

Groton Daily Independent

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Saturday, June 22

Junior Legion at Clark Tournament
Legion at Northville Tournament
U8 R/B - Groton Tourney
Groton Triathlon, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 3:45-4:15 p.m.; SEAS Mass, 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, June 23

Junior Legion at Clark Tournament
Legion at Northville Tournament
United Methodist: Worship at Conde at 8:30 a.m., at Groton at 10:30 a.m., coffee hour at 9:30 a.m.
Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship at 9 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.
First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.
Groton CM&A: Sunday School, 9:15 a.m.; worship, 10:30 a.m. (Julia (Grenz) and Jordan Kroll will be the guest speakers)
St. John's Lutheran: Worship at St. John's, 9 a.m., and at Zion, 11 a.m.

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

1440

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Second Amendment Ruling

The US Supreme Court yesterday ruled 8-1 to uphold a federal ban on firearms for people subject to restraining orders for domestic violence. The court reasoned those who pose a credible safety risk can be temporarily disarmed, consistent with the Second Amendment and traditional firearm regulations.

The case (see overview) centered on a Texas man named Zackey Rahimi, who was placed under a restraining order after assaulting his girlfriend in 2019. The order blocked Rahimi from possessing a firearm and suspended his handgun license. Rahimi ignored the order, threatening a different woman with a gun and opening fire in public five times in separate instances. He was prosecuted for violating the order and challenged the US government for violating his Second Amendment rights.

The high court's decision reverses a federal appeals court ruling that had struck down the gun possession ban following a June 2022 Supreme Court decision that established a new legal framework for gun laws. The test stated gun ownership restrictions must have comparisons from US history.

At least one person killed, over 200 wounded in protests in Kenya.

Protests were held across the East African nation over the government's plans to raise \$2.7B in taxes to reduce the country's budget deficit and state borrowing. Measures include a 16% tax on bread. Police clashed with protesters, reportedly firing tear gas and water cannons to disperse crowds. Over 100 people have been arrested. Kenya's police watchdog has begun a probe into police conduct.

US, China hold first informal nuclear arms talks in five years.

The informal meeting was held in March, where China's representatives assured the US that China would not threaten to use nuclear weapons over any rising conflict with Taiwan, officials said this week. China and Taiwan have had strained relations since 1949; China views the self-governing island of Taiwan as part of China, while Taiwan maintains it is a sovereign nation (see background).

US regulator authorizes sale of first menthol-flavored e-cigarettes.

The US Food and Drug Administration authorized the sale of four menthol-flavored vapes from Altria Group's NJOY brand, reasoning the products could help adult smokers. The FDA previously had ordered menthol-flavored vapes off the market. The agency noted it has placed marketing restrictions on the NJOY vapes to prevent exposure to youth.

Edmonton Oilers and Florida Panthers head to Game 7.

The Edmonton Oilers continued to stave off elimination in the Stanley Cup Finals after topping the Florida Panthers 5-1 in Game 6 last night. The two teams are now tied 3-3 in the best-of-seven series and will play their final game Monday (8:00 pm ET, ABC). The Oilers are the first team since 1945 to force a Game 7 after initially falling behind 3-0 in the series.

2024 Men's College World Series championship games set.

The Tennessee Volunteers and the Texas A&M Aggies will face off tonight in Game 1 of the best-of-three series (7:30 pm ET, ESPN). Both teams are vying for their first-ever NCAA baseball tournament championship. The Volunteers and Aggies have both gone undefeated in the round-robin portion.

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UK editor Robert Winnett withdraws from top job at Washington Post.

Winnett, the deputy editor at The Daily Telegraph, had been set to lead the Post after the US presidential elections and following the abrupt departure of executive editor Sally Buzbee earlier this month. Winnett withdrew himself from the role after reports raised concerns about his alleged ties to past unethical news gathering practices.

American Express to buy restaurant booking platform Tock for \$400M.

The all-cash deal is the same amount of money Squarespace, which currently owns Tock, paid for the platform three years ago. American Express' latest acquisition comes five years after it began expanding into the dining and event space with its purchase of another restaurant booking platform, Resy.

Humankind(ness)

Today, we're sharing a story from reader Annette B. in Sumter, South Carolina.

"A party of six was celebrating the 98th birthday of a dear friend. Her daughter had planned to treat all of us to the birthday lunch. We were having so much fun! A person from another table came over to ask who was having a birthday. We told her and cheered. After finishing lunch and conversation, the daughter requested the check. The waiter informed her (and us) that the person (stranger who visited our table) had paid for our entire lunch. She did not want the waiter to tell us until after she left! We were amazed and awestruck at this gesture of generosity."

Excessive Rainfall Impacting River Flows

PIERRE, S.D.— Heavy rains are increasing runoff into the Missouri River Basin with flooding forecast on several tributaries downstream of Gavins Point Dam. Due to excessive rainfall, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will be reducing releases from Gavins Point Dam to 16,000 cfs.

The South Dakota Department of Public Safety (DPS), in collaboration with Governor Noem and the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources' (DANR) state geologist, is closely monitoring current and projected rainfall and river flows in southeast South Dakota using advanced computerized modeling.

DPS' Office of Emergency Management has been in contact with Union County officials regarding Dakota Dunes and the potential impact of additional forecasted rainfall and runoff throughout the James, Vermillion, and Big Sioux River Basin that will increase the Missouri River flow levels. Peak flow levels in this area are expected between Monday and Tuesday.

The SD DPS is urging communities to stay vigilant by preparing for the potential of overland flooding, especially in low-lying areas and take necessary precautions to protect their homes, families, and properties.

Continue monitoring National Weather Service forecasts and messaging from your local officials.

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Service Notice: Carson James Bentz

Carson James Bentz, infant son of Thomas and Ashley (Dragt) Bentz was born into Heaven on June 21, 2024 at Sanford Medical Center in Aberdeen. Services will be held 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 26th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Rev. Michael Lassley will officiate.

Governor Noem Now Accepting Applications for Fall Interns

PIERRE, S.D. – Governor Kristi Noem and her office are now accepting applications for the 2024 Fall Internship Program. This internship program provides students with first-hand experience within state government and the functions of the Governor’s Office.

Student interns will work directly with the governor’s staff on projects centered around the applicant’s interests and strengths. Work may include assisting with events and meetings, researching projects, and staffing the general office. Additional duties include aiding the governor’s policy team, constituent services team, general counsel, communications team, and potentially staffing the Governor, Lt. Governor, and First Gentleman. Interns will also have the opportunity to make meaningful connections and experiences during their time.

The length of this in-person internship is negotiable, and the schedule is flexible. The recommended availability is September through December.

Those who are interested and would like to be considered for an internship should submit a resume, cover letter, and letter of recommendation to brad.otten@state.sd.us. Applications should be submitted by Friday, July 19, 2024.

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BROWN COUNTY
BROWN COUNTY COMMISSION AGENDA
REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY

June 25, 2024 8:45 A.M.

COMMISSIONER'S CHAMBERS, COURTHOUSE ANNEX - 25 MARKET STREET, ABERDEEN SD

1. Call To Order - Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Opportunity of Public Comment
4. John Kippley, Ordway Township – discuss Hall Crossing
5. Dirk Rogers – Right of Way Application & Department Update
6. Consent Calendar
 - a. Approval of General Meeting Minutes of June 18, 2024
 - b. Claims
 - c. HR Report
 - d. Approve the Brown County Fair Promo List
 - e. Zoning Ordinances – Set Hearing Date/Authorize Advertising
 - f. Plats
 - g. Claim Assignment
7. Other Business
8. Executive Session (if requested per SDCL 1-25-2)
9. Adjourn

Brown County Commission Meeting

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Public comment provides an opportunity for the public to address the county commission but may not exceed 3 minutes.

Public comment will be limited to 10 minutes (or at the discretion of the board).

Public comment will be accepted virtually when the virtual attendance option is available.

Official Recordings of Commission Meetings along with the Minutes can be found at

<https://www.brown.sd.us/node/454>

2025 Budget Work Session following the Commission Meeting

NOTICE OF POST-ELECTION AUDIT

Notice is hereby given, in accordance with SDCL 12-17B-21, that a Post-Election Audit of the June 4, 2024 Primary Election will be conducted on June 24, 2024 in the Commission Chambers, Courthouse Annex, 25 Market Street, Aberdeen, SD 57401.

The Audit will start at 5:00 PM and is open to the public. This public is reminded that they shall keep a reasonable distance so as to not interfere with the audit process.

Questions concerning the Post Election Audit may be directed to the Brown County Auditor at 605-626-7110.

Lynn Heupel
Brown County Auditor

Johnson's Office Now Accepting Fall 2024 Internship Applications

Washington, D.C. – U.S. Representative Dusty Johnson (R-S.D.) is seeking internship applications for the fall in his Washington, D.C., Rapid City, Aberdeen, and Sioux Falls offices.

Duties will include researching legislation, writing memos, attending committee hearings and briefings, answering constituent phone calls, sorting mail, and providing support to the staff and the Member of Congress.

Interns will be given the opportunity to develop their research, writing, and communications skills while working closely alongside staff. They will also gain an in-depth understanding of how the legislative branch of government operates while helping to serve South Dakota constituents.

"Interns play a critical role in our office," said Johnson. "We make sure that each intern receives a hands-on experience in the operation of their government and learns more about topics they're interested in, both in Washington, D.C. and in the state. It is our goal that every intern will leave this office prepared to enter the workforce and find success."

Interested applicants should complete the online internship application and submit a resume online no later than July 15, 2024. More information about the internship program, along with the application, can be found online at dustyjohnson.house.gov/services/internships.

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National and South Dakota Legislative News Connection

Washington- Senate Agriculture Committee Ranking Member John Boozman (R-AR) has unveiled his framework for the 2024 Farm Bill. The framework is similar to the bill reported by the House Agriculture Committee - the Farm, Food, and National Security Act of 2024 - but offers less detail, as no bill text was released. Ranking Member Boozman's framework differs significantly from Chairwoman Stabenow's (D-MI) proposal, especially on nutrition funding, climate change, and the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC).

Some notable policies included in the Boozman framework are as follows:

Commodities (Title I): Increases statutory reference prices for all covered commodities by an average of 15%. The Dairy Margin Coverage program will be strengthened, the Dairy Forward Pricing Program will be made permanent, and the Class I milk pricing formula will be modified (unclear if it returns to the "higher-of" Class III or Class IV).

Conservation (Title III): Increases funding for conservation programs, thanks to funding provided for voluntary conservation programs for climate-smart purposes through the Inflation Reduction Act, but with complete removal of the requirement that IRA-provided financing be used for climate-smart purposes.

The Boozman framework also includes the reauthorization of Livestock Mandatory Reporting and new funding opportunities for meat and poultry processing. The summary of Title XII (Miscellaneous) references the Ending Agriculture Trade Suppression (EATS) Act, which would overturn California's Proposition 12 and the A-Plus Act.

Washington- The National Farmers Union and the Renewable Fuels Association have filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals challenging the recently finalized light- and medium-duty vehicle rule. RFA and NFU claim that the EPA does not have the authority to adopt regulations that essentially mandate the production of battery-electric vehicles while ignoring other technologies like low-carbon ethanol and flex-fuel vehicles that reduce emissions from light- and medium-duty transportation. The filing of lawsuits separately from other challenges is to ensure that ethanol producers and farmers have a strong and independent voice in the proceedings, as the EPA regulation presents numerous issues and challenges unique to the ethanol industry.

South Dakota News

Washington- U.S. Senator Mike Rounds (R-S.D.) has initiated a nationwide effort to support American farmers and ranchers by advocating for the inclusion of Mandatory Country of Origin Labeling (MCOOL) in the 2024 Farm Bill. Senator Rounds is urging Senate colleagues to join his letter to the Senate Agriculture Committee, requesting the addition of MCOOL to the framework for the 2024 Farm Bill. MCOOL was originally passed in the 2002 Farm Bill but was later repealed in 2015 by Congress. The majority of products imported into the United States are obligated to disclose the item's country of origin to the consumer. Currently, country-of-origin labeling laws apply to agricultural food products such as lamb, goat, chicken, venison, wild and farmed fish and shellfish, fresh and frozen fruits and vegetables, peanuts, pecans, macadamia nuts, and ginseng, but beef is not differentiated from foreign-made products.

The deadline to sign the letter is June 21.

South Dakota Planting & Production Progress

According to an updated news release from the National Agricultural Statistic Service (USDA, Northern Plains Region) the current percentages across South Dakota:

Corn Emerged- 98% up from 84% the previous week

Corn Condition- 3% poor, 19% fair, 66% good, 12% excellent

Soybean Planted- 99% up from 88% the previous week

Soybeans Emerged- 92% up from 59% the previous week

Soybean Condition- 1% poor, 3% fair, 51% good, 16% excellent

Winter Wheat Headed- 80% up from 61% the previous week

Winter Wheat Condition- 1% very poor, 4% poor, 25% fair, 15% good, 13% excellent

Pasture and Range Condition- 5% very poor, 6% poor, 26% fair, 53% good, 10% excellent

Days Suitable for Field Work- 6.5

Topsoil Moisture Condition- 4% very short, 12% short, 81% adequate, 6% surplus

Subsoil Moisture Condition- 4% very short, 13% short, 73% adequate, 10% surplus

Groton Jr Teeners 14U Make A Run Against Smittys 14U 2024 Aberdeen But Fall Short

By GameChanger Media

Despite a 4-run deficit in the fourth inning, Groton Jr Teeners 14U almost came all the way back, eventually falling 5-4 to Smittys 14U 2024 Aberdeen on Friday. Groton Jr Teeners 14U closed the gap by scoring on a steal of home, a walk, a walk, and a walk.

