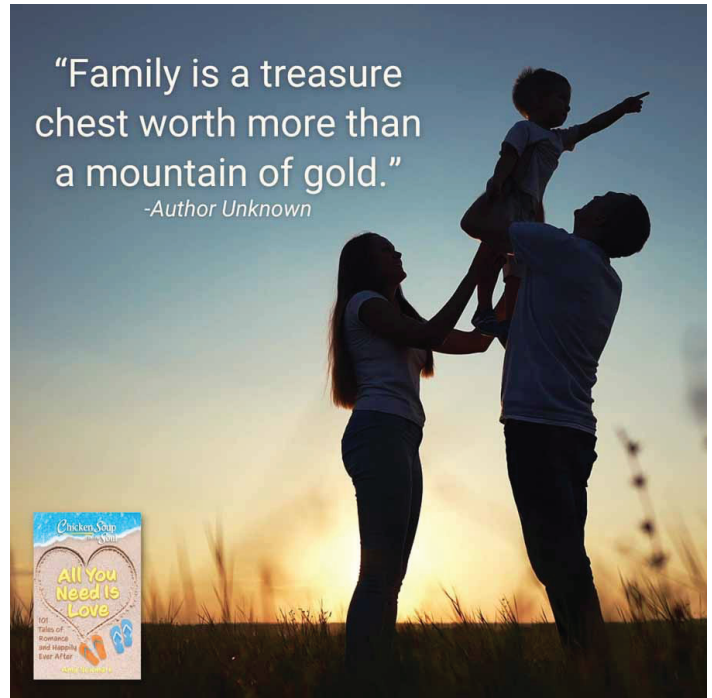


Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 1 of 73

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- The Start of El Nino Has Officially Arrived, Says NOAA](#)
- [3- Gov. Noem Provides Supply Shortage Relief](#)
- [4- GFP Commission Holds June Meeting](#)
- [4- Groton Transit Fundraiser Ad](#)
- [5- Legion teams beat Milbank](#)
- [6- Sunday Extras](#)
- [24- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)
- [25- Thune's Weekly Column](#)
- [26- Johnson's Weekly Column](#)
- [27- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
- [29- EarthTalk - Turbulence](#)
- [30- SD SearchLight: Congressional Roundup: Rounds targets Russian assets for Ukraine](#)
- [32- Weather Pages](#)
- [36- Daily Devotional](#)
- [37- 2023 Community Events](#)
- [38- Subscription Form](#)
- [39- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [40- News from the Associated Press](#)



Groton Trap Shoot Team takes first at state

The Groton Trap Shoot Team took first place at the state tournament held yesterday in Aberdeen. We are working on getting the details and a photo of the team.

Groton Community Calendar

Sunday, June 11

United Methodist: Pastor Brandon and Ashley going away party. Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.

St. John Lutheran worship, 9 a.m.; Zion at 11 a.m.

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

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

Monday, June 12

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas and carrots, tropical fruit, whole wheat bread.

United Methodist: PEO meeting (outside group), 7 p.m.

The Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., community center
1 p.m.: Senior Citizens Meet at the Groton Community Center.

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

Legion vs. W.I.N. at Northville, 5 p.m. (1)

Jr. Legion vs. W.I.N. at Northville, 7 p.m. (1)

Jr. Teener hosts W.I.N., 5:30 p.m., (2)

U10BB R/B hosts Webster, 6 p.m. (2)

U8 Blue hosts Webster, 6 p.m. (2)

Tuesday, June 13

Senior Menu: Scalloped potato with ham, beets, sunset salad, cookie, whole wheat bread.

Olive Grove: Ladies League, 6 p.m.; Bridge.

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

© 2023 Groton Daily Independent

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 2 of 73

The Start of El Nino Has Officially Arrived, Says NOAA

An early bird El Nino has officially formed, likely to be strong, warp weather worldwide and give an already warming Earth an extra kick of natural heat, meteorologists announced.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Thursday issued an El Nino advisory, announcing the arrival of the climatic condition. It may not quite be like the others.

It formed a month or two earlier than most El Ninos do, which "gives it room to grow," and there's a 56% chance it will be considered strong and a 25% chance it reaches supersized levels, said climatologist Michelle L'Heureux, head of NOAA's El Nino/La Nina forecast office.

"If this El Nino tips into the largest class of events ... it will be the shortest recurrence time in the historical record," said Kim Cobb, a climate scientist at Brown University. Such a short gap between El Ninos leaves communities with less time to recover from damages to infrastructure, agriculture, and ecosystems like coral reefs.

Usually, an El Nino mutes hurricane activity in the Atlantic, giving relief to coastal areas in states from Texas to New England, Central America and the Caribbean, weary from recent record busy years. But this time, forecasters don't see that happening, because of record hot Atlantic temperatures that would counteract the El Nino winds that normally decapitate many storms.

Hurricanes strengthen and grow when they travel over warm seawater, and the tropical regions of the Atlantic Ocean are "exceptionally warm," said Kristopher Karnauskas, associate professor at the University of Colorado Boulder. So this year, NOAA and others are predicting a near-average Atlantic hurricane season.

In the past, a strong El Nino has led to record global warmth, like in 2016 and 1998. Scientists earlier this year had been saying next year is more likely to set a record heat, especially because El Ninos usually reach peak power in winter. But this El Nino started even earlier than usual.

"The onset of El Nino has implications for placing 2023 in the running for warmest year on record when combined with climate-warming background," said University of Georgia meteorology professor Marshall Shepherd.

An El Nino is a natural, temporary and occasional warming of part of the Pacific that shifts weather patterns across the globe, often by moving the airborne paths for storms. The world earlier this year got out of an unusually long-lasting and strong La Nina — El Nino's flip side with cooling — that exacerbated drought in the U.S. West and augmented Atlantic hurricane season.

What this in some ways means is that some of the wild weather of the past three years — such as drought in places — will flip the opposite way.

"If you've been suffering three years of a profound drought like in South America, then a tilt toward wet might be a welcome to development," L'Heureux said. "You don't want flooding, but certainly there are portions of the world that may benefit from the onset of El Nino."

For the next few months, during the northern summer, El Nino will most be felt in the Southern Hemisphere with "minimal impacts" in North America, L'Heureux said.

El Nino strongly tilts Australia toward drier and warmer conditions with northern South America — Brazil, Colombia and Venezuela — likely to be drier and Southeast Argentina and parts of Chile likely to be wetter, she said. India and Indonesia also tend to be dry through August in El Ninos.

While traditionally El Nino means fewer hurricanes in the Atlantic, it often means more tropical cyclones in the Pacific, L'Heureux said.

El Nino hits hardest in December through February, shifting the winter storm track farther south to the equator. The entire southern third to half of the United States, including California, is likely to be wetter in El Nino. For years, California was looking for El Nino rain relief from a decades long megadrought, but this winter's seemingly endless atmospheric rivers made it no longer needed, she said.

The U.S. Pacific Northwest and parts of the Ohio Valley can go dry and warm, L'Heureux said.

Some of the biggest effects are likely to be seen in a hotter and drier Indonesia and adjacent parts of Asia, L'Heureux said. Also look for parts of southern Africa to go dry.

On the other hand, drought-stricken countries in northeast Africa will welcome beneficial rainfall after

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 3 of 73

enduring drought conditions for several years due to prolonged La Nina events, said Azhar Ehsan, associate research scientist at Columbia University.

Some economic studies have shown that La Nina causes more damages in the United States and globally than El Nino.

One 2017 study in an economic journal found El Nino has a "growth-enhancing effect" on the economies of the United States and Europe, while it was costly for Australia, Chile, Indonesia, India, Japan, New Zealand and South Africa.

But a recent study says El Nino is far more expensive globally than previously thought, putting damage estimates in the trillions of dollars. The World Bank estimated that the 1997-1998 El Nino cost governments \$45 billion.

The United States also faces hazards from El Nino despite some benefits. Ehsan noted that the increased rainfall in California, Oregon, and Washington heightens the risk of landslides and flash flooding in these areas. "While El Nino brings benefits in terms of water resource recharge, it poses certain hazards that need to be considered and managed," he added.

—
Borenstein reported from Washington, O'Malley from Philadelphia.

Gov. Noem Provides Supply Shortage Relief

PIERRE, S.D. – Today, Governor Kristi Noem signed Executive Order 2022-09 granting an hours-of-service waiver for certain liquid products being transported through South Dakota.

The 30-day order declares a state of emergency and exempts delivery of gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, propane, ethyl alcohol, and natural gasoline from federal motor carrier regulations regarding drivers' hours of service. The waiver will address supply shortages being reported in the state by businesses and residents.

Although hours of service have been temporarily suspended for commercial deliveries, companies may not require or allow fatigued drivers to make deliveries. All other road safety and vehicle compliance regulations still apply.

The executive order expires at midnight on July 9, 2023.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 4 of 73

GFP Commission Holds June Meeting

PIERRE, S.D. – The South Dakota Game, Fish and Parks (GFP) Commission held their June meeting at Good Earth State Park on June 8-9.

WILDLIFE PROPOSALS

River Otter Season

The Commission proposed the 2023 and 2024 river otter trapping and hunting seasons with no changes. With no change, the season will continue under its current structure.

This season will run from Nov. 1 - Dec. 31 or until 20 river otters have been harvested.

Antelope and Turkey Drawings

The Commission proposed to restrict the number of applications a person may submit during the third draw from up to five applications to one application for Prairie Spring Turkey, Fall Turkey, and Prairie Antelope. This creates consistency among turkey and antelope draws, creates more opportunity for more

unique hunters, and reduces the amount of returned licenses.

Sage Grouse Season

The Commission concurred with the department's recommendation to keep the Sage Grouse Hunting Season closed for 2023 and 2024.

The South Dakota Sage Grouse Management Plan provides guidance for a short hunting season if more than 300 male sage grouse are counted on leks in Butte and Harding Counties. Spring lek surveys indicated 110 males on those leks.

Public Comments Being Accepted

To hear the discussion on these proposals, audio from the meeting is available through South Dakota Public Broadcasting and will soon be available on the GFP website as part of the meeting archive.

To see these proposals in their entirety, visit gfp.sd.gov/commission/information.

To be included in the public record and to be considered by the Commission, comments must include a full name and city of residence and be submitted by 11:59 p.m. CDT on July 16

The next GFP Commission meeting will be held in Chamberlain on July 20-21.



Groton Transit Fundraiser

Thursday, June 15, 2023

5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Groton Community Center

*** Groton Transit Fundraiser will be

held at the

Groton Community Center

109 N. 3rd St. - one block east of

Groton Transit ***

Let us do the cooking for you!
Burgers, Brats, Beans, Watermelon,
Chips and the famous Mini Donuts!!

* Food * Fund * Door Prizes *

FREE WILL OFFERING

*Please join us and help
support the Groton Transit!*

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 5 of 73

Groton Legion Clinches Lead in Fourth Inning to Defeat Milbank

Groton Legion Post 39 defeated Post 9 16-6 on Saturday after taking the lead late in the game. The game was tied at three with Groton Legion Post 39 batting in the bottom of the fourth when an error scored one run for Groton Legion Post 39.

The base paths were crowded in this high-scoring game. Groton Legion Post 39 collected ten hits and Post 9 had five.

Groton Legion Post 39 got things started in the first inning when Ryan Groeblichhoff drew a walk, scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 took the lead for good with two runs in the fourth inning. In the fourth Bradin Althoff singled on a 1-2 count, scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post 39 tallied seven runs in the fifth inning. Logan Ringgingberg, Braxton Imrie, Brevin Fliehs, Althoff, Groeblichhoff, and Cade Larson each had RBIs in the big inning.

Tate Larson earned the victory on the pitcher's mound for Groton Legion Post 39. The righthander lasted three and a third innings, allowing one hit and three runs while striking out four. Fliehs threw two and two-thirds innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Tanner Hallquist took the loss for Post 9. The hurler lasted one and one-third innings, allowing five hits and 11 runs while striking out one.

Justus Osborn started the game for Post 9. The righthander went four innings, allowing five runs on five hits and striking out six.

Groton Legion Post 39 racked up ten hits in the game. Althoff, Groeblichhoff, Cole Simon, Fliehs, and Larson each managed multiple hits for Groton Legion Post 39. Larson, Fliehs, Simon, Groeblichhoff, and Althoff each collected two hits to lead Groton Legion Post 39. Groton Legion Post 39 tore up the base paths, as two players stole at least two bases. Althoff led the way with two.

Merik Junker led Post 9 with two hits in four at bats.

Groton Jr. Legion Takes Victory Over Milbank Jr. Legion, 5-1

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion wins contest against Milbank Jr. Legion on Saturday, 5-1

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion got on the board in the second inning.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion notched four runs in the third inning. Teylor Diegel, Gavin Englund, and Carter Simon all drove in runs in the frame.

Korbin Kucker earned the victory on the mound for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Kucker lasted six and a third innings, allowing four hits and one run while striking out nine. Jarrett Erdmann threw two-thirds of an inning in relief out of the bullpen.

J Schulte took the loss for Milbank Jr. Legion. The hurler lasted six innings, allowing seven hits and five runs while striking out nine.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion collected seven hits on the day. Caden Mcinerney and Brevin Fliehs each managed multiple hits for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Fliehs and Mcinerney each collected two hits to lead Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion tore up the base paths, as two players stole at least two bases. Kucker led the way with two.

Groton Daily Independent

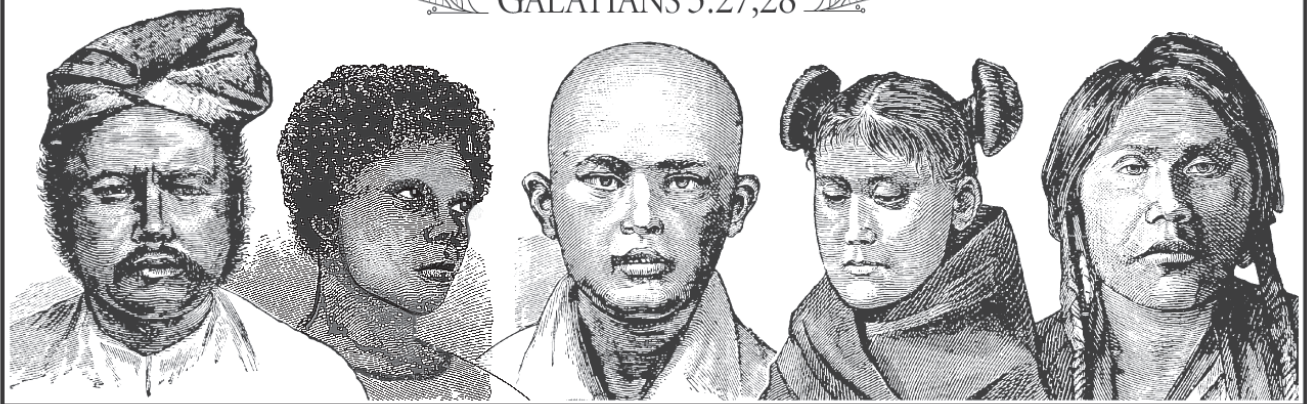
Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 6 of 73



THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

✿ GALATIANS 3:27,28 ✿



© 2023 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

HOW TO START A PANIC



BIBLIE
TRIVIA
by Wilson Casey

1. Is the book of James (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. From 2 Samuel 18:18, who erected a memorial to himself because he did not have a son? *Onesimus, Absalom, Spartacus, Isaiah*

3. Where is Satan called “the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience”? *Galatians 1, Ephesians 2, Colossians 3, Titus 4*

4. What widowed prophetess was 84 years old on seeing the young Jesus in the temple? *Anna, Jezebel, Hagar, Abigail*

5. Which book foretold of the Messiah being born in Bethlehem? *Ezra, 1 Kings, Amos, Micah*

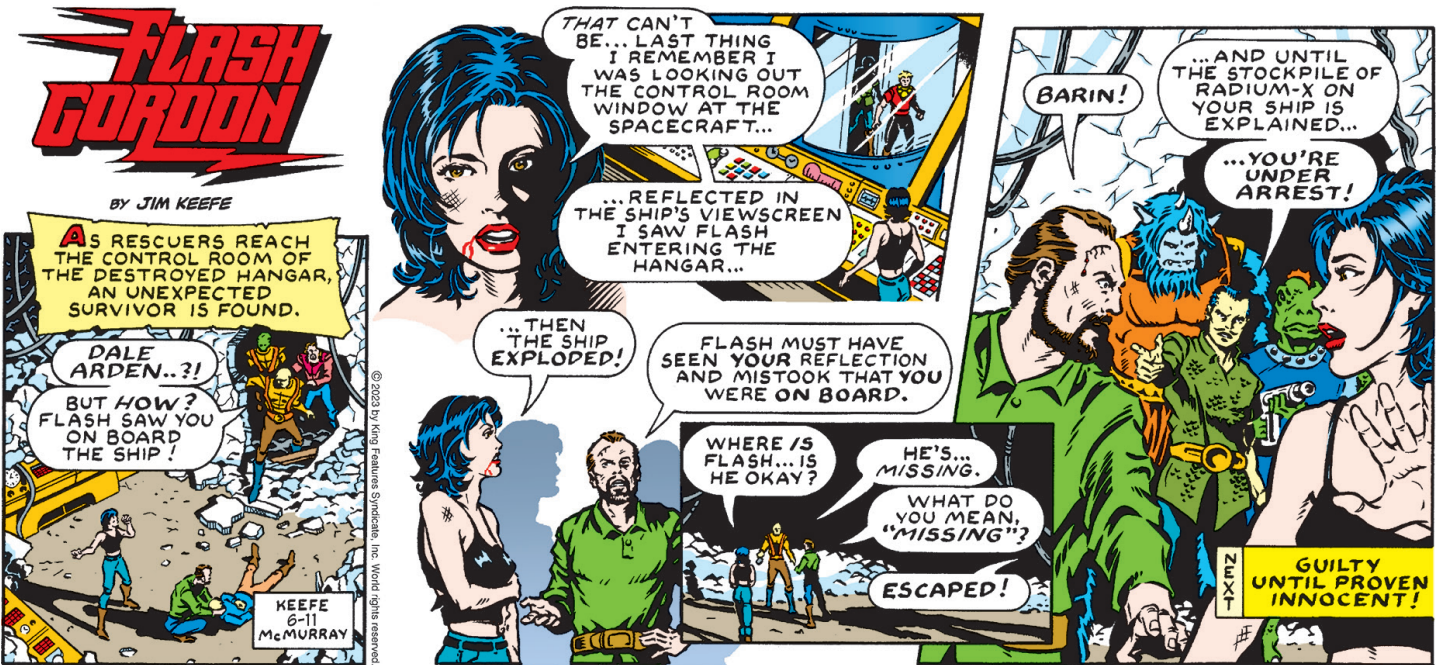
6. From Genesis 35:22, how many sons did Jacob have? *1, 3, 6, 12*

ANSWERS: 1) New, 2) Absalom, 3) Ephesians 2:2, 4) Anna, 5) Micah 5:2, 6) 12

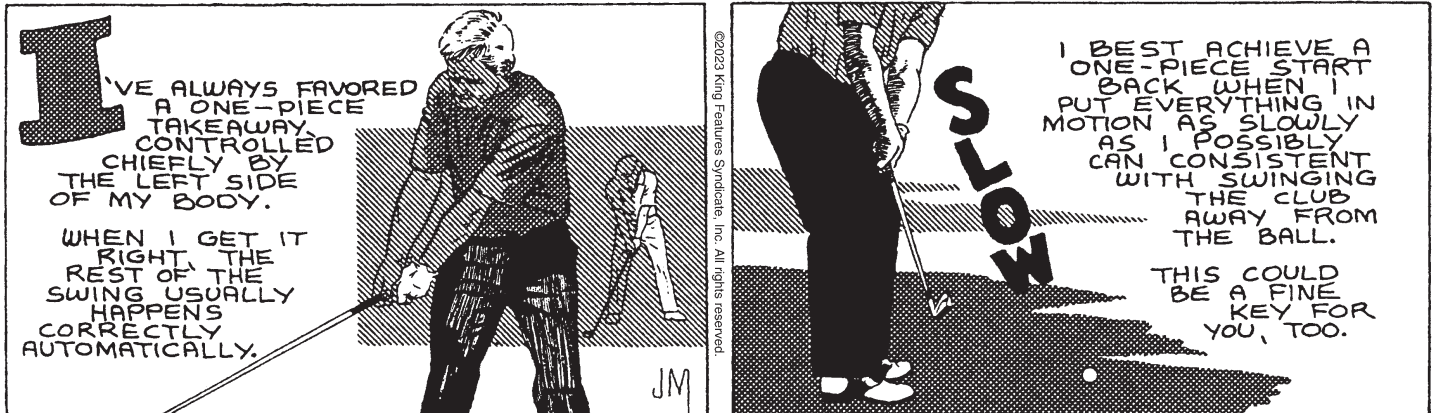
Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey’s subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 8 of 73



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Bout of Pneumonia Leads to Shocking Breast Cancer Diagnosis

DEAR DR. ROACH: My 73-year-old wife has been diligent in getting her mammograms done, plus blood tests and doctor's visits every three months. In November 2021, she came down with what seemed like a very bad cold that was actually confirmed by X-ray to be pneumonia. After two rounds of different antibiotics, she had lost 35 pounds, and it left her with weakness and a lingering cough. A CT scan later indicated that she "either has cancer or had cancer in the past."

Multiple tests later, it was determined that there was a tumor at the 12:00 position in her breast and a tumor in her stomach that had spread to her pelvis and bones in her legs. She started taking letrozole and Ibrance, and although extreme fatigue is the most common side effect, they appear to be working.

My question is, how could this initial breast cancer have gone undetected for some time with all of the regular testing and not set off alarms? As bad as the pneumonia was, it allowed her to receive a diagnosis of a disease that eluded detection by current screening methods and very good physicians. — *Anon.*

ANSWER: I am so very sorry to hear about your wife. Breast cancer is not just one disease. We think of breast cancer as something that can be easily cured if it is found early, but if you wait too late, it becomes difficult or impossible to cure. Some breast cancers do act that way, but others are much more indolent — they grow slowly and may never get to the point where they threaten a person's life.

Unfortunately, there are some breast cancers that can become metastatic (spreading to different sites such as

before they are detectable at all by even the most sensitive tests, such as a mammogram or MRI. By the time they are found, because of symptoms, they are incurable by surgery and require systemic treatments like chemotherapy and hormonal therapy.

Most metastatic breast cancer is incurable, but newer treatments have improved life expectancy, with the average being three years. Screening for breast cancer is unable to save all lives. More effective treatment, in combination with regular screening, will be necessary to continue to progress against this horrible disease.

DEAR DR. ROACH: If a male inherits the BRCA1 gene, what should his medical concerns be? — *B.D.*

ANSWER: Men with the BRCA1 gene (mutations in this gene predispose patients to several types of cancer) are at high risk for male breast cancer and prostate cancer. They should perform a monthly breast self-examination and receive a clinical breast exam every year, starting at age 35.

Screening mammography is not recommended for men with a BRCA1 mutation. Prostate cancer screening should certainly be done, possibly starting at age 40, rather than age 55, for average-risk men. There are some medicines that reduce risk of prostate cancer, but these aren't generally recommended. A diet high in plants, especially tomatoes, which are high in lycopene, has a suggested, but not definitively proven, reduction in risk of prostate cancer.

There is an increased risk for pancreatic cancer among both men and women with this gene, and one guideline recommends screening for pancreatic cancer in a person with a BRCA mutation who also has a first-degree family member (parent, sibling or child) with pancreatic cancer. Colon cancer screening should begin at age 45, just as it does for the general population.

