

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 1 of 80

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- No one wins the first soccer games](#)
- [5- Schedule for both 3rd/4th and 5th/6th Football](#)
- [5- Beadle County Fatal Motorcycle Crash](#)
- [6- Sunday Extras](#)
- [24- Gov. Noem's Weekly Column](#)
- [25- Sen. Thune's Weekly Column](#)
- [26- Rep. Johnson's Weekly Column](#)
- [27- Rev. Snyder's Column](#)
- [29- EarthTalk - Trump](#)
- [30- SD SearchLight: Federal health officials tout AI for medical research in South Dakota](#)
- [32- SD SearchLight: Legislative staffer was a great help to lawmakers and a proud Czech](#)
- [33- Weather Pages](#)
- [37- Daily Devotional](#)
- [38- Subscription Form](#)
- [39- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [40- Upcoming Groton Events](#)
- [41- News from the Associated Press](#)



## Sunday, Aug. 18

St. John's Lutheran: worship with communion at St. John's, 9 a.m., and at Zion, 11 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.

United Methodist: Worship at Conde, 8:30 a.m., and at Groton, 10:30 a.m.; coffee hour, 9:30 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.

## Monday, Aug 19

Senior Menu: Beef stroganoff with noodles, green beans, vanilla pudding, mandarin oranges, whole wheat bread.

Faculty Inservice, 8 a.m.

Boys golf at Sioux Valley (Volga), 10 a.m.

6th grade welcome walk at GHS, 4 p.m.

Elementary school open house, 4 p.m.

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

## Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460

Pantry open, Groton Community Center, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Groton Senior Citizens meet at the Community Center, 1 p.m.

## Tuesday, Aug. 20

Senior Menu: Lemon chicken breast, au gratin potatoes, 3 bean salad, pineapple/strawberry ambrosia, dinner roll.

Faculty Inservice, 8 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council meeting, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 209 N Main, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Pantry Open, Groton Community Center, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

## No one wins the first soccer games

The 2024 soccer season kicked off on Saturday with a doubleheader at the Groton Soccer Complex. Both games ended up in a tie.

In the girls game, Sioux Falls Christian scored first with 17:19 left in the first half. Groton scored early in the second half when Laila Roberts head bunted in a corner kick with 34:28 left in the game to tie it at one.

Then with 3:31 left in the game, Groton goal Jaedyn Penning ended up with a yellow card in a fierce battle near the goal line. As a result, she had to sit out of the game with Mia Crank coming in to take her place. Sioux Falls Christian was awarded a penalty kick just 20 feet from the goal. It was just the kicker and Crank; however, the kicker did not get a good foot on the ball and the kicked the ball north of the goal resulting in a missed scoring opportunity. From there, it was a defensive struggle for the rest of the game as top rated Groton tied with third rated Sioux Falls Christian.

Freeman Academy came to town to take on the Groton Area boys soccer team. The Bobcats scored first with 17:42 left in the first half, but about 90 seconds later, Easton Weber would score to tie the game. Zander Harry scored for Groton Area with 11:37 left in the first half and the half ended with Groton Area on top, 2-1.

Freeman Academy would score with 19:11 left in the game to tie the game at two. Axel Abeln would score for Groton Area on a penalty kick to give the Tigers a 3-2 lead. Freeman Academy would score the next two goals, one at 13:35 left and one at 10:45 left to take a 4-3 lead. Logan Olson would score for Groton Area with 7:18 left in the game to tie the game at four, which ended up being the final score.

Both games were broadcast live on GDILIVE.COM, sponsored by Agtegra, Avantara Groton, BK Custom T's & More, Dacotah Bank, Groton Chamber of Commerce, Groton Ford, John Sieh Agency, Jungle Lanes & Lounge, R&M Farms/Rix Farms, The Meathouse in Andover. The videos are archived under Archived Videos , then under 2024-25 School Year.



**Groton Athletic Trainer Brittany Hubbard explains Connor's potential shoulder injury to his mom, Jessica Kroll.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 3 of 80



**Axel Abeln gets tied up with a Freeman Academy player.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Jerica Locke looks up field for an open teammate.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Kayla Lehr is double teamed by a pair of Sioux Falls Christian players.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 4 of 80



**Ethan Kroll is on the move and on the go with the soccer ball right in front of him.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)



**Laila Roberts tries to get the offense going for the Tigers.** (Photo by Paul Kosel)

**April Abeln got a snapshot of the GDILIVE.COM broadcast with Jeslyn Kosel running the video camera and Paul Kosel doing the announcing.**



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 5 of 80

## Schedule for both 3rd/4th and 5th/6th Football

Friday, August 30th in Groton vs Mobridge - 5PM  
Saturday, September 7th @ Mobridge Jamboree  
Wednesday, September 11th in Groton vs Sisseton - 6PM  
Saturday, September 14th @ Britton Jamboree  
Monday, September 16th in Groton vs Warner - 6PM  
Wednesday, September 18th @ Hitchcock - 6:30PM  
Saturday, September 21st in Groton Jamboree  
Monday, September 23rd in Groton vs Redfield - 6PM  
Friday, September 27th @ Clark - 5PM  
Week of September 30th - Game TBD  
Saturday, October 5th @ Waubay Jamboree

## Beadle County Fatal Motorcycle Crash

What: Single vehicle fatal crash  
Where: 3rd Street and Westpark Avenue, Huron, SD city limits  
When: 3:37 a.m., Saturday, August 17, 2024

Vehicle 1: 2007 Honda CBR1000RR  
Driver 1: 31-year-old male, fatal injuries  
Helmet Use: Yes

Beadle County, S.D.- A 31-year-old man died in a single vehicle motorcycle crash early Saturday morning in Huron, SD.

The name of the person involved has not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the driver of a 2007 Honda motorcycle was traveling northbound on Westpark Avenue and left the roadway, entering the east ditch. The driver was separated from the motorcycle. The motorcycle then caught on fire. The driver died from injuries sustained in the crash. He was wearing a helmet.

The South Dakota Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. All information released so far is only preliminary.

The Highway Patrol is an agency of the South Da

# Groton Daily Independent

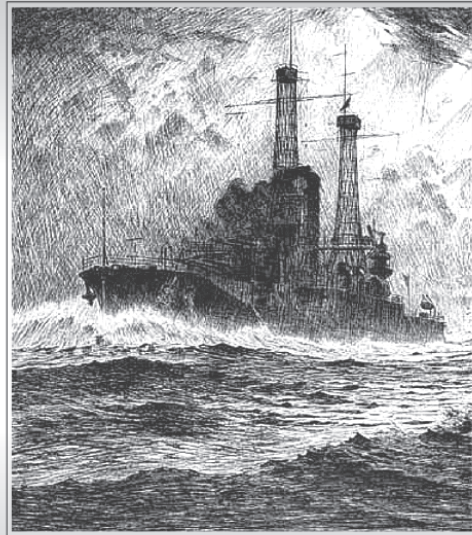
Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 6 of 80



## THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

*Some went out on the sea in ships;  
they were merchants  
on the mighty waters.  
They saw the works of the Lord,  
his wonderful deeds in the deep.  
For he spoke and stirred up a tempest  
that lifted high the waves.*

PSALM 107: 23-25



DETAIL OF "AMERICAN BATTLESHIP 1916"  
BY MARTIN LEWIS

© 2024 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.



## BIBLE

## TRIVIA

by Wilson Casey

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

2. From Judges 16, what had Samson been to God from his mother's womb? *Nazarite, Philistine, Reubenite, Protestant*

3. In Exodus 4, who had a staff or rod that turned into a snake? *Noah, Aaron, Adam, Moses*

4. How many books of the Bible are named for a woman? *0, 1, 2, 3*

5. What biblical name means "peace"? *Salome, Jacob, Abraham, Adam*

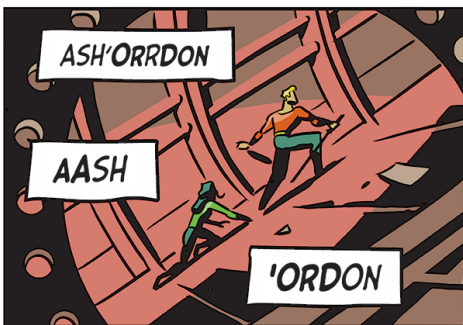
6. Which of these died on Mount Hor? *Paul, Noah, Aaron, Solomon*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Nazarite, 3) Moses, 4) Two (Ruth, Esther), 5) Salome, 6) Aaron

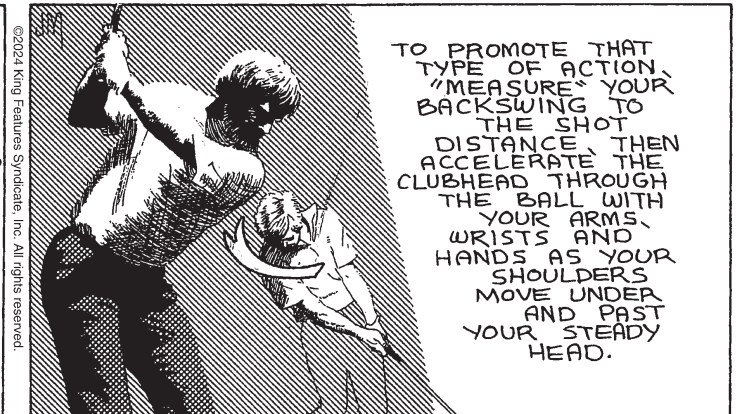
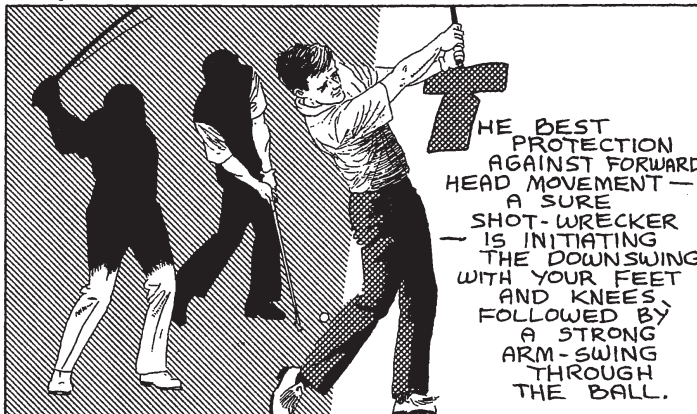
*"Test Your Bible Knowledge," a book with 1,206 multiple-choice questions by columnist Wilson Casey, is available in stores and online.*

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 8 of 80



## Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS







## Accutane Isn't To Blame for Affecting Woman's Fertility

DEAR DR. ROACH: My daughter is in her 30s and has been experiencing infertility for several years. She and her husband have been tested, and the issue is her egg quality. She's had several rounds of in vitro fertilization (IVF) with no success.

At age 19, she was prescribed Accutane for her acne. She had to take a monthly pregnancy test in order to take this medication. I researched this medication at the time and was aware of the depression side effects. I was also aware that if a pregnancy occurred while taking this drug, it would have to be terminated. The situation was not a concern at the time.

Now, years later, her fertility doctor says that she has eggs, but they are of poor quality. What is your opinion on this medication affecting fertility? I read that Accutane was banned in 2009. -- C.M.

ANSWER: Isotretinoin (Accutane) is the most effective treatment for acne, but it has the potential for serious side effects and can only be given after a thorough review of its risks.

I have to correct two misapprehensions: Although brand-name Accutane was discontinued in 2009, generic isotretinoin was not banned and still remains an extremely beneficial treatment that is safe when used appropriately. Secondly, there is no obligation while on this medicine to commit to a pregnancy termination.

Great care needs to be taken to prevent pregnancy, with repeatedly negative pregnancy tests before starting therapy, as well as two forms of birth control in any person who could get pregnant (unless they are abstinent). There is a high likelihood that a baby who is exposed to isotretinoin will experience severe damage or be stillborn. If a pregnancy occurs while on isotretinoin, the drug must immediately be stopped, and the person needs to be referred to an expert in reproductive toxicity. A pregnancy termination should be discussed, but the decision is always up to the patient (except where prohibited by law).

Although isotretinoin can cause severe damage to the developing fetus if taken during pregnancy, a study showed that any effect on fertility was gone 18 months after treatment. There are many reasons why a woman can have difficulty getting pregnant, due to eggs that are less likely to get fertilized. Age is a major factor, but many genetic conditions, chemotherapy, radiation, viruses (including COVID-19), and autoimmune diseases are known causes.

I wish your daughter the best of luck. I have had several patients give up after several rounds of IVF, only to conceive a healthy baby naturally.

\*\*\*

DEAR DR. ROACH: In a recent column, a reader mentioned that they were having problems coming up with words and wondered if a supplement would help. They mentioned taking medication for neuropathy. Some of the medications for neuropathy have brain fog as a side effect. -- P.A.

ANSWER: I appreciate your writing. Of all the causes for people to have memory and concentration problems, a side effect from medication is one of the most common and easily reversible. You are right that many medications used for neuropathy, especially gabapentin and pregabalin, can cause difficulty concentrating. Many people describe this as brain fog. It's worthwhile to discuss any medication, even over-the-counter ones and supplements, with your doctor to see if any of these might be causing this symptom.

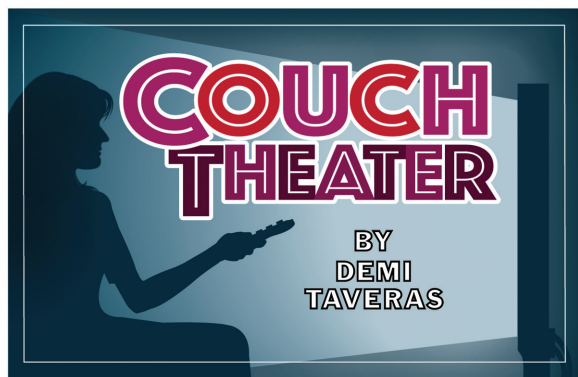
Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to [ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu](mailto:ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu).

(c) 2024 North America Synd., Inc.

All Rights Reserved

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 10 of 80



**Martin Lawrence, left, and Will Smith star in "Bad Boys: Ride or Die."** (Courtesy of MovieStillsDB)

"Bad Boys: Ride or Die" (R) -- The fourth installment of the "Bad Boys" franchise is out now to rent on streaming, following its \$398 million gross at the box office, and it seems that Will Smith gets to put an ugly chapter of his career behind him, thanks to the success of the film! Of course, Smith couldn't stage his comeback as Detective Mike Lowrey without Martin Lawrence, who reprises his role as his partner Detective Marcus Burnett. Alexander Ludwig ("The Hunger Games"), Paola Nunez ("Resident Evil"), and Vanessa Hudgens ("Downtown Owl") round out the rest of the cast, whose characters' quips are the strongest elements in a film severely lacking in story and sense. Don't think too hard with this one; just enjoy the ride. (Amazon Prime Video)

"Abigail" (R) -- Mexican actress Melissa Barrera ("Scream VI") is an established "scream queen," even with her being fired from the "Scream" franchise due to her pro-Palestinian views on the Israel-Hamas war. So, Barrera clearly was the perfect candidate to lead this horror comedy, which also co-stars Dan Stevens ("Beauty and the Beast"), Kathryn Newton ("Lisa Frankenstein"), and the late Angus Cloud ("Euphoria"). In the film, six criminals are tasked with kidnapping a 12-year-old girl named Abigail in exchange for a \$50 million ransom from her father. To a bunch of seasoned criminals, their mission seems easy enough, but when they suddenly start dropping like flies in the most brutal ways, they're forced to ask the question: "Who did we really kidnap?" The film received mostly positive reviews from critics, who deemed it one of the best horror movies of the year. Out now. (Peacock)

"Bad Monkey" (TV-MA) -- Based on the novel of the same name by Carl Hiaasen, this drama series stars the smart-mouthed Vince Vaughn ("Curb Your Enthusiasm") as former police detective Andrew Yancy. Due to his "reckless, inappropriate and glib" nature, Andrew was moved from detective work to restaurant inspections, but he still desires more out of his work life. So, when his police detective buddy, Rogelio, offers him a chance to drive a deceased man's arm to Miami, Andrew gladly obliges. But upon delivering the arm to the deceased man's widow, Andrew has a hunch that the widow isn't exactly grieving as much as she portrays. As every good detective knows, you have to follow the trail while it's hot. The first two episodes are out now, with subsequent episodes releasing every Wednesday. (Apple TV+)

"Immaculate" (R) -- Sydney Sweeney ("Anyone but You") leads this terrifying horror film available now on streaming. Sweeney plays Sister Cecilia, a young novice who survived a drowning after being pronounced dead. Believing that God saved her to serve a future purpose, she decides to take up an invitation to join a convent in Italy that tends to dying nuns. While she's there, Cecilia takes her final vows to become a nun but is shocked to find out shortly afterward that she is pregnant as a result of an immaculate conception. As those in the convent start treating her like the new Virgin Mary, abnormal occurrences begin to take place. Could this blessing really be a curse in disguise? (Hulu)

(c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 11 of 80



1. Which group released "Come a Little Bit Closer"?
2. Who released "Saturday Night"?
3. Which Dave Clark Five song pushed the Beatles off the top of the U.K. charts when it came out?
4. Name the group that released "Forever by Your Side."
5. Name the song that contains this lyric: "Hello, I don't even know your name, but I'm hoping all the same, This is more than just a simple hello."

Answers

1. Jay and the Americans, in 1964. The "Jay" in this case was the second one, formerly known as David Blatt until he changed his name to Jay Black. He joined the group when the original "Jay" left the group.
2. The Scottish group Bay City Rollers in 1975. It was their first U.S. chart topper. The song debuted via satellite link on "Saturday Night Live."
3. "Glad All Over," in 1964. Except for the Beatles, the DC5, as they were called, was in the first wave in the British invasion, which included groups such as the Rolling Stones and the Bee Gees.
4. The Manhattans, in 1983.
5. "The Last Time I Felt Like This," 1978, from the film "Same Time, Next Year" starring Alan Alda and Ellen Burstyn. The theme song was performed by Johnny Mathis and Jane Olivor.

(c) 2024 King Features Syndicate

## GRIN and BEAR IT <sup>Wagner</sup>



"You'd like this slugger, Adele ... he's batting clean-up."

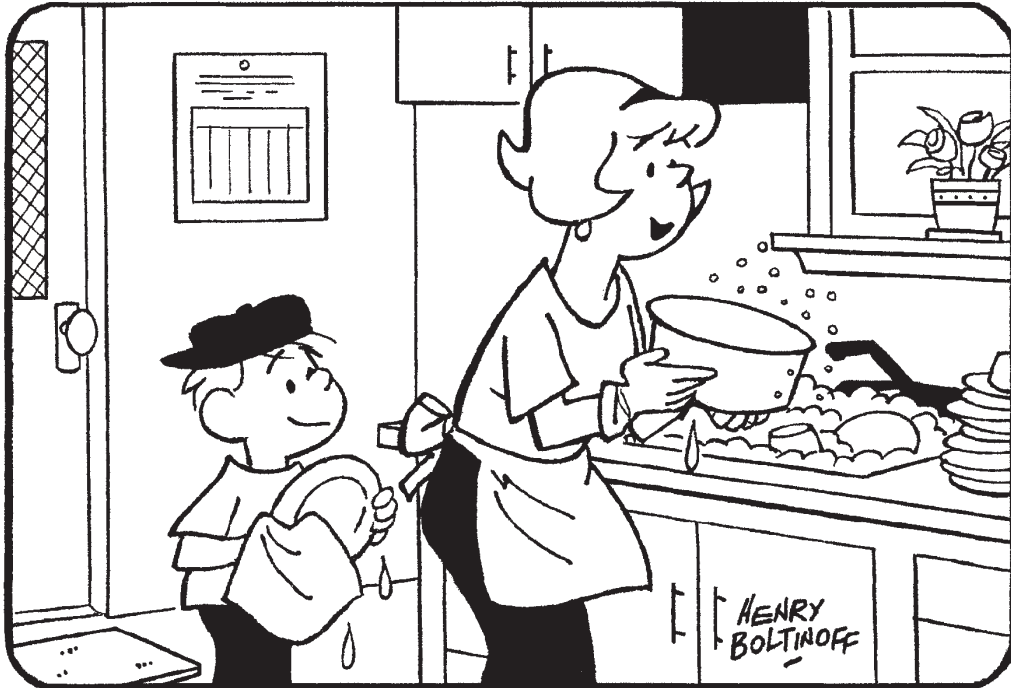
## Just Like Cats & Dogs <sup>by Dave T. Phipps</sup>



©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY  
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.

Differences: 1. Apron bow is missing. 2. Faucet is different. 3. Water drop from dish is moved. 4. Cabinet is wider. 5. Doormat is moved. 6. Glove is longer.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 13 of 80



\* "I used double-faced tape to stick a couple of clothespins inside the cabinet under my sink. I can hang my gloves under the sink when I am finished with the dishes." -- T.C. in Minnesota

\* Help nylons and tights retain elasticity by giving them a final rinse in diluted vinegar before hanging dry. Never add nylons to a heat dryer.

\* "I purchase extra school supplies when back-to-school time brings the sales. Inevitably, we need extras as the school year wears on, and these items can be pricier later." -- Y.C. in Alabama

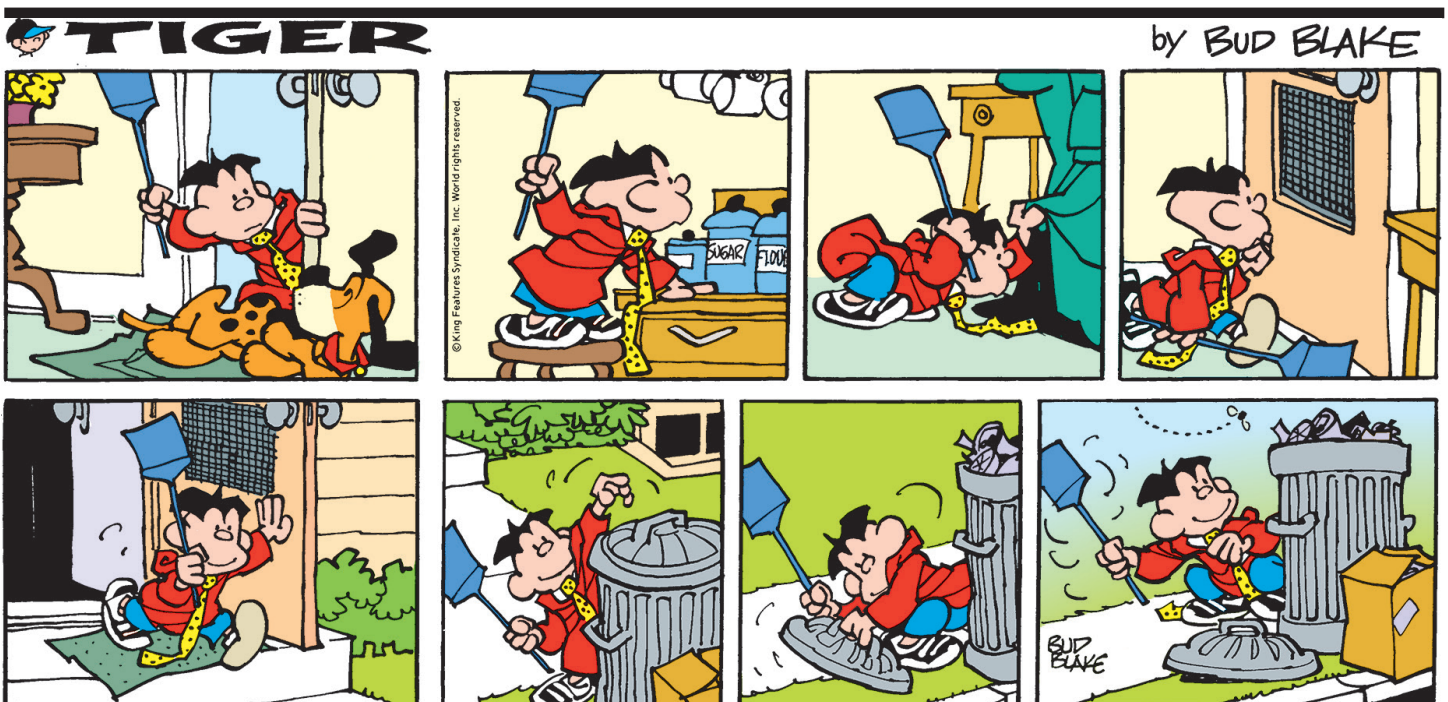
\* "A tip for setting your table: Always put pretty plastic placemats on the table first. Then your pretty cloth napkins and placemats over these. When you're ready to eat, just remove cloth placemats and napkins and you'll still have a pretty table to serve your guests." -- J.R. in Virginia

\* Ease the weekday morning time crunch by planning your wardrobe on the weekends. Use a single hanger to gather everything you need for a smart, pulled-together look. Attach a plastic sandwich bag with accessories to the hanger with a clothespin, and you'll be dressed in minutes.

\* If your bananas start to brown on the outside, put them in the fridge. They will still get brown, but the inside stays firm instead of getting mushy.

