

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 1 of 74

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- Newsweek Bulletin](#)
- [3- Girls win 10 events at Webster Invitational Track](#)
- [4- Groton Area boys win six events at Webster Invitational Track](#)
- [5- Groton Area is in the top 24 in 10 Events](#)
- [6- Groton Post #39 Officers](#)
- [7- Hail Photos](#)
- [10- Lights on at basketball/tennis courts](#)
- [11- SD SearchLight: First tiny homes for vets ready in Sioux Falls](#)
- [13- SD SearchLight: Board approves 'minors on campus' policy following drag show controversy](#)
- [14- SD SearchLight: Biden and congressional leaders fail to reach a debt limit deal, but will meet again Friday](#)
- [17- SD SearchLight: Bipartisan group projects U.S. default as soon as early June, citing 'quite low' cash flows](#)
- [19- Weather Pages](#)
- [23- Daily Devotional](#)
- [24- 2023 Community Events](#)
- [25- Subscription Form](#)
- [26- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [27- News from the Associated Press](#)



Groton Community Calendar

Wednesday, May 10

- School Lunch: Chicken fajitas, refried beans.
- Senior Menu: Turkey sub sandwich, lettuce and tomato, macaroni salad, watermelon.
- Baseball, Softball & TBall Parent Meeting at Groton Community Center, 7:30 p.m.
- Groton CM&A: Kids' Club, Youth Group and Adult Bible Study begins at 7 pm
- United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.
- St. John's Lutheran: Bible Study, 2:45 p.m.

Thursday, May 11

School Lunch: Cheeseburger, pasta bake, green beans.

Senior Menu: Tator tot hot dish, corn, apple juice, Mandarin oranges, whole wheat bread.

Girls Golf at Madison.

Northeast Conference Track Meet in Groton

Friday, May 12

School Lunch: Hot dogs, baked beans.

Senior Menu: Tuna salad on croissant, pea and cheese salad, mixed fruit.

Elementary Track and Field Day, 12:30 p.m.

Saturday, May 13

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

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

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 2 of 74

The Bulletin

by Newsweek

JANUARY 24, 2023

World in Brief

and to assist authorities as they respond to an anticipated rise in migrant border crossings.

- At least three people have been killed, and several others were injured after a Tunisian naval guard opened fire near a synagogue on the island of Djerba during an annual Jewish pilgrimage.

- Twitter CEO Elon Musk responded to the news of Tucker Carlson's plans for a new show on his social media platform, saying he hopes this encourages more content creators, "particularly from the left," to join Twitter.

- A petit basset griffon Vendéen named Buddy Holly won best in show at the Westminster Kennel Club dog show, a first for the rabbit-hunting breed.

- In the ongoing war in Ukraine, French journalist Arman Soldin has been killed in Ukraine following a Russian rocket strike near the besieged city of Bakhmut. Soldin was working for AFP at the time of his death.

WHAT TO WATCH IN THE DAY AHEAD

- All eyes will be on the inflation report for April at 8:30 a.m. ET, which could provide clues on when the Federal Reserve will ease interest rate hikes. The Cleveland Fed's nowcasts point to a 0.5% increase month-on-month (partly due to higher energy costs in April), which could disappoint the central bank.

- As The Walt Disney Co. reports its second-quarter earnings after the closing bell, investors will be eager to see what CEO Bob Iger's return means for the entertainment giant. Disney will likely post stronger earnings and revenue as direct-to-consumer subscriptions pick up and theme park revenues recover.

- President Joe Biden will travel to New York's Hudson Valley area to discuss ongoing debt ceiling negotiations. Biden will emphasize that Congress "must avoid default immediately and without conditions," according to the White House.

- Donald Trump is scheduled to participate in a CNN presidential town hall hosted by "CNN This Morning" anchor Kaitlan Collins. The event is taking place at Saint Anselm College in New Hampshire and will air at 8 p.m. ET.

- Debt ceiling talks ended with no resolution as the clock ticks towards default. President Joe Biden, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, and other congressional leaders agreed to further talks to break a deadlock over raising the limit.

- The Justice Department has reportedly filed criminal charges against New York Rep. George Santos. Although charges remain sealed, the congressman is expected to make a court appearance on Wednesday.

- About 550 active-duty troops are reportedly arriving at the U.S.-Mexico border before Title 42 is lifted on Thursday

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 3 of 74

Girls win 10 events at Webster Invitational Track

The Groton Area girls track team took first in 10 events at the Webster Invitational Track Meet held Monday. Winners in the girl's varsity division were Talli Wright in the 300m hurdles, McKenna Tietz in the 200m run, Ashlynn Warrington in the 400m dash, Faith Traphagen in the 800m run, Aspen Johnson in the long jump and triple jump, and the 400, 800, 1600 and medley relay teams.

In the junior high division, Ryelle Gilbert was the lone winner, taking the 800m run.

Varsity

100m Hurdles - 30": 2. Talli Wright, 20.53; 3. Hannah Sandness, 22.09

300m Hurdles: 1. Talli Wright, 54.32; 2. McKenna Tietz, 56.01; 4. Hannah Sandness, 1:01.39

100 Meters: 9. Shaela McGannon, 16.22

200 Meters: 1. McKenna Tietz, 17.71; 3. Rylee Dunker, 19.34; 4. Talli Wright, 19.98

400 Meters: 1. Ashlynn Warrington, 1:07.86; 4. Elizabeth Fliehs, 1:11.92

800 Meters: 1. Faith Traphagen, 2:38.58; 2. Taryn Traphagen, 2:41.25; 4. Ashlynn Warrington, 2:52.98; 5. Elizabeth Fliehs, 2:57.45

4x100 Relay: 1. (Rylee Dunker, McKenna Tietz, Talli Wright, Laila Roberts), 55.39

4x200 Relay: 1. (Rylee Dunker, Jerica Locke, Laila Roberts, Taryn Traphagen), 1:57.45

4x800 Relay: 1. (Taryn Traphagen, Faith Traphagen, Ashlynn Warrington, McKenna Tietz), 10:45.83

SMR 1600m: 1. (Jerica Locke, Rylee Dunker, Kennedy Hansen, Kella Tracy), 4:36.12

High Jump: 3. Emerlee Jones, 4-05.00; 5. Anna Fjeldheim, 4-03.00

Long Jump: 1. Aspen Johnson, 14-10.75; 2. Sydney Leicht, 14-04.50; 10. Shaela McGannon, 11-06.00

Triple Jump: 1. Aspen Johnson, 32-06.00; 4. Emerlee Jones, 27-02.00

Discus: 7. Faith Fliehs, 74-09; 10. Emma Kutter, 65-06; 15. Kayleigh McGannon, 56-06; 16. Ashley Johnson, 48-08; 18. Emma Davies, 36-04

Shot Put - 6lb: 2. Emma Kutter, 30-01.00; 9. Faith Fliehs, 25-03.00; 14. Ashley Johnson, 21-02.00; 17. Kayleigh McGannon, 19-03.50; 18. Emma Davies, 18-01.00

Seventh Grade

200m Hurdles - 30": 4. Ella Kettner, 40.40

100 Meters: 7. MaKenna Krause, 15.69; 10. Chesney Weber, 16.55; 14. Kinsley Rowin, 16.94; 17. Journey Zieroth, 17.09; 19. Ella Kettner, 17.23; 20. Sydney Locke, 17.28; 31. Rylie Rose, 17.84; 35. Kyleigh Kroll, 19.38

200 Meters: 13. Sydney Locke, 37.05; 14. Ella Kettner, 37.21; 25. MaKenna Krause, 4:18.31; 30. Rylie Rose, 4:39.72

400 Meters: 10. Addison Hoeft, 1:33.71

800 Meters: 1. Ryelle Gilbert, 2:57.72

1600 Meters: 2. Ryelle Gilbert, 6:35.29; 3. Rylie Rose, 7:48.20

4x100 Relay: 3. (Kinsley Rowin, Sydney Locke, Chesney Weber, MaKenna Krause), 1:02.56

4x200 Relay: 4. (Kinsley Rowin, Ryelle Gilbert, Chesney Weber, MaKenna Krause), 2:10.79

old SMR 100-100-200-400m: 4. (Sydney Locke, Libby Cole, Kinsley Rowin, Ryelle Gilbert), 2:24.73

High Jump: 7. Addison Hoeft, 3-07.00

Long Jump: 11. Rylie Rose, 9-00.00

100m Hurdles - 30": 4. Ella Kettner, 22.41; 6. Journey Zieroth, 23.04; 10. Addison Hoeft, 25.26

Discus: 4. Libby Cole, 58-00; 12. Kyleigh Kroll, 39-07

Shot Put - 6lb: 7. Libby Cole, 25-08.50; 13. Kyleigh Kroll, 20-07.00; 14. Journey Zieroth, 16-06.00

Eighth Grade

100m Hurdles - 30": 5. Teagan Hanten, 20.95

100 Meters: 11. Addison Hoffman, 16.97

4x100 Relay: 4. (Addison Hoffman, Teagan Hanten, Journey Zieroth, Avery Crank), 1:04.31

Long Jump: 5. Addison Hoffman, 10-09.00; 6. Teagan Hanten, 10-06.50

Triple Jump: 3. Teagan Hanten, 26-03.50; 4. Addison Hoffman, 24-06.50

Discus: 3. Avery Crank, 64-03

Shot Put - 6lb: 5. Avery Crank, 26-08.75

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 4 of 74

Groton Area boys win six events at Webster Invitational Track

The Groton Area boys varsity track team won six events in the varsity level and seven events in the seventh grade division. Winners in the varsity division were Andrew Marzahn in the 100m run, Blake Pauli in the 800m run, Jacob Zak in the long jump, Logan Ringgenberg in the discus and the 400 and sprint medley relay teams.

Ryder Schelle was a quadruple winner in the seventh grade division, winning the 100m, 200m, 400m dashes and was on the winning 400m relay team.

Varsity

110m Hurdles: 2. Caden McInerney, 20.09

300m Hurdles - 30": 4. Caden McInerney, 48.13

100 Meters: 1. Andrew Marzahn, 11.98; 2. Jacob Zak, 12.10; 3. Korbin Kucker, 12.17; 4. Teylor Diegel, 12.28; 12. Logan Ringgenberg, 13.36; 14. Logan Warrington, 14.35

200 Meters: 3. Lane Tietz, 24.29; 9. Colby Dunker, 26.37; 11. Gage Sippel, 26.51; 18. Caden McInerney, 29.90

400 Meters: 4. Gage Sippel, 58.83; 6. Logan Warrington, 1:04.14

800 Meters: 1. Blake Pauli, 2:13.90; 5. Jayden Schwan, 2:30.48; 10. Tristin McGannon, 2:42.12

1600 Meters: 2. Jayden Schwan, 5:36.00; 5. Nicolas Fernandez, 6:29.42; 6. Garrett Schultz, 6:31.38

4x100 Relay: 1. (Korbin Kucker, Ryder Johnson, Teylor Diegel, Andrew Marzahn), 45.47

4x200 Relay: 2. (Korbin Kucker, Lane Tietz, Teylor Diegel, Andrew Marzahn), 1:39.96

4x800 Relay: 2. (Colby Dunker, Jacob Lewandowski, Blake Pauli, Tristin McGannon), 9:23.11

SMR 1600m: 1. (Ryder Johnson, Lane Tietz, Cole Simon, Keegen Tracy), 3:50.90

Long Jump: 1. Jacob Zak, 19-03.75; 4. Gage Sippel, 17-11.00; 5. Tristin McGannon, 16-02.50

Triple Jump: 2. Jacob Zak, 38-09.50; 4. Tristin McGannon, 32-09.00

Discus - 1kg: 1. Logan Ringgenberg, 122-10; 4. Kaleb Antonsen, 109-09; 5. Holden Sippel, 102-03; 8. Karter Moody, 95-04; 9. Caleb Hanten, 95-02; 18. Drew Thurston, 69-11; 21. Payton Mitchell, 64-09

Shot Put - 8lb: 2. Logan Ringgenberg, 40-02.00; 3. Holden Sippel, 40-00.00; 4. Caleb Hanten, 39-07.25; 5. Karter Moody, 37-08.00; 6. Kaleb Antonsen, 37-02.75; 11. Drew Thurston, 32-11.00; 23. Payton Mitchell, 25-02.25

Seventh Grade

100 Meters: 1. Ryder Schelle, 13.78; 2. Easton Weber, 14.41; 3. Owen Sperry, 14.49

200 Meters: 1. Ryder Schelle, 28.88; 2. Owen Sperry, 29.27; 3. Ethan Kroll, 30.10

400 Meters: 1. Ryder Schelle, 1:08.75

800 Meters: 2. Jace Johnson, 2:58.04; 3. Kason Oswald, 3:31.36

1600 Meters: 2. Jace Johnson, 6:35.88; 3. T.C Schuster, 6:51.14; 4. Kason Oswald, 8:22.45

4x100 Relay: 1. (Owen Sperry, Easton Weber, Karson Zak, Ryder Schelle), 53.57

SMR 800m: 1. (Owen Sperry, Easton Weber, Jace Johnson, Karson Zak), 2:02.14

High Jump: 2. T.C Schuster, 4-03.00; 2. Ethan Kroll, 4-03.00

Triple Jump: 1. Karson Zak, 32-01.50

Shot Put - 8lb: 3. Quinn Cogley, 23-06.00; 11. Shaydon Wood, 16-08.00

Long Jump: 1. Karson Zak, 14-08.00; 2. Ethan Kroll, 14-03.00; 10. T.C Schuster, 12-04.00; 12. Jace Johnson, 11-07.00; 13. Quinn Cogley, 11-04.00

Discus - 1kg: 3. Quinn Cogley, 61-06; 9. Shaydon Wood, 48-09

Eighth Grade

100 Meters: 6. Gavin Kroll, 14.54; 13. Aiden Strom, 15.94

200 Meters: 5. Aiden Strom, 32.42; 7. Blake Lord, 34.29; 8. Brody Lord, 35.09

800 Meters: 7. Gavin Kroll, 2:45.03; 8. Blake Lord, 2:54.94

4x100 Relay: 3. (Aiden Strom, Gavin Kroll, Blake Lord, Brody Lord), 1:00.16

Long Jump: 7. Aiden Strom, 11-08.00

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 5 of 74

Groton Area is in the top 24 in 10 Events

Some went up, some went down in the latest track rankings by the South Dakota High School Activities Association. Jacob Zak fell out of the top 24 in the triple jump while Lane Tietz is knocking on the door in the 200m dash. Eight relay teams remain in the top 24. Aspen Johnson in the triple jump and Emma Kutter in the shot put also remain in the top 24.

Girls 4x100m Relay: Groton Area fell to 30th with a time 28th with a same time of 54.84. They were 28th last week.

Girls 4x200 Relay: Groton Area fell to 14th (10th last week) with a time of 1:52.27.

Girls 4x400 Relay: Groton Area moved up five places to 19th with an improved time of 4:22.54. Their time last week was 4:30.89.

Girls 4x800m Relay: Groton Area fell one spot to 15th with a same time of 10:41.24.

Girls Sprint Medley: Groton Area fell five spots to 19th with a same time of 4:37.60.

Shot Put: Emma Kutter fell one spot to 21st with a same distance of 34-4.

Triple Jump: Aspen Johnson remains at 14th with a same distance of 32-9.

Boys 200m Dash: Lane Tietz is in 26th place with a time of 23.74. The 24th place time is 23.72.

Boys 4x100m Relay: Groton Area fell one spot to 16th despite taking .06 off their time which is now 45.74.

Boys 4x200m Relay: Groton Area moved up three spots to 14th with an improved time of 1:34.84. Their last time was 1:35.87.

Boys 4x400m Relay: Groton Area moved up five spots to 10th place with a time of 3:37.04. Their former time was 3:40.49.

Boys 4x800m Relay: Groton Area dropped five spots to 21st with a same time of 8:59.34

Boys Triple Jump: Jacob Zak fell two spots to 25th place with the same distance of 39-00.5.



Groton Post #39 Officers

The Groton American Legion Post 39 installed new officers last evening. (L-R) Aaron Grant, new Vice-Commander, and Bruce Babcock, new Post Commander. Not pictured Doug Hamilton, Adjutant and Treasurer. (Courtesy

Photo)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 7 of 74



Hail accumulation on US Highway 12 west of the overhead bridge at 9:45 p.m. Tuesday.
(Courtesy Photo)

Groton Daily Independent

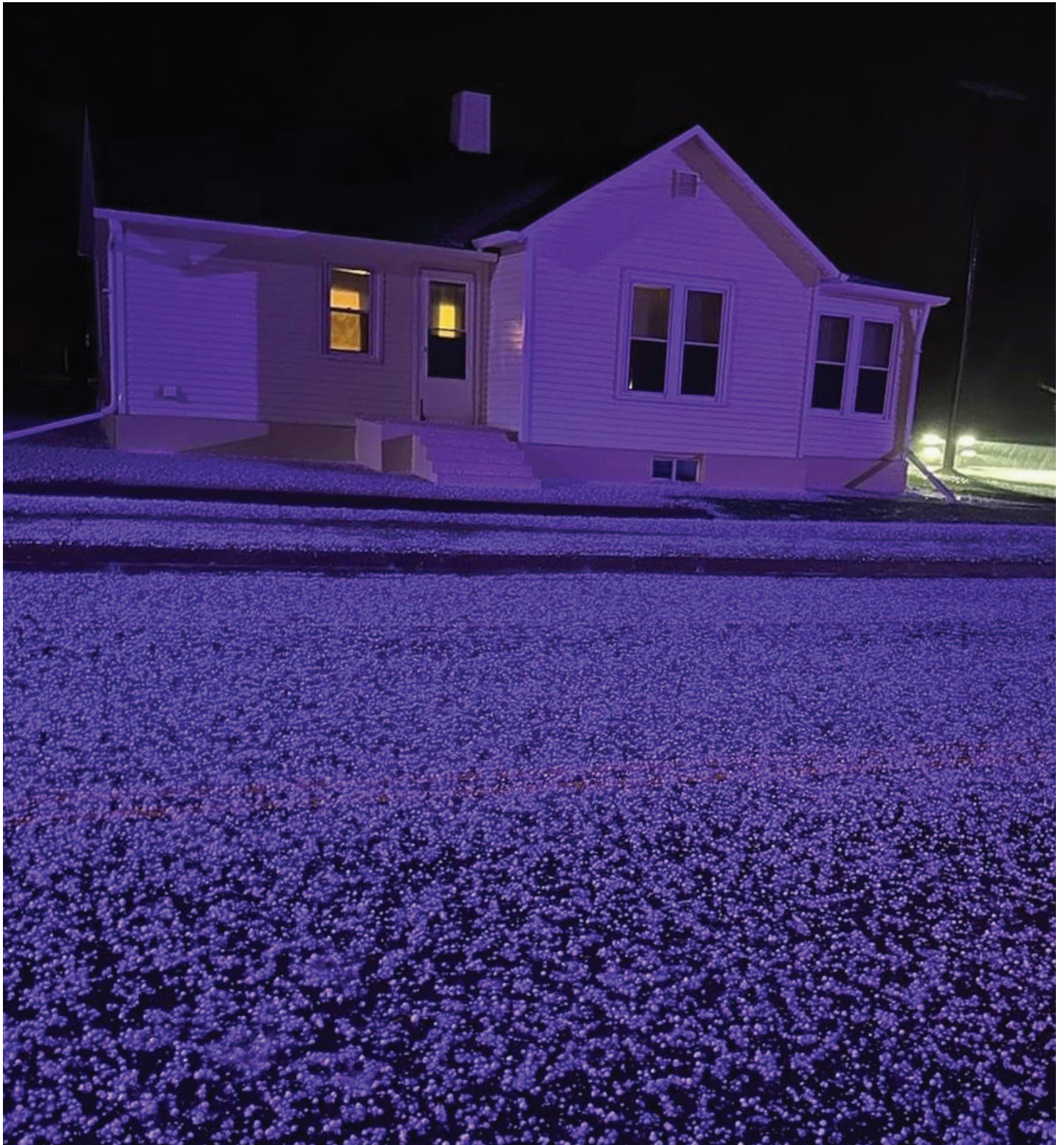
Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 8 of 74



This photo was taken by Jeslyn Kosel last evening as the storm was gaining steam and heading to Groton.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 9 of 74



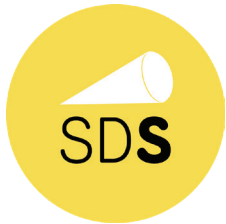
This photo of the hail taken by Seth Weiszhaar was posted on Facebook.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 10 of 74



The lights at the basketball court and tennis court are operational. The left photo features Paul Kosel replacing a burnt out bulb on the tennis court. The right photo features Todd Gay and Landon Johnson having to double team to rewire the north light pole on the basketball court for the new LED fixtures.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

First tiny homes for vets ready in Sioux Falls

Project one of two in the works for veteran housing in South Dakota

BY: JOHN HULT - MAY 9, 2023 5:04 PM

SIOUX FALLS – Project managers and advocates threw open the doors of the first five tiny homes for veterans in Sioux Falls on Thursday morning.

The homes are the first in a planned village of transitional housing for homeless veterans in southeast South Dakota.

The village is about a mile from downtown Sioux Falls, tucked between an apartment complex and a middle school practice field on ground where homeless veterans and others recently camped beneath a patch of thick trees. The encampment had been there for years, according to Eric Gage, executive director of the Veterans Community Project in Sioux Falls.

“It was convenient for services, and it was out of sight,” Gage told a crowd of assembled supporters, city officials and volunteers. “I don’t want our veterans out of sight anymore.”

Sioux Falls is the second city in the U.S. to embrace the tiny house model. The first was in Kansas City, the home base for the Veterans Community Project organization.

The goal is to offer a home and a case manager to homeless vets, in the hope of getting tenants the personalized help they need to fold themselves back into the fabric of the community at large and find permanent housing. The average stay in a tiny home in Kansas city is between 14 and 15 months, according to CEO Bryan Meyer, though there’s no official timeline.

The first Sioux Falls vets are scheduled to move in about two months from now, as crews continue to build out another 20 homes on the 2-acre plot.

Meyer said the ribbon-cutting ceremony marked a major milestone for both South Dakota and his organization, which has plans in the works for villages in Colorado, Missouri, Oklahoma and Wisconsin.

Sioux Falls, he said, has been a model partner for the group’s first attempt to expand the concept beyond



Eric Gage, the executive director of the Veterans Community Project in Sioux Falls, hangs a flag on one of the five tiny homes that will soon house homeless veterans. The project held a ribbon cutting on May 9, 2023. (John Hult/South Dakota Searchlight)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 12 of 74



Visitors tour one of five tiny homes intended for homeless veterans in Sioux Falls on May 9, 2023. (John Hult/South Dakota Searchlight)

on the streets or couch surfing with friends have too much on their plate to worry about changing their lives long-term, Meyer said.

"It's really hard to worry about your mental health, substance abuse, employment and all that when you're worried about 'Where am I going to sleep? What am I going to eat?'" Meyer said.

The organization will work with community partners to find tenants, then case managers will work with community service providers to connect those tenants to the resources they need. Which means the community has a lot of work ahead of it, Mayor Paul TenHaken said.

"We need to continue to wrap our arms around VCP and the work they're doing in this community," he said. "Honestly, building the homes is the easy part."

It's not always especially easy, though. The \$1.7 million raised in the initial round of support for the Sioux Falls village is more than a project on the other side of the state has been able to pull together thus far.

The Veterans Helping Hands Project in Hot Springs secured \$700,000 from the Housing Development Authority to build six duplexes for vets in that city, which is home to the Hot Springs VA Medical Center.

The idea there, according to President Dave Gates, is to couple the homes with job training. The vets will help build the homes once the group raises another half million dollars for construction.

"Right now, we're still looking for support to get the rest of the project done," Gates said.

In the meantime, he said, the group will start work on remodeling both an existing home and a restaurant once called the Dew Drop Inn to help prepare vets for the work. The restaurant's owners will benefit from the work, Gates said, and the vets will have a head start in learning construction trades.

"It's a two-year project that we're going to be using to train veterans who are in the alcohol and drug rehab programs," Gates said. "It's that job training that will help to break the cycle."

Gates hopes to firm up his fundraising and break ground by July 1.

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.

its home city.

"It's not very often that we as an organization get to do firsts anymore," Meyer said. "This is the first ribbon cutting of a site outside of Kansas City. It wasn't the first one we broke ground on. It wasn't even the second. But the way the community came together to wrap their arms around it put it on a trajectory that I don't think we were even prepared for sometimes."

The homes come furnished with new furniture, appliances, housewares, bedding, personal items, all free of charge. Utilities are covered, as well.

The reality for veterans, who experience homelessness at higher rates than the general population, is that those living

Board approves 'minors on campus' policy following drag show controversy

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - MAY 9, 2023 1:09 PM

The state Board of Regents unanimously approved a policy Tuesday responding to public concerns about minors attending a drag show on a college campus.

"We threaded the needle between state statute and First Amendment issues or potential challenges," said board president Tim Rave. "This is a good first step with the framework in place."

Drag shows were not mentioned during the meeting and are not specifically mentioned in the policy, but the effort is a response to concerns about a drag show that was advertised as "kid friendly" last year by a student organization at South Dakota State University in Brookings.

The board, which oversees the state's public universities, directed staff to begin developing the policy in December. The board approved the first reading of the policy in March and approved the policy with slight changes on Tuesday.

The policy is intended to "take affirmative steps to safeguard and protect the well-being of minors visiting campus, attending university-sponsored events and programs, or participating in external organization programs and activities that utilize campus facilities." The policy would add some new requirements for universities and codify some practices that are already in place.

Language in the policy bars non-student minors from attending programs that include "content that is patently offensive to prevailing community standards in the adult community as a whole with respect to what is suitable material for minors."

The policy says non-student minors generally cannot be in university facilities without a valid purpose or express permission, and must be under supervision of an authorized chaperone or legal guardian. And if they fail to comply, they may be immediately removed.