I recommend a visit with a genetic counselor, especially in a person with a BRCA gene mutation who is considering starting a family.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 10 of 73



"The Crowded Room" (TV-MA) -- Tom Holland ("Spider-Man: No Way Home") leads this new psychological thriller series set in 1979 Manhattan, New York. Holland plays a young man named Danny who gets arrested under the pretense that he was involved in a shooting. As he tries to explain his innocence to the investigator covering his case, Rya (Amanda Seyfried), Danny simultaneously uncovers parts of his life that were blacked out of his memory. Emmy Rossum ("Shameless") and Sasha Lane ("Loki") co-star in the 10-episode series, which was originally inspired by the non-fiction novel "The Minds of Billy Milligan" by Daniel Keyes. The first three episodes are out now. (AppleTV+)



Amanda Seyfried and Tom Holland star in "The Crowded Room."
Courtesy of AppleTV+

"Maybe I Do" (PG-13) -- It doesn't take much to get me on board with a rom-com full of twists and turns, so the fact that there's an all-star cast -- Richard Gere, Susan Sarandon, William H. Macy and Diane Keaton -- in this film was pretty much just icing on the cake. Michelle (Emma Roberts) and Allen (Luke Bracey) are a young couple who are at odds when it comes to getting married. So, Michelle gives Allen an ultimatum, forcing them both to seek advice from their parents, who are all currently unfaithful to each other. Michelle then gets persuaded by her parents to invite Allen and his family over to their home, where both pairs of parents suddenly realize that their partners in infidelity are actually their children's in-laws. Premieres June 16. (Hulu)

"Based on a True Story" (TV-MA) -- Ava and Nathan Bartlett are a couple in desperate need of cash after Nathan lost his job, especially since they have a baby on the way. Ava, who has a crippling obsession with true crime, starts keeping tabs on a serial killer called the West Side Ripper near their neighborhood. The Bartletts then decide to capitalize on the interest in the West Side Ripper by starting a podcast, but as they begin to dive deep into the murders, their level of involvement escalates to the point of government intervention and killings happening right outside their door. Kaley Cuoco ("Big Bang Theory") and Chris Messina ("The Mindy Project") lead this comedy thriller series with all eight episodes out now. (Peacock)

"The Price of Glee" (TV-14) -- This three-part documentary series breaks down the "curse" surrounding the cast and crew of Fox's hit musical-comedy series "Glee." The high-profile deaths from the show that rocked the world included Cory Monteith, who overdosed right as he was set to return for the fifth season, and Naya Rivera, who drowned at Lake Piru after saving her son. But there were also several other crew members who met tragic endings following the show. In addition, the documentary series highlights the intense working conditions behind the show that seemed, at least in part, due to one of its creators Ryan Murphy ("American Horror Story" and "Dahmer"). All three parts are out now. (Max)

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 11 of 73



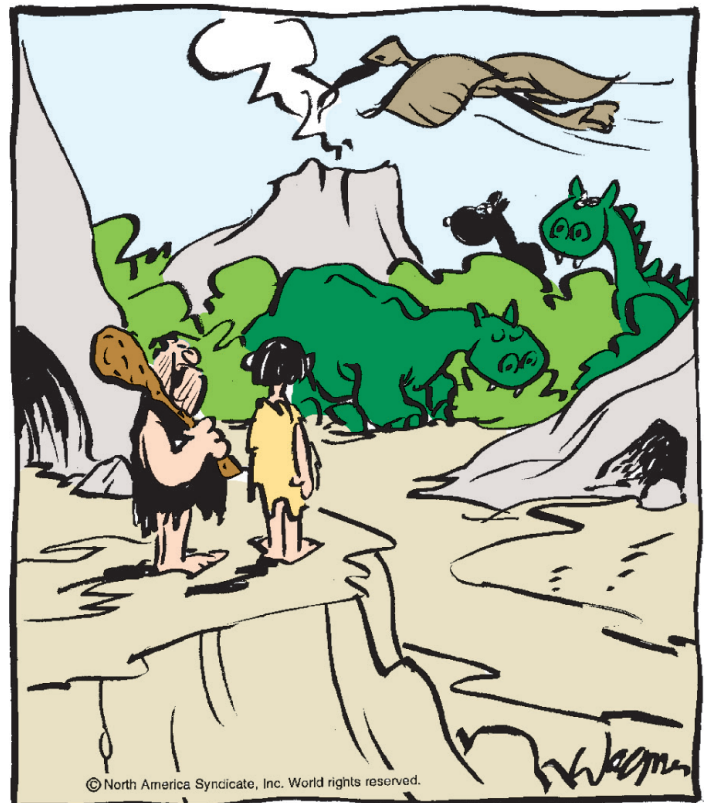
1. Name the group that released "If You Don't Know Me By Now."
2. Billy J. Kramer and The Dakotas shared a manager with which famous group?
3. Name the soul family group that released "Too Late to Turn Back Now."
4. Which duo wrote and released "Little Latin Lupe Lu"?
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "Gonna run my fingers through your long black hair, Squeeze you tighter than a grizzly bear."

Answers

1. Harold Melvin & the Blue Notes, in 1972. The Recording Industry Association of America designated it a Song of the Century, ranking it up there with "The Tennessee Waltz" and "Tom Dooley."
2. The Beatles. Brian Epstein managed both groups. Lennon and McCartney even gave Kramer some of their songs to record when they weren't right for the Beatles.
3. Cornelius Brothers & Sister Rose, in 1972. The song was written by one of the brothers, Eddie, and topped the Cashbox chart.
4. The Righteous Brothers, in 1963.
5. "Stuck On You," by Elvis Presley in 1960. The song climbed charts around the globe and even took the top spot away from "Theme From a Summer Place," which had stayed at No. 1 for nine weeks.

(c) 2023 King Features Syndicate

GRIN and BEAR IT by Wagner

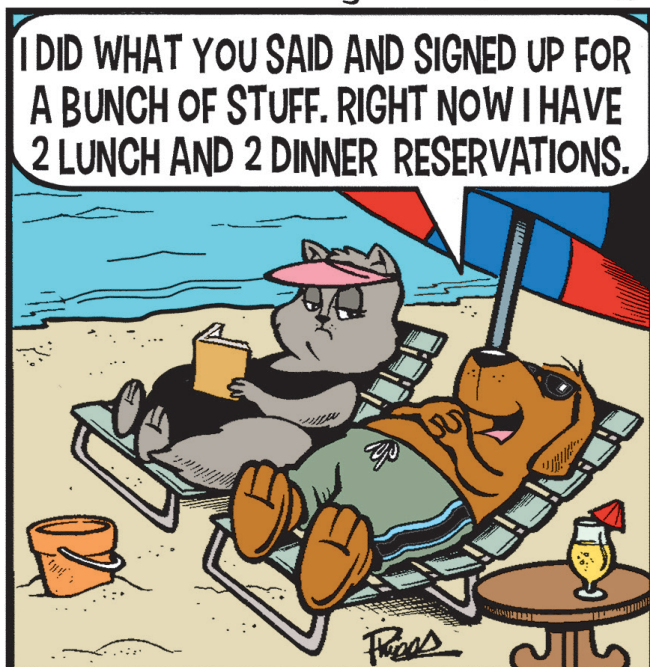


© North America Synchronate, Inc. World rights reserved.

"They're not real. ... They're computer-generated."

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

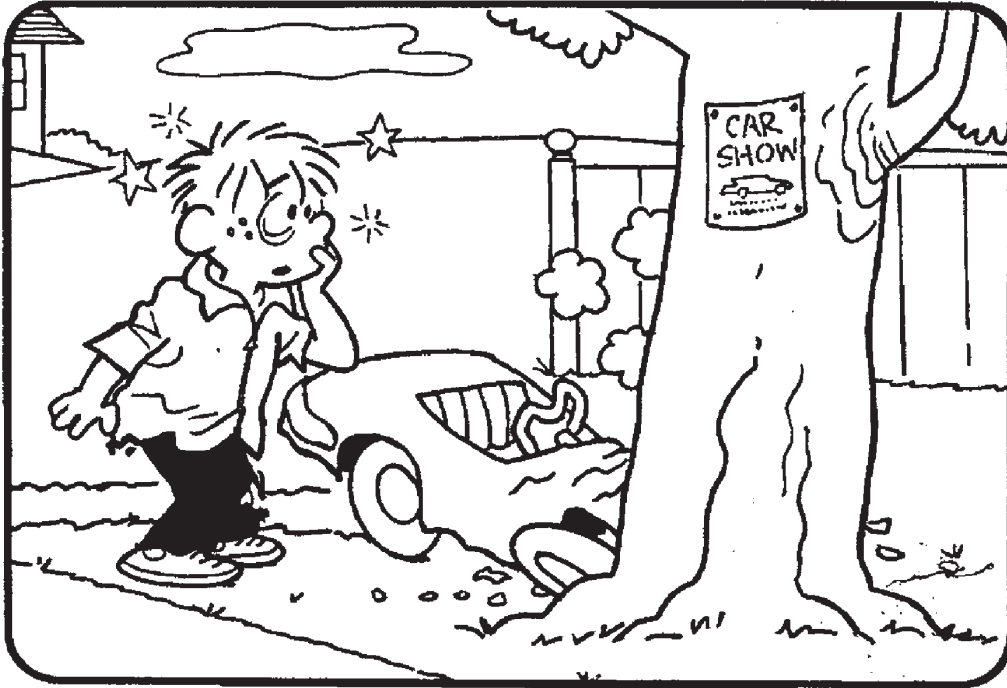


I DID WHAT YOU SAID AND SIGNED UP FOR A BUNCH OF STUFF. RIGHT NOW I HAVE 2 LUNCH AND 2 DINNER RESERVATIONS.

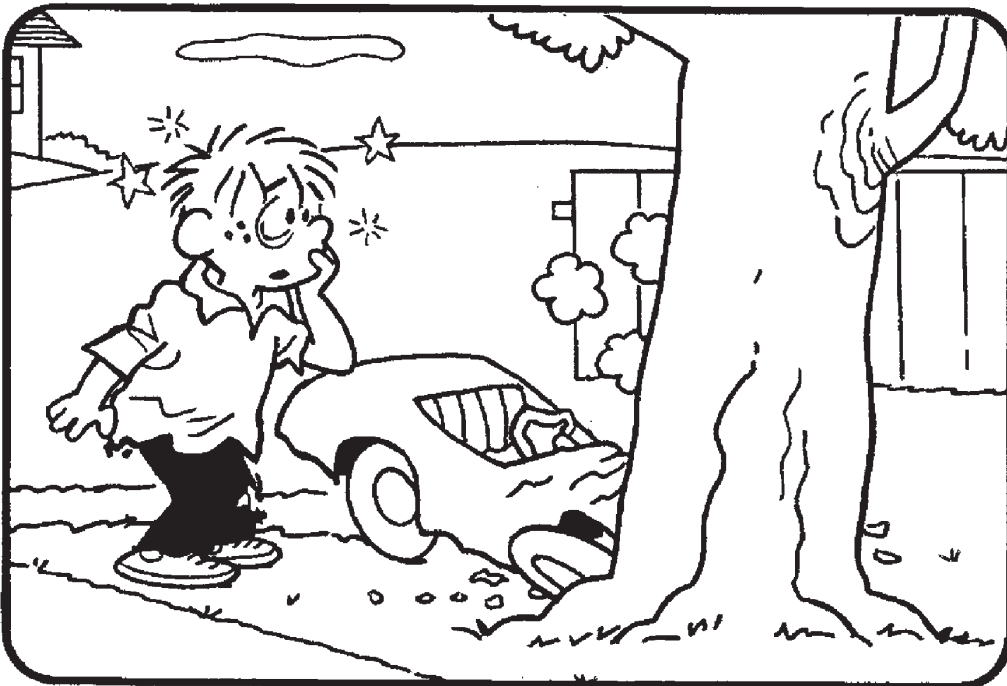
©2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cloud is smaller. 2. Zipper is missing. 3. Bumper is missing. 4. Steering wheel is different. 5. Post is missing. 6. Poster is missing.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 13 of 73



* Use the measuring cups when adding detergent to the washer. It avoids using too much, which can get costly. And it will avoid residual soap left in the fabric.

* If you use air-conditioning, use a programmable thermostat. You can set it to a higher temperature overnight, when it's naturally cooler, and have it cool down the house right about the time you'll get home, so there's no wasted energy cooling a house with no one in it.

* When putting woody-stem flowers, such as roses, in a vase, cut the stem diagonally and whack with a small mallet. It will absorb water much better this way. -- A.R. in Mississippi

* Save small milk cartons and wash well. Fill with water and freeze. You can use these in your picnic basket for an easy cold pack to keep foods chilled.

* Too many suds in the sink? Try sprinkling them with salt. The foam will settle down quickly!

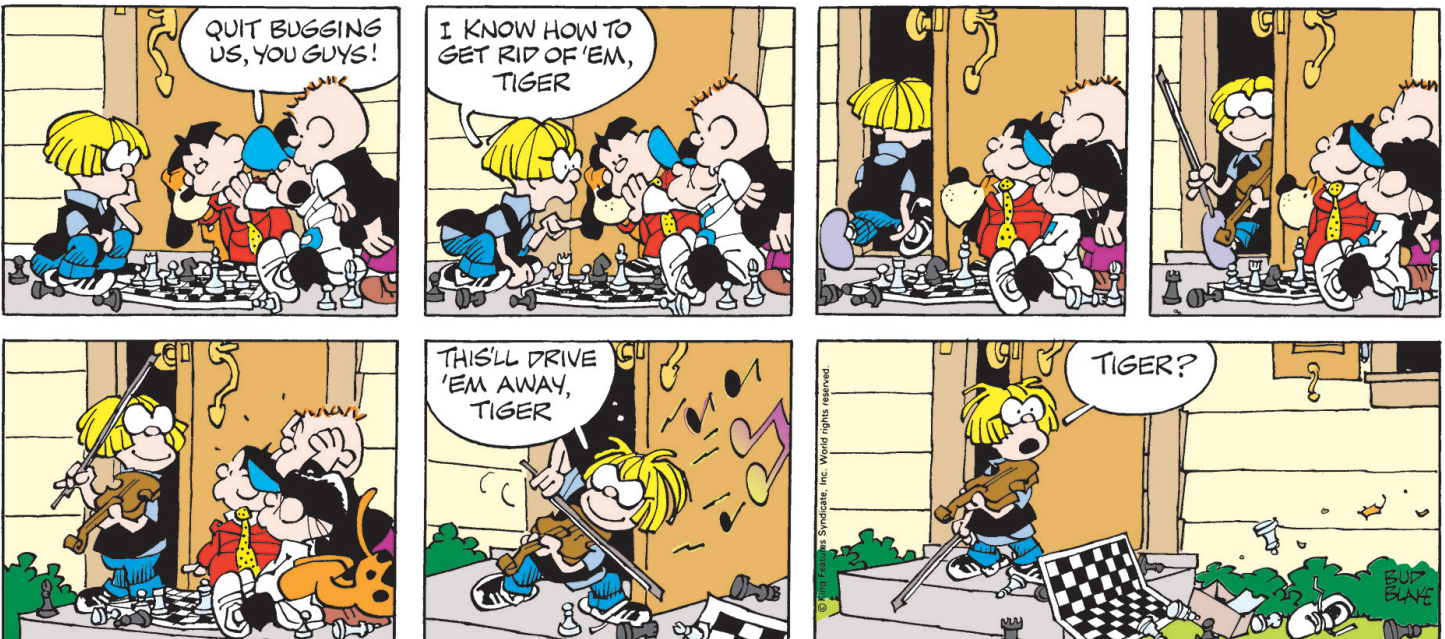
* Shower rings (the hooks that hold your shower curtain to the curtain bar) can be used for lots of things: I keep one in my sewing basket to hold safety pins. It's terrific, and the pins are orderly and easy to find. -- E.L. in Utah

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

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 14 of 73

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Potential syrup
- 4 Ship's front
- 8 Dutch cheese
- 12 Family card game
- 13 One with will power?
- 14 Cover with blacktop
- 15 Kind of stove
- 17 Mid-month date
- 18 Solo of "Star Wars"
- 19 Pie chart divisions
- 21 Exact
- 24 Fan's cry
- 25 "East of Eden" brother
- 26 Blend
- 28 Interior design
- 32 Curved molding
- 34 Signing need
- 36 Chicago paper, briefly
- 37 Irritable
- 39 "Mayday!"
- 41 Blackbird
- 42 Summer mo.
- 44 Orders of pancakes
- 46 Snarls
- 50 Annoy
- 51 Pulitzer winner James
- 52 Soup cooker

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
		18				19		20				
21	22				23		24					
25				26		27		28		29	30	31
32			33		34		35		36			
37				38		39		40		41		
			42		43		44		45			
46	47	48				49		50				
51					52		53				54	55
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- 26 Blend
- 28 Interior design
- 32 Curved molding
- 34 Signing need
- 36 Chicago paper, briefly
- 37 Irritable
- 39 "Mayday!"
- 41 Blackbird
- 42 Summer mo.
- 44 Orders of pancakes
- 46 Snarls
- 50 Annoy
- 51 Pulitzer winner James
- 52 Soup cooker
- 56 Katy Perry hit song
- 57 Hunt for
- 58 Wilder's "— Town"
- 59 Leer at
- 60 Nashville venue
- 61 Dead heat
- 62 Katy Perry hit subj.
- 63 Monet's supply
- 64 More ironic
- 65 Disparaging term
- 66 Pedestal part
- 67 Declare
- 68 GI dining hall
- 69 Slugger's need
- 70 Scoundrel
- 71 Highlander
- 72 Senate staffer
- 73 Chill in the air
- 74 Ballot marks
- 75 Eccentric
- 76 Sty cry
- 77 Baseball stats
- 78 Curio cabinet
- 79 Refusals
- 80 Actor Brynner
- 81 Viscid
- 82 Bas-relief medium
- 83 Noah's boat
- 84 Poi base
- 85 Awestruck
- 86 Patricia of "Hud"
- 87 Dance move
- 88 "— the ram-parts ..."
- 89 Gigi's "yes"
- 90 Three, in Rome

DOWN

- 1 Dine
- 2 Year in Cancun
- 3 Driving hazards
- 4 Wunderkind
- 5 Seminary
- 20 Scoundrel
- 21 Highlander
- 22 Senate staffer
- 23 Chill in the air
- 27 Ballot marks
- 29 Eccentric
- 30 Sty cry

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 15 of 73

— King Crossword —

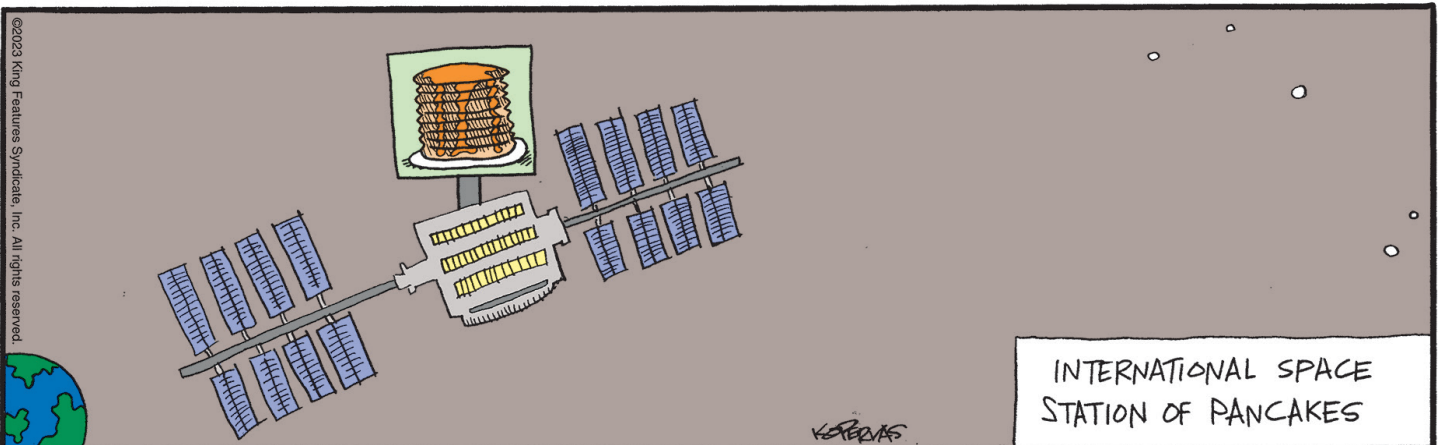
Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

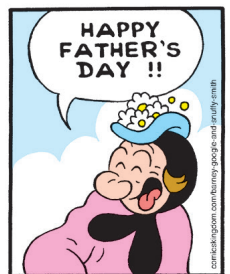
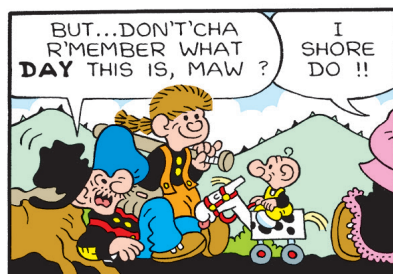
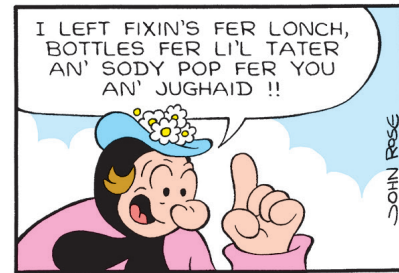
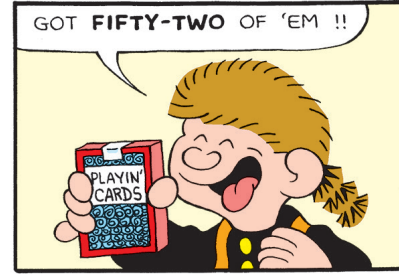
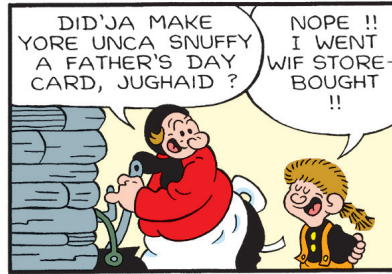
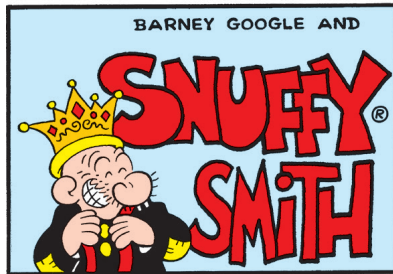
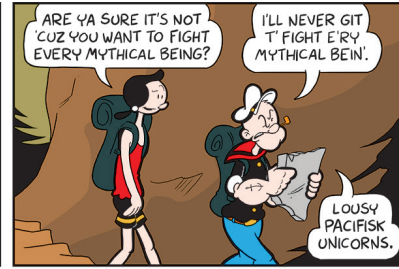
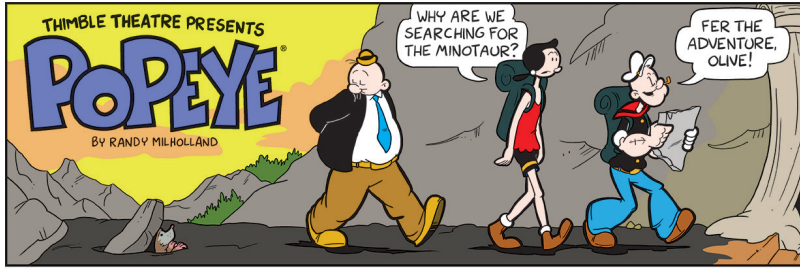
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



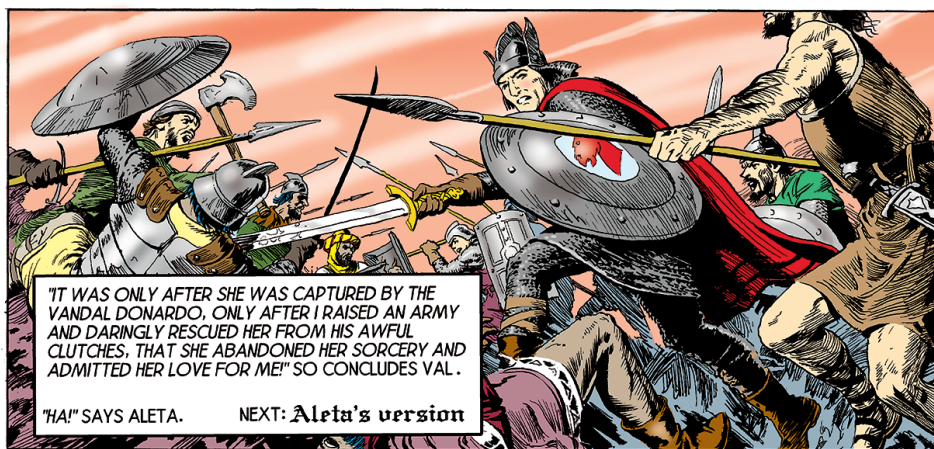
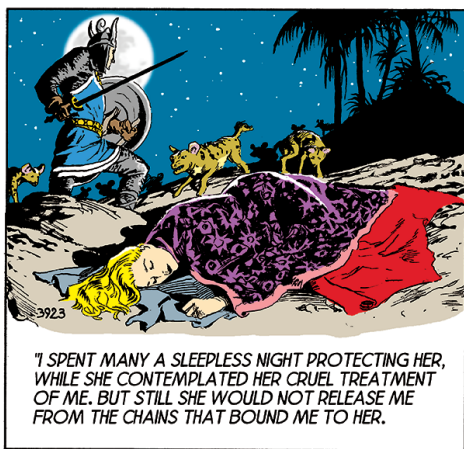
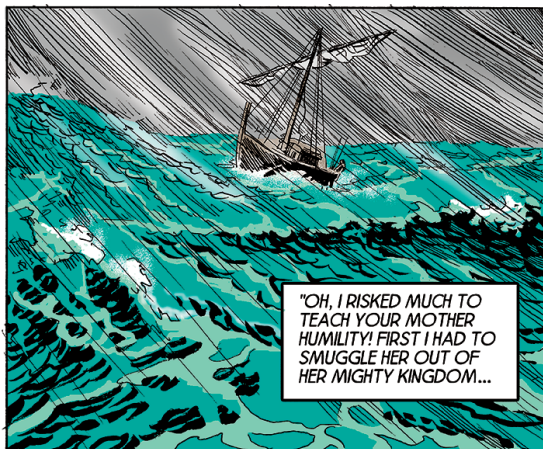
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 16 of 73



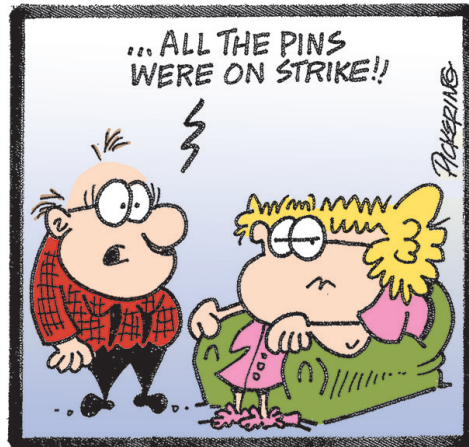
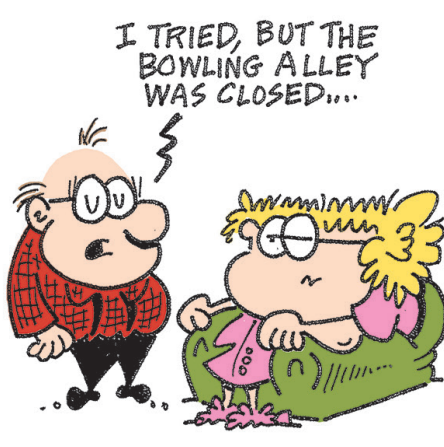
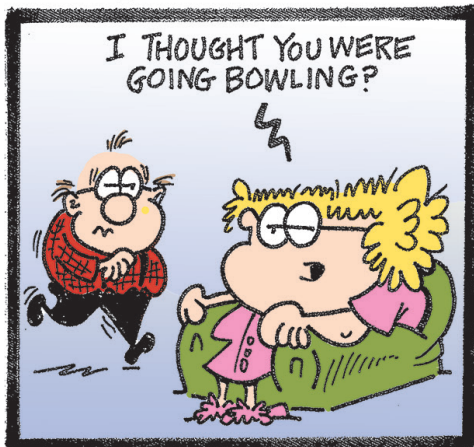
Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 17 of 73



The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

When You've Inherited Your Parents' Belongings

If you're struggling to deal with all the things you inherited from your parents (and maybe their parents), things you've held on to for years, you're not alone. In fact, as told to me recently by an antiques dealer, there are many, many of us. And we all have the same dilemma: what to do with all that "stuff."