Smittys 14U 2024 Aberdeen got on the board in the first inning after Mason Backous hit a sacrifice fly, scoring one run.

Smittys 14U 2024 Aberdeen added to their early lead in the bottom of the third inning after Kaylor Swenson grounded out, and Smittys 14U 2024 Aberdeen scored on a wild pitch, each scoring one run.

Groton Jr Teeners 14U tied the game up in the top of the sixth thanks to three walks. Groton Jr Teeners 14U tied the game at four on a walk by Zach Flihs.

Maddox Dinger earned the win for Smittys 14U 2024 Aberdeen. The reliever surrendered zero hits and zero runs over one-third of an inning, striking out none and walking one. Alex Abeln took the loss for Groton Jr Teeners 14U. The righty went five innings, surrendering five runs (four earned) on eight hits, striking out four and walking one. Brody Beitelspacher started the game for Smittys 14U 2024 Aberdeen. They gave up one hit and one run over five innings, striking out five and walking four.

Jordan Schwan and John Bisbee each collected one hit for Groton Jr Teeners 14U. Xavior Ellenbecker and Kolton Antonsen each drove in one run for Groton Jr Teeners 14U. Groton Jr Teeners 14U had patience at the plate, accumulating eight walks for the game. Flihs and Sam Crank led the team with two free passes each.

Beitelspacher and Backous each collected two hits for Smittys 14U 2024 Aberdeen. Swenson and Backous were a one-two punch in the lineup, as each drove in one run for Smittys 14U 2024 Aberdeen. Jace Byram stole two bases.

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Second-Inning Burst Enough To Lead Smittys 14U 2024 Aberdeen Past Groton Jr Teeners 14U

By GameChanger Media

Smittys 14U 2024 Aberdeen defeated Groton Jr Teeners 14U 12-0 on Friday thanks in part to seven runs in the second inning.

Smittys 14U 2024 Aberdeen jumped out to the lead in the bottom of the first inning after Mason Backous hit an inside the park home run, scoring two runs, Donovan Kiesow tripled, scoring two runs, and JaSean Rivera drew a walk, scoring one run.

Smittys 14U 2024 Aberdeen scored seven runs on six hits in the bottom of the second inning. Backous singled, scoring two runs, Jace Byram singled, scoring one run, Kiesow doubled, scoring two runs, a steal of home scored one run, and one run scored on another play.

Carsen Hofland earned the win for Smittys 14U 2024 Aberdeen. The starting pitcher surrendered two hits and zero runs over five innings, striking out five and walking four. Ethan Kroll took the loss for Groton Jr Teeners 14U. The starting pitcher went three innings, giving up 12 runs (11 earned) on 11 hits, striking out none and walking three.

Kroll and Jordan Schwan were a force together in the lineup, as they each collected one hit for Groton Jr Teeners 14U while hitting back-to-back. Groton Jr Teeners 14U were sure-handed and didn't commit a single error. Zach Flihs made the most plays with two.

Smittys 14U 2024 Aberdeen tallied 11 hits in the game. Backous went 3-for-3 at the plate to lead Smittys 14U 2024 Aberdeen in hits. Kiesow and Backous each drove in four runs for Smittys 14U 2024 Aberdeen. Maddox Dinger and Byram each collected multiple hits for Smittys 14U 2024 Aberdeen. Smittys 14U 2024 Aberdeen turned one double play in the game. Smittys 14U 2024 Aberdeen were sure-handed and didn't commit a single error. Byram made the most plays with six.

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GROTON
CUSTOMER APPRECIATION

Walking Tacos!

11 am - 2 pm
Groton Bank

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26

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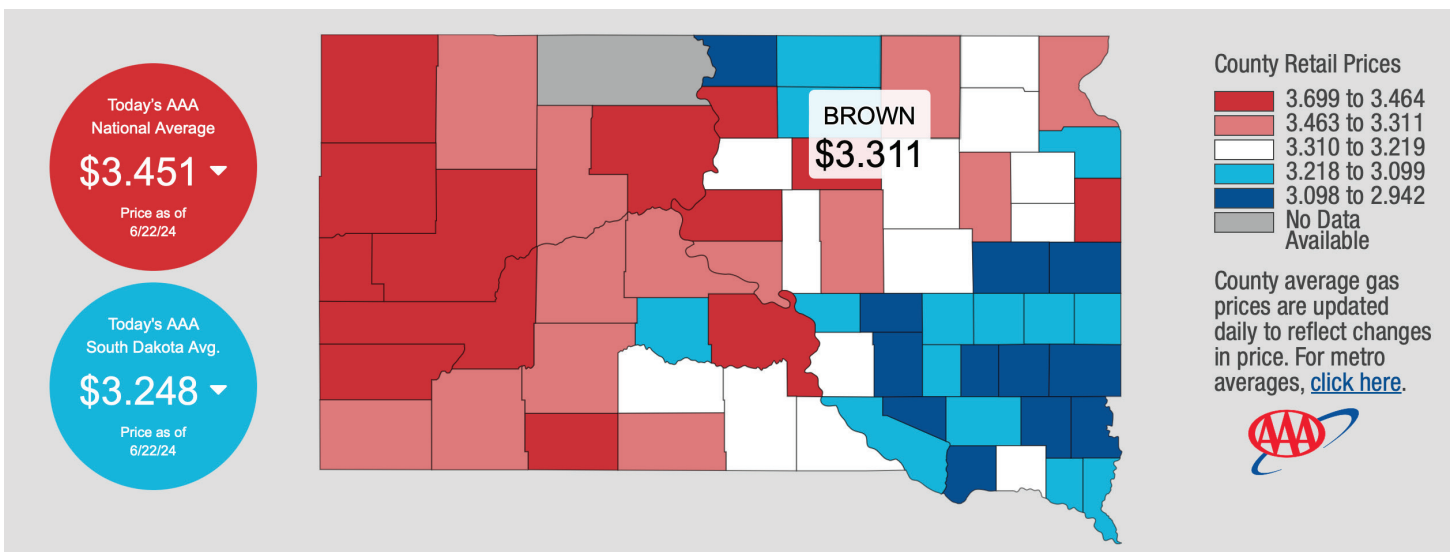
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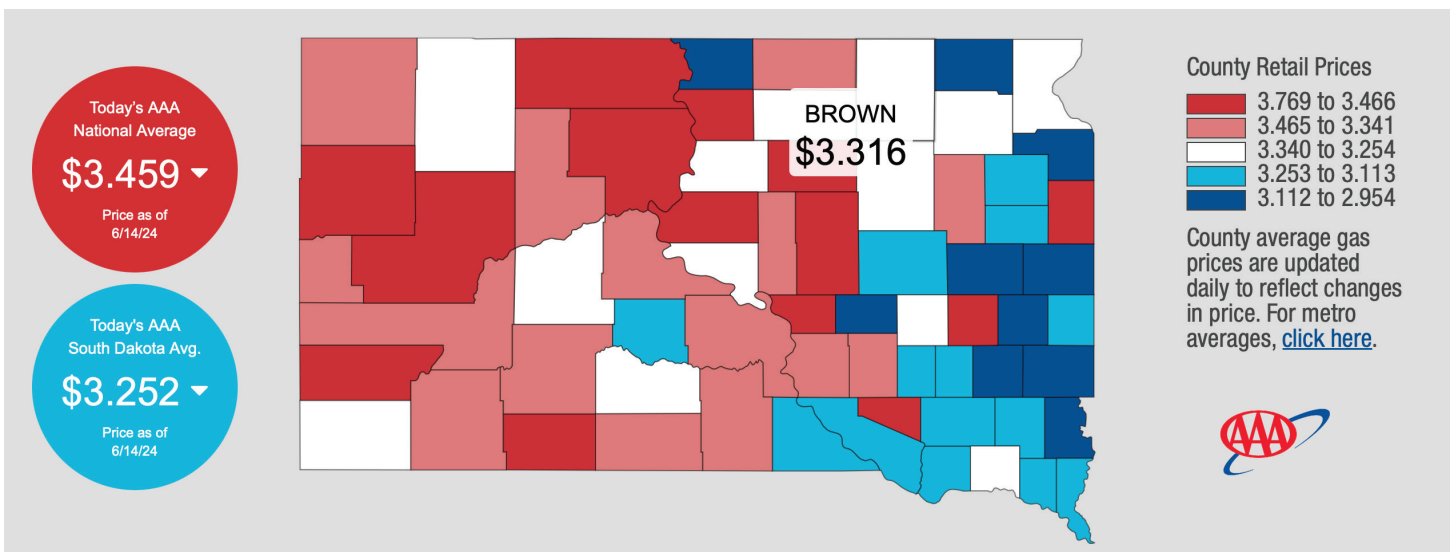
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.248	\$3.444	\$3.873	\$3.417
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.252	\$3.437	\$3.876	\$3.404
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.244	\$3.422	\$3.855	\$3.392
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.312	\$3.465	\$3.891	\$3.518
Year Ago Avg.	\$3.450	\$3.641	\$4.098	\$3.732

This Week



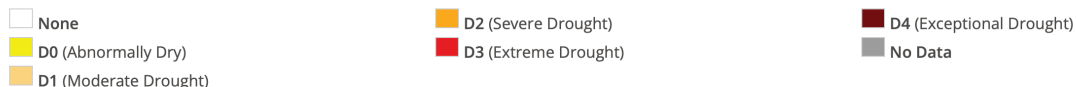
Last Week



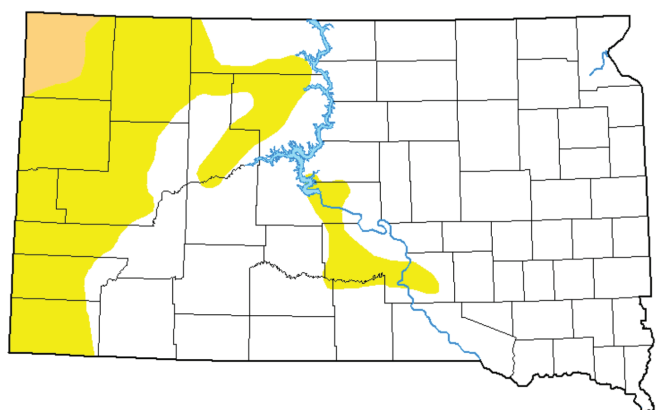
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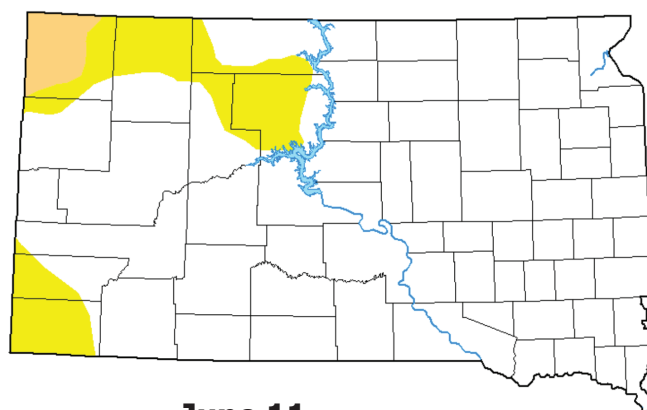
Drought Classification



Drought Monitor



June 18



June 11

Moderate to heavy rains soaked a sizeable part of the High Plains Region last week. Most fell on locations not experiencing antecedent dryness and therefore provided no relief, but several areas that have been entrenched in drought did record enough rainfall to consequentially improve conditions. Heavy rainfall totals of 2 to locally 4 inches were fairly common over a fairly broad swath from northeastern to southwestern Kansas, making this one of the few states to experience more relief than deterioration last week. Patches of 1-category improvements were introduced where heavier rains fell, continuing a general trend of decreasing dryness observed since mid-May. At that time, almost one-third of the state was covered by severe drought (D2) or worse. Four weeks later, less than 8 percent of the state is similarly dry. Farther north, heavy rains also affected parts of areas experiencing antecedent dryness in southern Nebraska. Generally 1 to 3 inches of rain eliminated moderate drought (D1) in south-central Nebraska, and whittled away some D0 in some other parts of south-central Nebraska. Moderate to heavy rains also ended D0 conditions in a few small areas in central South Dakota as well. Farther west, however, continued dry and warm weather engendered areas of deterioration in central portions of the Rockies and High Plains, as has been scattered across these areas occasionally for the past several weeks. Burgeoning 60- to 90-day precipitation shortfalls along with acute root-zone moisture and ground water deficits led to a broad expansion of moderate drought (D1) in eastern Wyoming and western Nebraska. The dry week compounded by recent heat and increasing short-term precipitation shortfalls also led to some lesser D0 and D1 expansion in other parts of Wyoming and a few areas across Colorado and the central and western portions of South Dakota.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Flooding causes no-travel advisory in southeast SD; portions of I-29 blocked

BY: SEARCHLIGHT STAFF - JUNE 21, 2024 3:31 PM

The Department of Transportation issued a no-travel advisory this afternoon for all state highway sections in southeastern South Dakota experiencing flooding, including a blocked portion of Interstate 29.