The policy says programming attended by non-student minors may not include activities sexual in nature, obscene live conduct, or anything deemed harmful to minors. Content descriptors, such as warnings before a TV show or movies saying "may contain explicit content," will also be used for programs that are open to minors but may include nudity, sexual situations, violence or other explicit content.

"It's giving those who might want to attend appropriate notice of the nature of the event" so they can decide whether to attend, said Nathan Lukkes, the board's chief of staff.

Authorized adults participating in university programs with non-student minors must not have one-on-one contact with minors, except in limited circumstances and in the open. Additionally, they must not take pictures of minors except for official pictures of the program and only with parental or legal guardian consent.

The policy also declares that a "program leader" must be appointed for any youth programs. They are responsible for ensuring the policy is obeyed, including certifying background checks have been conducted for adults involved in the program. For youth programs, all authorized adults must pass a criminal background check and a sex offender registry check.

Non-compliance with the policy may result in program suspension, discontinuation or cancellation.

Months after the complaints that motivated the policy and the presence of a large crowd at a prior meeting where it was discussed, Lukkes said the policy is "favorably received."

Several universities had input in the drafting of the policy, including SDSU, where the controversy began.

"I feel very confident that this will certainly help us manage the challenges we faced last fall," SDSU President Barry Dunn said during the teleconference meeting. "It probably won't eliminate them. ... It's been a very sound process and we look forward to its implementation."

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.

Biden and congressional leaders fail to reach a debt limit deal, but will meet again Friday

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT AND ASHLEY MURRAY - MAY 9, 2023 8:14 PM

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden and top congressional leaders were unable to reach a bipartisan debt limit agreement during a closed-door meeting Tuesday, leaving the dispute unresolved as the country moves closer to a default predicted as soon as early June.

White House staff and aides to the four congressional leaders, however, will meet throughout the week to discuss the nation's borrowing ceiling and future spending levels before Biden and the lawmakers get back together Friday.

Biden said during brief remarks in the Roosevelt Room following the meeting that he believes the talks were "productive" and that he is looking for a debt limit agreement that addresses the ceiling for at least a year.

He maintained that he would like to see negotiations on the debt limit and on future spending to remain on separate paths, but noted that staff will discuss federal funding levels ahead of the leaders' next meeting on Friday.

"I've said all along let's discuss what we need to cut, what we need to protect, what new revenue we can raise, and how to lower the deficit to put our fiscal house in order," Biden said. "But in the meantime, we need to take the threat of default off the table."

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said outside the White House following the late-afternoon meeting that "nothing has changed" since he met with Biden in early February — the last time the two discussed the issue.

"The only thing that has changed is the House has raised the debt ceiling and passed a bill. That's why we had a meeting today," McCarthy said. "Everybody at this meeting reiterated the positions they were at. I didn't see any new movement. The president said the staff should get back together, but I was very clear with the president, we have now just two weeks to go."

"If (Senate Majority Leader) Chuck Schumer could pass something, we'd go to conference right away and solve that, but I don't think Chuck Schumer can pass anything. They haven't dealt with it," McCarthy, a California Republican, continued.

Schumer, also speaking after the meeting, said Biden asked the leaders to begin discussions on a compromise.

"There are probably some places we can agree and some places we can compromise, hopefully, but that has to occur as part of the budget and appropriations process," the New York Democrat said.

Biden and Schumer have repeatedly said they want a "clean" debt ceiling bill. Biden said he would veto the House bill that Republicans pushed through following a 217-215 vote on April 26.

Neither McCarthy nor Schumer answered questions on whether Congress could reach a short-term deal to raise the debt ceiling while negotiations play out on annual funding levels. When asked about a short-term debt limit solution, Biden said: "I'm not ruling anything out."

"I said I'd come back and talk. Really the one thing I'm ruling out is default," Biden said.



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell speaks to reporters at the U.S. Capitol following a meeting on the debt ceiling with President Joe Biden and other congressional leaders at the White House on May 9, 2023.

(Jennifer Shutt/States Newsroom)

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 15 of 74



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer at the U.S. Capitol following a meeting on the debt limit with President Joe Biden and other congressional leaders at the White House on May 9, 2023.

(Jennifer Shutt/States Newsroom)

Negotiations on the 12 appropriations bills occur annually, and are supposed to wrap up before the end of the fiscal year each Sept. 30 — though Congress hasn't met that deadline in more than two decades.

First-time meeting for all five

The White House meeting was the first time the five men sat down to discuss how to address the country's borrowing limit amid a deep dispute between Democrats and Republicans.

GOP leaders want to tie caps on some federal spending to the debt limit bill while Democrats argue Congress should pass stand-alone legislation before moving on to debate government spending during the appropriations process.

The Treasury Department says without legislation to raise or suspend the debt limit, the country could default as soon as June 1 and the Bipartisan Policy Center places the window for default between early June and early August.

Without a bipartisan deal, a default would prevent the Treasury Department from borrowing any more money to pay for spending Congress has already approved.

That would mean federal officials could not pay all of the nation's bills in full and on time, leading to delays in checks going out for hundreds of federal programs. That would impact Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' benefits, federal employee salaries and much more.

A default on the debt would be significantly different from the partial government shutdowns that have occurred a handful of times during the last decade.

Depending on how long a default lasts, it could trigger a global recession and lead the United States to experience its first credit downgrade since 2011.

'We're running out of time'

Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, a Kentucky Republican, said after the meeting the debt limit "can only be solved by the one person in America who can sign something into law, and by the majority of the opposite party in divided government."

"Hopefully that's the direction in which we'll head now because we're running out of time," McConnell said after returning to the U.S. Capitol.

McConnell sought to reinforce that the country will not default on the debt, saying it's not unusual for negotiations on spending to move alongside talks on the debt limit.

The situation, McConnell said, is similar to 2019, when he told then-President Donald Trump's administra-

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 16 of 74

tion to negotiate a two-year spending caps and debt limit deal with then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi, a California Democrat.

"The way the deal finally came together is when I told President Trump — even though he was not excited about it — he had to reach a deal with Nancy Pelosi," McConnell said. "That's what President Biden needs to do."

One major difference between this year and the Trump administration agreements is that the federal government was operating under a deficit reduction law known as the Budget Control Act during those negotiations. That law lasted for a decade following its enactment in 2011.

The law set strict spending limits on both defense and nondefense discretionary spending, and those limits could only be raised by bipartisan legislation.

Republicans backed raising those caps to avoid what they referred to as austere limits on defense funding while Democrats came to the table to negotiate increases to the domestic spending cap. Debt limit talks often rode along with those spending cap increases.

Biden: 'I'm not being a wise guy'

Biden praised Schumer, McConnell and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, a New York Democrat following the Tuesday meeting, but mentioned that McCarthy occasionally made "a little bit of an assertion that maybe was a little over the top" during the meeting.

As far as whether he can trust any agreements McCarthy makes on behalf of House Republicans, Biden indicated the California Republican could have some challenges with his conference if a debt limit deal is struck.

"I trust Kevin will try to do what he says," Biden said. "I don't know how much leeway Kevin McCarthy thinks he has ... I'm not being a wise guy, when I say it took 15 votes for him to acquire the speakership, and apparently he had to make some serious concessions to get it from the most extreme elements of his party."

Biden maintained he remained confident the country wouldn't default on its debts.

"I'm absolutely certain because you have... an overwhelming number of the members of Congress know it would be a disaster."

When asked about using the 14th Amendment to bypass Congress and raise the debt ceiling unilaterally, Biden said: "The problem is, it would have to be litigated, and in the meantime without an extension, the (situation) would still end up in the same place."

Biden said he has been "considering the 14th Amendment," which deals in part with the U.S. debt, with respect to the debt limit.

He added once he's past this debt limit debate, he wants to take a look "months down the road" at what a court would say on whether a president can use those provisions to address the debt ceiling without action by Congress.

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.

Bipartisan group projects U.S. default as soon as early June, citing 'quite low' cash flows

BY: JENNIFER SHUTT - MAY 9, 2023 7:00 AM

WASHINGTON — The U.S. government could default as soon as next month if Congress and the Biden administration can't reach a debt limit agreement before then, according to a new analysis from the Bipartisan Policy Center.

The updated guidance, which puts the default window between early June and early August, adds pressure to President Joe Biden and the four congressional leaders for an agreement ahead of a meeting later Tuesday. The not-for-profit center works to help leaders arrive at bipartisan solutions.

"I still don't think now is the time for panic. But it's certainly time to start getting concerned because we're possibly only several weeks away from the x-date," said Shai Akabas, the center's director of economic policy, referring to the default date.

"And again, I think we're really at the early stage of these negotiations between the two parties," he added.

The Bipartisan Policy Center projections, Akabas said, are consistent with the Treasury Department's projections, which put the default date as soon as June 1.

"We also see reason for concern in early June, based on the fact that cash flows will be running quite low," Akabas said.

Potential delays in Social Security payments and more

If the United States were to default for the first time in its history, it would likely mean delays in federal payments for hundreds of programs, including Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, veterans' benefits and federal employee salaries.

Depending on how long a default lasted, a global recession could be triggered as well.

Tuesday's meeting between congressional leaders and Biden will be the first time all five men have sat down together to negotiate on the nation's borrowing limit, which pays for deficit spending Congress has already approved.

The group doesn't have much time to work out a deal with both chambers of Congress scheduled to be in Washington, D.C. a total of seven days during May, though leaders can add days to the calendar if needed.

Biden and Speaker Kevin McCarthy met at the White House in February, but have made no progress since then, opting instead to trade barbs in public as the country inches closer to a default that would roil financial markets.

At the center of the dispute is whether changes in federal spending should be tied to legislation addressing the debt limit, or if talks about how much money Congress spends should be kept on a separate track.

Republicans have insisted that future spending cuts move along with any debt limit bill. Biden and Democrats have rejected their calls, saying that negotiations over spending should be independent of the debt limit.

U.S. House Republicans narrowly passed legislation in late April that would raise the nation's debt limit by \$1.5 trillion or suspend it through March 31, whichever comes first. But they included dozens of conservative policies and spending cuts that cannot pass the Democratically controlled U.S. Senate.

That has left congressional leaders and the Biden administration in a stalemate over how to address the country's debt limit, which has accrued over decades.

GOP Senate letter

A group of 43 Senate Republicans released a letter over the weekend saying they'll stand with their House GOP colleagues and oppose a stand-alone debt limit bill.

"The Senate Republican conference is united behind the House Republican conference in support of spending cuts and structural budget reform as a starting point for negotiations on the debt ceiling," Republican senators wrote in the letter.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 18 of 74

"Our economy is in free fall due to unsustainable fiscal policies," Senate Republicans added. "This trajectory must be addressed with fiscal reforms. Moreover, recent Treasury projections have reinforced the urgency of addressing the debt ceiling. The House has taken a responsible first step in coming to the table with their proposals. It is imperative that the president now do the same."

"As such, we will not be voting for cloture on any bill that raises the debt ceiling without substantive spending and budget reforms," they wrote.

The letter, however, doesn't detail specific spending cuts that Senate Republicans want to see, a move that's likely designed to give Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell flexibility in closed-door talks with Democrats.

The letter was signed by Sens. Mike Lee of Utah, John Barrasso of Wyoming, Marsha Blackburn of Tennessee, John Boozman of Arkansas, Mike Braun of Indiana, Ted Budd of North Carolina, Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia, Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, Katie Britt of Alabama, John Cornyn of Texas, Tom Cotton of Arkansas, Mike Crapo of Idaho, Ted Cruz of Texas, Kevin Cramer of North Dakota, Steve Daines of Montana, Joni Ernst of Iowa, Deb Fischer of Nebraska, Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, Chuck Grassley of Iowa, Bill Hagerty of Tennessee, John Hoeven of North Dakota, Cindy Hyde-Smith of Mississippi, Ron Johnson of Wisconsin, James Lankford of Oklahoma, Cynthia Lummis of Wyoming, Roger Marshall of Kansas, Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, Jerry Moran of Kansas, Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma, Pete Ricketts of Nebraska, James Risch of Idaho, Marco Rubio of Florida, Mike Rounds of South Dakota, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Rick Scott of Florida, Eric Schmitt of Missouri, Dan Sullivan of Alaska, John Thune of South Dakota, Thom Tillis of North Carolina, Tommy Tuberville of Alabama, J.D. Vance of Ohio, Roger Wicker of Mississippi and Todd Young of Indiana.

No certainty on x-date

The estimate from the Bipartisan Policy Center is similar to the timeline Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen detailed for Congress last week, warning of default as soon as June 1 and urging lawmakers to broker a deal.

"We have learned from past debt limit impasses that waiting until the last minute to suspend or increase the debt limit can cause serious harm to business and consumer confidence, raise short-term borrowing costs for taxpayers, and negatively impact the credit rating of the United States," Yellen wrote.

"If Congress fails to increase the debt limit, it would cause severe hardship to American families, harm our global leadership position, and raise questions about our ability to defend our national security interests."

Akabas said during a briefing call with reporters on the Bipartisan Policy Center's projections that specifying a more narrow window or exact day for when the federal government would default is especially difficult.

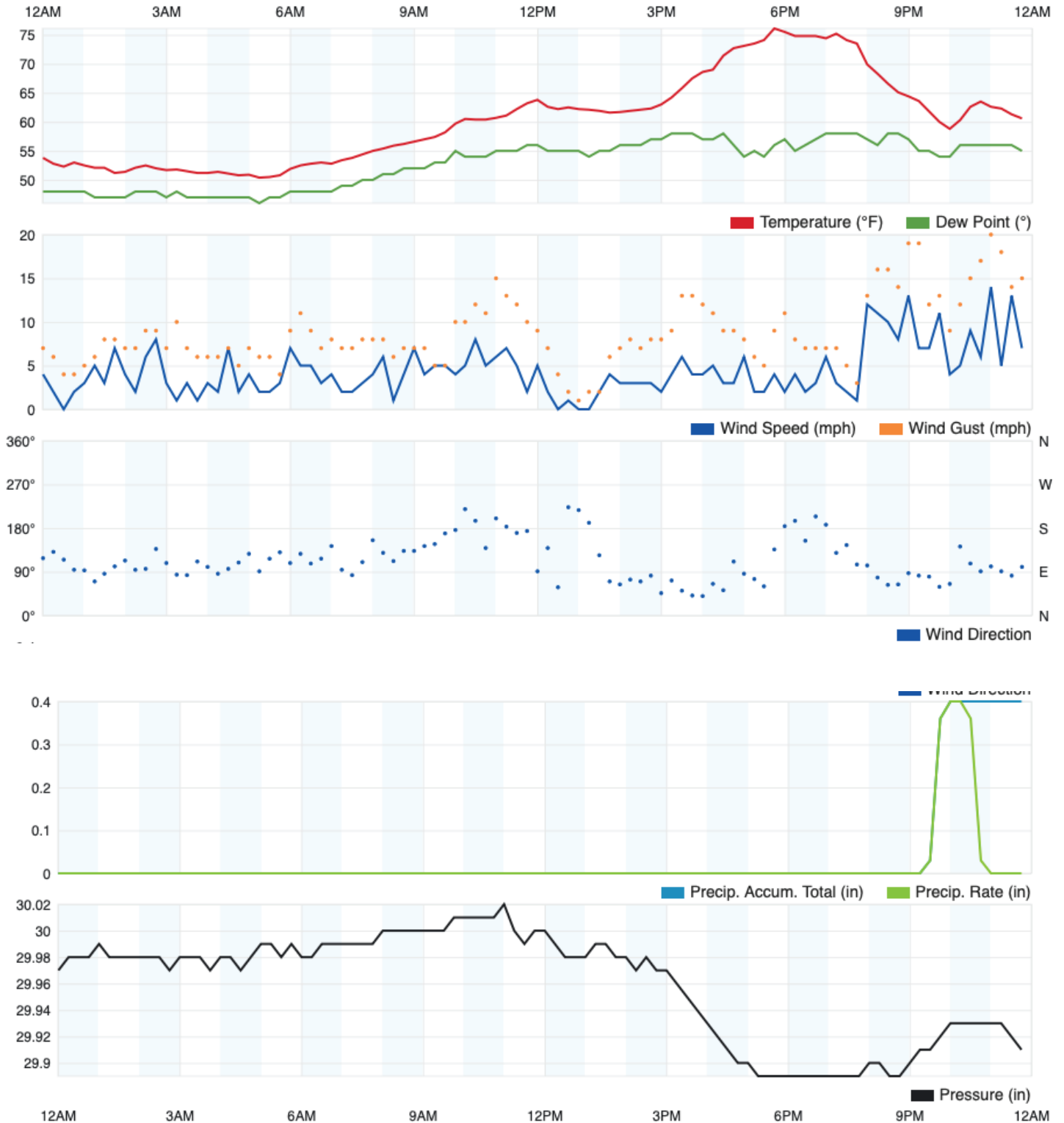
"We're talking about hundreds of billions of dollars of payments that are going in and out," he said. "And so neither we, nor Treasury, can know with any certainty when the x-date will arrive. Maybe not even a couple days in advance."

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.

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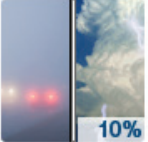
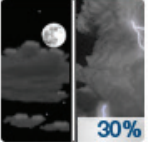
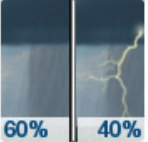
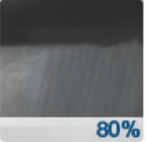

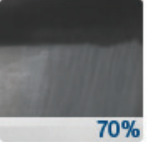

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 19 of 74

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs




Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 20 of 74

Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday
						
10%	30%	60% 40%	80%	70%	70%	60%
Patchy Fog then Slight Chance T-storms	Partly Cloudy then Chance T-storms	Showers Likely then Chance T-storms	Showers	Showers Likely	Showers Likely and Breezy	Showers Likely and Breezy
High: 78 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 75 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 72 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 65 °F

Mostly Dry Today, Storms Possible Tonight/Thursday


Today



Highs: 75 - 80°F

Mostly dry


Tonight



Lows: 55 - 60°F

Isolated strong to severe storms possible west river

Thursday



Highs: 72 - 78°F

Strong to severe storms possible, mostly in the evening. Higher chances south of Hwy 212

National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

There is a marginal risk of severe storms along and west of the Missouri River this evening. It is possible that storms won't form, but if they do, the main hazards will be large hail and damaging winds. Thursday, areas south of Hwy 212 have a higher chance of severe storms with large hail, damaging winds, and a couple tornadoes possible. Excessive rainfall is also a concern Thursday continuing into Friday.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 21 of 74

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 77 °F at 5:50 PM

Low Temp: 50 °F at 5:17 AM

Wind: 19 mph at 8:54 PM

Precip: : 0.62

Day length: 14 hours, 45 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 95 in 1911

Record Low: 20 in 1981

Average High: 68

Average Low: 42

Average Precip in May.: 1.10

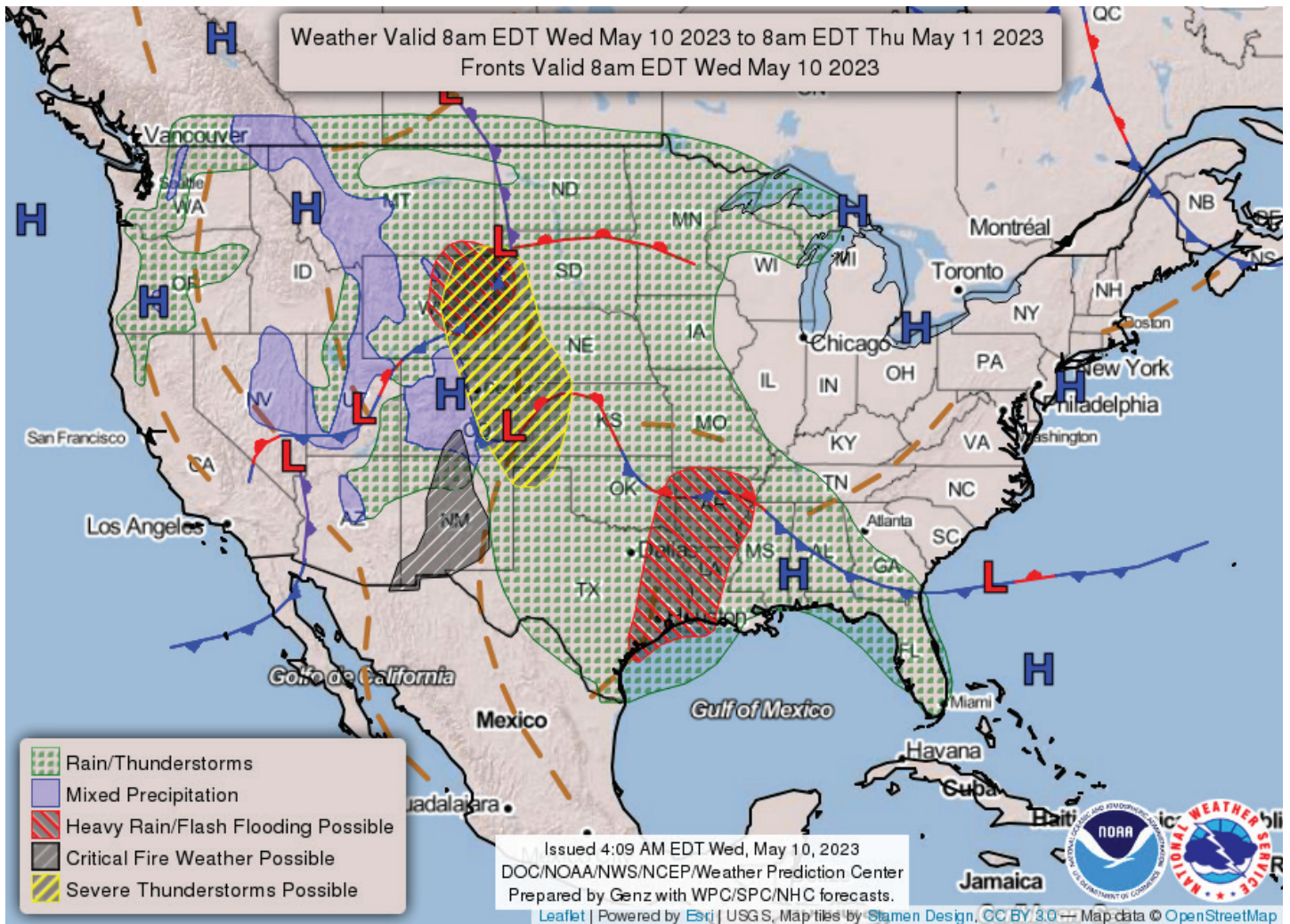
Precip to date in May.: 1.49

Average Precip to date: 5.07

Precip Year to Date: 7.21

Sunset Tonight: 8:51:26 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:04:53 AM



Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 22 of 74

Today in Weather History

May 10, 1982: An F3 tornado was first sighted six miles west of Tintah, Minnesota. The storm moved into the town of Tintah and then northeastward, dissipating north of Wendell. Two farms, sites were damaged west of Tintah. Nearly one dozen farm buildings were destroyed, and 50 cows were killed. Hail as large as softballs preceded the tornado into Tintah where there was extensive damage. A school and church received heavy damage, two railroad cars were overturned, homes and grain buildings were damaged, and utility poles and trees were uprooted.

1880: A tornado estimated to be F4 intensity moved across 20 miles of Scott and Morgan Counties in central Illinois. The tornado touched down near Aley and moved northeast, passing 8 miles south of Jacksonville. The tornado was strongest in the Pisgah area, where 30 buildings were destroyed. Seven people were killed.

1905: On Wednesday, May 10th, 1905, the Oklahoma Territory was struck by one of the worst natural disasters in early American history. Tornadoes pounded the southwest part of the Territory, one of which flattened the town of Snyder. The "official" death toll is listed today as 97, but the actual number of victims may never be known. One hundred years later, this single tornado remains the second most deadly in Oklahoma history.

1953: Four, F4 tornadoes touched down in parts of eastern Minnesota and western Wisconsin. One F4 tornado moved northeast from northeast of Fountain City, Wisconsin to Colburn, Wisconsin. Total damage from this storm was \$1 million, and it caused ten injuries.

The second F4 tornado moved from 5 miles southwest of Chester, Iowa to 4 miles northeast of Chatfield, Minnesota. One man was killed as his barn was destroyed one mile southeast of Wykoff. A rural school was leveled 3 miles south of Chatfield as well.

The third F4 tornado moved northeast and passed about 2 miles northwest of St. Charles, Minnesota. Farms were torn up all along the track. An infant was killed, and four other people were injured in a car that was thrown 100 feet. Overall this tornado killed one person and injured 11 people.

The final F4 tornado moved across Rusk, Price, and Taylor counties in Wisconsin. Over \$150,000 worth of damage resulted. An F3 tornado moved northeast across Clayton County, Iowa. At least 60 head of cattle were killed. A farmer was carried 700 feet but suffered only minor injuries.

1966 - Morning lows of 21 degrees at Bloomington-Normal and Aurora, IL, established a state record for the month of May. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Summer-like "Father's Day" type weather prevailed in the north central and western U.S. for "Mother's Day", as seventeen cities reported record high temperatures for the date. Jamestown ND soared to a record high of 96 degrees. Thunderstorms along the Central Gulf Coast deluged Lillian AL with 14.5 inches of rain, and nearby Perdido Key FL with 12.8 inches of rain. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms produced hail and high winds over the Atlantic Coast Region and the Gulf Coast States marking the end of a five day episode of severe weather associated with a cyclone tracking out of the Great Basin into southeastern Canada. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front crossing the Plateau Region produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Butte MT, and gusts to 77 mph at Choteau MT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - A spring storm produced heavy snow in Upper Michigan and eastern Wisconsin. Totals ranged up to 12 inches at Marquette MI, with eight inches reported at Muskego WI and Hartford WI. The heavy wet snow, and winds gusting to 35 mph, damaged or destroyed thousands of trees, and downed numerous power lines. Total damage from the storm was more than four million dollars. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

2010: On this day, Oklahoma experienced its largest tornado outbreak since May 3, 1999. Fifty-five twisters tore through the state, including two rated EF4. The EF4 storms took three lives and injured 81 people. Ironically, both EF4 tornadoes struck Norman, Oklahoma, home of the Storm Prediction Center and the National Severe Storms Laboratory. Fourteen additional tornadoes hit Oklahoma during May 11-13. The May 10 disaster racked up insured property losses of \$2 billion.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 23 of 74

Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

RIGHT IS RIGHT

The games were played, the gifts opened, the food was eaten. Turning to his uncle, Billy said, "Thank you for my birthday present."

