British forces and British government harm,” he told the BBC.

The Taliban returned to power in Afghanistan in 2021. Afghan Foreign Ministry spokesman Abdul Qahar Balkhi called the Western invasion of Afghanistan “odious” and said Harry’s comments “are a microcosm of the trauma experienced by Afghans at the hands of occupation forces who murdered innocents without any accountability.”

## PERSONAL JOURNEY

Harry credits Meghan with changing the way he sees the world and himself. He says he was “wrapped in privilege” and had no understanding of unconscious bias before he met her.

The young prince notoriously wore a Nazi uniform to a costume party in 2005, and claims in the book that William and his now-wife Kate encouraged the choice of outfit and “howled” with laughter when they saw it. He was recorded using a racist term about a fellow soldier of Pakistani descent in 2006, but says he did not know the word was a slur.

Meghan and Harry cited the U.K. media’s treatment of the biracial American actress as one of the main reasons for their decision to quit royal duties and move to the U.S. in 2020.

The book gives no sign that royal family relations will be repaired soon. Harry told ITV in an interview to promote the book that he wants reconciliation, but that there must be “accountability” first.

In the final pages, Harry describes how he and William walked side by side during the funeral procession of Queen Elizabeth II in September, but spoke barely a word to one another.

“The next day, Meg and I returned to the United States,” he says.

## EPA moves to toughen standards for deadly soot pollution

By MATTHEW DALY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration is proposing tougher standards for a deadly air pollutant, saying that reducing soot from tailpipes, smokestacks and wildfires could prevent thousands of premature deaths a year.

A proposal released Friday by the Environmental Protection Agency would set maximum levels of 9 to 10 micrograms of fine particle pollution per cubic meter of air, down from 12 micrograms set a decade ago under the Obama administration. The standard for particle pollution, more commonly known as soot, was left unchanged by then-President Donald Trump, who overrode a scientific recommendation for a lower standard in his final days in office.

Environmental and public health groups that have been pushing for a stronger standard were disappointed, saying the EPA proposal does not go far enough to limit emissions of what is broadly called “fine particulate matter,” the tiny bits of soot we breathe in unseen from tailpipes, wildfires, factory and power plant smokestacks and other sources.

In a development that could lead to an even lower standard, the EPA said Friday it also would take comments on a range of ideas submitted by a scientific advisory committee, including a proposal that would lower the maximum standard for soot to 8 micrograms. A microgram is one-millionth of a gram.

EPA Administrator Michael Regan said the proposal to strengthen the national ambient air quality standards for fine particle pollution would help prevent serious health problems, including asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death that disproportionately affect vulnerable populations. Those populations include children, older adults and those with heart and lung conditions as well as low-income and minority communities throughout the United States.

“This administration is committed to working to ensure that all people, regardless of the color of their skin, the community they live in or the money in their pocket, have clean air to breathe, clean water to drink and the opportunity to lead a healthy life,” Regan said at a news conference. “At EPA, we are working every single day to create cleaner and healthier communities for all and have been doing so for over 50 years.”

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 84 of 88

Harold Wimmer, the president of the American Lung Association, called the EPA's proposal disappointing, saying it is "inadequate to protect public health from this deadly pollutant."

"Current science shows that stronger limits are urgently needed ... to protect vulnerable populations," Wimmer said, calling for the EPA to lower the standard to 8 micrograms or lower.

Seth Johnson, an attorney for the environmental group Earthjustice, called the EPA plan "a disappointment and missed opportunity overall." While it would strengthen some public health protections, "EPA is not living up to the ambitions of this administration to follow the science, protect public health and advance environmental justice," Johnson said. He urged the EPA "to hear communities, not industrial polluters, and strengthen this rule. Overburdened communities have the right to breathe clean air."

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce and other business groups called for the current standards to be maintained.

"The United States has some of the best air quality in the world, thanks to steady reductions in contributors to particulate matter emissions over the last decade," said Chad Whiteman, vice president of environment and regulatory affairs at the chamber's Global Energy Institute.

The proposed rule could "stifle manufacturing and industrial investment and exacerbate permitting challenges that continue to hamper the economy," Whiteman said.

Mike Ireland, president of the Portland Cement Association, which represents U.S. cement manufacturers, added that the EPA's proposed action "is yet another regulatory burden that will hamper the cement industry's ability to manufacture sustainable construction materials to meet the nation's infrastructure needs."

EPA scientists have estimated exposure at current limits causes the early deaths of thousands of Americans annually from heart disease and lung cancer as well as causing other health problems.

Dr. Doris Browne, president of the National Medical Association, the oldest and largest national organization representing African American physicians, hailed the plan as "the bold action needed to protect public health across the country."