Some locations in the area received more than 5 inches of rain in the past two days, with 2 to 4 additional inches of rain in the forecast for some locations today into Saturday.

The Department of Transportation said heavy rainfall and saturated ground conditions are causing widespread flooding, making travel difficult to impossible in the southeastern region. A majority of state and local routes are impassable due to standing or flowing water across the roadway, and many of the major streams and rivers will continue to rise and are not anticipated to peak until this weekend or later.

Interstate 29 is blocked at exit 50 (Centerville) and exit 62 (Canton). An alternate route has been created in conjunction with the Iowa Department of Transportation and the Minnesota Department of Transportation to allow motorists to safely travel from Sioux Falls to Sioux City, and Sioux Falls to the South Dakota Highway 48 junction north of Junction City.

The alternate route diverts motorists in Sioux Falls to eastbound I-90 to Worthington, Minnesota, turning south on U.S. Highway 59, turning southwest on State Route 60 through Sheldon, Iowa, and continuing south on U.S. Highway 75 from Le Mars, Iowa, to access Sioux City, Iowa. Motorists can also use Iowa State Highway 3 heading west out of Le Mars to access South Dakota Highway 48 and I-29.

It's highly recommended that motorists use the alternate route, said the South Dakota Department of Transportation, as other secondary highways in the area are impassable due to high water.

A map of the alternate route as well as additional flooding traveler information can be found at <https://dot.sd.gov/travelers/travelers/flooding-information>. Travelers can also find road condition information for the state of Iowa at <https://www.511ia.org/> and the state of Minnesota at <https://511mn.org/>.

Interstate 90 is currently open but is anticipated to close this evening as the weather system becomes stronger and rainfall increases. Areas on I-90 near Salem and Mount Vernon are significantly impacted by



A flooded southeast South Dakota road on June 21, 2024.

(Courtesy of South Dakota Department of Transportation)

flooding.

Travel impacts are expected to increase throughout the evening hours, with a high likelihood of rain continuing through Saturday. An additional storm system is anticipated to move into the area around 5 p.m. Central today, which will bring heavy rainfall, damaging winds, hail and possibly a tornado. Motorists can expect additional road closures if conditions continue to worsen.

Motorists are reminded to respect all road closures and not drive around barricades. They should not use secondary highways to avoid road closures or highway obstructions. Driving into floodwater areas can lead to potentially dangerous or life-threatening situations. Due to the expected length of this weather event, all motorists are asked to plan their travel accordingly and not travel in southeast South Dakota if possible.

Visit <https://sd511.org> or download the SD511 mobile app to view all current road closures, no-travel advisories and highway obstructions.

State says many flooded southeast SD highways are closed

BY: SEARCHLIGHT STAFF - JUNE 21, 2024 9:36 AM

Many highways in southeast South Dakota are closed because of flooding, the state Department of Transportation said this morning.

Some routes impacted by flooding are open with the use of flaggers guiding motorists through sections of saturated roadway.

The National Weather Service office in Sioux Falls forecasts periods of rain and thunderstorms continuing into Saturday, with areas of heavy rain likely tonight. By this morning, some areas already had 24-hour rainfall totals above 5 inches. An additional 2 to 4 or more inches of rain in some areas is likely to bring further flash flooding, as well as additional rises on area rivers and creeks, the Weather Service said.

In Sioux Falls, eight parks and some sections of recreational trails were closed as of this morning due to flash flooding, with an updated list of closures available on sioux-falls.gov.

Motorists in southeast South Dakota can expect additional road closures to be put in place if conditions continue to worsen, according to the state Department of Transportation. The department asks drivers to respect all road closures and not drive around barricades. Driving into flooded areas can lead to potentially dangerous or life-threatening situations, the department said.

Visit <https://sd511.org> or download the SD511 mobile app to view all current road closures and highway obstructions.



A flooded road in Minnehaha County in the early morning hours of June 21, 2024. (Courtesy of Minnehaha County

Sheriff's Office)

The number of job openings has declined sharply in every state The pre-pandemic balance between unfilled jobs and unemployed people has returned

BY: TIM HENDERSON, STATELINE - JUNE 21, 2024 6:00 AM

The number of job openings has declined sharply in every state since 2022, better aligning the numbers of unfilled jobs and people seeking work.

Nationally, for the first time since before the pandemic, the number of job openings and unemployed people is roughly in balance: a little more than one opening per person looking for work, according to a State-line analysis of U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics data. At the height of the labor shortage in 2022, there were two job openings per job seeker. As of April, the ratio was down to 1.2 openings per person.

But the proportion of workers to jobs ranges widely from state to state. In California, where layoffs in tech and the film industry have unsettled the job market, there is less than one opening per unemployed

person. In North Dakota, where a brain drain has left a shortage of skilled and educated workers, there are almost three openings per unemployed person.

The federal government defines a job opening as an available position that an employer wants to fill within a month.

California, one of the few states where unemployment is above 5% and unemployed people outnumber job openings, has replaced Mississippi as the state with the highest unemployment rate. Washington state and Nevada also have less than one job opening per unemployed person.

The epicenter of the decline in job openings has been California's Bay Area, including the San Francisco and Silicon Valley metro areas. California ended up losing nearly all the tech jobs it gained during a pandemic boom fueled by online work and shopping.

Vishwanath Eswarakrishnan, a 35-year-old software engineer in the Bay Area, was shocked by his layoff from a San Francisco robotaxi firm in December, a day before the birth of his second child. But as soon as he posted the news to social media, he started getting calls from major firms, including Airbnb, Uber and Nvidia. He accepted an offer from Meta within a month and started work again in March.

"There are opportunities out there for folks with eight to 15 years of experience. You do get calls," Eswarakrishnan said. He added, however, that friends who have less experience or who work in less technical fields, such as product management, are having a harder time.

In North Dakota, by contrast, there are still almost three job openings for every unemployed person, though that's down from more than four openings in some months of 2022. Before the pandemic, there were 2.7 openings for every job seeker.



A help wanted sign is displayed at a boardwalk restaurant the day before the Memorial Day weekend in the shore community of Wildwood on May 28, 2021, in Wildwood, New Jersey.(Spencer Platt/Getty Images)

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North Dakota suffers from a lack of skilled workers to fill open jobs, and many who could fill them move to nearby cities, such as Minneapolis, looking for a more urban lifestyle and more desirable jobs, said Thomas Krumel, a professor at North Dakota State University who studies labor demand.

North Dakota's oil boom peaked a decade ago but it left a lasting legacy of high wages and cost of living, he added.

"The positions that employers find most difficult to fill do not require a four-year college degree. Skilled trades, healthcare support and technical jobs often face shortages," Krumel wrote in an email.

Unemployment nationwide was at 4% in May, higher than the 3.5% before the pandemic but still near historic lows. The only states with unemployment rates above 5% were California (5.3%) and Nevada (5.1%), along with the District of Columbia (5.2%). The lowest rates were in North Dakota and South Dakota (2%), and Vermont (2.1%).

A return to a pre-pandemic labor market is a good sign, said Nick Bunker, economic research director at Indeed Hiring Lab.

"It was a strong labor market, robust and seemingly sustainable," Bunker said.

However, states with the largest declines in job openings could be in for future trouble.

"We've hit the spot now where if employers do continue to pull back on openings, the probability of the unemployment rate rising more sharply becomes higher," Bunker said.

Of the 10 metro areas with the largest decline in job listings since the beginning of the pandemic, four are in California, according to Bunker's research. San Francisco (-31%) had the largest decline, followed by San Jose in the Silicon Valley (-28%); Seattle (-27%); New York City (-12%); Boston (-8%); Los Angeles (-6%); Oxnard, California (-5%); Provo, Utah, and Washington, D.C. (-4%); and Buffalo, New York (-3%).

In California, there has been a steep decline in the number of jobs in film and tech, especially supporting roles in sales and recruiting that blossomed in the early pandemic years. Some of the boom in startups was fueled by low interest rates that allowed new tech firms to operate for years before reaching profitability. Higher rates have hit hard.

"Most software is built in startups, with the bulk of the work at the beginning of a business. VC [venture capital] is down and there's been a flood of talent from big companies that have cut the fat," said Cody Palmer, a software engineer who does contract work for Silicon Valley companies from Denver. He lost a large contract job this year.

"I've been doing this for 15 years and I choose jobs that are hard and high-risk, typically startups," Palmer said. "I've seen, like, 13 layoffs in my career. I've grown into this mindset of 'Always be looking, always try and find the next gig, and be wary of just how fast a job can cut you.'"

The cooling of the labor market without an unemployment spike, at least so far, has surprised some economists.

"It had never happened before, but it did happen," said Olivier Blanchard, an emeritus economics professor at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He co-authored an influential paper in 2022 with former U.S. Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers predicting that by raising interest rates to curb inflation and cool down an "overheated" labor market, the Federal Reserve would cause a "painful" spike in unemployment.

"Larry and I turned out to be wrong," Blanchard said.

Other economists such as Andrew Figura at the Federal Reserve argued that a "soft landing" without high unemployment was possible as long as layoffs didn't spike nationally, as they did in California.

California's creation of new jobs, the largest in the nation before the pandemic, has now reversed into the largest losses in employment, according to an earlier Stateline analysis. Since 2022, when the Fed first raised interest rates, California has lost 93,000 jobs in the information sector, which includes many internet services and also film and sound recording, according to a March report from the Public Policy Institute of California.

Stateline is part of States Newsroom, a nonprofit news network supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Stateline maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Scott S. Greenberger for questions: info@stateline.org. Follow Stateline on Facebook and X.

Tim Henderson covers demographics for Stateline. He has been a reporter at the Miami Herald, the Cincinnati Enquirer and The Journal News in suburban New York. Henderson became fascinated with census data in the early 1990s, when AOL offered the first computerized reports. Since then he has broken stories about population trends in South Florida, including a housing affordability analysis included in the 2007 Pulitzer-winning series "House of Lies" for the Miami Herald, and a prize-winning analysis of public pension irregularities for The Journal News. He has been a member and trainer for the National Institute for Computer-Assisted Reporting since its inception 20 years ago, specializing in online data access and visualization along with demographics.

U.S. Supreme Court upholds law that prevents domestic abusers from owning guns

BY: ARIANA FIGUEROA - JUNE 21, 2024 10:46 AM

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court Friday upheld a federal law that bars people subject to domestic violence restraining orders from owning a firearm.

In an 8-1 decision on *United States v. Rahimi*, Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in the opinion that "our Nation's firearm laws have included provisions preventing individuals who threaten physical harm to others from misusing firearms."

"When an individual has been found by a court to pose a credible threat to the physical safety of another, that individual may be temporarily disarmed consistent with the Second Amendment," Roberts wrote.

Justice Clarence Thomas, a staunch advocate of the Second Amendment, was the lone dissenter.

Thomas argued that the question before the court was not if someone can have their firearms taken away under the Second Amendment, but instead whether the "Government can strip the Second Amendment right of anyone subject to a protective order — even if he has never been accused or convicted of a crime. It cannot."

The White House and gun safety advocates welcomed the long-awaited decision as a major victory.

"No one who has been abused should have to worry about their abuser getting a gun," President Joe Biden said in a statement. "As a result of today's ruling, survivors of domestic violence and their families will still be able to count on critical protections, just as they have for the past three decades."



A customer tries out a semi-automatic pistol at The Gun Store on Nov. 14, 2008, in Las Vegas. (Ethan Miller/Getty Images)

2022 decision

This was the first major test of the 2022 Supreme Court decision — New York State Rifle & Pistol As-

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sociation v. Bruen – that struck down a New York law limiting carrying firearms in the open in a decision from the high court that greatly expanded gun rights. Thomas wrote that decision.

Because of the Bruen decision, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit vacated Zackey Rahimi's conviction on the grounds that the federal law violated his Second Amendment rights.

In 2019, Rahimi assaulted his girlfriend in Arlington, Texas, and threatened to shoot her if she told anyone, according to the Department of Justice. That led to a restraining order that suspended his handgun license and prohibited him from possessing firearms.

But Rahimi did not adhere to that order and then threatened another woman with a gun, and two months later opened fire in public five times.

J. Matthew Wright, a federal public defender in North Texas who argued for his client, Rahimi, declined to comment on the decision.

Roberts says appeals court was wrong

Roberts argued the court's decision in Bruen does "not help Rahimi," and said the 5th Circuit's decision was wrong in its methodology.

Roberts said instead of reviewing the circumstances in which the federal law "was most likely to be constitutional, the panel instead focused on hypothetical scenarios where the provision might raise constitutional concerns."

He said that lower courts have misunderstood the methodology the high court used in the Bruen decision and that those "precedents were not meant to suggest a law trapped in amber."

Roberts said that lower courts should discern "[w]hy and how the regulation burdens" on the Second Amendment right "are central to this inquiry."

"For example, if laws at the founding regulated firearm use to address particular problems, that will be a strong indicator that contemporary laws imposing similar restrictions of similar reasons fall within a permissible category of regulations," he said. "As Bruen explained, a challenged regulation that does not precisely match its historical precursors 'still may be analogous enough to pass constitutional muster.'"