"Oh, it was nothing," he said pleasantly.

"Mom and I agree with you," he replied, "but she said I should thank you anyway."

An attitude of gratitude is very important. A mind that is alert to and aware of the gifts and kind acts of others is an invaluable asset to anyone. And a heart that is quick to express a word of "thanks" for any expression of thoughtfulness is deeply appreciated by others. Everyone wants to know that they are appreciated for what they do for others!

Too often as we make our way through life we focus on our worries and woes rather than God's blessings that come to us through others. We seem to harbor problems and losses deep within us and tend to lose sight of God's gracious and generous gifts.

Although it is normal and natural to bring our needs and necessities to God, we must never lose sight of our obligation to express our gratitude to Him for everything that we have - big or little. If we truly love and worship Him, our lives will be one continuous celebration of thanksgiving. What can you thank Him for right now?

Prayer: Father, we ask that You will open our eyes to all of the gifts that You constantly lavish upon us. Make us aware of all that You constantly do for us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:18



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

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 24 of 74

2023 Community Events

- 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)
- 01/31/2023-02/03/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Drop Off 6-9pm, Community Center
- 02/04/2023-02/05/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Sale 1-5pm, Community Center
- 02/25/2023 Littles and Me, Art Making 10-11:30am, Wage Memorial Library
- 03/25/2023 Spring Vendor Fair, 10am-3pm, Community Center
- 04/01/2023 Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39 6-11:30pm
- 04/06/2023 Groton Career Development Event
- 04/08/2023 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)
- 06/16/2023 SDSU Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament
- 06/17/2023 Groton Triathlon
- 07/04/2023 Couples Firecracker Golf Tournament
- 07/09/2023 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/26/2023 GGA Burger Fundraiser Lunch at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 08/04/2023 Wine on Nine 6pm
- 08/11/2023 GHS Basketball Golf Tournament
- 09/09/2023 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/10/2023 Couples Sunflower Golf Tournament
- 10/14/2023 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
- 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)
- 12/02/2023 Tour of Homes & Holiday Party
- 12/09/2023 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9-11am

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 25 of 74

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 26 of 74



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.09.23

4 37 46 48 51 19

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$99,000,000

NEXT 2 Days 15 Hrs 30
DRAW: Mins 41 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.08.23

7 18 24 29 44 6

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,800,000

NEXT 15 Hrs 30 Mins 41
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.09.23

6 12 15 41 46 8

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT 15 Hrs 40
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.06.23

2 9 10 14 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$51,000

NEXT 15 Hrs 30 Mins
DRAW: 40 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.08.23

4 31 50 53 63 24

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT 15 Hrs 29 Mins 41
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.08.23

15 20 33 36 43 12

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$109,000,000

NEXT 15 Hrs 29 Mins 41
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

Reporter pleads guilty to prank using Noem's cell number

STIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A broadcast reporter pleaded guilty Tuesday to a misdemeanor disorderly conduct charge filed after he made a prank phone call using South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem's personal cell phone number.

Reporter Austin Goss pleaded guilty to the misdemeanor that stemmed from a pre-recorded prank call he made Jan. 22 to Dan Lederman, the former chairman of the South Dakota Republican Party. The call, which came from a website called PrankDial, made it appear it was coming from Noem's cell phone.

Goss was fired from his job as the Capitol bureau reporter for Dakota News Now after the news organization learned of the matter. He initially was charged with a misdemeanor count of making threatening, harassing or misleading contacts, which carried a maximum penalty of one year's imprisonment and \$2,000 in fines.

Goss' lawyer, Jason Glodt, called the call a "practical joke" between Goss and a friend.

"The Court granted Mr. Goss a suspended imposition of sentence so there will be no conviction on his record," Glodt said in a statement. "I believe it is unfortunate he was charged in the first place, but appreciate the willingness of the State's Attorney to reduce the charge."

Reached by phone, Goss declined to give a comment about the call or his plea.

A spokesperson for Noem said the governor wouldn't have a comment about the matter.

Israel: Rocket attack underway from Gaza on southern Israel

By FARES AKRAM and ILAN BEN ZION Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — Palestinian militants fired dozens of rockets from the Gaza Strip into southern Israel on Wednesday, in a first response to Israeli airstrikes that have killed 16 Palestinians, including three senior militants and at least 10 civilians.

The rocket fire set off air-raid sirens throughout southern Israel, where residents had been bracing for an attack since Israel carried out its first airstrikes early Tuesday.

As air raid sirens continued to wail, the army said at least 60 rockets had been fired in less than an hour. There were no immediate reports of damage or injuries.

Earlier Wednesday, Israeli aircraft struck targets in Gaza a second straight day, killing at least one Palestinian and pushing the region closer toward a new round of heavy fighting.

Tuesday's strikes killed three senior Islamic Jihad militants and at least 10 civilians — most of them women and children. Palestinian militants have pledged to retaliate while Israel says it is prepared for a further escalation of hostilities.

The Israeli military said its attacks were focused on Palestinian Islamic Jihad militant infrastructure in the coastal enclave.

The army said one airstrike targeted militants traveling to a rocket launcher site in the southern Gaza Strip. Later, the army said warplanes struck suspected rocket and mortar launching sites.

Medics said the first strike killed one man and seriously wounded another. Palestinian officials could not confirm whether the men were militants.

It also remained unclear whether two Palestinians killed in a separate airstrike late Tuesday were militants or civilians. Israel has claimed the men were preparing to fire anti-tank missiles.

The Israeli military had instructed residents of southern Israel to remain near bomb shelters, and schools were still closed for a second day as a precaution against rocket attacks.

Israel says the airstrikes are a response to a barrage of rocket fire launched last week by Islamic Jihad in response to the death of one of its members from a hunger strike while in Israeli custody.

Israel says it is trying to avoid conflict with Hamas, the more powerful militant group that rules Gaza, and confine the fighting to Islamic Jihad.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 28 of 74

"Our actions are meant to prevent further escalation," said Rear Adm. Danny Hagari, the Israeli military's chief spokesman. "Israel is not interested in war."

But Hamas has expressed solidarity with its smaller counterpart, and the two groups often coordinate with one another.

If the violence continues, the risk of a full-blown war could increase. Israel and Hamas have fought four wars since the Islamic group, which opposes Israel's existence, took control of Gaza in 2007.

Earlier on Wednesday, the military said that Palestinian gunmen opened fire at troops in the Palestinian town of Qabatiya in the northern West Bank during an army raid. Troops returned fire, killing the two men, and confiscated their firearms, it said.

The Palestinian Health Ministry identified the slain men as Ahmed Assaf, 19, and Rani Qatanat, 24. The Islamic Jihad militant group later claimed the two men as its members.

Israel has been conducting near-daily military raids in the occupied West Bank for over a year to detain suspected Palestinian militants, including many from Islamic Jihad. The northern West Bank city of Jenin and its environs have been the frequent target of such raids as it has emerged as a hub of Palestinian militant activity.

Israel says the raids in the West Bank are meant to dismantle militant networks and thwart future attacks.

At least 107 Palestinians, around half of them militants, have been killed by Israeli fire in the occupied West Bank since the start of 2023, according to an Associated Press tally. At least 20 people have been killed in Palestinian attacks targeting Israelis.

Israel captured the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians seek all three areas for a future state.

Imran Khan in court as more violence erupts in Pakistan

By MUNIR AHMED and RIAZAT BUTT Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Pakistan's former Prime Minister Imran Khan appeared in court Wednesday, a day after he was dragged from another court and arrested in Islamabad, setting off clashes between his supporters and police. Angry protesters stormed and set fire to a building housing Radio Pakistan in the northwest as the death toll from the violence rose to four.

In Islamabad, a judge was asked to approve keeping the 70-year-old opposition leader in custody for up to 14 days. Khan, who lost power last year but remains the country's most popular opposition figure, is the seventh former prime minister to be arrested in Pakistan.

His dramatic arrest on Tuesday deepened the political turmoil and sparked violent demonstrations. Two people were killed first, one Tuesday in the southwestern city of Quetta and another in the northwestern city of Peshawar overnight. Two more were in clashes with police Wednesday in Peshawar.

In eastern Punjab province, where authorities said 157 police officers were injured in clashes with Khan supporters, the local government asked the army to step in and restore order.

Pakistan's GEO television broadcast footage showing Khan appearing before a judge at a temporary court inside a police compound Wednesday. The former premier was seen seated in a chair, holding documents. He appeared calm but tired.

The judge is expected to rule on the request for a 14-day detention later in the day. Meanwhile, Khan's legal team challenged his arrest before the Islamabad High Court, seeking his release.

Also in Peshawar, Khan's supporters raided the building housing Radio Pakistan, damaging equipment and setting fire to it, said police official Naeem Khan. Some of the employees were trapped inside, he said, and police were trying to restore order.

Khan's Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf party had called for demonstrators to remain peaceful, hours after mobs angered over the dramatic arrest set fire to the residence of a top army general in the eastern city of Lahore.

When he was arrested on Tuesday, Khan was appearing in court on multiple graft charges brought by Islamabad police. As he showed up in court, dozens of agents from the National Accountability Bureau

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 29 of 74

backed by paramilitary troops stormed the courtroom, breaking windows after Khan's guards refused to open the door.

Khan's supporters attacked the military's headquarters in the garrison city of Rawalpindi near the capital, Islamabad, but did not reach the main building housing the offices of army chief Gen. Asim Munir.

Other demonstrators tried to reach the prime minister's residence in Lahore, but were driven off by baton-wielding in police. Others attacked vehicles carrying troops and hit armed soldiers with sticks. So far, police and soldiers have not fired at protesters.

The military has not commented on the attacks on its facilities. None of the leaders from Khan's party denounced the attacks on the military.

A police statement Wednesday said officers in eastern Punjab province arrested 945 Khan supporters since Tuesday — including Asad Umar, a senior leader from Khan's party. Dozens of Khan supporters were also detained in Islamabad, Karachi, Peshawar and elsewhere.

Shah Mahmood Qureshi, senior vice president from Khan's party, appealed for peaceful demonstrations Wednesday, urging followers: "Don't damage public property, don't attack offices, as we are peace lovers." He said the party is considering challenging Khan's arrest in the Supreme Court.

By morning, police said some 2,000 protesters still surrounded the fire-damaged residence in Lahore of Lt. Gen. Salman Fayyaz Ghani, a top regional commander. They chanted slogans at the military, including "Khan is our red line and you have crossed it." Ghani and his family members were moved to a safer place when the mob on Tuesday first attacked their sprawling house.

Police deployed in force across the country, and placed shipping containers on a road leading to the sprawling police compound in Islamabad where Khan is being held and where he appeared before a judge at the temporary court placed there for security reasons, according to the government.

Amid violence, Pakistan's telecommunication authority on Tuesday blocked social media, including Twitter. The government also suspended internet service in Islamabad and other cities. Classes at some private schools were canceled for Wednesday.

Rights group Amnesty International said it was alarmed by reports of Pakistani authorities blocking access to mobile internet networks and social media — Twitter, Facebook, and YouTube are suspended for a second day. Amnesty urged authorities to show restraint, saying clashes between law enforcement and Khan's supporters risk human rights violations.

The National Accountability Bureau has detained and investigated former officials, including former prime ministers, politicians and retired military officers. But some view the NAB as a tool used by those in power, especially the military, to crack down on political opponents.

When Khan was in power, his government arrested Shahbaz Sharif, then the opposition leader, through the NAB. Sharif was facing multiple corruption cases when he managed to oust Khan in a 2022 no-confidence vote. The charges were later dropped, citing a lack of evidence.

Prime Minister Sharif returned to Pakistan on Wednesday from a U.K. trip and was to hold a Cabinet meeting on the latest developments. His brother, Nawaz Sharif, who also served as prime minister, was arrested several times on corruption allegations.

In March, police stormed Khan's Lahore residence, seeking to arrest him in a corruption case related to hiding income from the sale of official gifts.

Later Wednesday, Khan appeared in a different courtroom at the high security court and was indicted in the lingering graft case, pleading not guilty, local media said.

As violence spread, diplomats from various countries and common people in Pakistan stayed home. The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad canceled all its Wednesday consular appointments following Khan's arrest and issued a nationwide alert, telling Americans to review their personal security plans and avoid large crowds.

Associated Press writers Riaz Khan in Peshawar and Babar Dogar in Lahore, Pakistan, contributed to this story.

The story has been corrected to show that Imran Khan is 70 years old, not 71.

Britain: 1st babies born in country using DNA from 3 people

By MARIA CHENG AP Medical Writer

LONDON (AP) — Britain's fertility regulator said the first babies created using an experimental technique combining DNA from three people have been born, in an effort to prevent the children from inheriting rare genetic diseases.

Britain's Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority said fewer than five babies have been born this way, but no further details have been released to protect the families' identities. The news was first reported by the Guardian newspaper.

The U.K. was the first country in the world to adopt legislation in 2015 specifically regulating such methods, which help prevent women with faulty mitochondria — the energy source in a cell — from passing on to their babies defects that can result in diseases such as muscular dystrophy, epilepsy, heart problems and intellectual disabilities. About one in 200 children in Britain is born with a mitochondrial disorder.

For a woman with faulty mitochondria, scientists take the genetic material from her egg or embryo. They then transfer that into a donor egg or embryo that still has its healthy mitochondria but has had the rest of its key DNA removed. The fertilized embryo is then transferred into the womb of the mother. The genetic material from the donated egg comprises less than 1% of the child's genetics.

"Mitochondrial donation treatment offers families with severe inherited mitochondrial illness the possibility of a healthy child," the U.K. fertility regulator said in a statement Wednesday. The agency said it was still "early days" and was hopeful the scientists involved, at Newcastle University, would soon publish details of the treatment.

Britain requires that every woman undergoing the treatment be approved by its fertility regulator, which says there must be no other options available for the family to avoid passing on genetic disease. To date, 32 patients have been given the green light to receive such treatment.

Many critics oppose the artificial reproduction techniques, arguing that there are other ways for people to avoid passing on diseases to their children, like egg donation or screening tests, and that the experimental methods have not yet proven to be safe.

Others warn that tweaking the genetic code this way could be a slippery slope that eventually leads to designer babies, where parents not only aim to avoid inherited diseases but also seek taller, stronger, smarter or better-looking children.

Robin Lovell-Badge, a stem cell expert at the Francis Crick Institute, said it would be critical to monitor the babies' future development.

"It will be interesting to know how well the (mitochondrial donation) technique worked at a practical level, whether the babies are free of mitochondrial disease and whether there is any risk of them developing problems later in life," he said in a statement.

Scientists in Europe published research earlier this year that showed in some cases, the small number of abnormal mitochondria that are inevitably carried over from the mother's egg to the donor's can reproduce when the baby is in the uterus, which could ultimately lead to a genetic disease.

Lovell-Badge said the reasons for such problems were not yet understood and that researchers would need to develop methods to reduce the risk.

Doctors in the U.S. announced the birth of the world's first baby using the mitochondria donation technique in 2016, after the treatment was conducted in Mexico.

UK tabloid group admits it unlawfully gathered info on Harry

By BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The publisher of British tabloid the Daily Mirror has acknowledged and apologized for unlawfully gathering information about Prince Harry in its reporting, and said it warrants compensation, at the outset of the prince's first phone hacking trial Wednesday.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 31 of 74

The admission was made in court filings outlining Mirror Group Newspapers' defense.

The group continued to deny that it hacked phones to intercept voicemail messages, and said that Harry and three less-well-known celebrities brought their claims beyond a time limit.

But it acknowledged there was "some evidence of the instruction of third parties to engage in other types of UIG (unlawful information gathering) in respect of each of the claimants," which includes the Duke of Sussex. It said this "warrants compensation" but didn't spell out what form that might take.

"MGN unreservedly apologizes for all such instances of UIG, and assures the claimants that such conduct will never be repeated," the court papers said.

The publisher said its apology was not a tactical move to reduce damages but was done "because such conduct should never have occurred."

The trial is Harry's opening salvo in his legal battle against the British press. Harry and the other celebrities are suing the former publisher of the Daily Mirror for alleged invasion of privacy.

The case is the first of the duke's three phone hacking lawsuits and threatens to do something he said his family long feared: put a royal on the witness stand to discuss embarrassing revelations.

The activities in question stretch back more than two decades, when journalists and private eyes intercepted voicemails to snoop on members of the royal family, politicians, athletes, celebrities and even crime victims. A scandal erupted when the hacking was revealed.

Harry is expected to testify in person in June, his lawyer has said. It won't be his first time in the High Court, following his surprise appearance last month to observe most of a four-day hearing in one of his other lawsuits.

He did not show up for opening statements in the trial. Harry breezed through London for Saturday's coronation of his father, King Charles III, before leaving immediately after the ceremony to fly back to California to be with his family for his son's birthday.

The prince has waged a war of words against British newspapers in legal claims and in his best-selling memoir "Spare," vowing to make his life's mission reforming the media that he blames for the death of his mother, Princess Diana. She died in a car wreck in Paris in 1997 while trying to evade paparazzi.

Harry has also sued the publishers of the Daily Mail and The Sun over the phone hacking scandal that metastasized after a year-long inquiry into press ethics in 2011 revealed that employees of the now-defunct News of the World tabloid eavesdropped on mobile phone voicemails.

Harry has outlined his grievances against the media in court papers, saying the press hounded him since his earliest days and created a narrative that portrayed him as "the 'thicko,' the 'cheat,' the 'under-age drinker.'" His relationships with girlfriends were wrecked by "the entire tabloid press as a third party."

"Looking back on it now, such behavior on their part is utterly vile," he said in a witness statement in a similar case.

His lawsuits could further roil family relations that have been strained since Harry and his wife, Meghan, left royal life in 2020 and moved to the United States after complaining about racist attitudes from the British press.

Mirror Group Newspapers and other publishers have primarily defended themselves by asserting that Harry failed to bring his cases within a six-year year time limit. The duke's lawyer has argued that an exception should be applied because publishers actively concealed the skullduggery.

In a stunning revelation last month that dredged up an embarrassing chapter in his father's life, Harry blamed his delay in bringing suit, in part, on his family.

He asserted he was barred from bringing a case against The Sun and other newspapers owned by media magnate Rupert Murdoch because of a "secret agreement" — allegedly approved of by Queen Elizabeth II — that called for reaching a private settlement and getting an apology.

"The reason for this was to avoid the situation where a member of the royal family would have to sit in the witness box and recount the specific details of the private and highly sensitive voicemails that had been intercepted," Harry said in a witness statement against News Group Newspapers.

"The institution was incredibly nervous about this and wanted to avoid at all costs the sort of reputational

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 32 of 74

damage that it had suffered in 1993," he said, alluding to a transcript of a leaked recording — published in the Sunday Mirror — of an intimate conversation his father, then Prince of Wales, had with his paramour, now Queen Camilla, in which he compared himself to a tampon.

Harry said his brother, Prince William, had quietly settled his own hacking claims with News Group for "huge sum of money" in 2020. He also claimed his father had directed palace staff to order him to drop his litigation because it was bad for the family.

Murdoch's company denied there was a "secret agreement" and wouldn't comment on the alleged settlement. The palace hasn't responded to requests for comment.

Harry has alleged that reporters at the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror and Sunday People used illegal methods to gather material from his family and friends for nearly 150 articles. The newspaper has said he is wrong about how its reporters got information, saying they used legal methods for many articles.

In 2015, publishers of The Mirror printed a front-page apology for phone hacking and tripled its fund to 12 million pounds (\$15 million) to compensate victims.

Mirror Group said more than 600 of some 830 claims had been settled. Of the remaining 104 cases, 86 were brought too late to be litigated, it said in court papers.

"Where historical wrongdoing has taken place, we have made admissions, take full responsibility and apologize unreservedly," a spokesperson for Mirror Group Newspapers said in advance of the trial. "But we will vigorously defend against allegations of wrongdoing where our journalists acted lawfully."

The lawsuits were combined as a test case that could determine the outcome of hacking claims also made against Mirror Group by former Girls Aloud member Cheryl, the estate of the late singer George Michael, and former soccer player Ian Wright.

Hackers aim to find flaws in AI — with White House help

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

No sooner did ChatGPT get unleashed than hackers started "jailbreaking" the artificial intelligence chatbot — trying to override its safeguards so it could blurt out something unhinged or obscene.

But now its maker, OpenAI, and other major AI providers such as Google and Microsoft, are coordinating with the Biden administration to let thousands of hackers take a shot at testing the limits of their technology.

Some of the things they'll be looking to find: How can chatbots be manipulated to cause harm? Will they share the private information we confide in them to other users? And why do they assume a doctor is a man and a nurse is a woman?

"This is why we need thousands of people," said Rumman Chowdhury, lead coordinator of the mass hacking event planned for this summer's DEF CON hacker convention in Las Vegas that's expected to draw several thousand people. "We need a lot of people with a wide range of lived experiences, subject matter expertise and backgrounds hacking at these models and trying to find problems that can then go be fixed."

Anyone who's tried ChatGPT, Microsoft's Bing chatbot or Google's Bard will have quickly learned that they have a tendency to fabricate information and confidently present it as fact. These systems, built on what's known as large language models, also emulate the cultural biases they've learned from being trained upon huge troves of what people have written online.

The idea of a mass hack caught the attention of U.S. government officials in March at the South by Southwest festival in Austin, Texas, where Sven Cattell, founder of DEF CON's long-running AI Village, and Austin Carson, president of responsible AI nonprofit SeedAI, helped lead a workshop inviting community college students to hack an AI model.

Carson said those conversations eventually blossomed into a proposal to test AI language models following the guidelines of the White House's Blueprint for an AI Bill of Rights — a set of principles to limit the impacts of algorithmic bias, give users control over their data and ensure that automated systems are used safely and transparently.

There's already a community of users trying their best to trick chatbots and highlight their flaws. Some are official "red teams" authorized by the companies to "prompt attack" the AI models to discover their

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 33 of 74

vulnerabilities. Many others are hobbyists showing off humorous or disturbing outputs on social media until they get banned for violating a product's terms of service.

"What happens now is kind of a scattershot approach where people find stuff, it goes viral on Twitter," and then it may or may not get fixed if it's egregious enough or the person calling attention to it is influential, Chowdhury said.

In one example, known as the "grandma exploit," users were able to get chatbots to tell them how to make a bomb — a request a commercial chatbot would normally decline — by asking it to pretend it was a grandmother telling a bedtime story about how to make a bomb.

In another example, searching for Chowdhury using an early version of Microsoft's Bing search engine chatbot — which is based on the same technology as ChatGPT but can pull real-time information from the internet — led to a profile that speculated Chowdhury "loves to buy new shoes every month" and made strange and gendered assertions about her physical appearance.

Chowdhury helped introduce a method for rewarding the discovery of algorithmic bias to DEF CON's AI Village in 2021 when she was the head of Twitter's AI ethics team — a job that has since been eliminated upon Elon Musk's October takeover of the company. Paying hackers a "bounty" if they uncover a security bug is commonplace in the cybersecurity industry — but it was a newer concept to researchers studying harmful AI bias.

This year's event will be at a much greater scale, and is the first to tackle the large language models that have attracted a surge of public interest and commercial investment since the release of ChatGPT late last year.

Chowdhury, now the co-founder of AI accountability nonprofit Humane Intelligence, said it's not just about finding flaws but about figuring out ways to fix them.

"This is a direct pipeline to give feedback to companies," she said. "It's not like we're just doing this hackathon and everybody's going home. We're going to be spending months after the exercise compiling a report, explaining common vulnerabilities, things that came up, patterns we saw."

Some of the details are still being negotiated, but companies that have agreed to provide their models for testing include OpenAI, Google, chipmaker Nvidia and startups Anthropic, Hugging Face and Stability AI. Building the platform for the testing is another startup called Scale AI, known for its work in assigning humans to help train AI models by labeling data.

"As these foundation models become more and more widespread, it's really critical that we do everything we can to ensure their safety," said Scale CEO Alexandr Wang. "You can imagine somebody on one side of the world asking it some very sensitive or detailed questions, including some of their personal information. You don't want any of that information leaking to any other user."

Other dangers Wang worries about are chatbots that give out "unbelievably bad medical advice" or other misinformation that can cause serious harm.

Anthropic co-founder Jack Clark said the DEF CON event will hopefully be the start of a deeper commitment from AI developers to measure and evaluate the safety of the systems they are building.

"Our basic view is that AI systems will need third-party assessments, both before deployment and after deployment. Red-teaming is one way that you can do that," Clark said. "We need to get practice at figuring out how to do this. It hasn't really been done before."

Trump appearing at CNN town hall after sex assault verdict

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

Former President Donald Trump will return to CNN's airwaves on Wednesday, joining the network for a two-hour town hall event in early-voting New Hampshire a day after a civil jury found him liable for sexually assaulting an advice columnist nearly three decades ago.

The forum, which was publicly announced last week, was expected to be notable because it would be bringing together a network and a candidate who have long sparred with each other. But the stakes raised considerably Tuesday after jurors in New York found Trump had sexually abused and defamed E.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 34 of 74

Jean Carroll, though it rejected her claim that he raped her. The jury awarded her \$5 million in damages.

While the civil trial verdict carries no criminal penalties, it nonetheless revives attention on the myriad investigations facing Trump, who was indicted in New York in March for hush money payments made to women who had accused him of sexual encounters. Trump is also facing investigations in Georgia and Washington over his alleged interference in the 2020 election and his handling of classified documents and potential obstruction of justice.