The answer for some of us is to determine if those items have any real monetary value and then sell them.

Coins and coin collections seem to be at the top of the list of things we unearth in our parents' possessions. Your first step: Grab a magnifying glass. If the coins are loose, go over them one by one. If the coins are encased in plastic, don't open the case. Check the date and the details on the coins and go online. You might be surprised at their value (as I recently was to discover that a very tiny gold coin at the bottom of my father's jewelry box was worth many hundreds of dollars if sold).

Your second step, if you'd like to sell the coins: Find someone you trust. Look for someone local, not an online company. Make two or three calls and describe a few of the coins you have to gauge their reaction and what price they might offer. If you like what you hear, go see them in person. Take pictures on your phone and show them what additional coins you have, but don't take them all in at once.

There are other things you might unearth in your parents' possessions that can have value as well: watches, clocks, military medals, magazines, cut glass crystal, silverware, original Fiestaware, fountain pens, tools, first day covers, vinyl records, rotary telephones, luggage, first edition books, etc.

Who knows? You might end up with extra cash to pay your next several electric bills or a month of groceries ... or much more.

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 19 of 73

1. What island nation was the site of the 1973 heavyweight title fight between George Foreman and Joe Frazier billed as "The Sunshine Showdown"?

2. What American tennis player won six Grand Slam singles titles from 1949-55 and was the second woman to complete the Career Grand Slam?

3. What two Formula One drivers were killed in separate incidents during the weekend of the 1994 San Marino Grand Prix?

4. Baseball Hall of Famer Jim Bunning served in the U.S. Senate for what state from 1999-2011?

5. What Dutch basketball player led the ABA (1975) and the NBA (1980) in rebounding?

6. What team selected North Carolina Tar Heels running back Natrone Means in the second round of the 1993 NFL Draft?

7. What 1981 World Series MVP for the Los Angeles Dodgers was nicknamed "Penguin" for his unusual running gait?



by Ryan A. Berenz

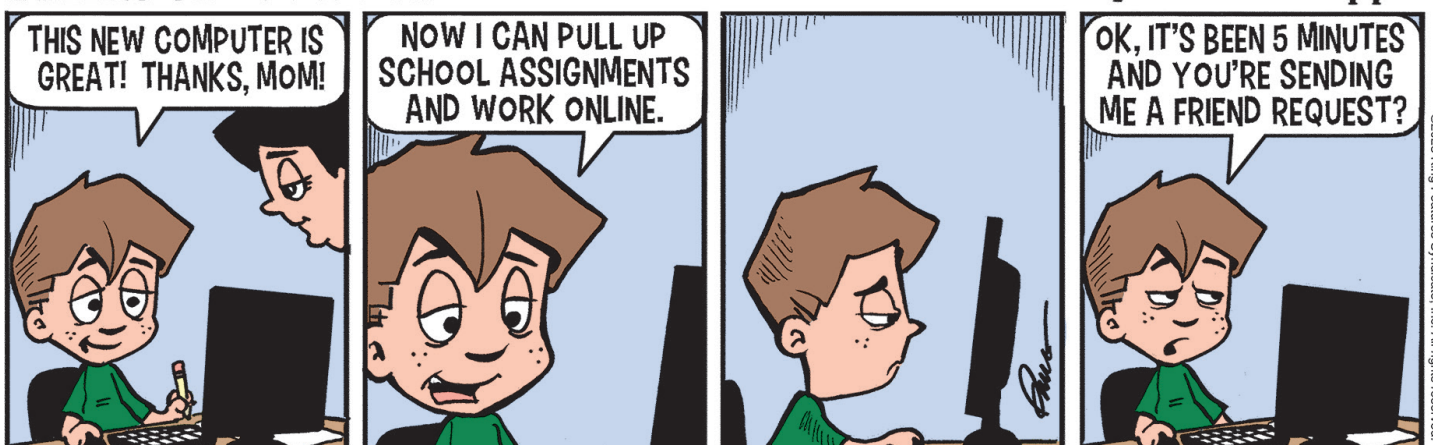
Answers

1. Jamaica.
2. Doris Hart.
3. Roland Ratzenberger and Ayrton Senna.
4. Kentucky.
5. Swen Nater.
6. The San Diego Chargers.
7. Ron Cey.

(c) 2023 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





My Cat Follows Me Everywhere

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I adopted a cat from a shelter just before Thanksgiving of last year. Blue is a beautiful boy who settled right into my home. He's very well socialized and doesn't even claw the furniture. However, he follows me everywhere! Even to the bathroom -- I have to close the door in his face. At night, he meows and paws at my bedroom door. He runs under the bed when I leave the house, and he sulks for quite a while when I return. How can I stop his clingy ways? -- Beth in Syracuse, New York

DEAR BETH: There's a fine line between "cuddly" and "clingy," and Blue has hopped right over it. If it helps, know that you're not alone. Studies over the

past decade show that cats bond to their humans much more strongly than we thought. Underneath that aloof exterior is a loyal heart of gold.

Cats who've had to spend time in a shelter may become overly clingy once they reach their forever home. They're finally with a forever family, and they don't want to let go! It's also tempting to give in to their demands for treats or to take over your bedroom to make up for their lost time.

Keep enforcing boundaries, but try to introduce positive stimuli before and after you shut him out of the bathroom or bedroom. Two important factors to be aware of are: 1. A daily routine and 2. Combating boredom. Commit to spending time with your cat before leaving for work, after returning and before going to bed. Incorporate play, using toys or laser pointers that he can chase.

Don't give up. You and Blue will figure out a routine and comfort level that works for both of you.

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

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* Amazon founder Jeff Bezos originally wanted to name the company Cadabra, but thought better of it after people kept mishearing the moniker as "c-daver."

* The unenviable record for longest sneezing fit belongs to U.K. resident Donna Griffiths, who began "kerchooing" Jan. 13, 1981 and by July 26 broke the previous record of 194 days. Griffiths sneezed an estimated million times in the first 365 days and finally stopped on Sept. 16, 1983, after 977 days. The exact reason behind her ordeal is still not fully clear.

* Scientists believe Earth's core, made up primarily of iron and nickel, may be even hotter than the surface of the sun, with temperatures reaching up to 9,932 degrees F.

* Smoking a cigarette causes damage not in years, but minutes.

* Speaking of smoking, a Japanese company awards employees who don't indulge in the habit an extra six days of paid leave per year. The incentive was launched after it became clear that workers who took smoke breaks had more than 15 minutes of extra time away from their desks each day.

* Platypuses may be cute, but are also so odd-looking that when scientists first discovered them, they thought the animal was a hoax.

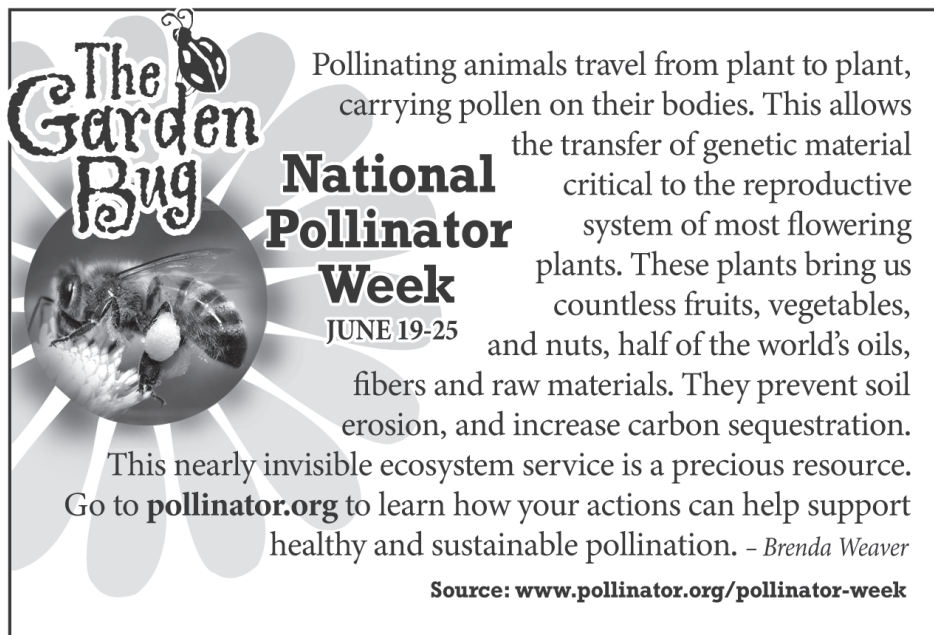
* People are 30 times more likely to laugh at something if they're with someone else.

* In the early 20th century, radium was commonly mixed with water, sold as an over-the-counter "energy" drink under the brand name Radithor, and marketed with the slogan "A Cure for the Living Dead," until the federal government stopped its production in 1932.

* Ancient Roman soldiers sometimes wore breastplates encrusted with diamonds in the belief that the gems offered them extra protection.

Thought for the Day: "I always wanted to be somebody, but now I realize I should have been more specific." -- Lily Tomlin

(c) 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.



The Garden Bug

Pollinating animals travel from plant to plant, carrying pollen on their bodies. This allows the transfer of genetic material critical to the reproductive system of most flowering plants. These plants bring us countless fruits, vegetables, and nuts, half of the world's oils, fibers and raw materials. They prevent soil erosion, and increase carbon sequestration.

National Pollinator Week
JUNE 19-25

This nearly invisible ecosystem service is a precious resource. Go to pollinator.org to learn how your actions can help support healthy and sustainable pollination. - Brenda Weaver

Source: www.pollinator.org/pollinator-week



by Freddy Groves

VA Fraud 101

There are only so many tax dollars to go around to provide services and benefits to veterans. When thieves cut into that money by taking what they're not entitled to, it harms the rest of us.

You can help by keeping your eyes open, and then reporting what you see to the correct people if you spot a scam.

Education benefits fraud can occur when a school charges veterans a higher rate than what is advertised or what they charge civilian students. They might offer discounts to civilians while billing the Department of Veterans Affairs for higher amounts. Students are told they don't even have to go to class and no actual skills are being taught.

Health care fraud can include billing for services the veteran didn't receive (check your explanation of benefits and your bills), or include the name of a different doctor or even the wrong dates the services were supposedly provided.

Medical identity theft can include the above, but gets worse when you discover errors in your medical file or when collection agencies start to hound you for medical bills you didn't incur.

Genetic testing scams can be lucrative for thieves, partially because of the kickbacks involved. Beware especially if you get a request for your personal information -- including medical, personal and financial -- for tests your doctor didn't order.

Keep an eye on what goes on around you for things such as: It looks as though a deceased veteran's benefits are being used by others, a veteran has a maxed-out 100% disability rating but doesn't seem to be getting any care for it or a beneficiary is too physically active for the supposed disability level.

What I've written about here is only the tip of the iceberg. To read about even more signs and indicators of fraud and theft, check the VAOIG's webpage: www.va.gov/oig/fraud/default.asp. Scroll through each section and become familiar with the signs of fraud. You could end up saving the VA massive amounts of money.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 23 of 73

Wishing Well®

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

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

©2023 King Features Syndicate



1. TELEVISION: When did "Sesame Street" debut on PBS?
2. MOVIES: What is the name of the moon where "Avatar" takes place?
3. GEOGRAPHY: Which country is home to a tall rock structure called the Finger of God?
4. HISTORY: What was Babe Ruth's real first name?
5. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many of Snow White's seven dwarfs have names ending in "y"?
6. MUSIC: Which country did the band AC/DC come from?
7. LITERATURE: How many books are in the primary Harry Potter novel series?
8. GOVERNMENT: How many national parks are in the United States?
9. FOOD & DRINK: In which country was the Caesar salad invented?
10. ANATOMY: Where is the uvula in the human body?

Answers

1. 1969.
2. Pandora.
3. Brazil.
4. George.
5. Five: Happy, Sleepy, Dopey, Sneezy and Grumpy. The other two are Doc and Bashful.
6. Australia.
7. Seven.
8. 63.
9. Mexico.
10. Throat.

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 24 of 73

South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

South Dakota: America's Freedom Stronghold

You know the Founding Fathers, the men who laid the foundation for this great nation. You probably know Washington, Adams, Jefferson, Madison, Franklin, and Hamilton. But you may not have heard of Benjamin Rush.

Benjamin Rush was active in the Sons of Liberty. He was consulted by Thomas Paine to help write Common Sense. He represented Pennsylvania and signed the Declaration of Independence. And he used his medical skills to help soldiers during the Revolutionary War.

Benjamin Rush was also very passionate about education. He wanted to ensure that future generations would have the gift of knowledge. In 1786, he wrote a plan for establishing public schools in the state of Pennsylvania. In his essay, Rush describes the influence and advantages of learning. He wrote, "learning is favorable to liberty. Freedom can exist only in the society of knowledge. Without learning, men are incapable of knowing their rights, and where learning is confined to a few people, liberty can be neither equal nor universal."

This ideal still rings true today – it's why I have found that one of the greatest things I can do as Governor is pour into our kids. It's why we passed new social studies standards for the state. It's why I have worked closely with the Board of Regents to continue improving South Dakota's institutes of higher education. And it's why our parents need to have a say in what their kids are learning in the classroom.

I want our kiddos to learn an honest and factual history, to understand the ideals of our founders, and to apply that knowledge to the nation today. That is how we preserve Freedom in South Dakota and in America.

Unfortunately, we now live in a time when common sense is no longer common, and patriotism seems to be harder to come by. Just recently, it was discovered that Target's nonprofit foundation is giving money to an organization that is pushing to give away Mount Rushmore to an extremist group who has threatened to shut it down and destroy it.

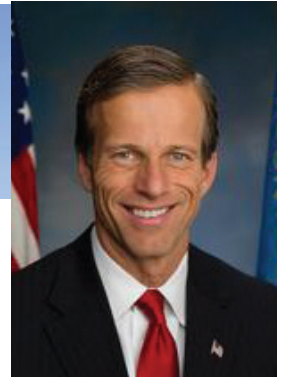
Target and other large corporations have been moving further and further away from traditional American values for years. They don't care that Mount Rushmore has always been a symbol of hope that this great American experiment in democracy will live on – that we will continue to be the greatest nation the world has ever seen.

The four leaders on Mount Rushmore did incredible things. They weren't perfect, but each of them played a part in giving Americans our most precious gift: Freedom.

The United States of America is the greatest, freest nation in history. We all know that, and we are making sure our kids and our grandkids know that too. In South Dakota, we still believe in the beauty of the American Dream and the value of hard work. And as Governor of this great state, I can promise you one thing – Mount Rushmore will not be given away on my watch.

America's symbol of Freedom will endure. And South Dakota will continue to be America's Freedom stronghold.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Green New Deal is a Bad Deal for America

Higher prices have become a fact of life during the Biden administration. This is especially true for energy – in South Dakota, the typical family is paying \$112 more per month for energy since President Biden took office. At the same time energy prices are straining family budgets, government policies are straining the energy industry and making our energy supply less reliable. This is no coincidence; it's the predictable result of the policies President Biden has enacted over the last two and a half years.

From the earliest days of his administration, President Biden has moved to accelerate his vision of a Green New Deal future. His early decisions to cancel the Keystone XL pipeline and pause energy development on federal lands sent a clear message that discouraged domestic production of conventional energy, which led to higher prices for American families. With the help of Democrats in Congress, the president has also increased taxes and fees on conventional energy producers, which will only drive prices higher.

The president is undertaking these policies with the promise of a transition to clean energy, but his singular focus on transitioning to clean energy is leading to a disturbing trend. Fossil fuel power plants are closing faster than new renewable sources can be brought on line. Plant closures and increased energy demand forecasted during the summer have led to warnings of blackouts across large swaths of the country. Yet, the Biden administration recently finalized a regulation that threatens to close more fossil fuel power plants and further destabilize our electric grid.

I've long been a supporter of renewable energy, and I'm proud that South Dakota is a leader in clean energy sources like hydroelectric, wind, and biofuels. But the fact is that we are not yet at a point where we can rely solely on renewable energy. President Biden needs to shift gears and unleash American energy production of both the conventional and renewable varieties.

Republicans have been working to advance policies that would support such an all-of-the-above energy portfolio. One of the ways to do this is by reforming our outdated federal permitting processes that have mired too many projects in unnecessary and costly delays. The recently passed Fiscal Responsibility Act takes important steps toward reducing these regulatory burdens by streamlining government agencies' reviews and shrinking the timeline for getting projects off the ground. These are meaningful steps, but there's more that needs to be done to ensure government regulation and spurious legal challenges do not stand in the way of the projects we need to deliver reliable and affordable energy to Americans.

For more than two years now, the Biden administration has demonstrated its hostility to conventional energy with devastating consequences for family budgets, businesses, and the reliability of our electric grid. It's long past time for the president to recognize the critical role conventional energy continues to play in our nation's energy supply and embrace a more realistic approach. Continuing to insist on an overly ambitious green energy transition would only further jeopardize America's energy security.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 26 of 73



CONGRESSMAN
DUSTY JOHNSON
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



Future Leaders of America

Every June, hundreds of high school students who just completed their junior year are selected by the American Legion Auxiliary to participate in Boys State and Girls State. I had the opportunity to attend Boys State when I was in high school, and it has had a lasting impact on me. I was honored to be able to speak at Boys State and Girls State again this year and met some of our state's next generation leaders in government. This year was even more special because my oldest son, Max, was at Boys State.

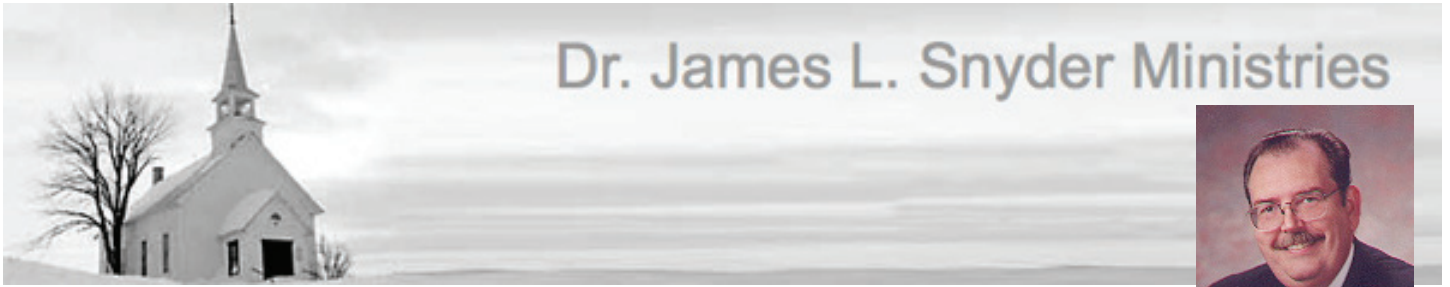
These conferences are organized so attendees can learn the functions of government at the local, county, and state levels; understand how to play an active role in government as a citizen; and develop a stronger understanding of patriotism. I know it's important to encourage students to become involved and engaged citizens and I am grateful for each opportunity I get to do so.

These events are a great kickoff to summer and close to the school year. Many of these students are now working hard at their summer jobs. I'm proud of the teens, including my own, who work jobs throughout the summer, gaining real workplace experience and developing interpersonal and professional skills that can't be taught in the classroom. I'm confident the teenagers who work jobs during the summer and throughout the year will have a leg up when it comes to apply to colleges, internships, and jobs post-college graduation.

Seeing hundreds of engaged, informed, and effective students in one place was encouraging and I look forward to seeing where these leaders go in their future.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 27 of 73



What's a Whopper Got to Do with Anything



After my heart attack, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage enacted a dietary regimen in accordance with improving my health.

The theme of this dietary regimen is vegetables, vegetables, vegetables. I did not know there were so many vegetables in the entire world. Her primary vegetable, much to my disdain, is broccoli.

Even though she is quite persuasive and persistent I have refused to eat any broccoli. If there is broccoli on my dish for lunch or supper I refuse to eat anything on that dish.

My dietary regime is quite strict, and there are more things I can't eat than I can eat. I have, however, suffered through this dietary persecution for the last several years.

One thing I am not permitted to do is go to a fast food restaurant. Particularly, I am not to have any cheeseburgers of any sort. That has been rather hard for me because the cheeseburger is one of my favorite foods. I'm expecting to have cheeseburgers in heaven when I get there.

I'm trying to keep up with her schedule; at least I've survived so far.

The other week something happened that changed my attitude along this line. The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage had several lunchtime appointments with her friends. It's one of those girl's time out in which I'm not involved.

I love it when an opportunity comes together.

There were about three days she would not be home for lunch. At the beginning of the week, she said, "I'm going to be away most of the time for lunch this week. Can you get your own lunch?"

It caught me by surprise, and I was slow in responding. After clearing my throat, I said, "Oh, yes, my dear, I can take care of my lunch. Go and have fun with your girlfriends."

After hearing that, my head was abuzz with all kinds of thoughts about lunchtime specials.

The one thing I could not get out of my thinking was those delicious Whoppers at Burger King. I'm not sure why that was on my mind, but it was, and I couldn't get rid of it.

Some of my best times have been at that restaurant munching on their delicious Whoppers. When I'm eating it I have peace of mind.

Of all the fast food restaurants in my town, why was I thinking of Burger King and their Whoppers? This is the one thing violently rejected on my dietary regime.

I'm not sure how it got into my head, but I could not get it out of my head. All I could think of was how delicious it would be to nibble on one of those delicious burgers. And then beside it would be French fries. Oh, what a wonderful thought. And then, to wash everything down was a large Pepsi. My heart is beating.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 28 of 73

I had to be very careful because I have learned over the years that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage can read my mind. How she does it, I don't know. But I been caught in many a scheme because of this skill.

If she knew what I was thinking then, boy, would I be in trouble.

In order to camouflage these thoughts, I began to whistle whenever she was around. When I was a young kid, whistling was one of my favorite hobbies. Therefore, whenever she came in view, I began whistling, and it didn't matter what I was whistling as long as I was whistling.

My plan was to ask her each morning as cautiously as possible if this was the day.

On Tuesday morning, with subdued enthusiasm, I said, "So, you will be going to lunch today with your friends."

Then something happened I wasn't prepared for. She said, "No, we had to change our plans, and we won't be able to go to lunch until Wednesday."

I cannot tell you how much that discouraged my heart because I had been looking forward to having a big Whopper with all the accouterments. I tried to bounce a cheerful demeanor so she would not have any suspicions about me. I'll need to wait another day before indulging in my dietary pleasure.

Looking at me, she said, "That doesn't spoil your plans for the day, does it?"

Faking a smile, I told her that everything was okay.

I still could not get that Whopper out of my mind. I'm not sure what I will do if she doesn't have a lunch date very soon.

Wednesday came and the same message was given. The lunch date for today was canceled until Friday.

How I will last until Friday is beyond any expectations I might have. I have never been haunted by such a dietary preference in all my life.

Friday finally came, and as I was sitting at the fast food restaurant nibbling on my delicious Whopper, I could never be happier. I guess it pays to be patient, and I'm going to enjoy myself.

My biggest challenge is not allowing her to find out my dietary plans for the day.

As I was nibbling my whopper I was reminded of a verse of Scripture.

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience." (James 1:2-3).

The development of patience in my life is one of the greatest challenges that I face, but the reward is heavenly.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Is global warming creating the increase in turbulence on airplane flights?

-- Ginny C., Prescott, AZ

Air turbulence is defined as a sudden change in the speed, direction or air pressure in the atmosphere. Turbulence can cause abrupt changes in the motion of an airplane, ranging from small bumps to violent jolts that cause significant damage to aircrafts and injury to passengers. Air turbulence has increased rapidly in the last few decades. It is now the main cause of in-flight injuries and is estimated to cost the airline industry over \$500 million annually.