Liberal Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote a concurring opinion in which she said while she agreed with the Rahimi decision, she still believed Bruen was wrongly decided. However, she added the decision "clarifies Bruen's historical inquiry."

"Rather than asking whether a present-day gun regulation has a precise historical analogue, courts applying Bruen should 'conside(r) whether the challenged regulation is consistent with the principles that underpin our regulatory tradition,'" she said.

Sotomayor said in the Rahimi case, the government did not identify a "founding-era or Reconstruction-era law that specifically disarmed domestic abusers," but that it didn't need to because there is "shared principle" in restricting gun use by those who pose a threat.

"History has a role to play in Second Amendment analysis, but a rigid adherence to history, (particularly history predating the inclusion of women and people of color as full members of the polity), impoverishes constitutional interpretation and hamstringing our democracy," she said.

Historical precedent

During oral arguments in November before the court, U.S. Solicitor General Elizabeth Prelogar, representing the Biden administration, argued that the 5th Circuit misinterpreted the Bruen decision.

She said there is historical precedent in the ability of Congress to "disarm those who are not law-abiding, responsible citizens."

Under a 1994 federal law, anyone who has been convicted in any court of a "misdemeanor crime of domestic violence," and, or, is subject to domestic violence protective orders, is prohibited from purchasing and having possession of firearms and ammunition.

During those oral arguments, the justices – both liberal and conservative – seemed to side with Prelogar's argument that the federal law is in line with the longstanding practice of disarming dangerous people and

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does not violate an individual's Second Amendment rights.

More than half of female homicide victims are killed by current or former male intimate partners. Firearms are used in more than 50% of those homicides.

More than two dozen states have laws that prevent someone subject to an order in a domestic violence case from buying or possessing a gun and ammunition.

Some of those states include Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Louisiana, Maine, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

Protecting victims

Attorney General Merrick Garland said in a statement the decision upheld a law that "protects victims by keeping firearms out of the hands of dangerous individuals who pose a threat to their intimate partners and children."

"As the Justice Department argued, and as the Court reaffirmed today, that commonsense prohibition is entirely consistent with the Court's precedent and the text and history of the Second Amendment," Garland said.

Angela Ferrell-Zabala, the executive director of the gun safety advocacy group Moms Demand Action, said in a statement that the court's decision will ensure that "millions across the country will be protected over the desires of gun rights extremists."

"This is a win for the gun safety movement and another loss for the gun lobby hellbent on putting lives in danger," Ferrell-Zabala said.

Douglas Letter, the chief legal officer of the Brady Center to Prevent Gun Violence, said in a statement that he hopes lower courts will follow the advice from Friday's ruling.

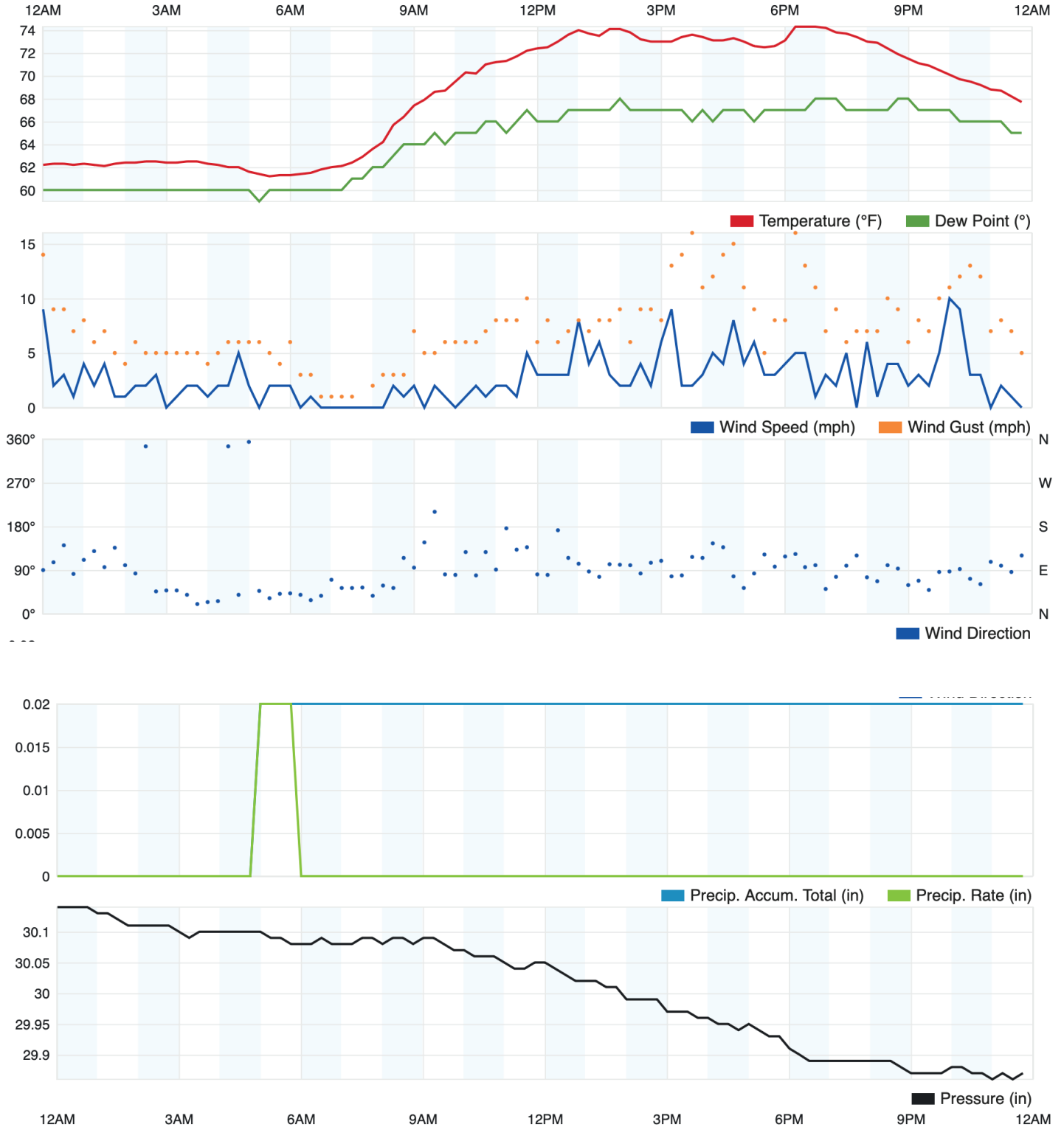
"Guns are the number one weapon of choice for domestic abusers, and there is no reason why anyone who is a known danger should be permitted access to firearms," Letter said.

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

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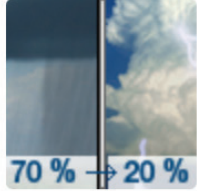
Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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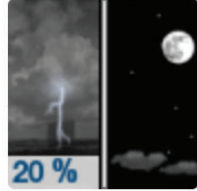
Today



High: 81 °F

Heavy Rain then Slight Chance T-storms

Tonight



Low: 58 °F

Slight Chance T-storms then Mostly Clear

Sunday



High: 86 °F

Sunny

Sunday Night



Low: 63 °F

Mostly Clear

Monday



High: 95 °F

Hot



Through The Weekend

June 22, 2024
4:13 AM

& Start of Next Week

Key Messages/Forecast Highlights

- Round of scattered showers and weak Thunderstorms this morning
- Isolated fast moving storms this evening
- A couple of days of **Summer Heat!**
 - Highs Sunday 80-90° ↑ Humidity
 - Highs Monday 88-97° & Heat Index 90-100°
 - Highs Tuesday 84-90° ↓ Humidity

Probability of Precipitation Forecast (%)

	6/22 Sat																			
	5am	6am	7am	8am	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	10pm	11pm	
Aberdeen	55	55	55	55	60	45	20	20	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	10	20	20	10	
Britton	30	35	45	55	65	55	50	30	15	5	10	5	0	5	5	10	20	20	15	
Brookings	30	35	25	35	40	20	55	55	50	25	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Chamberlain	35	35	35	35	35	40	20	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Clark	50	40	40	45	50	50	50	30	10	5	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	10	5	
Eagle Butte	55	35	20	15	15	10	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	20	20	10	5	5
Ellendale	40	40	45	50	50	25	20	20	5	5	5	5	5	5	10	20	20	20	10	
Eureka	55	45	35	35	20	20	20	15	5	5	0	0	0	5	20	20	20	20	15	
Gettysburg	60	55	55	40	30	20	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	20	20	20	15	
Huron	50	50	40	30	35	35	45	20	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Kennebec	45	40	30	25	20	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	
McIntosh	45	30	20	20	20	10	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	5	20	20	10	5	5	5
Milbank	30	25	30	30	45	55	65	55	40	25	10	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	
Miller	60	50	45	45	45	30	15	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10	5	5	
Mobridge	60	45	25	25	20	15	10	5	5	0	0	0	0	15	20	20	20	20	15	
Murdo	45	35	30	20	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	5	
Pierre	50	45	35	25	15	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	15	5	5	5	
Redfield	60	55	45	50	55	40	30	15	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	10	20	10	10	
Sisseton	30	35	40	45	55	55	60	45	30	15	5	5	5	5	10	10	5	20	15	
Watertown	45	35	35	40	45	55	60	50	30	15	5	5	5	0	5	5	5	5	5	
Webster	45	40	40	50	60	55	55	35	15	5	5	5	5	0	5	10	5	20	15	
Wheaton	25	25	25	30	40	50	65	55	45	30	10	10	5	5	10	10	5	20	15	



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

We will continue to see light amounts of moisture this morning, with more isolated storms coming out of North Dakota this evening. Otherwise we will see a shift to hot and humid conditions to start the work week.

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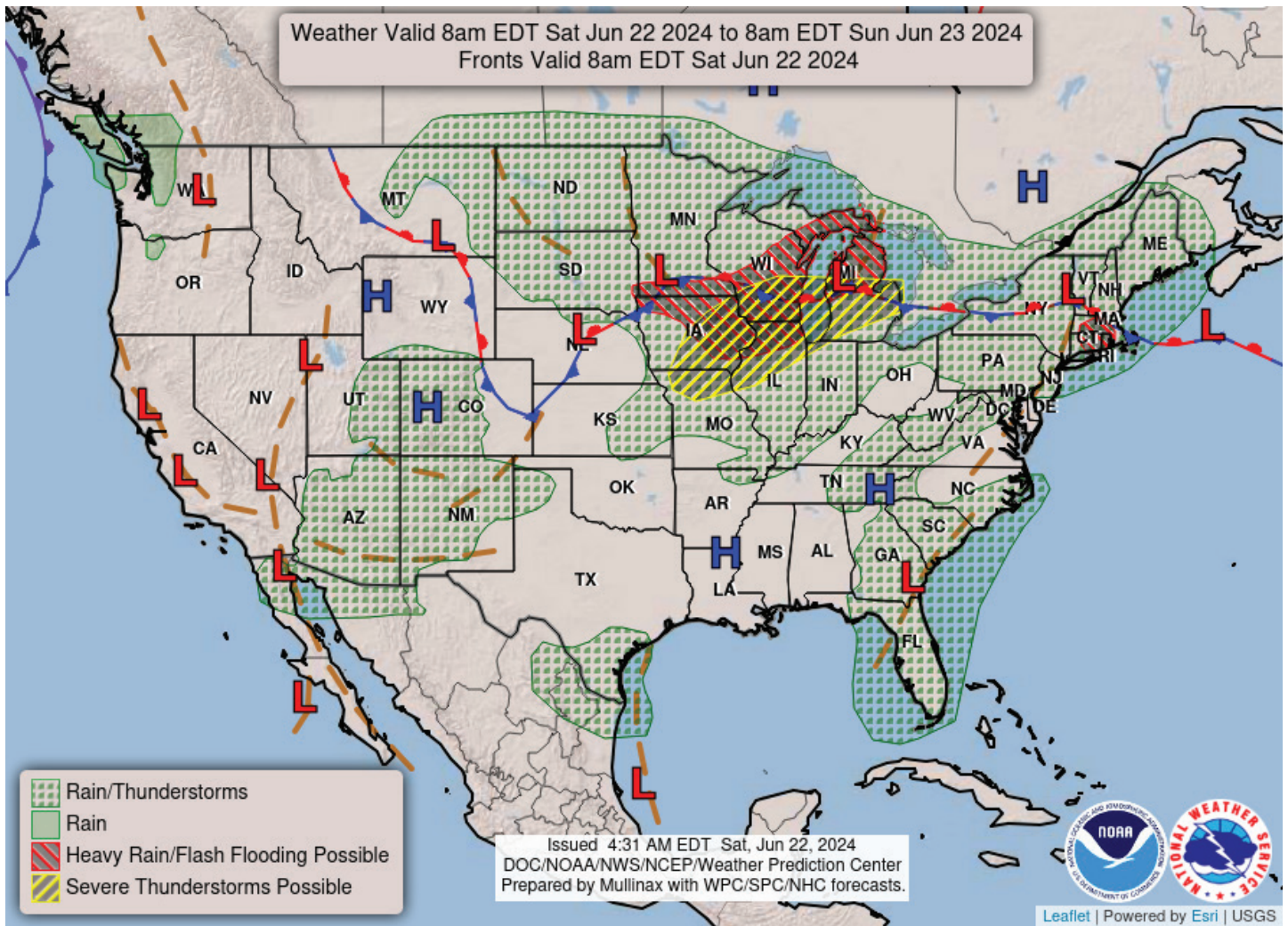
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 75 °F at 6:23 PM
Low Temp: 61 °F at 5:26 AM
Wind: 17 mph at 3:33 PM
Precip: .02

Day length: 15 hours, 44 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 102 in 1922
Record Low: 39 in 1905
Average High: 82
Average Low: 57
Average Precip in June.: 2.69
Precip to date in June: 2.57
Average Precip to date: 9.94
Precip Year to Date: 9.64
Sunset Tonight: 9:26:40 pm
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:42:50 am



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Today in Weather History

June 22, 1916: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast from 4 miles east of Willow Lakes to east of Vienna, in Clark County. A farmhouse was picked up and thrown into a granary. A boy was smothered to death by grains as a barn collapsed on him, one mile south of Vienna.