It also returns focus to questions over Trump's treatment of women over the years, raising the stakes for an event at which he will be forced to respond to tough questioning from host Kaitlan Collins and the audience. Carroll is one of more than a dozen women who have accused Trump of sexual assault or harassment over the years, allegations Trump has denied.

Trump historically has not reacted well when pressed on stage about his behavior toward women, most notably during the first Republican presidential debate of 2015, when he sparred with then-Fox News host Megyn Kelly. He later said she had "blood coming out of her wherever" when she was questioning him.

Trump has a much more contentious relationship with CNN than he had with Fox at the time. Trump has called the network "fake news" and has sparred personally with Collins. She was once barred from a Rose Garden event after Trump's team got upset with her shouted questions at an earlier Oval Office availability.

Nonetheless, Trump's team saw the invitation from CNN as an opportunity to connect with a broader swath of voters than those who usually tune into the conservative outlets he favors.

"President Trump has been battle-tested and is a proven winner. He doesn't shy away from anything and faces them head on," said Trump spokesperson Steven Cheung.

The appearance will also serve as yet another contrast with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is seen as a top rival to Trump for the GOP presidential nomination and is expected to launch his campaign in the coming weeks. DeSantis has taken a sheltered media approach, largely eschewing questions from the mainstream press while embracing Fox News, which was once a loyal Trump cheerleader but which Trump now frequently denigrates.

In response, Trump's team has turned to new channels, including popular conservative podcasts and made-for-social-media videos that often rack up hundreds of thousands of views. His team has also been inviting reporters from a variety of outlets to ride aboard his plane and has been arranging unadvertised stops at local restaurants and other venues to show him interacting with cheering supporters, in contrast to the less charismatic DeSantis.

It remains unclear how or whether Tuesday's verdict will have any impact on the race. Trump's indictment in New York only seemed to improve his standing in the GOP primary, and his top rivals largely avoided commenting Tuesday night, with a couple of exceptions.

Former Arizona Gov. Asa Hutchinson, a vocal Trump critic, called the accusations "another example of the indefensible behavior of Donald Trump." Tech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy came to his defense and said he doubted a case would have even been brought if the defendant had been someone other than Trump.

Even before Tuesday's verdict, the CNN town hall — the first major television event of the 2024 presidential campaign — had raised suspicion from both sides of the political divide.

Democrats questioned whether a man who continues to spread lies about his 2020 election loss — lies that sparked a deadly insurrection — should be given a primetime airtime platform. Conservatives wondered why Trump would appear on — and potentially give a ratings bump to — a network that he has continually disparaged as "fake news."

A Trump adviser, who was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said CNN executives had made a compelling pitch to the former president during talks.

The adviser also noted that Trump found success in 2016 by stepping outside Republicans' traditional comfort zone.

The former president plugged his appearance in a statement posted before Tuesday's verdict, saying CNN was "rightfully desperate" to get a ratings bump from him.

"They made me a deal I couldn't refuse!!!" he wrote on Truth Social. "Could be the beginning of a New

& Vibrant CNN, with no more Fake News, or it could turn into a disaster for all, including me. Let's see what happens? Wednesday Night at 8:00!!!"

Biden ramps up pressure on House GOP in debt limit battle

By SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Fresh off a White House meeting with no serious breakthrough on the debt limit standoff, President Joe Biden is launching a new phase of his pressure campaign against House Republicans as he makes his case that lawmakers should lift the nation's borrowing authority without any strings attached.

Biden will travel to Valhalla, New York, on Wednesday to argue that a measure passed by House GOP lawmakers that would lift the debt limit for about a year while curbing some federal spending would impose cuts for veterans care, educators and other domestic priorities. The area is represented by first-term Republican Rep. Mike Lawler, whose district Biden won in 2020.

The White House will use the trip to trumpet what it says is economic progress under the Democratic president — pointing to the number of jobs created during his term and a fresh focus on domestic manufacturing — while warning that an unprecedented debt default would threaten millions of jobs and raise the prospect of a recession.

Back in Washington, senior White House officials and congressional aides were starting to discuss a path to avert a catastrophic debt default as soon as June 1, in preparation for another meeting between Biden and top Capitol Hill leaders later this week. But House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., showed few signs that he and House Republicans were willing to budge from their debt limit proposal, and Biden underscored again that their plan was a non-starter with him.

"He's proposed deep cuts that I believe will hurt American families," Biden told reporters after his meeting with McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., and Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.

Biden in his remarks also will invoke the specter of cuts to veterans' care, an issue that has become particularly sensitive in the back-and-forth rhetoric between the White House and congressional Republicans. When the president suggested during the meeting that the House GOP plan could end up cutting benefits to veterans, McCarthy told reporters that he shot back that was a "lie." But Biden disputed that it was a lie, saying that the across-the-board cuts would affect veterans' care and other vital domestic programs.

The stalemate comes as the U.S. government is rapidly bumping up against its legal borrowing authority, meaning that it may not be able to pay its bills as early as the start of next month unless lawmakers agree to lift the limit.

Biden is also scheduled to spend a week abroad on a trip to Japan, Australia and Papua New Guinea later this month. He said postponing his travel is "possible but not likely."

With debt talks showing minimal progress, the White House hopes that Biden's public relations campaign — starting in a congressional district that will be key for Democrats seeking to wrest House control back from Republicans next year — increases pressure on GOP lawmakers who can't afford politically to alienate moderate voters. Lawler, as one of 18 House Republicans hailing from a congressional district won by Biden, is a prime target for the White House.

Still, Lawler accepted the invitation from the White House, "maybe to their surprise," the lawmaker said in an interview Tuesday. He said it was a "little disappointing" that Biden was spending his time traveling his district rather than negotiating with other leaders in Washington.

"Nobody wants to see us default. Nobody wants to see us not raise the debt limit. But they also don't want to see us continue to spend money that we don't have," Lawler said. "When I'm out talking to folks in my community, my district, by and large they agree with my stance."

Despite Lawler's presence at the event, at Westchester Community College, Biden is "always going to be honest with the American people," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Tuesday.

"The president is going to drive home the impact of these current discussions that we're having — the economy, how it affects real hardworking Americans. That's what you're going to hear from the president," she said. "He'll be very clear about that. He'll be clear about what could potentially happen."

House Republicans, in their debt measure that passed in April, are aiming for \$4.5 trillion in deficit savings through cuts in spending, eliminating tax breaks for investing in clean energy, and undoing the Biden administration's proposal that would forgive student loan debt. The White House has made it clear that Biden would veto that legislation.

Democrats, who control the Senate by 51-49, are calling for a "clean" debt limit hike without any conditions such as spending cuts, but any such measure would require the support of at least nine Republican senators, and most of them say they will oppose doing so.

While in New York on Wednesday, Biden, who formalized his reelection campaign on April 25, also will hold a pair of fundraisers.

AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro contributed to this report.

As more women forgo the hijab, Iran's government pushes back

By NASSER KARIMI and JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Billboards across Iran's capital proclaim that women should wear their mandatory headscarves to honor their mothers. But perhaps for the first time since the chaotic days following Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, more women — both young and old — choose not to do so.

Such open defiance comes after months of protests over the September death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in the custody of the country's morality police, for wearing her hijab too loosely. While the demonstrations appear to have cooled, the choice by some women not to cover their hair in public poses a new challenge to the country's theocracy. The women's pushback also lays bare schisms in Iran that had been veiled for decades.

Authorities have made legal threats and closed down some businesses serving women not wearing the hijab. Police and volunteers issue verbal warnings in subways, airports and other public places. Text messages have targeted drivers who had women without head covering in their vehicles.

However, analysts in Iran warn that the government could reignite dissent if it pushes too hard. The protests erupted at a difficult time for the Islamic Republic, currently struggling with economic woes brought on by its standoff with the West over its rapidly advancing nuclear program.

Some women said they've had enough — no matter the consequence. They say they are fighting for more freedom in Iran and a better future for their daughters.

Some suggested the growing numbers of women joining their ranks might make it harder for the authorities to push back.

"Do they want to close down all businesses?" said Shervin, a 23-year-old student whose short, choppy hair swayed in the wind on a recent day in Tehran. "If I go to a police station, will they shut it down too?"

Still, they worry about risk. The women interviewed only provided their first names, for fear of repercussions.

Vida, 29, said a decision by her and two of her friends to no longer cover their hair in public is about more than headscarves.

"This is a message for the government, leave us alone," she said.

Iran and neighboring Taliban-controlled Afghanistan are the only countries where the hijab remains mandatory for women. Before protests erupted in September, it was rare to see women without headscarves, though some occasionally let their hijab fall to their shoulders. Today, it's routine in some areas of Tehran to see women without headscarves.

For observant Muslim women, the head covering is a sign of piety before God and modesty in front of men outside their families. In Iran, the hijab — and the all-encompassing black chador worn by some — has long been a political symbol as well.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 37 of 74

Iran's ruler Reza Shah Pahlavi in 1936 banned the hijab as part of his efforts to mirror the West. The ban ended five years later when his son, Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, took over. Still, many middle and upper-class Iranian women chose not to wear the hijab.

By the 1979 Islamic Revolution, some of the women who helped overthrow the shah embraced the chador, a cloak that covers the body from head to toe, except for the face. Images of armed women encompassed in black cloth became a familiar sight for Americans during the U.S. Embassy takeover and hostage crisis later that year. But other women protested a decision by Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini ordering the hijab to be worn in public. In 1983, it became the law, enforced with penalties including fines and two months in prison.

Forty years later, women in central and northern Tehran can be seen daily without headscarves. While at first Iran's government avoided a direct confrontation over the issue, it has increasingly flexed the powers of the state in recent weeks in an attempt to curb the practice .

In early April, Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei declared that "removing hijab is not Islamically or politically permissible."

Khamenei claimed women refusing to wear the hijab are being manipulated. "They are unaware of who is behind this policy of removing and fighting hijab," Khamenei said. "The enemy's spies and the enemy's spy agencies are pursuing this matter. If they know about this, they will definitely not take part in this."

Hard-line media began publishing details of "immoral" situations in shopping malls, showing women without the hijab. On April 25, authorities closed the 23-story Opal shopping mall in northern Tehran for several days after women with their hair showing were seen spending time together with men in a bowling alley.

"It is a collective punishment," said Nodding Kasra, a 32-year-old salesman at a clothing shop in the mall. "They closed a mall with hundreds of workers over some customers' hair?"

Police have shut down over 2,000 businesses across the country over admitting women not wearing the hijab, including shops, restaurants and even pharmacies, according to the reformist newspaper Shargh.

"This is a lose-lose game for businesses. If they warn (women) about not wearing the hijab as per the authorities' orders, people will boycott them," said Mohsen Jalalpour, a former deputy head of Iran's Chamber of Commerce. "If they refuse to comply, the government will close them down."

Bijan Ashtari, who writes on Iranian politics, warned that business owners who had remained silent during the Mahsa Amini-inspired protests could now rise up.

Meanwhile, government offices no longer provide services to women not covering their hair, after some had in recent months. The head of the country's track and field federation, Hashem Siami, resigned this weekend after some participants in an all-women half-marathon in the city of Shiraz competed without the hijab.

There are signs the crackdown could escalate.

Some clerics have urged deploying soldiers, as well as the all-volunteer Basij force of Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, to enforce the hijab law. The Guard on Monday reportedly seized an Iranian fishing boat for carrying women not wearing the hijab near Hormuz Island, according to the semiofficial Fars news agency.

Police also say that surveillance cameras with "artificial intelligence" will find women not wearing their head covering. A slick video shared by Iranian media suggested that surveillance footage would be matched against ID photographs, though it's unclear if such a system is currently operational .

"The fight over the hijab will remain center stage unless the government reaches an understanding with world powers over the nuclear deal and sanctions relief," said Tehran-based political analyst Ahmad Zeidabadi.

But diplomacy has been stalled and anti-government protests could widen, he said. The hijab "will be the main issue and the fight will not be about scarves only."

Sorayya, 33, said she is already fighting for a broader goal by going without the headscarf.

"I don't want my daughter to be under the same ideologic pressures that I and my generation lived through," she said, while dropping off her 7-year-old daughter at a primary school in central Tehran. "This

without major injury.

"Physically I'm fine, but psychologically I'm not okay after all that's happened," he said.

Police chief Felix Saucedo said Monday that police had not confirmed witness reports that the driver was cursing at people.

On Tuesday, Brownsville police said they were aware of a hospital toxicology report indicating Alvarez had cocaine, marijuana and Benzodiazepines in his system.

But Sandoval said the report cannot be relied upon to determine whether the driver may have legally been under the influence at the time, as those drugs can remain in one's system for days or weeks.

Police are waiting for separate toxicology reports that may be able to determine whether Alvarez had certain quantities of the drugs in his system, Sandoval added.

Those struck by the vehicle were waiting for the bus to go to downtown Brownsville after spending the night at the shelter, according to Sister Norma Pimentel, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley. It is the city's only overnight shelter and receives migrants from federal custody.

Brownsville has seen an increase of Venezuelan migrants over the last two weeks for reasons that are not yet clear, prompting city officials to indefinitely extend a declaration of emergency.

Roughly 30,000 migrants, mostly from Venezuela, have entered the U.S. in the Brownsville region since mid-April. That compares with 1,700 who Border Patrol agents encountered in the first two weeks of April.

ASEAN leaders condemn attack on aid convoy in Myanmar

By JIM GOMEZ and EDNA TARIGAN Associated Press

LABUAN BAJO, Indonesia (AP) — Southeast Asian leaders condemned an attack on an aid convoy that the regional group had arranged for displaced people in Myanmar, calling Wednesday for an immediate stop to violence and for the military government to comply with a peace plan.

Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations convened in the picturesque harbor town of Labuan Bajo in southern Indonesia at the start of a two-day summit. Their host, President Joko Widodo, called for unity amid global economic headwinds and major-power rivalry that's lashing the region.

The 10-nation bloc has come under international pressure to effectively address the crisis in Myanmar. But ASEAN members appeared to be divided on how to proceed, with some recommending to ease punitive actions aimed at isolating Myanmar's generals and invite its top diplomat and officials back to the high-profile summit meetings. "The time for isolation has served its purpose," said an internal ASEAN report obtained by The Associated Press.

Over the weekend, a convoy delivering aid to displaced villagers and carrying Indonesian and Singaporean diplomats came under fire in Myanmar's eastern Shan state. A security team with the convoy returned fire and a vehicle was damaged, but there were no injuries, state-run television MRTV reported.

Indonesia, which chairs ASEAN this year, had arranged for the aid delivery after a long-delayed assessment.

"We condemned the attack and underlined that the perpetrators must be held accountable," the ASEAN leaders said in a joint statement.

For the second year, Myanmar's top general was not invited to the summit. Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing led the army in seizing power from the elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi in February 2021, plunging the country into a civil strife and becoming ASEAN's gravest crisis since its founding in 1967.

ASEAN leaders said they were "deeply concerned with ongoing violence in Myanmar and urged the immediate cessation of all forms of violence and the use of force to create a conducive environment for the safe and timely delivery of humanitarian assistance and inclusive national dialogues."

During foreign ministers' talks ahead of the summit, however, some suggested that the group reengage Myanmar's military-led State Administration Council and "bring Myanmar back to ASEAN foreign ministers' meeting and summits, noting that the time for isolation has served its purpose," according to the ASEAN report. It did not identify the countries pushing for more leniency toward Myanmar despite international outrage against continuing military attacks in the country.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 39 of 74

The suggestion for ASEAN to bring Myanmar back into its fold was "noted," the report said, hinting it did not receive full approval from all the ministers.

The ministerial talks stressed the Myanmar crisis should not affect ASEAN's progress in building a regional community, said the report, which cited one observation that there would be no near-term solution to the Myanmar crisis.

"There was also an observation that ASEAN might be experiencing a 'Myanmar fatigue,' which might distract ASEAN from larger goals of ASEAN community-building," the report said. "Patience, flexibility and creativity are therefore required since there will be no quick fix to the crisis."

The report cited, without elaborating, concerns on rising transnational crimes, including human trafficking and illegal drug production originating from Myanmar. More alarmingly, it said, there was "a call to all parties to stop the influx of arms and financial funding into Myanmar, which leads to an escalation of the conflict."

More than 3,450 civilians have been killed by security forces since Myanmar's military took power, and thousands more remain imprisoned, said the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, which keeps tallies of casualties and arrests linked to repression by the military government.

In April, a military airstrike killed more than 160 people, including many children, who were attending a ceremony by opponents of army rule, according to witnesses cited by Human Rights Watch. The group on Tuesday described the attack in which the military dropped a devastating thermobaric or vacuum bomb as an "apparent war crime."

Indonesia has considerably eased its fierce criticism of Myanmar's military since assuming the rotating role as ASEAN's leader. Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi said her country is taking "a non-megaphone diplomacy approach" to encourage dialogue and end violence, which are goals of a five-point peace plan the leaders negotiated with Myanmar's military leader in 2021.

In a post-summit communique to be issued by Widodo on behalf of the ASEAN leaders, they plan to renew a call for self-restraint in the disputed South China Sea, repeating language used in previous ASEAN statements.

"Concerns were expressed by some ASEAN member states on the land reclamations, activities, and serious incidents in the area, including damage to the marine environment, which has eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions, and may undermine peace, security, and stability in the region," said a draft of the communique.

Associated Press journalists Andi Jatmiko and Achmad Ibrahim contributed to this report.

A 'PBGV' wins Westminster dog show, a first for the breed

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — This Buddy Holly no longer has to sigh, "That'll be the day."

A petit basset griffon Vendéen named for the late rock 'n' roll legend won best in show at the Westminster Kennel Club dog show Tuesday night, a first for the rabbit-hunting breed. Buddy Holly bested six other finalists to garner the most prestigious dog show award in the United States.

"I never thought a PBGV would do this," handler and co-owner Janice Hayes said. "Buddy Holly is the epitome of a show dog. Nothing bothers him."

Indeed, his white-tipped tail didn't stop wagging while he competed in the stadium where the U.S. Open tennis tournament's top matches are played. Not even while he posed for countless pictures after a win that Hayes called "so surreal."

"We're so proud of him," she said.

His competitors included Rummie, a Pekingese that came in second after aiming to bring home the third trophy in 11 years for his small-but-regal breed — and for handler, owner and breeder David Fitzpatrick. He guided Pokes Malachy and Wasabi to Westminster wins in 2012 and 2021, respectively.

Rummie is "true to Pekingese type, lots of carriage, presence — everything in one, here," he said Monday.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 40 of 74

Winston the French bulldog was gunning for the title after coming oh-so-close last year. An Australian shepherd named Ribbon, an English setter called Cider, a giant schnauzer named Monty and an American Staffordshire terrier called Trouble also were in the pack of contenders.

If Buddy Holly was feeling the pressure, he wasn't letting it show ahead of the finals. Instead, he seemed more concerned late Tuesday afternoon with playing with his people and rejecting the notion of a nap in his crate.

"He just screams PBGV," Hayes said. "They're just very independent but very charming and just silly. Their goal is to make you laugh every day."

Originally from France, the small hounds are the 154th most prevalent purebreds in the country, according to recent American Kennel Club rankings. (Their name means "low-lying, wire-haired dog from the Vendée region" and is pronounced *peh-TEE' bah-SAY' grihf-FAHN' vahn-DAY'-ahn*.)

Buddy Holly — so named because "he's a buddy," breeder Gavin Robertson explained — has also lived and competed in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Australia.

About 2,500 dogs of 210 breeds and varieties vied for the trophy. Among them: the newly eligible bracco Italiano breed, won by a dog co-owned by country music star Tim McGraw.

Besides the chosen finalists, there were other fan favorites, too.

There was the bloodhound that bowed deeply before a judge, the golden retriever cheered by the breed's many fans, and the spunky German shorthaired pointer that did a few leaps before its lap around the ring. Spectators applauded 10-year-old handler Audra Maes and her shiba inu, and breeder/owner/handler Alexandria Mitchell and her Ibizan hound. They made the judge's first cut, an accomplishment at a show where many exhibitors handle other people's dogs as a career.

The Westminster show, held this year at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, also includes obedience and agility competitions that are open to mixed-breed dogs.

And what was next for Buddy Holly? A good night's sleep, "upside down, rolling in pillows," Hayes said. "He just gets to go back to being a dog."

Associated Press writer Anna Furman contributed. New York-based AP journalist Jennifer Peltz has covered the Westminster dog show since 2013.

Italy begins to reckon with Fascist-era colonial collections

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ROME (AP) — For decades, Italy has worked to recover ancient Roman-era statues, Etruscan vases and other treasures that were looted from its soil and sold to museums around the world. Now, the country is coming to terms with the fact that it, too, has stolen items in its museum collections: the relics of a brutal colonial empire in North Africa that it hasn't fully reckoned with.

For over a year, a team of museum directors, university researchers and scholars has been conducting a "census" of the collections in the 498 Italian state museums to get a handle on what exactly they contain. The aim is to provide government authorities with preliminary data of the weapons, artifacts, and ritual objects Italian museums may hold, to respond to requests for restitution that have only increased amid a general reckoning over the legacies of European colonial empires and the related racial justice movements.

The survey comes as museums and governments across Europe and the Americas have undergone a sea change in giving back cultural artifacts to countries and communities of origin. These museums reason they can no longer hold the objects in good conscience if they were acquired as a result of historical violence, colonial occupation, looting or war.

Even the Vatican has gotten onto the restitution bandwagon, recently returning to Greece the three fragments of the Parthenon Marbles that it had held for two centuries. "For starters, there's the Seventh Commandment: If you steal something, you have to give it back," Pope Francis explained.

The Italian audit, begun under the previous government, is continuing under Premier Giorgia Meloni, whose Brothers of Italy party has its roots in the neo-fascist successor party of dictator Benito Mussoli.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 41 of 74

Mussolini's Fascist regime is most closely associated with Italy's North African colonies, which covered Eritrea, Ethiopia, Libya and Somalia as well as a protectorate in Albania. The empire began in the late 19th century, but Mussolini tried to expand it, only to be forced to relinquish it after World War II, with Italy's final administration of Somalia ending in 1960.

"Even though we had a more ephemeral colonial history than Britain, Germany, France or Belgium, the problem obviously cannot be underestimated by us," the Culture Ministry official in charge of museums, Massimo Osanna, told a recent conference on restitution. "We must rethink the collections, rethink the institutions and rethink the transparency of the narrative, as well as case-by-case restitutions."

Osanna has tasked a group of museum directors and academics, headed by Christian Greco, director of the Egyptian Museum in Turin, with the audit. The committee has enlisted a dozen graduate students who are helping curators go through their storerooms and archives to understand what's there.

In an interview, Greco acknowledged the issue of restitution and Italy's colonial past remains sensitive. He said he had expected resistance when his team sent out a questionnaire asking museums if they held objects that may have been acquired in ways that would be considered unethical today.

"I was expecting people to be afraid, but actually the contrary is happening, people are very excited that this is happening," he said, adding that 30 museums with substantial collections had already responded. The aim is to produce a report to the Culture Ministry by mid-year, and to then organize an international symposium in the second half of the year to discuss the findings.

"Objects just don't necessarily tell us about the past, they tell a lot about us," Greco said. "When I look at objects of ancient Egypt, do they tell me something about ancient Egyptian civilizations, or do they tell me much more about Eurocentrism?"

It seems appropriate that Italy's experiment in coming to terms with its colonial past, including the recent restitution conference, is based at the Museum of Civilizations, located in one of the huge travertine blocks of Fascist architecture in Mussolini's utopian neighborhood of EUR, in southern Rome.

The museum itself is something of a marvel, rebranded in 2016 as a compendium of 2 million objects from a half-dozen old collections: the Colonial Museum, Museum of Oriental Art, Museum of Medieval Art, the Prehistoric and Ethnographic Museum and Museum of Traditional Popular Arts.

The most problematic among them is the 12,000-piece collection from the Colonial Museum, which Mussolini himself inaugurated in 1923. Initially made up of war loot sent home by Italian military officers in North Africa, the museum wasn't aimed at teaching Italians about African cultures, but rather to show folks back home the greatness of Italy's military conquests abroad, and how they were helping provide raw materials for Italian industry.

"It was propaganda, purely a propaganda museum that had the purpose of creating a colonial consciousness in the visitor," said curator Rosa Anna Di Lella.

The museum storerooms overflow with imposing busts of mustachioed Italian military heroes; specimens of Libyan cotton, Eritrean sunflower seeds, Somali beans; and plaster facial masks made on live subjects, relics of the anthropological studies of racial typologies that are today so controversial they aren't exhibited.

It is here that Museum of Civilizations director Andrea Viliani is embarking on a radical rethink of the museum, its problematic collections and the narrative of Italy's colonial-era past, starting with a preliminary exhibition opening in June.

Alongside a section on restitution, the exhibit will include two giant wall murals that Italian troops stole from the Ethiopian parliament. Also on display: a painting of the Battle of Adwa, the decisive 1896 battle in the First Italo-Ethiopian War that (temporarily) halted the Kingdom of Italy's advance in North Africa.

Most Italian-made renditions of the battle depict the Italian "martyrs" who lost. The work going on display was painted by an Ethiopian artist and celebrates the Ethiopian victory in what came to epitomize pan-African independence at a time when European empires were carving up the continent.

Viliani said the time had come for ethnographic museums like his to tell histories in a different way, giving voice to peoples whose stories haven't been told. Italy, he said, is a bit behind other European countries,

but has a unique role to play, given it has been both perpetrator and victim of looting.

"We are at the beginning, a beginning that is still made up precisely ... of testing the ground and finding the language," he said. "It's a journey that will need more chapters, and we can't know how it will end."

For Italy, the question of restitution is not entirely unfamiliar: It has spearheaded legal frameworks to bring home thousands of antiquities stolen in recent decades from its soil by unscrupulous "tombaroli," or tomb robbers. It has won back so much loot that it recently inaugurated the Museum of Salvaged Art, where returned items spend time in Rome before being shipped back to the regions from where they were stolen.