The main causes of air turbulence are storms, jet streams—the bands of strong winds in the upper atmosphere—and mountains. In such cases, pilots can anticipate turbulence from pre-flight weather reports, sophisticated radar equipment and warnings from other pilots. But there is another kind of turbulence pilots have to contend with known as “clear-air turbulence,” which has no visible cause and cannot be detected by radars. This makes clear-air turbulence very perilous since pilots cannot warn passengers to buckle up and avoid injury. Clear-air turbulence is becoming more frequent; scientists and meteorologists predict that it will double in frequency between 2050 and 2080.

At the source of the rise in clear-air turbulence is global warming. As carbon emissions increase, greenhouse gases trap more heat in the troposphere (the layer closest to the Earth’s surface) instead of letting it rise into the stratosphere. This is causing a rising temperature difference between the two atmospheric layers, which in turn is causing large disruptions in the circulation patterns of atmospheric winds. These abrupt changes in the speed and direction of winds—known as “wind shear”—play a big role in creating the atmospheric disturbances that cause clear-air turbulence.

Although clear-air turbulence can occur at all levels of the troposphere in which airplanes cruise, they are most likely at the altitudes where the jet streams flow. Meteorologists have found that jet streams are experiencing 15 percent more wind shear than they did 40 years ago.

Can anything be done to avoid clear-air turbulence? Pilots could avoid flying in the four jet streams that circle the earth, and could limit flying through regions known to have high clear-air turbulence. The industry could invest in aircraft designs that improve aircraft stability and develop technology to detect clear-air turbulence. But pilots fly in the jet stream to shorten flight times and use less fuel. Thus, taking these steps will lead to longer flights, higher costs, more fuel consumption and carbon emissions, further increases in global warming and more turbulence, not less.

A better solution is to tackle rising clear-air turbulence at its source: by reducing global warming. Among other things, governments should accelerate policies that mitigate climate change such as carbon taxation, and provide incentives for clean energy adoption. Businesses should speed up investment in clean-energy products, services and infrastructure. And ordinary people should reduce their consumption of fossil-fuels by conserving energy, using public transit, recycling and participating in citizen science projects that mitigate climate change.

• EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at <https://emagazine.com>. To donate, visit <https://earthtalk.org>. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.



Increased in-flight turbulence has made air travel scarier than ever these days, and it looks like global warming might be to blame. Credit: Pexels.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Congressional Roundup: Rounds targets Russian assets for Ukraine

Johnson testifies on Wounded Knee bill; Thune works against student loan relief

BY: SEARCHLIGHT STAFF - JUNE 10, 2023 1:00 PM

The U.S. Department of Justice could transfer more forfeited Russian assets to Ukraine if a bill introduced by South Dakota's Mike Rounds and other senators becomes law.

Rounds introduced the bill Friday with a fellow Republican and two Democrats.

"It is critical Ukraine is able to protect their country against Russia's unjustified and illegal invasion," Rounds said in a news release. "By providing Ukraine with the necessary tools to defend themselves, we are helping to defend democracy."

Currently, Rounds said, the department may only transfer assets to Ukraine that are forfeited from violations of select Russia-related sanctions. The first and only use of that authority came in February, when Attorney General Merrick Garland authorized a transfer of \$5.4 million forfeited from a sanctioned Russian oligarch.

The new legislation is the Transferring Illicit Assets to Ukraine Act. It would allow the Justice Department to transfer assets forfeited from violations of a wider range of economic countermeasures, and require reports from several federal departments on their use of the expanded authority.

Rounds' position on Ukraine contrasts with that of his fellow Republican, South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem, who said in March that U.S. aid to Ukraine is a strategic mistake.

"This should be Europe's fight, not ours," Noem said at the time. "We should not waste taxpayer dollars at the risk of nuclear war."

Johnson testifies on behalf of Wounded Knee bill

A House subcommittee heard testimony Wednesday on a bill from Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-South Dakota, that would protect land at the Wounded Knee Massacre site on the Pine Ridge Reservation.

"We have an obligation to acknowledge our nation's mistakes and to work with Indian nations to right the wrongs of history," Johnson said.

He noted that Congress passed a resolution in 1990 expressing "deep regret" for the 1890 massacre. He did not mention that about 20 soldiers were awarded Medals of Honor for their participation in the massacre and events immediately following it, or that those medals have never been rescinded. Members of Congress from other states have attempted to rescind the medals without support from Johnson or other members of South Dakota's congressional delegation.

Johnson's bill is the Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act. It deals with 40 acres at the massacre site purchased by the Oglala Sioux and Cheyenne River Sioux tribes in 2022. Johnson said the land, which was formerly in private ownership, "is believed to be the killing field."

The bill would place the land in "restricted fee status." That differs from other forms of tribal land ownership, including "trust status," in which the federal government holds land in trust for tribes. Restricted fee status puts ownership directly in tribal hands with a restriction against selling or transferring the land.

The massacre occurred on Dec. 29, 1890, when a force of nearly 500 U.S. soldiers took positions around approximately 350 Miniconjou Lakota people. Soldiers struggled with a man in the camp who refused to give up his gun, it fired into the sky, and chaotic shooting ensued. Fewer than 40 soldiers were killed (some by friendly fire, according to historians), while Native American deaths have been estimated at 200

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 31 of 73

or 300 or more, depending on the source.

Thune works against student loan relief

Sen. John Thune, R-South Dakota, and other Republican senators sent a letter Wednesday to Education Secretary Miguel Cardona urging him to abandon "misguided, unfair and fiscally irresponsible" student loan forgiveness efforts.

The letter said Cardona should instead focus on preparing borrowers and loan servicers to resume student loan repayments. The letter also requested information about how much staff time and taxpayer money has gone toward setting up and carrying out the Biden administration's student loan forgiveness plan. The plan includes one-time cancellation of up to \$20,000 in federal student loan debt for borrowers who qualify.

Earlier this month, Thune and Rounds voted in support of a Senate resolution to overturn the plan.

"It's something of a slap in the face to Americans who chose more affordable college options or worked their way through school to avoid taking loans, or whose parents scrimped and saved to put them through college," Thune said during Senate debate on the measure.

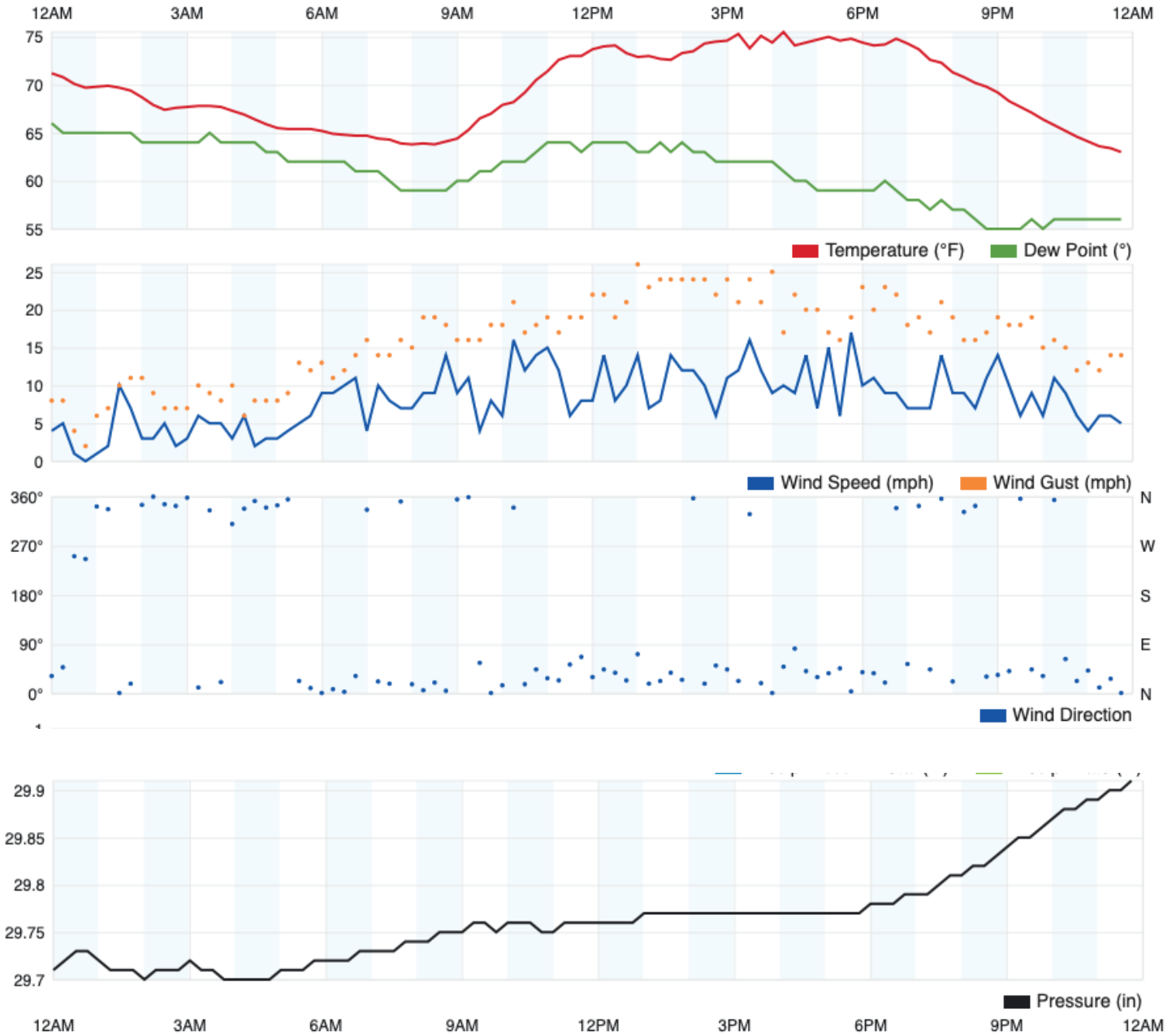
The resolution went to President Joe Biden, who vetoed it Wednesday and issued a statement.

"It is a shame for working families across the country that lawmakers continue to pursue this unprecedented attempt to deny critical relief to millions of their own constituents," the statement said.

Groton Daily Independent








Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 32 of 73

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Groton Daily Independent

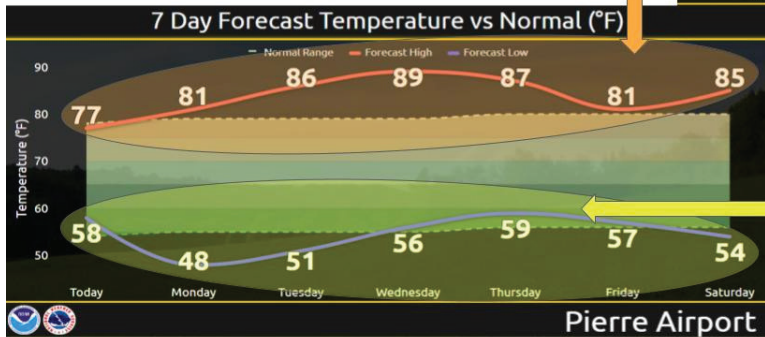
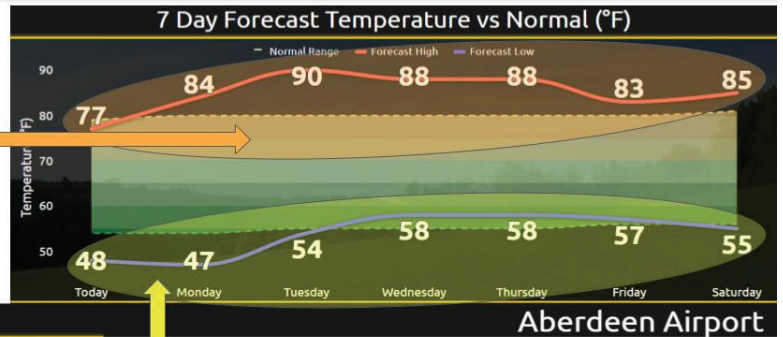
Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 33 of 73

Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 76 °F	Low: 48 °F	High: 82 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 88 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 86 °F



The Temperature Forecast Looks A Bit More Seasonable This Week June 11, 2023
4:00 AM

High's ranging from "near normal" to as much as 10 degrees above normal



Low's ranging close to normal

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
U.S. Department of Commerce

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

The first half of the 7-day forecast is dry. Temperatures will start out near normal for the second full week of June. However, by mid-week, readings a good 5 to 10 degrees above normal, for highs, are expected.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 34 of 73

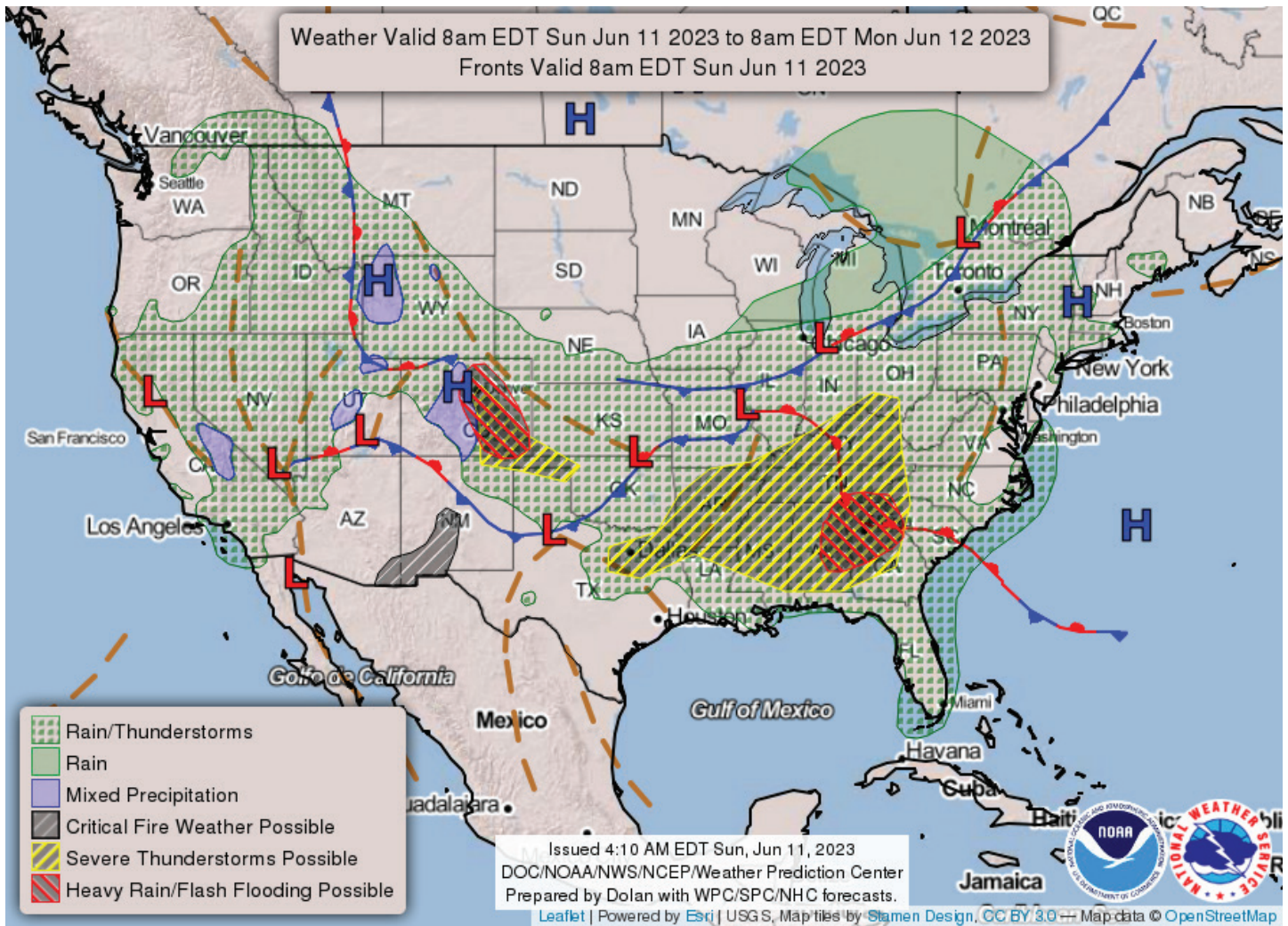
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 76 °F at 4:13 PM
Low Temp: 63 °F at 11:23 PM
Wind: 26 mph at 12:51 PM
Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 40 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 104 in 1893
Record Low: 31 in 1938
Average High: 79
Average Low: 54
Average Precip in June.: 0.27
Precip to date in June.: 0.51
Average Precip to date: 8.52
Precip Year to Date: 8.42
Sunset Tonight: 9:22:23 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:41:37 AM



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 35 of 73

Today in Weather History

June 11, 1982: Golf ball size hail fell in Hayti, in Hamlin County, creating three-foot drifts of hail.

June 11, 1990: Hail, up to golf ball size, cut a swath 1.5 miles wide and 50 miles in length from the Missouri River east of the Hyde County line. Thunderstorm winds destroyed a granary roof and downed numerous trees. Damage from large hail was considerable to crops with entire fields being wiped out. The County Agent placed crop damage estimates at 1.8 million dollars in Sully County. Hail also produced window damage to cars and homes.

June 11, 2008: A strong inflow of moist and unstable air into and over a warm surface front resulted in training thunderstorms and very heavy rain across parts of northeast South Dakota. Rainfall amounts of 2 to 6 inches occurred across much of the area resulting in widespread flash flooding. The flooding damaged many roads, bridges, and cropland. In Milbank, many basements were flooded and received sewer backup.

June 11, 2010: Thunderstorms produced damaging winds over a large part of southeast South Dakota beginning just before midnight on June 10th and continuing well into the predawn hours of June 11th. The storms also produced heavy rain, which caused flash flooding at several locations. Heavy rainfall of at least 3 inches caused Enemy Creek to overflow and flood nearby roads. The expensive also caused flooding of roads and basements in Mitchell. A motorcycle business was flooded, resulting in damage to merchandise, although little damage to the motorcycles was reported. Thunderstorm winds caused widespread damage in the Sioux Falls area. Wood and siding were blown off a new house, and a nearby fence was blown over. The winds caused tree damage, including 2 to 3-foot diameter trees blown down. Debris from the tree damage blocked several roads. Garages were blown off three homes which were next to each other, and other nearby homes suffered significant damage in an area on West Eli Court which was subjected to the strongest winds, estimated at 100 mph. Windows were blown out in several of these homes, and a large camper was overturned in the same area. A wind gust of 74 mph was measured elsewhere in the city. The winds blew down out power lines in parts of the city. Heavy rain caused flash flooding of several streets in the southern part of Sioux Falls, with water up to two feet deep. Basement flooding was also reported.

1842: A late-season snowstorm struck New England. Snow fell during the morning and early afternoon, accumulating to a depth of ten to twelve inches at Irasburg, Vermont. Berlin, New Hampshire was blanketed with eleven inches of snow during the day. Snow whitened the higher peaks of the Appalachians as far south as Maryland. The latest date for the occurrence of a general snowstorm in our period over northern New England and northern New York came in 1842 on the morning of 11 June. Zadock Thompson, a professor of natural history and the Queen City's longtime weatherman, commented: "Snow during the forenoon's boards whitened and the mountains as white as in winter."

1877 - The temperature at Los Angeles, CA, reached 112 degrees during a heatwave. It would have been the all-time record for Los Angeles but official records did not begin until twenty days later. (The Weather Channel)

1972 - Heavy showers brought 1.64 inches of rain to Phoenix AZ, a record for the month of June. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - South Texas endured another day of torrential rains. Up to twelve inches of rain drenched Harris County, and nearly ten inches soaked Luce Bayou, mainly during the afternoon hours. Thunderstorm rains left seven feet of water over Highway 189 in northern Val Verde County. Flooding caused nine million dollars damage in Real County. A thunderstorm at Perryton, TX, produced golf ball size hail and 70 mph winds, and spawned a tornado which struck a mobile killing one person and injuring the other four occupants. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990: One of the most expensive hailstorms in U.S. history occurred as \$625 million of damage was caused along the Colorado Front Range from Colorado Springs to Estes Park. Golf to baseball sized hail fell along with heavy rain. 60 people were injured in the storm.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 36 of 73

Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

THE PAIN PASSES

Pierre Renoir, the famous French painter, was severely afflicted with arthritis. Over the years, his hands became twisted, and whenever he painted the pain was intense. However, he would not quit.

One day a friend who was watching him paint asked, "How can you paint with the pain that causes you so much torture?"

Thoughtfully he answered, "The pain passes, but the beauty remains."

Job was a godly man who was wealthy and influential. For most of his life, he was prosperous and free from any serious problems. One day his life fell apart. Within a short time, he lost nearly everything he had, suffered greatly, was severely criticized and condemned by his friends. But, he never lost his faith in God.

Though he never learned the reason for his losses and suffering, he never questioned God's judgment. He believed that an all-powerful, all-loving God was acting in his best interests. In the midst of his trials, he said, "When He has tried me I shall come out as gold." That's trust!

Prayer: Lord, may we believe that what You bring into our lives will ultimately work for our best. Give us faith when we are troubled and trust when we doubt Your love. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: But he knows where I am going. And when he tests me, I will come out as pure as gold. For I have stayed on God's paths; I have followed his ways and not turned aside. I have not departed from his commands, but have treasured his words more than daily food. Job 23:10-12



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

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 37 of 73

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

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 38 of 73

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Daily Independent

www.397news.com

Subscription Form

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

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

E-mail _____

Password _____

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

paypal.me/paperpaul



Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 39 of 73



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.09.23

3 19 53 60 68 13

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$260,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.10.23

4 6 38 46 52 7

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$3,820,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.10.23

2 17 19 29 34 10

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 8 Mins 18 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.10.23

5 14 19 23 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$95,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.10.23

30 45 55 67 69 23

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.10.23

21 32 42 46 50 4

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$324,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

Montenegro holds snap parliamentary election that could determine EU path

By PREDRAG MILIC Associated Press

PODGORICA, Montenegro (AP) — Montenegro was holding an early parliamentary election Sunday, a vote that could put an end to deep political divisions and years of instability that have hampered the small NATO-member country on its route to joining the European Union.

Some 542,000 voters are eligible to choose among 15 parties and coalitions fielding candidates, ranging from groups that are staunchly pro-Western to ones that are pro-Serbian and pro-Russian.

Unlike in previous elections, when the focal point of campaigning was whether the country should be leaning toward the EU or closer to Russia and Serbia, the economy and living standards dominated the issues this time.

"Finally, we are deciding on the quality of life, rather than on the East or West," Tanja Bojovic, 38, said as she cast her ballot in the Montenegrin capital, Podgorica. "I expect the victory of those who will lead us to a better life."

The election is Montenegro's first in more than 30 years that does not feature Milo Djukanovic, who served almost continuously as the country's prime minister or president since 2001. He lost a presidential election in April and has taken a back seat in national politics.

Polls and analysts predicted Europe Now, a newly formed centrist movement, was most likely to be the top vote-getter but without enough seats in the 81-seat parliament to form a new government on its own.

President Jakov Milatovic, who belongs to the Europe Now movement, said he hoped that "following the parliamentary elections, the new Assembly of Montenegro will reflect what is currently a new political reality in the country."

The Democratic Party of Socialists, the party formerly led by Djukanovic, experienced a decline in popularity after three decades of dominance and has new leadership looking for a chance to make a comeback.

Also running were candidates from the pro-Serb and pro-Russian Democratic Front, a party considered likely to emerge as a kingmaker in the formation of a future coalition government.

Political analyst Ana Nenezic, executive director of the Centre for Monitoring and Research, said the focus on the economy "is beneficial for the society" but promises of salary hikes made by politicians "are not based on a real economy."

She added that based on the latest election forecasts, "I will be really surprised if we get a politically stable government."

Djukanovic led Montenegro to independence from Serbia in 2006 and defied Russia to join NATO in 2017. An alliance dominated by parties seeking closer ties with Serbia and Russia ousted the Democratic Party of Socialists from power in the previous parliamentary elections, held in 2020.

The new ruling coalition, however, soon plunged into disarray, which stalled Montenegro's path toward the EU and created a political deadlock. The government fell in a no-confidence vote last year but remained in office for months because of the stalemate.

Montenegro, a picturesque Adriatic Sea country of about 620,000 people, was once viewed as the country first in line to join the EU from the Western Balkans.

—
Dusan Stojanovic contributed from Belgrade, Serbia

Ukraine's dam collapse is both a fast-moving disaster and a slow-moving ecological catastrophe

By LORI HINNANT, SAM McNEIL and ILLIA NOVIKOV Associated Press

KHERSON, Ukraine (AP) — The destruction of the Kakhovka Dam was a fast-moving disaster that is swiftly evolving into a long-term environmental catastrophe affecting drinking water, food supplies and ecosystems reaching into the Black Sea.

The short-term dangers can be seen from outer space — tens of thousands of parcels of land flooded, and more to come. Experts say the long-term consequences will be generational.

For every flooded home and farm, there are fields upon fields of newly planted grains, fruits and vegetables whose irrigation canals are drying up. Thousands of fish were left gasping on mud flats. Fledgling water birds lost their nests and their food sources. Countless trees and plants were drowned.

If water is life, then the draining of the Kakhovka reservoir creates an uncertain future for the region of southern Ukraine that was an arid plain until the damming of the Dnieper River 70 years ago. The Kakhovka Dam was the last in a system of six Soviet-era dams on the river, which flows from Belarus to the Black Sea.