Appearing with Regan at a news conference, Browne said the proposal is likely to have lasting benefits across the country "but especially for those communities of color and low-income communities that experience the increase in particulate matter pollution." Smog, soot and other pollution near factories, power plants and other hazards has a "devastating impact on public health," she said.

The EPA proposal would require states, counties and tribal governments to meet a stricter air quality standard for fine particulate matter up to 2.5 microns in diameter — far smaller than the diameter of a human hair. A micron, also called a micrometer, is equal to one-millionth of a meter.

The standard would not force polluters to shut down, but the EPA and state regulators could use it as the basis for other rules that target pollution from specific sources such as diesel-fueled trucks, refineries and power plants.

A 2022 report by the American Lung Association found that 63 million Americans live in counties that experience unhealthy daily spikes in soot pollution and 21 million live in counties that exceed annual limits for soot pollution. Most of those counties were in 11 Western states, the report said. People of color were 61% more likely than white people to live in a county with unhealthy air quality, the report said.

Fresno, California, displaced Fairbanks, Alaska as the metropolitan area with the worst short-term particle pollution, the report found, while Bakersfield, California, continued in the most-polluted slot for year-round particle pollution for the third year in a row.

As of Dec. 31, five metropolitan areas were not in compliance with current standards, the EPA said. Four of those areas are in California, including the San Joaquin Valley and Los Angeles. Allegheny County, Pennsylvania, which includes Pittsburgh, also is out of compliance.

The EPA will accept comments on the proposed rule through mid-March and will hold a virtual public hearing over several days. A final rule is expected this summer.

## Cristiano Ronaldo experiences surreal start in Saudi Arabia

By JAMES ROBSON AP Soccer Writer

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 85 of 88

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — The palm trees lining the desert roads leading out of Riyadh's King Khalid International Airport were wet with rain drops when Cristiano Ronaldo arrived this week in Saudi Arabia's capital city.

The surprising weather greeted the soccer great's shocking move to the Middle East, where the gray skies in Riyadh were more akin to the often overcast conditions of Manchester — his previous home.

It's a surreal start for Ronaldo as he takes the next step of his storied career in a league few know much about.

The wet and chilly weather has been so severe that his new team, Al Nassr, was forced to postpone its Saudi league match against Al Ta'ee on Thursday because rain had impacted the electric system at Mrsool Park, the club's home stadium.

The former Manchester United and Real Madrid forward had said at his presentation on Tuesday that he was ready to play immediately. However, the Portuguese player is supposed to serve a two-match suspension imposed by the English Football Association in November for slapping a mobile phone out of a fan's hand following a game against Everton last April.

He may have left the Premier League, but the sanction applies to club soccer around the world. However, as the match against Al Ta'ee approached, Al Nassr would not confirm if it intended to honor the ban.

Where Ronaldo goes, drama seems to follow — and the will-he-won't-he saga extended to Friday, when Al Nassr finally left him out of the squad for the rescheduled match.

The excitement generated by his arrival in Saudi Arabia is undeniable — even if the idea of him leaving elite European soccer behind will take some getting used to. Thousands of fans braved the conditions and lined up for a first sight of their superstar signing on Tuesday.

"It's very, very exciting because Ronaldo is the best player in the world," Al Nassr fan Nawaf Alshmy told The Associated Press.

Earlier that day, an optimistic supporter of reigning Saudi champion Al Hilal had spoken of his belief that his club would respond by signing another icon, someone like Brazil international Neymar.

The Ronaldo-effect, it seems, is already taking hold, and the realms of what is possible feel broadened by his very presence — never mind that he is past his peak and has so far this season been dropped by both Manchester United and Portugal because of his lack of form.

His star appeal still resonates — on the day of his presentation traffic backed up along the streets surrounding the 25,000-capacity Mrsool Park. Al Nassr prepared for his entrance by projecting his image on the stadium's exterior, with strobe lights, fireworks and smoke machines deployed to enhance the atmosphere.

His face beamed out from electronic billboards around the city.

The 37-year-old Portugal forward, who is coming off a disappointing performance at the World Cup in Qatar, eventually turned up in a white Range Rover with blacked out windows and stepped out to flashing cameras.

It was a very stage-managed production for a club that is going to have to quickly get used to the global fame that comes with signing one of the greatest soccer players of all time and the world's most followed individual on social media platform Instagram.

Al Nassr has had to enlist an outside public relations company to handle the sudden overload of media interest, but has yet to produce an English language version of its website. Instead, its social media accounts have become a go-to destination for Ronaldo's fanbase, desperate to learn about his movements in Saudi Arabia.

Al Nassr, it appears, is learning as it goes along.

The signing was designed to make a statement and grow the profile of the club and Saudi soccer in general. It is also the latest bold sporting venture from a country that is undergoing a rapid cultural transformation and has faced accusations of "sportswashing" to improve its reputation around the world in light of its human rights record.