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

(c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 14 of 80

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Apt. coolers
- 4 Fishing rod
- 8 Choir voice
- 12 New Deal agcy.
- 13 "Zounds!"
- 14 Chiefs coach Andy
- 15 Boring types
- 17 Tear
- 18 Bad habit
- 19 Woodland walks
- 20 Computer problem
- 22 Swedish auto
- 24 Spartan queen
- 25 Dijon products
- 29 Tokyo's historic name
- 30 Quick looks
- 31 Hasten
- 32 Sends on, as an email
- 34 Kick back
- 35 Bee's home
- 36 Comic Hedberg
- 37 Suitor
- 40 Shakespeare villain
- 41 Reedy
- 42 Birds of prey
- 46 Queue
- 47 Yankee nickname
- 48 Debtor's letters

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		

- 49 Makes a choice
- 50 Emmy winner Alan
- 51 Record holder?
- 9 Onion relative
- 10 Fork part
- 11 Probability
- 16 Kudrow of "Friends"
- 19 Millinery
- 20 Staff symbol
- 21 Decorate anew
- 22 Soft leather
- 23 Requests
- 25 TV mogul Griffin
- 26 Art of speaking
- 27 Platter
- 28 Third son
- 30 Ache
- 33 Bellyaches
- 34 Latvia's capital
- 36 Tribute maker
- 37 Normandy battle site
- 38 Use an egg-beater
- 39 " — She Sweet"
- 40 Sport shirt brand
- 42 Cote cry
- 43 Internet address
- 44 Scooby- —
- 45 Heat source

### DOWN

- 1 Moreover
- 2 French vineyard
- 3 Surrealist Dali
- 4 Fuzzy fruit
- 5 Shrek, for one
- 6 Young fellow
- 7 Sheeran and Harris
- 8 Mexican shout of joy

## — King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

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

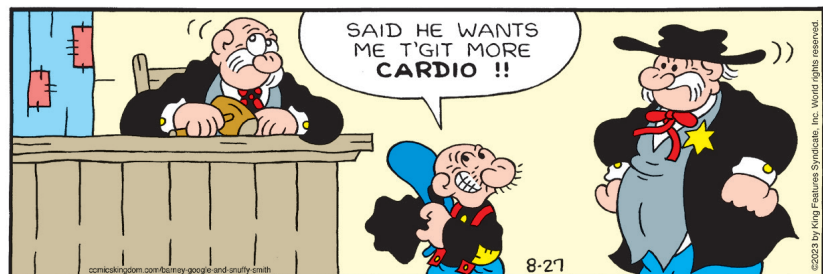
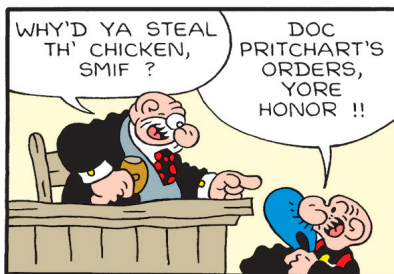
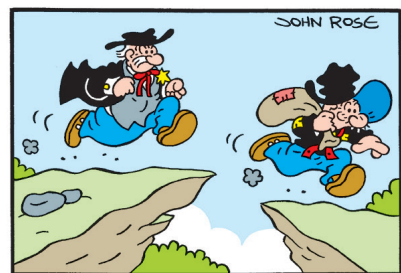
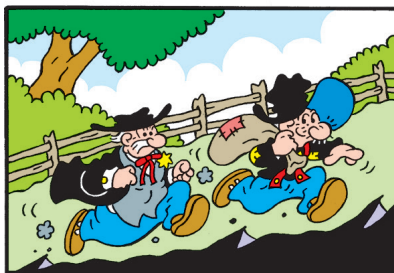
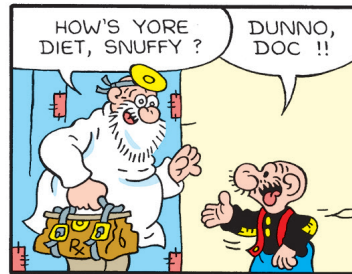
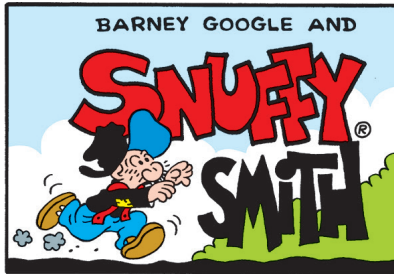
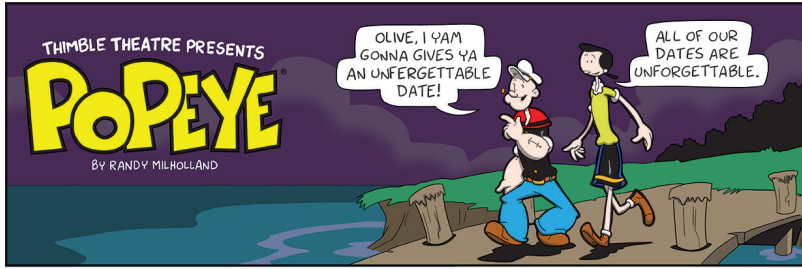
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



# Groton Daily Independent

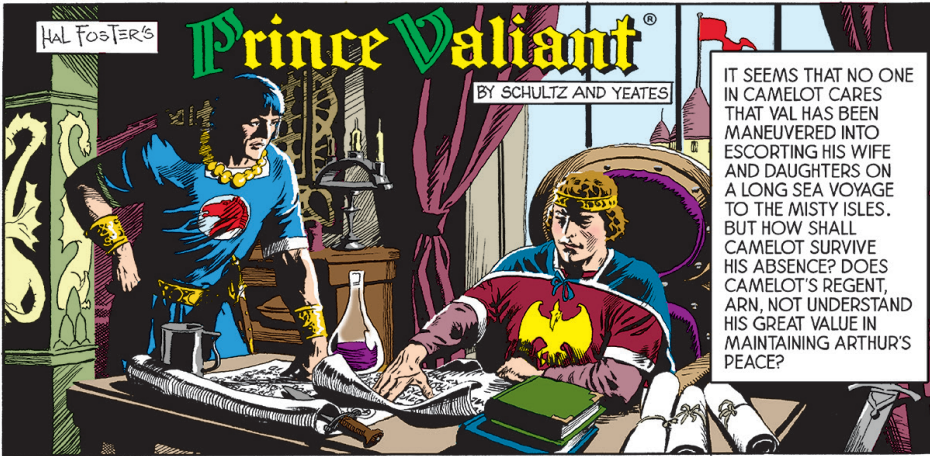
Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 16 of 80





# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 17 of 80



IT SEEMS THAT NO ONE IN CAMELOT CARES THAT VAL HAS BEEN MANEUVERED INTO ESCORTING HIS WIFE AND DAUGHTERS ON A LONG SEA VOYAGE TO THE MISTY ISLES. BUT HOW SHALL CAMELOT SURVIVE HIS ABSENCE? DOES CAMELOT'S REGENT, ARN, NOT UNDERSTAND HIS GREAT VALUE IN MAINTAINING ARTHUR'S PEACE?



APPARENTLY NOT. "CAMELOT IS CURRENTLY WELL STOCKED WITH EAGER YOUNG KNIGHTS, FATHER. WE WILL BE FINE. I ACTUALLY WOULD MUCH RATHER THAT YOU MIND MOTHER, NATHAN AND THE TWINS."



ARN IS VALS LAST HOPE, SO HE PRESSES HIS CASE, HOWEVER SLIGHT: "BUT THE SAXONS HAVE BEEN TOO LONG QUIET! I FEAR ANOTHER INVASION—YOU'LL NEED MY EXPERIENCE..."

©2013 King Features Syndicate, Inc.



"... AND BESIDES, VALETA'S DRUIDISH HUSBAND CORMAC COULD JUST AS WELL ACCOMPANY..." ARN SHOOTS VAL A SHARP LOOK...

3085



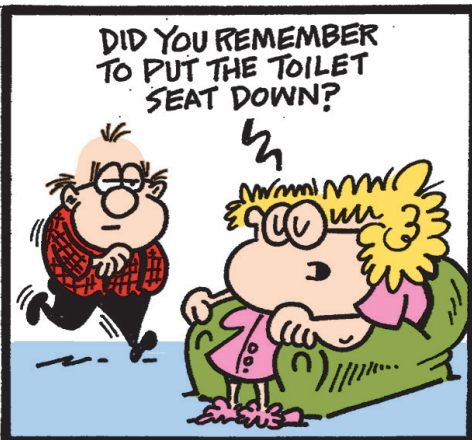
"HAVEN'T YOU BEEN TOLD, FATHER? VALETA AND CORMAC HAVE SEPARATED. ALL IS NOT WELL BETWEEN THEM." INDEED, VAL HAD NOT BEEN TOLD!

NEXT *Last to know*

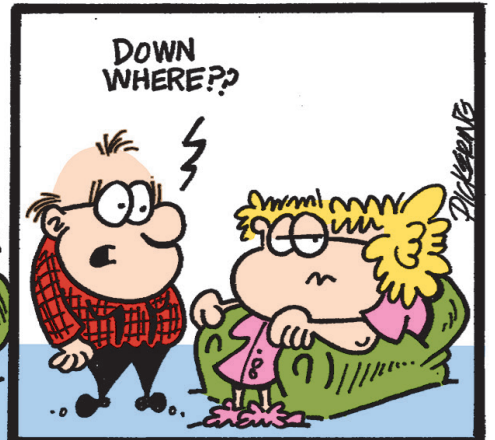
YEATES 6/23/13

## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc. All rights reserved.



PICKERING

## SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

### Finding the information you need

We don't always need to have the answers to questions on the tip of our tongue. Whether it's things we knew long ago and have forgotten, or if it's information about our current world, sometimes it's enough to know where to find that information.

Check the Senior Blue Book ([seniorsbluebook.com](http://seniorsbluebook.com)) for a whole library of information. Whether it's articles or video, use the dropdown menus to look for information on healthy aging, elder law and so much more.

When your grandchild wants to know the lyrics to the song you used to sing in high school and you only remember the first two lines, fear not. Do an internet search for the name of the song, or even type in the first lyrics that you do remember. It's sure to pop up.

All of us have words we've never been certain how to pronounce. Again, pull up a search engine and type in the word you want and "pronounce."

And if you need translations from a foreign language? Type into the search box "translate [name of foreign language] to English." Then copy and paste the foreign words into the box. English will appear in the box next to it.

Look at ThirdAge ([thirdage.com](http://thirdage.com)) for a collection of information on fitness, family, food, health and more.

If you want to beef up your internet skills, start with Seniors Guide to Computers ([seniorsguidetocomputers.com](http://seniorsguidetocomputers.com)) for good information on the basics, doing email, online security and saving your data. The site includes links to 300 YouTube how-to videos and is run by a guy with 40 years of computer experience.

Bookmark several different search engines on your computer: Google, DuckDuckGo and Bing are well known ones that you can trust. Once you get used to looking up information, you'll be all set for any question that comes up.

(c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 19 of 80

1. Six-time MLB All-Star Kenny Lofton was a point guard on what college basketball team that reached the 1988 Final Four?

2. Name the NBA player from Turkey who played for eight different teams -- and four separate stints with the Milwaukee Bucks -- during his 13 seasons in the league from 2005-21.

3. Distance runner Miruts Yifter won two gold medals at the 1980 Moscow Summer Olympics competing for which country?

4. How old was Michael Chang when he became the youngest male tennis player ever to win a Grand Slam singles title when he won the French Open in 1989?

5. Who was the first player in WNBA history to win a league MVP (2021), a Most Improved Player Award (2017) and a Sixth Woman of the Year Award (2018)?

6. Turk Broda, the first NHL goaltender to reach 300 wins, won five Stanley Cups from 1942-51 with what team?

7. Twin brothers Frank and Ronald de Boer scored the same number of career goals for the Netherlands national soccer team with how many?



by Ryan A. Berenz

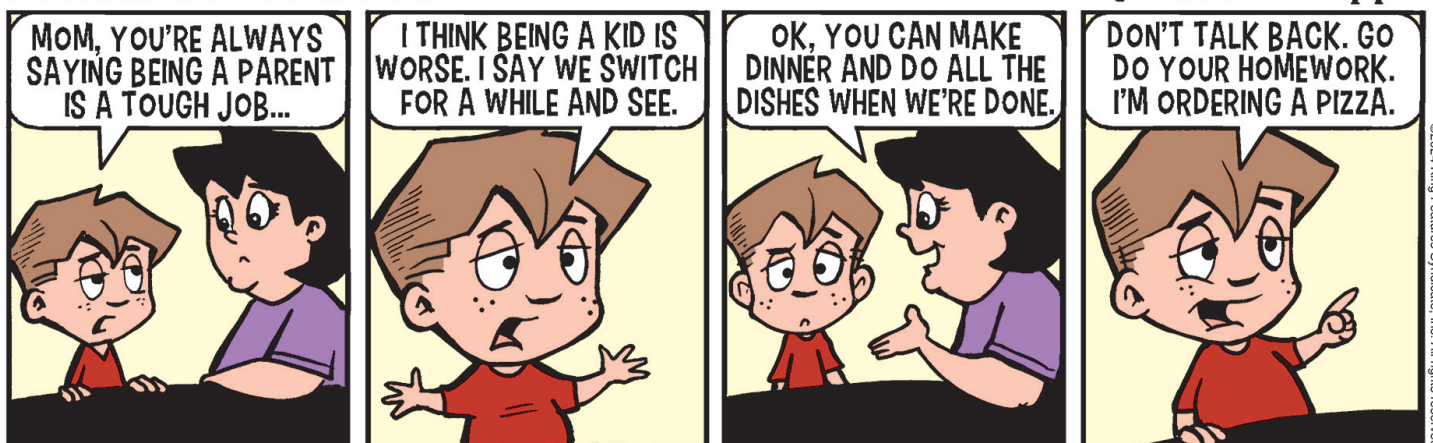
## Answers

1. The University of Arizona Wildcats.
2. Ersan Ilyasova.
3. Ethiopia.
4. 17 years and 110 days.
5. Jonquel Jones.
6. The Toronto Maple Leafs.
7. 13.

(c) 2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

## Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps





## Be a lost pet ally

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: My brother and I saw a dog that matched the photo of a lost dog on flyers around the neighborhood. We tried calling him, but he ran off. So we told our mom what happened, and she called the number on the flyer. I don't know if the owners found the dog. We're wondering if we did the right thing. Why did the dog run away? -- Brian and Sarah in Cincinnati

DEAR BRIAN AND SARAH: You did the right thing by telling your mom so that she could call the owners and tell them where you spotted the lost dog. Don't feel bad about the dog running away: Lost dogs are often shy of strangers. Some will not even come when their owners call. But, by telling them the location, the owners have a much better chance of recovering their dog.

Here's how you can support owners who are searching for a lost pet:

- Take a photo of a lost pet flyer with your smartphone. You can instantly refer back to it if you see a pet matching the description.
- Don't call or chase a dog or cat if you spot it. Contact the owner as soon as possible and give them the location where you spotted the pet.
- If the pet approaches you calmly, try to keep them in place by petting or giving them treats, until you can put a leash on them and bring them to a safe containment area. Contact the owner or local shelter.
- If the pet appears to be ill or injured, carefully approach and wrap them in an old blanket before attempting to pick them up.
- If the pet is being aggressive, contact animal control.

Send your tips, comments or questions to [ask@pawscorner.com](mailto:ask@pawscorner.com).

(c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 21 of 80

## Strange BUT TRUE

\* When Texas was its own sovereign nation in the mid-1800s, it briefly had a diplomatic mission in Paris.

\* In 1939, George Bernard Dantzig, a graduate student at the University of California, Berkeley, arrived late for a statistics class and copied the two problems on the blackboard, assuming they were the homework, then handed them in a few days later. Several weeks afterward, he was awakened by his professor's excited knock at the door: The "homework" was actually unsolved problems in statistics that Dantzig had

managed to prove.

\* Since avocados never ripen on trees, farmers can use the trees as a way to store and keep the fruit fresh for up to seven months.

\* Maine is the closest U.S. state to Africa.

\* It's a sweetly romantic tradition for the post offices of Romeo, Michigan, and Juliette, Georgia, to offer a special dual postmark leading up to Valentine's Day.

\* As comedian Bob Hope lay on his deathbed in 2003, his wife Dolores asked where he'd like to be buried. His reply? "Surprise me."

\* The three dots on the Domino's Pizza logo represent the chain's three original locations. Co-founder Tom Monaghan originally planned to add a new dot for every pizzeria he opened.

\* Female bats give birth while hanging upside down, catching the baby in their wings.

\* England's King Richard the Lionheart spent a mere six months of his 10-year reign in England, being there only briefly in 1189 and 1194.

\* At the end of 1914, when Russia was fighting in World War I, the country's army had 6,553,000 men, but just 4,652,000 rifles.

\*\*\*

Thought for the Day: "Happy is the person who knows what to remember of the past, what to enjoy in the present and what to plan for in the future." -- Arnold H. Glasow

(c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

### The Garden Bug



It's easy to see why this Brazil native has become popular in nurseries, flower shops and garden centers around the world. The gloxinia (related to

#### Gloxinia

African violets) produce large, velvety, bell-shaped flowers that may be white, pink, red, purple, or blue.

Place them in a brightly lit location in the home; they prefer temperatures of 65 to 75 degrees Fahrenheit. The soil should be kept evenly moist. When given good care, plants may bloom for several weeks. - Brenda Weaver

Sources: [mydomaine.com](http://mydomaine.com),  
[yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu](http://yardandgarden.extension.iastate.edu)



by Freddy Groves

## Suicide care at the VA

How on earth, one hates to ask, did a veteran commit suicide while a patient in a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital? Using an item belonging to that patient? When an order had been given for the patient to be watched? When an order had been given for psychiatric care?

The VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) noted several things during their investigation afterward:

First they found that no one had thought to go through the patient's things and take away anything that could be a risk for self-harm. Then staff did not do what's called a "warm handoff," which is called for in the suicide risk evaluation guidelines. A psychiatrist apparently did a partial assessment but didn't complete it within the required 24-hour time frame so other staff could see it. Instead, the order was changed from constantly watching the patient to checking the patient every 15 minutes.

The OIG had some recommendations afterward: Reassess the patient before changing observation levels. Actually complete the inpatient notes. Go through the patient's things and take away anything that could be used for self-harm. And, gosh ... what a concept ... complete the risk evaluation within the required 24 hours.

At another facility the VA OIG concluded that staff inaccurately assessed the suicide risk of three different veterans.

At yet another, the veteran managed to commit suicide in the emergency room.

At another VA facility the VA OIG stepped in with their recommendations after one patient attempted suicide and another was successful.

Complete the risk screening. Put the notes in the health record. Adhere to the one-on-one observation. Don't deactivate a patient's high-risk status information without consulting other staff.

Flipping through years of reports a pattern emerges: There isn't enough oversight and adhering to rules when it comes to helping suicidal veterans at the VA.

But of all the missteps small and large, how is it no one thought to clear potentially dangerous items from the veteran's belongings there in the hospital?

(c) 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 23 of 80

## Wishing Well®

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

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.

©2024 King Features Syndicate



1. GEOGRAPHY: Where is the Parthenon located?
2. TELEVISION: What game are the younger characters in "Stranger Things" playing at the start of the series?
3. MOVIES: Who was the first African American actor to win the Academy Award for Best Actor?
4. LITERATURE: What is floo powder used for in the "Harry Potter" book series?
5. U.S. CITIES: Which U.S. city's nickname is Beantown?
6. AD SLOGANS: Which ride-share company's slogan is "Move the way you want"?
7. ART: Which artist painted a work titled "The Potato Eaters"?
8. MUSIC: Who wrote the song "God Bless America"?
9. HISTORY: Who became U.S. president after Abraham Lincoln was assassinated?
10. ANIMAL KINGDOM: Which animal can hold its breath for up to five minutes underwater?

### Answers

1. Athens, Greece.
2. Dungeons & Dragons
3. Sidney Poitier, "Lilies of the Field."
4. Rapid transportation.
5. Boston.
6. Uber.
7. Vincent van Gogh.
8. Irving Berlin.
9. Andrew Johnson.
10. Hippopotamus.

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

South Dakota Governor

**Kristi Noem**



**South Dakota:** *Under God, the People Rule*

## Build the Wall

"We don't complain about things – we fix them." When my dad taught me that, he was talking about cows, horses, fences, and ranch chores, not the wide-open Southern Border. But the lesson holds true.

The truth is, we could complain about President Joe Biden and Vice President (and Border Czar) Kamala Harris's failures at the Southern Border until the cows come home. Instead of complaining, South Dakota is doing our part to fix it.

We recently welcomed home our seventh detachment of South Dakota National Guard troops to the border. The last few groups have all had the mission of working with Texas to construct the border wall. We sent an engineering company – we sent builders.

South Dakota guardsmen constructed more than five miles of border wall. They fortified 20 miles-worth of wall with concertina wire. And they repaired 46 breaches in the crucial area between Del Rio and Eagle Pass, TX.

I spent a day with them helping them build the wall – it wasn't easy work. They had to clear miles of rough ground in 100-degree heat and Texas humidity before they could get to work on barrier construction. But they were glad to do it in service to our country.

These brave soldiers were more than 1,000 miles from home. Their work was crucial to keep South Dakota – and every other state – safe. The sad reality is that due to the incompetence and mismanagement of our border, every state is now a border state.

When we control the border with physical barriers, we make it tougher for cartels to facilitate their drugs and human trafficking into our country. We funnel the traffickers towards areas where we have a stronger presence. And if anyone does try to breach the barrier, we give law enforcement and Border Patrol precious time to respond. That's just common sense – but the Biden Administration abandoned common sense when they stopped constructing the wall.

South Dakota will continue to do this work – but we shouldn't have to. President Biden and Vice President Harris are leaving the border wide open on purpose. Texas is working with South Dakota and other states to pick up the slack.

We will continue to do our part. We have another group of South Dakota National Guard soldiers scheduled to deploy to the Southern Border on a federal activation later this Fall. And we will continue to do everything we can to mitigate the cartels' influence here at home.

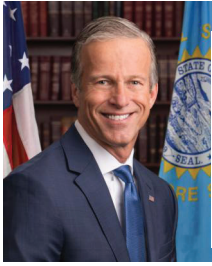
I have seen such incredible patriotism and leadership from the South Dakota National Guard troops that we've deployed to the border over the years. The commander of the most recent detachments was a young female lieutenant who is working on her PhD in Animal Science at SDSU, meanwhile she is also an ROTC instructor. She's a leader. She's getting results. I wish that I could say the same about our current "leadership" in the White House.

In the meantime, we won't complain about things. We'll continue to fix them. If the Biden-Harris Administration won't build the wall, we will. We will continue to do everything we can to keep our people safe.



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 25 of 80



**JOHN THUNE**  
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH DAKOTA

## The Biden-Harris Economy Leaves Too Many Americans Falling Behind

America has always been a place where if you work hard, you can get ahead. But it's gotten a lot more challenging in the Biden-Harris economy. Inflation has dealt working families a series of setbacks that have made it harder to get ahead. And it's in large part due to this administration's reckless spending.

Three and a half years ago Vice President Harris cast her first tie-breaking votes in the U.S. Senate to advance \$1.9 trillion in spending under the guise of pandemic relief. She and Democrats in Congress had been warned that that level of spending risked setting off inflation unlike any we had seen in a generation. But they passed it anyway. And inflation began to take off almost immediately.

For many Americans, life in the Biden-Harris economy feels like a downgrade. All told, it costs a typical family \$13,000 more per year just to maintain the same standard of living it enjoyed when President Biden took office, and nearly every aspect of daily life is more expensive in the Biden-Harris economy. More than one-third of Americans are worried about paying their bills. People are pulling back on their spending and putting more on their credit cards. Some people are even taking on extra work just to get by. But sometimes, it's still not enough.

And it's not just higher prices. Measures to tame inflation have also added to Americans' financial pain. To fight inflation, the Federal Reserve has been forced to keep interest rates high, which affects Americans' finances in a variety of ways. Higher interest rates, in part the result of the Fed's actions, are making credit card bills harder to pay down. The same is true for car payments. And Americans looking to own their own home are facing what one housing expert called "the most challenging home buying market we've ever seen."

The White House has spent a lot of time trying to spin this economy as strong. But the American people aren't buying it. An economy where people are working harder and still struggling to get by isn't what most Americans consider a strong economy. And it can't be America's future.

Inflation began accelerating as a result of Democrats' reckless spending. Yet the Biden-Harris administration and congressional Democrats show no signs of backing off their reckless tax and spending agenda. In fact, it's clear they envision a lot more of the same. The administration's latest budget request is filled with burdensome new taxes and trillions in new spending. They want to see the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act expire, which would mean more tax increases on American families and businesses. And Democrats still have plenty of other tax and spending ideas they would like to implement.

The American people have suffered enough. I don't want to think about what kind of economic pain we could see from another four years of Democrats' reckless spending. And I hope the American people will not have to experience it.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 26 of 80



## **BIG Investments**

### **BIG Update**

South Dakota received a presidential disaster declaration for the historic flooding in the southeast portion of the state. Twenty-five counties have received disaster assistance from FEMA and four of those counties qualify for individual assistance for residents and business owners. This is great news for recovery and rebuilding efforts after many homes and buildings were destroyed.

In the aftermath of the flood, I joined Senators John Thune and Mike Rounds in sending a letter to support Governor Noem's disaster declaration request. I'm glad the President approved this request.

### **BIG Idea**

Project labor agreements (PLA) are a contract between the federal government and construction companies about how workers will be handled on the job site. Recently, President Biden published an executive order that federal construction projects worth more than \$35 million use a project labor agreement. These require a union to be involved, which proves difficult in South Dakota because most of the contractors in the state aren't unionized.

Requiring unionized contractors would mean construction workers at Ellsworth Air Force Base or other projects in South Dakota have to find workers from out of state. This will cost taxpayers more, hurt our state's economy, and hurt the readiness of our base.

I'm opposed to this rule and have been working to prohibit requiring these project labor agreements on federal construction projects. To learn more, watch KOTA's story about the roundtable [here](#).

### **BIG News**

What was once a gold mine is now a scientific data mine. At the site of the old Homestake mine, a mile below ground, the Sanford Underground Research Facility (SURF), in partnership with Fermilab and the Department of Energy, is searching for answers to questions we might not even have yet.

For three years, construction and excavation teams have worked to remove 800,000 tons of rock to create a cavern the size of eight soccer fields. Excavation is officially complete, bringing SURF one step closer to beginning research on particles called neutrinos that can hopefully give insight into big questions about our universe.

It was phenomenal to see the facility. I look forward to the great economic impact this will have on our state and to learning what the scientists will discover.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 27 of 80



Dr. James L. Snyder Ministries

PO Box 831313 - Ocala, FL 34483

1-352-216-3025

## So What If I'm Crazy?

The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and her wonderful husband celebrate 53 years of marital bliss this year. What an accomplishment.

It doesn't seem possible that we have been married 53 years. After all, we don't look that old! At least she doesn't.

It's amazing how time flies; if you're like me, you don't even pay attention to it. Now that I'm just past the 70-year mark, things seem to be going faster than ever. I can wake up in the morning and it doesn't take long for me to be ready to go back to bed. Where does all this time go? I think I want a refund.

I have come to understand that no matter how things change, they always remain the same. Just because my age has changed doesn't mean anything else about me has changed. I am still the same person The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage married 53 years ago. I have no plans to change.