Then the Dnieper became part of the front line after Russia's invasion last year.

"All this territory formed its own particular ecosystem, with the reservoir included," said Kateryna Filiuta, an expert in protected habitats for the Ukraine Nature Conservation Group.

THE SHORT TERM

Ihor Medunov is very much part of that ecosystem. His work as a hunting and fishing guide effectively ended with the start of the war, but he stayed on his little island compound with his four dogs because it seemed safer than the alternative. Still, for months the knowledge that Russian forces controlled the dam downstream worried him.

The six dams along the Dnieper were designed to operate in tandem, adjusting to each other as water levels rose and fell from one season to the next. When Russian forces seized the Kakhovka Dam, the whole system fell into neglect.

Whether deliberately or simply carelessly, the Russian forces allowed water levels to fluctuate uncontrollably. They dropped dangerously low in winter and then rose to historic peaks when snowmelt and spring rains pooled in the reservoir. Until Monday, the waters were lapping into Medunov's living room.

Now, with the destruction of the dam, he is watching his livelihood literally ebb away. The waves that stood at his doorstep a week ago are now a muddy walk away.

"The water is leaving before our eyes," he told The Associated Press. "Everything that was in my house, what we worked for all our lives, it's all gone. First it drowned, then, when the water left, it rotted."

Since the dam's collapse Tuesday, the rushing waters have uprooted landmines, torn through caches of weapons and ammunition, and carried 150 tons of machine oil to the Black Sea. Entire towns were submerged to the rooflines, and thousands of animals died in a large national park now under Russian occupation.

Rainbow-colored slicks already coat the murky, placid waters around flooded Kherson, the capital of southern Ukraine's province of the same name. Abandoned homes reek from rot as cars, first-floor rooms and basements remain submerged. Enormous slicks seen in aerial footage stretch across the river from the city's port and industrial facilities, demonstrating the scale of the Dnieper's new pollution problem.

Ukraine's Agriculture Ministry estimated 10,000 hectares (24,000 acres) of farmland were underwater in the territory of Kherson province controlled by Ukraine, and "many times more than that" in territory occupied by Russia.

Farmers are already feeling the pain of the disappearing reservoir. Dmytro Neveselyi, mayor of the village of Maryinske, said everyone in the community of 18,000 people will be affected within days.

"Today and tomorrow, we'll be able to provide the population with drinking water," he said. After that, who knows. "The canal that supplied our water reservoir has also stopped flowing."

THE LONG TERM

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 42 of 73

The waters slowly began to recede on Friday, only to reveal the environmental catastrophe looming.

The reservoir, which had a capacity of 18 cubic kilometers (14.5 million acre-feet), was the last stop along hundreds of kilometers of river that passed through Ukraine's industrial and agricultural heartlands. For decades, its flow carried the runoff of chemicals and pesticides that settled in the mud at the bottom.

Ukrainian authorities are testing the level of toxins in the muck, which risks turning into poisonous dust with the arrival of summer, said Eugene Simonov, an environmental scientist with the Ukraine War Environmental Consequences Working Group, a non-profit organization of activists and researchers.

The extent of the long-term damage depends on the movement of the front lines in an unpredictable war. Can the dam and reservoir be restored if fighting continues there? Should the region be allowed to become arid plain once again?

Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Andriy Melnyk called the destruction of the dam "the worst environmental catastrophe in Europe since the Chernobyl disaster."

The fish and waterfowl that had come to depend on the reservoir "will lose the majority of their spawning grounds and feeding grounds," Simonov said.

Downstream from the dam are about 50 protected areas, including three national parks, said Simonov, who co-authored a paper in October warning of the potentially disastrous consequences, both upstream and downstream, if the Kakhovka Dam came to harm.

It will take a decade for the flora and fauna populations to return and adjust to their new reality, according to Filiuta. And possibly longer for the millions of Ukrainians who lived there.

In Maryinske, the farming community, they are combing archives for records of old wells, which they'll unearth, clean and analyze to see if the water is still potable.

"Because a territory without water will become a desert," the mayor said.

Further afield, all of Ukraine will have to grapple with whether to restore the reservoir or think differently about the region's future, its water supply, and a large swath of territory that is suddenly vulnerable to invasive species — just as it was vulnerable to the invasion that caused the disaster to begin with.

"The worst consequences will probably not affect us directly, not me, not you, but rather our future generations, because this man-made disaster is not transparent," Filiuta said. "The consequences to come will be for our children or grandchildren, just as we are the ones now experiencing the consequences of the Chernobyl disaster, not our ancestors."

Hinnant contributed from Paris. Illia Novikov contributed from Kyiv, along with Jamey Keaten.

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

German shepherd injured in Ukraine gets new start with Hungarian police

By JUSTIN SPIKE Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — After a rocket attack in eastern Ukraine, half of Rambo's face was mangled and bloody. Shrapnel had ravaged the right side of his head, and it was uncertain if he would survive.

The 3-year-old German shepherd, who had accompanied Ukrainian soldiers on the front lines of the war, received emergency surgery that saved his life. Now, Rambo is training with the Budapest police department in neighboring Hungary and serving as a reminder that dogs — and people — with disabilities can do great things.

Recovered from his brush with death in northeastern Ukraine's Kharkiv province, Rambo is learning how to interact with children, older adults and disabled people at police demonstrations and rehabilitation institutions, according to Lt. Col. Maria Stein with the Budapest Metropolitan Police.

Demonstrating the tasks performed by canine units is part of the department's crime prevention program, with a goal of teaching young people to be more tolerant and to respect one another's differences, Stein said.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 43 of 73

"Nowadays, unfortunately, it happens that children mock each other because they wear glasses, because they have braces, because their ears look funny or whatever — because they're different," she said. "With Rambo, we might be able to sensitize these children a little and show them that yes, he is injured, he's different, but he can do the same things as other dogs."

Rambo's journey to police service didn't come easy. Last year, shrapnel from the rocket attack, which also injured some Ukrainian soldiers, blew away pieces of skull, damaging his jaw and severely mangling his right ear.

After his initial surgery, Rambo was taken to safety in western Ukraine. Violetta Kovacs, head of a Hungarian organization dedicated to rescuing German shepherds, soon collected him and brought him to a rehabilitation center near Budapest.

"The dog needed immediate help," Kovacs, head of the German Shepherd Breed Rescue Foundation, said. "We had to operate again here in Hungary because several of his teeth were causing him great pain because of the injury, which required immediate intervention."

Rambo spent eight months at the center, where his jaw was reconstructed, his right ear amputated and several teeth removed. He underwent training to be socialized with other dogs, Kovacs said, but his fondness for children was clear from the start.

Gyula Desko, a lieutenant colonel with the Budapest Metropolitan Police, then adopted Rambo, providing him with further training and a home.

He called Rambo a "very friendly, good-natured dog" who is making good progress in his training and whose survival was "a miracle."

"Working with him requires more patience and more attention, as we do not know what kind of mental problems his head injury caused him," Desko said, but Rambo is "so open with people and accepts them, despite his injuries and the shock that befell him."

It's those qualities, Desko said, that the police force hopes will inspire those who meet Rambo to open themselves to kindness and acceptance.

"As a police dog, one can see through him that you can live a full life even when injured, and can be a useful member of society and do very diverse things," Desko said.

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

US confirms China has had a spy base in Cuba since at least 2019

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — China has been operating a spy base in Cuba since at least 2019, part of a global effort by Beijing to upgrade its intelligence-gathering capabilities, according to a Biden administration official.

The official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity, said the U.S. intelligence community has been aware of China's spying from Cuba and a larger effort to set up intelligence-gathering operations around the globe for some time.

The Biden administration has stepped up efforts to thwart the Chinese push to expand its spying operations and believes it has made some progress through diplomacy and other unspecified action, according to the official, who was familiar with U.S. intelligence on the matter.

The existence of the Chinese spy base was confirmed after The Wall Street Journal reported on Thursday that China and Cuba had reached an agreement in principle to build an electronic eavesdropping station on the island. The Journal reported China planned to pay a cash-strapped Cuba billions of dollars as part of the negotiations.

The White House called the report inaccurate.

"I've seen that press report, it's not accurate," White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said in an MSNBC interview Thursday. "What I can tell you is that we have been concerned since day one of this administration about China's influence activities around the world; certainly in this hemisphere and in this region, we're watching this very, very closely."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 44 of 73

The U.S. intelligence community had determined Chinese spying from Cuba has been an “ongoing” matter and is “not a new development,” the administration official said.

Cuban Deputy Foreign Minister Carlos Fernández de Cossío also refuted the report in a Twitter post Saturday.

“The slanderous speculation continues, evidently promoted by certain media to cause harm and alarm without observing minimum patterns of communication and without providing data or evidence to support what they disseminate,” he wrote.

President Joe Biden’s national security team was briefed by the intelligence community soon after he took office in January 2021 about a number of sensitive Chinese efforts around the globe where Beijing was weighing expanding logistics, basing and collection infrastructure as part of the People’s Liberation Army’s attempt to further its influence, the official said.

Chinese officials looked at sites spanning the Atlantic Ocean, Latin America, the Middle East, Central Asia, Africa and the Indo-Pacific. The effort included looking at existing collection facilities in Cuba, and China conducted an upgrade of its spying operation on the island in 2019, the official said.

Tensions between the U.S. and China have been fraught throughout Biden’s term.

The relationship may have hit a nadir last year after then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s visit to democratically governed Taiwan. That visit, the first by a sitting House speaker since Newt Gingrich in 1997, led China, which claims the island as its territory, to launch military exercises around Taiwan.

U.S.-China relations became further strained early this year after the U.S. shot down a Chinese spy balloon that had crossed the United States.

Beijing also was angered by Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen’s stopover in the U.S. last month that included an encounter with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy. The speaker hosted the Taiwanese leader at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in southern California.

Still, the White House has been eager to resume high-level communications between the two sides.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken is planning to travel to China next week, a trip that was canceled as the balloon was flying over the U.S. Blinken expects to be in Beijing on June 18 for meetings with senior Chinese officials, according to U.S. officials, who spoke Friday on condition of anonymity because neither the State Department nor the Chinese foreign ministry has yet confirmed the trip.

CIA Director William Burns met in Beijing with his counterpart last month. White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan met with his Chinese counterpart in Vienna over two days in May and made clear that the administration wanted to improve high-level communications with the Chinese side.

Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin recently spoke briefly with Li Shangfu, China’s minister of national defense, at the opening dinner of a security forum in Singapore. China had earlier rejected Austin’s request for a meeting on the sidelines of the forum.

AP Diplomatic Writer Matthew Lee contributed to this report.

Vegas Golden Knights hold off Florida Panthers 3-2, move win from Stanley Cup title

By STEPHEN WHYNO AP Hockey Writer

SUNRISE, Fla. (AP) — With no time left on the clock in Game 4 of the Stanley Cup Final, helmets, gloves, sticks and plastic rats littered the ice, the result of a fracas started in the final seconds of an emotional showdown.

For all the punches, pushes and shoves that accumulated in the melee, none of them changed the result: The Vegas Golden Knights are on the verge of winning their first Stanley Cup title.

Vegas held on to beat the Florida Panthers 3-2 on Saturday night, staving off a rally that culminated with one final shot block and a big save at the end to take a 3-1 series lead in the Cup final.

“Obviously, that was a battle till the last second,” Vegas forward Nicolas Roy. “They pushed back there.”

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 45 of 73

We knew they would. They've been doing it all series. But it's nice to get that one, for sure."

The Golden Knights can win the NHL championship on home ice Tuesday night.

"We've played really well at home here in the playoffs, so you've got to feel pretty good going home with a 3-1 lead," defenseman Alex Pietrangelo said.

Getting to this point wasn't easy.

Chandler Stephenson scored twice for the Golden Knights, and William Karlsson broke through to end his series-long goal drought to build a 3-0 lead. The Panthers scored twice — Brandon Montour on a pinball goal late in the second period, and Aleksander Barkov's first of the series early in the third — to claw back into it.

But their rally fell short and put Florida, eighth seed in the Eastern Conference and final team to qualify for the playoffs, on the brink of this improbable run coming to an end.

"We've earned the right to play our best hockey," Panthers coach Paul Maurice said. "Where we've been at our strongest is at the most critical time. I think you'll see that."

Down 2-1 in the series, Sergei Bobrovsky again almost kept the Panthers afloat, stopping 28 of the 31 shots he faced and giving up goals when teammates left him out to dry. At the other end of the ice, journeyman goaltender Adin Hill made 29 saves for his 10th win since stepping in during the middle of the second round.

"It's a credit to him for being prepared when he did come in there a few series ago," Pietrangelo said. "You've got to be happy for him."

The Golden Knights need only win one more game to deliver a championship to Las Vegas in just their sixth year of existence, making good on owner Bill Foley's goal to win the Stanley Cup in that period of time. They reached the final in their inaugural season in 2017-18 before losing to Washington in five games.

Vegas is more talented and has certainly looked more prepared for the spotlight this time around. Stephenson — who beat them five years ago as a member of the Capitals — and Hill were trade acquisitions, as was first-line center Jack Eichel and captain Mark Stone, who had two assists in Game 4.

A couple of original Knights players also helped them take the penultimate step to the peak of hockey's mountaintop. Jonathan Marchessault assisted on Karlsson's goal that made it 3-0, his 24th point that ties for the playoff lead in scoring.

Then the Panthers made it interesting. Montour scored by banking the puck off the right skate of Brayden McNabb and then the right skate of Shea Theodore and past Hill with 3:51 remaining in the second period and set up Barkov with a perfect pass from behind the net 3:50 into the third.

Missing leading scorer Matthew Tkachuk for several shifts, Florida kept buzzing around Hill and got a few more big stops from Bobrovsky to continue the pressure. A 17.4 second 6-on-4 advantage when veteran Vegas defenseman Alex Pietrangelo put the puck over the glass provided a final few chances but did not yield the team's first power-play goal of the series.

It also caused a scrum that resulted in six penalties, including two unsportsmanlike penalties and two misconducts.

"I kind of felt my helmet get ripped off, and they had six guys on the ice, we had four, so get in there a bit and try and help out teammates," said Hill, who threw some punches as part of the melee. "I don't know if there's really a message to be sent. We're just getting ready for (Game 5) Tuesday."

That will be a last gasp chance for the Panthers, who will have to have to replicate their opening round comeback from down 3-1 to Boston to keep Vegas from winning it all.

Follow AP Hockey Writer Stephen Whyno on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/SWhyno>

AP NHL playoffs: <https://apnews.com/hub/stanley-cup> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Youth environmentalists bring Montana climate case to trial after 12 years, seeking to set precedent

By MATTHEW BROWN and AMY BETH HANSON Associated Press

HELENA, Mont. (AP) — Whether a constitutional right to a healthy, livable climate is protected by state law is at the center of a lawsuit going to trial Monday in Montana, where 16 young plaintiffs and their attorneys hope to set an important legal precedent.

It's the first trial of its kind in the U.S., and legal scholars around the world are following its potential addition to the small number of rulings that have established a government duty to protect citizens from climate change.

The trial comes shortly after the state's Republican-dominated Legislature passed measures favoring the fossil fuel industry by stifling local government efforts to encourage renewable energy while increasing the cost to challenge oil, gas and coal projects in court.

By enlisting plaintiffs ranging in age from 5 to 22, the environmental firm bringing the lawsuit is trying to highlight how young people are harmed by climate change now and will be further affected in the future. Their testimony will detail how wildfire smoke, heat and drought have harmed residents' physical and mental health.

The plaintiffs' youth has little direct bearing on the legal issues, and experts say the case likely won't lead to immediate policy changes in fossil fuel-friendly Montana.

But over two weeks of testimony, attorneys for the plaintiffs plan to call out state officials for pursuing oil, gas and coal development in hopes of sending a powerful message to other states.

Plaintiff Grace Gibson-Snyder, 19, said she's felt the impacts of the heating planet acutely as wildfires regularly shroud her hometown of Missoula in dangerous smoke and as water levels drop in area rivers.

"We've seen repeatedly over the last few years what the Montana state Legislature is choosing," Gibson-Snyder said. "They are choosing fossil fuel development. They are choosing corporations over the needs of their citizens."

In high school, Gibson-Snyder was an environmental activist who was too young to vote when she signed on as a plaintiff. The other young plaintiffs include members of Native American tribes, a ranching family dependent on reliable water supplies and people with health conditions, such as asthma, that put them at increased risk during wildfires.

Some plaintiffs and experts will point to farmers whose margins have been squeezed by drought and extreme weather events like last year's destructive floods in Yellowstone National Park as further evidence that residents have been denied the clean environment guaranteed under Montana's Constitution.

Experts for the state are expected to downplay the impacts of climate change and what one of them described as Montana's "miniscule" contributions to global greenhouse gas emissions.

Lawyers for Montana Attorney General Austin Knudsen, a Republican, tried repeatedly to get the case thrown out over procedural issues. In a June 6 ruling, the state Supreme Court rejected the latest attempt to dismiss it, saying justices were not inclined to intervene just days before the start of a trial that has been "literally years in the making."

One reason the case may have made it so far in Montana, when dozens of similar cases elsewhere have been rejected, is the state's unusually protective 1972 Constitution, which requires officials to maintain a "clean and healthful environment." Only a few other states, including Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New York, have similar environmental protections in their constitutions.

In prior rulings, State District Judge Judge Kathy Seeley significantly narrowed the scope of the case. Even if the plaintiffs prevail, Seeley has said she would not order officials to formulate a new approach to address climate change.

Instead, the judge could issue what's called a "declaratory judgment" saying officials violated the state Constitution. That would set a new legal precedent of courts weighing in on cases typically left to the government's legislative and executive branches, environmental law expert Jim Huffman said.

Still, such a ruling would have no direct impact on industry, said Huffman, dean emeritus at Lewis &

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 47 of 73

Clark Law School in Portland, Oregon.

"A declaratory judgment would be a symbolic victory, but would not require any particular action by the state government. So the state could, and likely would, proceed as before," he said.

Economist Terry Anderson, a witness for the state, said that over the past two decades, carbon dioxide emissions from Montana have declined, but that's in part due to the shuttering of coal power plants.

"Montana energy or environmental policies have virtually no effect on global or local climate change because Montana's GHG (greenhouse gas) contributions to the global total is trivial," Anderson said in court documents.

He argued climate change could ultimately benefit Montana with longer growing seasons and the potential to produce more valuable crops.

Supporters of the lawsuit predicted an overflow crowd when the trial starts Monday in Helena. They rented a nearby theater to livestream the proceedings for those who can't fit in the courtroom.

The case was brought in 2020 by attorneys for the environmental group Our Children's Trust, which has filed climate lawsuits in every state on behalf of young plaintiffs since 2011. Most of those cases, including a previous one in Montana, were dismissed prior to trial.

A ruling in favor of the Montana plaintiffs could have ripple effects, according to Philip Gregory, Our Children's Trust attorney. While it wouldn't be binding outside Montana, it would give guidance to judges in other states, which could impact upcoming trials such as one in Hawaii, Gregory said.

Attempts to get a similar decision at the federal level were boosted by a June 1 ruling allowing a case brought by young climate activists in Oregon to proceed to trial in U.S. District Court. That case was halted by U.S. Supreme Court Justice John Roberts on the eve of the trial in 2018.

From 2011 through 2021, Our Children's Trust brought in contributions of more than \$20 million, growing from four employees to a team of more than 40 attorneys and other workers and about 200 volunteers, according to tax filings and the group's website.

Founder Julia Olson said securing the trials in Montana and Oregon marked a "huge step" forward for the group.

"It will change the future of the planet if courts will start declaring the conduct of government unconstitutional," she said.

While Montana's Constitution requires the state to "maintain and improve" a clean environment, the Montana Environmental Policy Act, originally passed in 1971 and amended several times since, requires state agencies to balance the environment with resource development.

Lawmakers revised the policy this year to say environmental reviews may not look at greenhouse gas emissions and climate impacts unless the federal government makes carbon dioxide a regulated pollutant.

A key question for the trial will be how forcefully the state contests established science on human-caused greenhouse gas emissions, said Jonathan Adler, environmental law professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. If the state doesn't deny that science, the trial will deal with the question of whether courts can tell governments to address climate change.

"I'm skeptical about that," Adler said. "It really pushes the boundaries of what courts are capable of and effective at addressing."

To Gibson-Snyder, now a student at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, the court system became the only avenue to make change as a 16-year-old.

Since then, "I've become maybe a bit disillusioned," she said. "The question is not only can we create sustainable policy, it's how can we dismantle the policy that's actively harming Montana?"

Brown reported from Billings, Montana. Associated Press writer Drew Costley contributed from Washington, D.C.

DeSantis argues he's top Trump alternative even as ex-president's indictment overshadows 2024 race

By THOMAS BEAUMONT and WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

PONCA, Okla. (AP) — Ron DeSantis ventured far from the usual presidential campaign trail Saturday, heading to a rodeo in reliably red Oklahoma to make the case that he's the top alternative to Donald Trump — even as the former president's indictment threatens to upend the 2024 Republican primary race.

The Florida governor sought to project strength by campaigning in one of the more than a dozen states scheduled to hold GOP primaries on Super Tuesday next March, weeks after the earliest states vote. He also notched the endorsement of Republican Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt, the first governor to formally announce his support for DeSantis.

DeSantis says his record has put him at the cutting edge of the next generation of Republicans. But addressing a sweat-soaked audience fanning themselves with yard signs, the governor introduced a loftier theme, asking Americans to embrace his call for new national leadership.

"Our duty is to preserve what the founders of the country called the sacred fire of liberty," a cowboy boot-clad DeSantis told the audience in an event hall on the outskirts of Tulsa, the state's second largest city.

He ticked through the Declaration of Independence, the battle of Gettysburg and the Normandy invasion during World War II as moments Americans rallied during times of crisis.

"Our generation now is called upon to carry this torch. It's not a responsibility we should shy away from," DeSantis said. "It's a responsibility we should welcome. We have to stand firm for the truth, and we have to remain resolute in the defense of core American and enduring principles."

Later, DeSantis stopped at a rodeo in Ponca, about 75 miles northwest of Tulsa, and posed for pictures with his wife, Casey, and his 3-year-old daughter, Mamie, who wore a pink cowboy hat.

"Freedom is one generation away from extinction," he said at the rodeo whose stands were draped in red, white and blue.

Trump's legal drama presents both an opportunity and challenge for DeSantis and other campaign rivals of the former president. Multiple criminal cases — while initially lifting Trump's polling numbers and fundraising efforts — could ultimately undermine Trump's argument that he's the best general election candidate against President Joe Biden.

But direct criticism of Trump over the criminal indictment might alienate the former president's core supporters, voters his rivals are out to convert. That is especially true for DeSantis, who is continuing to criticize Trump on policy — but also has opted to slam the case against the former president rather than overtly trying to capitalize on it.

The governor bemoaned Saturday what he called "the increasing weaponization of these federal agencies against people they don't like."

"On day one, you'll have a new director of the FBI. We're going to use our authority to hold people accountable," DeSantis told the audience outside Tulsa, igniting a burst of cheers.

His super PAC also released a video of DeSantis going even further when he appeared Friday night at the North Carolina Republican Party Convention.

"I think there needs to be one standard of justice in this country," he said in the clip. "We need to have a president that's going to do something about it."

Indictment aside, DeSantis has gradually ramped up criticism of Trump, though not directly by name, for rejecting the idea of changes to Social Security and Medicare spending. The former president has rejected the idea of cuts to the programs.

The Florida governor also has suggested that Trump is less-than-devout in his opposition to abortion rights, in light of his criticism as "harsh" of DeSantis for signing a ban on most abortions before six weeks of pregnancy.

Trump himself campaigned Saturday at the Republican state conventions in North Carolina and Georgia, where he called the case against him "ridiculous" and "baseless." He's urged his supporters to rally ahead

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 49 of 73

of a Tuesday court appearance in South Florida — ensuring that his case is likely to garner more attention than the 2024 GOP primary for at least several more days.

The Justice Department case adds to deepening legal jeopardy for Trump, who has already been indicted in New York and faces additional investigations in Washington and Atlanta that also could lead to more criminal charges. But among the various investigations he has faced, legal experts — as well as Trump's own aides — had long seen the Mar-a-Lago probe as the most perilous legal threat.

Stitt's endorsement, meanwhile, is important for projecting strength far from Florida. DeSantis opened his campaign last month by visiting Iowa, then traveled to New Hampshire and South Carolina, all states that vote early on the primary calendar and have absorbed the majority of the candidates' attention. Yet the early Oklahoma stop lets DeSantis show he plans to be in the race for the long haul.

And, though he's the governor of Florida — known more for its beaches and theme parks than calf-roping or bull riding — DeSantis' stop in Ponca wasn't, as they say, his first rodeo.

His wife was runner-up in the NCAA equestrian national championships at College of Charleston. In March, before formally entering the presidential race, DeSantis skipped the Conservative Political Action Conference to instead address a Republican Party dinner in Houston — but not before hitting the rodeo there with his family.

Brittney Griner, Mercury teammates confronted at airport by 'provocateur,' WNBA says

DALLAS (AP) — Brittney Griner and her Phoenix Mercury teammates were confronted by a "provocateur" at a Dallas airport on Saturday.