It has already staged two heavyweight title fights involving Anthony Joshua. Its Public Investment Fund backed the takeover of Premier League club Newcastle and the launch of the contentious LIV Golf tour.

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 86 of 88

Saudi Arabia also hosts Formula One racing, the Italian and Spanish Super Cups and high profile tennis tournaments. There is a drive to promote women's soccer and speculation that the country is planning a bid to host the 2030 men's World Cup.

But nothing so far compares to convincing Ronaldo to make the country his home after signing a 2 1/2-year contract reportedly worth up to \$200 million a year.

His slip of the tongue when declaring he had "come to South Africa" at a news conference on Tuesday was unfortunate, but he spoke passionately about his decision to make the move.

"I want to give a different vision of this club and country," Ronaldo said.

Amnesty International responded by urging him to use his position to draw attention to human rights issues in Saudi Arabia.

Soccer is already a big deal in the country, with a television audience of more than 215 million watching the Saudi league last season, according to official statistics. More than 1.25 million attended matches during that campaign and the expectation will be that both of those numbers increase significantly as a result of Ronaldo's presence.

"He is the best player across history and also having Ronaldo in the Saudi league is something unique and great for us," Al Nassr president Musalli Almuammar said. "This is the result of our great efforts to bring him here to play in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We have been working hard for many years to bring him to develop Saudi football."

Al Nassr's Instagram following is growing significantly — up to 10.4 million and rising from 1.2 million when the deal was first announced.

In a matter of only a few rainy days in the desert, the club has already had a taste of life with Ronaldo.

## **EXPLAINER: Is China sharing enough COVID-19 information?**

By HUIZHONG WU and ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — As COVID-19 rips through China, other countries and the World Health Organization are calling on its government to share more comprehensive data on the outbreak. Some even say many of the numbers it's reporting are meaningless.

Without basic data like the number of deaths, infections and severe cases, governments elsewhere have instituted virus testing requirements for travelers from China. Beijing has said the measures aren't science-based and threatened countermeasures.

Of greatest concern is whether new variants will emerge from the mass infection unfolding in China and spread to other countries. The delta and omicron variants developed in places that also had large outbreaks, which can be a breeding ground for new variants.

Here's a look at what's going on with China's COVID-19 data:

### **WHAT IS CHINA SHARING AND NOT SHARING?**

Chinese health authorities publish a daily count of new cases, severe cases and deaths, but those numbers include only officially confirmed cases and use a very narrow definition of COVID-related deaths.

China is most certainly doing their own sampling studies but just not sharing them, said Ray Yip, who founded the U.S. Centers for Disease Control office in China.

The nationwide tally for Thursday was 9,548 new cases and five deaths, but some local governments are releasing much higher estimates just for their jurisdictions. Zhejiang, a province on the east coast, said Tuesday it was seeing about 1 million new cases a day.

If a variant emerges in an outbreak, it's found through genetic sequencing of the virus.

Since the pandemic started, China has shared 4,144 sequences with GISAID, a global platform for coronavirus data. That's only 0.04% of its reported number of cases — a rate more than 100 times less than the United States and nearly four times less than neighboring Mongolia.

### **WHAT IS KNOWN AND WHAT CAN BE FIGURED OUT?**

# Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 87 of 88

So far, no new variants have shown up in the sequences shared by China. The versions fueling infections in China “closely resemble” those that have been seen in other parts of the world since July, GISAID said. Dr. Gagandeep Kang, who studies viruses at the Christian Medical College of Vellore in India, agreed, saying there wasn’t anything particularly worrisome in the data so far.

That hasn’t stopped at least 10 countries — including the U.S., Canada, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia, the U.K., France, Spain and Italy — from announcing virus testing requirements for passengers from China. The European Union strongly encouraged all its member states to do so this week.

Health officials have defended the testing as a surveillance measure that helps fill an information gap from China. This means countries can get a read on any changes in the virus through testing, even if they don’t have complete data from China.

“We don’t need China to study that, all we have to do is to test all the people coming out of China,” said Yip, the former public health official.

Canada and Belgium said they will look for viral particles in wastewater on planes arriving from China.

“It is like an early warning system for authorities to anticipate whether there’s a surge of infections coming in,” said Dr. Khoo Yoong Khean, a scientific officer at the Duke-NUS Centre for Outbreak Preparedness in Singapore.

## IS CHINA SHARING ENOUGH INFORMATION?

Chinese officials have repeatedly said they are sharing information, pointing to the sequences given to GISAID and meetings with the WHO.

But WHO officials have repeatedly asked for more — not just on genetic sequencing but also on hospitalizations, ICU admissions and deaths. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus expressed concern this week about the risk to life in China.

“Data remains essential for WHO to carry out regular, rapid and robust risk assessments of the global situation,” the head of the U.N. health agency said.