June 22, 1919: The second deadliest tornado in Minnesota's history occurred on this day. 59 people were killed as an estimated F5 tornado ripped through the town of Fergus Falls, Minnesota. 400 buildings were destroyed. A blank check was found over 60 miles away, and lumber was carried 10 miles. Of the 59 victims, 35 were guests of the Grand Hotel.

June 22, 1996: From the morning through the late afternoon hours, several supercell thunderstorms moved southeast along a strong warm front from eastern Corson County to southwest Deuel County. These storms produced several tornados, large hail, very heavy rains, and damaging winds. Hail up to the size of baseballs and winds gusting to 70 mph damaged and destroyed thousands of acres of crops, broke windows in homes, buildings, and vehicles. Many roofs were damaged, and trees were downed from near Mobridge to Redfield to Toronto. The most extensive crop, building, and tree damage occurred around the areas of Redfield, Vienna, Naples, Hazel, Bryant, Henry, Lake Norden, Castlewood, Estelline, and Toronto all south of Highway 212. The hail swaths of destruction were as much as 10 miles wide in places. Some farmers said you could not tell what was planted because the crops were destroyed. Hail piles of one to two feet were reported in some areas. Also, most of the area from Redfield to Toronto received one to three inches of rain which caused some flooding problems.

1928: A farmer near Greensburg, KS looked up into the heart of a tornado. He described its walls as "rotating clouds lit with constant flashes of lightning and a strong gassy odor with a screaming, hissing sound."

1947 - Twelve inches of rain fell in forty-two minutes at Holt, MO, establishing a world rainfall record. That record was tied on January 24-25, 1956, at the Kilauea Sugar Plantation in Hawaii, as their state record was established with 38 inches of rain in 24 hours. (The Weather Channel)

1972 - Hurricane Agnes deluged Pennsylvania and New York State with torrential rains resulting in the most costly flood in U.S. history. In the Middle Susquehanna Valley of Pennsylvania, 24 hour rainfall amounts were generally 8 to 12 inches, with up to 19 inches in extreme southwestern Schuylkill County. At Wilkes-Barre, PA, the dike was breached destroying much of the town. Flooding resulted in 117 deaths and 3.1 billion dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1981 - A young woman from Lubbock, TX, was struck by lightning. The bolt of lightning struck just above her right shoulder near her neck, and passed right to left through her body, tearing her warm-ups, causing her tennis shoes to explode, and lifting her two feet into the air. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in southern Texas produced wind gusts to 116 mph near Quemado. Thunderstorms in New York State produced 5.01 inches of rain in 24 hours at Buffalo, an all-time record for that location, and produced an inch of rain at Bath, PA. The temperature at Fairbanks AK soared to 92 degrees, establishing a record for the date. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Sixty-five cities in twenty-four states reported record high temperatures for the date. Tucson AZ reported an all-time record high of 114 degrees, surpassing the previous record of 112 degrees established a day earlier. Highs of 98 degrees at Pittsburgh, PA, and 100 degrees at Baltimore, MD, tied records for the month of June. (The National Weather Summary)

2003: A hailstone measuring 7.0 inches in diameter with a circumference of 18.75 inches and weighing 1.33 pounds falls in Aurora, Nebraska. The National Weather Service reports this is the second largest hailstone ever documented in the U.S. by weight, and the largest by size at that time. The world's largest hailstone NOW was produced from storms in South Dakota; 8" in diameter and 1.9375 lbs. on July 23, 2010.

2007: The first officially documented F5 tornado in Canada struck the town of Elie, Manitoba population 500 people. Video of the storm showed a heavy van being whirled through the air. The storm also tossed an almost entire house several hundred yards through the air before it disintegrated. The tornado traveled across the landscape for about 35 minutes covering 3.4 miles and leaving a damage path 984 feet wide. Wind speeds in the tornado were later estimated at 260-316 mph. Fortunately, no fatalities or serious injuries were reported.

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

SAY WHAT IS!

The editor of the classified ad section of a newspaper noticed the cornerstone of a large cathedral in New York City. She paused to read the words and became intrigued.

Walking into the church she made her way down the aisle and finally found the pastor's study. Politely she asked if he had a moment to speak with her.

Seated in front of his desk she introduced herself and said, "I noticed the words on the cornerstone that quoted the words of Jesus: 'Heal the sick, cleanse the lepers, raise the dead, cast out devils.' Do you do those things here?"

"Oh no," came the reply. "Years ago they were placed there because the congregation thought they sounded good."

"Well," she replied, "if you don't do those things you shouldn't advertise that you do."

It is one thing to say that we believe the gospel but another thing to show others that we believe the gospel. Often we speak the words of the Bible as citizens of the Kingdom of Heaven but do not live by its rules. Again, we may verbalize the teachings of Jesus but quite another thing is to verify the value of His words with our life. If we say it, we ought to do it, and the goal of what we do should honor our Savior and Lord!

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to live our faith. We ask that You give us the courage to do what we ought to do wherever we are to show others we belong to Your Kingdom. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Above all, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ. Philippians 1:27



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

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paypal.me/paperpaul



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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.21.24

3 18 27 40 44 19

MegaPlier: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$97,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.19.24

19 21 24 44 51 8

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$3,500,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 6 Mins 52 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.21.24

4 7 13 29 46 1

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 21 Mins 52 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.19.24

14 17 18 20 30

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 21 Mins 52 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.19.24

16 23 35 50 59 21

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 50 Mins 52 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS: 06.19.24

4 27 44 50 64 7

Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$72,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 50 Mins 51 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

Millions baking across the US as heat prolongs misery with little relief expected

By BRUCE SHIPKOWSKI Associated Press

A relentless heat wave continued to bake most of the United States on Friday, with numerous areas expected to see record-breaking temperatures and forecasters warning there would likely be little relief through the weekend for most areas.

The steamiest conditions on Friday were expected in parts of Ohio and Indiana, where heat indexes were likely to soar past 100 degrees Fahrenheit (37.8 degrees Celsius) and remain there most of the day. But the Midwest was not the only area being baked, as heat and excessive heat warnings and advisories has been issued across the northeast, the mid-Atlantic and in some western states.

Idaho officials said two people in their 60s have died of heat-related causes — the state's first heat-related deaths of the year. Health officials did not release additional information about the victims Friday, including where they died.

Millions of residents across the country have had their lives disrupted by days of unusually high temperatures.

In Michigan, utility crews from several states were working feverishly Friday to restore power to thousands of suburban Detroit customers, two days after severe storms knocked out their power, leaving residents suffering amid a heat wave expected to linger through Saturday.

About 12,000 homes and businesses remained without power Friday afternoon in Oakland County, a suburban area north of Detroit hit hard by Wednesday night's storms that cut power to about 75,000 homes and businesses at its peak, said Brian Calka, DTE Energy's vice president of distribution operations.

Between 500 and 600 crew members from utilities in Ohio, Indiana and Illinois were working with about 1,000 DTE Energy utility workers and another 1,000 tree-trimming contractors to get the power back on amid the heat. Calka said the utility's goal is to get the power back on for all its customers by late Friday or early Saturday.

Utility crews were working 16-hour shifts to get the power back on and they were urged to deal with the heat by taking more breaks because they are wearing jeans, long-sleeved shirts, rubber gloves and hardhats for their work, Calka said.

"They are working in very, very tough conditions," he said.

Among the Michigan residents feeling the heat is Jody DeRusha, whose home in the village of Beverly Hills about 10 miles (16 kilometers) north of Detroit lost power Wednesday night and was also struck by part of a maple tree toppled by high winds in that night's severe thunderstorm. She has lost everything in her refrigerator, including a large amount of frozen beef and some halibut and fresh walleye.

"We've lost our power before and in the freezer if you don't open it you'd have about 48 hours, but in this heat, no. In 24 hours the refrigerator was done. Trash day is Monday so I'll empty it out then," DeRusha said Friday.

She and her daughter are armed with flashlights and they have been sleeping in their home's basement, which she said is 10 to 15 degrees cooler than the home, which is stuffy and hovering at about 80 F (27 C).

DeRusha, a contract logistics worker for a car transportation company, said she's been spending time in her car to savor its air conditioning while also recharging her cellphone.

It was too hot for some people for kayaking, at least during peak temperatures. Chad Brennan, who operates Sunrise Kayaking just outside Columbus, Ohio, limited groups to morning and evening trips even though it meant turning away customers.

"If you're doing anything physical like paddling a kayak, just even anything remotely strenuous on days like this, it's pretty exhausting," he said Friday.

This month's sizzling daytime temperatures were 35 times more likely and 2.5 degrees F hotter (1.4 de-

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degrees C) because of the warming from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas — in other words, human-caused climate change. That is according to World Weather Attribution, a collection of scientists that run rapid climate attribution studies that have not been peer reviewed.

The U.S. last year experienced the most heat waves since 1936, experts said. An Associated Press analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data found that the excessive heat contributed to more than 2,300 U.S. deaths, the highest number in 45 years of records.

The excessive heat wasn't the only weather-related issue in some states.

Several small-town tourist meccas in northern Minnesota continued to be inundated by floodwaters after a deluge of rain earlier this week, prompting the closure of major roads and leaving a costly trail of damage.

On Friday, Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz traveled to St. Louis County, where people in one town paddled through flood-ridden streets in small boats and officials estimated the floods had caused at least \$50 million in damage and prompted the closure of more than 40 roads.

At a news conference in Biwabik, Walz said he expected a presidential disaster declaration might be imminent, but the damage hadn't yet reached the necessary threshold. Walz encouraged people to keep track of damage, which could help the state secure federal assistance.

To the west, several South Dakota campers who'd gathered to see a now-canceled race at Huset's Speedway near Sioux Falls were rescued by boat Friday, Minnehaha County Chief Deputy Jeff Gromer said. No one was injured. Gromer warned against driving on gravel roads, through flooded streets or past barricades in the wake of flooding.

With little relief expected in the coming days, several events were being postponed or rescheduled due to the extreme heat.

Among them was the "Blazing Paddles Paddlefest" on Cleveland's Cuyahoga River, which was planned for Saturday. Organizers called off the event because of temperatures that are expected to reach the mid-90s. Much of Ohio has been under heat warnings all week although a bit of relief was expected on Sunday as temperatures drop back to normal in the Great Lakes region.

Former mayor of South Dakota town pleads not guilty in triple homicide case

CENTERVILLE, S.D. (AP) — A former law officer who once served as a tiny South Dakota town's mayor pleaded not guilty Thursday in a three-person killing.

Jay Ostrem, 64, pleaded not guilty and not guilty by reason of insanity to three counts of first-degree murder, three counts of second-degree murder and three counts of felony first-degree murder, the Sioux Falls Argus Leader reported.

A lawyer for Ostrem, Raleigh Hansman, didn't immediately respond to an Associated Press phone message seeking comment Friday.

A probable cause affidavit identified the victims as two brothers, ages 26 and 21, and a 35-year-old man. The document didn't specify any connection between the third victim and the brothers.

Ostrem worked in law enforcement for more than two decades in Wyoming and South Dakota, media reports said. He served as mayor of Centerville about a decade-and-a-half ago, but the exact dates weren't immediately available.

The probable cause document said a man in Centerville called police at 9:44 p.m. on Memorial Day to report that his brother had been shot by "a guy from across the street" and that the shooter had gone back home. The caller was still on the phone with a dispatcher when he said that he had been shot, too. He then stopped talking, the document said.

Ostrem was arrested a short time later. An AR-style rifle was on the ground near him, and he had a handgun in his pocket, the document stated. Officers then went to the home where the call originated and found all three victims.

Ostrem's wife told police that a neighbor had sexually assaulted her on Thursday, and she told Ostrem about the assault Monday night, the document stated. She said Ostrem "got up and went raging out of

the house," according to the document.

Centerville is about 40 miles (64 kilometers) south of Sioux Falls.

Prison, restitution ordered for ex-tribal leader convicted of defrauding Oglala Sioux Tribe

RAPID CITY, S.D. (AP) — A federal judge on Thursday sentenced a former tribal leader in South Dakota to serve nearly two years in prison and pay tens of thousands in restitution after a jury convicted him earlier this year of defrauding his tribe.

Former Oglala Sioux Tribal President Julian Bear Runner, 39, of Batesland, was convicted in April of six counts of wire fraud, and larceny and embezzlement offenses. In 2022, a federal indictment alleged Bear Runner submitted vouchers when he was president in 2019 and 2020 for official trips to other states he didn't take, and received about \$80,000 in checks, which authorities said he cashed for his personal use, including gambling and hotel stays.