As far as I know, she hasn't changed either. And I am unanimous in that.

Down through the years of our marital Showboat adventure, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage has often asked me, "What's wrong with you? Are you crazy or what?"

That hasn't changed since the beginning of our journey. I've been crazy from the beginning, and I still am, and I have no expectation of changing. If I'm going to change, I would like to know what she means by the phrase "or what?"

The only thing that hasn't changed is my understanding of everything that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage says. To this day, I do not know what her meaning of the word "crazy" is. When she asks me if I was crazy, I was not sure what she is asking. I just go along with her idea. What else can I do?

Looking back over my life, especially the 53 years of our marriage, I can see a few moments of me being crazy. But I don't see anything wrong with being crazy. In fact, being crazy has been the real fun in my life. Why can't I be crazy once in a while?

I'm sure my definition of crazy and her definition of crazy do not share the same dining room table.

For one, crazy means that I don't take things very seriously. That has been helpful over the years, and I can verify that. It helps me release stress.

Of course, I take many things in life seriously, but the ones that I don't take seriously are important to me. That is the area of my crazy-itis. I have a hard time picking which ones are crazy and which ones aren't.

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 28 of 80**

The real difference between The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and me is that she takes everything seriously. I, on the other side of the room, don't take everything seriously. Of course, there are sometimes, I must admit, I take the wrong thing not too seriously. That's what really gets me into trouble.

I always think of the Abe Lincoln joke, where his wife asks him, "Does this dress make me look fat?"

To be serious about that question is a lifesaver. However, not to be serious about that question can get a person into deep trouble. I know, I've been there.

One time, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage bought a new dress, brought it home, put it on, and came out to where I was sitting and asked me, "What do you think about this new dress of mine?"

I wasn't too serious at the moment, so I looked up at her and said, "I don't think I could wear that dress anywhere and get away with it."

Before I even finished that sentence, I knew I was in trouble.

"What?" she said, "You think you can wear one of my dresses?"

Throughout the years of our marital bliss, I have often dug a hole so deep that I could not get out, yet I still kept digging.

I thought I was just joking, but she did not think it was a joke.

Looking at her, I laughed and said, "Oh, my dear, I was just joking."

I thought I had gotten out of that hole, but was wrong.

"So," she said sarcastically, "you think my dresses are jokes."

It was at this level that I realized this wasn't very funny. I may be crazy, but this was not the time to be crazy. If only I could learn how to control being crazy.

I have tried through the years to work on my crazyitis, but I don't think I have worked hard enough because I have not seen any improvement on my side of the kitchen table.

My problem is that I don't hear very well. Actually, I do hear; I just am not listening. And boy, is there a difference there.

Our 53-year marital journey has been great. I credit that success to one of my favorite verses in the Bible. Amos 3:3, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

Throughout our journey, we have agreed on more things than we disagreed on. In fact, the longer we live together, the less we seem to disagree. That's unity.

We are headed in the same direction although, sometimes I'm looking out the right window and she's looking out her left window. The destination is what really matters. And that we totally agree on.

## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Why are environmental advocates so scared of Trump getting elected to a second term as President?

-- B.N., Philadelphia, PA

Since Joe Biden was elected president in 2021, his administration has made effective, albeit halting progress on combating climate change and giving the nation's renewable energy industry the financial boost it needs to permanently establish its presence in America. He re-entered the Paris Climate Agreement, passed the most expensive climate legislation in U.S. history via the Inflation Reduction Act, and took hundreds of other positive environmental actions throughout his term as president.

Biden's eco- efforts are far from perfect—the U.S. produced record levels of oil during his presidency, due to compromises he had to make to get his legislation passed—he has still achieved net positive gains for our environment. Based on what Trump has said about his plans for climate, and his troubling history of undoing environmental progress, the fear is that a second Trump presidency would reverse the progress made by Biden and demolish chances of reversing the worst effects of climate change before it's too late.

Earlier in 2024, the right-wing Heritage Foundation released Project 2025, which is a plan that outlines what Donald Trump's team may aim to achieve during a second Trump term. In addition to abolishing the education department and limiting judicial power, Project 2025 aims to "reclaim" America's dominance in the oil and gas industries, limit the power of environmental agencies and possibly repeal Biden's most powerful climate legislation. These goals are certainly in line with Trump's environmental rhetoric. At the beginning of his 2016 presidency, Trump rolled back dozens of environmental regulations on climate and conservation and pushed for increased oil and gas production. Trump has continued to deny the impacts of climate change and plans to loosen regulations placed on the gas and oil industry once again.

It's unlikely Trump would fully succeed in repealing all the climate legislation passed by Biden, but his push for increased carbon emissions would come at a dire moment in the ongoing crisis. The U.S. has a major role to play in achieving the Paris climate accord's goal of keeping global temperatures from rising by 1.5 degrees Celsius before 2030. If emissions are not properly reduced, global temperatures and sea levels will continue to rise, leaving large areas of land uninhabitable and wiping out countless wildlife species and habitats. The actions taken in the next four years will have a monumental impact on the health of our planet, but a Carbon Brief report estimates that a second Trump presidency would add four billion tons of climate-warming gases to our atmosphere by 2030. A second Trump term would certainly take us radically in the wrong direction.



**The fear is that a second Trump presidency would reverse the progress made by Biden & demolish chances of reversing the worst effects of climate change.** Credit: Ggag Skidmore, FlickrCC



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### Federal health officials tout AI for medical research in South Dakota

**National Institutes of Health funding projects led by state medical teams**

**BY: JOHN HULT - AUGUST 17, 2024 12:00 PM**

Health researchers in South Dakota and across the U.S. want to use artificial intelligence (AI) to do things like cure cancer, predict the onset of Alzheimer's and diabetes earlier, and diagnose and address disparities in the impact of kidney disease.

But first, they need data.

Lots of data.

Data housed by government agencies, hospitals and other health care facilities, drugmakers, research institutions and insurers.

Two leaders with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) told lawmakers this week that connecting researchers with data to train and refine AI medical applications also must be done in a way that safeguards citizen privacy and includes data from underserved and vulnerable populations.

The NIH representatives spoke virtually on Wednesday to members of the Legislature's Study Committee on Artificial Intelligence and Regulation of Internet Access by Minors.

"Data is what drives artificial intelligence," said Susan Gregurick of the NIH. "We need data relevant to individuals and to patients in real time and in high quality."

The NIH has put nearly \$1 billion into research and development of machine learning and AI medical research since 2019, Gregurick said, with \$296 million in spending in 2023 alone.

A University of South Dakota professor named Bill Harris has been awarded multiple NIH grants over the course of his career. His latest award, for \$506,000, supports research into an AI-powered model that looks at patterns of fatty acids in blood samples to predict a patient's odds of developing Alzheimer's disease about four years sooner than doctors can now.

Dr. Harris is a professor at the University of South Dakota School of Medicine, but is pursuing the AI research through his company, OmegaQuant.

Another South Dakota project falls under the NIH's "Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Consortium to Advance Health Equity and Researcher Diversity," program, or AIM-AHEAD. That project has South Dakota State University Professor Semhar Michael looking into the use of machine learning to ferret out disparities in health outcomes for populations affected by end-stage kidney disease.

The SDSU project, which includes partners from Dakota State University, Sanford Health and other researchers in and outside of South Dakota, was awarded a two-year grant worth just over \$1 million.

Gregurick of the NIH said that the SDSU project is one of 274 around the country funded through the AIM-AHEAD initiative.

Gregurick said AI research in health care is still in its beginning stages. The NIH hopes to see more "multimodal" AI projects in the future. Such efforts would seek to integrate AI-informed data produced by analyzing things like blood or tissue samples with other sources like voice recognition data. Voice recognition data could help train AI models to detect changes in speech patterns in hopes of triangulating the trajectory of cognitive decline and offer earlier interventions for Alzheimer's and dementia patients.

#### Privacy concerns

But none of the research can be done ethically unless there are guardrails to protect patient data, ac-

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 31 of 80

According to Lyric Jorgenson, the NIH's associate director for science policy.

Anonymizing data to scrub names and other personally identifying information will be important, as will gaining the consent and support of patients at the point of data collection.

"We do want to understand the risks of sharing information, especially with people who shouldn't have access to it," Jorgenson said. "Think of it as putting information in a safe, and only your family has access."

She said communication with patients and communities will be key – the NIH is funding outreach and education efforts on AI and data collection, in addition to research into data use – but basic data security practices also need some adjustment.

Putting data in the cloud, versus putting it on a flash drive that can be passed from person to person, will be part of that.

Data in the cloud can be walled off and provided only to those who've been vetted, according to Jorgenson, and a cloud dataset's manager can see who is accessing the data and when. Data that's downloaded and saved onto a hard drive or flash drive can't be tracked and managed with that level of precision, she said.

Sen. Mike Rounds, R-South Dakota, told state lawmakers that the U.S. is in a better position to protect privacy than countries like the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia or China, the last of which collects data through surveillance systems to monitor its citizens.

"Do you want AI to be developed in a place like that?" Rounds said.

## **Rounds to state lawmakers: Encourage AI development in South Dakota**

Rounds has been a leader in the Senate on AI issues, part of a bipartisan group of lawmakers that's met with tech industry heavyweights in hopes of informing other elected officials about the benefits and potential pitfalls of the technology.

AI research, particularly in the areas of data quality, represents an opportunity for South Dakota's younger generation, he said, as an AI model is only as good as the data it's trained on.

Schools like Dakota State University, which has invested heavily in cybersecurity and other data science programs, are well-positioned to do that work.

"These huge databases have got to be accurate," Rounds said.

Pumping funds into medical research might seem expensive, he said, but so is managing a host of diseases that AI research could prevent or cure with the right investment.

"It's not inexpensive, but compared to what we pay to try and limit and prevent the illnesses to be cured, the investment is miniscule," Rounds said.

Lawmakers on the study group wanted to know what, if anything, they could do to help move the research along.

"You talked about not slowing down the progress of AI, but at the same time, there's got to be policies and oversight managing the implementation of this, and probably training as well," said Rep. Chris Karr, R-Sioux Falls.

The main goal, Rounds said, should be to "stay ahead" of AI development. Supporting education programs that focus on AI systems and maintaining a business-friendly atmosphere could help position the state to take advantage of the new technology, Rounds said.

"I would do everything I could to incentivize the development of AI databases here, in all different areas," Rounds said. "It becomes a nexus for other things to happen."

Companies looking to develop data centers or AI hubs, Rounds said, are "going to go where doing business is as simple as possible."

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

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 32 of 80

## COMMENTARY

### Legislative staffer was a great help to lawmakers and a proud Czech

BY FRANK KLOUCEK

AUGUST 17, 2024 6:00 AM

Reuben Bezpaletz, who was one of the main staffers for the Legislative Research Council in our state Capitol for 42 years, died this past weekend at age 77.

He was very kind and fair to all legislators, including Democrats. He worked hard to keep legislation between the staff and the legislator. There was no disclosure of proposed legislation to Republican or Democratic leadership under his watch.

His respect for the Legislature and the legislative process was as big as his heart. One example of this is when he drafted the bill requested by Scotland teacher Gary Pepper that changed the state constitution to set the minimum age for governors at 21. It was approved by an overwhelming vote of South Dakotans. Before this change, there were no constitutional age restrictions on the office of governor.

Reuben knew the state constitution and rules of the Legislature inside and out. Over Reuben's 42-year career, he helped many committee chairs run their committee hearings correctly.

Reuben, who was married to Teresa, was a Czech from the Woonsocket area. He loved state, national and international history, his Czech heritage and poppyseed kolaches — or as he spelled it, "kolaces." Reuben loved Tabor, its church, museums and rich cultural history, and he really enjoyed Tabor's Czech Days.

Reuben was a brilliant Legislative Research Council staffer who went the extra mile for legislators to explain current laws, proposed laws, rules and their impact. Reuben paid attention to the fine details of legislative draftsmanship. He was a perfectionist who went over and above to help legislators.

Lynn Moran was a classmate of Reuben's at Woonsocket High School and the University of South Dakota. She told me he was an accomplished artist already at 5 years old and was Woonsocket's Class of 1965 valedictorian. He graduated from USD and went on to work with distinction for 42 years at the South Dakota Legislative Research Council. Linda Stensland told of his excellent work on environmental bills, which are still on the books today. Many legislators can attest to Reuben's integrity and honesty.

Many of the bills he drafted for me became law or were copied by Republican legislators and then became law. He was not afraid to stand up for the little guy or the minority when they were getting trampled on. Reuben helped Paul Symens and the landowners with flooding and property rights issues concerning water rights and hunting access in northeast South Dakota. He was fair and honest and helped many Democratic and Republican legislators over the years, especially those who did not always get a fair shake. He made a positive difference in many legislators' lives, including mine.

One of Reuben's finest hours was taking a group of legislators to the Klas Czech restaurant in Cicero, Illinois, which he loved very much. As a connoisseur of fine Czech food and a history buff, he delighted in the fine food and rich history of the Klas restaurant. Their roast duck was his favorite. They cooked it similar to how his mother cooked it. Reuben knew his Czech heritage very well and always beamed proudly when describing the Czech Republic breaking away from Russia to become an independent country.

Reuben Bezpaletz was a great man with a heart as big as the great state of South Dakota. He will be missed.

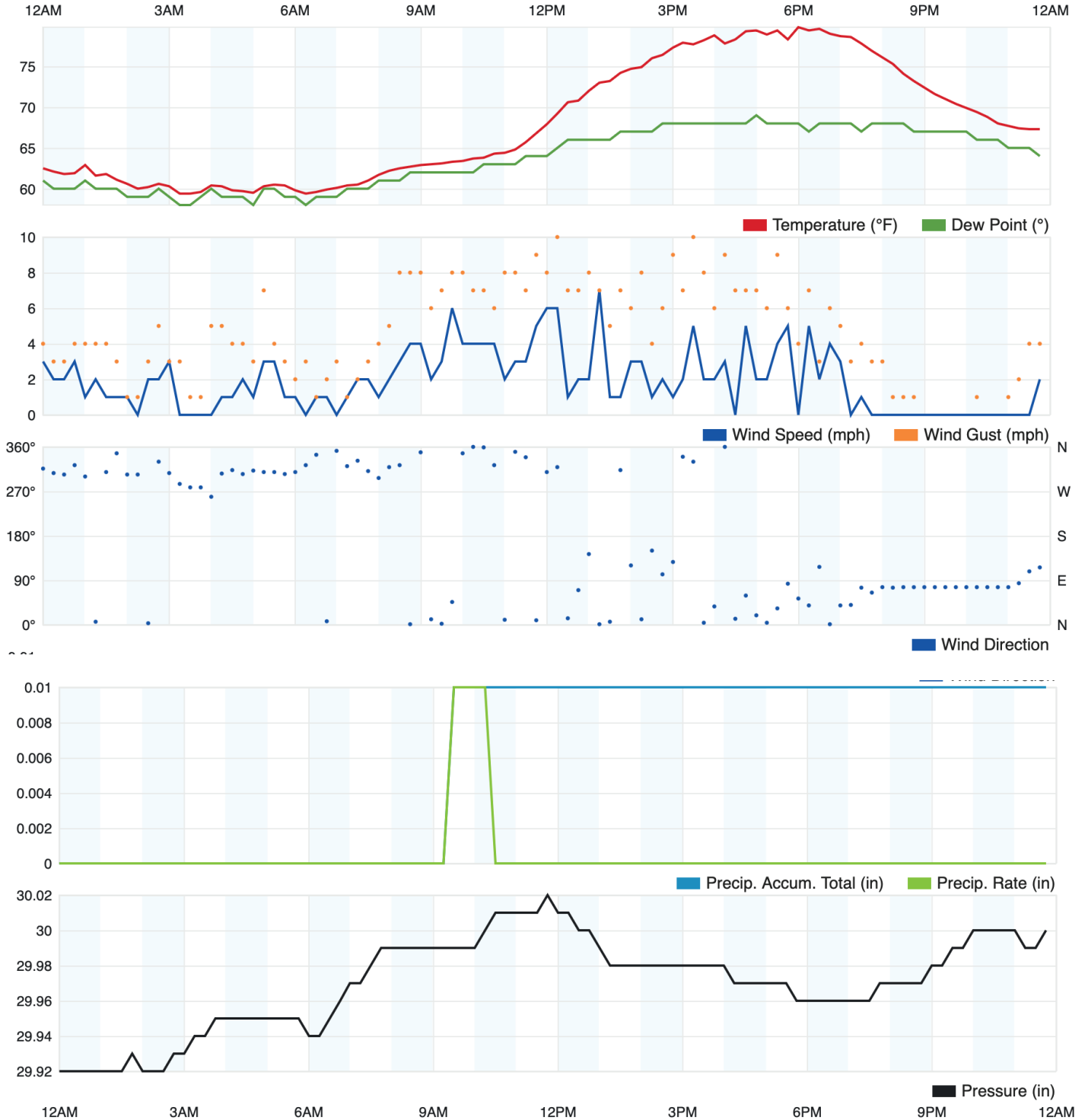
*Frank Kloucek is a family farmer from rural Scotland who served 22 years as a Democratic state legislator. He and his wife, Joanie, have four children and eight grandchildren.*



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 33 of 80

## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 34 of 80

Today



High: 83 °F

Sunny

Tonight



Low: 60 °F

Mostly Clear

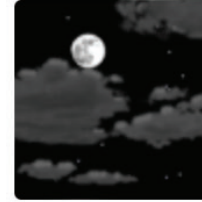
Monday



High: 84 °F

Sunny

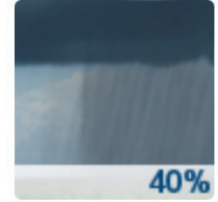
Monday Night



Low: 63 °F

Partly Cloudy

Tuesday



High: 81 °F

Chance  
Showers

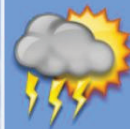


## Early Week Forecast Outlook

August 18, 2024  
5:19 AM

### Highlights

- 20-50% chance for showers and t-storms across south-central South Dakota today
- Normal to above normal temperatures the next few days with highs warming into the 80s to low 90s
- Marginal Risk for Severe Storms in Central South Dakota on Tuesday
  - 20-50% chance Monday night/Tuesday



### Today

- Highs: 79-87°
- Wind: E. SD/WC MN - ENE 5-10 mph  
Central SD - SE 10-20 mph



### Monday

- Highs: 79-89°
- Wind: E. SD/WC MN - SE 5-10 mph  
Central SD - SE 10-20 mph



### Tuesday

- Highs: 75-92°
- Wind: S 15-25 mph

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

National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD

Scattered t-storms will remain possible across south central South Dakota while the rest of the area experiences dry conditions. After some morning fog in the east, a mix of sun and clouds will be possible by midday and afternoon. The storms in south central South Dakota will become less numerous as the day wears on. Temperatures will be seasonally warm today with above normal readings returning this next work week. Another round of strong to severe storms will be possible on Tuesday across central South Dakota.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 35 of 80

## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 80 °F at 5:26 PM

Low Temp: 59 °F at 3:25 AM

Wind: 11 mph at 8:49 AM

Precip: : 0.01

Day length: 13 hours, 59 minutes (lost 20 minutes since last Sunday)

## Today's Info

Record High: 109 in 1959

Record Low: :35:50 pm

Average High: 83

Average Low: 56

Average Precip in Aug.: 1.30

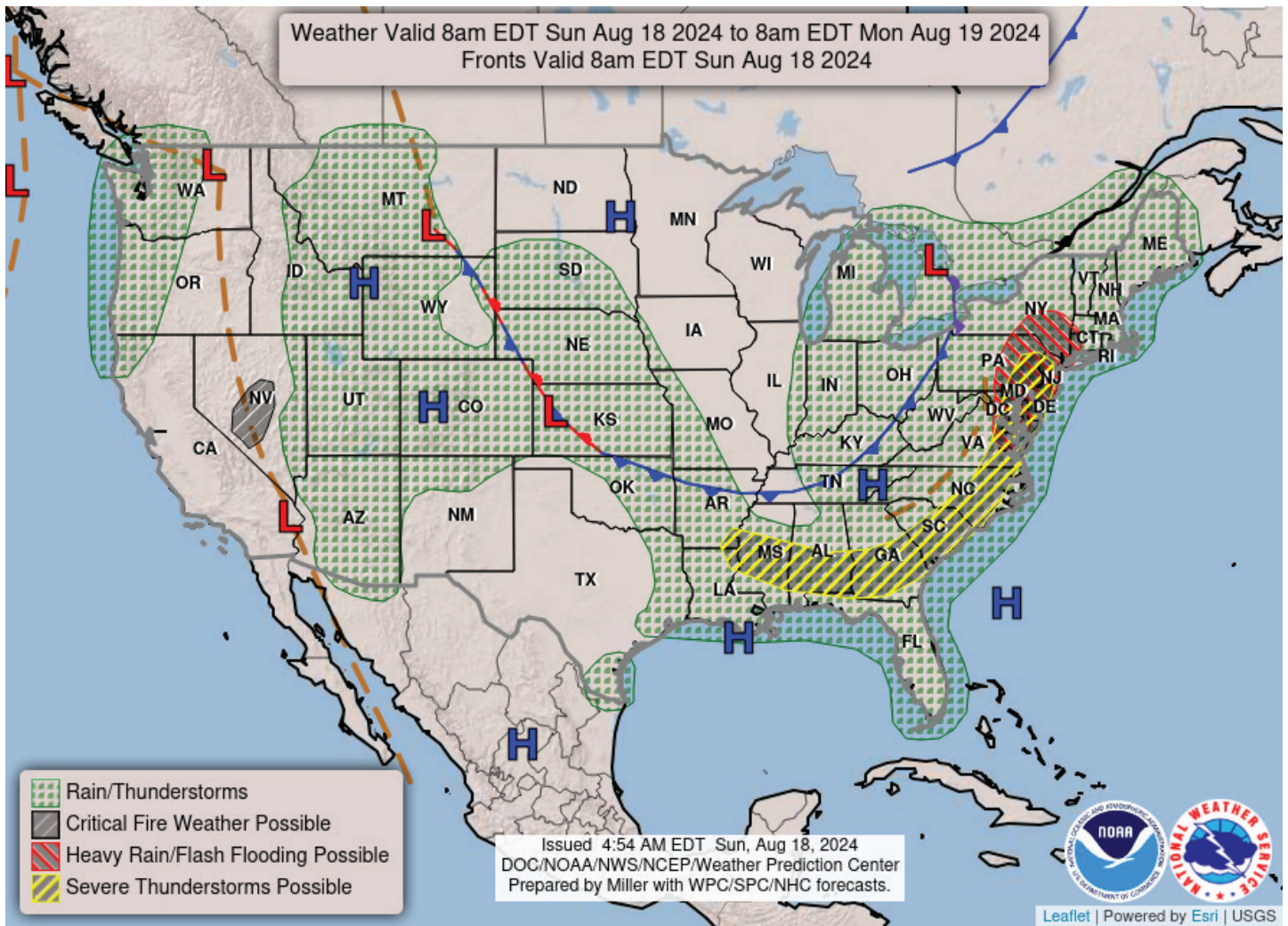
Precip to date in Aug.: 4.13

Average Precip to date: 15.40

Precip Year to Date: 19.02

Sunset Tonight: 8:37:30 pm

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:36:19 am



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 36 of 80

## Today in Weather History

August 18, 1936: A tornado moved east, ending southeast of Gettysburg. A farmhouse and four barns were destroyed near Gorman, in Potter County. Property damage was estimated at \$20,000.

August 18, 1938: A tornado destroyed a barn, unroofed a gym, and damaged other buildings near Stephen, in Hyde County. The funnel moved northeast then curved to the northwest. There were two other tornadoes on this day. One moved northeast from near Worlsey and Broadland in Beadle County producing estimated F3 damage. The other was an estimated F2 and also started off in Beadle County and moved northeast into Kingsbury County. This storm injured three people.

August 18, 1983: High winds up to 80 mph caused extensive damage to trees, structures, and cars, in Lyman, Hyde, Faulk, and Brown Counties. In Presho, several homes lost their roofs. Hay bales were scattered, metal siding was ripped from outbuildings, and a ballpark lost three large fence sections. Gusty winds up to 75 mph were recorded at Ordway, in Brown County, causing damage to a mobile home. Two hangers at the Aberdeen airport received extensive damage, with roofs and doors torn off.

August 18, 2009: Numerous thunderstorms developed along a stationary front and trained over the same locations producing very heavy rains along with large hail. Nickel size hail falling for several minutes piled up to 6 to 8 inches deep near Harrold in Hughes County. Massive rains of 2 to nearly 5 inches resulted in the flash flooding of numerous roads. Several of the streets were washed out. Some rainfall amounts included 3.05 inches at Warner, 3.15 inches southwest of Bristol, 4.40 inches in Webster, and 4.50 inches east of Warner.

1925: During the late morning hours a severe hailstorm struck southeastern Iowa destroying crops along a path six to ten miles wide and 75 miles long. The hail also injured and killed poultry and livestock, and caused a total of 2.5 million dollars damage. The hailstorm flattened fields of corn to such an extent that many had to leave their farms in search of other work.

1931: The Yangtze River in China peaks during a horrible flood that kills 3.7 million people directly and indirectly over the next several months. This flood was perhaps the worst natural disaster of the 20th century.

1983 - Hurricane Alicia ravaged southeastern Texas. The hurricane caused more than three billion dollars property damage, making it one of the costliest hurricanes in the history of the U.S. Just thirteen persons were killed, but 1800 others were injured. The hurricane packed winds to 130 mph as it crossed Galveston Island, and spawned twenty-two tornadoes in less than 24 hours as it made landfall. (The Weather Channel) (Storm Data)

1987 - Thirteen cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Orlando FL with a reading of 98 degrees, and Portland ME with a high of 94 degrees. Newark NJ reached 90 degrees for the thirty-sixth time of the year, their second highest total of record. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Twenty-two cities, from the Carolinas to the Upper Ohio Valley, reported record high temperatures for the date, pushing the total number of daily record highs since the first of June above the 1100 mark. Afternoon highs of 102 degrees at Greensboro NC and 105 degrees at Raleigh NC equalled all-time records. Evening thunderstorms in Montana produced wind gusts to 75 mph at Scobey. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms over the Middle Atlantic Coast Region and the Upper Ohio Valley produced torrential rains in eastern Virginia during the late morning and afternoon hours. Totals ranged up to twelve inches at Yorktown. Williamsburg VA was deluged with 10.78 inches of rain between 6 AM and 10 AM, with 6.72 inches reported in just two hours. Flash flooding caused nearly twelve million dollars damage in Accomack County VA. Early evening thunderstorms in the Central High Plains Region produced walnut size hail and wind gusts to 80 mph around Casper WY. Thunderstorms produced locally heavy rains in the Yellowstone Park area, causing fifteen mudslides. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)



## STANDING OR LYING DOWN?

A Red Cross representative was contacting local churches for planning purposes in the event of a disaster. Answering the phone, the pastor said, "Please, Ma'am, How may I help you?"