The WNBA said in a statement it was looking into the team's run-in with a "social media figure" whose "actions were inappropriate and unfortunate."

"The safety of Brittney Griner and all WNBA players is our top priority," the league said, without specifying what exactly happened.

Before the season started, the league had discussed with Griner's representatives and the Mercury security concerns when the All-Star center traveled for road games after she returned from detainment in Russia. The thought was that the highly publicized case compromised her and others' safety. The league granted Griner permission to book her own charter flights.

The WNBA added charter flights for the playoffs this season, but only a handful of back-to-back regular-season games were scheduled for such flights.

WNBA teams have flown commercially during the regular season since the league's inception in 1997. The league typically doesn't allow teams to charter because it could create a competitive advantage for teams who can afford to pay for them.

"Prior to the season, the WNBA worked together with the Phoenix Mercury and BG's team to ensure her safety during her travel, which included charter flights for WNBA games and assigned security personnel with her at all times," the league's statement reads. "We remain steadfastly committed to the highest standards of security for players."

Mercury player Brianna Turner said in a tweet people at the airport followed the team with cameras "saying wild remarks."

"Excessive harassment," Turner tweeted. "Our team nervously huddled in a corner unsure how to move about. We demand better."

A Twitter user posted a video that appears to show a part of the confrontation where the individual asks questions of Griner about "why she hates America?"

The Bring Our Families Home Campaign, an advocacy group that works to bring home Americans who are held hostage or detained in foreign countries, issued a statement condemning the incident.

"Accosting a recently returned hostage like this is unacceptable, and we urge social media companies to prohibit the monetization of any resulting content. Our Campaign stands with Brittney, her teammates, and the Phoenix Mercury," the organization said.

Griner has been warmly received by crowds at home in Phoenix and on the road. This past week, she played two games in her home state of Texas and the team was headed to Indianapolis to face the Fever on Sunday.

Still, Saturday's incident left many calling for change in flights for the Mercury and teams around the league.

Griner's agent, Lindsay Kagawa Colas, said on social media, after the incident, that she feels that all teams need to charter flights.

"Brittney Griner and the WNBA players are leaders who inspire hope for a better, more inclusive and less divided America," Kagawa Colas said. "They are celebrated for the ways their activism inspires positive change. In doing that, they also become targets for hate, threats and violence. And today's incident is a clear reminder of that. We cannot celebrate these women and their leadership without also protecting them. It's past time for charters and enhanced security measures for all players."

The WNBA players' union issued a statement Saturday, saying the situation at the airport makes it "quite clear that the matter of charter travel is NOT a 'competitive advantage' issue."

"What BG and all of her PHX teammates experienced today was a calculated confrontation that left them feeling very unsafe," the WNBPA statement reads. "Everyone who was paying attention knew this would happen."

The Mercury released a statement saying the team will be working with the league on next steps.

"We are committed to our support of BG and advocating for all American hostages abroad," the team statement reads. "We will continue our support of marginalized communities and fighting the kind of hate that targeted us today. No one, regardless of identity, should ever fear for their safety."

AP sports: <https://apnews.com/hub/sports> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Trump blasts federal indictment as 'baseless' at first events since charges were unsealed

By BILL BARROW, JEFF AMY, JILL COLVIN and MEG KINNARD Associated Press

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Former President Donald Trump blasted his historic federal indictment as "ridiculous" and "baseless" Saturday during his first public appearances since the charges were unsealed, painting the 37 felony counts as an attack on his supporters as he tried to turn dire legal peril to political advantage and project a sense of normalcy.

Speaking at Republican state conventions in Georgia and North Carolina, Trump cast his indictment by the Department of Justice as an attempt to damage his chances of returning to the White House as he campaigns for a second term.

"They've launched one witch hunt after another to try and stop our movement, to thwart the will of the American people," Trump alleged in Georgia, later telling the crowd that, "In the end, they're not coming after me. They're coming after you."

The strategy is a well-worn one for Trump, who remains the front-runner for the 2024 GOP nomination despite his mounting legal woes, which also include criminal charges filed against him in March in New York. Again and again, in the face of investigation, Trump has tried to delegitimize law enforcement officials and portray himself — and his supporters — as victims, even when he is accused of serious crimes.

Trump also vowed Saturday to remain in the race, even if he is convicted in the case.

"I'll never leave," he told Politico in an interview aboard his plane after his speech in Georgia. He further predicted that he wouldn't be convicted and sidestepped questions about whether he would pardon himself if he wins a second term.

"I don't think I'll ever have to," Trump said. "I didn't do anything wrong."

The indictment unsealed Friday charges Trump with willfully defying Justice Department demands that he return classified documents, enlisting aides in his efforts to hide the records and even telling his lawyers

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 51 of 73

"The very nature of a grand jury is that there is no defense presented," Pence said. "That's why I said today I'm going to urge patience, encourage people to be prayerful for the former president, but also for all those in authority and for the country going forward."

At the North Carolina GOP gathering Friday night, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Trump's leading GOP rival, didn't mention Trump by name but compared his situation to that of Clinton.

"Is there a different standard for a Democratic secretary of state versus a former Republican president?" DeSantis asked. "I think there needs to be one standard of justice in this country. ... At the end of the day, we will once and for all end the weaponization of government under my administration."

Among the declared Republican contenders, only Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson has explicitly called for Trump to end his candidacy. Hutchinson told reporters in Georgia that the Republican Party "should not lose its soul" in defending Trump and said the evidence so far suggested that the former president treated national secrets "like entertainment tools."

Colvin and Kinnard reported from Greensboro, N.C. Associated Press writers Eric Tucker in Washington, Thomas Beaumont in Marshalltown, Iowa, and Holly Ramer in Derry, N.H., contributed to this report.

Arcangelo wins Belmont Stakes to make Jena Antonucci 1st female trainer to win a Triple Crown race

By TOM CANAVAN AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Jena Antonucci turned a Triple Crown marred by thoroughbred deaths on the track and threatened by bad air quality from wildfires in Canada into a celebration for racing and women.

Arcangelo took the lead at the top of the stretch and won the Belmont Stakes on Saturday, making the 47-year-old Antonucci the first female trainer to win a Triple Crown race.

After the horse crossed the finish line, Antonucci doubled over and rested her arm and her head on the back of a chair. She kissed the horse on the nose when it returned to the area in front of the winner's circle.

"When we were walking out, I said there is not a table made for you," she said. "You make the table. You put great people around you, you work hard. Work your tail off. It will come if you do it the right way. Do it the right way."

Antonucci and Arcangelo did everything right as the 3-year-old son of Arrogate finished the 1 1/2-mile race in 2:29.23 and by 1 1/2 lengths in front of favored Fotre, with Tapit Trice third.

"They say there's no crying in baseball. But they've never said it about horse racing," Antonucci said. "You fight for that spot and you feel you have to prove your worth. Horses don't care. They don't care who you are. They know who you are. To have a horse believe in you, and your team, the way this horse does ... I wish more people could be like horses."

Jockey Javier Castellano, who rode Mage to victory in the Kentucky Derby and picked up the ride on Arcangelo when the colt was not entered in the Belmont, said Arcangelo was great.

"This is a wonderful horse. I'm really happy for her, you know, she's a really good woman," Castellano said of Antonucci. "She's a good horseman."

The heart-warming victory put a positive note on a Triple Crown series marred by deaths of 12 horses at Churchill Downs in the weeks around the Kentucky Derby and another on Preakness day for a trainer Bob Baffert. It also ended a week in which the Belmont Stakes was put in jeopardy by air quality problems caused by wildfires in Canada.

Those cleared on Friday and the cloud over thoroughbred racing lifted on Saturday, briefly.

In the final race on the card, Excursionniste sustained a catastrophic injury to his left front leg. Despite efforts by veterinarians, the horse was euthanized. It was the third horse to incur a fatal injury at the current meet. There have been 213 races involving 1,662 horses.

Antonucci, who started riding show horses as a preschooler and later held a plethora of jobs in racing, became a trainer in 2010, running a modest stable. She had sent less than 2,000 horses to the post in

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 52 of 73

her first 13 years.

All the work paid off in one race.

Antonucci was only the 11th woman to race a horse in the Belmont and the first since Kathy Ritvo sent out Mucho Macho Man to a seventh-place finish in 2011. Dianne Carpenter's Kingpost had the previous best finish, second to Risen Star in 1988.

Arcangelo came into the Belmont off a hard-fought victory in the Peter Pan Stakes.

Arcangelo, who broke from the No. 3 post position, was always close to the lead in the nine-horse field. Preakness winner National Treasure led a group of seven within striking distance after a half, but as the race progressed Arcangelo stayed on the rail and was running head to head with National Treasure on the far turn that leads to the stretch.

By the time they reached the stretch, Arcangelo moved to the front, opened some daylight and never let any horse get closer than the final margin.

"He's got the heart of a champion," Antonucci said.

Arcangelo paid \$17.80, \$7.20 and \$4.90 and earned \$900,000 for Blue Rose Farm, which is owned by Jon Ebbert.

"It's amazing," Ebbert said. "What an amazing ride. I'm so proud of the horse. He's an amazing horse. He's all heart. We knew he had it in him. Javier rode him perfectly and Jena is an amazing trainer. I'm so lucky to find her. The rest is history."

Forte returned \$4.30 and \$3.30 and Tapit Trice was \$4.10 to show. Both were trained by Todd Pletcher.

"I'm super proud of both horses," Pletcher said. "I knew we were asking a lot coming off the 10-week layoff (with Forte). He got shuffled back a little bit and once he got him outside in the clear, he was still making impact at the end, but he just ran out of time getting there."

Baffert said National Treasure never relaxed for jockey John Velazquez.

"He gave us a little bit of a thrill turning for home, but he was just wasn't" Baffert said.

Hit Show finished fourth and was followed by Angel of Empire, National Treasure, Il Miracolo, Red Route One and Tapit Shoes.

The 13-race card on Saturday was filled with at least a half-dozen outstanding races, headlined by the \$1 million Metropolitan Handicap on the dirt and the \$750,000 Manhattan Handicap on the turf.

Cody's Wish (\$3.30) posted his sixth straight win for trainer Bill Mott in capturing the Met Mile in 1:34.36, while the Pletcher-trained Up to the Mark (\$5.30) was an easy winner in the Manhattan.

Mott also saw another streak continue when Elite Power won his seventh straight in taking the \$250,000 True North.

AP sports: <https://apnews.com/hub/sports> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Mission completed: Man City beats Inter Milan to end wait for first Champions League title

By JAMES ROBSON AP Soccer Writer

ISTANBUL (AP) — Billions of dollars have been spent and many tears shed on Manchester City's journey to the summit of European soccer.

The mission was completed in Istanbul's Ataturk Olimpiyat Stadium on Saturday as the Abu Dhabi-backed club won the Champions League title for the first time and perhaps heralded the start of a new era of dominance in the competition.

"It was written in the stars. It belongs to us," said Pep Guardiola after the 1-0 win against Inter Milan, as tears flowed again from the manager, his players and a sea of blue-shirted fans.

On this occasion, the emotion was pure ecstasy after so many disappointments on this stage.

The victory, courtesy of Rodri's 68th minute goal, has been 15 years in the making since Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan transformed City into one of the richest teams in the world overnight.

This was the final frontier for Guardiola's team, which also completed a rare treble of trophies after win-

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 53 of 73

ning the Premier League title and FA Cup this season.

The Champions League had always been a step that seemed out of reach even for a team that has spent more than \$1.5 billion on the world's best players and hired probably the greatest coach of his generation in Guardiola.

With that psychological barrier broken and the spending power to further improve a team that has already proved too good for the rest, the potential is there to win European club soccer's biggest prize on multiple occasions.

Guardiola joked about being "just 13 Champions Leagues away" from Real Madrid.

"If you sleep a little bit we will catch you," he said. "But I don't want after one Champions League to disappear, so work harder next season and be in there. There are teams that win the Champions League and after one or two seasons disappear. This is what you have to avoid. Knowing me this is not going to happen. But at the same time I have to admit it, it is a big relief for the club, for the institution, for everyone to have this trophy. Because now, finally, they don't have to ask me if we are going to win the Champions League or not."

This trophy will also strengthen the case to declare Guardiola the greatest coach ever as he collected his third Champions League title and 30th major piece of silverware.

It was his second treble of trophies, having emulated the feat he achieved with Barcelona in 2009. City became just the second English club to complete a sweep of the three biggest trophies after Manchester United did it in 1999.

There were questions about whether Guardiola could ever win the Champions League again without the aid of Lionel Messi, who was the inspiration of his Barcelona team that was twice crowned champions of Europe.

Those questions have now been answered, yet for all the talk of City's superiority leading up to the game, it was won by the finest of margins through Rodri's strike.

Even after that goal, Inter had great chances to force extra time.

The best one fell to substitute Romelu Lukaku in the 89th minute, but he headed straight at Ederson from about four meters (yards) out.

Federico Dimarco hit the bar from close range almost immediately after Rodri's goal and then turned the rebound against the legs of Lukaku.

"We didn't deserve to lose," said Inter coach Simone Inzaghi. "We played against a top team, but even Inter played a great final.

"Manchester City has deserved the Champions League considering what it has done in the past years. But tonight it played against a great Inter which cornered them."

City found a way through on a night when it was far from its best and showed few examples of the flowing play that saw it blow away Bayern Munich and Real Madrid on the way to the final.

"Today we made history," City captain Ilkay Gundogan said. "We knew everyone was talking about the treble. The pressure was there but this team is built to handle the pressure in the best possible way."

Gundogan lifted the trophy as an explosion of gold ticker tape was set off and Queen's "We are the Champions" rang out around the stadium.

Sheikh Mansour was in attendance to see the crowning moment, watching his team in person for only the second time since buying the club in 2008.

"One of the main reasons why this club became what we are is because people from Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mansour, take over the club," Guardiola said. "Without that we would not be here. They are the most important people. ... They support me unconditionally in the defeats in this competition. At many clubs when that happens you are sacked."

The victory ended Guardiola's wait to win the trophy for the first time since 2011 and came despite losing inspirational midfielder Kevin De Bruyne to an injury in the first half.

The club's fans likely feared the worst when he went down holding his right leg. It was as if history was repeating itself after injury had also forced the Belgium international off when City lost to Chelsea in its

only other Champions League final in 2021.

But the decisive moment came when Rodri collected Bernardo Silva's cutback and fired through a crowded penalty box.

The relief was unmistakable as he raced towards City's fans and slid on his knees in celebration.

Inter pressed for an equalizer.

City held on. Europe had been conquered. A mission that began 15 years ago, completed.

James Robson is at <https://twitter.com/jamesalanrobson>

More AP soccer: <https://apnews.com/hub/soccer> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Conor McGregor knocks out Heat mascot in bizarre promotion at NBA Finals

MIAMI (AP) — Former UFC champion Conor McGregor knocked out the Miami Heat mascot in a midgame bit that went wrong.

Burnie — more specifically, the man who occupies Burnie's costume — briefly sought medical attention Friday night after taking two punches from McGregor during a third-quarter stoppage of Game 4 of the NBA Finals between the Heat and the Denver Nuggets.

The Heat said Saturday that the employee, who was not identified, received pain medication and was resting at home.

McGregor was there as a promotional gimmick for a pain-relief spray — and was booed by many in the Miami crowd even before the bit started. The flame mascot was wearing oversized boxing gloves and a robe akin to what a fighter would wear entering the ring for a bout. McGregor hit Burnie with a left hook, knocking him down, then punched the mascot again after he hit the floor.

McGregor then tried to "spray" the mascot with the pain-relief product, while several members of the Heat's in-game promotional team dragged Burnie off the court.

McGregor hasn't fought since injuring his left leg in a loss to Dustin Poirier at UFC 264 in July 2021. His last win came in January 2020.

AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/hub/NBA> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

North Carolina GOP censures Sen. Tillis for supporting LGBTQ+ rights, immigration policies

By HANNAH SCHOENBAUM Associated Press/Report for America

GREENSBORO, N.C. (AP) — Republican delegates in North Carolina voted Saturday at their annual convention to censure Thom Tillis, the state's senior U.S. senator, for backing LGBTQ+ rights, immigration and gun violence policies.

As Sen. Tillis has gained influence in Congress for his willingness to work across the aisle, his record of supporting some key policies has raised concerns among some state Republicans that the senator has strayed from conservative values.

Several delegates in Greensboro criticized Tillis, who has held his seat in the Senate since 2015, for his work last year on the Respect For Marriage Act, which enshrined protections for same-sex and interracial marriages in federal law.

Both the state and national GOP platforms oppose same-sex marriage. But Tillis, who had opposed it earlier in his political career, was among the early supporters of the law who lobbied his GOP colleagues in Congress to vote in favor of it.

Others criticized him for challenging former President Donald Trump's immigration policies and for sup-

porting a measure that provided funds for red flag laws, which allow state courts to authorize the temporary removal of firearms from people who they believe might pose a danger to themselves or others.

The North Carolina senator initially opposed Trump's plan to use military construction dollars to build a wall along the nation's southern border, but he eventually shifted his position.

Tillis spokesperson Daniel Keylin defended the senator's voting record, writing in an email to The Associated Press that he "keeps his promises and delivers results."

"He will never apologize for his work passing the largest tax cut in history, introducing legislation to secure the border and end sanctuary cities, delivering desperately-needed funding to strengthen school safety and protecting the rights of churches to worship freely based on their belief in traditional marriage," Keylin said.

While the vote Saturday, which took place behind closed doors, cannot remove Tillis from office, supporters said they hope it sends a firm message of dissatisfaction. A two-thirds majority of the state party's 1,801 voting delegates was needed for the resolution to pass, party spokesperson Jeff Moore said.

"We need people who are unwavering in their support for conservative ideals," said Jim Forster, an 81-year-old delegate from Guilford. "His recent actions don't reflect the party's shift to the right — in fact, they're moving in the exact wrong direction."

Several state legislators, including Sen. Bobby Hanig of Currituck County, criticized the decision, saying it's a bad idea to create more divisions within the party ahead of an election year when party unity will be paramount.

"I believe that a mob mentality doesn't do us any good," Hanig said. "Senator Tillis does a lot for North Carolina, he does a lot for the coastal communities, so why would I want to make him mad?"

State Sen. Jim Burgin of Harnett County said the vote to censure Tillis sets a dangerous precedent and does not allow enough flexibility for individual interpretation of party values.

Burgin questioned whether his own vote last month for North Carolina's 12-week abortion ban would similarly put him at risk of being censured because it's out of line with the Republican platform, which states that life begins at conception.

"I don't think we need to be attacking our own," he said. "You don't shoot your own elephants."

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

Federal regulators promise safety review at all the major freight railroads

By JOSH FUNK AP Business Writer

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — The Federal Railroad Administration recently completed a review of Norfolk Southern's safety culture in the wake of the February's fiery derailment in Ohio, and officials plan to follow up with similar investigations of all the major freight railroads over the next year.

A report will be released soon on what investigators found at Norfolk Southern after the Feb. 3 derailment — which prompted the evacuation of half of East Palestine, Ohio — and several other recent derailments. That crash near the Ohio-Pennsylvania border sparked intense interest in railroad safety nationwide and prompted proposed reforms in Congress.

The head of the FRA, Administrator Amit Bose, said in a letter to Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer recently that in addition to individual reports on Union Pacific, BNSF, CSX, Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Kansas City, the agency will also produce an industrywide report on common issues and trends.

Railroad unions have been raising concerns that operating changes the railroads have made over the past six years have made the trains that haul hazardous materials and goods of all kinds across the country more dangerous.

The unions say the deep staff cuts railroads have made, combined with their increasing reliance on longer trains, have increased the chance of safety problems. They say inspections are being rushed, preventative

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 56 of 73

that he wanted to defy a subpoena for the materials stored at his residence.

The indictment includes allegations that he stored documents in a ballroom and bathroom at his Mar-a-Lago resort, among other places.

Trump is due to make his first federal court appearance Tuesday in Miami. He was charged alongside valet Walt Nauta, a personal aide whom prosecutors say moved boxes from a storage room to Trump's residence for him to review and later lied to investigators about the movement. Nauta traveled with Trump on Saturday, appearing by his side at a Georgia Waffle House stop where the former president signed autographs, posed for photos and told supporters, "We did absolutely nothing wrong."

Earlier Saturday, Trump was given a hero's welcome at the party convention in Georgia, where he drew loud applause as he slammed the investigation as "a political hit job" and accused his political enemies of launching "one hoax and witch hunt after another" to prevent his reelection.

"The ridiculous and baseless indictment by the Biden administration's weaponized Department of Injustice will go down as among the most horrific abuses of power in the history of our country," he said.

He also used his remarks to rail against President Joe Biden and his 2016 Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton, accusing them of mishandling classified information and insisting he was treated unfairly because he is a Republican. But Trump overlooked a critical difference: Only he has been accused of intentionally trying to impede investigators by not returning the documents in question.

In the Clinton probe, for instance, FBI investigators concluded that although she was extremely careless in her handling of classified emails on a private server, there was no evidence that she intended to break the law. And though the Biden investigation is still ongoing, no evidence has emerged to suggest that he intentionally held onto the records or even knew that they were there, with his representatives turning over records after they were discovered and voluntarily consenting to FBI searches.

Trump also lingered on Georgia's role in his 2020 defeat, repeating his lies that he had won the state and defending his efforts to overturn Biden's victory, which is the subject of another ongoing investigation, this one by Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis. Willis has suggested that any indictments would likely come in August.

At the heart of the investigation is a recorded phone conversation in which Trump urges Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to "find 11,780 votes" — just enough to overtake Biden and overturn Trump's narrow loss in the state. Trump has defended the phone call as "perfect," and on Saturday lashed out against both Willis and the special counsel in the Mar-a-Lago case.

But aside from reacting to the news, Trump's remarks in both states largely mirrored his pre-indictment rally speeches, lending a sense of normalcy to a campaign that is well-practiced in responding to crisis.

And despite the latest criminal charges, attendees cheered him on in Georgia and in North Carolina, where he spoke at a state GOP convention dinner Saturday evening.

About 100 supporters, some waving "Witch Hunt" signs, showed up to the Columbus, Georgia, airfield to greet Trump as he arrived. Jan Plemmons, 66, wearing an oversize foam "Make America Great Again" hat, called the federal charges "absolutely ridiculous" and said she was ready to campaign with Trump. To Michael Sellers, 67, it was "criminal what they're doing to him."

The indictment arrives as Trump is continuing to dominate the primary race. Among the various investigations Trump has faced, the documents case has long been considered the most perilous legal threat and the one most ripe for prosecution. But Trump's continued popularity among Republican voters is evident in how gingerly his primary rivals have treated the federal indictment.

Mike Pence, whose appearance in North Carolina marked the first shared venue with his former boss since the ex-vice president announced his own campaign this past week, condemned the "politicization" of the Justice Department and urged Attorney General Merrick Garland "to stop hiding behind the special counsel and stand before the American people" to explain the basis for the federal investigation into Trump.

In an interview with The Associated Press after his speech, Pence said he had read the indictment but repeatedly declined to share his personal reaction to its contents — including the photographs of boxes with classified information stacked in a Mar-a-Lago bathroom and on a ballroom stage — or to criticize Trump.

maintenance may be neglected and overworked employees are more likely to be fatigued.

The railroads have defended their practices and said they haven't sacrificed safety to become more efficient. The industry also emphasizes that it remains the safest way to transport hazardous materials over land. Norfolk Southern and all the major railroads have announced a number of steps they are taking to improve safety though regulators, and lawmakers have called for them to do more.

Federal regulators have said that safety data hasn't changed enough to show that the railroads' new operating model is unsafe. The figures do show that the rate of accidents per every million miles freight trains travel increased from 15.572 to 16.695 over the past decade even though the total number of incidents declined as railroads hauled less freight. The rate of accidents inside railyards also worsened from 11.044 in 2013 to 15.517 last year.

There have also been concerns raised about the safety of today's long trains that routinely stretch more than two miles. Bose said that the FRA recently warned railroads to be careful about the way they assemble long trains to reduce the risk of derailments.

The freight railroads favor longer trains because they allow them to deliver the same amount of freight with fewer crews and locomotives.

Cassava flour and fruit kept 4 children alive for 40 days after plane crash in Colombia's jungle

By MANUEL RUEDA and REGINA GARCIA CANO Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Four Indigenous children survived an Amazon plane crash that killed three adults and then braved the jungle for 40 days before being found alive by Colombian soldiers, bringing a happy ending to a search-and-rescue saga that captivated a nation and forced the usually opposing military and Indigenous people to work together.

Cassava flour and some familiarity with the rainforest's fruits were key to the children's extraordinary survival in an area where snakes, mosquitoes and other animals abound. The members of the Huitoto people, aged 13, 9 and 4 years and 11 months, are expected to remain for a minimum of two weeks at a hospital receiving treatment after their rescue Friday.

Family members, President Gustavo Petro as well as government and military officials met the children Saturday at the hospital in Bogota, the capital. Defense Minister Iván Velásquez told reporters the children were being rehydrated and cannot eat food yet.

"But in general, the condition of the children is acceptable," Velásquez said. They were travelling with their mother from the Amazonian village of Araracuara to San Jose del Guaviare when the plane crashed in the early hours of May 1.

The Cessna single-engine propeller plane was carrying three adults and the four children when the pilot declared an emergency due to an engine failure. The small aircraft fell off the radar a short time later and a search for survivors began.