U.S. District Judge Linda Reade sentenced Bear Runner to 22 months in prison concurrently on each count, with three years supervised release. He also must pay about \$82,000 in restitution to the tribe.

Bear Runner's public defender did not immediately respond to a phone message or email for comment. Tribal President Frank Star Comes Out did not immediately respond to a phone message or text message for comment.

South Africa's new government brings Black and white together. It's also reviving racial tensions

By GERALD IMRAY Associated Press

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — In a country where racial segregation was once brutally enforced, South Africa's new coalition government has brought a Black president and a white opposition leader together in an image of unity.

Yet the power-sharing agreement sealed a week ago between President Cyril Ramaphosa's African National Congress party and the Democratic Alliance, one of South Africa's few white-led parties, has unwittingly renewed some racial rifts.

Many Black South Africans have expressed discomfort with a white-led party being back in power, even in a coalition. The country is haunted by the apartheid system of white minority rule that ended 30 years ago but is still felt by millions among the Black majority who were ruthlessly oppressed by a white government and remain affected by unresolved issues of poverty and inequality.

South Africa is now faced with the likelihood of seeing more white people in senior government positions than ever since apartheid ended. White people make up around 7% of the country's population of 62 million.

The ANC liberated South Africa from apartheid in 1994 under Nelson Mandela, the country's first Black president. Its three-decade political dominance ended in the landmark May 29 election, forcing it to form a coalition. The DA, with its roots in liberal white parties that stood against apartheid, won the second largest share of votes.

Both have promoted their coming together in a multi-party coalition as a new unity desperately needed in a country with vast socioeconomic problems.

But history lingers. The DA suspended one of its white lawmakers Thursday, days after being sworn into Parliament, over racist slurs he made in a social media video more than a decade ago. Renaldo Gouws — reportedly a student in his 20s at the time — used an especially offensive term for Black people that was infamous during apartheid and is now considered hate speech.

Gouws faces disciplinary action from his party, and the South African Human Rights Commission said it will take him to court. The DA, which previously fended off allegations of favoring whites, is again under scrutiny.

The Congress of South African Trade Unions, an important political ally of the ANC, asserted that Gouws'

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outburst was symptomatic of a DA that is "soft on racists." The DA "needs to reflect on and address this if it wants to be accepted as a partner in the government of national unity by ordinary South Africans," it said.

DA leader John Steenhuisen denied in a television interview that his party is dedicated only to white interests, saying it wouldn't have won the second largest share of votes in a Black majority country if it was. The DA has Black and white lawmakers and supporters, but its only Black leader left the party in 2019, questioning its commitment to Black South Africans.

Political analyst Angelo Fick said the DA does have a "sense of whiteness" in the eyes of many South Africans and has created that by being "utterly disinterested in speaking to the concerns about race from Black South Africans."

Shortly before Gouws' case, racially charged language came from another direction when the MK Party of former President Jacob Zuma — once an ANC leader — called Ramaphosa a "house negro" for entering into the agreement with the DA. Zuma's party also referred to white DA chairperson Helen Zille as Ramaphosa's "slave master."

The MK Party and the Economic Freedom Fighters — the third and fourth biggest parties in Parliament — have refused to join what the ANC calls a government of national unity open to all. They said the fundamental reason is the DA, which they say is committed only to the well-being of South Africa's white minority.

"We do not agree to this marriage of convenience to consolidate the white monopoly power over the economy," EFF leader Julius Malema said.

Malema has sometimes provoked racial tensions in demanding change, once saying, "We are not calling for the slaughtering of white people, at least for now," and that South Africa's "white man has been too comfortable for too long."

He now says his party is not against white people but against a perceived "white privilege" that leaves 64% of Black people in poverty compared with 1% of white people, according to a 2021 report by the South African Human Rights Commission.

Malema represents a new opposition to the ANC by many Black South Africans frustrated over the race-based inequality that's evident after 30 years of freedom. White people generally live in posh neighborhoods. Millions of Black people live in impoverished townships on the outskirts.

That frustration led many voters to give up on the ANC. The concerns about teaming up with the DA could weaken the party even further.

In his inauguration speech Wednesday, Ramaphosa recognized the "toxic" divisions that remain decades after Mandela preached racial reconciliation. "Our society remains deeply unequal and highly polarized," Ramaphosa said.

The ANC is trying to use the coalition as a kind of reboot of Mandela's ideals.

"To us, it doesn't matter whether the cat is black or white," ANC Secretary-General Fikile Mbalula said of the agreement with the DA. Mandela had used the phrase to signal he was open to all races serving in South Africa's government.

"Fundamentally," Mbalula said, "the question is how do we move the country forward."

Biden and allied Republicans are trying to rally GOP women in swing-state suburbs away from Trump

By THOMAS BEAUMONT Associated Press

DOYLESTOWN, Pa. (AP) — Thirty miles north of Philadelphia, upscale subdivisions such as Colonial Commons interrupt dairy farms, centuries-old roadside stone houses and the winding Neshaminy Creek that flows between Doylestown and Newtown. Both cities were once rural outposts that have morphed into fashionable commercial, dining and shopping hubs.

This is one of the most closely watched areas in U.S. politics. President Joe Biden ran up his numbers in Bucks County, which includes both cities, on the way to flipping Pennsylvania from Republican Donald Trump four years ago, and won among suburban women in the state by a substantial margin.

Biden and his allies are trying to replicate Democrats' success with suburban women this year and signaling

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they can win a small number of Republican women who may be opposed to a second Trump presidency. But in dozens of interviews this month in Pennsylvania's Bucks County, there was little evidence that traditional Republicans were ready to abandon Trump, the presumptive GOP nominee, in significant numbers.

"I feel like I have to vote for the policies, not the person," said Lynn Natale, a 62-year-old interior designer. While Natale criticized Trump's rhetorical style — "It's like he doesn't have the words to speak directly to women" — she said she supported Trump's ideas on the economy and immigration.

"The alternative is unacceptable," she said.

About a dozen volunteers gathered in Biden's Bucks County campaign office on a recent sunny Saturday afternoon. The group fanned out across politically mixed neighborhoods around Doylestown, knocking on doors of registered Republican voters as well as those unaffiliated with either major party to ask them about issues that concerned them most.

In addition to the Biden campaign's outreach in politically mixed and Republican-voting neighborhoods of Bucks County, conservative groups such as Women4Us and Republican Voters Against Trump are mobilizing in suburban Philadelphia with hopes of peeling off GOP voters.

Stephanie Sharp, with Women4Us, pointed to former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley receiving 22% of the vote in the four-county suburban Philadelphia bloc in the April Republican presidential primary. That translated to 42,032 votes won by Haley six weeks after she suspended her campaign, in what was an apparent protest vote against Trump.

"Pennsylvania's closed Republican primary demonstrated an appetite for something better," said Sharp, whose group is planning outreach to Republican women in the most competitive presidential campaign states, including Pennsylvania.

"Republican women have had enough of our votes being taken for granted," Sharp added.

Trump's team is confident inflation and illegal immigration will drive some suburban women toward the former president, who is holding a rally Saturday in Philadelphia.

"President Trump is speaking to women when he discusses the sky-high cost of rent, groceries and gas in Biden's America," Trump's national press secretary Karoline Leavitt said. "President Trump is speaking to women when he talks about the migrant crime that has ravaged suburban communities."

About 6 in 10 suburban women in Pennsylvania voted for Biden in 2020, according to AP VoteCast, an expansive survey of voters nationwide, while 4 in 10 voted for Trump. But this year, many suburban women aren't happy to be faced with the same matchup, a trend that's true of Americans at large, according to public polling.

A recent survey of women voters by KFF found that about 6 in 10 suburban women are unsatisfied with their options for president. About half of those who identify as Democrats or lean toward the Democratic Party said the main reason they're not satisfied with Biden was related to his age or his mental and physical health.

Much smaller shares of Democratic-leaning suburban women pointed to other concerns, like the conflict between the Israelis and Hamas, the economy or his performance as president.

Suburban women voters were generally much likelier to say that Biden respects women, compared to Trump. About 7 in 10 suburban women voters said Biden respects women a lot or some, compared to only about 3 in 10 suburban women who said that about Trump. Nearly 7 in 10 suburban women said Trump doesn't respect women much, or at all.

But when asked about the most important issue for their 2024 vote, suburban women were most likely to point to inflation.

Terry Sykes, the owner of the boutique and spa along Newtown's quaint State Street, says the local economy matters most to her.

It thrived, she said, during Trump's administration, "like turning on a light switch."

"To be clear, all of Trump's policy positions support how I live my life," the 61-year-old Sykes said. "I mean, he is who he is. And women need to get over it. Because it's all about the policy and the health of our economy."

Anusha Bela, working from a laptop in a coffee shop in Doylestown's bustling downtown, had been a more fervent Biden supporter early on, but became disappointed with what she viewed as his slow response to Israel's violence in Gaza.

"And would I prefer someone younger? Yes. Would I prefer someone who seems to have newer ideas? Yes," the 40-year-old sports business consultant in a Philadelphia Phillies cap said.

"But Trump is a danger to democracy," she said.

Trump will address influential evangelicals who back him but want to see a national abortion ban

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump is set to speak Saturday to a group of politically influential evangelicals who fiercely support him but would like to see the presumptive Republican presidential nominee promise to do more to restrict abortion.

Trump's stated opposition to signing a nationwide ban on abortion and his reluctance to detail some of his views on the issue are at odds with many members of the evangelical movement, a key part of Trump's base that's expected to help him turn out voters in his November rematch with Democratic President Joe Biden.

While Trump nominated three of the Supreme Court justices who overturned a federally guaranteed right to abortion, he has argued supporting a national ban would hurt Republicans politically. About two-thirds of Americans say abortion should generally be legal, according to polling last year by the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs.

Ralph Reed, the founder and chairman of the Faith & Freedom Coalition that Trump will address Saturday, said people in his movement would like to see a federal ban on abortion and want Republican elected officials to be "profiles in courage" who are "articulating their strongly held pro-life views."

But, Reed said, Trump's positions do not put him at risk of losing any of the deep support of evangelical voters who give him "more slack in the rope than they would likely give another politician."

"I don't think it's going to hurt him at all because he's got enormous credibility on this issue," Reed said. "He did more for the pro-life and pro-family cause than any president we've ever had in the history of the movement."

According to AP VoteCast, a wide-ranging survey of the electorate, about 8 in 10 white evangelical Christian voters supported Trump in 2020, and nearly 4 in 10 Trump voters identified as white evangelical Christians. White evangelical Christians made up about 20% of the overall electorate that year.

Beyond just offering their own support in the general election, Reed's group plans to help get out the vote for Trump and other Republicans, aiming to use volunteers and paid workers to knock on millions of doors in battleground states.

While he still takes credit for the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*, Trump has also warned abortion can be tricky politically for Republicans. For months he deferred questions about his position on a national ban.

Last year, when Trump addressed Reed's group, he said there was "a vital role for the federal government in protecting unborn life" but didn't offer any details beyond that.

In April of this year, Trump said he believed the issue should now be left to the states. He later stated in an interview that he would not sign a nationwide ban on abortion if it was passed by Congress. He has still declined to detail his position on women's access to the abortion pill mifepristone.

In 2016, white evangelical Christians were initially reluctant to support Trump and suspicious of his image as a twice-divorced New York City tabloid celebrity who had at one point described himself as "very pro-choice."

But his promises to appoint justices to the court that would overturn *Roe*, along with his decision in 2016 to name Mike Pence, an evangelical Christian, as his running mate, helped him gain the movement's backing.

Several Republicans seen as potential running mates for Trump are also speaking at the conference, including New York Rep. Elise Stefanik, former presidential candidate and Trump Housing Secretary Ben

Carson and Arizona Senate candidate Kari Lake. Stefanik and Carson are among the Republicans who received vetting paperwork from the Trump campaign in recent weeks.

Reed said members of his coalition are watching them closely and looking for Trump to pick someone who shares his views.

"We're looking for somebody who will be a champion, a pro-family and pro-life and pro-Israel champion. And we're looking for someone who has the ability to bring some new folks into the fold and act as an ambassador for our values," he said.

Reed wouldn't name any of the field as strongest or weakest, calling it "an embarrassment of riches."

A year ago, Russian mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin challenged the Kremlin with a mutiny

By The Associated Press undefined

On a lazy summer weekend a year ago, Russia was jolted by the stunning news of an armed uprising. The swaggering chief of a Kremlin-sponsored mercenary army seized a military headquarters in the south and began marching toward Moscow to oust the Defense Ministry's leaders, accusing them of starving his force of ammunition in Ukraine.

Yevgeny Prigozhin and his soldiers-for-hire called off their "march of justice" only hours later, but the rebellion dealt a blow to President Vladimir Putin, the most serious challenge to his rule in nearly a quarter-century in power.

Prigozhin's motives are still hotly debated, and the suspicious crash of the private jet that killed him and his top lieutenants exactly two months after the rebellion remains mired in mystery.

A look at the mutiny and its impact:

Who was Yevgeny Prigozhin? Prigozhin, an ex-convict, owned a fancy restaurant in St. Petersburg where Putin took foreign leaders. That earned Prigozhin the nickname of "Putin's chef." Those ties won him lucrative government contracts, including catering for Kremlin events and providing meals and services to the military.