"I'm calling on behalf of the Red Cross," she said, "and I would like to know how many people might be able to lie down and sleep in your facilities in the event of a disaster."

Thinking for a moment about what might be possible, he responded with a smile, "I don't know how many might be able to lie down and sleep comfortably, but I know that about nine hundred sleep sitting upright every Sunday morning."

Sleeping in church is a byproduct for many tired Sunday morning worshipers. Whether it is a sermon that is not mentally challenging or spiritually stimulating or the result of insufficient sleep or rest is not the point. We go to church to worship God and recognize our need to gather together in His name. It is a period of time when we set aside things that concern us and focus on the greatness of our Creator – His holiness, power and grace and our unworthiness, our need for His grace and our dependence upon Him to meet our every need.

Gathering together for worship is our duty and responsibility and must be done in eagerness and excitement.

Prayer: Lord, may we enter into Your presence with praise and thanksgiving, coming together to honor Your goodness, grace and glory with thanksgiving. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Everything on earth will worship you; they will sing your praises, shouting your name in glorious songs. Psalm 66:4

*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, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 38 of 80

## The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

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

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

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

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

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

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

## Groton Daily Independent [www.397news.com](http://www.397news.com) Subscription Form

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

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

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

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

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Password \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Pay with Venmo: [@paperpaul](https://venmo.com/paperpaul) Phone Number to Confirm: 7460

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 39 of 80



## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:  
08.09.24

12 32 38 40 57 21

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$435,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.10.24

6 19 40 41 42 5

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$6,660,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.10.24

3 26 30 37 43 2

TOP PRIZE:

**\$7,000/week**

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 6 Mins 2  
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.10.24

14 16 23 29 32

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

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.10.24

6 14 53 59 62 12

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

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 08.10.24

9 24 33 64 69 9

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$212,000,000**

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 40 of 80

## Upcoming Groton Events

- 07/04/2024 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/09/2024 FREE SNAP Application Assistance 1-6pm at the Community Center
- 07/14/2024 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
- 07/17/2024 Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar at the Groton Legion 11am-1pm
- 07/17/2024 Pro Am Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/25/2024 Dairy Queen Miracle Treat Day
- 07/25/2024 Summer Downtown Sip & Shop 5-8pm
- 07/25/2024 Treasures Amidst The Trials 6pm at Emmanuel Lutheran Church
- 07/26/2024 Ferney Open Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start
- 07/27/2024 1st Annual Celebration in the Park 1-9:30pm
- 08/05/2024 School Supply Drive 4-7pm at the Community Center
- Cancelled:** Wine on 9 at Olive Grove Golf Course 6pm
- 08/08/2024 Family Fun Fest 5:30-7:30pm
- 08/9-11/2024 Jr. Legion State Baseball Tournament
- 08/12/2024 Vitalant Blood Drive at the Community Center 1:15-7pm
- 09/07/2024 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 09/07-08/2024 Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
- 09/08/2024 Sunflower Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10am
- 10/05/2024 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
- 10/11/2024 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
- 10/31/2024 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
- 10/31/2024 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
- 11/16/2024 Groton American Legion "Turkey Raffle" 6:30-11:30pm
- 11/28/2024 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm
- 12/01/2024 Groton Snow Queen Contest, 4:30 p.m.
- 12/07/2024 Olive Grove 8th Annual Holiday Party & Tour of Homes with Live & Silent Auctions 6pm-close
- 04/12/2025 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt at the City Park 10am Sharp
- 05/03/2025 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 05/26/2025 Memorial Day Services Groton Union Cemetery with lunch at Legion Post #39, 12pm
- 07/04/2025 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 07/13/2025 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm
- 09/06/2025 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm
- 10/31/2025 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
- 11/27/2025 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm



## News from the **AP** Associated Press

### French actor and heartthrob Alain Delon dies at 88

By SYLVIE CORBET and THOMAS ADAMSON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Alain Delon, the internationally acclaimed French actor who embodied both the bad guy and the policeman and made hearts throb around the world, died at age 88, French media reported.

With his handsome looks and tender manner, the prolific actor was able to combine toughness with an appealing, vulnerable quality that made him one of France's memorable leading men.

Delon was also a producer, appeared in plays and, in later years, in television movies.

French president Emmanuel Macron paid tribute on X to "a French monument."

"Alain Delon has played legendary roles and made the world dream," he wrote. "Melancholic, popular, secretive, he was more than a star."

Delon's children announced the death on Sunday in a statement to French national news agency Agence France-Presse, a common practice in France. Tributes to Delon immediately started pouring in on social platforms, and all leading French media switched to full-fledged coverage of his rich career.

Earlier this year, his son Anthony had said his father had been diagnosed with B-cell lymphoma, a type of cancer.

Over the past year, Delon's fragile health condition had been at the heart of a family dispute over his care that gave rise to bitter exchanges through the media among his three children.

At the prime of his career, in the 1960s and 1970s, Delon was sought out by some of the world's top directors, from Luchino Visconti to Joseph Losey.

In his later years, Delon grew disillusioned with the movie industry, saying that money had killed the dream. "Money, commerce and television have wrecked the dream machine," he wrote in a 2003 edition of newsweekly *Le Nouvel Observateur*. "My cinema is dead. And me, too."

But he continued to work frequently, appearing in several TV movies in his 70s.

Delon's presence was unforgettable, whether playing morally depraved heroes or romantic leading men. He first drew acclaim in 1960 with "Plein Soleil," directed by René Clément, in which he played a murderer trying to take on the identity of his victims.

He made several Italian movies, working, most notably with Visconti in the 1961 film "Rocco and His Brothers," in which Delon portrays a self-sacrificing brother intent on helping his sibling. The movie won the Special Jury Prize at the Venice Film Festival.

The 1963 Visconti film "Le Guepard" (The Leopard) starring Delon won the Palme d'Or, the highest honor at the Cannes Film Festival. His other films included Clément's "Is Paris Burning," with a screenplay by Gore Vidal and Francis Ford Coppola among others; "La Piscine" (The Sinners), directed by Jacques Deray; and, in a departure, Losey's "The Assassination of Trotsky" in 1972.

In 1968, Delon began producing movies — 26 of them by 1990 — part of a frenzied and self-assured momentum that he maintained throughout his life.

Delon's confidence was palpable in his statement to *Femme* in 1996, 'I like to be loved the way I love myself!' This echoed his charismatic screen persona.

Delon continued to captivate audiences for years — on the way courting criticism for comments deemed outdated. In 2010, he appeared in "Un mari de trop" ("One Husband Too Many") and returned to the stage in 2011 with "An Ordinary Day," alongside his daughter Anouchka.

He briefly presided over the Miss France jury but stepped down in 2013 after a disagreement over some controversial statements, which included critiques on women, LGBTQIA+ rights, and migrants. Despite these controversies, he received a Palme d'Honneur at the 2019 Cannes Film Festival, a decision that sparked further debate.

The Brigitte Bardot Foundation, dedicated to animal protection, paid tribute to "an exceptional man, an unforgettable artist and a great friend of animals," in a statement released on social media. Delon was "a

close friend" of French film legend Brigitte Bardot "who is deeply saddened by his passing," the statement said. "We lose a precious friend and a man with a big heart."

French film producer Alain Terzian said Delon was "the last of the giants."

"It's a page being turned in the history of French cinema," he told France Inter radio. Terzian, who produced several films directed by Delon, recalled that "every time he arrived somewhere ... there was a kind of almost mystical, quasi-religious respect. He was fascinating."

Born on Nov. 8, 1935, in Sceaux, just south of Paris, Delon was placed with a foster family after his parents' separation when he was 4. He then attended a Roman Catholic boarding school.

At 17, Delon joined the navy and was sent to Indochina. Back in France in 1956, he held various odd jobs from waiter to a carrier in the Paris meat market before turning to acting.

Delon had son Anthony in 1964 with his then-wife Nathalie Canovas, who played alongside him in Jean-Pierre Melville's "The Samurai" in 1967. He had two more children, Anouchka and Alain-Fabien, with a later companion, Rosalie van Breemen, with whom he produced a song and video clip in 1987. He was also widely believed to have been the father of Ari Boulogne, the son of German model and singer Nico, although he never publicly acknowledged paternity.

"I am very good at three things: my job, foolishness and children," he said in a 1995 L'Express interview.

Delon juggled diverse activities throughout his life, from setting up a stable of trotting horses to developing cologne for men and women, followed by watches, glasses and other accessories. He also collected paintings and sculptures.

Delon announced an end to his acting career in 1999, only to continue, appearing in Bertrand Blier's "Les Acteurs" (The Actors) the same year. Later he appeared in several television police shows.

His good looks sustained him. In August 2002, Delon told a weekly magazine, L'Humanite Hebdo, that he wouldn't still be in the business if that weren't so.

"You'll never see me old and ugly," he said when he was already nearing 70, "because I'll leave before, or I'll die."

However, it was in 2019 that Delon encapsulated his feelings about his life's meaning during a gala event honoring him at the Cannes Film Festival. "One thing I'm sure about is that if there's something I'm proud of, really, the only thing, it's my career."

## **Ukrainian troops have struck 2 key bridges in Russia. Could it mean they're there to stay?**

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine has destroyed a key bridge in Russia's Kursk region and struck a second one nearby, less than two weeks into its stunning cross-border incursion, disrupting Russian supply routes and possibly signaling that its troops are planning to dig in.

Russia's pro-Kremlin military bloggers have acknowledged that the destruction of the first bridge, which spanned the Seim River near the town of Glushkovo, will impede deliveries of supplies to Russian forces repelling Ukraine's incursion, although Moscow could still use pontoons and smaller bridges in the area. Ukraine's air force chief, Lt. Mykola Oleshchuk, on Friday released a video of a Ukrainian airstrike that split the bridge in two.

Less than two days later, Ukrainian troops hit a second bridge in Russia, according to Oleshchuk and the Russian regional governor, Alexei Smirnov.

As of Sunday morning, there were no official reports on where exactly the second bridge attack took place. Russian Telegram channels claimed that a second bridge over the Seim, in the village of Zvanoe, had been struck.

According to Russia's Mash news site, the attacks left the area with just one intact bridge. The Associated Press could not immediately verify these claims — but if confirmed, the Ukrainian strikes would further complicate Moscow's attempts to replenish its forces in Kursk and evacuate civilians.

Glushkovo lies some 12 kilometers (7.5 miles) north of the Ukrainian border, and approximately 16 kilometers (10 miles) northwest of the main battle zone in Kursk. Zvanoe is located a further 8 kilometers

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 43 of 80

(5 miles) northeast.

Kyiv has been tight-lipped about the planned scope and goals of its lightning push into Russia, the largest attack on the country since World War II, which took the Kremlin by surprise and saw scores of villages and hundreds of prisoners fall into Ukrainian hands.

The Ukrainians drove deep into the Kursk region in several directions, facing little resistance and sowing chaos and panic. Ukraine's Commander in Chief, Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi claimed last week that his forces had advanced across 1,000 square kilometers (390 square miles) of the Kursk region, although it was not possible to independently verify what exactly Ukrainian forces effectively control.

But the strikes on bridges, apparently aimed to stymie a Russian counterpush in Kursk, could mean that Kyiv intends to seek a foothold in the region — or at least signal to Moscow that it plans to do so.

Analysts say that although Ukraine could try to consolidate its gains within Russia, it would be a risky maneuver given Kyiv's limited resources, because supply lines extending deep into Kursk would be vulnerable to Russian strikes.

The incursion has already boosted Ukraine's morale, sapped by a failed counteroffensive last summer and months of grinding Russian gains in the eastern Donbas region, and proven its ability to seize initiative.

It has resembled Ukraine's lightning operation from September 2022, led by Syrskyi, in which its forces reclaimed control of the northeastern Kharkiv region after taking advantage of Russian manpower shortages and a lack of field fortifications.

## Israel strikes Gaza as Blinken heads to region to try to help close cease-fire deal

By WAFAA SHURAFI and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli strikes across Gaza killed 19 people overnight, including a woman and her six children, as U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken headed to the region on Sunday to try to seal a cease-fire deal after months of contentious negotiations.

The U.S. and fellow mediators Egypt and Qatar said they were closing in on a deal after two days of talks in Doha, with American and Israeli officials expressing cautious optimism. But Hamas has signaled resistance to what it says are new demands by Israel, and the long-running talks have repeatedly stalled.

The evolving proposal calls for a three-phase process in which Hamas would release all hostages abducted during its Oct. 7 attack, which triggered the deadliest war ever fought between Israelis and Palestinians. In exchange, Israel would withdraw its forces from Gaza and release Palestinian prisoners.

The mediators hope to end a war that has killed over 40,000 Palestinians, according to local health authorities, displaced the vast majority of the territory's 2.3 million residents and caused a humanitarian catastrophe. Experts have warned of famine and the outbreak of diseases like polio.

Hamas-led militants killed some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, in the Oct. 7 attack and abducted around 250. Of those, some 110 are still believed to be inside Gaza, with Israeli authorities saying around a third are deceased. More than 100 hostages were released in November during a weeklong cease-fire.

The latest Israeli bombardment included a strike early Sunday on a home in the central town of Deir al-Balah that killed a woman and her six children, according to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital. An Associated Press reporter at the hospital counted the bodies.

Mohammed Awad Khatab, the children's grandfather, said his daughter, a school teacher, was with her husband and their six children when their house was struck. He said the children ranged in age from 18 months to 15 years, and that four of them were quadruplets. He said the father was hospitalized after the strike.

"The six children have become body parts. They were placed in a single bag," he told reporters outside the hospital. "What did they do? Did they kill any of the Jews?... Will this provide security to Israel?"

A strike in the northern town of Jabaliya hit two apartments in a residential building, killing two men, a woman and her daughter, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. Another strike in central Gaza killed four people, according to the Awda Hospital. Late Saturday, a strike near the southern city of Khan Younis killed

four people from the same family, including two women, according to Nasser Hospital.

Israel says it only targets militants and blames civilian deaths on Hamas because the militant group conceals fighters, weapons, tunnels and rockets in residential areas. But the monthslong Israeli bombardment has wiped out entire extended families and orphaned thousands of children.

The mediators have spent months trying to halt the fighting, efforts that gained new urgency after the targeted killing of two top militants last month, both attributed to Israel, brought vows of revenge from Iran and the Lebanese Hezbollah, raising fears of an all-out war across the Middle East.

An American official said Friday that mediators were beginning preparations for implementing the latest cease-fire proposal, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office expressed "cautious optimism" a deal could be reached.

An Israeli delegation is set to travel to Cairo on Sunday for further talks, and Blinken is expected to meet with Netanyahu on Monday.

Hamas has cast doubt on whether an agreement is near, saying the latest proposal diverged significantly from a previous iteration they had accepted in principle. Hamas has rejected Israel's demands for a lasting military presence along the Gaza-Egypt border and a line bisecting Gaza where Israeli forces would search Palestinians returning to their homes. Israel says both are needed to prevent militants from rearming and returning to the north.

Israel showed flexibility on retreating from the border corridor, and a meeting between Egyptian and Israeli military officials was scheduled for next week to agree on a withdrawal mechanism, according to two Egyptian officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the private negotiations.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, which has seen a surge of violence since the start of the war in Gaza, gunmen marched in a funeral procession for two Hamas commanders killed in an Israeli airstrike in Jenin the day before.

## **Paetongtarn Shinawatra becomes Thai prime minister after royal signoff**

By JINTAMAS SAKSORNCHAI Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Paetongtarn Shinawatra, daughter of the divisive former leader Thaksin Shinawatra, became Thailand's prime minister after receiving a royal letter of endorsement Sunday, two days after she was chosen by Parliament following a court order that removed her predecessor.

She replaces another leader from the same Pheu Thai Party, at the head of a coalition that includes military parties associated with the coup that deposed the party's last government.

Paetongtarn is the third Shinawatra to hold the job, after her billionaire father and her aunt Yingluck Shinawatra. Both were removed from office and forced into exile in coups, although Thaksin returned to Thailand last year as Pheu Thai formed a government.

She received the letter of appointment in a ceremony at the party's headquarters in Bangkok, attended by senior members of parties in the governing coalition and her father, who has no formal role but is widely seen de facto leader of Pheu Thai.

The father and daughter held hands as they walked in with beaming smiles. Both wore white civil servants' uniforms, which are used for royal and state ceremonies.

Paetongtarn thanked the king, the Thai people and lawmakers, saying she will perform her duties "with an open mind," and will "make every square inch of Thailand a space that allows Thai people to dare to dream, dare to create and dare to dictate their own future."

Paetongtarn became Prime Minister days after the Constitutional Court removed Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin, after less than a year in office. The court found him guilty of a serious ethical breach for appointing a Cabinet minister who had been jailed for contempt of court after an alleged attempt to bribe a judge.

Paetongtarn is also Thailand's second female prime minister after her aunt, and the country's youngest leader at 37.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 45 of 80

Speaking to reporters after the ceremony, Paetongtarn said she is determined to push forward key policies such as economic stimulus, improvement for universal healthcare and promoting cultural "soft power" on the global stage.

She did not initially mention Srettha's signature proposal for a digital cash handout of 10,000 baht (about \$275) to 50 million citizens to spend at local businesses in order to boost the economy.

The project has been criticized as an ineffective way to contribute to sustainable economic growth, and has faced several hurdles that include its sources of funding.

When pressed by reporters, Paetongtarn said she still has an intention to push forward a major economic stimulus for Thailand, but she will need to "continue to listen to opinions."

She also said she will ask for her father for advice when she needs, but insisted that she would make her own decisions. "I am my own person. I have my own things and my own goals that I have to achieve in the future, but of course all the comments from him (have) value to me," she said.

Pheu Thai is the latest in a string of populist parties affiliated with Thaksin, who was ousted in a 2006 military coup, which triggered nearly two decades of deep political divisions that pitted a mostly poor, rural majority in the north that supported Thaksin against royalists, the military and their urban backers.

Parties linked to Thaksin won the most seats in every national election from 2001 until 2023, when it lost to the more progressive Move Forward Party.

Pheu Thai was able to form a government after Move Forward was blocked by the military-appointed Senate, partnering with former rivals in what was widely interpreted as a political bargain with the conservative establishment to stop Move Forward from forming a government.

The same day, Thaksin returned from exile and briefly reported to prison to for an eight-year sentence on charges related to corruption and abuse of power. He was moved almost immediately from prison to the hospital on grounds of ill health, and about a week after that the king reduced his sentence to a single year. He was released on parole in February after spending six months serving time in the hospital.

Since his release, Thaksin has maintained a high profile traveling the country, making public appearances.

On Saturday, Thaksin's lawyer Winyat Chatmontree posted on Facebook that Thaksin was among the convicts granted a royal amnesty by the king on the occasion of his birthday in late July. It took effect Sunday, which means Thaksin is free ahead of his original parole schedule.

However, the amnesty does not protect Thaksin from an ongoing case for defaming the monarchy, which was indicted in June after being originally filed in 2016. It has been seen by some analysts as a warning from Thaksin's enemies that he should tone down his political activities.

## A hunter's graveyard shift: grabbing pythons in the Everglades

By STEPHANY MATAT Associated Press

HOLEY LAND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA, Fla. (AP) — It's after midnight when the windshield fogs up on Thomas Aycock's F-250 pickup truck. He flashes a low smile as he slowly maneuvers through the sawgrass, down dirt roads deep in the Florida Everglades.

His windshield just confirmed it: When the dew point drops in the dead of the night, it's prime time for pythons.

"I catch more pythons when that happens," Aycock explained. "It'll make things start moving."

Aycock, a contractor with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, has hunted Burmese pythons in the Everglades for 11 years. The retired U.S. Army veteran divides his time between North Carolina, the Florida Panhandle and Homestead, Florida, where he keeps a recreational vehicle.

He always participates in the Florida Python Challenge, hosted by the wildlife commission to incentivize people to track down invasive Burmese pythons that thrive in Florida's preserved wetlands. This year's 10-day challenge ends at 5 p.m. Sunday.

The timing is intentional: Pythons typically hatch from their small, leathery eggs each August before wriggling away into the swamp.

Aycock loves snakes. He's also passionate about preserving the Everglades and understands the "greater

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 46 of 80

ecological issue with these pythons," a prolific apex predator threatening Florida's native snakes and mammals.

These pythons are notoriously hard to spot in the wild and determining their numbers is difficult, but the United States Geological Survey conservatively estimates tens of thousands have spread from South Florida. With each female laying clutches of 29-50 eggs on average, their impact has been devastating.

In one 2012 study, the USGS found populations of raccoons had declined by 99.3%, opossums by 98.9% and bobcats by 87.5% since the early 2000s. Controlling this voracious snake species, scientists say, is a critical goal.

More than 600 hunters participated in this year's challenge, hoping to top last year's total of 209 pythons killed. The grand prize winner, who humanely kills the most, receives \$10,000.

The competition is designed to raise awareness and has succeeded on that score, attracting celebrities and inspiring reality television shows.

But the need for python control is so much bigger. Since 2017, Florida has been paying some 100 contractors to round them up year-round in a project shared by the wildlife agency and the South Florida Water Management District.

Through 2023, more than 18,000 pythons have been removed from the wild, with about 11,000 taken out by contractors like Aycock.

It's a decent supplemental income — \$13 an hour while driving the backroads, or \$18 an hour if they walk into the swamp — and contractors also get paid per snake: \$50 for the first 4 feet (1.2 meters) in length, plus \$25 per subsequent foot.

"You're not going to make a living doing this full-time. There's no way you could do it," Aycock said.

Florida prohibits hunters from using firearms to kill pythons, and they aren't venomous, so capturing them is very much a hands-on exercise.

Aycock goes into the wetlands to check on known hatching spots and grabs at them when he can. But mostly he drives down lonely roads in the dead of night, training a spotlight into the swamps to the sounds of croaking frogs.

These bug-filled drives are like therapy sessions for Aycock. Sometimes he brings along fellow members of the Swamp Apes, a veterans therapy nonprofit he belongs to that catches invasive snakes in the wild, clears overgrown trails and works toward environmental preservation.

The group's founder, Tom Rahill, and two other Swamp Apes followed behind as an Associated Press team rode along with Aycock and another Swamp Ape member during this year's challenge.

Rahill is a contractor too, and said he knows the swamp so well that he can smell a python's distinct "musk" odor and can feel in his gut if the night is ripe.

There is an art to catching a snake, these men say, and it varies from hunter to hunter. Some use a snake hook and then jump on them before shoving them into bags. Rahill prefers using his hands if the snake is docile enough.

"Instead of jumping on the snake, you just kind of gently get up to it and then just pick it up," Rahill said. "Then you can stroke their belly, their belly scales, and you can just pick up a wild python and do this."

But Burmese pythons, constrictors that have no natural predators and can swallow animals whole, aren't always calm.

Aycock described the time when he caught a 17-foot (5-meter) python: He and his wife had to dance around the snake before he could wrangle the animal and control its head to keep the predator from lunging at them. Even then, a hunter needs a helper to keep the snake uncoiled until it calms down and can be double-bagged to prevent escape.

Once the snakes are caught, the hunters have 24 hours to deliver them to the wildlife agency. It is illegal for any person other than a licensed contractor to transport a live, invasive snake.

Aycock takes them home first to be euthanized with a captive bolt, which shows it has been "humanely killed."

"That's the part of the job that I really just ... hate," Aycock said. "I hate having to kill snakes."

On this night, the AP called it quits long after midnight, after Aycock came up empty-handed. An hour

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 47 of 80

later, Rahill spotted a hatchling.

That's the way snake hunting goes. Aycock said he has gone months without finding one. But on a lucky night, hunters get a burst of joy when they spot the oily sheen of a Burmese python hiding in the high grass.

"I think I get an adrenaline rush every time," Aycock said. "When it's lunging toward me, it's a good day."

## The trash in Mali's capital is piling up. Donkey carts are coming to help

By BABA AHMED Associated Press

BAMAKO, Mali (AP) — When handling the garbage of a city of over 3 million people and equipped with little more than a face mask and gloves, it helps to have a sense of humor. Yacouba Diallo decided to name the two donkeys that pull his cart after his cousins, Keita and Kanté.

Hauling garbage in Mali's capital, Bamako, can be otherwise grim. The city more than doubled its population in recent years and struggles to manage its waste. Piles of garbage dominate some streets.

Residents are turning to donkey carts like Diallo's for trash pickup. The carts can weave in and out of vehicle traffic and reach more places than trucks can, especially on bad roads.

In addition, "it requires less investment than a truck," Diallo said.

He said he can make up to \$166 a month. That kind of money is attractive to youth who come from Mali's rural areas seeking employment in the West African nation with high unemployment.

Some in Mali are concerned about the donkeys they use. Advocacy groups allege that some of the animals are overburdened, work long days and have little protection from walking on broken glass around dump sites. Amadou Doumbia with the SPANA nonprofit campaigns for the donkeys to be replaced with trucks.

But conditions are tough all around. Ideally, the garbage collected from Bamako's streets is meant to be deposited in a transfer site and then taken to a landfill. But the city doesn't have sites that meet required standards, said Bamadou Sidibé, a waste management consultant.

"All the institutions that have to deal with the waste problem are not playing their part," he said.

The World Bank in 2022 approved \$250 million to help rehabilitate a landfill outside Bamako to international standards and build a second one in the city. The project has been set up by the government and the World Bank and is due to last until 2028, but no date has been given for the start of construction.

Local authorities acknowledge the city has a waste disposal problem. But they blame residents.

"Bamako is dirty because people don't care about the environment or their health," asserted Adama Kanté, a deputy mayor. He said residents aren't willing to pay for waste disposal.