And Italy over the years has given back plenty of Holocaust-era and other stolen loot — four returned objects were unveiled in Egypt just this week. It has also undertaken two high-profile restitutions from its colonial past: In 2005, Italy returned to Ethiopia the massive, 160-ton Axum Obelisk, which Mussolini ordered sent to Rome in 1937 after his troops overran Ethiopia. And in 2008, then-Italian Premier Silvio Berlusconi handed over to Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi the Venus of Cyrene, an ancient Roman statue taken in 1913 by Italian troops.

The statue reportedly disappeared in the chaos that engulfed Libya following the 2011 fall of Gadhafi, providing fodder to restitution critics who maintain that humanity is better served when its artifacts are safe in European museums, visible to millions, even if deprived of their cultural context.

Dan Hicks, the Oxford archaeologist who has spearheaded the restitution movement of the Benin Bronzes and other cultural artifacts, says that "retain and explain" argument is bunk and that Italy is right to be joining other European museums in handing back its loot.

Hicks, who spoke alongside Osanna at the restitution conference, has argued that anthropological museums today must now become the public spaces to debate problematic collections, while permitting also case-by-case restitutions. He says cultural audiences today no longer tolerate unethically sourced museum exhibits.

"We don't want to walk around the museums constantly having to think, 'OK, this is interesting, but is there someone, somewhere asking for it back?'" he said.

What to know about the mass shooting at a Texas mall

By JAKE BLEIBERG and GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

ALLEN, Texas (AP) — It took four minutes for a neo-Nazi with an arsenal of firearms to kill eight people and wound seven others at a Dallas-area shopping center before a police officer ended the rampage, likely saving untold lives.

The massacre Saturday sent hundreds of shoppers at the Allen Premium Outlets scrambling for cover in shops, storerooms and closed hallways. Those killed included two elementary school-age sisters, a couple and their 3-year-old son, and a security guard who had helped others escape.

Allen, a multicultural suburb of 105,000, is left as the latest U.S. community rent by an eruption of violence in a year that has seen an unprecedented pace of mass killings.

Investigators say they have yet to establish a motive and that the gunman had no criminal record. But they've acknowledged the authenticity of a social media account on which he displayed a fascination with white supremacy while offering what are, in retrospect, chilling hints of his research and planning.

Here's what to know about the shooting at the Allen Premium Outlets.

HOW DID THE SHOOTING UNFOLD?

The gunman stepped out of a silver sedan on Saturday afternoon and started shooting people, cars and glass storefronts in a rain of bullets from an AR-15 style rifle — one of eight legally purchased firearms authorities said he brought to the mall.

Witnesses recalled hearing dozens of shots as shoppers stampeded for shelter and store workers pulled people into backrooms and rolled down metal gates for protection.

"We started running. Kids were getting trampled," said Maxwell Gum, a 16-year-old pretzel stand em-

is for a better future for my daughter.”

Gambrell reported from Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Days after Texas bus stop crash, little info on the victims

By VALERIE GONZALEZ Associated Press

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — Two days after eight people were killed when an SUV slammed into a crowd waiting at a Brownsville bus stop, information on the victims remains scarce, leaving relatives of missing people scrambling to locate loved ones and pleading for information.

Authorities say the driver, 34-year-old George Alvarez of Brownsville, lost control after running a red light Sunday morning but have not ruled out that he may have intentionally plowed into the stop outside the Bishop Enrique San Pedro Ozanam Center, a shelter and hub for migrants who cross into the country from nearby Mexico.

Eighteen people were hit, and 10 critically injured.

Fingerprints were collected from the victims. All were male and several were from Venezuela, according to Brownsville police, but so far none of their identities have been released.

Police said Tuesday that the department has a list of over 120 names of people who want to know if their relatives are among the victims. They include dozens of photos and contact information submitted by desperate families, all fearing a phone call bearing bad news.

“I know everybody wants to know the names,” said Investigator Martin Sandoval, a department spokesperson.

One woman who has managed to locate a missing relative is Mileidy Gonzalez, 23, whose 45-year-old uncle, Juan Carlos Paredes was injured in the crash. She found out about it through news reports and a migrant who was staying at the shelter, and family members were able to identify Paredes in videos.

One of the relatives called multiple hospitals before finally finding her uncle. They were told he was in delicate condition, and they have not been able to communicate directly with him.

“His leg, back and a part of his clavicle. They’re waiting on specialists to know whether he needs surgery,” Gonzalez said by phone.

Another name on the police list belongs to Hector David Medina-Medero, a 24-year-old Venezuelan who cut hair at the Ozanam shelter. On Tuesday his mother was waiting outside the police department, expecting the worst.

“My son is dead. I know,” Marilyn de los Angeles Medero Piña said. “My heart tells me.”

Police will use the list to notify families once the confirmation process is complete, but circumstances of the crash have caused delays, according to Sandoval. Complicating the matter is the fact that many of the victims did not have official identification on them.

“How the accident happened, there were a lot of documents that flew everywhere,” he said. “Trying to match a document to a person in that state is kind of difficult, especially when somebody is deceased.”

Alvarez, the driver, has been charged with eight counts of manslaughter and 10 counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, with bail set at \$3.6 million. Investigators have been working to determine if the crash may have been purposeful.

Jesus Ferrer, 32, was lined up at the bus stop Sunday with a group of migrants, including some friends, when they noticed the vehicle driving in their direction.

“We spotted a gray SUV that was coming at full speed. It came toward us and veered toward us,” he said. Ferrer said the driver tried to flee afterward, but the group stopped him.

He added that the man was furious and told those who detained him arrived to “Go back to your country.”

Another witness, Luis Herrera, 36, said the driver yelled a string of Spanish-language obscenities commonly used in Mexico as he raced toward the crowd.

“You’re invading my property,” Herrera recalled him saying.

Herrera was tossed aside by the vehicle and hurt his wrist, but was medically evaluated and cleared

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 44 of 74

ployee. "My co-worker picked up a 4-year-old girl and gave her to her parents."

Outside the locked rooms, security guard Christian LaCour had just helped someone get to safety and was trying to evacuate others when he was fatally shot, Allen Police Chief Brian Harvey said at a news conference Tuesday.

An Allen police officer who happened to be nearby saved "countless lives" by killing the gunman within four minutes of the attack's start, authorities said.

Shoppers sheltered inside storerooms for an hour or more as police cleared the sprawling mall shop by shop. As they were allowed to leave, some walked past bloodied bodies on the ground.

Fontayne Payton, 35, who was at H&M when he heard gunshots, recalled seeing small corpses covered in white towels and praying that they weren't children. "It broke me when I walked out to see that," he said.

WHO WERE THE VICTIMS?

The neo-Nazi's victims represented a cross-section of the increasingly diverse Dallas suburbs.

Sofia Mendoza, a second-grader at Cox Elementary School, and her big sister, fourth-grader Daniela Mendoza, were among them. Principal Krista Wilson called them "the kindest, most thoughtful students" in a letter to parents. Their aunt, Anabel Del Angel, said their mother was wounded.

"The girls have left a void that nothing in the world could ever fill. Please pray for their mom, my sister, and her broken heart," Del Angel wrote in a fundraising post verified by GoFundMe.

Three members of a Korean American family were killed: Kyu Song Cho, 37, and Cindy Cho, 35, and their 3-year-old son. Another son was wounded. Kyu Cho was a managing partner at the law firm Porter Legal Group. "He was loved and respected," the firm said.

LaCour, the 20-year-old security guard, was known to stop by the mall's Tommy Hilfiger clothing store.

"He was very young, very sweet, came in all the time to visit with us," said the store's assistant manager, Andria Gaither, who fled the gunshots Saturday.

Aishwarya Thatikonda, 26, was from India, the daughter of a judge in Hyderabad. She held a graduate degree in construction management and worked as a civil engineer at the Dallas-area firm Perfect General Contractors.

"She came to the United States with a dream to make a career, build a family, own a home and live forever in Dallas," company founder Srinivas Chaluvadi said in an email.

Authorities identified the eighth victim as 32-year-old Elio Cumana-Rivas.

WHO WAS THE SHOOTER?

Police said the gunman was Mauricio Garcia, who had lived in Dallas.

Garcia, 33, left a long trail of online posts describing his white supremacist and misogynistic views. He described mass shootings as sport, and posted photos showing his large Nazi tattoos and a favorite passage in the Hunger Games books marked with a swastika drawn in green highlighter.

He was Latino, and posted one cartoon image showing a Latino child at a fork in a road, with one direction labeled "act black" and the other, "become a white supremacist."

"I think I'll take my chances with the white supremacist," he wrote.

Other posts show Garcia had visited the mall weeks before he began shooting and researched when it was busiest — the same time and day as his attack.

An Army official told The Associated Press that Garcia failed to complete basic training and was kicked out for mental health reasons. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss personnel matters.

Neighbors of the family home where he lived until recently said they thought he worked as a security guard. Authorities confirmed Tuesday that Garcia had an expired license as a security guard but said it was unclear where he'd worked.

Garcia lived in a motel in the months before the shooting. He posted videos online where he described, in mind-numbing detail, the contents of his living quarters, from the posters on the wall to his shower curtain.

In one video, a rat scurries across the cluttered room.

Johnson reported from Seattle. Michelle R. Smith in Providence, Rhode Island, and Lolita C. Baldor in Washington, contributed to this report.

Robert De Niro, at 79, becomes a father for the 7th time

By The Associated Press undefined

Robert De Niro has welcomed another child. The 79-year-old is now the father of seven.

A representative for De Niro confirmed the birth to The Associated Press on Tuesday but said no other details were expected.

At a film premiere Tuesday night, De Niro told The Associated Press about becoming a father again: "It's always good and mysterious and you don't know what the hell is going to happen."

The Oscar winner is also a parent to Drena, 51, and Raphael, 46, from his first marriage; and twins, Julian and Aaron, 27; Elliot, 24; and Helen Grace, 11, from his second marriage.

De Niro is currently promoting the new comedy "About My Father," which opens on May 26.

De Niro is a two-time Oscar winner for his supporting role in "The Godfather: Part II" and best actor in "Raging Bull." In 2011, he was also honored with the Golden Globes' Cecil B. DeMille Award for his impact on the world of entertainment and awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom five years later.

___ Associated Press Writer John Carucci contributed to this report.

Kansas City considers becoming LGBTQ sanctuary city

By MARGARET STAFFORD Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A Kansas City Council committee will consider a resolution on Wednesday that would designate the city as a sanctuary for people seeking or providing gender-affirming care, even as the state's attorney general is proposing a new restrictions on the procedures for adults and children.

The resolution, which was proposed by LGTBQ advocates in Kansas City, says the city will not prosecute or fine any person or organization that seeks, provides, receives or helps someone receive gender-affirming care such as as puberty blockers, hormones and surgery.

It also says if the state passes a law or resolution that imposes criminal or civil punishments, fines, or professional sanctions in such cases, Kansas City personnel will make enforcing those requirements "their lowest priority."

The resolution comes as a judge is considering a proposed emergency rule from Missouri Attorney General Andrew Bailey that would require adults and children to undergo more than a year of therapy and fulfill other requirements before they could receive gender-affirming treatments such as puberty blockers, hormones and surgery as puberty blockers, hormones and surgery.

If the council's Transportation, Infrastructure and Operations Committee passes the resolution it could go before the Kansas City Council on Thursday.

Council member Andrea Bough, who co-sponsored the resolution with Mayor Quinton Lucas and councilman Eric Bunch, said that Bailey's proposed rule is part of a larger effort by Republican-controlled legislatures in Missouri and across the country to pass bills restricting the rights of LGBTQ residents, particularly transgender people.

Bough said members of the city's LGBTQ Commission reached out to supporters in city government for some type of response to several anti-LGBTQ proposals in this year's Missouri Legislature.

"There comes a time when you have to speak up and say to our LGTBQ residents, especially children, who are wondering if their city and state are accepting of them, we have to stand up right now and say, 'Yes, you are welcome in Kansas City, we will protect you.'"

Justice Horn, chair of the LGBTQ Commission, said the resolution is one of many steps needed to help transgender, non-binary and other LBGTQ residents of the Kansas City metro areas.

"We don't know if these state laws are going to be signed, if the attorney general's order is going to be approved," Horn said. "We didn't want (the state) to come after us, we want to be proactive and do what we can to protect the community. The basic message is that folks need to know we are going to do everything we can to ensure they have access to care."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 46 of 74

The resolution also says city personnel will not arrest or detain anyone sought by another jurisdiction for seeking gender-affirming care, respond to requests for information from other jurisdictions, or collect any civil penalties in such cases.

Horn and Bough noted that Kansas City's police force is controlled by a state-appointed Board of Police Commissioners and any possible criminal charges in gender-affirming cases would be filed by the county prosecutor rather than city prosecutors — both of which could make enforcing the resolution problematic.

"To some extent, we recognize that it may have some limitations. ... It's a statement of our policy and our goals and will hopefully send a message to those within our jurisdiction how we hope others will act as well," Bough said.

Bailey sought to impose his rule on April 27, prompting a lawsuit on behalf of transgender people. St. Louis County Judge Ellen Ribaldo initially granted a temporary restraining order and scheduled a hearing for May 11. That hearing was later delayed until July 20.

Americans likely saw little relief from inflation in April

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — After steadily declining for nearly a year, consumer price data to be released Wednesday will likely show that U.S. inflation remained stubbornly high in April, a sign that it might be entering a newer, stickier phase.

Consumer prices are forecast to have risen 0.4% from March to April, much faster than the 0.1% increase the previous month, according to a survey of economists by the data provider FactSet.

Compared with a year earlier, prices are projected to have jumped 5% in April, the same year-over-year increase as in March. If that forecast proves accurate, it would be the first time that annual inflation didn't fall after nine months of declines.

Pricier gasoline, apartment rents and possibly used cars are among the items that might have accelerated inflation last month. The cost of airline fares and hotel rooms, by contrast, are expected to have eased after months of increases.

For more than two years, high inflation has been a significant burden for America's consumers, an ongoing threat to the economy and a frustrating challenge for the Federal Reserve. Yet now, new problems are emerging.

The Fed has raised its key interest rate by a substantial 5 percentage points since March 2022 to try to drive inflation back down to its 2% target. Besides making borrowing far more expensive for consumers and businesses, those higher rates have contributed to the collapse of three large banks in the past two months and to a likely pullback in bank lending. The result could be a further weakening of the economy.

Even more ominously, the government's debt ceiling may be breached by early June, and Republicans in Congress are refusing to raise the cap unless President Joe Biden and congressional Democrats agree to sharp spending cuts. If the debt ceiling isn't raised in time, the nation would default on its debt, a scenario that could ignite a global economic crisis.

Inflation has slowed sharply since peaking at a 9.1% annual rate last June. Still, many economists say the decline so far has likely been the easy phase. The supply chain snarls that left many grocery shelves bare and delayed the delivery of furniture, cars and electronics have been resolved. Gas prices have also dropped steadily after having spiked in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, though they rose again in April after OPEC agreed to reduce oil output.

Excluding volatile food and energy costs, so-called core inflation is also expected to have stayed high last month, with economists envisioning a 0.3% increase from March to April and 5.4% from a year earlier.

The Fed and many economists closely monitor core prices, which are regarded as a better measure of longer-term inflation trends. One major driver of core inflation — apartment costs and other housing expenses — surged 8.2% in March from 12 months earlier. Most economists expect apartment rents to grow much more slowly in coming months, helping to slow inflation, as more new apartment buildings are completed.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 47 of 74

Chair Jerome Powell and other Fed officials are paying particular attention to the cost of services, excluding energy and housing. They consider rising services prices to be particularly sticky because they're heavily fueled by wage increases.

Prices for restaurant meals, airline tickets and hotel rooms have risen steadily as companies have had to raise pay in those industries to find and retain workers. Restaurant prices jumped 8.8% in March from a year ago.

"The most persistent area of inflation is in core services excluding housing, which has been running around 4.5% since last August," John Williams, president of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, said Tuesday. Williams, who is close to Powell, is an influential voice in Fed policy.

"This is driven by a continued imbalance in overall supply and demand, and it will take the longest to bring down," Williams said.

When they met last week, the Fed's policymakers agreed to raise their benchmark rate by a quarter-point, the 10th straight increase, to about 5.1% — the highest level in 16 years. The Fed's rate hikes, which are intended to cool spending, growth and inflation, have led to higher costs for mortgages, auto loans and credit card and business borrowing.

Most economists think the rate hikes will, over time, have their intended effect. Yet most also worry that the hikes will weaken the economy so much as to tip it into a recession sometime this year.

At last week's meeting, the Fed signaled that it may now pause its rate hikes and take time to monitor the effects of its policy actions on the economy, which might take many more months to become fully evident.

Biden: Debt meeting 'productive,' default 'not an option'

By ZEKE MILLER, SEUNG MIN KIM, JOSH BOAK and LISA MASCARO Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden and congressional leaders confronted each other on the debt limit impasse Tuesday, ending their meeting with no breakthrough but agreeing to meet again this week to try to avert the looming risk of an unprecedented government default.

Speaking at the White House, Biden described the talks as "productive" even though House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said after the high-stakes Oval Office meeting that he "didn't see any new movement" toward resolving the stalemate.

Lawmakers and their staffs were to continue discussions on the annual federal budget at Biden's encouragement. Biden and the congressional leaders are to meet again Friday.

After the hourlong discussion in the Oval Office, Biden said he was "absolutely certain" that the country could avert a default, declaring that failure to meet America's obligations "is not an option."

Still, time is short. The government is bumping up against its legal limit for borrowing and will not be able to pay all of its bills as soon as June 1 if Congress doesn't agree to raise the debt ceiling. That failure would send the country into default with wide-reaching economic impact at home and around the world.

Republicans came to the White House hoping to negotiate sweeping cuts to federal spending in exchange for allowing new borrowing to avoid default. Biden, on the other hand, reinforced his opposition to allowing the country's full faith and credit to be held "hostage" to negotiations — while affirming his willingness to hold talks on the budget only after default is no longer a threat.

"I told congressional leaders that I'm prepared to begin a separate discussion about my budget, spending priorities, but not under the threat of default," Biden said.

Outside the White House, McCarthy said, "I asked the president this simple question: Does he not believe there's any place we could find savings?"

As the president welcomed McCarthy, House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries, Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, he quipped to reporters, "We're going to get started, solve all the world's problems."

Biden later described the meeting's tone as "very measured and low-key," adding, "Occasionally there would be a little bit of an assertion that maybe was a little over the top from the speaker."

He especially took issue with McCarthy's branding as a lie the Democrats' assertion that the Republicans'

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 48 of 74

budget restraints would hurt veterans.

Still, Biden added, "I trust Kevin will try to do what he says."

There seemed to be at least a bit of daylight between McConnell, who has let his House counterpart take the lead in negotiations and backed him up ahead of the White House meeting, and McCarthy.

The Senate leader said: "The United States is not going to default. It never has and it never will." The speaker, though, simply said, "I've done everything in my power to make sure we will not default."

Democrats said there is room to "come together" on spending cuts as part of the budget process, but quickly jumped on McCarthy's refusal to rule out the possibility of default, with Schumer saying the Republican is "greatly endangering America."

"To use the risk of default, with all the dangers that has for the American people, as a hostage and say it's my way or no way, are mostly my way or no way, is dangerous," Schumer said.

McCarthy said Biden had directed their staffs to continue discussions, and said the leaders themselves would convene again in person Friday at the White House.

While Biden ruled out default, he also all but dismissed trying to unilaterally prevent it. He said he didn't believe invoking the 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which says the validity of the federal debt shall not be questioned, was a solution to the current impasse.

White House lawyers will pursue the idea further, he added, but "the problem is it would have to be litigated."

Before the White House meeting, both McCarthy and White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre insisted it would be simple to avert default — if only the other side capitulated.

The chasm between these opposite postures had fomented uncertainty that is roiling financial markets and threatens to turn into a tidal wave that swamps the country's economy. Default, officials say, threatens to disrupt Social Security payments to retirees, destabilize global markets and tilt the nation into a potentially debilitating recession.

Last month, House Republicans passed a sweeping bill to slash spending, an opening offer in negotiations. But that legislation has no chance in the Democratic Senate and the White House has threatened to veto it. Republicans hope that bill would achieve \$4.5 trillion in deficit savings through cuts in spending, eliminating tax breaks for investing in clean energy, and reversing Biden's plans to reduce the burdens of student loan debt.

Referring to the House bill, McCarthy said, "We both said default is not an option — but only one of us took action."

Already looking past the meeting, Biden on Wednesday is to go to Westchester County, New York, where he plans to deliver a speech on how proposed spending cuts approved by House Republicans could hurt teachers, older adults needing food aid and veterans seeking health care.

It's part of a broader campaign by Biden to try to paint the Republican cuts as draconian. Aides believe that message both strengthens his position in talks with the GOP and boosts his nascent 2024 reelection effort. His Wednesday visit will be to a congressional district won by Biden in 2020 but now represented by a Republican, Rep. Mike Lawler.

Because the House Republican bill does not specifically spell out which federal programs would be cut, Democrats have gone on offense warning of steep hits to popular programs. The Democratic-aligned group House Majority Forward announced a \$1 million campaign Tuesday amplifying such cuts, while the House Republicans' campaign committee countered with its own effort portraying Democrats as "addicted to spending."

McCarthy said his caucus would take steps to increase funding for veterans despite their overall proposal. "First of all, cutting the veterans is a lie," he said.

While calling for a "clean" increase to the debt limit, Biden has said he is open to discussion about how to reduce the federal deficit. His budget plan would trim deficits by nearly \$3 trillion over a decade, mainly through tax increases on the wealthy and changes such as letting the government negotiate over prescription drug prices.

In response to McCarthy's demand to claw back some unspent funds from his sweeping COVID-19 relief

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 49 of 74

package, Biden said he would "take a hard look" at doing so independent of the talks to raise the debt limit. "We don't need it all, but the question is what obligations were there made, commitments made, money not dispersed, etc.," Biden said, adding, "It's on the table."

Biden added the debt limit should be raised for "more than a year, so that we can move things along." The House GOP bill raised the possibility of another showdown over the government's borrowing authority in the heat of a presidential election next year.

While the financial markets have started to show some jitters, the business community has thus far largely avoided backing either side in the showdown and instead called for a deal to be struck.

"Securing a bipartisan path forward to raise the debt ceiling could not be more urgent," said Josh Bolten, the head of the Business Roundtable, a group that represents CEOs. "The cost of a default, or even the threat of a default, is simply too high."

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce suggested its own priorities for a swift deal Tuesday, saying "there are no two better places to start than permitting reform and an agreement on spending caps."

Biden's refusal to negotiate on the debt limit is informed by his firsthand experience in 2011, when he was Barack Obama's vice president and the administration made painful concessions to Republicans in an effort to avoid default. Biden has told aides it's an experience he refuses to repeat, not just for himself, but for future presidents.

Notably, though, the administration has not ruled out a short-term increase in the debt limit that would align the deadline to increase federal borrowing authority with the talks on government spending that must be resolved by Sept. 30.

Dog co-owned by country's Tim McGraw wins new breed at show

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A bracco Italiano named Lepshi won his breed's debut at the United States' most prestigious dog show. And dog lovers just might not be the only audience that won't forget something like that.

Lepshi (pronounced LEEP'-she) happens to be co-owned by country music and "1883" series star Tim McGraw. But that distinction was just playing in the background of a chorus of cheers as Lepshi and eight other examples of his handsome Italian hunting breed took their turns in the ring Tuesday at the Westminster Kennel Club dog show.

"He's a wonderful ambassador for the breed," handler Ryan Wolfe said after the 6-year-old's win. Lepshi aces the breed's trademark ground-covering trot, Wolfe explained, and "he loves everybody."

McGraw, known for hits including "Something Like That," and his wife, country luminary and "1883" co-star Faith Hill, have had a number of bracchi at home and featured them in social media posts. In one 2020 video, a bracco howls along as one of the couple's daughters sings some high notes.

"Stromboli is happy that Maggie is home from college!!!!!" McGraw wrote at the time. A message was sent Tuesday to a representative for him about Lepshi's groundbreaking Westminster win.

Wolfe, who handles the dog for McGraw and co-owners Kristi Libertore, Tony Libertore and Jenell Tonini-Zanotto, said it was "an honor to be first."

Lepshi was eliminated in the semifinals but made the judge's initial cuts in his group.

The bracco (pronounced BRAH'-koh) has an ancient heritage in Europe. It became eligible to compete at Westminster this year after getting recognized by the American Kennel Club, which is the nation's oldest dog registry and acts akin to a league for many U.S. dog shows. Recognition is voluntary and entails inking an agreed-upon standard for the dogs and various other criteria.

AKC recognition can increase everyday recognition, which has some bracco owners cautioning that would-be owners need to understand what the soulful-looking, amiable dogs require.

"We want these dogs hunting," said Siva Aiken, whose bracco Tillie-rye Hogwallop — yes, she uses that whole name — was named the breed's best female competitor Tuesday. (When a female wins, a male gets such an award.)

Bracchi can be easygoing at home, but only if they get enough activity, Aiken said. Tillie-rye Hogwallop, for instance, hunts quail, pheasant and other birds. She and Aiken's other bracchi also roam two to six miles a day (three to 9.5 km) a day at a nature preserve near Aiken's home in Aiken, South Carolina.

"It's not a breed for everyone," she said. "This breed needs to be worked."

New York-based Associated Press journalist Jennifer Peltz has covered the Westminster dog show since 2013.

Grief book author's murder charge tangled in estate dispute

By SAM METZ Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — A children's book author who prosecutors say killed her husband has been battling with his relatives over the family estate since his death last year, court documents show.

Kouri Richins, 33, is accused of poisoning her husband with a lethal dose of fentanyl at their home in a small mountain town near Park City, according to charging documents.