He founded the Wagner Group, a private military contractor, in 2014, using it to advance Russia's political interests and clout by deploying mercenaries to Syria, Libya, the Central African Republic and elsewhere. Wagner fighters provided security for African leaders or warlords, often in exchange for a share of gold mines or other natural resources.

Prigozhin gained attention in the U.S., where he and a dozen other Russians were indicted by the Justice Department for creating the Internet Research Agency — a "troll farm" that focused on interfering in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. The case was later dropped.

What was Wagner's role in Ukraine? After Putin invaded Ukraine in 2022, Wagner emerged as one of the most capable of Moscow's fighting forces. It played a key role in capturing the eastern stronghold of Bakhmut in May 2023.

Prigozhin was allowed by the Kremlin to swell Wagner's ranks with convicts, who were offered amnesty after serving six months on the front line. He said 50,000 were recruited, and 10,000 of them died in the ferocious battle for Bakhmut.

The war added to Wagner's reputation for brutality. In a video that surfaced in November 2022, a former Wagner mercenary who allegedly defected to the Ukrainian side but later was captured by Russia, was shown being beaten to death with a sledgehammer, the mercenary group's symbol.

What led to the uprising? For months in 2023, Prigozhin complained bitterly about the military brass denying his forces the needed ammunition in Ukraine. In open political infighting, he blasted then-Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu and General Staff chief Gen. Valery Gerasimov in profane rants on social media, blaming them for military setbacks and accusing them of corruption.

The Defense Ministry's order for Wagner to sign contracts with the regular military appeared to be the final trigger for Prigozhin's extraordinary rebellion on June 23-24.

His mercenaries swiftly took over Russia's southern military headquarters in Rostov-on-Don, reportedly

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hoping to capture Shoigu and Gerasimov. But they weren't there.

Prigozhin ordered his forces to roll toward Moscow, saying it wasn't a military coup but a "march of justice" to unseat his foes. The mercenaries downed several military aircraft en route, killing over a dozen pilots. Security forces in Moscow went on alert and checkpoints were set up on the southern outskirts.

At the height of the crisis, Putin went on TV and called the rebellion by his onetime protegee a "betrayal" and "treason." He vowed to punish those behind it.

But Prigozhin abruptly aborted the march hours later in an amnesty deal brokered by Belarus President Alexander Lukashenko. The mercenary forces were offered a choice of moving to Belarus, retiring from service or signing contracts with the Russian Defense Ministry.

Prigozhin later said he launched the uprising after he "lost his temper" in the infighting with his foes. Some commentators said he apparently hoped to persuade Putin to take his side against the military brass — a grave miscalculation.

What was Prigozhin's fate? On Aug. 23, two months to the day after the rebellion, a business jet carrying Prigozhin, 62, and his top associates crashed while flying from Moscow to St. Petersburg, killing all seven passengers and a crew of three.

State investigators have yet to say what caused the crash.

A preliminary U.S. intelligence assessment concluded there was an intentional explosion on board. West-ern officials pointed to a long list of Putin foes who have been assassinated.

The Kremlin has denied involvement and rejected Western allegations that Putin was behind it as an "absolute lie."

Prigozhin was buried in his hometown of St. Petersburg in a private ceremony.

What has happened to Wagner? Several thousand Wagner mercenaries moved to a camp in Belarus after the mutiny. Soon after Prigozhin's death, most left that country to sign contracts with the Russian military to redeploy to Africa or return to fighting in Ukraine. Only a handful stayed in Belarus to train its military.

Russian authorities formed a Wagner successor, Africa Corps, using it to expand military cooperation with countries there. Moscow has emerged as the security partner of choice for a number of African govern-ments, displacing traditional allies like France and the United States.

Elements of Wagner and other private security companies continue to operate in Ukraine under the control of the Defense Ministry and the Russian National Guard.

"Despite the spectacular demise of Prigozhin himself and the problems that Wagner got itself into as a result of that, the model — the idea of a private company profiting from this war — is one that is attractive to a lot of people in Russia," said Sam Greene of the Center for European Policy Analysis.

How has Putin responded since the uprising? Prigozhin's demise sent a chilling message to Russia's elites, helping Putin contain the damage to his authority inflicted by the rebellion.

A crackdown continued on his political foes, with many either fleeing the country or ending up in prison. His biggest opponent, Alexei Navalny, died in an Arctic penal colony in February.

In a stage-managed election in March, Putin won another six-year term. In a subsequent Cabinet shakeup, Putin dismissed Prigozhin's archfoe, Shoigu, as defense minister, replacing him with Andrei Belousov, an economics expert. Shoigu, who had personal ties with Putin, was given the high-profile post of secretary of Russia's Security Council.

"If Shoigu's new job had been too junior, it would have been humiliating, and could have triggered such criticism of the outgoing minister as to highlight the army's weaknesses: something to be avoided in war-time," Tatiana Stanovaya of the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center, said in a commentary.

At the same time, Shoigu's entourage faced purges. A longtime associate and deputy, Timur Ivanov, and several other senior military officers were arrested on corruption charges, and other senior Defense Ministry officials lost their jobs.

Gerasimov, the chief of the General Staff and another Prigozhin foe, has kept his job so far.

Gen. Sergei Surovikin, who reportedly had close ties with Prigozhin, was stripped of his post as deputy commander of forces in Ukraine and given a ceremonial position. Surovikin, credited with creating the multilayered defensive lines and fortifications that blunted Ukraine's offensive a year ago, wasn't dismissed

altogether, and some observers suggest he could eventually be given a new military post.

Edmonton Oilers beat the Florida Panthers 5-1 to force a Game 7 in the Stanley Cup Final

By STEPHEN WHYNO AP Hockey Writer

EDMONTON, Alberta (AP) — Connor McDavid was held without a point, so Leon Draisaitl and the Edmonton Oilers' other top players stepped up to put them one win from the Stanley Cup.

Draisaitl made his first major impact in the final by setting up Warren Foegele's early goal, Adam Henrique and Zach Hyman scored in the second period and the Oilers forced a Game 7 by beating the Florida Panthers 5-1 in Game 6 on Friday night.

"At the end of the day, we play to win and this is going to be the hardest game for us," Draisaitl said. "We have to bring our game again."

They are the first team to tie the final after falling behind 3-0 in the series since the Detroit Red Wings in 1945. The Oilers have the chance Monday night in Sunrise to join the 1942 Toronto Maple Leafs as the only NHL teams to come all the way back from that deficit to hoist the Stanley Cup.

"There was an unshakable belief," Hyman said. "No matter what happened throughout the year, we always believed we could pull through. No matter how dire the circumstances, we think we have a chance. It was a long season facing adversity which prepared us. The next one will be the hardest. It feels unbelievable to do it in front of this crowd. To have a chance to win now, this is our first opportunity to win."

The opportunity to make hockey history and end Canada's three-decade-long Cup drought exists only after McDavid's heroics with four points apiece in Games 4 and 5 to take the Oilers from the brink to belief. This was the first time in his nine-year career they've won a game in which he did not have a point or put a shot on net.

Draisaitl, his longtime running mate from Germany who has also been league MVP and considered among the best players in the world, lit the spark in Game 5 after being largely ineffective against the Panthers.

"He's a horse," defenseman Darnell Nurse said. "He's always showing up at the biggest moments. You look at all his playoff performances, he's one of the best to ever do it."

Draisaitl got the puck at center ice, skated around and through Florida defenders and put the puck on the tape of Foegele's stick for a tap-in that Sergei Bobrovsky had nearly no chance of stopping. That, of course, did not stop the fired up sellout crowd of 18,000-plus from mockingly chanting, "Ser-gei! Ser-gei!" starting before the anthems and continually throughout the night.

The goalie everyone calls "Bob" was hardly to blame, though, with mistakes in front of him also contributing to the 2-on-1 rush that ended with Henrique beating Bobrovsky off a 2-on-1 rush off a perfect pass from Mattias Janmark. The Panthers in front of their goaltender looked tight and timid and unlike the juggernaut that reached the final for a second consecutive year and won the first three games to move to the verge of the first title in franchise history.

"We have one game to go," Panthers defenseman Dmitry Kulikov said. "We were ready right from the start to play a seven-game series, and nothing changes now. We got up three, and they played three good games. Now it's up to us to win at home."

Florida had just six shots on net midway through the game and finished with 21. Continuing a trend of being there when the Oilers need him the most, Oilers goaltender Stuart Skinner made timely saves to stymie the Panthers, allowing just a goal to Aleksander Barkov less than 90 seconds into the third period.

"He's been lights out when we've needed him," Janmark said of Skinner.

The first time Barkov got the puck past him, 10 seconds after Henrique scored, the goal came off the board when Edmonton coach Kris Knoblauch successfully challenged for offside. A lengthy review found Sam Reinhart entered the offensive zone perhaps an inch or less before the puck, the announcement of which was followed by a roar from fans.

"I actually didn't think it was that close," Knoblauch said. "In my mind, it was definitely offside."

That was not the loudest Rogers Place got, and there were plenty of candidates for that distinction. The decibel meter shown on video screens reached 113.8 when the Oilers stepped on to the ice to the tune of Metallica's "Enter Sandman."

It might have approached that noise level when Ryan McLeod and Nurse scored empty-netters in the final minutes, setting off chants of "We want the Cup!" "We want the Cup!" and a wild celebration at the viewing party outside.

That was the fever pitch of a city that was awash in a sea of blue and orange downtown in the hours before puck drop. Friday might as well have been a holiday in Edmonton, the home of nearly a million people now fully able to let themselves dream of the Oilers adding another white championship banner to the rafters — and do so in the most improbable way possible.

"We're just excited to keep our season going," McDavid said. "That's what it's been about. One game at a time, one day at a time. Looking forward to the next one."

Israeli strikes on tent camps near Rafah kill at least 25 and wound 50, Gaza health officials say

By WAFAA SHURAFU Associated Press

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) — Israeli forces shelled tent camps for displaced Palestinians outside Gaza's southern city of Rafah on Friday, killing at least 25 people and wounding another 50, according to the territory's health officials and emergency workers.

This was the latest deadly attack in the Gaza Strip, where hundreds of thousands have fled fighting between Israel and Hamas. It comes less than a month after an Israeli bombing triggered a deadly fire that tore through a camp for displaced Palestinians in southern Gaza, drawing widespread international outrage — including from some of Israel's closest allies — over the military's expanding offensive into Rafah.

Witnesses whose relatives died in one of the bombardments near a Red Cross field hospital north of Rafah told The Associated Press that Israeli forces fired a second volley that killed people who came out of their tents.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said the hospital was flooded with casualties, including 22 dead and 45 wounded, and condemned the firing of "high-caliber projectiles" a few meters (yards) from the facility. Hundreds of people live in tents nearby, including many of the hospital staff, the ICRC said.

According to Ahmed Radwan, a spokesperson for Civil Defense first responders in Rafah, witnesses told rescue workers about Friday's shelling at two locations in a coastal area that has become filled with makeshift tents. The Health Ministry in Gaza reported the number of people killed and wounded in the attacks.

The locations of the attacks provided by the Civil Defense and the Red Cross hospital appear to be just outside an Israeli-designated safe zone on the Mediterranean coast, known as Muwasi. The Israeli military said the episode was under review but that "there is no indication that a strike was carried out by the IDF" inside the safe zone, using an acronym for Israel's armed forces. It did not offer details on the episode or say what the intended targets might have been.

Israel has previously bombed locations in the vicinity of the "humanitarian zone" in Muwasi, a rural area with no water or sewage systems where displaced Palestinians have built tent camps in recent months.

Israel says it is targeting Hamas fighters and infrastructure and that it tries to minimize civilian deaths. It blames the large number of civilian casualties on militants and says it's because they operate among the population.

With Israel's war against Hamas now in its ninth month, international criticism is growing over the campaign of systematic destruction in Gaza, at a huge cost in civilian lives. The top United Nations court has concluded there is a "plausible risk of genocide" in Gaza — a charge Israel strongly denies.

The attack near the Red Cross hospital began with a munition that only made a loud bang and bright flash, said Mona Ashour, who lost her husband after he went to investigate what was happening.

"We were in our tent, and they hit with a 'sound bomb' near the Red Cross tents, and then my husband came out at the first sound," Ashour said, holding back tears while clutching a young girl outside Nasser

Hospital in nearby Khan Younis.

"And then they hit with the second one, which was a little closer to the entrance of the Red Cross," she said.

Hasan al-Najjar said his sons were killed helping people who panicked after the first strike.

"My two sons went after they heard the women and children screaming," he said at the hospital. "They went to save the women, and they struck with the second projectile, and my sons were martyred. They struck the place twice."

The hospital's location is known to all parties in the conflict and marked with the Red Cross emblem, the ICRC noted on Friday. The 60-bed field hospital was opened in mid-May to provide emergency surgeries, obstetric, pediatric and outpatient care, according to a news release at the time, which shows white tents covering an area about the size of a soccer field.

Israel is pushing ahead with its invasion of Rafah, where over a million Palestinians had sought refuge from fighting elsewhere. Most have now fled the city, but the United Nations says no place in Gaza is safe and humanitarian conditions are dire as families shelter in tents and cramped apartments without adequate food, water, or medical supplies.