Some residents agree and point out that there's no penalty for simply tossing their garbage into the street.

"Instead of hiring a garbage collector who has to be paid, a lot of people wait until the rainy season to throw their garbage into the running water. It costs less," said one resident, Boureima Traoré.

Until solutions are put in place, the garbage mounds in Bamako have attracted some residents who risk their health and safety searching through them for items to reuse or sell.

It's a common scene in some African capitals and one that can turn deadly: Earlier this month, a vast landfill in Uganda's capital collapsed, killing at least 30 people.

## Democrats are dwindling in Wyoming. A primary election law further reduces their influence

By MEAD GRUVER Associated Press

LUSK, Wyo. (AP) — In some far reaches of rural America, Democrats are flirting with extinction. In Niobrara County, Wyoming, the least-populated county in the least-populated state, Becky Blackburn is one of just 32 left.

Her neighbors call her "the crazy Democrat," although it's more a term of endearment than derision.

Some less populated counties have fewer. There are 21 Democrats in Clark County, Idaho, and 20 in Blaine County, Nebraska. But Niobrara County's Democrats, who account for just 2.6% of registered vot-

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 48 of 80

ers, are the most outnumbered by Republicans in the 30 states that track local party affiliation, according to Associated Press election data.

In Wyoming, the state that has voted for Donald Trump by a wider margin than any other, overwhelming Republican dominance may be even more cemented-in now that the state has passed a law that makes changing party affiliation much more difficult.

Tuesday's primary will be the first election since the law took effect.

In Niobrara County's grassy rangelands and pine-spattered hills adjoining Nebraska and South Dakota, it's not easy being blue.

A paralegal for the Republican county attorney, Blackburn hears a lot of right-wing views around town.

"Normally I just roll my eyes and walk away because I'm fighting a losing battle and I'm fully aware of that," she said. "Maybe that is why I'm well-liked, because I keep my mouth shut 10 times more than I want to."

Not that she's politically shy. She flies an LGBTQ+ flag in support of her lesbian daughter at her house in Lusk, a ranching town of 1,500 and the Niobrara County seat.

In political season, Blackburn stocks up on Democratic political signs to replace those that get swiped. She speaks approvingly of policing reform, taxation for government services and the transgender social media celebrity Dylan Mulvaney.

Maybe because she's open about those views — and far too outnumbered to put them into action — Blackburn really does seem well-liked in Lusk, where she recently served nine years on the Town Council.

"I won two elections here. Even though that's nonpartisan, people still knew I had left-leaning values," she said.

Nationwide, Democrats account for fewer than 3% of voters in three counties this year, up from one county in 2020 but down from seven in 2016. There were none with such a low percentage of Democratic registrations in the presidential election years of 2012, 2008 and 2004, according to the AP data.

The most Republican counties in recent years are concentrated in Idaho, Utah and Wyoming. The most Democratic areas, meanwhile, are much less one-party-dominant.

The District of Columbia, where 77% of voters are Democrats, ranks second for Democratic dominance. First is Breathitt County, Kentucky, which through tradition is 79% Democratic but not to the core. Republican vice-presidential candidate JD Vance has family there and in 2020 the county went 75% for former President Donald Trump.

Niobrara County was not always quite so Republican. It had more than twice as many Democrats, 83, in 2012, and in 2004 there were more than four times as many, 139.

The Democrats' struggle in Wyoming mirrors the party's challenges across rural America, where the party has been losing ground for years.

It wasn't always this way. Seventy years ago, Democrats were a political force across southern Wyoming, where union mining and railroad jobs were abundant. Now, the party's only strongholds are in the university town of Laramie and resort town of Jackson.

Meanwhile, as Wyoming Democrats face difficulty fielding viable candidates at all levels, many Democrats have been switching their registration to vote in more competitive Republican primaries, then changing back for the general election.

"You feel skeezy and dirty when you do it. But you do it anyway and you change it back as soon as you can, because you don't want to start getting the Republican mailings," Blackburn said.

Republicans decided they'd had enough. The Wyoming Legislature, where the GOP controls over 90% of the seats, passed legislation last year banning voters from changing their party registration in the three months before the August primary.

Party-switching had "undermined the sanctity of Wyoming's primary process," Wyoming's Republican secretary of state, Chuck Gray, said in a statement of approval.

Wyoming's Republican and Democratic primaries on Tuesday will be the first in modern memory where voters won't be able to change party affiliation at the polls.

For Democrats, it will be slim pickings. Statewide, obscure candidates who have done little campaigning



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 49 of 80

are unopposed for the Democratic nomination for U.S. House and Senate.

In Niobrara County, no Democrats are running. They aren't contesting a seat in the Wyoming House of Representatives or an open seat on the county commission, the two major races, or even running for local party positions.

Yet the area had a Democratic state representative not too long ago: Ross Diercks, who is recognized and warmly greeted at the Outpost Cafe, a homey breakfast and lunch spot in Lusk.

A former middle school English teacher, Diercks was a Republican before deciding the GOP didn't do enough to support public education. He beat a Republican incumbent in 1992 to launch an 18-year run in the Legislature.

Knowing voters personally and keeping up on issues helped him hold office. When he got a C-minus on a National Rifle Association questionnaire, for example, he resolved to improve. For subsequent elections, he scored A's on the survey.

Many Republican lawmakers are friends. When one from just down the road died, he sang at his funeral.

Then in 2022, Diercks temporarily switched parties to vote in the GOP primary against Harriet Hageman, who was challenging then-Rep. Liz Cheney for the state's lone House seat. How many other Democrats did the same is hard to count, but Diercks was far from alone. Hageman, the daughter of the lawmaker Diercks unseated when he first won his state legislative seat, nonetheless won the race by a wide margin.

The new law keeping Diercks and others from switching their registration so easily has him exasperated with the GOP.

"How far are they going to go to limit one's ability to vote? If it really comes down to purifying the party, on a voting level all the way up to the elected officials, pretty soon there isn't going to be anyone left who's pure enough to be in the party," Diercks said.

Truck driver Pat Jordan supports many left-leaning goals, including universal healthcare, but said he only registers as a Republican.

"The best way to participate in meaningful change is to try to sway the dominant party," said Jordan, who lives in Niobrara County. "You know, we need to have a government that serves the people, all of them, not just Republicans and not just rural and not just urban and not just Democrats — and definitely not just the rich and the wealthy."

Last winter, dozens of locals gathered outside to honk and cheer as one Democrat left town. But they weren't cheering as Ed Fullmer was headed off for good.

Fullmer was on the high school boys basketball team bus as they left for the state championship. They lost, but Fullmer coached the Tigers to their best record in a decade, 20-8.

He said people know his views but rarely put him on the spot about politics.

"Most people don't want to dive into those type of discussions," he said. "They respect you for what you do, how you work."

Blackburn, for one, intends to hold her political ground, even as it shrinks around her.

"I am who I am, and I have the views that I have," she said. "And I don't care if it bothers people or not."

## Thousands of activists expected in Chicago for Democratic convention to call for Gaza ceasefire

By SOPHIA TAREEN Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Thousands of activists are expected to converge on Chicago this week for the Democratic National Convention, hoping to call attention to abortion rights, economic injustice and the war in Gaza.

While Vice President Kamala Harris has energized crowds of supporters as she prepares to accept the Democratic nomination, progressive activists maintain their mission remains the same.

Activists say they learned lessons from last month's Republican National Convention in Milwaukee and are predicting bigger crowds and more robust demonstrations in Chicago, a city with deep social activism roots.

Who is protesting?

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 50 of 80**

Demonstrations are expected every day of the convention and, while their agendas vary, many activists agree an immediate ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war is the priority.

Things are set to kick off Sunday on the convention's eve with an abortion rights march along iconic Michigan Avenue.

Organizer Linda Loew said even though Democrats have pushed to safeguard reproductive rights at home, the issue is international. They will march in solidarity with people everywhere who struggle for the right to control what happens to their bodies, as well as to protest the money the U.S. spends to back wars that could be used for healthcare, she said.

"We believe that the billions of dollars that continue to flow to the state of Israel and the flow of weapons are having an inordinate and horrific impact, but in particular on women, children and the unborn," she said. "All of these things are tied together."

The largest group, the Coalition to March on the DNC, has planned demonstrations on the first and last days of the convention.

Organizers say they expect at least 20,000 activists, including students who protested the war on college campuses.

"The people with power are going to be there," said Liz Rathburn, a University of Illinois Chicago student organizer. "People inside the United Center are the people who are going to be deciding our foreign policy in one way or another."

Where are they protesting?

Activists sued the city earlier this year, saying restrictions over where they can demonstrate violate their constitutional rights.

Chicago leaders rejected their requests for permits to protest near United Center on the city's West Side, where the convention is taking place, offering instead a lakefront park more than 3 miles (5 kilometers) away.

Later, the city agreed to allow demonstrations at a park and a march route closer to the United Center. A federal judge recently signed off on the group's roughly 1-mile (1.6-kilometer) route.

Coalition to March on the DNC spokesman Hatem Abudayyeh said the group is pleased they won the right to protest closer to the convention, but he believes their preferred 2-mile (3-kilometer) march would be safer for larger crowds. The group is chartering buses for activists from about half a dozen states.

"We're going forward, full speed ahead," he said.

The city has designated a park about a block from United Center for a speakers' stage. Those who sign up get 45 minutes.

The Philadelphia-based Poor People's Army, which advocates for economic justice, plans to set up at Humboldt Park on the city's Northwest Side and will feature events with third-party candidates Jill Stein and Cornel West, plus a 3-mile (5 kilometer) march Monday to the United Center.

Some group members have spent the last few weeks marching the more than 80 miles (130 kilometers) from Milwaukee, where they protested during the Republican convention.

"Poor and homeless people are being brutalized, with tents and encampments destroyed and bulldozed away, from San Francisco to Philadelphia to Gaza and the West Bank," spokesperson Cheri Honkala said in a statement as the group reached Illinois. "These preventable human rights violations are being committed by Democratic and Republican leaders alike."

How does a new nominee change things?

Many activists believe nothing much will change because Harris is part of the Biden administration.

"The demands haven't changed. I haven't seen any policy changes," said Erica Bentley, an activist with Mamas Activating Movements for Abolition and Solidarity. "If you're going to be here, you're going to have to listen to what's important to us."

Pro-Palestinian protesters in Chicago have been highly visible, shutting down roads to the airport and staging sit-ins at congressional offices. Some are planning their own one-day convention Sunday with third-party candidates.

"Regardless of who the nominee is, we're marching against the Democrats and their vicious policies that

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 51 of 80

have allowed Israel to kill over 40,000 Palestinians in Gaza," said Fayaani Aboma Mijana, an organizer with the Chicago Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression.

It's unclear if the convention will draw far-right extremists who ardently support former President Donald Trump.

Secret Service Deputy Special Agent in Charge Derek Mayer said last week there are no known specific security threats against the convention.

Is Chicago ready?

The convention will draw an estimated 50,000 people to the nation's third-largest city, including delegates, activists and journalists.

The city says it has made necessary preparations with police and the Secret Service. Security will be tight, with street closures around the convention center.

To combat traffic concerns, city leaders are touting a new \$80 million train station steps from the United Center. They also have tried to beautify the city with freshly planted flowers and new signs. City leaders also cleared a nearby homeless encampment.

Police have undergone training on constitutional policing, county courts say they are opening more space in anticipation of mass arrests and hospitals near the security zone are beefing up emergency preparedness.

But some have lingering safety concerns, worried that protests could become unpredictable or devolve into chaos.

"We're going to make sure that people have their First Amendment rights protected, that they can do that in a safe way," Mayor Brandon Johnson told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

Activist Hy Thurman protested and was arrested at the infamous 1968 convention, which is best remembered for brutal clashes between police and protesters opposing the Vietnam War. The 74-year-old now lives in Alabama but plans to come to Chicago to protest the war in Gaza.

"It's extremely personal for me," he said. "I see parallels."

## Harris and Trump offer worlds-apart contrasts on top issues in presidential race

By WILL WEISSERT, JILL COLVIN and SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Kamala Harris has replaced President Joe Biden atop the presidential ticket, but his "finish the job" campaign mantra can still largely apply to her top policy goals. She's promising to continue a lot of what Biden was doing during the past four years if she's elected to four of her own.

Former President Donald Trump, for his part, is itching to get back to the White House and accomplish what he didn't during his first term.

Since Biden stepped down last month, the vice president has announced few major policy proposals beyond a new push to prevent price gouging by food producers and grocers and plans to cut taxes for families, attempt to bring down homebuying and rental prices and reduce medical debt. Harris also used a recent rally in Las Vegas, where the economy runs on the hospitality industry, to call for ending taxes on tips paid to restaurant, hotel and other service employees. That came more than a month after Trump used his own Las Vegas rally to promise the same on tips.

Despite her lack of specifics on policy, the vice president has committed generally to some major policy positions on various matters, promising to sign sweeping legislation that's unlikely to clear Congress.

Those include measures codifying the federal right to an abortion, increasing the federal minimum wage, imposing an assault weapons ban, requiring universal background checks for firearm purchases and advancing several long-stalled voting rights measures.

While details are still rather vague, there's no doubt that whoever prevails in November will seek to shape the landscape of American life in ways wholly distinct from their opponent.

On nearly every issue, the choices — if the winner gets his or her way — are sharply defined.

The onward march of regulation and incentives to restrain climate change, or a slow walk if not an about-

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 52 of 80

face. Higher taxes on the super rich, or cuts to benefit high-wage earners. Abortion rights reaffirmed, or left to states to restrict or allow as each decides. Another attempt to legislate border security and orderly entry into the country, or massive deportations. A commitment to stand with Ukraine or let go.

Here's where each candidate stands on 10 top issues:

## Abortion

**HARRIS:** The vice president has called on Congress to pass legislation guaranteeing in federal law abortion access, a right that stood for nearly 50 years before being overturned by the Supreme Court. Like Biden, Harris has criticized bans on abortion in Republican-controlled states and promised as president to block any potential nationwide ban should one clear a future GOP-run Congress. Harris was the Democrats' most visible champion of abortion rights even while Biden was still in the race. She has promoted the administration's efforts short of federal law — including steps to protect women who travel to obtain abortions and limit how law enforcement collects medical records.

**TRUMP:** The former president often brags about appointing the Supreme Court justices who overturned *Roe v. Wade*, ending the constitutional right to an abortion. After dodging questions about when in pregnancy he believes the procedure should be restricted, Trump announced last spring that decisions on access and cutoffs should be left to the states. He said he would not sign a national abortion ban into law. But he's declined to say whether he would try to limit access to the abortion pill mifepristone. He told *Time* magazine that it should also be left up to states to determine whether to prosecute women for abortions or to monitor their pregnancies.

## Climate/Energy

**HARRIS:** As a senator from California, the vice president was an early sponsor of the Green New Deal, a sweeping series of proposals meant to swiftly move the U.S. to fully green energy that is championed by the Democratic Party's most progressive wing. Harris also said during her short-lived 2020 presidential campaign that she opposed offshore drilling for oil and hydraulic fracturing. But during her three and a half years as vice president, Harris has adopted more moderate positions, focusing instead on implementing the climate provisions of the Biden administration's Inflation Reduction Act. That provided nearly \$375 billion for things like financial incentives for electric cars and clean energy projects. The Biden administration has also enlisted more than 20,000 young people in a national "Climate Corps," a Peace Corps-like program to promote conservation through tasks such as weatherizing homes and repairing wetlands. Despite that, it's unlikely that the U.S. will be on track to meet Biden's goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030 — a benchmark that Harris hasn't talked about in the early part of her own White House bid.

**TRUMP:** His mantra for one of his top policy priorities: "DRILL, BABY, DRILL." Trump, who in the past cast climate change as a "hoax" and harbors a particular disdain for wind power, says it's his goal for the U.S. to have the cheapest energy and electricity in the world. He'd increase oil drilling on public lands, offer tax breaks to oil, gas and coal producers, speed the approval of natural gas pipelines and roll back the Biden administration's aggressive efforts to get people to switch to electric cars, which he argues have a place but shouldn't be forced on consumers. He has also pledged to re-exit the Paris Climate Accords, end wind subsidies and eliminate regulations imposed and proposed by the Biden administration targeting energy-inefficient kinds of lightbulbs, stoves, dishwashers and shower heads.

## Democracy/Rule of Law

**HARRIS:** Like Biden, Harris has decried Trump as a threat to the nation's democracy. But, in attacking her opponent, the vice president has leaned more heavily into her personal background as a prosecutor and contrasted that with Trump being found guilty of 34 felony counts in a New York hush money case and in being found liable for fraudulent business practices and sexual abuse in civil court. The vice president has also talked less frequently than Biden did about Trump's denial that he lost the 2020 presidential election and his spurring on the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the Capitol. When she's interrupted during rallies with supporters' "lock him up" chants directed at Trump, Harris responds that the courts can "handle that" and "our job is to beat him in November."

**TRUMP:** After refusing to accept his loss to Biden in 2020, Trump hasn't committed to accepting the results this time. He's repeatedly promised to pardon the Jan. 6 defendants jailed for assaulting police

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 53 of 80

officers and other crimes during the attack on the Capitol. He vows to overhaul the Justice Department and FBI "from the ground up," aggrieved by the criminal charges the department has brought against him. He also promises to deploy the National Guard to cities such as Chicago that are struggling with violent crime, and in response to protests, and has also vowed to appoint a special prosecutor to go after Biden.

Federal government

HARRIS: Like Biden, Harris has campaigned hard against "Project 2025," a plan authored by leading conservatives to move as swiftly as possible to dramatically remake the federal government and push it to the right if Trump wins back the White House. She is also part of an administration that is already taking steps to make it harder for any mass firings of civil servants to occur. In April, the Office of Personnel Management issued a new rule that would ban federal workers from being reclassified as political appointees or other at-will employees, thus making them easier to dismiss. That was in response to Schedule F, a 2020 executive order from Trump that reclassified tens of thousands of federal workers to make firing them easier.

TRUMP: The former president has sought to distance himself from "Project 2025," despite his close ties to many of its key architects. He has nonetheless vowed an overhaul of the federal bureaucracy, which he has long blamed for blocking his first term agenda, saying: "I will totally obliterate the deep state." The former president plans to reissue the Schedule F order stripping civil service protections. He says he'd then move to fire "rogue bureaucrats," including those who "weaponized our justice system," and the "warmongers and America-Last globalists in the Deep State, the Pentagon, the State Department, and the national security industrial complex." Trump has also pledged to terminate the Education Department and wants to curtail the independence of regulatory agencies like the Federal Communications Commission.

Immigration

HARRIS: Attempting to defuse a GOP line of political attack, the vice president has talked up her experience as California attorney general, saying she walked drug smuggler tunnels and successfully prosecuted gangs that moved narcotics and people across the border. Early in his term, Biden made Harris his administration's point person on the root causes of migration. Trump and top Republicans now blame Harris for a situation at the U.S.-Mexico border that they say is out of control due to policies that were too lenient. Harris has attempted to counter that by arguing that a bipartisan Senate compromise that would have included tougher asylum standards and hiring more border agents, immigration judges and asylum officers was poised to clear Congress before Trump came out in opposition to it. Harris now says that Trump "talks the talk, but doesn't walk the walk" on immigration. The vice president has endorsed comprehensive immigration reform, seeking pathways to citizenship for immigrants in the U.S. without legal status, with a faster track for young immigrants living in the country illegally who arrived as children.

TRUMP: The former president promises to mount the largest domestic deportation in U.S. history — an operation that could involve detention camps and the National Guard. He'd bring back policies he put in place during his first term, like the Remain in Mexico program and Title 42, which placed curbs on migrants on public health grounds. And he'd revive and expand the travel ban that originally targeted citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries. After the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel, he pledged new "ideological screening" for immigrants to bar "dangerous lunatics, haters, bigots, and maniacs." He'd also try to deport people who are in the U.S. legally but harbor "jihadist sympathies." He'd seek to end birthright citizenship for people born in the U.S. whose parents are both in the country illegally.

Israel/Gaza

HARRIS: Harris says Israel has a right to defend itself, and she's repeatedly decried Hamas as a terrorist organization. But the vice president might also have helped defuse some backlash from progressives by being more vocal about the need to better protect civilians during fighting in Gaza, where the civilian death toll has now exceeded 40,000. Like Biden, Harris supports a proposed hostage for extended cease-fire deal that aims to bring all remaining hostages and Israeli dead home. Biden and Harris say the deal could lead to a permanent end to the grinding nine-month war and they have endorsed a two-state solution, which would have Israel existing alongside an independent Palestinian state.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 54 of 80

TRUMP: The former president has expressed support for Israel's efforts to "destroy" Hamas, but he's also been critical of some of Israel's tactics. He says the country must finish the job quickly and get back to peace. He has called for more aggressive responses to pro-Palestinian protests at college campuses and applauded police efforts to clear encampments. Trump also proposes to revoke the student visas of those who espouse antisemitic or anti-American views.

LGBTQ+ issues

HARRIS: During her rallies, Harris accuses Trump and his party of seeking to roll back a long list of freedoms including the ability "to love who you love openly and with pride." She leads audiences in chants of "We're not going back." While her campaign has yet to produce specifics on its plans, she's been part of a Biden administration that regularly denounces discrimination and attacks against the LGBTQ+ community. Early in Biden's term, his administration reversed an executive order from Trump that had largely banned transgender people from military service, and his Education Department issued a rule that says Title IX, the 1972 law that was passed to protect women's rights, also bars discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. That rule was silent on the issue of transgender athletes.

TRUMP: The former president has pledged to keep transgender women out of women's sports and says he will ask Congress to pass a bill establishing that "only two genders," as determined at birth, are recognized by the United States. He promises to "defeat the toxic poison of gender ideology." As part of his crackdown on gender-affirming care, he would declare that any health care provider that participates in the "chemical or physical mutilation of minor youth" no longer meets federal health and safety standards and won't get federal money. He'd take similarly punitive steps in schools against any teacher or school official who "suggests to a child that they could be trapped in the wrong body." Trump would support a national prohibition of hormonal or surgical intervention for transgender minors and bar transgender people from military service.

NATO/Ukraine

HARRIS: The vice president has yet to specify how her positions on Russia's war with Ukraine might differ from Biden's, other than to praise the president's efforts to rebuild alliances unraveled by Trump, particularly NATO, a critical bulwark against Russian aggression. The Biden administration has pledged unceasing support for Ukraine against Russia's invasion. The government has sent tens of billions of dollars in military and other aid to Ukraine, including a tranche of aid that totaled \$61 billion in weapons, ammunition and other assistance that is expected to last through the end of this year. The administration has maintained that continuing U.S. assistance is critical because Russian leader Vladimir Putin will not stop at invading Ukraine. Harris has said previously that it would be foolish to risk global alliances the U.S. has established and decried Putin's "brutality."

TRUMP: The former president has repeatedly taken issue with U.S. aid to Ukraine and says he will continue to "fundamentally reevaluate" the mission and purpose of the NATO alliance if he returns to office. He has claimed, without explanation, that he will be able to end the war before his inauguration by bringing both sides to the negotiating table. (His approach seems to hinge on Ukraine giving up at least some of its Russian-occupied territory in exchange for a cease-fire.) On NATO, he has assailed member nations for years for failing to hit agreed-upon military spending targets. Trump drew alarms this year when he said that, as president, he had warned leaders that he would not only refuse to defend nations that don't hit those targets, but "would encourage" Russia "to do whatever the hell they want" to countries that are "delinquent."

Tariffs/Trade

HARRIS: Though she was critical of free trade deals before becoming vice president, Harris has more recently offered no signs that she'll oppose Biden's policies. That might mean adhering to some protectionist practices that offer similarities with Trump. Biden, for instance, endorsed a tripling of tariffs on Chinese steel, a move that would shield U.S. producers from cheaper imports. In May, the Biden-Harris administration said it would raise the tariff rate on steel and aluminum to 25% from 7.5%. Biden has also said he opposes the proposed acquisition of U.S. Steel by Japan's Nippon Steel, because it is "vital for it

to remain an American steel company that is domestically owned and operated.”

TRUMP: The former president wants a dramatic expansion of tariffs on nearly all imported foreign goods, saying that “we’re going to have 10% to 20% tariffs on foreign countries that have been ripping us off for years.” Penalties would increase if trade partners manipulate their currencies or engage in other unfair trading practices. He would also urge Congress to pass legislation giving the president authority to impose a reciprocal tariff on any country that imposes one on the U.S. Much of his trade agenda has focused on China. Trump has proposed phasing out Chinese imports of essential goods including electronics, steel and pharmaceuticals and wants to ban Chinese companies from owning U.S. infrastructure in sectors such as energy, technology and farmland. Whether higher tariffs come from a Biden administration or a Trump one, they are likely to raise prices for consumers who have already faced higher costs from inflation.

Taxes

HARRIS: The vice president has promised to work with state entities to cancel \$7 billion of medical debt for up to 3 million qualifying Americans and plans to push Congress to make permanent a \$3,600 per child tax credit approved through 2025 for eligible families. She also wants to offer a new \$6,000 tax credit for those with newborn children, and cut taxes for frontline workers and on healthcare plans offered on the marketplace created by the Affordable Care Act. Harris says her administration will expand tax credits for first-time homebuyers and push to build 3 million new housing units in four years, while wiping out taxes on tips and endorsing steeper taxes on corporations. That last part mirrors Biden, who proposed raising the corporate tax rate to 28% and the corporate minimum tax to 21% as a matter of “fundamental fairness” that will bring in more money to invest in Americans. The current corporate rate is 21% and the corporate minimum, raised under the Inflation Reduction Act, is at 15% for companies making more than \$1 billion a year. Harris has called for restoring the child tax credit that was enacted under the 2021 COVID-19 relief package, but has since expired.

TRUMP: The former president has promised to extend the 2017 tax cuts that he signed into law and are set to expire at the end of 2025. That package cut the corporate tax rate from 35% to 21% and roughly doubled the standard deduction and child tax credit. Those elements will remain until and unless a new law changes them, but many other tax cuts in Trump’s package will lapse without further action by Congress. Trump says he wants to trim the corporate tax rate further — to as low as 15% — and repeal any tax increases that occurred under Biden. Trump also promised to eliminate taxes on tipped income — though doing so would probably require congressional approval.