The Chinese government often holds information from its own public, particularly anything that reflects negatively on the ruling Communist Party. State media have shied away from the dire reports of a spike in cremations and people racing from hospital to hospital to try to get treatment as the health system reaches capacity. Government officials have accused foreign media of hyping the situation.

Khoo, noting that South Africa’s early warning about omicron led to bans on travelers from the country, said there is a need to foster an environment where countries can share data without fear of repercussions.

## Today in History SAT JAN 07

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, Jan. 7, the seventh day of 2023. There are 358 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Jan. 7, 1953, President Truman announced in his State of the Union message to Congress that the United States had developed a hydrogen bomb.

On this date:

In 1608, an accidental fire devastated the Jamestown settlement in the Virginia Colony.

In 1789, America held its first presidential election as voters chose electors who, a month later, selected George Washington to be the nation’s first chief executive.

In 1927, commercial transatlantic telephone service was inaugurated between New York and London.

In 1955, singer Marian Anderson made her debut with the Metropolitan Opera in New York, in Verdi’s “Un Ballo in Maschera.”

In 1959, the United States recognized the new government of Cuba, six days after Fidel Castro led the overthrow of Fulgencio Batista.

In 1963, the U.S. Post Office raised the cost of a first-class stamp from 4 to 5 cents.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Saturday, Jan. 07, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 183 ~ 88 of 88**

In 1979, Vietnamese forces captured the Cambodian capital of Phnom Penh, overthrowing the Khmer Rouge government.

In 1989, Emperor Hirohito of Japan died in Tokyo at age 87; he was succeeded by his son, Crown Prince Akihito.

In 1999, for the second time in history, an impeached American president went on trial before the Senate. President Bill Clinton faced charges of perjury and obstruction of justice; he was acquitted.

In 2004, President George W. Bush proposed legal status, at least temporarily, for millions of immigrants improperly working in the U.S.

In 2015, masked gunmen stormed the Paris offices of Charlie Hebdo, a French newspaper that had caricatured the Prophet Mohammad, methodically killing 12 people, including the editor, before escaping in a car. (Two suspects were killed two days later.)

In 2019, Amazon eclipsed Microsoft as the most valuable publicly traded company in the U.S. For the first time in more than 25 years, Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg was absent from oral arguments as she recuperated from cancer surgery.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama announced he would nominate former GOP Sen. Chuck Hagel as his next defense secretary, calling him "the leader our troops deserve"; Obama also chose White House counterterrorism adviser John Brennan to lead the Central Intelligence Agency. The No. 2 Alabama Crimson Tide rolled top-ranked Notre Dame 42-14 for the BCS championship.

Five years ago: "Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri" was the top film at the Golden Globe Awards, winning as best drama and taking home awards for stars Frances McDormand and Sam Rockwell and for writer-director Martin McDonagh. The Golden Globes ceremony became an expression of female empowerment in the post-Harvey Weinstein era, capped by a speech in which Cecil B. DeMille Award winner Oprah Winfrey said of men who use their power to abuse women, "Their time is up!" The arctic air that engulfed parts of the East Coast broke cold temperature records from Maine to West Virginia.

One year ago: Three white men who chased and killed Ahmaud Arbery were sentenced to life in prison; a judge in Georgia denied any chance of parole for the father and son who armed themselves and initiated the deadly pursuit of the 25-year-old Black man after spotting him running in their neighborhood. In a first for medical science, doctors at the University of Maryland transplanted a heart from a pig that had undergone gene-editing into a human patient in a last-ditch effort to save his life. (The patient, 57-year-old David Bennett, died two months later; he'd been considered too sick to get a human heart.)

Today's Birthdays: Magazine publisher Jann Wenner is 77. Singer Kenny Loggins is 75. Singer-songwriter Marshall Chapman is 74. Actor Erin Gray is 73. Actor Sammo Hung is 71. Actor Jodi Long is 69. Actor David Caruso is 67. Talk show host Katie Couric is 66. Country singer David Lee Murphy is 64. Rock musician Kathy Valentine is 64. Actor David Marciano is 63. Sen. John Thune, R-S.D., is 62. Actor Hallie Todd is 61. Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., is 60. Actor Nicolas Cage is 59. Singer-songwriter John Ondrasik (on-DRAH'-sik) (Five for Fighting) is 58. Actor Rex Lee is 54. Actor Doug E. Doug is 53. Actor Kevin Rahm is 52. Actor Jeremy Renner is 52. Country singer-musician John Rich is 48. Actor Reggie Austin is 44. Singer-rapper Aloe Blacc is 44. Actor Lauren Cohan is 41. Actor Brett Dalton is 40. Actor Robert Ri'chard is 40. Actor Lyndsy Fonseca is 36. Actor Liam Aiken is 33. Actor Camryn Grimes is 33. Actor Max Morrow is 32. Actor Marcus Scribner is 23.