"When the plane crashed, they took out (of the wreckage) a fariña, and with that, they survived," the children's uncle, Fidencio Valencia told reporters outside the hospital. Fariña is a cassava flour that people eat in the Amazon region.

"After the fariña ran out, they began to eat seeds," Valencia said.

Timing was in the children's favor. Astrid Cáceres, head of the Colombian Institute of Family Welfare, said the youngsters were also able to eat fruit because "the jungle was in harvest."

An air force video released Friday showed a helicopter using lines to pull the youngsters up because it couldn't land in the dense rainforest where they were found. The military on Friday tweeted pictures showing a group of soldiers and volunteers posing with the children, who were wrapped in thermal blankets. One of the soldiers held a bottle to the smallest child's lips.

Gen. Pedro Sanchez, who was in charge of the rescue efforts, said that the children were found 5 kilometers (3 miles) away from the crash site in a small forest clearing. He said rescue teams had passed within 20 to 50 meters (66 to 164 feet) of where the children were found on a couple of occasions but

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 58 of 73

had missed them.

"The minors were already very weak," Sanchez said. "And surely their strength was only enough to breathe or reach a small fruit to feed themselves or drink a drop of water in the jungle."

Petro called the children an "example of survival" and predicted their saga "will remain in history."

Two weeks after the crash, on May 16, a search team found the plane in a thick patch of the rainforest and recovered the bodies of the three adults on board, but the small children were nowhere to be found.

Sensing that they could be alive, Colombia's army stepped up the hunt and flew 150 soldiers with dogs into the area, where mist and thick foliage greatly limited visibility. Dozens of volunteers from Indigenous tribes also joined the search.

Soldiers on helicopters dropped boxes of food into the jungle, hoping that it would help sustain the children. Planes flying over the area fired flares to help search crews on the ground at night, and rescuers used speakers that blasted a message recorded by the siblings' grandmother telling them to stay in one place.

The announcement of their rescue came shortly after President Gustavo Petro signed a cease-fire with representatives of the National Liberation Army rebel group. In line with his government's messaging highlighting his efforts to end internal conflicts, he stressed the joint work of the military and Indigenous communities to find the children.

"The meeting of knowledge: indigenous and military," he tweeted. "Here is a different path for Colombia: I believe that this is the true path of Peace."

Damaris Mucutuy, an aunt of the children, told a radio station that "the children are fine" despite being dehydrated and with insect bites. She added that the children had been offered mental health services.

Cáceres told reporters officials agreed with the children's relatives to allow for "spiritual work" at the jungle and the hospital "if there was no immediate emergency action" needed. She said musicians and musical instruments relevant to the children's culture will be allowed in the hospital.

Officials praised the courage of eldest of the children, a girl, who they said had some knowledge of how to survive in the rainforest and led the children through the ordeal.

Before their rescue, rumors swirled about their whereabouts. So much so, that on May 18, Petro tweeted that the children had been found. He then deleted the message, claiming he had been misinformed by a government agency.

The children told officials they spent some time with the dog, but it then went missing. That was a rescue dog that soldiers took into the jungle. The military was still looking for the dog, a Belgian Shepherd named Wilson, as of Saturday.

Petro said that for a while he had believed the children were rescued by one of the nomadic tribes that still roam the remote area where the plane fell and have little contact with authorities.

As the search progressed, soldiers found small clues that led them to believe the children were still alive, including a pair of footprints, a baby bottle, diapers and pieces of fruit that looked like they had been bitten by humans.

"The jungle saved them," Petro said. "They are children of the jungle, and now they are also children of Colombia."

Garcia Cano reported from Mexico City.

Ted Kaczynski, known as the Unabomber for years of attacks that killed 3, dies in prison at 81

By MICHAEL BALSAMO and LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Theodore "Ted" Kaczynski, the Harvard-educated mathematician who retreated to a dingy shack in the Montana wilderness and ran a 17-year bombing campaign that killed three people and injured 23 others, died Saturday. He was 81.

Branded the "Unabomber" by the FBI, Kaczynski died at the federal prison medical center in Butner,

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 59 of 73

North Carolina, Kristie Breshears, a spokesperson for the federal Bureau of Prisons, told The Associated Press. He was found unresponsive in his cell early Saturday morning and was pronounced dead around 8 a.m., she said. A cause of death was not immediately known.

Before his transfer to the prison medical facility, he had been held in the federal Supermax prison in Florence, Colorado, since May 1998, when he was sentenced to four life sentences plus 30 years for a campaign of terror that set universities nationwide on edge. He admitted committing 16 bombings from 1978 and 1995, permanently maiming several of his victims.

Years before the Sept. 11 attacks and the anthrax mailing, the Unabomber's deadly homemade bombs changed the way Americans mailed packages and boarded airplanes, even virtually shutting down air travel on the West Coast in July 1995.

He forced The Washington Post, in conjunction with The New York Times, to make the agonizing decision in September 1995 to publish his 35,000-word manifesto, "Industrial Society and Its Future," which claimed modern society and technology was leading to a sense of powerlessness and alienation.

But it led to his undoing. Kaczynski's brother, David, and David's wife, Linda Patrik, recognized the treatise's tone and tipped off the FBI, which had been searching for the Unabomber for years in nation's longest, costliest manhunt.

Authorities in April 1996 found him in a 10-by-14-foot (3-by-4-meter) plywood and tarpaper cabin outside Lincoln, Montana, that was filled with journals, a coded diary, explosive ingredients and two completed bombs.

As an elusive criminal mastermind, the Unabomber won his share of sympathizers and comparisons to Daniel Boone, Edward Abbey and Henry David Thoreau.

But once revealed as a wild-eyed hermit with long hair and beard who weathered Montana winters in a one-room shack, Kaczynski struck many as more of a pathetic loner than romantic anti-hero.

Even in his own journals, Kaczynski came across not as a committed revolutionary but as a vengeful hermit driven by petty grievances.

"I certainly don't claim to be an altruist or to be acting for the 'good' (whatever that is) of the human race," he wrote on April 6, 1971. "I act merely from a desire for revenge."

A psychiatrist who interviewed Kaczynski in prison diagnosed him as a paranoid schizophrenic.

"Mr. Kaczynski's delusions are mostly persecutory in nature," Sally Johnson wrote in a 47-page report. "The central themes involve his belief that he is being maligned and harassed by family members and modern society."

Kaczynski hated the idea of being viewed as mentally ill and when his lawyers attempted to present an insanity defense, he tried to fire them. When that failed, he tried to hang himself with his underwear.

Kaczynski eventually pleaded guilty rather than let his defense team proceed with an insanity defense.

"I'm confident that I'm sane," Kaczynski told Time magazine in 1999. "I don't get delusions and so forth."

He was certainly brilliant.

Kaczynski skipped two grades to attend Harvard at age 16 and had published papers in prestigious mathematics journals. His explosives were carefully tested and came in meticulously handcrafted wooden boxes sanded to remove possible fingerprints. Later bombs bore the signature "FC" for "Freedom Club."

The FBI called him the "Unabomber" because his early targets seemed to be universities and airlines. An altitude-triggered bomb he mailed in 1979 went off as planned aboard an American Airlines flight; a dozen people aboard suffered from smoke inhalation.

Kaczynski killed computer rental store owner Hugh Scrutton, advertising executive Thomas Mosser and timber industry lobbyist Gilbert Murray. California geneticist Charles Epstein and Yale University computer expert David Gelernter were maimed by bombs two days apart in June 1993.

Mosser was killed in his North Caldwell, New Jersey, home on Dec. 10, 1994, a day he was supposed to be picking out a Christmas tree with his family. His wife, Susan, found him grievously wounded by a barrage of razor blades, pipes and nails.

"He was moaning very softly," she said at Kaczynski's 1998 sentencing. "The fingers on his right hand

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 60 of 73

were dangling. I held his left hand. I told him help was coming. I told him I loved him.”

When Kaczynski stepped up his bombs and letters to newspapers and scientists in 1995, experts speculated the Unabomber was jealous of the attention being paid to Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh.

A threat to blow up a plane out of Los Angeles before the end of the July Fourth weekend threw air travel and mail delivery into chaos. The Unabomber later claimed it was a “prank.”

The Washington Post printed the Unabomber’s manifesto at the urging of federal authorities, after the bomber said he would desist from terrorism if a national publication published his treatise.

Patrik had had a disturbing feeling about her brother-in-law even before seeing the manifesto and eventually persuaded her husband to read a copy at the library. After two months of arguments, they took some of Ted Kaczynski’s letters to Patrik’s childhood friend Susan Swanson, a private investigator in Chicago.

Swanson in turn passed them along to former FBI behavioral science expert Clint Van Zandt, whose analysts said whoever wrote them had also probably written the Unabomber’s manifesto.

“It was a nightmare,” David Kaczynski, who as a child had idolized his older brother, said in a 2005 speech at Bennington College. “I was literally thinking, ‘My brother’s a serial killer, the most wanted man in America.’”

Swanson turned to a corporate lawyer friend, Anthony Bisceglie, who contacted the FBI. The investigation and prosecution were overseen by now-Attorney General Merrick Garland, during a previous stint at the Justice Department.

David Kaczynski wanted his role kept confidential, but his identity quickly leaked out and Ted Kaczynski vowed never to forgive his younger sibling. He ignored his letters, turned his back on him at court hearings and described David Kaczynski in a 1999 book draft as a “Judas Iscariot (who) ... doesn’t even have enough courage to go hang himself.”

Ted Kaczynski was born May 22, 1942, in Chicago, the son of second-generation Polish Catholics — a sausage-maker and a homemaker. He played the trombone in the school band, collected coins and skipped the sixth and 11th grades.

His high school classmates thought him odd, particularly after he showed a school wrestler how to make a mini-bomb that detonated during chemistry class.

Harvard classmates recalled him as a lonely, thin boy with poor personal hygiene and a room that smelled of spoiled milk, rotting food and foot powder.

After graduate studies at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor, he got a job teaching math at the University of California at Berkeley but found the work difficult and quit abruptly. In 1971, he bought a 1½-acre parcel about 4 miles (6 kilometers) outside of Lincoln and built a cabin there without heating, plumbing or electricity.

He learned to garden, hunt, make tools and sew, living on a few hundred dollars a year.

He left his cabin in Montana in the late 1970s to work at a foam rubber products manufacturer outside Chicago with his father and brother. But when a female supervisor dumped him after two dates, he began posting insulting limericks about her and wouldn’t stop.

His brother fired him and Ted Kaczynski soon returned to the wilderness to continue plotting his vengeful killing spree.

Balsamo reported from Miami. This story includes biographical material written by former Associated Press writer Derek Rose.

LGBTQ+ Pride parade returns to Boston after rift over inclusivity

By STEVE LeBLANC Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The biggest Pride parade in New England returned to Boston on Saturday after a three-year hiatus, with a fresh focus on social justice and inclusion rather than corporate backing.

Marchers cheered, danced and held signs representing various causes during the two-hour event, while people along the sidelines cheered back. About 10,000 marchers signed up before registration was shut

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 61 of 73

down, according to organizers.

Mason Dunn, 37, of Tewksbury, Massachusetts, said the crowd was diverse: "All different gender identities, all different race, ethnicity, age, ability. We're seeing a really great representation."

Some participants memorialized transgender people who died because of bias or hate in the U.S. by carrying signs with one of their names in the parade, Dunn said.

Massachusetts Gov. Maura Healey, one of the nation's first two openly lesbian governors, said ahead of the parade that she was excited to participate.

"This is a particularly special one to be marching in this year and at this time where we see states and some governors going backward, taking away equality, taking away freedoms, demonizing members of the LGBTQ community, hurting them, banning books, banning shows, banning access to even health care," Healey said.

The parade's return came amid growing hostility to LGBTQ+ people in parts of the country. Some states have limited drag shows, restricted gender-affirming medical care and banned school library books for their LGBTQ+ content.

Though Boston's parade happened the second weekend of Pride Month, many other large cities — including New York, San Francisco, Chicago, Denver and Minneapolis — hold their main marches on the last weekend of June. Some cities host their events throughout the month or even at other times of the year. In Europe, Rome and Athens also held pride parades Saturday, as did Indianapolis; Albuquerque, New Mexico; and several other U.S. and global cities.

In Washington, President Joe Biden welcomed hundreds to the White House for a Pride celebration that had initially been scheduled for Thursday but was postponed because of poor air quality caused by Canadian wildfires.

"So today, I want to send a message to the entire community — especially to transgender children: You are loved. You are heard. You belong," Biden said.

Saturday was Boston's first Pride parade since 2019. The hiatus began with COVID-19 but extended through 2022 because the organization that used to run the event, Boston Pride, dissolved in 2021 under criticism that it excluded racial minorities and transgender people.

Boston Pride for the People, the new group formed to plan Boston's parade, came together last September to create a more inclusive, less corporate festival, said Jo Trigilio, vice president of Boston Pride for the People.

Despite being the first state to legalize same-sex marriage, Massachusetts isn't immune to attacks on LGBTQ+ people, according to Janson Wu, executive director of GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders, or GLAD.

He pointed to protests targeting drag shows and harassment against children's hospitals and physicians that provide gender-affirming health care.

"The return of Boston Pride with new and grassroots leadership is incredibly important, especially now with rising attacks against the LGBTQ community," Wu said.

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, a Democrat, welcomed the parade's return, saying it's important for Massachusetts and Boston to be "a bulwark on the frontlines in a moment of rising hate."

Neon Calypso, 30, a Boston drag queen and trans woman of color who performed Tina Turner's "Proud Mary" at a Statehouse raising of the Pride flag Wednesday, said she's baffled by those trying to marginalize drag performers.

"It's unfortunate that there are states and politicians that people empower that see something that's so welcoming and accepting as something that's negative," she said. "A lot of those people who are protesting the shows, if they went, they would actually see that it's not what they say."

One of the oldest Pride events in the country, this year's parade traveled a bit shorter route than in past years, beginning at Copley Square and ending at Boston Common with a festival for families, teens and older community members. A second event for the over-21 crowd was planned at City Hall Plaza with alcohol, a disc jockey and dancing.

Boston Pride for the People focuses on empowerment, celebration, commemoration and education, and

seeks to counter Pride parades and celebrations nationwide that have become too commercial and too focused on appealing to people with privilege, said Trigilio, who uses the pronouns they and them.

"The more you have corporations involved, the more they are looking for money and that caters to the privileged," they added. "When you have a Pride that is too commercial, it becomes a party and you lose the social justice aspect to it."

They said Boston Pride for the People reviewed corporate funders using a number of criteria, including whether they donated to anti-LGBTQ+ lawmakers.

Employee groups were welcome to march, but corporations weren't.

"We really did start by looking forward to how we could best serve the LGBTQ community in greater Boston and really all across New England," Trigilio said.

Iga Swiatek tops Karolina Muchova in the French Open final for her 3rd trophy in Paris, 4th Slam

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — Iga Swiatek suddenly seemed lost in the French Open final. Her strokes were awry. Her confidence was gone. Her big early lead vanished, too.

She kept looking up into the stands, seeking guidance from her coach and her sports psychologist.

So much was amiss right up until she was two games from defeat against unseeded Karolina Muchova on Saturday. And then, when she needed to most, Swiatek transformed back into, well, Swiatek. The No. 1 player in women's tennis for more than a year. The defending champion at Roland Garros. Aggressive. Decisive. Full of clarity.

Swiatek overcame a second-set crisis and a third-set deficit to reel off the last three games, topping Muchova 6-2, 5-7, 6-4 to collect a third career championship at the French Open and fourth Grand Slam title.

"It's pretty surreal, everything. But the match was really intense, a lot of ups and downs. Stressful moments and coming back," said Swiatek, now 4-0 in major finals. "So I'm pretty happy that at the end I could be solid in those few last games and finish it."

Looking comfortable as can be at the outset, she raced to a 3-0 lead after just 10 minutes in Court Philippe Chatrier — taking 12 of the initial 15 points — and then was ahead 3-0 in the second set, too, before Muchova made things more intriguing.

"I could see that she was a little bit struggling, a little bit more tense," Muchova said.

Swiatek seemed out of sorts, unable to find the right strokes and unable to figure out why. Players are allowed to communicate with their coaches, but whatever Tomasz Wiktorowski — or sports psychologist Daria Abramowicz — might have been trying to tell Swiatek, either the message wasn't getting through or it wasn't working right away.

"For sure, in second set, I was more looking for some kind of advice," Swiatek explained, "and just a view of what I'm doing wrong sometimes."

Muchova grabbed five of six games on the way to pulling even at a set apiece. She carried that momentum into the deciding set, going ahead by a break twice.

"I came a live, a little bit," Muchova said.

Sure did. And yet that's when Swiatek returned to her usual brand of crisp, clean tennis, scurrying around the red clay with sublime defense and finding just the occasions to try for a winner.

"I just kind of felt like I need to be more courageous," Swiatek said, "and make some good decisions."

When it ended on a double-fault by Muchova, Swiatek dropped her racket, crouched and covered her face as she cried.

The 22-year-old from Poland has won the French Open twice in a row now, along with her 2020 title there and her triumph at the U.S. Open last September. That makes Swiatek the youngest woman with four Grand Slam trophies since Serena Williams was 20 when she got to that number at the 2002 U.S. Open.

"When she's on a roll, it's tough to break in," said Muchova, who is ranked 43rd and was participating in a championship match at a Slam for the first time.

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 63 of 73

The contest was filled with sections where Swiatek — the dominant player in women's tennis for more than a year now — was better, and sections where Muchova was.

Every time one woman or the other seemed to be wresting control, every time one or the other raised her level enough that the end appeared in sight, the road curved in a different direction.

Swiatek's brilliant beginning meant little.

As did Muchova's edges of 2-0 and 4-3 in the third set.

One point in particular captured the essence of Muchova's unwillingness to count herself out.

Serving for the second set at deuce while ahead 6-5, Muchova pushed to the net and ranged well to her right for a forehand volley. Swiatek then sent her scrambling to the left, and Muchova somehow slid and stretched for a backhand volley while losing her balance. Her racket fell, and so did she, placing her hands on the clay to brace herself.

The ball, somehow, landed in to take the point, and a moment later, when Swiatek's backhand return sailed long, Muchova raised her right fist and let out a yell.

Suddenly, it was a set apiece. Suddenly, the outcome was entirely in doubt.

"I could see that she was a little bit struggling, a little bit more tense," Muchova said.

So then the question became: Might Muchova be able to fashion another dramatic comeback, the way she did in the semifinals on Thursday? In that match, against No. 2 Aryna Sabalenka, the reigning Australian Open champion, Muchova faced a match point while trailing 5-2 in the third set and then completely reversed things, taking 20 of the last 24 points and each of the last five games to win.

That result made Muchova 5-0 for her career against foes in the Top 3.

Any hope she had of making that 6-0 dissipated down the stretch.

"I kind of stopped thinking about the score," Swiatek said. "I wanted to use my intuition more, because I knew that I can play a little bit better if I'm going to get a little bit more loosened up. It helped, for sure, in the third set."

Once again, she produced what it takes to win. Once again, she was holding a trophy — although, less steady than when holding a racket, she bobbled the silverware during the postmatch ceremony, causing its top to fall.

AP tennis: <https://apnews.com/hub/tennis> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Trump's GOP defenders in Congress leap into action on charges after months of preparation

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and FARNOUSH AMIRI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Donald Trump's indictment on charges of mishandling classified documents is set to play out in a federal court in Florida. But about a thousand miles away, part of Trump's defense is well underway in a different venue — the halls of Congress, where Republicans have been preparing for months to wage an aggressive counteroffensive against the Justice Department.

The federal indictment against Trump, unsealed Friday, includes 37 counts, including allegations that the former president intentionally possessed classified documents, showed them off to visitors, willfully defied Justice Department demands to return them and made false statements to federal authorities about them. The evidence details Trump's own words and actions as recounted by lawyers, close aides and other witnesses.

The Republican campaign to discredit federal prosecutors skims over the substance of those charges, which were brought by a grand jury in Florida. GOP lawmakers are instead working, as they have for several years, to foster a broader argument that law enforcement — and President Joe Biden — are conspiring against the former president and possible Republican nominee for president in 2024.

"Today is indeed a dark day for the United States of America," tweeted House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, soon after Trump said on his social media platform Thursday night that an indictment was coming. McCarthy blamed Biden, who has declined to comment on the case and said he is not at all involved in the

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 64 of 73

Justice Department's decisions.

McCarthy called it a "grave injustice" and said that House Republicans "will hold this brazen weaponization of power accountable."

Republican lawmakers in the House have already laid extensive groundwork for the effort to defend Trump since taking the majority in January. A near constant string of hearings featuring former FBI agents, Twitter executives and federal officials have sought to paint the narrative of a corrupt government using its powers against Trump and the right. A GOP-led House subcommittee on the "weaponization" of government is probing the Justice Department and other government agencies, while at the same time Republicans are investigating Biden's son Hunter Biden.

"It's a sad day for America," said Ohio Rep. Jim Jordan, the House Judiciary Committee chairman who is a leading Trump defender and ally, in a statement Thursday. "God bless President Trump."

Arizona Rep. Andy Biggs was more strident. "We have now reached a war phase," he tweeted. "Eye for an eye."

Democrats say the Republicans are trafficking in conspiracy theories, with potentially dangerous consequences. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, both Democrats from New York, issued a joint statement Friday urging calm around the Trump case, saying everyone should "let this case proceed peacefully in court."

Recent Republicans rhetoric "not only undermines the Department of Justice but betrays the essential principle of justice that no one is above the commands of law, not even a former President or a self-proclaimed billionaire," said Rep. Jamie Raskin, the top Democrat on the House Oversight Committee.

Key elements of the GOP strategy are to discredit the prosecutors and investigate the investigators — a playbook that Republicans employed during Trump's presidency as his own Justice Department probed his connections to Russia, and also used in April when Trump was charged in a hush money investigation in New York.

In the days leading to the New York indictment, House Republicans laid out a full-on campaign against Alvin Bragg, the Democratic district attorney in Manhattan who brought the case against the former president.

Charging that the prosecution was "pure politics," Jordan held a field hearing near Bragg's New York offices to examine what they said were his "pro-crime, anti-victim" policies. Jordan is also the top Republican on the weaponization subcommittee.

As special counsel Jack Smith was preparing this week to release the indictment, Trump's allies on Capitol Hill were working overtime to prepare the defense of the former president. Jordan issued a series of letters to the Justice Department, demanding documents related to his investigation into Trump's handling of classified records. Jordan cited the recent report by special counsel John Durham that found that the FBI rushed into its investigation of ties between Russia and Donald Trump's 2016 campaign and routinely ignored or rationalized evidence that undercut its premise.

In the June 1 letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland, Jordan requested information about the ongoing investigation in order to "ensure any ongoing investigations are not poisoned by this same politicization."

Just as the indictment was unsealed on Friday, Jordan sent another letter to Garland, this time laying out testimony from a former FBI official who testified to the committee about the raid at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida. Jordan wrote that Steven D'Antuono, a former assistant director at the FBI's Washington Field Office, told the committee the Justice Department "was not following the same principles" as previous raids.

Defending Trump also has the potential to ease tensions among House Republicans as they face their own troubles on Capitol Hill, after a conservative-led revolt over the recent debt ceiling deal divided the party this week and halted most legislation from passing on the floor.

But even if Republicans are able to shape public perception of the probes, there is one thing they cannot do — control the outcome of Trump's trial. The former president is at great legal risk, no matter what the public believes, under two indictments — and potentially more as prosecutors in Georgia and Washington investigate his actions leading up to the Jan. 6 insurrection.

Still, some Republicans maintain that the multiple indictments could help Trump improve his standing

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 65 of 73

in polls of Republican voters and solidify the impression that the government is conspiring against him. Republican Rep. Nancy Mace of South Carolina told CNN she believes the indictment “handed Donald Trump the nomination” in the 2024 GOP primary.

And as the House panel has ramped up its efforts to defend the former president, the word “weaponization” has taken root among Trump’s Republican allies. Nearly every GOP lawmaker used the term — as did a member of Trump’s legal team hours before the charges were unsealed to the public.

“It puts a stamp of reality on something that really is unreal in terms of the weaponization of the Department of Justice,” said James Trusty, one of Trump’s lawyers, on ABC Friday morning. Trump announced later in the day that Trusty was leaving his team.

Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas tweeted that “the weaponization of our Department of Justice against enemies of the Biden admin. will do enormous damage to the rule of law & have a lasting impact.”

Cruz’s GOP colleagues in the Senate were more muted, with Republican Leader Mitch McConnell and others who have criticized the former president declining to weigh in on the indictment.

Republican Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah, the only GOP senator to vote to convict Trump in both of his impeachment trials, was a rare voice of criticism. While Romney stressed that Trump is entitled to presumption of innocence, he said he believes the charges are serious and Trump brought them on himself.

“These allegations are serious and if proven, would be consistent with his other actions offensive to the national interest,” Romney said.

This story has been corrected to reflect that Rep. Jim Jordan is chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, not the Senate Judiciary Committee.

Zelenskyy says ‘counteroffensive, defensive actions’ taking place in Ukraine

By SAMYA KULLAB and JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Saturday that counteroffensive and defensive actions are underway against Russian forces, asserting that his top commanders are in a “positive” mindset as their troops engaged in intense fighting along the front line.

The Ukrainian leader, at a Kyiv news conference alongside Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, responded to a question about Russian President Vladimir Putin’s comment a day earlier that Ukraine’s counteroffensive had started — and Ukrainian forces were taking “significant losses.”