## **Hurricane Ernesto weakens into tropical storm as it moves away from Bermuda over open waters**

By MARIANA MARTÍNEZ BARBA Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Hurricane Ernesto weakened into a tropical storm late Saturday as it moved away from Bermuda over open waters of the Atlantic after crossing over the tiny British territory early in the day with heavy rains and strong winds.

Ernesto forced residents to stay indoors, and more than 23,000 people lost power, officials said. By late Saturday, the storm’s maximum sustained winds had decreased to 70 mph (110 kph). It was centered about 140 miles (225 kilometers) northeast of Bermuda and moving north-northeast at 8 mph (13 kph).

The National Hurricane Center had warned of strong winds, a dangerous storm surge and significant coastal flooding for Bermuda.

The center said 7 to 9 inches (17-22.5 centimeters) of rain was expected to fall on Bermuda. “This rainfall will likely result in considerable life-threatening flash flooding, especially in low-lying areas on the island,” it said.

Due to the large size of the storm and its slow movement, gusts sometimes up to hurricane force were expected through Saturday night and tropical storm-strength winds were expected to continue well into Sunday, the Bermuda government said.

Late Saturday afternoon, Michelle Pitcher, director of the Bermuda Weather Service, said wind gusts

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 56 of 80

were still reaching hurricane force. "It's still quite rough out there," she said.

A tropical storm warning would remain in place into the night, Pitcher said.

Premier David Burt shared a video on the social media platform X thanking emergency services and encouraging residents to stay inside.

"Overnight, there will still be tropical storm force winds, and we're asking everyone to please exercise caution," he said. "Remain at home."

BELCO, Bermuda's power company, said over 23,000 customers had no power as of Saturday night.

The hurricane center reported life-threatening surf and rip currents on the East Coast of the United States and Canada. Ernesto was expected to pass near southeastern Newfoundland by Monday night, and possibly could regain hurricane strength, it said.

Lana Morris, manager of Edgehill Manor Guest House in Bermuda, said conditions were calm, though the wind has started to pick up again. "I spoke to my guests, they told me they still have electricity, they have running water, and are comfortable."

Morris said she has been communicating with her guests via phone. "They do not have internet — but if the network is down, it's down. They are safe and I'm happy with that."

Bermuda is an archipelago of 181 tiny islands whose total land mass is roughly the size of Manhattan.

According to AccuWeather, it's uncommon for the eye of a hurricane to make landfall in Bermuda. It noted that, before today, since 1850 only 11 of 130 tropical storms that came within 100 miles (160 kilometers) of Bermuda had made landfall.

The territory is a renowned offshore financial center with sturdy construction, and given its elevation, storm surge is not as problematic as it is with low-lying islands.

Ernesto previously battered the northeast Caribbean, where it left tens of thousands of people without water in Puerto Rico.

LUMA, Puerto Rico's national power company, said it had restored more than 1.3 million customers' electricity 72 hours after the storm's passage.

After cleaning up and removing debris, the Virgin Islands Department of Education said all public schools would resume operations Monday.

Classes in Puerto Rico's public schools also were scheduled to start Monday, nearly a week after their original date.

Ernesto is the fifth named storm and the third hurricane of this year's Atlantic hurricane season.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has predicted an above-average Atlantic hurricane season this year because of record warm ocean temperatures. It forecast 17 to 25 named storms, with four to seven major hurricanes.

## Venezuelans in Caracas and across the world demonstrate to defend opposition's victory claim

By JORGE RUEDA and REGINA GARCIA CANO Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — Venezuelans across the world — some with flags and other patriotic paraphernalia — responded to a call from their country's political opposition Saturday and took to the streets to defend the faction's claim to victory over President Nicolás Maduro in last month's disputed presidential election.

The demonstrations in Tokyo, Sydney, Mexico City and several other cities were an effort by the main opposition coalition to make visible what they insist is the real outcome of the election. They also called on governments to throw their support behind candidate Edmundo González and express support to Venezuelans who are fearful in their home country of speaking against Maduro and his allies during a brutal repression campaign.

As thousands of Venezuelans waved the national flag, opposition leader María Corina Machado made her way through the streets of Caracas on a truck while shouting "brave" and "freedom." Then, before a crowd, she said it was the moment "that every vote is respected."



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 57 of 80

"Let the world and everyone in Venezuela recognize that the president-elect is Edmundo González," she said while being applauded by thousands of cheering supporters.

Earlier, González, the opposition candidate wrote on his X account: "They will not be able to cover up the reality of July 28: we won resoundingly." He didn't show up at the demonstration in Caracas.

In Mexico City's Monument to the Revolution downtown, hundreds of people young and old alike loudly repeated the chants for "Freedom! Freedom!" that dominated the opposition's rallies ahead of the election. "Maduro out! Maduro out!" they then screamed as motorists going by honked their horns.

"What is happening right now is that Venezuela woke up ... so much so that the government doesn't dare to show the tally sheets," Antonia Imbernon said, referring to the voting results documents that are considered the ultimate proof of results. "What are they afraid of?"

Venezuela's National Electoral Council, whose members are loyal to the ruling party, declared Maduro the winner of the July 28 election hours after polls closed. Unlike previous presidential elections, the electoral body has not released the tally sheets' detailed voting data to back up its claim that Maduro earned 6.4 million votes while González, who represented the Unitary Platform opposition coalition, garnered 5.3 million.

But González and opposition leader Maria Corina Machado shocked Venezuelans when they revealed they obtained more than 80% of the vote tally sheets issued by every electronic voting machine after polls closed. The documents, they said, showed González winning by a wide margin and were uploaded to a website for anyone to see.

Machado urged supporters to print the tally sheet from their voting station and take it to Saturday's demonstrations. In Mexico City, some held signs reproaching the decision by Mexico's government to not participate in a Friday hearing of the Organization of American States focused on Venezuela's election crisis.

"Mexico, we missed you at the OEA," a sign stated using the acronym in Spanish for the regional body.

The opposition has consistently expressed the need for the international community's help to get Maduro to accept the unfavorable results of the election.

"The derision is worse this time because there is proof; anyone can see them," said Janett Hurtado, 57, who left Venezuela two years ago, referring to the tally sheets. "(The government) took away other elections from us again."

Hurtado said she has noticed Venezuelans' fear to speak against Maduro following the widespread arrests across the South American country in connection with protests sparked by the election results. She said she has friends who have not sent her a single text message since then.

Security forces have rounded up more than 2,000 people for demonstrating against Maduro or casting doubt on his claim he won a third term despite strong evidence he lost the vote by a more than 2-to-1 margin. Another 24 have been killed, according to Venezuela-based human rights group Provea.

The spree of detentions — urged on by Maduro himself — is unprecedented, and puts Venezuela on pace to easily exceed those jailed during three previous crackdowns against Maduro's opponents.

Those arrested include journalists, political leaders, campaign staffers and an attorney defending protesters. Others have had their Venezuelan passports annulled trying to leave the country. One local activist even livestreamed her arrest by military intelligence officers as they broke into her home with a crowbar.

"It pains us to see what's happening," said Hurtado's daughter, Veronica Guedez, 19. "We are here to support us as brothers and sisters."

The opposition was dealt a blow Thursday when Brazil and Colombia — countries that had been pressuring Maduro to release vote tallies backing his claim to victory — began suggesting a repeat of the contest instead. But Machado categorically rejected any plan to redo the election, and she said that it would be "an insult" to the people.

## Trump zigzags between economic remarks and personal insults at rally in critical Pennsylvania

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON, MICHAEL RUBINKAM and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press  
WILKES-BARRE, Pa. (AP) — Former President Donald Trump on Saturday repeatedly swerved from a message focused on the economy into non sequiturs and personal attacks, including thrice declaring that he was better looking than Vice President Kamala Harris.

Trump wound back and forth between hitting his points on economic policy and delivering a smattering of insults and impressions of President Joe Biden and French President Emmanuel Macron as he held a rally in northeastern Pennsylvania.

The former president has seemed to struggle to adjust to his new opponent after Democrats replaced their nominee. Over the past week, he has diverged during campaign appearances away from the policies he was billed to speak about and instead diverted to a rotation of familiar attack lines and insults.

As he attacked Democrats for inflation at the top of his speech, Trump asked his crowd of supporters, "You don't mind if I go off teleprompter for a second, do you? Joe Biden hates her."

Joseph Costello, a spokesperson for the Harris campaign, responded to Trump in a statement by saying, "Another rally, same old show" and that Trump "resorts to lies, name-calling, and confused rants," because he can't sell his agenda.

"The more Americans hear Trump speak, the clearer the choice this November: Vice President Harris is unifying voters with her positive vision to protect our freedoms, build up the middle class, and move America forward — and Donald Trump is trying to take us backwards," Costello said.

Trump's rally in Wilkes-Barre was in a swath of a pivotal battleground state where he hopes conservative, white working-class voters near Biden's hometown of Scranton will boost the Republican's chances of winning back the White House.

His remarks Saturday came as Democrats prepare for their four-day national convention that kicks off Monday in Chicago and will mark the party's welcoming of Harris as their nominee. Her replacement of Biden less than four months before the November election has reinvigorated Democrats and their coalition. It has also presented a new challenge for Trump.

Trump hammered Harris on the economy, associating her with the Biden administration's inflation woes and likening her latest proposal against price gouging to measures in communist nations. Trump has said a federal ban on price gouging for groceries would lead to food shortages, rationing and hunger. On Saturday asked why she hadn't worked to solve prices when she and Biden were sworn into office in 2021.

"Day one for Kamala was three and a half years ago. So why didn't she do it then? So this is day 1,305," Trump said.

To address high prices, Trump said he would sign an executive order on his first day sworn in as president "directing every cabinet secretary and agency head to use every power we have to drive prices down, but we're going to drive them down in a capitalist way, not in a communist way," he said.

He predicted financial ruin for the country, and Pennsylvania in particular, if Harris wins, citing her past opposition to fracking, an oil and gas extraction process commonly used in the state. Her campaign has tried to soften her stance on fracking, saying she would not ban it, even though that was her position when she was seeking the 2020 presidential nomination.

"Your state's going to be ruined anyway. She's totally anti-fracking," Trump said.

But he also meandered, going from ripping the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021 to doing impressions of Macron's French accent.

Trump laced in attacks on Harris' laugh and said she was "not a very good wordsmith" and mocked the names of the CNN anchors who moderated the debate he had with Biden in June.

When he began musing on Harris' recent image on the cover of Time magazine, he commented on the picture's resemblance to classic Hollywood icons Sophia Loren and Elizabeth Taylor and then took issue with a Wall Street Journal columnist remarking earlier this month on Harris' beauty.

"I am much better looking than her," Trump said, drawing laughs from the crowd. "I'm a better looking

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 59 of 80

person than Kamala.”

He also took issue with the way his style is typically portrayed in news reports.

“They will say he’s rambling. I don’t ramble. I’m a really smart guy,” he said.

Trump’s Saturday rally was his fifth at the arena in Wilkes-Barre, the largest city in Luzerne County, where he has had victories in the past two elections. Biden bested Trump in neighboring Lackawanna County, where the Democrat has long promoted his working-class roots in Scranton.

On Sunday, Harris plans a bus tour starting in Pittsburgh, with a stop in Rochester, a small town to the north. Trump has scheduled a visit Monday to a plant that manufactures nuclear fuel containers in York. Trump’s running mate JD Vance is expected to be in Philadelphia that day.

Some of Biden’s loyal supporters in Scranton, a former industrial city of 76,000, were upset to see party leaders put pressure on the president to step aside.

Diane Munley, 63, says she called dozens of members of Congress to vouch for Biden. Munley eventually came to terms with Biden’s decision and is now very supportive of Harris.

“I can’t deny the enthusiasm that’s been going on with this ticket right now. I am so into it,” Munley said. “It just wasn’t happening with Joe, and I couldn’t see it at the time because I was so connected to him.”

Robert A. Bridy, 64, a laborer from Shamokin, Pennsylvania, traveled on Saturday to the rally to show support for Trump. He said the election feels tight in this state and added that his union and a close friend are trying to convince him to vote for Harris and other Democrats, but he has voted for Trump since 2016.

Bridy called Trump a “working class guy like us.” Trump is a billionaire who built his fortune in real estate.

“He’s a fighter,” Bridy said. “I’d like to see the closed borders. He doesn’t mess around. He goes at it right away and takes care of business the way it should be.”

Price reported from New York. Associated Press writers Bill Barrow in Atlanta and Darlene Superville in Arlington, Virginia contributed to this report.

## Walz touts Nebraska roots in visit to his home state where there’s a battle over one electoral vote

By JOSH FUNK Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. (AP) — Tim Walz touted his Nebraska roots Saturday in his first trip back to his home state since becoming the Democratic vice presidential nominee, and drew sharp contrasts between Kamala Harris and Donald Trump.

Playing to the crowd, Walz noted his love of Nebraska football and joked about the historical significance of the Stonehenge replica built out of classic cars known as Carhenge that sits near where he taught in the Panhandle. He then emphasized the values he learned growing up of helping neighbors and minding everyone’s own business.

“More than anything else — just like here in Nebraska — Minnesota’s strength comes from our values,” he said about the state he serves as governor.

Walz stressed that he and Harris believe in helping all Americans succeed — not just the millionaires and billionaires he said Trump and the GOP want to help. It was all part of his appeal for the lone electoral vote in Omaha’s swing Second Congressional District that can be split off from the rest of the heavily Republican state that Democrats Joe Biden secured in 2020 and Barack Obama in 2008. That swing vote is sure to be contested. Republican vice presidential candidate JD Vance is expected to visit Omaha next week for a private fundraiser hosted by Nebraska Sen. Pete Ricketts.

“I think it just proves the importance that we as the blue dot — CD2 — has,” Omaha teacher Wes Jensen said.

Going after Republicans as intrusive in people’s everyday lives, Walz said the fact they want to make decisions about Americans’ health care including abortion rights and try to hurt Social Security is “not just weird, it’s dangerous. And when they try to overturn elections, that’s not just weird, it’s un-American.”

He said Trump and his fellow Republicans are “super concerned with our bedrooms, our exam rooms and libraries.”

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 60 of 80

Nebraska Democrats Chairwoman Jane Kleeb joked near the start of the event that Omaha has a new nickname, "Kamaha," as she encouraged everyone at the rally to work hard to elect Harris and Walz in November.

Supporters hope Walz's knowledge of rural America — he grew up in the small towns of Valentine and Butte in the Sandhills — could help Democrats appeal to wide swaths of Republican strongholds where they have rarely been competitive in recent elections.

Former state Sen. Al Davis, who represented the Panhandle town of Alliance where Walz taught for six years before moving to Minnesota after meeting his wife, said he thinks Walz "can speak to rural parts of the country in ways that other candidates never could do." He added, "so I'm hoping that that will turn some votes in rural parts of Nebraska and across the Midwest."

Alliance residents are planning a local rally of their own next week to watch Walz speak at the Democratic convention in Chicago.

Even before Walz took the stage in Omaha, the Republican National Committee accused the Harris-Walz ticket of not representing "Midwestern values" and said Nebraska voters "will send a resounding message" when they help put the former president back in office.

Bill McCamley of Lincoln said he remembers that Walz was interested in government when he taught him social studies in the seventh grade in Valentine but he never expected him to go on to become governor or perhaps vice president someday.

McCamley said Walz came up with the idea on his own in the seventh grade to build a veterans memorial for everyone from Cherry County who had served in the military, and then he convinced local leaders to build a sidewalk for the memorial.

"I went with him, but he did the job. He talked to them and said this is that idea. This is what I want to do," McCamley said. "Then he ... got them to agree to go along with it. I thought that was pretty impressive."

McCamley had to call the state Democratic Party to get access to Saturday's rally after the online registration system was shut down once 10,000 had expressed interest in attending the rally at a theater in the Omaha suburb of La Vista that's only designed to hold about 2,500 people. However unlikely it was, McCamley hoped for a chance to reconnect with his former student and jokingly confront him about a valentine he gave his daughter, Julie Long, when the two dated in the seventh grade.

Long said she hung onto the valentine Walz gave her for a lot of years because the message declaring, "Ours is a strange and wonderful relationship," made her laugh. On the inside, the card said, "You're strange and I'm wonderful."

"That kind of sums up his humor," said Long who used to compete with Walz to see which one of them was smarter because her dad was a teacher and his was the superintendent there.

They both moved away in high school and Long lost track of Walz — outside of a chance meeting when both of them lived in the Panhandle — until she noticed him showing up in the news as governor dealing with difficult problems like the protests that followed George Floyd's murder at the hands of Minneapolis police.

After dealing with that unrest and managing to pass key priorities like protections for abortion and free lunches for school kids, Walz has a long list of accomplishments that will appeal to Democratic voters.

But Long said Walz might also appeal to Republicans because he is smart, funny and cares about helping people.

"I think if people are willing to listen — really listen — to the things that he says and, and those kinds of things, that it will open some doors," said Long who now lives in Hot Springs, South Dakota.

## Caleb Williams runs for TD, leads 2 scoring drives as Bears beat Bengals 27-3

By ANDREW SELIGMAN AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Caleb Williams looked downfield and saw nobody open. He spun and hit Rome Odunze deep on the run, one prized rookie connecting with another on a 45-yard pass.

It was just the sort of play Chicago hopes to see on a consistent basis.

Williams made another good impression in his first appearance at Soldier Field since being drafted with the No. 1 overall pick, running for a touchdown and leading two scoring drives, and the Bears beat the Cincinnati Bengals 27-3 on Saturday.

Williams got off to a slow start coming off an impressive and brief showing last week at Buffalo in his first preseason appearance. Chicago went three-and-out on its first three possessions on a rainy afternoon. The former USC star then showed the arm and elusiveness the Bears are banking on, leading them to a field goal and scrambling for a touchdown.

Williams completed 6 of 13 passes for 75 yards against Cincinnati's backups, including the 45-yarder to Odunze. That set up a 7-yard touchdown scramble late in the second quarter.

"We're going to be explosive," Williams said. "We're two rooks, but we're trying to catch up to some older guys as fast as we can. We've got to make sure we're right there on par with them, to be able to be efficient, function, got out there and be explosive, be on the same page and win games. Ultimately that's what we're here to do. And to have a guy like that who was drafted with me, we're going to keep growing and keep building this connection."

Odunze, the No. 9 overall draft pick, also had a 16-yard run on an end-around to help set up a field goal. Khalil Herbert carried five times for 31 yards.

Tyson Bagent started the second half for Chicago and threw two touchdown passes to Dante Pettis. He was 7 of 8 for 87 yards with a 151.6 rating before Brett Rypien took over midway through the fourth.

Simone Biles, fresh off winning three more Olympic gold medals in Paris and wearing a Green Bay Packers jacket, cheered on her husband, safety Jonathan Owens from the Chicago sideline. The jacket had an image of Owens, who signed with Chicago after spending last year with the rival Packers.

"She hasn't been around much so she doesn't have a lot of Bears gear and she was just supporting me," he said. "That was all about her showing her support of her husband. We're going to have to get her some more Bears gear."

Logan Woodside started at quarterback for Cincinnati with the Bengals holding out Joe Burrow and backup Jake Browning out with a rib injury. He was 17 of 25 for 132 yards and two interceptions before Rocky Lombardi took over late in the third.

Evan McPherson, armed with a three-year, \$16.5 million contract extension, kicked a 54-yard field goal at the end of the first half.

Second-round draft pick Kris Jenkins Jr. sacked Williams. The Bengals committed 11 penalties for 123 yards, and that frustrated coach Zac Taylor even though the starters weren't playing.

"There were just some things that should be avoidable," he said. "It has nothing to do with talent, it has nothing to do with scheme. We just have to do a better job operationally handling some of those situations."

Williams and the Bears got going early in the second quarter, after Amen Ogbongbemiga picked off a pass deep in Chicago territory. The Bengals were on the 22 when Josh Blackwell hit Woodside as he threw, and the ball popped up, leading to the interception.

Chicago took over at the 26. A 43-yard pass interference penalty against Josh Newton trying to defend a throw to Tyler Scott put the ball on the 15, leading to a field goal for the Bears.

The Bears added to their lead on their next drive when Williams, throwing on the run, hit Odunze deep along the left sideline. The 45-yard completion was his longest of the preseason.

Williams then spun away from two defenders on third down for a 7-yard touchdown, making it 10-0.

"It's pretty unreal, honestly," Odunze said. "I just watched it back. Man he's throwing off of one leg, putting it on my outside shoulder. It's like, oooh! It's magical what he's doing back there in that backfield."

He's special."

UP NEXT

Bengals: Host Indianapolis on Thursday.

Bears: Visit Kansas City on Thursday.

## **An Israeli airstrike kills 18 members of a family in Gaza as mediators hope for a cease-fire**

By WAFYA SHURAFYA and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — An Israel airstrike in Gaza killed at least 18 people, all from the same family, on Saturday, hours after mediators expressed optimism for an imminent cease-fire deal between Israel and Hamas after 10 months of war.

A joint statement by mediators the United States, Egypt and Qatar after two days of talks said a proposal to bridge gaps was presented and they expect to work out implementation details next week in Cairo.

The mediation efforts aim to secure the release of scores of Israeli hostages and stop the fighting that has devastated Gaza, where the death toll has surpassed 40,000 and a possible polio outbreak is feared. Talks are also meant to calm regional tensions that have threatened to explode into a wider war if Iran and Hezbollah militants in Lebanon attack Israel in retaliation for recent killings of militant leaders.

Saturday's airstrike hit a house and adjacent warehouse sheltering displaced people at the entrance to the town of Zawaida, according to the Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital in Deir al-Balah, where casualties were taken. An Associated Press reporter there counted the dead.

Among those killed was Sami Jawad al-Ejlah, a wholesaler who coordinated with the Israeli military to bring meat and fish to Gaza. The dead also included his two wives, 11 of their children ages 2 to 22, the children's grandmother and three other relatives, according to a list provided by the hospital.

"He was a peaceful man," said Abu Ahmed, a neighbor. More than 40 civilians were sheltering in the house and warehouse at the time, he said.

The Israeli military, which rarely comments on individual strikes, said it struck "terrorist infrastructure" in central Gaza where rockets had been fired toward Israel in recent weeks. It said it was continuing attacks on militants in central Gaza.

Another mass evacuation is ordered in Gaza

Another mass evacuation was ordered for parts of central Gaza. Israeli military spokesperson Avichay Adraee in a post on X said cited Palestinian rocket fire and said Palestinians in areas in and around the urban Maghazi refugee camp should leave.

"The suffering began from the day we left our homes," said Ahmad Omrani, one of those affected by the order, as heavily laden vehicles, bikes and donkey carts weaved through the rubble. "We suffer from fear and anxiety, and fear for the children playing in the street. You cannot sleep, sit or eat well."

The vast majority of Gaza's population has been displaced, often multiple times, and around 84% of the territory has been put under evacuation orders by the Israeli military, according to the United Nations.

The war began when Hamas-led militants stormed across the border on Oct. 7, killing about 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and abducting 250 to Gaza. More than 100 were released in a November cease-fire. Around 110 are believed to be in Gaza, though Israeli authorities believe around a third are dead.

Israel says it has killed more than 17,000 Hamas militants, without providing evidence.

Gaza's Health Ministry said at least 40,074 Palestinians have been killed in the war. The ministry does not distinguish between fighters and civilians.

In the Israeli-occupied West Bank, Israel's military said it struck a "terrorist cell" in Jenin. The health ministry there said two bodies were taken to a government hospital. Hamas claimed the two men as commanders in its military wing.

Cease-fire and implementation plans

Mediators have spent months pursuing a three-phase plan in which Hamas would release the hostages in exchange for a lasting cease-fire, the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and the release of Pales-

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 63 of 80

tinians imprisoned by Israel.

Efforts took on new urgency in recent weeks after the killing of a top Hezbollah commander in an Israeli airstrike in Beirut and of Hamas' top political leader in an explosion in Tehran that was widely blamed on Israel.

Israel and Hezbollah have traded fire since the war started. An Israeli strike Saturday killed at least 10 Syrians, including a woman and her two children, Lebanon's Health Ministry said. Israel said it targeted a Hezbollah weapons depot.

In an apparent sign of confidence, mediators were beginning preparations for implementing the cease-fire proposal even before its approval, said an American official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in keeping with rules set by the White House.

Israel's negotiating team expressed to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu "cautious optimism for the possibility to move toward a deal," a statement from his office said.

An Israeli official said a delegation was set to travel to Cairo on Sunday to continue talks. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because they weren't authorized to discuss the sensitive talks with the media.

But Hamas has cast doubt on whether an agreement was near, saying the latest proposal diverged significantly from a previous iteration they had accepted in principle. Hamas has rejected Israel's demands that include a lasting military presence along the border with Egypt and a line bisecting Gaza where it would search Palestinians returning to their homes to find militants.

Israel showed flexibility on retreating from the border corridor, and a meeting between Egyptian and Israeli military officials was scheduled for next week to agree on a withdrawal mechanism, according to two Egyptian officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss the private negotiations.

Thousands of Israelis demonstrated again Saturday night for a cease-fire deal. "We need also the cease-fire for our security because the army is not capable to fight so many months," said protester Uri Aluma.

## **Ex-Rep. George Santos expected to plead guilty to multiple counts in fraud case, AP source says**

By SUSAN HAIGH Associated Press

Former U.S. Rep. George Santos is expected to plead guilty to multiple counts in his federal fraud case, according to a person familiar with the matter.

Santos, a Republican from New York, is expected to enter the plea at a court hearing planned for Monday on Long Island, the person said.

The person could not publicly discuss details of the plea and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Messages were left seeking comment from Santos and three lawyers representing the former congressman.

The court hearing was scheduled for Monday afternoon after prosecutors and Santos' lawyers jointly requested one on Friday. They also sought and received a delay in certain pre-trial deadlines.

The news comes just weeks before jury selection was set to begin on Sept. 9. Santos has previously pleaded not guilty to a range of financial crimes, including lying to Congress about his wealth, collecting unemployment benefits while actually working and using campaign contributions to pay for personal expenses such as designer clothing.

Among the charges Santos faces are wire fraud, theft of public funds, money laundering and aggravated identify theft.

Prosecutors recently told the judge that the trial could last three weeks because they expected to call at least three dozen witnesses, including some victims of Santos' alleged crimes.