The murder charges filed this week come months after Richins self-published "Are you with me?" — an illustrated storybook chronicling a young boy who wonders how his deceased father remains a presence in his life.

Prosecutors allege Richins called authorities in the middle of the night in March 2022 to report that her husband, Eric Richins, was "cold to the touch." She told officers she had made her husband a mixed drink to celebrate him selling a multimillion-dollar home. She then went to soothe one of their children to sleep in the next bedroom. When she returned, she found her husband unresponsive, and she called 911, according to prosecutors.

A medical examiner later found five times the lethal dose of fentanyl in his system.

In addition to the murder charge, Richins also faces charges involving the alleged possession of GHB — a narcolepsy drug frequently used in recreational settings, including at dance clubs.

The charges are based on officers' interactions with Richins that night and the account of an "unnamed acquaintance" who claims to have sold her the fentanyl. The acquaintance told investigators they sold Richins the opioid hydrocodone once and fentanyl twice, in February and March 2022.

The charging documents allege Richins deleted text messages from the night of her husband's death before handing her phone over to investigators and may have tried to poison her husband on Valentine's Day, a month before his death.

"Shortly after their dinner, Eric became very ill. ... Eric told a friend that he thought his wife was trying to poison him," investigators wrote, referring to the Valentine's Day incident.

Richins' attorney, Skye Lazaro, declined to comment on the charges. The Utah Department of Child Protective Services did not respond to questions about where the children are while their mother is held without bail.

In Richins' book, the boy wonders if his father, who has died, notices his goals at a soccer game, his nerves on the first day of school or the presents he found under a Christmas tree.

"Yes, I am with you," an angel wing-clad father figure wearing a trucker hat responds. "I am with you when you scored that goal. ... I am with you when you walk the halls. ... I'm here and we're together."

Months before her arrest, Richins told news outlets that she decided to write "Are you with me?" after her husband unexpectedly died last year, leaving her widowed and raising three boys. She said she looked for materials for children on grieving loved ones and found few resources, so decided to create her own. She planned to write sequels.

In search warrants obtained by KSL.com and KPCW radio, family members interviewed by investigators indicate that Eric Richins was seeking to divorce Kouri and had recently changed his will and life insurance policy. One of Richins' sisters told officers that Eric had long suspected his wife of attempting to poison him, including on a vacation to Greece several years ago. The warrants describe conflict between the couple over a \$2 million home that Kouri purchased with the aim to resell it quickly despite the objections from her husband based on the price.

Civil court filings that were submitted in different cases after Eric Richins' death outline how the suspicious circumstances surrounding his death have become entangled with questions over his assets and an estate held in a trust and managed by his sister. Richins has fought with members of her deceased husband's family since the day after his death in March 2022, the documents show.

Richins and her sister-in-law had a fight the day after Eric's death at the family home, according to the documents. She subsequently sued for more than \$3.6 million and to remove Katie Richins-Benson as trustee, arguing that a prenuptial agreement she and her husband signed entitled her to his assets if he died before they divorced.

It remains unclear how the estate dispute will be affected by the murder and drug possession charges against Richins. Utah law prohibits those convicted of homicide from profiting from their crime.

Tunisian naval guard kills 3 near synagogue; 10 injured

By BOUAZZA BEN BOUAZZA Associated Press

TUNIS, Tunisia (AP) — A Tunisian naval guard shot and killed a colleague and two civilians Tuesday as he tried to reach a synagogue on the Mediterranean island of Djerba during an annual Jewish pilgrimage, the Tunisian Interior Ministry said. The attacker was slain by security guards, and 10 people were injured.

The motive for the attack was under investigation. It came as Tunisia, once a prized tourist destination and birthplace of the Arab Spring pro-democracy uprisings, has fallen into political and economic crisis.

Djerba, a picturesque island off the southern coast of Tunisia, is home to the North African country's main Jewish community.

The civilians killed were French and Tunisian, the Tunisian Foreign Ministry said. It was not immediately clear if they were pilgrims attending ceremonies at the 2,500-year-old Ghriba temple, one of Africa's oldest synagogues.

Those injured include six security agents and four civilians, the Interior Ministry said. It did not specify how they were injured or whether they were all shot by the attacker, who was not publicly identified.

The assailant, a guard affiliated with the National Guard naval center in the port town of Aghir on Djerba, first killed a colleague with his service weapon and then seized ammunition and headed toward the Ghriba synagogue, the ministry said.

When he reached the site, he opened fire on security units stationed at the temple, who fired back, killing him before he reached the entrance, the ministry said. The synagogue was locked down and those inside and outside were kept secure while authorities investigate the motives for the attack, the ministry said.

Ghayda Thabet, a member of the Tunisian Association for the Support of Minorities, was at the Ghriba synagogue and appealed for help on Facebook. "They are shooting with live ammunition. Help us," she pleaded in a post.

Videos circulating online showed panic-stricken visitors running while gunshots rang out.

It occurred during an annual pilgrimage that attracts thousands of visitors from around the world to Djerba.

In 2002, a truck bombing killed some 20 people at the entrance to the same temple during the annual Jewish pilgrimage. Al-Qaida claimed responsibility for that attack, whose victims included German and French tourists as well as Tunisians.

In 2015, an attack in Tunisia at the Mediterranean resort of Sousse killed 38, mostly British tourists. The Islamic State group claimed that attack, along with attacks that year on the famed Bardo Museum in the capital Tunis and on a bus carrying presidential guards.

Perimeter guards absent as 2 men escaped Philadelphia prison

By CLAUDIA LAUER Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — There were no corrections officers assigned specifically to watch the housing unit of a Philadelphia prison when two inmates escaped Sunday night, and no armed perimeter guards were on duty as the men broke through the prison's fence, a correctional officers union official told The

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 52 of 74

Associated Press on Tuesday.

Days later, authorities are still searching for the two men — including one who is facing charges in four murders. The men were gone for nearly 19 hours before officials knew they were missing from the Philadelphia Industrial Correctional Center.

The city's prison department is so understaffed that they have not had the armed perimeter guards on duty during that specific nighttime shift for eight or nine months, said David Robinson, president of the public service employees union's District 33 Council that represents the correctional officers.

When the prison is fully staffed, two corrections officers would be assigned to each housing unit. But with recent staffing shortages, the prison has regularly only had one officer assigned to housing units. When other officers don't report to work, or the prison reaches critically low staffing levels, one officer might be assigned to monitor multiple units, Robinson said. That's what happened the night the men escaped, he said.

"I've been talking about the staffing and safety issues for years and seemingly being ignored. I've been saying how something is going to happen, and now that something has happened, so are you listening now?" Robinson said. "Of course I'm not saying that the commissioner took a key and let them out, but vital posts were cut that could have prevented this."

In a statement late Tuesday, the executive staff of the department "categorically denied" claims that the executive office had closed posts due to a staffing shortage and that those closures enabled the escape.

Philadelphia Prisons Department Commissioner Blanche Carney said during a news conference Monday night that headcounts conducted at 11 p.m. on Sunday, 3 a.m. on Monday, and 7 a.m. on Monday reportedly showed that all prisoners were accounted for, and prison staff did not become aware of the escaped inmates until about 3 p.m. Monday. Prison officials said there was an ongoing investigation reviewing staffing assignments and security tapes.

Ameen Hurst, 18, and Nasir Grant, 24, escaped from the center, one of several prison facilities clustered together along State Road, around 8:30 p.m. Sunday by cutting a hole in a fence surrounding a recreation yard, the Philadelphia Department of Prisons said.

"We have protocols in place and those protocols were not followed," Carney said Monday. "That yard should have been secured, and the fence not breached."

Mayor Jim Kenney said that they want to find out exactly what happened. "Clearly the system screwed up and people didn't do what they're supposed to do," he said.

City officials said they were investigating what protocols were not followed and how the counts did not turn up the missing inmates until the next day.

But Robinson and others, including former City Controller Rebecca Rhynhart and prison monitors have all complained about the worsening staffing levels and the potential dangerous situations that come along with it. The department is a little more than 800 officers down, which is about 40% below the city-approved deployment plan to safely cover the jails that house about 4,300 men and women.

"Those vacancies put a huge stress on the officers present and on the day-to-day function of the jails," said Noah Barth, the prison monitoring director for the Pennsylvania Prison Society, an independent organization that monitors conditions in jails and prisons across the state and advocates for humane conditions for incarcerated people.

Barth said he didn't have access to the staffing logbooks, but said monitors for the society had previously reported issues with reported falsifications in the recreation logbooks and in laundry logs. Multiple incarcerated people in different units described being forced to sign the recreational time logbooks and then were not given that time out of their cell. Those prisoners described guards saying their phone privileges would be taken away if they complained.

Most of the reports from the society and accompanying recommendations have been met with denials or skepticism from department leaders, Barth said.

And the staffing shortages mean new officers are working extended overtime shifts.

"Literally yesterday, I had a cadet call me. He just graduated last month, and he said to me, 'I don't

want to quit, but I don't want to die either,'" Robinson said. "And I want to say hang in there, but I can't tell him stay if he feels he isn't safe."

Robinson said the council issued a no confidence vote on Commissioner Carney on May 2, and it was a unanimous vote from membership.

Philadelphia police said Hurst was arrested in March 2021. He's accused of shooting and killing a man on Christmas Eve 2020, said Frank Vanore, Philadelphia police deputy commissioner of investigations. The other three shootings happened in March 2021.

"He's a very dangerous individual from what we know, and we are looking for the public's help to get him back," Vanore said at the news conference.

Grant was being held on conspiracy drug charges and conspiracy weapons charges, Carney said. The inmates were housed in the same unit, but different cells, she said.

Robinson questioned why an inmate facing charges in four murders wasn't being housed at the Curran-Fromhold Corrections Center, which has a concrete wall rather than a fence.

Jury finds Trump liable for sexual abuse, awards accuser \$5M

By LARRY NEUMEISTER, JENNIFER PELTZ and MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A jury found Donald Trump liable Tuesday for sexually abusing advice columnist E. Jean Carroll in 1996, awarding her \$5 million in a judgment that could haunt the former president as he campaigns to regain the White House.

The verdict was split: Jurors rejected Carroll's claim that she was raped, finding Trump responsible for a lesser degree of sexual abuse. The judgment adds to Trump's legal woes and offers vindication to Carroll, whose allegations had been mocked and dismissed by Trump for years.

She nodded as the verdict was announced in a New York City federal courtroom only three hours after deliberations had begun, then hugged supporters and smiled through tears. As the courtroom cleared, Carroll could be heard laughing and crying.

Jurors also found Trump liable for defaming Carroll over her allegations. Trump did not attend the civil trial and was absent when the verdict was read.

Trump immediately lashed out on his social media site, claiming that he does not know Carroll and referring to the verdict as "a disgrace" and "a continuation of the greatest witch hunt of all time." He promised to appeal.

Trump's lawyer, Joseph Tacopina, shook hands with Carroll and hugged her lawyer, Roberta Kaplan, after the verdict was announced. Outside the courthouse, he told reporters the jury's rejection of the rape claim while finding Trump responsible for sexual abuse was "perplexing" and "strange."

"Part of me was obviously very happy that Donald Trump was not branded a rapist," he said.

He defended Trump's absence, citing the trial's "circus atmosphere." He said having Trump there "would be more of a circus."

Tacopina added: "What more can you say other than 'I didn't do it?'"

In a written statement, Kaplan said the verdict proved nobody is above the law, "not even the president of the United States."

Carroll, in her own statement, said she sued Trump to "clear my name and to get my life back. Today, the world finally knows the truth. This victory is not just for me but for every woman who has suffered because she was not believed."

It was unclear what, if any, implications the verdict would have on Trump's third presidential bid. He's in a commanding position among GOP contenders and has faced few political consequences in the wake of previous controversies, ranging from the vulgar "Access Hollywood" tape to his New York criminal indictment.

His GOP rivals were mostly silent after the verdict, a sign of their reluctance to cross Trump supporters who are critical to winning the presidential nomination. Former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, one of the few vocal Trump critics in the race, said the verdict was "another example of the indefensible behavior of Donald Trump."

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 54 of 74

Carroll was one of more than a dozen women who have accused Trump of sexual assault or harassment. She went public in a 2019 memoir with her allegation that the Republican raped her in the dressing room of a posh Manhattan department store.

Trump, 76, denied it, saying he never encountered Carroll at the store and did not know her. He has called her a "nut job" who invented "a fraudulent and false story" to sell a memoir.

Carroll, 79, sought unspecified damages, plus a retraction of what she said were Trump's defamatory denials of her claims.

The trial revisited the lightning-rod topic of Trump's conduct toward women.

Carroll gave multiple days of frank, occasionally emotional testimony, buttressed by two friends who testified that she reported the alleged attack to them soon afterward.

Jurors also heard from Jessica Leeds, a former stockbroker who testified that Trump abruptly groped her against her will on an airline flight in the 1970s, and from Natasha Stoyneff, a writer who said Trump forcibly kissed her against her will while she was interviewing him for a 2005 article.

The six-man, three-woman jury also saw the well-known 2005 "Access Hollywood" hot-mic recording of Trump talking about kissing and grabbing women without asking.

The Associated Press typically does not name people who say they have been sexually assaulted unless they come forward publicly, as Carroll, Leeds and Stoyneff have done.

The verdict comes as Trump faces an accelerating swirl of legal risks.

He's fighting a New York criminal case related to hush money payments made to a porn actor. The state attorney general has sued him, his family and his business over alleged financial wrongdoing.

Trump is also contending with investigations into his possible mishandling of classified documents, his actions after the 2020 election and his activities during the insurrection at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. Trump denies wrongdoing in all of those matters.

Carroll, who penned an Elle magazine advice column for 27 years, has also written for magazines and "Saturday Night Live." She and Trump were in social circles that overlapped at a 1987 party, where a photo documented them and their then-spouses interacting. Trump has said he doesn't remember it.

According to Carroll, she ended up in a dressing room with Trump after they ran into each other at Bergdorf Goodman on an unspecified Thursday evening in spring 1996.

They took an impromptu jaunt to the lingerie department so he could search for a women's gift and soon were teasing each other about trying on a skimpy bodysuit, Carroll testified. To her, it seemed like comedy, something like her 1986 "Saturday Night Live" sketch in which a man admires himself in a mirror.

But then, she said, Trump slammed the door, pinned her against a wall, planted his mouth on hers, yanked her tights down and raped her as she tried to break away. Carroll said she ultimately pushed him off with her knee and immediately left the store.

"I always think back to why I walked in there to get myself in that situation," she testified, her voice breaking, "but I'm proud to say I did get out."

She never called police or noted it in her diary. Carroll said she kept silent for fear Trump would retaliate, out of shame and because she worried that people would see her as somewhat responsible for being attacked.

The jury awarded Carroll \$2 million for Trump's sexual abuse and \$20,000 in punitive damages. For defamation, jurors awarded \$1 million for Trump's October statement, another \$1.7 million for harm to Carroll's reputation and \$280,000 in punitive damages.

Tacopina told jurors Carroll invented her claims after hearing about a 2012 "Law and Order" episode in which a woman is raped in the dressing room of the lingerie section of a Bergdorf Goodman store.

Carroll "cannot produce any objective evidence to back up her claim because it didn't happen," he told jurors. He accused her of "advancing a false claim of rape for money, for political reasons and for status."

In questioning Carroll, he sought to cast doubt on her description of fighting off the far heavier Trump without dropping her handbag or ripping her tights, and without anyone around to hear or see them in the lingerie section.

The lawyer pressed her about — by her own account — not screaming, looking for help while fleeing the store or seeking out medical attention, security video or police.

Carroll reproached him.

"I'm telling you he raped me, whether I screamed or not," she said.

There's no possibility of Trump being charged with attacking Carroll, as the legal time limit has long since passed.

For similar reasons, she initially filed her civil case as a defamation lawsuit, saying Trump's derogatory denials had subjected her to hatred, shredded her reputation and harmed her career.

Then, starting last fall, New York state gave people a chance to sue over sexual assault allegations that would otherwise be too old. Carroll was one of the first to file.

AP sources: US Rep. George Santos facing federal charges

By MICHAEL BALSAMO, FARNOUSH AMIRI and JAKE OFFENHARTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. Rep. George Santos, who faced outrage and mockery over a litany of fabrications about his heritage, education and professional pedigree, has been charged with federal criminal offenses, two people familiar with the matter told The Associated Press.

The charges against Santos, filed in the Eastern District of New York, remain under seal.

The people could not publicly discuss specific details of the case until it is unsealed and spoke to The AP on condition of anonymity. The unsealing would happen when Santos appears in court, which could come as soon as Wednesday.

Reached on Tuesday, Santos said, "This is news to me."

"You're the first to call me about this," he said in a brief phone interview.

A spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office declined to comment. The charges were first reported by CNN.

The New York Republican has admitted to lying about having Jewish ancestry, a Wall Street background, college degrees and a history as a star volleyball player. Serious questions about his finances also surfaced — including the source of what he claimed was a quickly amassed fortune despite recent financial problems, including evictions and owing thousands of dollars in back rent.

Santos has resisted calls to resign and recently announced he was running for reelection. He said his lies about his life story, which included telling people he had jobs at several global financial firms and a lavish real estate portfolio, were harmless embellishments of his resume.

Pressure on him to quit, though, has been intense. Reporters and members of the public hounded him. He was mocked on social media and late-night television. Fellow New York Republicans demanded he resign, saying he had betrayed voters and his own party with his lies.

Nassau County prosecutors and the New York attorney general's office had previously said they were looking into possible violations of the law.

Besides questions about his life story, Santos' campaign spending stoked scrutiny because of unusual payments for travel, lodging and other items.

The nonpartisan Campaign Legal Center lodged a complaint with the Federal Election Commission and urged regulators to investigate Santos. The "mountain of lies" Santos propagated during the campaign about his life story and qualifications, the center said, should prompt the commission to "thoroughly investigate what appear to be equally brazen lies about how his campaign raised and spent money."

In his filings with the FEC, Santos initially said he loaned his campaign and related political action committees more than \$750,000 — money he claimed came from a family company.

Yet, the wealth necessary to make those loans seems to have emerged from nowhere. In a financial disclosure statement filed with the clerk of the U.S. House in 2020, Santos said he had no assets and an annual income of \$55,000.

His company, the Devolder Organization, wasn't incorporated until spring 2021. Yet last September, Santos filed another financial disclosure form reporting that this new company, incorporated in Florida, had paid him a \$750,000 salary in each of the last two years, plus another \$1 million to \$5 million in dividends.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 56 of 74

In one interview, Santos described the Devolder Organization as a business that helped rich people buy things like yachts and aircraft.

Court records indicate Santos was the subject of three eviction proceedings in Queens between 2014 and 2017 because of unpaid rent.

Some Republicans, including those in his district, have sharply castigated Santos for his dishonesty. The Nassau County Republican Committee, which had supported his candidacy, said it would not support Santos for reelection.

Santos lost his first race for Congress in 2020 but ran again in 2022 and won in a district that is in the suburbs of Long Island and a sliver of Queens.

A local newspaper, the North Shore Leader, had raised issues about Santos' background before the election but it was not until a few weeks after the election that the depth of his duplicity became public.

The New York Times reported that companies where Santos claimed to have worked, Citigroup and Goldman Sachs, had no record of him having been an employee. Baruch College, where Santos claimed to have gotten a degree in finance and economics, said he hadn't been a student.

Beyond his resume, Santos invented a life story that has also come under question, including claims that his grandparents "fled Jewish persecution in Ukraine, settled in Belgium, and again fled persecution during WWII."

During his campaign, he referred to himself as "a proud American Jew."

Confronted with questions about that story, Santos, a Roman Catholic, said he never intended to claim Jewish heritage.

The Times also uncovered records in Brazil that show Santos, when he was 19, was the subject of a criminal investigation there in 2008 over allegations he used stolen checks to buy items at a clothing shop in the city of Niteroi, which is near Rio de Janeiro. Brazilian authorities said they have reopened the case.

Amiri reported from Washington. Associated Press writers Michael R. Sisak in New York and Lindsay Whitehurst in Washington contributed to this report.

What is Title 42 and how has US used it to curb migration?

By REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — This week marks the end of coronavirus restrictions on asylum that have allowed the U.S. to quickly expel migrants at the southern border for the last three years.

The restrictions are often referred to as Title 42, because the authority comes from Title 42 of a 1944 public health law that allows curbs on migration in the name of protecting public health.

The end of Title 42's use has raised questions about what will happen with migration at the U.S.-Mexico border. The Biden administration is preparing for an increase in migrants.

A look at what Title 42 is and why it matters:

HOW DID IT START?

In March 2020, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued an order limiting migration, saying it was necessary to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Schools and businesses were closing their doors and hospitals were filling with patients. President Donald Trump was looking for ways to curtail immigration — his signature political issue.

The order authorized Customs and Border Protection to immediately remove migrants, including people seeking asylum. The order said areas where migrants were held often weren't designed to quarantine people or for social distancing.

The Biden administration initially continued the policy. While many Democrats pushed President Joe Biden to overturn it, some — especially in border states — have advocated keeping it, saying the U.S. is unprepared for an increase in asylum-seekers.

Title 42 has been used more than 2.8 million times to expel migrants since its implementation. However, children traveling alone were exempt. Also, it has been unevenly enforced by nationality, partly because

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 57 of 74

it's harder to expel people to some countries, including Venezuela and Cuba.

WHY IS IT ENDING?

The Biden administration announced in January that it was ending the national emergencies linked to the pandemic. That also spelled the end of using Title 42 to deal with immigration. Thursday is the last day Title 42 is expected to be used.

This isn't the first time its use has come close to expiring. The CDC announced in April 2022 that the rule was no longer needed because vaccines and treatments were more widespread. Republican-leaning states sued to keep it in place.

While it seems likely that Title 42 will go away this week, last-minute legal maneuverings that keep it in place are always possible.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Starting Friday, asylum-seekers will be interviewed by immigration officers. Those who are found to have a "credible fear" of being persecuted in their home countries can stay in the U.S. until a final determination is made.

That can take years. While some people are detained while their asylum process plays out, the vast majority are freed into the United States with notices to appear in immigration court or report to immigration authorities.

One key concern is that migrants might feel they have a greater chance now to get asylum in the U.S. so more will attempt to enter and overwhelm authorities' ability to care for and process them. That could take U.S. Customs and Border Protection agents away from other responsibilities such as looking for smugglers and facilitating the billions of dollars of trade that crosses the southern border.

Already some locations along the U.S.-Mexico border are seeing greater numbers of migrants. U.S. Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz said on Twitter on Monday that his agents had stopped about 8,800 migrants a day over a three-day period. That was up from about 5,200 a day in March and at a clip to smash the December tally, the highest month on record.

Others have argued that no one really knows how many people will try to enter the U.S. They note that people expelled under Title 42 face no consequences, so some have tried to enter repeatedly.

DOES THE U.S. HAVE A PLAN?

The U.S. says yes. Critics say no.

The federal government has said that it has spent more than a year getting ready. It expects more migrants will be coming initially.

The Biden administration's strategy has hinged on providing more legal pathways for migrants to get to the U.S. without coming directly to the border. That includes setting up centers in foreign countries where migrants can apply to emigrate as well as a humanitarian parole process already in place with 30,000 slots a month for people from four countries to come to the U.S.

The U.S. is expanding appointments available through an app called CBP One, which allows migrants to schedule a time to present themselves at a border crossing to request permission to enter.

There also are consequences. The U.S. is proposing a rule that would generally deny asylum to migrants who first travel through another country. It also wants to quickly screen migrants seeking asylum at the border and deport those deemed not qualified, and deny reentry for five years for those who are deported.

Republicans have lambasted the administration, saying the U.S. isn't doing enough to secure the border.

On Monday, Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs called on the White House to deliver more funds for border communities as well as a satisfactory plan to deal with any increase in migrants. Hobbs is a Democrat, like the president.

Civil rights groups have other concerns. They have compared the severe limits on migrants who come through a third country to actions taken by Trump. They also said the plan to process asylum claims quickly at the border is not fair to migrants who have just arrived from a long, perilous journey.

Follow Santana on Twitter @ruskygal.

Rare GOP votes in Texas for gun bill after mass shootings

By ACACIA CORONADO and PAUL J. WEBER Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — As a Republican in the Texas Capitol, Sam Harless turned heads: He voted in favor of a stricter gun law.

In doing so, the Houston state representative helped advance a bill in the Texas House that would raise the purchase age for AR-style rifles like the kind used by an 18-year-old gunman in Uvalde last year. The vote came just days after eight people at an outdoor mall in Dallas were killed by a 33-year-old gunman, who President Biden said used an AR-15-style weapon.

The bill has little chance of becoming law, but that did not stop powerful gun rights groups Tuesday from springing into action to stamp out the rare glimpse of momentum for supporters of tougher restrictions as mass killings continue to spread anguish in Texas.

It underlined how almost any attempt to tighten gun laws in Texas is off the table in the state's GOP-controlled Legislature, which in recent years has made gun access easier following other mass shootings and shows no appetite for reversing course. That includes Republican Gov. Greg Abbott, who — since Saturday shooting in Allen — has called mental health the root of the problem.

That made Harless' vote Monday all the more notable.

"Every kid has a right to go to school and feel safe, and every parent has a right for the kid to feel safe at school," Harless said in an interview.

Another Republican, state Rep. Justin Holland, also joined Democrats on the House Select Committee on Community Safety in voting 8-5 to advance the measure that would raise the purchase age of certain semiautomatic weapons from 18 to 21. The bill has been the priority all year of several Uvalde families whose children were among the 19 students and two teachers killed by a gunman nearly a year ago at Robb Elementary School.

The vote Monday came unexpectedly. For weeks the bill had stalled in the committee, but as protesters filled the Capitol and shouted "Do Something!" two days after the shooting in Allen, the committee gathered to vote the bill out.

In a statement defending his vote, Holland said, "I do not believe in gun control," and he noted that he previously voted in support of Texas removing training and background checks to carry a handgun. He also said he has earned three consecutive "A" ratings from the National Rifle Association — but acknowledged he has "no idea" if they will rate him so highly going forward.