Zelenskyy said that “counteroffensive, defensive actions are taking place in Ukraine. I will not speak about which stage or phase they are in.”

Top Ukrainian authorities have stopped short of announcing a full-blown counteroffensive was underway, though some Western analysts have said fiercer fighting and reported use of reserve troops suggests it was.

“I am in touch with our commanders of different directions every day,” he added, citing the names of five of Ukraine’s top military leaders. “Everyone is positive. Pass this on to Putin.”

Trudeau, the first foreign leader to visit Ukraine since devastating floods caused by a breach in a Dnieper River dam, offered up monetary, military and moral support. He pledged 500 million Canadian dollars (\$375 million) in new military aid, on top of more than 8 billion Canadian dollars (\$6 billion) that Canada has already provided since the war began in February 2022, and announced 10 million Canadian dollars (\$7.5 million) for humanitarian assistance for the flood response.

Trudeau said the dam’s collapse was “a direct consequence of Russia’s war,” but he didn’t blame Moscow directly.

Ukraine’s General Staff said Saturday that “heavy battles” were ongoing, with 34 clashes over the previous day in the country’s industrial east. It gave no details but said Russian forces were “defending themselves” and launching air and artillery strikes in Ukraine’s southern Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions.

Recent Western injections of billions of dollars’ worth of military equipment — some of it high-tech and

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 66 of 73

top-of-the-line — to Ukraine has raised expectations about when it would be used, and to what effect against dug-in Russian lines.

For months, Ukrainian commanders in the eastern city of Bakhmut — which was largely devastated in a months-long fight that has been one of the bloodiest battles of the war — have used the language of counteroffensive and defensive operations to describe the activity there.

Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar said Friday that the epicenter of the fighting has been in the east, particularly in the Donetsk region, and cited “heavy battles” in Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka and Marinka.

Valerii Shershen, a spokesperson for Ukraine’s armed forces in Zaporizhzhia, told Radio Liberty that they were searching for weaknesses in Russia’s defense in that region, to the west.

Ukraine’s nuclear energy agency Energoatom said the last operating reactor at the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe’s largest, had been placed in “cold shutdown” mode. That’s a process in which all control rods are inserted into the reactor core to stop the nuclear fission reaction and generation of heat and pressure.

The plant’s other five reactors already were in cold shutdown amid concerns about the plant’s exposure to the fighting.

Energoatom said in a statement late Friday that there was “no direct threat” to the Zaporizhzhia plant because of the breach of the Kakhovka dam further down the Dnieper River, which has forced thousands of people to flee flooding and also sharply reduced water levels in a reservoir used to help cool the facility.

Water levels in the Kakhovka reservoir, which feed the Zaporizhzhia plant, remained stable on Saturday, Energoatom said.

The site’s power units have not been operating since September last year. The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency is due to visit Ukraine in the coming days.

Ukrainian authorities reported Saturday that at least six civilians have died across the country as Russian forces launched Iranian-made Shahed drones, missiles, and artillery and mortar strikes.

Ukraine’s State Emergency Service reported that three people were killed and more than two dozen wounded overnight in an attack targeting the Black Sea port of Odesa. A spokesperson for Ukraine’s southern operational command, Natalia Humeniuk, said two children and a pregnant woman were among those wounded.

Two people were killed in a Russian attack on the town of Orekhova in the Zaporizhzhia region, according to governor Yuriy Malashko.

In Ukraine’s northeast, a 29-year-old man was killed as more than 10 drones targeted the Kharkiv region, its governor, Oleh Syniehubov, reported Saturday. He added that at least three other civilians were wounded.

The Ukrainian air force said that during the night, it had shot down 20 out of 35 Shahed drones and two out of eight missiles “of various types” launched by Russian forces.

The fighting and civilian casualties took renewed attention as authorities in southern Ukraine said water levels have been declining in a vast area beneath the ruptured dam.

Nearly one-third of protected natural areas in the Kherson region could be obliterated by flooding following the breach of the Kakhovka dam, the Ukrainian environment minister warned Saturday.

The U.N.’s humanitarian aid chief, Martin Griffiths, said in an Associated Press interview Friday that an “extraordinary” 700,000 people were in need of drinking water.

In other developments:

On Saturday, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz says he wants to continue speaking with Putin — whose order for Russia’s invasion of Ukraine has been criticized by many Western leaders — and plans to do so again “soon.” Scholz has spoken several times by phone with Putin since the invasion.

The chancellor said the basis for a “fair peace” between Russia and Ukraine is the withdrawal of Russian troops. “That’s needs to be understood,” he said.

The U.K. government said it will give 16 million pounds (\$20 million) in humanitarian aid to those affected by the flooding. Most of the money is being channelled through international organizations such as

the Red Cross and the United Nations, and the U.K. is also sending boats, community water filters, water pumps and waders to Ukraine.

The U.K. has already given Ukraine 1.5 billion pounds in economic and humanitarian support since the war began, the government said, and has committed 4.6 billion pounds in military aid.

Jon Gambrell in Kyiv, Joanna Kozłowska and Jill Lawless in London, and Frank Jordans in Bonn, Germany, contributed to this story.

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

Randy Cox, paralyzed in police van, reaches \$45 million settlement with New Haven, Connecticut

By CAROLYN THOMPSON Associated Press

New Haven, Connecticut, has agreed to a \$45 million settlement with Randy Cox, who was paralyzed while being transported handcuffed and without a seat belt in the back of a police van following his arrest last year, the city's mayor and attorneys said Saturday.

The agreement was reached Friday evening following a daylong conference with a federal magistrate judge, Mayor Justin Elicker said. It came two days after the city fired two police officers who authorities said treated Cox recklessly and without compassion.

"The city's mistakes have been well documented," a statement by attorneys Ben Crump, Louis Rubano and R.J. Weber, who represented Cox, said. "But today is a moment to look to the future, so New Haven residents can have confidence in their city and their police department."

Cox, 36, was left paralyzed from the chest down June 19, 2022, when the police van he was riding in braked hard, sending him head-first into a metal partition while his hands were cuffed behind his back. Cox had been arrested on charges of threatening a woman with a gun, which were later dismissed.

"I can't move. I'm going to die like this. Please, please, please help me," Cox said minutes after the crash, according to police video.

Once at the police station, officers mocked Cox and accused him of being drunk and faking his injuries, according to surveillance and body-worn camera footage. Officers dragged Cox by his feet out of the van and placed him in a holding cell prior to his eventual transfer to a hospital.

Five officers, including those who were fired, face criminal charges in the case. All have pleaded not guilty.

Cox last year sued the officers and the city for \$100 million. His attorneys called the settlement the largest ever in a police misconduct case.

Cox did not plan to make any public comments over the weekend, Rubano said.

"He kind of relived what happened to him throughout the day yesterday, so it was a very emotional day," the attorney said by phone. "He's unwinding now."

The case drew outrage from civil rights advocates like the NAACP, along with comparisons to the Freddie Gray case in Baltimore. Cox is Black, while all five officers who were arrested are Black or Hispanic. Gray, who also was Black, died in 2015 after he suffered a spinal injury while handcuffed and shackled in a city police van.

New Haven police have since adopted reforms that include making sure all prisoners wear seat belts. The state Senate on June 5 gave final approval to legislation that would require seat belts for all prisoners being transported.

"Randy entered a police transport vehicle being able to walk, and now he's not able to walk," Elicker said at a news conference Saturday. He said he had spoken with Cox's mother earlier in the day.

"What I shared with her is that while this settlement cannot bring Randy back to his original state when he entered that police transport vehicle, that my hope is that it provides Randy the future medical support and other support that he will need," Elicker said. "Randy's 36 years old, and we hope he has a long life ahead of him with the kind of support and care that he deserves."

Pope Francis takes doctors' advice to skip Sunday public blessing as he recovers from major surgery

By FRANCES D'EMILIO Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Pope Francis, "wisely" following doctors' advice, will skip Sunday's customary public blessing to allow himself to better heal after abdominal surgery earlier this week, his surgeon told reporters.

Blood and imaging tests indicate that the 86-year-old pope's recovery is proceeding in an "absolutely normal" manner, Sergio Alfieri, who operated on the pontiff, also told reporters on Saturday at Gemelli Polyclinic in Rome.

During the three-hour-long operation on Wednesday, using general anesthesia, doctors removed increasingly painful scarring that resulted from previous abdominal surgeries as well as repaired a hernia in the abdominal wall, with the insertion of a prosthetic support netting, or mesh.

Alfieri said while Francis' recovery has been medically uneventful, any extra physical exertion, like rising from bed to move to an armchair to recite the traditional Sunday noon blessing and commentary to the public through a video link, could be risky at this point.

While the Vatican said earlier in the week that Francis had occasionally been sitting in a chair to read newspapers, the weekly noon appointment customarily involves the pope speaking to the public for about 15 minutes and giving his blessing.

Advice by his doctors and the pope's trusted Vatican nurse to forgo the Sunday appearance is aimed at achieving "the least strain on the abdominal wall in order to allow the implanted mesh and the muscle fascia repaired to heal optimally," Alfieri said.

"In the next few days, if he's not careful about healing, the netting could tear and he'll be back in the operating room," the surgeon said.

"If he has a careful recovery, he'll be back better" than before at the Vatican, Alfieri said. "It's prudence that we suggested and that he wisely accepted."

Francis has graduated from a liquid to a semiliquid diet and had no fever, according to his medical staff.

His cardiac and respiratory status was also fine, Alfieri said in his first medical briefing on the pontiff's condition since the one he gave Wednesday shortly after the pope came round from the anesthetic.

"For his age, 86, he doesn't have pathologies" regarding his heart or respiratory systems, Alfieri said in response to a reporter's question.

Francis will recite the traditional Sunday noon prayer privately in his hospital room, and faithful are encouraged to join in the prayer, Bruni said.

While praying privately, Francis will unite "spiritually, with affection and gratitude, to the faithful who want to accompany him, wherever they are" in prayer, Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said in a separate, written statement.

Meanwhile, thousands of people turned out in St. Peter's Square for a gathering to promote the value of brotherhood — a quality so dear to Francis that he wrote an encyclical on its importance in 2020.

But since Francis couldn't speak to them, a cardinal read out the pontiff's speech, which acknowledged his absence.

"Even though I am unable to greet you in person, I would like to welcome and thank you wholeheartedly for coming," the prepared speech began. Those listening heard a reminder from Francis that there is "the possibility of being brothers and sisters even when we are not close, as has happened to me."

Francis is convalescing in the 10th-floor apartment reserved for papal use at Gemelli Polyclinic.

No date has yet been announced for his release from the hospital.

"We hope we will convince him to stay at least the whole next week," Alfieri said on Saturday.

Alfieri said by opting to spend more of his convalescence in the hospital instead of leaving after a handful of days, the pope can return "to his work with more strength and safety."

Alfieri recalled his remarks, hours after the surgery, that Francis had experienced no complications during the surgery or from the general anesthesia.

During the operation, the surgical team removed adhesions, a kind of internal scarring not infrequent after previous surgery. Two years earlier, Francis had part of his colon removed following a narrowing of a section of the bowel. The hernia that was repaired had formed over a previous scar.

Alfieri had performed the 2021 bowel surgery as well. When he operated this time, "I found the same scars I found two years ago," the surgeon said Saturday. "Then they weren't causing symptoms." But in the time since, the adhesions were increasingly causing pain.

Post-surgery, Francis "doesn't have much pain," Alfieri said, adding that the pontiff was on "bland" anti-pain medication "so he can breathe well."

Francis has two trips abroad set for August, the first to Portugal, for a Catholic youth jamboree, and then, at the end of that month, to Mongolia, the first-ever pilgrimage by a pontiff to that Asian country.

Asked about the prospects for those strenuous trips given his surgery, Alfieri said the pontiff, "made these calculations" when deciding to go ahead with the June 7 surgery, an indication that Francis felt that the timing of the operation would allow him to stick to his travel plans.

Children who were stabbed in France no longer in life-threatening condition as suspect is charged

By NICOLAS VAUX-MONTAGNY and ANGELA CHARLTON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Four young children stabbed in a playground in the French Alps are no longer in life-threatening condition but remain hospitalized, the regional prosecutor said Saturday, as the suspected attacker was handed preliminary charges of attempted murder.

The victims came from multiple countries, and the impact from the unusually savage and incomprehensible attack Thursday reverberated across France and beyond. The children who were stabbed, between 22 months and 3 years old, were in hospitals in France and Switzerland.

The suspect, a 31-year-old Syrian refugee with permanent Swedish residency, has a 3-year-old daughter living in Sweden, regional prosecutor Line Bonnet-Mathis told reporters Saturday. Witnesses told investigators that the suspect mentioned his daughter, his wife and Jesus Christ during the attack Thursday targeting a playground in the lakeside town of Annecy.

Police detained the suspect in the park in the town of Annecy after bystanders — notably, a Catholic pilgrim who repeatedly swung at the attacker with his backpack — sought to deter him.

The suspected attacker, whose name was not released, was presented to investigating judges in Annecy on Saturday and given charges of attempted murder and armed resistance, Bonnet-Mathis said. He is in custody pending further investigation.

The suspect refused to talk to investigators, and was examined by a psychiatrist and other doctors who deemed him fit to face charges, the prosecutor said. She said that the motive remained unclear, but it didn't appear to be terrorism-related.

The suspected attacker wore a cross and carried two Christian images with him at the time of the attack, the prosecutor said. He also had 480 euros in cash with him and a Swedish driver's license, and had been sleeping in the common area of an Annecy apartment building.

He had traveled from Sweden to Italy and Switzerland before coming to France last October, and French police are coordinating with colleagues in those countries to learn more about his trajectory, said Damien Delaby, director of the regional judicial police.

The child victims were two French 2-year-old cousins, a boy and a girl, who were in the playground with their grandmother when the assailant appeared; a British 3-year-old girl visiting Annecy with her parents; and a 22-month-old Dutch girl, according to the prosecutor.

French President Emmanuel Macron visited the victims and their families, first responders and witnesses Friday. Macron said doctors were "very confident" about the conditions of the two cousins, who were the most critically injured.

The wounded British girl "is awake, she's watching television," Macron added. The Dutch girl also has improved, and a critically injured adult — who was both knifed and wounded by a shot that police fired

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 70 of 73

as they detained the suspected attacker — is regaining consciousness, Macron said.

The seriously injured adult, a Portuguese man, was wounded trying to stop the attacker from fleeing police. Portugal's foreign ministry said he is "now out of danger."

In a statement Saturday, Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa thanked the man, Manuel Ponte, for his bravery.

The second injured adult was discharged from a hospital, his left elbow bandaged.

The pilgrim dubbed "the hero with the backpack," a 24-year-old Frenchman named Henri, is on a walking and hitchhiking tour of France's cathedrals. He told French broadcaster BFMTV that he'd been setting off to another abbey when the horror unfolded in front of him. The attacker slashed at him, but Henri held his ground and used a weighty backpack he was carrying to swing at the assailant.

Henri's father told The Associated Press that his son "told me that the Syrian was incoherent, saying lots of strange things in different languages, invoking his father, his mother, all the Gods."

The suspect's profile fueled renewed criticism from far-right and conservative politicians about French migration policies. But authorities noted that the suspect entered France legally, because he has permanent residency status in Sweden. Sweden and France are both members of the EU and Europe's border-free travel zone.

He applied for citizenship in Sweden in 2017 and 2018 but was denied, according to the Swedish Migration Agency. Sweden's TV4 television, citing the citizenship refusal document, reported that he was denied because he had served in the Syrian army.

He applied for asylum in France last year and was refused a few days before the attack, on the grounds that he had already won asylum in Sweden in 2013, the French interior minister said.

Annecy is planning a public gathering at the site of the attack on Sunday in support of the victims.

Vaux-Montagny reported from Lyon, France. Karl Ritter in Stockholm and Helena Alves in Lisbon, Portugal contributed.

Boris Johnson's bombshell exit from Parliament leaves UK politics reeling

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Former U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson left chaos in his wake Saturday after quitting Parliament with a blast at fellow lawmakers he accused of ousting him in a "witch hunt."

As opponents jeered, the Conservative government absorbed the shock of yet another Johnson earthquake, while a band of loyal supporters insisted Britain's divisive ex-leader could still make a comeback. Two Johnson allies joined him in quitting the House of Commons, piling pressure on Prime Minister Rishi Sunak.

Less than a year after he was forced out as prime minister by his own Conservative Party, Johnson unexpectedly stepped down as a lawmaker late Friday — "at least for now," he said in a self-justifying resignation statement.

Johnson quit after being told he will be sanctioned for misleading Parliament over "partygate," a series of rule-breaking gatherings in the prime minister's office during the coronavirus pandemic. Johnson was among scores of people fined by police over late-night soirees, boozy parties and "wine time Fridays" that broke restrictions the government had imposed on the country.

Johnson has acknowledged misleading Parliament when he assured lawmakers that no rules had been broken, but he said he didn't do so deliberately, genuinely believing the gatherings were legitimate work events.

A standards committee investigating him appears to see things differently. Johnson quit after receiving the report of the Privileges Committee, which has not yet been made public. Johnson faced suspension from the House of Commons if the committee found he had lied deliberately.

Johnson, 58, called the committee "a kangaroo court" that was determined to "drive me out of Parliament."

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 71 of 73

"Their purpose from the beginning has been to find me guilty, regardless of the facts," Johnson said.

The committee, which has a majority Conservative membership, said Johnson had "impugned the integrity" of the House of Commons with his attack. It said it would meet Monday "to conclude the inquiry and to publish its report promptly."

The resignation will trigger a special election to replace Johnson as a lawmaker for a suburban London seat in the House of Commons. Two allies of Johnson, Nadine Dorries and Nigel Adams, also quit, sparking three near-simultaneous by-elections – an unwanted headache for Sunak.

Johnson is a charismatic and erratic figure whose career has seen a series of scandals and comebacks. The ruffled, Latin-spouting populist with a mop of blond hair has held major offices but also spent periods on the political sidelines before Britain's exit from the European Union propelled him to the top.

A champion of Brexit, Johnson led the Conservatives to a landslide victory in 2019 and took Britain out of the EU the following year. But he became mired in scandals over his ethics and judgment, and was forced out as prime minister by his own party in mid-2022.

By quitting Parliament, he avoids a suspension that could have seen him ousted from his Commons seat by his constituents, leaving him free to run for Parliament again in future. His resignation statement suggested he was mulling that option. It was highly critical of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, who served as Treasury chief in Johnson's government before jumping ship with many other colleagues in July 2022 — resignations that forced Johnson out as prime minister.

Conservative poll ratings went into decline during the turbulent final months of Johnson's term and have not recovered. Opinion polls regularly put the opposition Labour Party 20 points or more ahead. A national election must be held by the end of 2024.

"Just a few years after winning the biggest majority in almost half a century, that majority is now clearly at risk," Johnson said in a statement that sounded like a leadership pitch. "Our party needs urgently to recapture its sense of momentum and its belief in what this country can do."

Johnson allies expressed hope that the former prime minister was not finished. Conservative lawmaker John Redwood said Johnson "has made it very clear that he doesn't regard this as the end of his involvement in British politics."

But many others questioned whether a politician who has often seemed to defy political gravity could make yet another comeback.

Others compared Johnson to Donald Trump, who has similarly claimed persecution by a host of enemies after being indicted on federal charges over his hoarding of classified documents after leaving office.

"It all feels very Trumpian," said Will Walden, who worked for Johnson when he was mayor of London and U.K. foreign secretary.

"He has one song to play, and that is 'I was robbed,'" Walden told Sky News.

Tim Bale, professor of politics at Queen Mary University of London, said Johnson often drew inspiration from his political hero, Winston Churchill, who led Britain to victory in World War II only to be ousted from power in 1945 — and then to return to office several years later.

"I believe that he thinks that he can spend some time in ... the wilderness before the Conservative Party and the country calls upon him once again in its hour of need," Bale said.

"Frankly, I think that is unlikely. I think partygate has ensured that he is toxic as far as many voters are concerned. And I think the way he has behaved over the last two or three days — and some people will say over the last two or three years — probably means that most of his colleagues would rather he disappeared in a puff of smoke."

Troops feel the heat, and several faint, as Prince William reviews military parade

LONDON (AP) — Several British soldiers were overcome by the heat on Saturday as they turned out in woolen tunics and bearskin hats to salute Prince William.

At least three guardsmen fainted during the military parade known as the Colonel's Review, in which more

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 72 of 73

than 1,400 soldiers of the Household Division and the King's Troop Royal Horse Artillery were reviewed by the heir to the throne, who is honorary Colonel of the Welsh Guards.

The temperature in London on Saturday was due to hit 30 C (86 F).

Afterwards William tweeted: "A big thank you to every soldier who took part in the Colonel's Review this morning in the heat. Difficult conditions but you all did a really good job."

The event was a rehearsal for Trooping the Colour, an annual military parade held each June to mark the monarch's official birthday. King Charles III will oversee the ceremony on June 17.

Today in History: June 11, auto racing disaster at Le Mans

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, June 11, the 162nd day of 2023. There are 203 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 11, 1955, in motor racing's worst disaster, more than 80 people were killed during the 24 Hours of Le Mans in France when two of the cars collided and crashed into spectators.

On this date:

In 1509, England's King Henry VIII married his first wife, Catherine of Aragon.

In 1770, Captain James Cook, commander of the British ship Endeavour, "discovered" the Great Barrier Reef off Australia by running onto it.

In 1776, the Continental Congress formed a committee to draft a Declaration of Independence calling for freedom from Britain.

In 1919, Sir Barton won the Belmont Stakes, becoming horse racing's first Triple Crown winner.

In 1938, Johnny Vander Meer pitched the first of two consecutive no-hitters as he led the Cincinnati Reds to a 3-0 victory over the Boston Bees. (Four days later, Vander Meer refused to give up a hit to the Brooklyn Dodgers, who lost, 6-0.)

In 1962, three prisoners at Alcatraz in San Francisco Bay staged an escape, leaving the island on a makeshift raft; they were never found or heard from again.

In 1985, Karen Ann Quinlan, the comatose patient whose case prompted a historic right-to-die court decision, died in Morris Plains, New Jersey, at age 31.

In 1987, Margaret Thatcher became the first British prime minister in 160 years to win a third consecutive term of office as her Conservative Party held onto a reduced majority in Parliament.

In 1993, the U.S. Supreme Court unanimously ruled that people who commit hate crimes motivated by bigotry may be sentenced to extra punishment.

In 2001, Timothy McVeigh, 33, was executed by injection at the federal prison in Terre Haute, Indiana, for the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people.

In 2009, with swine flu reported in more than 70 nations, the World Health Organization declared the first global flu pandemic in 41 years.

In 2020, Louisville, Kentucky, banned the use of "no-knock" warrants and named the new ordinance for Breonna Taylor, who'd been fatally shot by officers who burst into her home.

Ten years ago: A parade of FBI and intelligence officials briefed the entire House on the government's years-long collection of phone records and Internet usage, saying it was necessary for protecting Americans, and did not trample on their privacy rights. The American Civil Liberties Union and its New York chapter sued the federal government, asking a court to demand that the Obama administration end the program and purge the records it had collected. The Los Angeles Dodgers and Arizona Diamondbacks got into a bench-clearing brawl in the seventh inning that resulted in six ejections before the Dodgers won the game at home, 5-3.

Five years ago: U.S. and North Korean officials met at a hotel in Singapore to negotiate on the eve of the first summit between a U.S. president and a North Korean leader. The Supreme Court ruled that states can target people who haven't cast ballots in a while in efforts to purge their voting rolls. Hurricane Bud

Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, June 11, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 325 ~ 73 of 73

grew to Category 3 force off Mexico's Pacific coast.

One year ago: Ukrainian and British officials warned that Russian forces were relying on weapons with the potential to cause mass casualties as they tried to make headway in capturing eastern Ukraine as fierce fighting depleted resources on both sides. Thousands of people streamed to the National Mall in Washington, D.C. for the highest profile of demonstrations throughout the nation, marking a renewed push for gun control after a series of mass shootings. Mo Donegal defeated Kentucky Derby winner Rich Strike and six other colts to win horse racing's Belmont Stakes.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Rep. Charles B. Rangel, D-N.Y., is 93. International Motorsports Hall of Famer Jackie Stewart is 84. Singer Joey Dee is 83. Actor Roscoe Orman is 79. Actor Adrienne Barbeau is 78. Rock musician Frank Beard (ZZ Top) is 74. Animal rights activist Ingrid Newkirk is 74. Singer Graham Russell (Air Supply) is 73. Rock singer Donnie Van Zant is 71. Actor Peter Bergman is 70. Pro Football Hall of Famer Joe Montana is 67. Actor Hugh Laurie is 64. TV personality and former U.S. Senate candidate Mehmet Oz, M.D., is 63. Singer Gioia (JOY'-ah) Bruno (Expose) is 60. Rock musician Dan Lavery (Tonic) is 57. Country singer-songwriter Bruce Robison is 57. Actor Clare Carey is 56. Actor Peter Dinklage is 54. Actor Lenny Jacobson is 49. Actor Joshua Jackson is 45. Americana musician Gabe Witcher (Punch Brothers) is 45. U.S. Olympic and WNBA basketball star Diana Taurasi is 41. Actor Shia LaBeouf (SHY'-uh luh-BUF') is 37.