Santos has previously maintained his innocence and called the investigation a "witch hunt," claims that prosecutors called "baseless" in a recent court filing. But in December, when prosecutors said plea nego-

tiations were ongoing, Santos said in an interview at that time that a deal was “not off the table.”

Asked if he was afraid of going to prison, he said: “I think everybody should be afraid of going to jail, it’s not a pretty place and uh, I definitely want to work very hard to avoid that as best as possible.”

Earlier this week, Judge Joanna Seybert rejected Santos’ request that potential jurors fill out a written questionnaire gauging their opinions of him. His lawyers argued in court filings it was necessary because “for all intents and purposes, Santos has already been found guilty in the court of public opinion.”

Lawyers for the government had also been seeking to admit as evidence some of the lies Santos made during his campaign. Before he was elected in 2022 to represent parts of Queens and Long Island, he falsely claimed to have graduated from both New York University and Baruch College and that he had worked at top Wall Street firms.

Two campaign aides to Santos have already pleaded guilty to crimes related to the former congressman’s campaign. Last October, his ex-treasurer, Nancy Marks, pleaded guilty to a fraud conspiracy charge and implicated Santos in a scheme to embellish his campaign finance reports with a fake loan and fake donors. A lawyer for Marks said at the time his client would be willing to testify against Santos if asked, saying she had been “mentally seduced” by Santos.

A month later, Sam Miele, a former fundraiser for Santos, pleaded guilty to a federal wire fraud charge, admitting he impersonated a high-ranking congressional aide while raising campaign cash for Santos.

The New York Republican was expelled from Congress in December after an ethics investigation found “overwhelming evidence” he had broken the law and exploited his public position for his own profit.

## **The pro-Palestinian ‘uncommitted’ movement is at a standstill with top Democrats as the DNC begins**

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI Associated Press

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) — Of the thousands of delegates expected to gather Monday at the Democratic National Convention, just 36 will belong to the “uncommitted” movement sparked by dissatisfaction with President Joe Biden’s handling of the Israel-Hamas war.

But that small core has outsized influence.

Anger over U.S. backing for Israel’s offensive in Gaza could generate unwelcome images for convention organizers, with raucous protests expected outside and potentially inside the Chicago arena where Harris will accept the nomination Thursday.

Top Democrats have spent weeks meeting with “uncommitted” voters and their allies — including a previously unreported sit-down between Vice President Kamala Harris and the mayor of Dearborn, Michigan — in an effort to respond to criticism in key swing states like Michigan, which has a significant Arab American population.

Weeks of meetings and calls between pro-Palestinian activists and the Harris campaign have yielded progress in some areas, but their core policy demands remain unmet. The activists want Harris to endorse an arms embargo to Israel and a permanent cease-fire. Harris has supported Biden’s negotiations for a cease-fire but rejected an arms embargo.

Rima Mohammad, one of Michigan’s two “uncommitted” delegates, said she sees the convention as a chance to share their movement’s concerns with the party leadership.

“It is a way for protesters outside to be able to share their frustration with the party,” she said.

The Democratic nominee meets a key Arab American mayor

Questions remain about the leverage “uncommitted” voters hold now that Biden has stepped aside and Harris has taken his place. Democrats have seen a significant surge in enthusiasm for Harris’ campaign and concerns about voter apathy in key areas, such as Detroit’s large Black population, appear to have diminished.

But Harris and her team have still made communication with Arab American leaders a priority.

During a campaign trip to Michigan last week, Harris met with Abdullah Hammoud, the 34-year-old mayor of Dearborn, a Detroit suburb that has the largest number of Arab Americans of any city in the United



# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 65 of 80

States. The meeting was disclosed by a person who was not authorized to discuss it publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The person familiar with the meeting did not provide specific details but said the focus was on Harris' potential policy, if elected, on the Israel-Hamas conflict. Hammoud declined to comment.

"Vice President Harris supports the deals currently on the table for a permanent cease-fire in Gaza and for the release of hostages," her campaign said in a statement. "She will continue to meet with leaders from Palestinian, Muslim, Israeli and Jewish communities, as she has throughout her vice presidency."

According to a source familiar with convention planning, two panel discussions will take place during the convention in Chicago: one addressing Arab and Palestinian issues with leaders from the "Uncommitted" movement, and another focused on Jewish American issues, including the rise in antisemitism and hate speech.

Campaign manager Julie Chavez Rodriguez on Thursday held separate one-on-one meetings with leaders in the Arab American community and "uncommitted" movement in metro Detroit.

"They are listening and we are talking," said Osama Siblani, publisher of The Arab American News, who met with Chavez Rodriguez. "But none of us can garner votes in the community without public statements from Harris. She doesn't need us; she can win over votes by saying and doing the right thing."

According to Siblani, Chavez Rodriguez agreed that "the killing has to stop." In response, Siblani said he pressed: "How? There is no plan."

Lavora Barnes, the Democratic chair in Michigan, said the party would "continue working toward our goal of coming together to defeat Donald Trump and Republicans up and down the ballot."

"We are committed to continuing these conversations with community leaders, activists and organizations because we want to ensure that everyone in the Michigan Democratic Party has a seat at the table," Barnes said in a statement.

No agreement on an arms embargo

Some on the Democratic Party's left have called for including a moratorium on the use of U.S.-made weapons by Israel in the platform of policy goals that will be approved during next week's convention. But such language isn't included in a draft platform party officials released earlier this summer, and it's unlikely that those close to Harris' campaign would endorse including it.

The Uncommitted National Movement has also requested a speaking slot at the convention for a doctor who has worked on the frontlines in Gaza, along with a leader of the movement. And they have asked for a meeting with Harris "to discuss updating the Gaza policy in hopes of stopping the flow of unconditional weapons and bombs" to Israel, said Abbas Alawieh, another "uncommitted" delegate from Michigan and one of the founders of the movement.

Before a Harris rally just outside Detroit last week, Alawieh and Layla Elabed, co-founders of the movement, briefly met with the vice president. They requested a formal meeting with Harris and urged her to support an embargo on weapons shipments to Israel. According to them, Harris seemed open to the idea of meeting.

However, shortly after news of the meeting became public, Harris' national security adviser Phil Gordon reaffirmed that she does not support an arms embargo. Alawieh mentioned Wednesday that the group has not received any further response from Harris' team or the DNC regarding their requests ahead of the convention.

Since then, leaders of the "Uncommitted" movement have met with senior staff from the DNC and the Harris campaign to discuss their requests.

"I hope she doesn't miss the opportunity to unite the party," said Alawieh.

The Trump campaign continues its outreach

Elsewhere in metro Detroit this week, Massad Boulos, the father-in-law of Trump's youngest daughter and now a leader in his Arab American outreach, was holding meetings with various community groups. Boulos has come to Michigan often for the outreach, along with Arab Americans for Trump chair Bishara Bahbah.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 66 of 80

According to Bahbah, their pitch highlights the situation in Gaza under Biden's administration and a promise from Trump's team to give the community a seat at the table if he wins.

"We have been told by the Trump circle, which is not part of the campaign, that in return for our votes, there would be a seat at the table and a voice to be heard," said Bahbah.

But any apparent political opportunity for Trump in the Arab American community or the "uncommitted" movement may be limited by his past remarks and policies.

Many Arabs remain offended by Trump's ban, while in office, on immigration from several majority Muslim countries as well as remarks they consider insulting. Trump also has criticized Biden for not being a strong enough supporter of Israel.

Speaking to an audience of Jewish supporters Thursday, Trump painted the protesters expected in Chicago as antisemitic and invoked an Arabic term that is sometimes used by Muslims to mean war or struggle.

"There will be no jihad coming to America under Trump," he said.

But Bahbah acknowledges that his and Boulos' strategy isn't necessarily aimed at converting voters to support Trump — but to stop them from voting for Harris.

"If I can't convince people to vote for Trump, having them sit at home is better," said Bahbah.

## **Bird flu restrictions cause heartache for 4-H kids unable to show off livestock at fairs across US**

By JOEY CAPPELLETTI and MIKE HOUSEHOLDER Associated Press

EVART, Mich. (AP) — Alison Smith stared at the virtually empty dairy barn inside the Osceola County Fairgrounds, once bustling with teens and preteens preparing to show their prized animals but now eerily silent as an invisible virus once again interfered with a cherished summertime rite.

Smith, a 16-year-old from the Grand Rapids, Michigan, area, had invested a significant amount of time over the past year preparing two heifers, Evergreen and Perfect, for competition at the fair. But like hundreds of fairs nationwide, a recent bird flu outbreak, now spreading among mammals, forced significant changes — or outright cancellations — of the livestock contests that are a hallmark of summer fairs.

"Normally, we have a million cows in here," Smith said. "And just a lot of people talking and having fun catching up in the dairy barn."

States have tightened restrictions on dairy cows following the bird flu outbreak that has spread to millions of poultry flocks nationwide and nearly 200 dairy herds across 13 U.S. states since March. More than a dozen farmworkers also have been infected this year, with all experiencing relatively mild symptoms.

The risk to humans from the bird flu virus remains low, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The virus has further strained businesses already battered by pandemic disruptions, leading to millions of dollars in losses and worker layoffs. Michigan's largest egg producer, Herbruck's Poultry Ranch, laid off close to 400 employees following an outbreak of bird flu at their farms.

It also has disrupted long-standing family traditions, such as those cherished by Smith, who has been exhibiting heifers, cows, pigs and dairy steers at fairs for a decade.

"Unfortunately, this will be my second year that I haven't been able to show because of COVID in 2020. And then this year the bird flu," Smith said.

When Jacob Stieg, the Osceola 4-H coordinator, sent out an email detailing the state's limits on showing lactating cattle at fairs, Smith's reaction was, "Oh, my gosh. This is another year that I can't show."

"It's kind of sad, really. I miss it a lot and all the memories we've made in this barn," Smith added, pointing to the now-empty stall where her cow, Extraordinaire, was housed last year. She won the Supreme Grand Champion award a year ago at the fair held just under three hours northwest of Detroit.

"I was trying to think of the positives," she said. "I couldn't really find any."

Michigan has been among the hardest-hit states, with two farmworkers infected and 27 livestock herds affected.

The state ordered strict testing and public health measures, including banning the exhibition of lactat-

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 67 of 80

ing dairy cattle and those in the final two months of pregnancy until Michigan dairy cows have gone 60 consecutive days without new bird flu cases. All other cattle must test negative within seven days before being shown.

The restrictions didn't outright ban dairy cattle shows at fairs, but some in the state opted to cancel the competitions, according to Kendra Van Order, the 4-H dairy science educator for Michigan State University Extension.

Fairs in other states have made changes to try to lessen the chances of flu spreading among livestock, or to people.

In some states, including Iowa, Wisconsin and Minnesota, lactating dairy cows are still allowed at fairs, but only if they have proof of negative flu tests in the week before they arrive.

The "Miracle of Birth Center" at the Minnesota State Fair excluded birthing cows and newborn calves from the popular exhibit as a precaution against bird flu. Iowa's state fair canceled two attractions, a milking parlor and an "I Milked a Cow" experience that let people interact with lactating cows.

In July, the CDC suggested fair exhibitors and organizers take steps to protect livestock and people, including limiting animals' time at fairs and avoiding direct contact with animals when possible. That came on the heels of guidance from the U.S. Agriculture Department stressing testing and biosecurity measures.

Van Order, who coordinates with fairs through her role at Michigan State, grew up exhibiting beef cattle and sheep at local, state and national gatherings. Caring for livestock requires daily commitment, "whether it snows, it rains, or if they're sick," she said.

Owning and exhibiting livestock "teaches young people to care for things other than themselves," Van Order said. "A lot goes into it. And just that drive of wanting to be competitive and do something that you really love to do, to have that opportunity maybe not be there can be very heartbreaking."

But part of life, Van Order said, is about dealing with disappointment. Working with fairs across the state, she and her team developed a list of alternative activities that local fairs could offer in place of traditional showings. They include quiz bowls, photography contests and recorded showmanship.

Though the alternative activities helped bring competitors together, it's "not the same," Smith noted. Youth can participate in 4-H activities up until age 19 and with only a few years left before she ages out, Smith hopes 2025 will be different.

"I'm not sure what's going to happen next year. I assume they'll have a better idea of what to do about the dairy, and hopefully, they'll let us come back, but it's probably going to be around next year," she said. "So, just like COVID, I don't know what next year's going to hold."

## Strategist who ran DeSantis' ill-fated bid is working with Musk to help organize voters for Trump

By THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

Ron DeSantis' senior political aides were gathered last year at the Florida governor's campaign headquarters, an office across the street from a Red Lobster on Tallahassee's north side, planning the announcement of his candidacy for president.

Some wanted the Republican to go a baseball stadium in Tampa, near where he grew up and starred in Little League, for what they hoped would be a photogenic rally with his young family. Campaign manager Generra Peck supported a different idea, according to people familiar with the matter — one she had quietly been working on for weeks with Elon Musk, the then-new owner of the platform still known at the time as Twitter. The people spoke on condition of anonymity to disclose internal deliberations.

DeSantis opted for an audio-only conversation with Musk on Twitter Spaces. Initially drawing interest and curiosity, the call was a disaster. The feed crashed due to technical glitches, creating an inauspicious opening for what would ultimately be DeSantis' ill-fated campaign.

Peck, who was demoted three months into DeSantis' candidacy, and Musk are now working together again, this time on a super political action committee, America PAC, dedicated to electing Donald Trump, who beat DeSantis on his way to winning this year's Republican nomination.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 68 of 80

Trump's campaign is largely leaving paid canvassing and get-out-the-vote efforts to outside groups such as America PAC, relying on new guidance from the Federal Election Commission that allows campaigns to coordinate with outside groups in ways that were previously not allowed. But in doing so, the campaign has outsourced a core function to a coterie of untested groups that operate independently. Indeed, DeSantis' decision to have an outside group canvass for him was attributed as one of the reasons his presidential bid failed.

The small margins that an effective turnout program can achieve could be especially important in a tight presidential race with Vice President Kamala Harris, the Democratic nominee, drawing more enthusiasm than when President Joe Biden was seeking reelection.

America PAC works to identify likely Trump supporters

America PAC has a charge of identifying likely Trump supporters in key states through door-to-door canvassing and digital outreach. It is among a handful of organizations to which Trump's team has ceded most of the organizational effort, including Turning Point Action and Faith and Freedom Coalition.

Its work — and Musk's role — have drawn an unusual level of interest.

"America PAC is utilizing the data it collects to register voters and encourage them to vote," lawyers for the group wrote in an Aug. 7 letter sent to a staffer for Michigan Secretary of State Jocelyn Benson, whose office was cited in an Aug. 4 CNBC story as investigating the group's efforts. "Admittedly, not all our plans or strategies are public at this time, but any investigation into our efforts will prove premature and imprudent."

Benson's office, which released the letter, responded two days later by saying it announced a review "in response to concerns that potential Michigan voters were being misled by an America PAC website into believing they were registering to vote when they were, in fact, not."

"Thank you for confirming that the website is offering voter registration and that your client plans on using the gathered information to actually register voters," Benson's office added in its letter.

Musk has denied reports that he would fund pro-Trump efforts this year to the tune of \$45 million a month. But he has been vocal both in his support of Trump and his boosting of conservative voices on the platform he renamed from Twitter to X.

"The key values of the PAC are supporting a meritocracy & individual freedom," Musk wrote in a July post. "Republicans are mostly, but not entirely, on the side of merit & freedom."

A year after Trump repeatedly mocked DeSantis' botched rollout, he appeared on the same platform this week to speak with Musk. But their call was also plagued by glitches and delayed for 40 minutes, followed by a long conversation in which Trump's audio often sounded slurred.

"Based on that two-hour X mess, if you get Musk as a client, that's good, I guess. But if you don't, you can see how that's also good," said Mark Campbell, who managed the winning campaign of Gov. Glenn Youngkin, R-Va., in 2021. "Because as far as Elon Musk's foray into politics goes, he's 0 for 2."

A spokesman for America PAC declined to comment. Peck did not respond to messages seeking comment.

America PAC brings in DeSantis alumni

In mid-July, America PAC dumped the vendors it had hired for digital strategy, polling, canvassing and advertising. In addition to hiring other firms, it replaced those vendors with companies linked to Phil Cox, another former DeSantis campaign aide and former executive director of the Republican Governors Association who is a business partner of Peck's in a firm called P2.

Peck is not the sole leader of the PAC. In addition to Peck and Cox, Dave Rexrode, another top aide on the Youngkin campaign, is also a senior adviser.

People familiar with the matter say Peck — and DeSantis — have cultivated close ties with Musk.

About a month before DeSantis launched his campaign on Twitter Spaces, Peck held a late-night Zoom meeting with Musk, who was overseas, as well as Musk's friend and fellow tech billionaire David Sacks and pro-DeSantis super PAC chairman Adam Laxalt, about Musk's interest in contributing to DeSantis' looming presidential campaign.

After that meeting, Peck told members of DeSantis' political team that she expected Musk to be the biggest player in the 20-year history of super PACs, groups that can take unlimited sums and advocate

for a candidate as long as they do not coordinate with campaigns.

From that point on, Peck guarded Musk carefully, the people familiar with the operations said.

Where typically senior political operatives in contact with major donors hand off those relationships to a campaign's finance director, Peck did not in Musk's case, maintaining her role as the single DeSantis campaign conduit to Musk. "It was all her," one person said.

Likewise, Peck typically did not involve senior advisers to Never Back Down, the super PAC that DeSantis had entrusted with his organizational efforts in early states, to participate in calls with Musk. Though there are rules that bar coordination between campaigns and super PACs, those can be accommodated in conference calls by asking PAC officials to drop off the call during strategy discussions.

Peck kept communications with Musk to herself, to the point that top aides were barred from discussing Musk's interest in the campaign.

"Nobody was able to talk to engage with the Elon stuff," the source said. "It was clear during and immediately after the rollout that Generra was the one talking to them, exclusively so."

Others in DeSantis' political orbit said there was no need for Musk to be in contact with the Florida governor's campaign, that the billionaire defies the profile of even the biggest political donors. Those who say Musk wasn't in touch with key staff could be voicing bitterness that they didn't have more access to him, they say.

Others question how much America PAC will matter

Ultimately, Musk is not listed in Federal Election Commission records as having donated either to DeSantis' campaign or Never Back Down.

Peck previously worked as policy director for Republican Ed Gillespie's losing bid for Virginia governor in 2017.

"If she's also trying to develop Elon Musk, I'm not sure that's that different than what a lot of political consultants do, which is put two different sides of their business together, the political and the corporate sides," Campbell said.

Canvassing and voter outreach are some of the most visible parts of a campaign, even though some strategists say observers put too much importance on the so-called "ground game." Campbell argued that both candidates — and not outsiders — would determine the fate of the race.

"Anything having to do with Musk is all collateral noise," he said.

## **Congo's humanitarian crisis helped mpox spiral again into a global health emergency**

By RUTH ALONGA and CHINEDU ASADU Associated Press

GOMA, Congo (AP) — Sarah Bagheni had a headache, fever, and itchy and unusual skin lesions for days, but she had no inkling that her symptoms might have been caused by mpox and that she might be another case in a growing global health emergency.

She also has no idea where to go to get medical help.

She and her husband live in the Bulengo displacement camp in eastern Congo, a region that is effectively ground zero for a series of mpox outbreaks in Africa.

This year's alarming rise in cases, including a new form of the virus identified by scientists in eastern Congo, led the World Health Organization to declare it a global health emergency on Wednesday. It said the new variant could spread beyond the five African countries where it had already been detected — a timely warning that came a day before Sweden reported its first case of the new strain.

In the vast central African nation of Congo, which has had more than 96% of the world's roughly 17,000 recorded cases of mpox this year — and some 500 deaths from the disease — many of the most vulnerable seem unaware of its existence or the threat that it poses.

"We know nothing about this," Bagheni's husband, Habumuremyiza Hire, said Thursday about mpox. "I watch her condition helplessly because I don't know what to do. We continue to share the same room."

Millions are thought to be out of reach of medical help or advice in the conflict-torn east, where dozens

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 70 of 80

of rebel groups have been fighting Congolese army forces for years over mineral-rich areas, causing a huge displacement crisis. Hundreds of thousands of people like Bagheni and her husband have been forced into overcrowded refugee camps around Goma, while more have taken refuge in the city.

Conditions in the camps are dire and medical facilities are almost nonexistent.

Mahoro Faustin, who runs the Bulengo camp, said that about three months ago, administrators first started noticing people in the camp exhibiting fever, body aches and chills — symptoms that could signal malaria, measles or mpox.

There is no way of knowing how many mpox cases there might be in Bulengo because of a lack of testing, he said. There haven't been any recent health campaigns to educate the tens of thousands of people in the camp about mpox, and Faustin said he's worried about how many people might be undiagnosed.

"Just look at the overcrowding here," he said, pointing to a sea of ramshackle tents. "If nothing is done, we will all be infected here, or maybe we are already all infected."

Around 70% of the new mpox cases in the Goma area in the last two months that were registered at a treatment center run by Medair were from displacement camps, said Dr. Pierre Olivier Ngadjole, the international aid group's health advisor in Congo. The youngest of those cases was a month-old baby and the oldest a 90-year-old, he said.

In severe cases of mpox, people can develop lesions on the face, hands, arms, chest and genitals. While the disease originated in animals, the virus has in recent years been spreading between people via close physical contact, including sex.

Bagheni's best hope of getting a diagnosis for her lesions is a government hospital that's a two-hour drive away. That's likely out of the question, given that she already struggles with mobility having previously had both her legs amputated.

Seven million people are internally displaced in Congo, with more than 5.5 million of them in the country's east, according to the U.N. refugee agency. Congo has the largest displacement camp population in Africa, and one of the largest in the world.

The humanitarian crisis in eastern Congo has almost every possible complication when it comes to stopping an mpox outbreak, said Dr. Chris Beyrer, director of Duke University's Global Health Institute.

That includes war, illicit mining industries that attract sex workers, transient populations near border regions, and entrenched poverty. He also said the global community missed multiple warning signs.

"We're paying attention to it now, but mpox has been spreading since 2017 in Congo and Nigeria," Beyrer said, adding that experts have long been calling for vaccines to be shared with Africa, but to little effect. He said the WHO's emergency declaration was "late in coming," with more than a dozen countries already affected.

Beyrer said that unlike COVID-19 or HIV, there's a good vaccine and good treatments and diagnostics for mpox, but "the access issues are worse than ever" in places like eastern Congo.

In 2022, there were outbreaks in more than 70 countries around the world, including the United States, which led the WHO to also declare an emergency that lasted until mid-2023. It was largely shut down in wealthy countries within months through the use of vaccines and treatments, but few doses have been made available in Africa.

The new and possibly more infectious strain of mpox was first detected this year in a mining town in eastern Congo, about 450 kilometers (280 miles) south of Goma. It's unclear how much the new strain is to blame, but Congo is now enduring its worst outbreak yet and at least 13 African countries have recorded cases, four of them for the first time.

The outbreaks in those four countries — Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda and Uganda — have been linked to Congo's, and Doctors Without Borders said Friday that Congo's surge "threatens a major spread of the disease" to other countries.

Salim Abdool Karim, an infectious disease expert who chairs the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's emergency committee, said the Congo outbreak has a particularly concerning change, in that it's disproportionately affecting young people. Children under 15 account for 70% of cases and 85% of all deaths in the country, the Africa CDC reported.

Unlike the 2022 global outbreak, which predominantly affected gay and bisexual men, mpox now appears to be spreading in heterosexual populations.

All of Congo's 26 provinces have recorded mpox cases, according to the state-run news agency. But Health Minister Samuel-Roger Kamba said Thursday that the country doesn't have a single vaccine dose yet and he pleaded for "vigilance in all directions from all Congolese."

Dr. Rachel Maguru, who heads the multi-epidemic center at Goma's North Kivu provincial hospital, said they also don't have drugs or any established treatments for mpox and are relying on other experts such as dermatologists to help where they can. A larger outbreak around the city and its numerous displacement camps already overburdened with an influx of people would be "terrible," she said.

She also noted a pivotal problem: poor and displaced people have other priorities, like earning enough money to eat and survive. Aid agencies and stretched local authorities are already wrestling with providing food, shelter and basic health care to the millions displaced, while also dealing with outbreaks of other diseases like cholera.

## What to know as India's medics and women protest the rape and killing of a doctor

By SHEIKH SAALIQ Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — India's medical workers began a countrywide strike Saturday to protest the rape and killing of a trainee doctor at a state-run hospital in the eastern West Bengal state.

Saturday's strike was called by the country's largest group of doctors, the Indian Medical Association, saying all non-essential services at hospitals would be shut down across the country for 24 hours.

The suspension of work has affected thousands of patients across India. The protests — mostly led by women — have intensified in recent days, demanding a safer working environment.

Here's what to know.

A trainee doctor has been killed

On Aug. 9, police discovered the bloodied body of the 31-year-old trainee doctor at the state-run R.G. Kar Medical College and Hospital's seminar hall in eastern Kolkata city.

A police volunteer working at the hospital has been detained in connection with the crime, but the family of the victim alleges it was a gang rape and more people were involved. An autopsy has confirmed sexual assault.

The case is being probed by federal investigators after state government officers were accused of mishandling the investigation.

On Wednesday night, thousands of women across the country protested on the streets, demanding justice for the victim as they participated in "Reclaim The Night" marches. Some protesters called for the perpetrators of the crime to be given the death penalty.

Protesters want justice and safety

Thousands of medical workers across India are demanding justice for the victim and a guarantee of safety for doctors and paramedics inside hospitals and medical campuses. Many of them have suspended all but emergency treatment, with more such strikes planned over the weekend.

Doctors say the assault highlights the vulnerability of medics who work without proper safety facilities in hospitals and medical campuses across India.

The Indian Medical Association asked public support in its "struggle for justice" and called the killing a "crime of barbaric scale due to the lack of safe spaces for women."

The doctors are also demanding more stringent laws to protect them from violence, including making any attack on on-duty medics an offense without the possibility of bail.

India has a history of sexual violence against women

Sexual violence against women is a widespread problem in India.

Many cases of crimes against women go unreported in India due to the stigma surrounding sexual violence, as well as a lack of faith in the police. Women's rights activists say the problem is particularly

acute in rural areas, where the community sometimes shames victims of sexual assault and families worry about their social standing.