He said testimony given to the committee convinced him that a law raising the purchase age might serve as a "significant roadblock" to a young person acquiring certain semiautomatic weapons and causing harm.

Gun rights groups, which are rarely forced to aggressively play defense in the Texas Capitol, responded to the bill advancing by urging its members to call lawmakers. Texas Gun Rights, one of the most outspoken groups, said Tuesday that Kyle Rittenhouse, who shot three people during a Wisconsin protest in 2020 and was later acquitted of murder, had joined them in opposition to the bill.

Harless, who represents a solidly GOP-leaning district in the Houston suburbs, said he has received no pushback from other House Republicans.

"I just voted my heart and my constituents are likely not the gun groups," Harless said.

For a decade, Nicole Golden has been a mainstay in the Texas Capitol in pushing for stricter gun laws, only to see Republicans instead gradually keep removing the ones that are in place. She called Monday's vote "unprecedented" given the attention that had surrounded the bill.

Golden, the executive director of the group Texas Gun Sense, said the Legislature has let wither far less contentious bills over guns this year, including one to promote education about gun storage safety. She could not recall a previous time that Republicans took a vote like the one Monday.

"We've gone to their offices to thank them," she said. "And I think that thanks are due."

Discord forces members to change usernames, discord erupts

By DAVID HAMILTON AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — The social app Discord, a favorite of gamers, inadvertently stirred internal strife after announcing last week that it will force its millions of members to pick new usernames. Now the question is whether the change will escalate into all-out warfare that could include players threatening one another in order to seize control of popular names.

The issue may sound trivial compared to real-life concerns such as mass shootings and killer storms. But it's a big deal for people who rely on the mid-sized social network to recruit fellow gamers, swap virtual weapons and organize strategy in multiplayer games. A Reddit thread on the change drew more than 4,000 comments, the vast majority of them angry or at least unhappy.

Discord, which says it has 150 million monthly active users, has no plans to reconsider the new policy, according to a spokesman.

WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH DISCORD USERNAMES?

Discord users have long been free to choose any name they wanted, even ones already in use. That was part of the company's goal of letting users represent themselves freely, according to a detailed May 3 blog post by Discord co-founder and chief technology officer Stanislav Vishnevskiy. The approach differed from social platforms such as Twitter, which has always required users to select unique names.

Discord assigned each username an invisible four-digit identifier to distinguish them from duplicates. But as Discord grew, the San Francisco-based company decided to expand its messaging system — initially limited to conversations within shared groups it calls "servers" — to the entire platform. To help people to find their friends across servers, Discord made those four-digit codes a visible part of usernames. If your username was "SgtRock," you might have suddenly found yourself with the handle "SgtRock#1842."

That, too, seemed to work for a while. But according to Vishnevskiy's post, more than 40% of Discord users either don't remember their four-digit codes — variously known as "tags" or "discriminators" in Discord-speak — or know what they are in the first place. Almost half of all friend requests on Discord fail to reach the correct person, the executive wrote.

SO WHAT'S CHANGING?

Two changes are taking place simultaneously. In the coming weeks, Vishnevskiy wrote, Discord will start notifying users via an in-app message when they're cleared to select a new username. Some server owners will get priority, followed by users based on the age of their accounts. Paid subscribers to a Discord service that lets them customize their discriminators (among other benefits) will also get "early access," although neither Vishnevskiy's post nor Discord's user documentation offer details.

At the same time, Discord is also allowing users to pick a non-exclusive "display name" of their choosing. This will be displayed prominently on user profiles and in chat, but unlike the username, it won't be used for messaging.

All of this will "roll out slowly over the course of several months," per the Discord announcements.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?

Some gamers take their usernames extremely seriously, viewing them as unique and personal extensions of their identity, not to mention pillars of their online reputations. Many also don't appreciate changes being thrust upon them. In the Reddit thread, complaints range from "don't fix what isn't broken" to accusations that the changes are mostly designed to attract new and often younger users who might be put off by the complexity of the existing system.

That might not be far from the truth, experts suggest. Social platforms tend to be heavily used by a small group and very lightly used by a much larger group, said Drew Margolin, a Cornell University professor of communications. In a commercial sense, he said, "there's this tension between what would be appealing to a larger market and what are the main users."

Margolin suggests that network effects — that is, the fact that users and their friends are already on Discord, making it difficult to leave — will most likely outweigh the current outrage, whose impact is difficult to assess. But there's still a potential for serious blowback, as some gamers have been known to go

to extreme lengths to obtain coveted usernames.

WHAT ARE THE POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES?

Gamers warn that the move could create a black market in desirable names or even spark dangerous threats to force their surrender. Such threats can range from online harassment campaigns to "swatting" — the highly dangerous practice of making fake crime reports to police in order to provoke an armed law enforcement response at an opponent's home.

Swatting can lead to injuries and deaths — sometimes of people unconnected to whatever online feud provoked the action. In 2017, an innocent man was fatally shot by Wichita police responding to a hoax call reporting a kidnapping and shooting. The call was made by a California man named Tyler Barriss, who authorities said was recruited by another gamer to make the call. But the address Barriss used was old, leading police to a person who wasn't involved in the video game or the dispute.

Barriss pled guilty to making multiple false emergency calls across the U.S. and in 2019 was sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Officer who killed mall attack shooter hailed as a hero

By JAKE BLEIBERG and JONATHAN MATTISE Associated Press

ALLEN, Texas (AP) — The shooter with neo-Nazi leanings who killed eight people at a suburban Dallas shopping mall brought eight legally purchased guns to the scene, apparently chose his victims randomly and was shot dead by police within four minutes, authorities said Tuesday.

The Allen police officer who shot and killed 33-year-old Mauricio Garcia, ending Saturday's attack, acted heroically and saved "countless lives" through his quick action, Hank Sibley, the regional director of the Texas Department of Public Safety, said at a news conference. Authorities said the officer is still processing what happened and isn't ready to have his name made public.

"If he hadn't have been there, I think we'd have had a much more severe situation," Sibley said.

The investigation into Garcia's motive is ongoing, but he expressed neo-Nazi beliefs, Sibley said, adding that Garcia had no criminal history before he opened fire at Allen Premium Outlets.

Garcia brought eight guns to the scene, including three that he had on him and five that were still in his vehicle, Sibley said. Garcia obtained all of the weapons legally. President Joe Biden has said the assailant wore tactical gear and fired an AR-15-style weapon.

Sibley said it seems Garcia "targeted the location, rather than a specific group of people," adding that, "he was very random in the people he killed."

"The big question that we're dealing with right now is, 'What's his motive? Why did he do this?'" Sibley said. "Well, the big question is, we don't know. That's what the investigation is trying to find out."

Posts by Garcia on a Russian social networking site suggest that he planned for weeks before he launched the attack in Allen, a diverse community of about 100,000 people roughly 25 miles (40 kilometers) north of downtown Dallas.

Garcia researched when the mall was busiest — Saturday afternoons — and posted photos on social media in mid-April of a store near where he ultimately began shooting people. Among those killed were two elementary school-age sisters, a couple and their 3-year-old son, and a 20-year-old security guard who was hailed for his bravery in the shooting.

The security guard, Christian LaCour, "evacuated one individual to safety and was shot while courageously remaining to help others," Allen Police Chief Brian Harvey said at the news conference.

An Associated Press review of Garcia's online activity shows he displayed a fascination with white supremacy and mass shootings, which he described as sport. Photos Garcia posted showed large Nazi tattoos on his arm and torso, including a swastika and the SS lightning bolt logo of Hitler's paramilitary forces.

The online statements have contributed to an emerging picture of Garcia. He was discharged from the Army in 2008 because of mental health issues and apparently had been working as a security guard, according to neighbors and an Army official.

Aric Toler, director of training and research at the international research collective [bellingcat.com](https://www.bellingcat.com), said

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 61 of 74

he identified Garcia's profile on the site OK.RU by searching for active accounts with his birthdate located in the U.S. The AP independently verified the account, which also featured an image of a traffic ticket with Garcia's name and birthdate as well as paperwork from a motel where he stayed before the shooting at Allen Premium Outlets in one of the Dallas' most diverse suburbs.

Federal agents investigating what motivated the shooting have also reviewed the online posts, according to a federal law enforcement official who could not discuss details of the investigation publicly and spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity.

The official also said Garcia had a patch on his chest when police killed him that read "RWDS," an acronym for the phrase "Right Wing Death Squad," which is popular among right-wing extremists and white supremacy groups.

Investigators have also interviewed family members and associates of Garcia to ask about his ideological beliefs and are examining his financial records and other electronic media, the official said.

Garcia joined the Army in 2008 but was terminated three months later without completing his initial training, U.S. Army spokeswoman Heather J. Hagan said.

According to an Army official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss personnel issues, he was kicked out due to mental health issues.

Garcia received an "uncharacterized" discharge, which is common for recruits who don't make it through training or the first 180 days, according to a defense official who also spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss personnel issues. That type of discharge — which is not dishonorable — would not set off red flags or require any reports to law enforcement.

At a Pentagon briefing Tuesday, Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, the Pentagon press secretary, was asked about the shooter's veteran status.

"He's not a veteran," Ryder told reporters. "Again, as you highlight from the Department of Veteran Affairs, according to federal regulations, this individual in terms of the time of service would not qualify as a veteran."

On the Dallas block where Garcia lived with his parents until recently, neighbors said they thought he worked as a security guard but they weren't sure where. The company that manages the mall where the attack happened didn't immediately reply to messages seeking further information.

Sibley said Tuesday that as far as he knew, Garcia hadn't worked at the Allen mall, but that he wasn't completely sure. He said Garcia hadn't worked in the security business for some time, and that his private security license in Texas had expired.

A woman who lives next door to Garcia's parents' house said she didn't know her neighbors well but described them as nice and polite. Garcia was always friendly, waving and honking, she said.

A law enforcement official said investigators also have searched a Dallas motel where Garcia had been staying in the runup to the attack.

The shooting was the latest attack to contribute to the unprecedented pace of mass killings this year in the U.S. Just over a week before, five people were fatally shot in Cleveland, Texas, after a neighbor asked a man to stop firing his weapon while a baby slept, authorities said.

The community mourned the dead and awaited word on the seven people who were wounded. Medical City Healthcare said Monday it was treating six patients: Three were in critical condition, two were in fair condition and one was in good condition at a children's hospital. Police said a seventh wounded person was taken to a different hospital.

Allen is one of the area's most diverse cities. The area saw the largest Asian American growth rate of any major U.S. metro area, according to U.S. Census figures. Those statistics show that Allen's population is about 19% Asian, 10% Black and 11% Hispanic.

Mattise reported from Nashville, Tennessee. Lolita C. Baldor and Michael Balsamo in Washington, Gene Johnson in Seattle and Rhonda Shafner in New York contributed to this report.

Migrants flow north to US border ahead of policy changes

By KATHIA MARTÍNEZ Associated Press

BAJO CHIQUITO, Panama (AP) — The long wooden boats packed with migrants in orange life jackets arrived one after another, pushed down the Tuquesa river by outboard motors. By day's end, authorities had registered some 2,000 migrants at this remote riverside outpost on the edge of the Darien jungle that links Panama and Colombia.

Some had vague information — from relatives, social media, smugglers — about coming border policy changes by the United States government and were hustling to make it to that distant border.

On May 11, the United States government will end pandemic-related restrictions on people requesting asylum at the border — also known as Title 42, under which migrants have been expelled from the U.S. more than 2.8 million times since March 2020.

The uncertainty around what happens after the end of the restrictions, as well as the prospect of new limits on asylum, was fodder for migrant smugglers to create an unnecessary sense of urgency for people making decisions with imperfect information.

Fearing a rush of arrivals, U.S. officials have expanded legal pathways, urged would-be migrants to register before making the journey and proposed severely restricting asylum for people who travel through Mexico. They will deport those deemed not qualified with a five-year ban on reentry.

As migrants made the Darien crossing, there were no visible signs on either side that efforts the U.S., Panama and Colombia promised a month ago would stem migration at this bottleneck between regions. If anything, the flow seemed to have increased during a year already on a record pace.

María Chirino Sánchez, 34, left Venezuela one month earlier in a group of 10 relatives, including her husband, four children and dog Toby. Despite her job with a transportation company and her husband's as a dental technician, they could not make ends meet.

At the urging of relatives in the U.S., they sold their house for \$4,000 and set out, having heard that "they are not going to let us enter after (May) 11," she said. They ran out of food and had to beg for crackers to feed their children before exiting the jungle. Like others, she said if she were sent back, she would not try this route again.

Chirino's sentiment was nearly universal despite signs the well-trod route from Colombia has become more established than ever before. Venezuelans make up the largest group of those crossing Darien now, but AP journalists also saw Haitians, Chinese and Ecuadorians among others.

In Necocli, Colombia, between 1,000 and 1,200 migrants a day board boats that ferry them across a gulf to Acandi on the Colombian side of the Darien, according to local human rights authorities.

There, mototaxi drivers wait to zip them to the trailhead — a route that is now being paved.

Camps have cropped up early in the route where migrants can pitch their tents and buy provisions. For those with the means, porters can be hired.

The journey is punishing. Migrants hike for several days over mountains in dense jungle contending with biting insects, venomous snakes, torrential rains and mud-slicked mountain passes. Swollen rivers sweep away those who slip. Bandits rob and sexually assault migrants.

Still, nearly 250,000 people did it last year and the United Nations projects another 400,000 could attempt it this year.

Some migrants said they could just no longer sustain their families in their countries. They fled political instability, unemployment or crime.

Many fled Venezuela's political and economic crisis — now or years earlier — but others come from more distant countries.

Yu Tian traveled from Wuhan, China, to Hong Kong, and then to Ecuador where he boarded a bus to Colombia. "Hundreds of thousands are leaving China," said the tourism guide turned migrant.

At the Ecuador-Colombia border, migrant trafficking groups recruit customers by telling them "right now you can go cross to the United States," said Pedro de Velasco, a member of the KINO initiative, a binational nongovernmental organization at the U.S.-Mexico border, who traveled to the Ecuador-Colombia border to see why so many were arriving.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 63 of 74

The smugglers charge \$10,000, "but don't tell them they're going to be expelled," he said.

In Panama, as 34-year-old Oriana Serra neared the end of her Darien crossing with her two teen children, several men with pistols blocked their path, stealing the last of their money.

So when the family arrived at the river bank where boat operators waited to carry migrants downriver, she had no way to pay. They started the long walk to Bajo Chiquito, but somehow became separated from her 14-year-old son. Hoping he arrived before her, she desperately searched for him among the arriving throngs.

At dusk, the boy finally arrived on a boat sent back upstream to look for him.

In Bajo Chiquito, migrants make their first registration with Panamanian authorities. Under the blazing tropical sun they pitch tents in any open space along the dirt streets or beside the river. Smoke from their wood fires hangs in the heavy humidity.

Children are everywhere, resting in tents, holding mothers' hands, riding fathers' shoulders. Migrants pause before setting out again the next day for camps farther downriver. From there, Panama buses them across the country to its border with Costa Rica where they will continue north through Central America and eventually to Mexico.

Mexican border cities are reporting increasing arrivals, many of whom are not waiting to see what happens after May 11. On Monday, U.S. Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz said that over the previous 72 hours, agents had made about 8,800 apprehensions per day — up from about 5,200 in March.

The U.S. government for months has encouraged migrants to register with their online application CBP One rather than make the dangerous and expensive journey to the border. If applicants appear eligible for asylum and can line up a financial sponsor in the U.S., they receive an appointment at the border for further screening.

Back in Bajo Chiquito, with six more countries still to be traversed, migrants struggled to digest the ordeal they survived. As physically brutal as the crossing was — some migrants arrived on stretchers — many said they would carry more lasting memories.

Ángel Garcés, a 28-year-old from Maracaibo, Venezuela remained shaken.

"If I had known it was like that, I wouldn't come," Garcés said. "Not just the physical exhaustion — what you see." Garcés said he averted his eyes when he smelled a body alongside the trail. The remains of 36 migrants were recovered from the Darien last year, but the real death toll is believed to be significantly higher. In March, the Red Cross donated 100 tombs in a local cemetery for the bodies of those who perish.

Garcés said he would advise anyone considering the journey, "don't come, look for another route, try to do it the legal way, because the Darien isn't for just anyone." — AP journalists Iván Valencia in Acandí, Colombia, Eduardo Hernández in Bogota, Colombia and María Verza in Mexico City contributed to this report.

Lachlan Murdoch explains settlement, says no change at Fox

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Fox News paid \$787 million to settle a recent lawsuit on its reporting after the 2020 election to avoid a divisive trial and lengthy appeals process, its parent company's chief executive said on Tuesday.

Lachlan Murdoch, executive chairman and CEO of Fox Corp., also noted that a Delaware judge "severely limited" Fox's defenses against Dominion Voting Systems, which said the network defamed it by airing bogus charges of election fraud that it knew was untrue.

Fox Corp. announced Tuesday that it had lost \$50 million the previous three months, which it attributed to the lawsuit settlement. Murdoch, who answered questions from financial analysts, was speaking in public for the first time since the case ended and Fox fired its most popular anchor, Tucker Carlson.

Murdoch said viewers, and investors, should expect no change in direction from Fox News.

"We made the business decision to resolve this dispute and avoid the acrimony of a divisive trial and multi-year appeal process, a decision clearly in the best interests of the company and its shareholders," he said.

Fox still believes it was properly exercising its First Amendment rights to report on newsworthy fraud

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 64 of 74

allegations made by former President Donald Trump, even though that defense was shot down in a pre-trial court ruling in the Dominion case, Murdoch said.

That's important, since Murdoch said Fox intends to use the same defense against a similar lawsuit by another elections technology company, Smartmatic. That case is not expected to go to trial until at least 2025, he said.

Despite being asked directly about Carlson's exit, Murdoch didn't mention the former prime-time host's name and referred to his reign obliquely. Fox has not explained why it cut ties with Carlson.

"There's no change in programming strategy at Fox News," he said. "It's obviously a successful strategy. As always, we are adjusting our programming and our lineup and that's what we continue to do."

Although hurt by the Carlson exit, Fox News remains the leading cable news network.

Fox has lost viewers following Carlson's firing. Last week's substitute host, Lawrence Jones, reached between 1.28 million and 1.7 million last week in a time slot where Carlson usually drew around 3 million, the Nielsen company said.

Yet Fox has gained more than 40 new advertisers in that hour, the network said, confirming a report in Variety. Advertisers like Gillette, Scott's Miracle Gro and Secret deodorant that had considered Carlson's show a toxic environment have signed on.

In dog show world, details obvious and subtle rule the day

By ANNA FURMAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Doe-eyed dachshunds, push-faced French bulldogs and other nonsporting breeds circle the hallowed rings. A Bracco Italiano receives a jowl massage. Spaniels get blow-dried. Everyone is prepping — lovingly, meticulously — for a hoped-for big moment.

With more than 3,000 dogs competing this week at the annual Westminster Kennel Club dog show, one of the world's most prestigious, sometimes it's a competitor's confident gait or self-possessed gaze that sets it apart from the pack.

"Like all things, beauty is subjective," said Ann Ingram, who traveled from Cork, Ireland, to New York City to judge several events. "A dog's attitude in the ring can help. If the dog loves itself, you can tell. He kind of has that attitude of, you know, 'I'm a winner.'"

In short: There are the obvious characteristics — the quantifiable ones — and then there are the intangibles.

The show is being held this year on the 40-acre (16-hectare) grounds of the U.S. Open tennis tournament, where Ingram was selected to choose the winning schipperke, bulldog, Frenchies and miniature poodle to go on to the semifinals — and, perhaps, the marquee Best in Show competition on Tuesday night.

Each spring, the rarefied world of breeding purebreds — a beloved if idiosyncratic American subculture — is telecast to viewers around the world for three days spanning more than 16 hours. Things can get pretty arcane if you're not steeped in the topic.

To hear Ingram and others tell it, the dog show is an arena where details matter deeply — details that the rest of the world may have no idea about. Though with the show's increasing popularity as the years pass, that is changing.

JUDGING HERE VARIES WIDELY BY BREED

"With breeds like Frenchies and bulldogs, where there are health concerns with the breathing, you want to see them be able to move without any signs of distress," Ingram said. A spirited trot or swishy, excited wag of the tail may signify an excellent performance for one breed, but subpar training for another.

For example, "any poodle that flies around the ring like a workhorse is not a poodle," Ingram said. Some dogs were bred to hunt lions (Rhodesian ridgebacks), while others are bred to be affectionate puffballs (Pekingese).

Others are arrogant or aloof. Ingram says that when you approach an Afghan hound, "They actually look through you, rather than at you," because they're bred to be far-seeing. "It's like, 'You're disturbing my vision — could you move?'"

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 65 of 74

Atop gold-skirted, purple-velvet tables, handlers position their dogs in preparation for Ingram's scrutiny. "When you go through the coat, maybe you find that there's no body or the elbows are hanging out a bit," she said. When judging poodles, her scrupulous attention to detail goes beyond the grooming. Some hairdressers, according to Ingram, pull poodles' fluffy fur taut in order to make round eyes appear almond-shaped, which is the breed's standard.

Some details may be common, but standards are not universal. In European competitions, for example, cream-colored French bulldogs and white-colored Italian greyhounds are not recognized. But in the United States, both dogs are competitive.

GO BEHIND THE SCENES WITH SOME DOG DETAILS

At nearly 150 years old, Westminster is the second-oldest continuously-running sporting competition in the United States, behind only the Kentucky Derby. But modern innovations have changed the game. Popular TikTok accounts, the widespread use of QR codes and geotagged Instagram posts have raised the profiles of some competitors, who may go on to score lucrative kibble sponsorships.

Before dogs enter the ring, groomers blow-dry the bellies of Tibetan spaniels, unfurl curlers from the muzzles of snow-white Malteses and spritz the coiffed, cloudlike bobs of bichon frisés. Some curly and coarse-coated breeds are brushed with baby powders while fine, silky-haired dogs are spritzed with various aerosol sprays.

Behind the scenes Monday morning, handlers tended to sleepy-faced bracco Italianos, which are eligible for the first time to compete at Westminster this year.

Beth Sweigart of Bowmansville, Pennsylvania, holds the honor of judging Best in Show this year. So she'll be holed up in her hotel room, staying clear of the rings until the premier competition. She's respecting a longstanding policy.

"Some breeds are more glamorous than others and catch the eye," Sweigart said. But others, like Labrador retrievers, are what she called "a very utilitarian kind of dog. They're not fancy movers." They're bred to be duck hunters. Though they were the most popular breed in the U.S. for nearly 30 years, Sweigart points out that at Westminster, they've never won.

HERE'S HOW THEY PREP FOR THE BIG MOMENTS

Though she doesn't wear a uniform, experienced handlers and owners will likely recognize Sweigart from her more than 50 years in the dog world. In previous years, she's judged various terrier, toy and sporting groups. At home, she has 12 dogs, including Labradors, affenpinschers, and a pack of Norfolk terriers that she said are "named after patriots" such as George Washington, Mamie Eisenhower, Sam Adams and Patrick Henry.

Dress style is typically conservative and sensible, since handlers and judges are bending over dogs in all manners. Most female handlers and judges wear formal blouses and skirts cut below the knees. But "you don't want to be too precious about your outfit," Ingram said, because "if you're judging something like a Saint Bernard, you're getting slobber on it."

Also sequestered in a hotel Monday was George Milutinovich of Fresno, California, who was judging 21 breeds and varieties in the nonsporting group Monday night. He said he'll have a leisurely lunch and will reread standards, then watch a few breed videos and "kind of get my head set for the night."

At home he has a Russell Terrier named Millie. Over the past couple decades, he has bred pugs and bichon frisés. But in the ring, judges suspend their personal affinities and biases. "What's foremost in your mind," Milutinovich said, is this: "Can this dog before me do the job that it was originally bred to do?"

On Monday, the converging aromas of cologne and wet dog were in the air. Bon Bon, a short-haired dachshund, scarfed down a filet of chicken plucked from his handler's breast pocket before rounding the ring with a dignified strut that drew rapturous applause.

"There's bigger shows numerically, but the fact that you're actually getting the absolute cream of the cream ... is quite exciting," Ingram said. "The whole razzmatazz of Westminster is very special."

Sheriff: Louisiana man shot child playing hide and seek

STARKS, La. (AP) — A Louisiana man faces aggravated assault and battery charges after firing a gun at children who were playing hide and seek outside his home, wounding a 14-year-old girl, according to the local sheriff's office.

The girl suffered a gunshot wound to the back of the head early Sunday, and was taken to a hospital with injuries that were not considered life-threatening, the Calcasieu Parish Sheriff's Office said in a statement posted on social media Monday.

David Doyle, 58, remained in the Calcasieu Parish Correctional Center on Tuesday morning. Jail records show Doyle's bond was set at \$300,000 and that he has been assigned a public defender, according to a jail staffer.

Neither an attorney at the public defender's office in Calcasieu Parish, nor the local district attorney immediately returned phone calls seeking more information.

Investigators learned that several children were playing hide and seek in the Starks community and were hiding on the neighbor's property.

Doyle told detectives that he got his gun when he saw shadows outside his home and shot at people he saw running away, unknowingly hitting the girl, officials said.

It's the latest in a series of recent shootings sparked by seemingly trivial circumstances.

Doyle was arrested and charged with aggravated battery, four counts of aggravated assault with a firearm and illegal discharge of a firearm, the sheriff's office said.

DA tweaks Jonathan Majors' charge, lawyer says he's innocent

By MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Actor Jonathan Majors was confronted Tuesday with a revised domestic violence charge stemming from a woman's allegations that the Marvel star twisted her arm, struck her head and shoved her into a vehicle in New York City in March.

Majors, appearing by video, did not enter a plea to the misdemeanor assault charge and said little else at the arraignment, which lasted all of three minutes.