Still, the number of recorded rape cases in the country has increased. In 2022, police recorded 31,516 reports of rape — a 20% jump from 2021, according to the National Crime Records Bureau.

In 2012, the gang rape and killing of a 23-year-old student on a New Delhi bus galvanized massive protests across India. It inspired lawmakers to order harsher penalties for such crimes, as well as the creation of fast-track courts dedicated to rape cases. The government also introduced the death penalty for repeat offenders.

The rape law amended in 2013 also criminalized stalking and voyeurism and lowered the age at which a person can be tried as an adult from 18 to 16.

## **Sudan's paramilitary fighters killed 85 people in an attack on a central village, residents say**

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Fighters from Sudan's paramilitary group rampaged through a central village, looting and burning and killing at least 85 people, including women and children, authorities and residents said Saturday, the latest atrocity in the country's 18-month devastating conflict.

The paramilitary Rapid Support Forces began attacking Galgani in the central province of Sennar late in July and last week RSF fighters "indiscriminately opened fire on the village's unarmed residents" after they resisted attempts to abduct and sexually assault women and girls, Sudan's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. More than 150 villagers were wounded, it said.

The RSF has been repeatedly accused of massacres, rapes and other gross violations across the country since the war started in April last year, when simmering tensions between the military and the group exploded into open fighting in the capital Khartoum and elsewhere.

Describing the hourslong attack, three residents said hundreds of RSF fighters stormed the village on Thursday, looting and burning houses and public properties.

The offensive came after the residents put up resistance and repelled an attack by a small group of RSF fighters, according to a health care worker at the local medical center who spoke to The Associated Press.

The group retreated but hundreds of RSF fighters in dozens of pickup trucks with automatic rifles and heavy weapons returned, according to the worker and another resident.

As of Friday, the medical center had received at least 80 bodies, including 24 women and minors, said the worker, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of fears for his safety.

Mohamed Tajal-Amin, a villager, said he saw seven bodies — six men and one woman — laying in the street midday Friday.

"The Janjaweed are in the street and people are not able to recover their dead and bury them," he said, using the name of the Arab militias that became synonymous with genocide and war crimes in Darfur two decades ago and from which the RSF grew out.

RSF spokespeople didn't return requests for comment Saturday.

In June, the RSF assaulted Sinnar's provincial capital, Singa, about 350 kilometers (217 miles) southeast of Khartoum. They looted the city's main market and took over its main hospital, forcing thousands of people to flee.

The latest attack came as the United States has led efforts to resume peace talks between the military and the RSF. The talks, which are boycotted by the military, began last week in Switzerland.

Diplomats from Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, the African Union and the United Nations were attending the talks. The RSF sent a delegation to Geneva but didn't take part in the meetings.

"The RSF remains here ready for talks to start; SAF needs to decide to come," U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan Tom Perriello posted on X on Friday, using the acronym for Sudan's Armed Forces.

The talks were the latest international effort to settle the devastating conflict that killed dozens of thou-



sands of people and pushed the county to the brink of famine. Already famine was confirmed last month in a sprawling camp for displaced people in the western region of Darfur.

The conflict has been marked by atrocities including mass rape and ethnically motivated killings that amount to war crimes and crimes against humanity, according to the U.N. and international rights groups.

Sudan's war has also created the world's largest displacement crisis. More than 10.7 million people have been forced to flee their homes since fighting began, according to the International Organization for Migration. Over 2 million of them have fled to neighboring countries.

## **An Israeli strike in Lebanon kills 10 and triggers response from Hezbollah as tensions simmer**

By KAREEM CHEHAYEB and MOHAMMAD ZAATARI Associated Press

NABATIEH, Lebanon (AP) — An Israeli strike in southern Lebanon early Saturday killed at least 10 Syrian nationals, according to Lebanon's Health Ministry.

The strike on Wadi al-Kfour in Nabatieh province is among the deadliest in Lebanon since the Hezbollah militant group and Israeli military started trading strikes on Oct. 8, a day after Hamas attacked southern Israel and sparked the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza. Hezbollah maintains that it will stop its attacks once a cease-fire is reached in the Gaza Strip.

Among the dead were a woman and her two children, the ministry said. Five others were wounded, two of whom in critical condition.

An Arabic-language spokesperson for the Israeli military, Avichay Adraee, said the strike in the southern province targeted a weapons depot belonging to Hezbollah.

Mohammad Shoaib, who runs a slaughterhouse in Wadi al-Kfour, said the area struck was an "industrial and civilian area" that contained factories producing bricks, metal, and aluminum, as well as a dairy farm.

The uncle of three of the people killed in the strike said they were factory workers who were in their housing accommodation when they were hit. He denied that there were weapons at the facility.

"There was nothing at all like that," Hussein Shahoud said. "There was metal for construction, for building, for all kinds of purposes."

Hezbollah later announced it had fired a volley of rockets at the community of Ayelet HaShahar, near Safad in northern Israel in retaliation for the strike. The statement said that all 10 victims in Lebanon were civilians. Hezbollah typically issues death notices when its members are killed.

The Israeli army said 55 projectiles were identified crossing from Lebanon, some of which fell in open areas. No injuries were reported, but the strikes ignited multiple fires, it said. Earlier Saturday, two Israeli soldiers were injured, one seriously, by a strike coming from Lebanon that hit the area of Misgav Am.

The Israeli military also said it had killed a Hezbollah commander Saturday in a separate strike in the area of the coastal city of Tyre. Lebanese state media reported that one person was killed in a strike on a motorcyclist near Tyre. Hezbollah identified him as its member Hussein Ibrahim Kasseb. It did not give his rank or say where he was killed.

The Lebanese government and international governments have scrambled for weeks to put an end to the monthslong clashes, with the region on a knife edge since July.

An Israeli strike last month in southern Beirut killed Hezbollah's top commander, whom Israel accused of leading a rocket attack on the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights that killed 12 youths. Hours later, an explosion widely blamed on Israel killed Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh in the Iranian capital.

Both Tehran and Hezbollah vowed to retaliate, but have not yet launched strikes as diplomatic endeavors and Gaza cease-fire talks continue in Qatar.

Hezbollah and Israel fought a six-week war in the summer of 2006 that ended in a draw. Hezbollah's military capabilities have developed significantly since then.

More than 500 people have been killed by Israeli strikes since Oct. 8, most of them fighters with Hezbollah and other armed groups but also including around 100 civilians and noncombatants. In northern Israel,

22 soldiers and 24 civilians have been killed by strikes from Lebanon. Tens of thousands of people have been displaced on both sides of tense frontier.

Also Saturday, Lebanon's state utility Electricité du Liban announced that its power plants had exhausted their supply of fuel oil and would stop producing electricity until more supply is secured.

Lebanon has struggled with severe electricity shortages for years, particularly since the country fell into a protracted financial crisis in 2019. Homes and businesses rely largely on generators and, increasingly, solar panels for power as the state typically supplies electricity only a few hours a day. The meagre state electricity supply relies on fuel oil provided by Iraq, but issues have arisen between the two countries due to Lebanon not having paid for the supply.

## **Aid groups in Gaza aim to avert a polio outbreak with a surge of vaccinations**

By FATMA KHALED Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — The threat of polio is rising fast in the Gaza Strip, prompting aid groups to call for an urgent pause in the war so they can ramp up vaccinations and head off a full-blown outbreak. One case has been confirmed, others are suspected and the virus was detected in wastewater in six different locations in July.

Polio was eradicated in Gaza 25 years ago, but vaccinations plunged after the war began 10 months ago and the territory has become a breeding ground for the virus, aid groups say. Hundreds of thousands of displaced Palestinians are crowded into tent camps lacking clean water or proper disposal of sewage and garbage.

To avert a widespread outbreak, aid groups are preparing to vaccinate more than 600,000 children in the coming weeks. They say the ambitious vaccination plans are impossible, though, without a pause in the fighting between Israel and Hamas.

A possible cease-fire deal couldn't come soon enough.

"We are anticipating and preparing for the worst-case scenario of a polio outbreak in the coming weeks or month," Francis Hughes, the Gaza response director at CARE International, told The Associated Press.

The World Health Organization and UNICEF, the United Nations children's agency, said in a joint statement Friday that, at a minimum, a seven-day pause is needed to carry out a mass vaccination plan.

The U.N. aims to bring 1.6 million doses of polio vaccine into Gaza, where sanitation and water systems have been destroyed, leaving open pits of human waste in crowded tent camps. Families living in the camps have little clean water or even soap to maintain hygiene and sometimes use wastewater to drink or clean clothes and dishes.

At least 225 informal waste disposal sites and landfills have cropped up around Gaza — many close to where families are sheltering, according to a report released in July by PAX, a Netherlands-based nonprofit that used satellite imagery to track the sites.

Polio, which is highly contagious and transmits mainly through contact with contaminated feces, water or food, can cause difficulty breathing and irreversible paralysis, usually in the legs. It strikes young children in particular and is sometimes fatal.

The aid group Mercy Corps estimates some 50,000 babies born since the war began have not been immunized against polio.

WHO and UNICEF said Friday that three children are suspected of being infected and that their stool samples were being tested by a laboratory in Jordan. The Ministry of Health in Ramallah in the West Bank said late Friday that tests conducted in Jordan confirmed one case in a 10-month-old child in Gaza.

"This is very concerning," UNICEF spokesperson Ammar Ammar said Saturday. "It is impossible to carry out the vaccination in an active war zone and the alternative would be unconscionable for the children in Gaza and the whole region."

Aid workers anticipate the number of suspected cases will rise, and worry that the disease could be hard to contain without urgent intervention.

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 75 of 80

"We are not optimistic because we know that doctors could also be missing the warning signs," said Hughes of CARE International.

Health workers in Gaza are gearing up for a mass vaccination campaign to begin at the end of August and continue into September. The goal is to immunize 640,000 children under the age of 10 over two rounds of vaccinations, according to WHO.

The Israeli military body responsible for Palestinian civilian affairs, which goes by the acronym COGAT, said it is "preparing to support a comprehensive vaccination campaign." The military said a vaccination campaign has begun for all ground troops and that it was working with various organizations to bring more vaccines into Gaza.

Hamas said in a statement Friday that it would support a seven-day truce to facilitate the vaccinations. Cease-fire talks resume in Cairo next week.

The alarm over polio was first raised when the WHO announced in July that sewage samples collected from six locations in Khan Younis and Deir al-Balah, in the south and center of Gaza, tested positive for a variant of the virus used in vaccines. The weakened form of the virus used in vaccines can mutate into a stronger version and cause an outbreak in areas that lack proper immunization, according to WHO.

The only countries where polio is endemic are Afghanistan and Pakistan. But outbreaks of the vaccine-derived virus have occurred in war-torn Ukraine and Yemen, where conditions aren't nearly as bad as they are in Gaza.

Part of the challenge in Gaza, where polio hasn't been seen in a quarter-century, is to raise awareness so that health workers recognize symptoms, the U.N. says. The territory's health care system has been devastated by the war, and workers are overwhelmed treating the wounded and patients sick with diarrhea and other ailments.

Before the war, 99% of Gaza's population was vaccinated against polio. That figure is now 86%, according to WHO. The goal is to get polio immunization levels in Gaza back above 95%.

While more than 440,000 doses of polio vaccine were brought into Gaza in December, that supply has diminished to just over 86,000, according to Hamid Jafari, director of polio eradication for the WHO Eastern Mediterranean Region.

The 1.6 million oral doses being brought into Gaza will be a more advanced version of the vaccine that is less prone to mutating into an outbreak, the WHO said.

Getting the vaccine into Gaza is just the first step.

U.N. workers face difficulties retrieving medical supplies and other aid because of Israel's military assaults, fighting between troops and Hamas, and increasing lawlessness that has led to the looting of convoys.

Also, vaccines must be kept refrigerated, which has become difficult in Gaza, where electricity is scarce. About 15-20 refrigerated trucks serve all of Gaza, and they also must be used to transport food and other medical supplies, said a senior Israeli army official with COGAT who was not authorized to talk with media and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Palestinians also face difficulties getting around. Their inability to reach health facilities will be an additional obstacle to the vaccination campaign, said Sameer Sah of Medical Aid for Palestinians.

"There's no transport system. The roads have been destroyed and you have quadcopters shooting at people," said Sah, referring to Israeli drones that often carry out strikes. Israel says its strikes target Hamas militants.

WHO said a pause in the fighting is vital to enabling "children and families to safely reach health facilities and community outreach workers to get to children who cannot access health facilities."

Only about a third of Gaza's 36 hospitals and 40% of its primary health care facilities are functioning, according to the U.N. But the WHO and UNICEF say their vaccination campaign will be carried out in every municipality in Gaza, with help from 2,700 workers.

**Latest search for 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre victims ends with 3**

## more found with gunshot wounds

By KEN MILLER Associated Press

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — The latest search for the remains of 1921 Tulsa Race Massacre victims has ended with three more sets containing gunshot wounds, investigators said.

The three are among 11 sets of remains exhumed during the latest excavation in Oaklawn Cemetery, state archaeologist Kary Stackelbeck said Friday.

“Two of those gunshot victims display evidence of munitions from two different weapons,” Stackelbeck said. “The third individual who is a gunshot victim also displays evidence of burning.”

Forensic anthropologist Phoebe Stubblefield, who will remain on site to examine the remains, said one victim suffered bullet and shotgun wounds while the second was shot with two different caliber bullets.

Searchers are seeking simple wooden caskets because they were described at the time in newspaper articles, death certificates and funeral home records as the type used for burying massacre victims, Stackelbeck has said.

The exhumed remains will then be sent to Intermountain Forensics in Salt Lake City for DNA and genealogical testing in an effort to identify them.

The search ends just over a month after the first identification of remains previously exhumed during the search for massacre victims were identified as World War I veteran C.L. Daniel from Georgia.

There was no sign of gunshot wounds to Daniel, Stubblefield said at the time, noting that if a bullet doesn't strike bone and passes through the body, such a wound likely could not be determined after the passage of so many years.

The search is the fourth since Tulsa Mayor G.T. Bynum launched the project in 2018 and 47 remains have now been exhumed.

Bynum, who is not seeking reelection, said he hopes to see the search for victims continue.

“My hope is, regardless of who the next mayor is, that they see how important it is to see this investigation through,” Bynum said. “It's all part of that sequence that is necessary for us to ultimately find people who were murdered and hidden over a century ago.”

Stackelbeck said investigators are mapping the graves in an effort to determine whether more searches should be conducted.

“Every year we have built on the previous phase of this investigation. Our cumulative data have confirmed that we are finding individuals who fit the profile of massacre victims,” Stackelbeck said.

“We will be taking all of that information into consideration as we make our recommendations about whether there is cause for additional excavations,” said Stackelbeck.

Brenda Nails-Alford, a descendant of massacre survivors and a member of the committee overseeing the search for victims, said she is grateful for Bynum's efforts to find victim's remains.

“It is my prayer that these efforts continue, to bring more justice and healing to those who were lost and to those families in our community,” Nails-Alford said.

Earlier this month, Bynum and City Councilor Vanessa Hall-Harper announced a new committee to study a variety of possible reparations for survivors and descendants of the massacre and for the area of north Tulsa where it occurred.

The massacre took place over two days in 1921, a long-suppressed episode of racial violence that destroyed a community known as Black Wall Street and ended with as many as 300 Black people killed, thousands of Black residents forced into internment camps overseen by the National Guard and more than 1,200 homes, businesses, schools and churches destroyed.

## Russian missile sparks blaze in Ukraine as Kyiv's troops push into Russia's Kursk region

By The Associated Press undefined

Russia kept up its assault on Ukraine Saturday even as Ukrainian forces pushed into Russia's Kursk border region.

A Russian missile sparked a blaze in the city of Sumy that injured two people and also damaged cars and nearby buildings, said Ukraine's State Emergency Service. It said that the hit had involved an Iskander-K cruise missile and an aerial bomb.

Ukraine's air force also said it had shot down 14 Russian drones overnight, including over the Kyiv region.

Meanwhile, fighting continued in Russia's Kursk region, where Ukrainian troops have been deployed since Aug. 6 in a bid to divert the Kremlin's military focus away from the front line in Ukraine.

On Thursday, Ukrainian forces said they had seized the town of Sudzha, 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the border. With a prewar population of roughly 5,000, it is the biggest town to fall to Ukraine's troops since the incursion began.

Associated Press journalists traveled to the area Friday on a Ukrainian government-organized trip. Artillery fire had blown chunks out of a statue of Soviet founder Vladimir Lenin in the town's central square, while the bright yellow facade of a local administration building was scorched and pockmarked with bullet holes.

Alexander Kots, military correspondent with the pro-Kremlin newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda, said that Ukrainian pressure in Kursk "is not weakening yet."

"In the main sections of the ragged front, the situation has stabilized. But there are areas where the enemy continues to try to expand its bridgehead," he wrote on his Telegram channel.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Friday that Ukraine had destroyed a bridge across the Seim River in the Glushkovsky district with U.S.-made HIMARS rockets, marking their first use in the Kursk region.

Zakharova's statement couldn't be independently confirmed, although the Washington-based think tank the Institute for the Study of War said that geolocated footage published on Aug. 16 showed that the bridge had collapsed following the strike.

Russian military bloggers said that the destruction of bridges would impede deliveries of supplies to Russian forces, but not cut them off completely.

"No one has canceled the pontoons," said Kots, stressing that the Seim River is smaller than Ukrainian waterways such as the Dnieper River. "And there are still smaller bridges."

Russia has seen previous raids on its territory in the war, but the Kursk incursion is notable for its size, speed, the reported involvement of battle-hardened Ukrainian brigades and the length of time they have stayed inside Russia. As many as 10,000 Ukrainian troops are involved, according to Western military analysts.

The incursion, which Russian authorities say has led to the evacuation of more than 120,000 civilians, came as a shock to many, Yan Furtsev, an activist and member of local opposition party Yabloko, told the AP.

"No one expected that this kind of conflict was even possible in the Kursk region. That is why there is such confusion and panic, because citizens are arriving (from front-line areas) and they're scared, very scared," he said.

Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry said in a press conference Saturday that approximately 10,000 evacuees from the Kursk region, including 3,000 children, were staying in 171 temporary accommodation centers across the country.

Ukrainian forces have also captured a number of Russian troops as they have moved across the region.

On Friday, the AP visited a detention center in Ukraine, the location of which cannot be disclosed due to security restrictions. Dozens of POWs were seen, some of them walking with their hands tied behind their backs while a guard led them down a corridor. Some had rations of a thin soup with cabbage and onions.

On Saturday, President Volodymyr Zelenskyy thanked Ukrainian soldiers and commanders for capturing Russian military personnel and said the country's "exchange fund" that it would use to bargain for the

return of Ukrainian POWs was being replenished.

"I thank all our soldiers and commanders who are capturing Russian military personnel, thereby advancing the release of our warriors and civilians held by Russia," Zelenskyy said in a post on X.

## Immigrants prepare for new Biden protections with excitement and concern

By GISELA SALOMON and REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — Roberto Garcia crossed the border from Mexico in 2009 looking for a better life. For the past eight years, he has been married to an American woman, and they have three kids who are all American citizens. The only one in the family who is not is Garcia.

Seven years ago, he applied to legalize his status through a process that, if approved, would still require him to return to Mexico with no guarantee that he would be allowed back into the United States.

The possibility of being separated from his family or — in a worst case scenario — being unable to return home to Los Angeles has been stressful. So has the wait. It has been seven years and Garcia has not yet gotten an appointment at the U.S. Consulate in Ciudad Juarez, just across the border in Mexico.

Now, a Biden administration program launching Monday will allow some spouses of U.S. citizens without legal permission to stay in the U.S. to legalize their status without leaving the country. That is giving Garcia, and others like him, new hope.

"Finally, there is a light that this is possible," the 37-year-old said. "I imagine I will soon have the important documents that so many people want to have."

The new program offers a rare opportunity to erase the threat of deportation and one day earn citizenship. But tempering that excitement is concern: Who will benefit from what has been described as the most expansive U.S. protections for immigrants in over a decade? Will the program face legal challenges? And most important, will it survive the presidential election?

Under the policy Democratic President Joe Biden announced in June, many spouses without legal status will be able to apply for something called "parole in place," offering permission to stay in the U.S., apply for a green card and eventually get on a path to citizenship.

To be eligible, they must have been continuously in the U.S. for at least 10 years, not pose a security threat or have a disqualifying criminal history, and have been married to a citizen by June 17 — the day before the program was announced. They must pay a \$580 fee to apply and fill out a lengthy application, including an explanation of why they deserve humanitarian parole and a long list of supporting documents proving how long they have been in the country.

They apply to the Department of Homeland Security, and if approved, have three years to seek permanent residency. During that period, they can get work authorization.

The administration estimates about 500,000 people could be eligible, plus about 50,000 of their children.

Before this program, it was complicated for people who were in the U.S. illegally to get a green card after marrying an American citizen. They can be required to return to their home country — often for years — and they always face the risk they may not be allowed back in.

News of Biden's program set off a flurry of activity nationwide as couples checked whether they were eligible. Immigrant groups have reached out to help people understand the program and battle misinformation. Some launched radio ads.

"There's definitely a lot of interest but also a lot of concerns," said Carolina Castaneda, a staff attorney with the Immigrant Legal Resource Center in California's Central Valley.

Activists and lawyers say they and applicants are weighing whether it is a risk to apply, if the program will survive possible Republican lawsuits and what happens if Republican Donald Trump — who has vowed to deport millions of immigrants — is back in the White House.

There has been far more hesitancy compared with the excitement that greeted the launch of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA, which protected people brought to the country as children from deportation, said Karla Aguayo, director of legal services at CHIRLA, the Los Angeles-based

# Groton Daily Independent

Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 79 of 80

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights.

When DACA was announced in 2012, she said thousands of people lined up outside the organization's office. For the new program, it has just been a few couples.

While DACA had a much bigger applicant pool, the immigrant community has seen how these policies get caught up in the courts, Aguayo said.

"People are like, 'This is nice, but how long will it last?'" she said.

The organization has posted information about the new program online and held information sessions and one-on-one appointments with clients. Those likely to qualify can come back Monday to apply.

The eligible couples are excited, she said, "coming with an accordion file of documents that they want reviewed."

But, she said, her group is discovering that a majority of people it sees will not qualify. One of the biggest reasons: Many returned to their home country at some point — often for big life events like a dying family member — and reentry makes them ineligible.

For María Zambrano, the possibility that Trump wins the presidential election and ends the policy adds to the urgency.

"We have to react as soon as possible and apply as soon as possible," said the 56-year-old resident of Bal Harbour, Florida.

She came to the U.S. from Colombia in 2001 and has not gone back. She works as a Spanish language tutor and has her own company. Seven years ago, she married a U.S. citizen, and like Garcia, applied for legal status but still has to interview at a U.S. Consulate in Colombia.

She has been waiting for that appointment for more than two years. Now, she has a chance to avoid the risky trip out of the U.S.

Immigrants who, unlike Garcia and Zambrano, are not already on the government's radar may fear the risk of applying, especially if Trump is president. His administration would know who and where they are, said Charles Kuck, an Atlanta-based immigration attorney.

"Is there a risk associated with this? One hundred percent," Kuck said.

This type of program should have been rolled out a few years ago, not months before an election, Kuck said. He is advising clients to wait to see who wins.

Garcia and Zambrano already are thinking about how this opportunity can change their lives.

Garcia and his 44-year-old wife, María, have an appointment with their immigration attorney the day after the government begins accepting applications on Monday.

María, who had an accident a year ago and cannot work, said: "My biggest fear is that he won't be able to come back," if Garcia travels to Ciudad Juarez.

As the family's sole breadwinner and the one who does things like take the kids to school, Garcia said he cannot take that risk even if he were to finally get an appointment.

As for Zambrano, she will be able to travel home to visit her parents and brothers. She can get a driver's license, health insurance, a house and maybe even vote one day.

Garcia, who said he has paid taxes since 2010 and is studying for his contractor's license, also dreams of what he can do with a green card. On the top of his mind: going to Mexico to see his parents and seven brothers for the first time in 15 years.

"It's been many years of not seeing them, not talking to them face to face," Garcia said. "I try not to think about it."

## Today in History: August 18, 19t Amendment gives women the vote

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Sunday, Aug. 18, the 231st day of 2024. There are 135 days left in the year.

Today in history:

On Aug. 18, 1920, the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing American women's right to

# Groton Daily Independent

**Sunday, August 18, 2024 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 054 ~ 80 of 80**

vote, was ratified as Tennessee became the 36th state to approve it.

Also on this date:

In 1590, John White, the governor of the Roanoke Island colony (in present-day North Carolina), returned to Roanoke after nearly three years abroad only to find the settlement deserted; the fate of the "Lost Colony" remains a mystery.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson issued his Proclamation of Neutrality, aimed at keeping the United States out of World War I.

In 1958, Vladimir Nabokov's novel *Lolita* was published in the United States.

In 1963, James Meredith became the first Black student to graduate from the University of Mississippi.

In 1969, the Woodstock Music and Art Fair in Bethel, New York, wound to a close after three nights with a mid-morning set by Jimi Hendrix.

In 1983, Hurricane Alicia slammed into the Texas coast, leaving 21 dead and causing more than a billion dollars' worth of damage.

In 2004, in Athens, Paul Hamm (hahm) won the men's gymnastics all-around Olympic gold medal by the closest margin ever in the event; controversy followed after it was discovered a scoring error cost Yang Tae-young of South Korea the title.

In 2005, a judge in Wichita, Kansas, sentenced BTK serial killer Dennis Rader to 10 consecutive life terms, the maximum the law would allow.

In 2014, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon ordered the National Guard to Ferguson, a suburb of St. Louis convulsed by protests over the fatal shooting of a Black 18-year-old, Michael Brown.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-director Robert Redford is 88. Actor Carole Bouquet is 67. Actor Denis Leary is 67. Actor Madeleine Stowe is 66. ABC News reporter Bob Woodruff is 63. Actor Edward Norton is 55. Actor Christian Slater is 55. Actor Malcolm-Jamal Warner is 54. Actor Kaitlin Olson is 49. Actor-comedian Andy Samberg is 46. Artist-model Frances Bean Cobain is 32. Actor-singer Maia Mitchell is 31. Actor Madelaine Petsch is 30. Olympic gold medal swimmer Summer McIntosh is 18.