Prosecutors say the charge was rewritten to reflect the perspective of Majors' 30-year-old accuser, rather than the police officer whose account was used in the original version — an indication she is cooperating with authorities.

Majors, 33, still faces other misdemeanor charges in connection with his March 25 arrest in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood, some of which are punishable by up to a year in jail.

His lawyer, Priya Chaudhry, says Majors is innocent. She blasted prosecutors after Tuesday's hearing for pursuing what she called a "witch hunt" against the actor.

Chaudhry said she provided the Manhattan district attorney's office with "irrefutable evidence that the woman is lying, including video proof showing nothing happened, especially not where she claimed." The woman, she said, assaulted Majors.

"Instead of dismissing the allegations in the face of the woman's clear lies, the DA has adjusted the charges to match the woman's new lies," Chaudhry said.

Majors had been a fast-rising Hollywood star with major roles in recent hits like "Creed III" and "Ant-Man and The Wasp: Quantumania." But in the wake of his arrest, the U.S. Army pulled TV commercials narrated by Majors, saying it was "deeply concerned" by the allegations.

Majors' face was beamed Tuesday onto a flat-screen monitor in front of the judge's bench in Manhattan's domestic violence courtroom. The room was crowded with reporters straining to catch a glimpse of the celebrity while around them non-famous New Yorkers waited for their cases to be called.

Virtual appearances are an occasional accommodation in the court. But Judge Rachel Pauley warned that Majors must show up in person at a follow up hearing on June 13 or face a possible warrant for his arrest. At that hearing, Pauley said, she will decide on a motion challenging the case that Majors' lawyers have filed under seal.

Majors must also continue to abide by a protection order barring any contact with his accuser, Pauley said. According to the revised assault charge, Majors' accuser alleges that he pulled her finger; twisted her right arm behind her back; struck and cut her right ear; and pushed her into a vehicle, causing her to fall backwards.

The woman, who was not named in court papers, was treated at a hospital for minor injuries to her head and neck, police said.

Chaudhry accused police and prosecutors of racial bias against Majors, who is Black. She said a white police officer got in the actor's face and taunted him when he tried showing the officer injuries that he said the woman caused.

A message seeking comment on Chaudhry's claims was left with the NYPD and Manhattan district attorney's office.

Follow Michael Sisak on Twitter at twitter.com/mikesisak and send confidential tips by visiting <https://www.ap.org/tips/>.

Start mammograms at 40, not 50, a US health panel recommends

WASHINGTON (AP) — Women should start getting every-other-year mammograms at age 40 instead of waiting until 50, according to a draft recommendation from a federal task force.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force has long said women can choose to start breast cancer screening as young as 40, with a stronger recommendation that they get the X-ray exams every two years from age 50 through 74.

Tuesday's update — if the draft proposal is finalized — would mark a shift in the influential panel's guidelines although it's not likely to end confusion. Other health groups differ over when and how often to screen.

"This new recommendation will help save lives and prevent more women from dying due to breast cancer," said former task force chair Dr. Carol Mangione.

The task force noted that Black women are 40% more likely to die of breast cancer than white women, making mammograms at 40 an especially important step — but also urged more research to better understand and combat the disparity.

The task force also noted that nearly half of all women have dense breasts, which means mammograms may not work as well, and called for more research into whether additional types of testing would help.

The draft recommendation applies to women at average risk of breast cancer but not those at very high risk due to certain genetic or other factors. It is open for public comment through June 5, after which the task force will decide whether to finalize it.

While cancer deaths have been declining for years, breast cancer remains the second leading cancer killer of U.S. woman, behind lung cancer.

Health organizations have long had different screening recommendations, seeking to balance catching breast cancer early while avoiding too many false alarms, when the X-rays spot non-cancerous blips.

The American Cancer Society says women ages 45 to 54 should get mammograms every year — but can choose to start at 40 and then at 55, can choose to switch to every other year.

The American College of Radiology recommends annual mammograms starting at 40 for women at average risk of breast cancer — but urges that young women get assessed for risk factors that require even earlier screening.

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Lionel Messi's father says no deal agreed with a future club

By JEROME PUGMIRE and GRAHAM DUNBAR AP Sports Writers

PARIS (AP) — With speculation over Lionel Messi's potential next destination turning into a frenzy his father intervened Tuesday to say no deal has been agreed over a move to Saudi Arabia or return to Barcelona.

Messi's contract with Paris Saint-Germain runs until the end of June, and his father Jorge Messi said nothing will be decided before PSG's season finishes on June 3.

"There are always rumors and many use the name of Lionel to gain notoriety but there's only one truth and we can assure you that there is nothing with anyone," Jorge Messi posted on his Instagram account. "Neither verbal, nor signed, nor agreed, and there won't be anything until the end of the season."

The guessing game escalated Tuesday into where the World Cup winner from Argentina will play next season. Staying at PSG seems the most unlikely outcome, while Inter Miami in Major League Soccer is also chasing the seven-time Ballon d'Or winner.

French media earlier reported that Messi has a verbal deal with an unnamed Saudi club, a move that would put him back into the same league as Cristiano Ronaldo. But one soccer transfer gossip specialist, Fabrizio Romano, was quick to update his 14.6 million followers on Twitter that there will be no decision until after the season.

Jorge Messi validated that.

"There's absolutely no agreement with any club for next season," he wrote on Instagram. "The decision won't be taken prior to Lionel finish(ing) the season with PSG. We will assess the situation at the end of the season."

League leader PSG has four games left and ends the campaign at home to Clermont. Messi has scored 15 league goals so far and tops the charts with 15 assists.

Both Barcelona and Al Hilal clearly want Messi, who turns 36 next month and also wants to keep playing for Argentina. South American qualifying for the 2026 World Cup starts in September, with Argentina at home against Ecuador.

Messi's trip last week to Saudi Arabia — and subsequent suspension by PSG for the unauthorized absence — has re-ignited talk he will play in the Middle Eastern country if he leaves the French capital as expected. One French media report claimed Messi has agreed to a massive deal with an unnamed Saudi club worth at least 500 million euros (\$548 million).

PSG declined to comment when asked by The Associated Press if there is an agreement in place for Messi to leave the club.

Messi was linked with a move to Riyadh-based Saudi club Al Hilal last month, the same city where Ronaldo's team, Al Nassr, is located.

Messi played against Ronaldo in January in an exhibition game in Riyadh, with the Qatari-owned PSG facing a combined team from Al Nassr and Al Hilal. Ronaldo's arrival has already boosted Saudi Arabia's soccer profile in the Middle East in a regional rivalry fueled by Qatar hosting last year's World Cup.

Having Messi playing against Ronaldo would do even more for the country as Saudi Arabia prepares to stage the Club World Cup for the first time in December.

Messi returned to training with PSG this week after the club lifted his suspension following the promotional trip to Saudi Arabia. He missed practice last Monday, the day after PSG's 3-1 loss to Lorient. The club announced his suspension last Tuesday.

Messi subsequently apologized to the club and his teammates for traveling without PSG's permission.

Messi joined PSG on a two-year deal after tearfully leaving financially stricken Barcelona against his will in 2021, with an option for an extra year if both parties agreed. His contract runs until the end of June, but talks about extending reportedly broke down, making Messi's exit seem inevitable.

Barcelona coach Xavi Hernandez, who is poised to lead his team to the Spanish league title this season, has openly said he wants his former teammate to come back.

Barcelona is the club closest to the heart of Messi and his family. They moved to Spain in 2001 and Messi scored 672 goals — including an extraordinary 50-goal league season in 2012 — and won four Champions

League trophies with Barcelona among a glittering array of silverware.

Barcelona president Joan Laporta is also eager to bring Messi back, but must overcome the club's severe debts and restrictions imposed by the Spanish league.

Barcelona's return to the Champions League could also be affected by an ongoing UEFA investigation into payments of millions of dollars over more than a decade to a company linked to a Spanish refereeing official. No evidence of suspected match-fixing has yet emerged.

Playing in Saudi Arabia would lessen the wear and tear on Messi's body while also offering lower-quality games ahead of World Cup qualifying and the 2024 Copa America in the United States, with Argentina the defending champion.

Dunbar reported from Geneva.

More AP soccer: <https://apnews.com/hub/soccer> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Goldman settles gender discrimination suit for \$215 million

By MICHELLE CHAPMAN AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Goldman Sachs will pay \$215 million to settle a years-long class action lawsuit that claimed the bank discriminated against women when it came to pay, performance evaluations and promotions.

The lawsuit, initially filed in September 2010, was set to go to trial next month. The plaintiffs in the case are women who worked for Goldman as an associate or vice president in the U.S. in the investment banking, investment management or securities divisions.

The settlement covers about 2,800 female associates and vice presidents in Goldman's investment banking, investment management and securities divisions.

"My goal in this case has always been to support strong women on Wall Street. I am proud that the result we achieved here will advance gender equity," plaintiff Allison Gamba said in a prepared statement.

Aside from the payment, the settlement includes a three-year period during which Goldman will work with an independent expert to perform more analysis on its performance evaluation processes, as well as its process for promoting individuals from vice president to managing director. It also requires an independent expert to conduct additional pay equity studies and for the New York City company to investigate and address any gender pay gaps where appropriate.

"Goldman Sachs is proud of its long record of promoting and advancing women and remains committed to ensuring a diverse and inclusive workplace for all our people. After more than a decade of vigorous litigation, both parties have agreed to resolve this matter," said Jacqueline Arthur, Goldman Sachs global head of human capital management. "We will continue to focus on our people, our clients, and our business,"

Hyundai and Kia thefts keep rising despite security fix

By TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

Nearly three months ago, Hyundai and Kia unveiled software that was designed to thwart an epidemic of thefts of their vehicles, caused by a security flaw that was exposed on TikTok and other social media sites.

So far, it hasn't solved the problem. Across the country, thieves are still driving off with the vehicles at an alarming rate.

Data from seven U.S. cities gathered by The Associated Press shows that the number of Hyundai and Kia thefts is still growing despite the companies' efforts to fix the glitch, which makes 8.3 million vehicles relatively easy targets for thieves.

From Minneapolis, Cleveland and St. Louis to New York, Seattle, Atlanta and Grand Rapids, Michigan, police have reported substantial year-over-year increases in Hyundai and Kia theft reports through April. An eighth city, Denver, which was hit early by the theft outbreak, reported a 23% decline from 2022 levels but still endured a high number of thefts.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 70 of 74

So far this year, Minneapolis police have received 1,899 Kia and Hyundai theft reports, nearly 18 times the number for the same period in 2022.

"The scope of the problem is only expanding and is exponentially worse than it has been in the past," Brian O'Hara, the police chief of Minneapolis, said in an email. "We have some weeks where nearly as many Kias and Hyundais are stolen in a week as had previously been stolen in a year."

The most recent nationwide numbers on Hyundai and Kia thefts aren't yet publicly available. The figures for early 2023, as calculated by the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, will be released until later this year. (Hyundai and Kia are part of the same South Korean corporate family.)

Some U.S. cities have reported that 60% or more of their auto theft reports now involve Hyundais or Kias. Videos on TikTok and other sites that illustrate how to start and steal Kia and Hyundai models — using only a screwdriver and a USB cable — have allowed the thefts to spread across the nation since late 2021.

In New York, the Hyundai-Kia theft problem has grown so worrisome that the city held a news conference last last month to offer owners devices that can track their vehicles if they're stolen. Police there reported 966 Hyundai and Kia thefts as of April 30 — nearly seven times the number in the same period of 2022.

The disturbing theft rate, which authorities nationally have linked to other crimes including at least 14 reported crashes and eight fatalities, has persisted despite the automakers' unveiling of their anti-theft software campaign in mid-February.

"GLA is driving our crime," New York Mayor Eric Adams said, using an acronym for grand larceny of autos. "Kia and Hyundai are driving the GLAs."

Hyundai and Kia have said they're accelerating their distribution of the software, with Hyundai saying it's reached 6,000 installations a day. The company says it's using direct mail, phone calls, digital advertising and social media to try to reach the affected owners.

Ira Gabriel, a spokesman for Hyundai, said the company has tried to remove from social media the instructional videos that show how to steal the cars.

"But as new ones surface," he said, "there have been additional waves of thefts."

Kia said in a statement that it began developing and testing the security software last year.

"The process occurred at an accelerated pace and allowed us to begin rolling out the enhanced security software earlier this year in phases," the company said.

Safety authorities say the companies' software rollout has been far too slow. Of the 4.5 million Kia vehicles that are eligible for the fix, the automaker says it's installed the software on about 210,000 — nearly 5%. Kia says it has sent notifications to about 2.8 million of the affected owners and expects to have notified all of them by the end of this month.

For Hyundai, the figure is about 225,000 out of 3.8 million vehicles — roughly 6%. Hyundai said he expects to have contacted all the affected vehicle owners by May 18.

The companies' affected cars, many of them lower-cost models from the 2011 to early 2022 model years, were not equipped with a theft immobilizer. Such a device contains a computer chip in the key that must be recognized by another chip in the steering column before the engines will start.

Though most automakers have had the chips for years, Hyundai and Kia have lagged behind the industry as a whole in installing them on many models, thereby allowing thieves to exploit the security gap. In the 2015 model year, immobilizers were standard on 96% of other manufacturers' models but on only 26% of Hyundai and Kia models, the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety said.

The automakers' service campaign to install the software should have been more aggressively pursued, said Michael Brooks, executive director of the nonprofit Center for Auto Safety.

Brooks suggested that if the U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration had managed a recall of the affected vehicles, it would have stood a better chance of alerting owners to the danger and need to seek a repair.

"Unless people are really following the news," he said, "they might not know about theft issues."

Shakira Ellis, a music instructor from Long Beach, California, is among those who hadn't heard about the thefts — until her 2019 Hyundai Tucson was stolen in front of her home around 4 a.m. on April 25. The car, which contained some of her musical instruments, hasn't turned up.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 71 of 74

Ellis, 26, said her Tucson lacked the immobilizer, and she hadn't been informed of Hyundai's campaign to distribute the software fix. If she had, Ellis said, she would have immediately taken it in to be fixed. She feels Hyundai should provide her with a new car to replace her stolen vehicle,

"I feel like I should be compensated," she said. "It's been ruined because it's defective. And people know. It's a target."

Even with a recall, not everyone takes an affected car to a dealer to be fixed. Recall completion rates, Brooks said, average only around 60% of owners.

Some of the vehicles, about 15% in Hyundai's case, can't be fixed with software. But both Hyundai and Kia say they'll pay for anti-theft devices for those owners.

In Minneapolis and other cities, police say teenagers, some of them too young to have a driver's license, have exploited the vulnerability. Often they crash or are involved in other crimes. The Minneapolis police recorded 209 cases of Hyundais or Kias being involved in hit-and-run injury crashes, and they're investigating 169 reports that Kias or Hyundais were used in other crimes.

Multiple cities, including St. Louis, Cleveland, Milwaukee and Seattle, have sued the automakers, accusing them of failing to install industry-standard anti-theft devices and placing an undue burden on city services.

"Kia and Hyundai prioritized profit over people by not installing engine immobilizers in these vehicles," Cleveland Mayor Justin Bibb said in announcing his city's lawsuit.

O'Hara, the Minneapolis police chief, said the thefts are a "public safety crisis" that is overwhelming communities.

"Juveniles are joyriding in these stolen models, and when they are caught by police, he said, they're rarely held accountable for their behavior" by the courts and youth corrections systems.

That can lead to more serious crimes, he said, "until they get very seriously injured or killed themselves."

Associated Press news researcher Rhonda Shafner contributed to this report from New York.

For these hounds and humans, dog show a couples' competition

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — As otterhounds lined up to be judged at the Westminster Kennel Club dog show Monday, Tips and Creed could be forgiven if they secretly were rooting for each other.

Same goes for their owners and handlers, Tom and Debbie Develin. The Boyertown, Pennsylvania, duo are a couple. The dogs are, too, in a manner of speaking — they live together and have had a litter.

Although there are a number of husband-and-wife professional dog handlers who sometimes compete against each other at the United States' most illustrious dog show, that's less common among so-called "owner-handlers."

"We cheer each other on and then see how it goes," Debbie said.

The Develins, both retired from managerial jobs, got their first otterhound years ago after Tom learned that the dogs had a reputation for friendliness. They live up to it, he says. Tips and Creed make therapy visits at hospitals and elsewhere when not busy with dog shows, agility, obedience and other canine sports.

Tom started showing one. Debbie helped. Eventually, both were in the ring.

Otterhound fanciers are a tight-knit group, partly due to sheer numbers. The big, shaggy, spirited hounds trace their roots to medieval England but are now among the rarest breeds in their homeland and in the United States.

On Monday, neither Creed nor Tips advanced to the competition's next round. But Creed got a ribbon, and both Develins came away happy for their dogs and their competitors.

"It's like one big family," Debbie said.

New York-based Associated Press journalist Jennifer Peltz has covered the Westminster dog show since 2013.

Texas shooter's 'RWDS' patch linked to far-right extremists

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, MICHAEL KUNZELMAN and LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

The shooter who killed eight people at a Dallas-area mall was wearing a patch that read "RWDS" — short for "Right Wing Death Squad" — a phrase that has been embraced in recent years by far-right extremists who glorify violence against their political enemies.

Authorities have not said what they believe might have motivated 33-year-old Mauricio Garcia, who was killed by a police officer who happened to be near the mall Saturday when Garcia opened fire.

Posts by Garcia on a Russian social networking site expressed a fascination with white supremacy and mass shootings. Photos he posted showed large Nazi tattoos on his arm and torso, including a swastika and the SS lightning bolt logo of Hitler's paramilitary forces.

Here is a look at the term "Right Wing Death Squad" and how it became a popular symbol among violent extremists:

WHAT'S THE HISTORY OF THE TERM?

The "RWDS" acronym is one of countless shorthand terms used by extremists. Others include "RaHoWa," short for "racial holy war," and "1488," an alphabet-driven code combining references to a white nationalist slogan and Adolf Hitler.

The term "Right Wing Death Squad" originally emerged in the 1970s and '80s to describe Central and South American paramilitary groups created to support right-wing governments and dictatorships and oppose perceived enemies on the left, said Oren Segal, vice president of the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism.

It reemerged in the 2010s among right-wing groups who use it on stickers, patches and in online forums. Other far-right gear and online memes specifically glorify Gen. Augusto Pinochet, the brutal Chilean military dictator whose death squads killed thousands of political opponents.

"It essentially became a phrase that was co-opted to demonstrate opposition to the left more broadly by right-wing extremists," Segal said.

Heidi Beirich, co-founder of the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism, said the Proud Boys, the neo-fascist group of self-described "Western chauvinists," are largely responsible for injecting "RWDS" into the far-right vernacular.

The group has sold patches and T-shirts adorned with the acronym and celebrating Pinochet's death squads. Proud Boys have been photographed wearing "RWDS" patches at rallies and wearing T-shirts that read, "Pinochet did nothing wrong."

Photos shared on social media appeared to show former Proud Boys national chairman Enrique Tarrio and another former Proud Boys leader, Jeremy Bertino, among those who have worn such patches.

Tarrio was convicted last week of seditious conspiracy in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol for what prosecutors have described as a violent plot to keep President Donald Trump in power. Bertino, who was vice president of the South Carolina Proud Boys chapter, previously pleaded guilty to seditious conspiracy in the Jan. 6 riot.

WHICH GROUPS HAVE EMBRACED IT?

The Proud Boys aren't the only far-right extremists to adopt the term.

"Right Wing Death Squad" was the name of the smaller groups that participated in the white nationalist "Unite the Right Rally" in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August 2017, according to the Anti-Defamation League. The rally turned deadly when a white supremacist rammed his car into a crowd of counterprotesters, killing a woman.

Facebook banned several hate-filled pages, including one named "Right Wing Death Squad," after the bloodshed in Charlottesville, the New York Times reported.

"It has really become something over the past couple years that has cut across and far beyond any individual group," said Jon Lewis, a research fellow at the Program on Extremism at George Washington University.

"It has kind of become this rallying cry to some extent: This is what we want, to seize the levers of democratic power, just like Pinochet did, and we want to use the power of the state to then engage in

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 73 of 74

violent genocide effectively against whoever is against us," he said.

American University professor Cynthia Miller-Idriss, director of the school's Polarization and Extremism Research & Innovation Lab, said extremists who adopt these terms and symbols often don't fully understand their origins.

"Nobody is going to accidentally have a 'Right Wing Death Squad' patch," she said. "But it's because of this whole meme culture, and generally the way that iconography is used to signal encoded speech or messages, they don't always know exactly" what it means.

WHITE SUPREMACIST GROUPS HAVE NON-WHITE MEMBERS?

Far-right extremist groups like the Proud Boys often point to their Black and Hispanic members to rebut claims that they promote racism or white supremacist ideologies. Tarrío, the former Proud Boys leader, is Cuban American, for example.

The Daily Stormer, a leading neo-Nazi website, launched a Spanish-language edition in 2017 tailored for readers in Spain and Latin America.

Some Hispanics identify as white.

But those who don't consider themselves to be white "can still be attracted to and support movements that are inherently or explicitly white supremacist," said Miller-Idriss, author of "Hate in the Homeland: The New Global Far Right."

"And that is the same way that women can support patriarchal or male supremacist movements," she added.

Tanya Hernández, a law professor at Fordham University and author of "Racial Innocence: Unmasking Latino Anti-Black Bias," said Latinos are often viewed "as an unwanted other" in the U.S.

"If you are a Latino who is already affected by being viewed as other and want desperately to be part of the club that is the U.S., what better way to make a claim ... than to be part of the enforcement, the policing of whiteness within a white supremacist hate group?" she said.

Associated Press writer Michael Balsamo in New York contributed to this report.

Today in History: May 10, transcontinental railroad finished

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, May 10, the 130th day of 2023. There are 235 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 10, 1940, during World War II, German forces began invading the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium and France. The same day, British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain resigned, and Winston Churchill formed a new government.

On this date:

In 1775, Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys, along with Col. Benedict Arnold, captured the British-held fortress at Ticonderoga, New York.

In 1818, American patriot Paul Revere, 83, died in Boston.

In 1865, Confederate President Jefferson Davis was captured by Union forces in Irwinville, Georgia.

In 1869, a golden spike was driven in Promontory, Utah, marking the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in the United States.

In 1924, J. Edgar Hoover was named acting director of the Bureau of Investigation (later known as the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or FBI).

In 1933, the Nazis staged massive public book burnings in Germany.

In 1941, Adolf Hitler's deputy, Rudolf Hess, parachuted into Scotland on what he claimed was a peace mission. (Hess ended up serving a life sentence at Spandau Prison until 1987, when he apparently committed suicide at age 93.)

In 1994, Nelson Mandela took the oath of office in Pretoria to become South Africa's first Black president. The state of Illinois executed serial killer John Wayne Gacy, 52, for the murders of 33 young men and boys.

Groton Daily Independent

Wednesday, May 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 306 ~ 74 of 74

In 1995, 104 miners were killed in an elevator accident in Orkney, South Africa.

In 2002, a tense 39-day-old standoff between Israeli troops and Palestinian gunmen at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem ended with 13 suspected militants flown into European exile and 26 released into the Gaza Strip.

In 2014, Michael Sam was picked by the St. Louis Rams in the seventh round of the NFL draft, becoming the first openly gay player drafted by a pro football team. (Sam retired after an unsuccessful stint with the Rams and the Dallas Cowboys.)

Ten years ago: The Internal Revenue Service apologized for what it acknowledged was "inappropriate" targeting of conservative political groups during the 2012 election to see if they were violating their tax-exempt status. U.S. government scientists said worldwide levels of carbon dioxide, the chief greenhouse gas blamed for global warming, had hit a milestone, reaching an amount never before encountered by humans.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump announced that he would meet in Singapore with North Korea's Kim Jong Un on June 12; the announcement came hours after Trump hosted a welcome-home for three Americans who had been held by Kim's government. A federal safety agency is investigating a severe crash and fire involving a Tesla electric car that killed two teenagers in Florida. (It would later be determined that excessive speed caused their deaths, though a fire that broke out in the car's lithium ion battery contributed.)

One year ago: Russia pummeled the vital Ukrainian port of Odesa in an apparent effort to disrupt supply lines and Western weapons shipments critical to the defense of the capital, Kyiv. Elon Musk said he would reverse Twitter's permanent ban of former President Donald Trump if he followed through with his plan to buy the social media company. (Musk would complete his purchase of Twitter in October and restore Trump's account.) Authorities said they would not file criminal charges against former heavyweight champ Mike Tyson after he was recorded on video punching a fellow first-class passenger aboard a plane at San Francisco International Airport.

Today's Birthdays: Author Barbara Taylor Bradford is 90. R&B singer Henry Fambrough (The Spinners) is 85. Actor David Clennon is 80. Writer-producer-director Jim Abrahams is 79. Singer Donovan is 77. Singer-songwriter Graham Gouldman (10cc) is 77. Singer Dave Mason is 77. Sports anchor Chris Berman is 68. Actor Bruce Penhall is 66. Former Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., is 65. Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith, R-Miss., is 64. Actor Victoria Rowell is 64. Rock singer Bono (BAH'-noh) (U2) is 63. Former Sen. Dean Heller, R-Nev., is 63. Rock musician Danny Carey (Tool) is 62. Actor Darryl M. Bell is 60. Playwright Suzan-Lori Parks is 60. Model Linda Evangelista is 58. Rapper Young MC is 56. Actor Erik Palladino is 55. Rock singer Richard Patrick (Filter) is 55. Actor Lenny Venito is 54. Actor Dallas Roberts is 53. Actor Leslie Stefanson is 52. Actor-singer Todd Lowe is 51. Actor Andrea Anders is 48. Race car driver Helio Castroneves is 48. Rock musician Jesse Vest is 46. Actor Kenan Thompson is 45. Actor Odette Annable is 38. Actor Lindsey Shaw is 34. Actor Lauren Potter is 33. Olympic gold medal swimmer Missy Franklin is 28.