Elsewhere, Civil Defense teams in the northern Gaza Strip recovered the bodies of five people who were killed in an airstrike that hit two apartments in Gaza City, and several others were wounded. An airstrike earlier Friday hit a municipal garage in the city and killed five people.

Fadel Naeem, the orthopedic chief at al-Ahli hospital, said the bodies of 30 people were brought there Friday, calling it "a difficult and brutal day in Gaza City."

Meanwhile, the Israeli army said Friday that two soldiers were killed in combat in central Gaza. No information was given about the circumstances of the deaths of the two, both men in their 20s. Three other Israeli soldiers were severely injured, the army said.

Israeli ground offensives and bombardments have killed more than 37,400 people in Gaza, according to Gaza's Health Ministry, which does not distinguish between combatants and civilians in its count.

Israel launched the war after Hamas' Oct. 7 attack, in which militants stormed into southern Israel, killed some 1,200 people — mostly civilians — and abducted about 250.

Escape from killer New Mexico wildfire was 'absolute sheer terror,' says woman who fled the flames

By SUSAN MONTOYA BRYAN Associated Press

Belinda Bukovitz was jolted into action by the sound of police outside her home shouting through a loudspeaker: "Go now, go now, go now!" Realizing this was not like other wildfires that had threatened her mountain village before, she, her husband, son and two cats bundled into three separate cars and fled.

The smoke was at the end of the street when they tore out of the driveway. Panic set in as the usually sleepy two-lane streets of Ruidoso became gridlocked, with cars inching along bumper to bumper, sometimes taking as long as an hour to go a single mile. As they crept forward, smoke from one fire was ahead and smoke from another behind. Bukovitz had no idea where the flames were.

"It was absolute sheer terror, like I thought we were going to die," she said, voice cracking. "I remember at one point thinking, the river's over to my right, and I thought my son was about probably five cars behind me. I thought I will get out and go get him, and I will just get in that water. I don't know if that would help, but that was my plan because I just I didn't know how fast it was coming."

The South Fork and Salt fires that raged in south-central New Mexico this week prompted thousands of people like Bukovitz to flee for their lives and destroyed or damaged an estimated 1,400 structures — about half of them homes, according to Ruidoso Mayor Lynn Crawford.

Officials were still taking stock on Friday as firefighters took advantage of rain and cool temperatures to keep the blazes from growing, but large swaths of some neighborhoods were lost. At least two people died.

FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell and New Mexico Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham were to tour the di-

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saster area Saturday. A federal disaster declaration has cleared the way for more resources to help start recovery as crews continue to corral the flames.

Some residents smelled smoke when they woke up Monday and poured their first cup of coffee. They didn't think much of it, assuming the source had to be far off. Some went to work, others walked their dogs.

A few miles away, an elite team of firefighters dubbed the Smokey Bear Hot Shots were on the scene, and a large air tanker and helicopter were ordered to drop water and slurry on flames, which at the time covered just a few acres. But as fire behavior experts would later explain, there was nothing that was going to slow this down — it had been too hot and too dry in the months leading up to this day.

Within a few short hours, the majestic views of Sierra Blanca Peak were blotted out as huge plumes of smoke rose from the forested hills. The sun disappeared, the sky turned orange and flames became visible from vantage points around Ruidoso.

Authorities ordered the first residents in the canyons on the outskirts to leave around midday. Others began packing their belongings as conditions worsened.

Then, around dinnertime, the order came via social media for the entire village of about 8,000, plus the many tourists who visit in summer, to head out: "Immediate mandatory 'Go' evacuation for the village of Ruidoso — Go now!!"

Pam Bonner was among those to leave early in the day, only to find herself in a line of vehicles that stretched for about a mile. She could see other cars stacking up behind as the glowing horizon became more intense.

"This was unlike anything. The sky was black and orange, and the clouds were like mushroom clouds," she said. "It was just like a horror movie. It really was."

With flames and smoke forcing road closures, there were limited options for getting out. Power had been turned off as a precaution, and communication became a challenge as cell service dropped out. Vehicles were funneled toward evacuation shelters in Roswell, Alamogordo and elsewhere.

Patrick Pearson, who recently had surgery after breaking his leg, was waiting at the Swiss Chalet Inn for a friend to pick him up. Others fleeing their homes asked if he needed a ride, but he thought his friend would arrive and remained — unaware that she had been stopped at numerous roadblocks and was unable to call to let him know. At a final checkpoint, the friend asked people to go get Pearson, but the smoke was too thick by then.

Authorities found Pearson's body Tuesday in the inn's parking lot, where his family believes he collapsed after being overcome by smoke. Some of his belongings were at the front entrance. Just a day earlier, Pearson's children had wished him a happy Father's Day and told him they loved him, his daughter Hilary Mallak said.

A talented musician and good cook, the 60-year-old Pearson loved Ruidoso and loved making people happy, Mallak said.

"Really what's so heartbreaking about it is knowing, thinking that your family member burned to death alone," she said. "But luckily I think he was already gone with just the smoke. So it was quick."

Authorities also found the unidentified skeletal remains of one other person inside a charred car.

The wildfires were fueled by the exceedingly dry and hot conditions that have been present in much of the Southwest in recent months, and exacerbated by strong winds that whipped the flames out of control and into Ruidoso.

Tom Bird, a forecaster with the National Weather Service who was assigned to the fire, said this area of New Mexico has received between a quarter and half the average precipitation it usually gets and this marks the peak of fire season in the Sacramento Mountains.

"You can see with great frequency there's a lot of hot, dry, windy days leading up to right here, this really high peak," he said, pointing to a chart showing unfavorable conditions on the day the fires started.

"In fact, it was the worst that we've seen over the last month," Bird said.

Nationwide, the total square mileage of terrain that has been burned so far this year is much greater than the 10-year average, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. There are more than two dozen large fires currently burning in 10 states, from Alaska to Florida.

In Ruidoso, it could take until next week before authorities begin letting people return home. That's because some firefighting crews have been working their way through neighborhoods to address any pockets of unburned fuel that might flare up.

Mary Ann Russ is taking it one day at a time, creating a small list each day of things she needs to get done now that she and her husband lost their home of 24 years.

They were out of town the day the fires broke out. Her father-in-law evacuated with the help of neighbors, but all their belongings are gone. Prescription medications. Clothing. Russ' car. The flag from her mother's military funeral. Her father's Army keepsakes. Her son's baby pictures.

"You know, I'll just never have them back, that's all," she said. "And it's heavy, man. It's heavy."

For now Russ and her neighbors are staying in Roswell, about 75 miles (120 kilometers) away. Until they can return, they will be sharing dinners and leaning on each other.

"We just got to keep putting one foot in front of the other," she said.

Climate change makes India's monsoons erratic. Can farmers still find a way to prosper?

By SIBI ARASU Associated Press

BENGALURU, India (AP) — Each year from June to September, a heavy band of rain makes its way from India's southwest coast to its northeastern borders, quenching farmers' thirsty fields.

India's monsoon season is arguably the single most important weather phenomenon for the country, and a good monsoon can noticeably boost the nation's economy and the livelihoods of its 120 million farmers. But human-caused climate change is making the rainfall more erratic, making it difficult for farmers to plant, grow and harvest crops on their rain-fed fields.

"Either it rains too much within a short time or it doesn't rain at all," said Vijay Jawandhia, a 77-year-old farmer in western Maharashtra state. Jawandhia grows cotton, soya bean and various other crops that require a relatively cool climate and constant irrigation for the first few weeks after sowing. "We planted our cotton seeds after a good monsoon was predicted but it rained just two days and stopped after, so now we're worried our crops will fail again."

The Indian Meteorological Department had predicted good rainfall from the monsoon clouds earlier this year, but extreme heat in northern India stalled the rain's progress. The agency revised its predictions in June, saying the rainfall this year will be less than previously expected.

Many are looking for ways to adapt to this new, unpredictable reality. Experts suggest growing crops that need less water, better and more localized forecasting methods and protection against unexpected weather. But changing centuries-old ways of tending to the land won't be an easy task.

How is climate change affecting monsoons? India typically has two monsoons: one from June to September moving southwest to northeast, and another from October to December going the opposite direction.

But with more planet-warming gases in the air, the rain now only loosely follows this pattern. This is because the warmer air can hold more moisture from the Indian Ocean, and that rain then gets dumped all at once. It means the monsoon is punctuated with intense flooding and dry spells, rather than sustained rain throughout.

"When it rains now, it rains heavily," said Madhavan Rajeevan, a retired senior official at India's Ministry of Earth Sciences. Rajeevan has tracked the monsoons for decades, and has noticed "the number of rainy days is decreasing even though the total amount of seasonal rainfall has remained the same for the last century or so."

Landslides and flooding are increasing, he said, alongside high temperatures and longer periods of drought that are adding to farmer's woes.

The flooding can also result in death and economic losses, such as the hundreds killed and the over \$1.42 billion in damages in Himachal Pradesh in 2023 because of heavy monsoon rains.

Rajeevan added that hydropower resources that generate large amounts of electricity are also built with

sustained rains in mind, and extreme rain and floods can lead to health issues such as increased cases of typhoid, cholera and malaria.

What does this mean for farmers? The erratic rain is a significant blow to their livelihood.

Maharashtra has witnessed thousands of farmers dying by suicide that many say is a result of agriculture-related debt. "Our region has become infamous for this," said Jawandhia, the farmer.

Farmers in traditionally resource-rich regions, such as Punjab and Haryana in northern India, also say they are adversely affected by both fewer rainy days and too much rain when it pours.

Tezveer Singh, a farmer in Ambala city in Haryana remembers how "entire towns and fields were flooded, hundreds of cattle died due to drowning and three people lost their lives" there in last year's flooding.

Singh grows rice, potatoes and sugarcane on his 20-acre farm and said urgent policy changes are needed to stop flood damage.

He suggested that officials can "give compensation for our losses when needed, provide climate-resilient seeds, make supply chains for farm produce more efficient and increase minimum prices for crops."

"The climate has become tough and we need to adapt," he said.

How can they adapt? India's weather agency makes state-level monsoon rain predictions for the entire country, but climate experts say forecasts need to be more localized in order to be useful to farmers.

Vishwas Chitale, who leads the climate resilience team at the New Delhi-based Council on Energy, Environment and Water, said making localized weather predictions and changing the times of year farmers plant their crops accordingly can help.

In many places across India, "maximum rainfall occurs in October now and not really June and July as it used to," said Chitale, who also co-authored a 2024 report looking at India's changing monsoon patterns. "This results in a lot of crops that are waiting to be harvested getting damaged."

He added that it's important that better forecasting is available for everyone across the country who needs it.

Some farmers are already adapting to a warmer world. In southern Kerala state, an organic farming collective has begun altering when they sow and harvest plants according to shifting rain patterns. The farming collective has also drawn up an agriculture calendar that factors in climate change that they share with other local farmers.

"The preparedness helps farmers," said Rajesh Krishnan, a paddy farmer who's part of the collective that worked with local weather officials on the forecasts. Krishnan said their daily and weekly forecasts have an accuracy of at least 70%. "This is helping cut losses and also get a better crop. The forecasts are also helping us decide when to harvest our crops," he said.

Climate experts like Rajeevan said the collective's model needs to be replicated across the country to allow farmers to work with the changing monsoons.

After all, he said, "monsoons are a part of our culture. We cannot think of India without monsoons."

Hawaii settles lawsuit from youths over climate change. Here's what to know about the historic deal

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — About two years after 13 children and teens sued Hawaii over the threat posed by climate change, both sides reached a settlement that includes an ambitious requirement to decarbonize the state's transportation system over the next 21 years.

It's another example of a younger generation channeling their frustration with the government's response to the climate crisis into a legal battle.

Navahine v. Hawaii Department of Transportation is the world's first youth-led constitutional climate case addressing climate pollution from the transportation sector, according to statements from both sides.

The lawsuit said one plaintiff, a 14-year-old Native Hawaiian, was from a family that farmed taro for more than 10 generations. However, extreme droughts and heavy rains caused by climate change have

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reduced crop yields and threatened her ability to continue the cultural practice.

The complaint said rising sea levels also threaten to put their lands underwater.

Another plaintiff lost her home twice, due to climate change-induced events, according to Our Children's Trust, a public interest law firm that is representing the plaintiffs: flooding from a hurricane in 2018 and last year's deadly wildfire that ravaged Lahaina, on the island of Maui.

Here are some things to know about the historic settlement:

What happened with the lawsuit this week? Circuit Court Judge of the First Circuit John M. Tonaki signed a settlement agreement Thursday between the plaintiffs, who are also represented by another law firm, Earthjustice, and the state of Hawaii and its Department of Transportation.

The lawsuit argued that Hawaii was violating the state constitution by operating a transportation system that harms the climate and infringes upon the right to a clean and healthy environment. It accused the Department of Transportation of consistently prioritizing building highways over other types of transportation.

The burning of fossil fuels — oil, gas and coal — is the main contributor to global warming caused by human activity. Hawaii is the state that most depends on petroleum, according to Our Children's Trust.

A key term of the settlement requires Hawaii to achieve zero greenhouse gas emissions across all transportation modes, including ground transportation and sea and air interisland transportation, "no later than 2045."

The state must also come up with a greenhouse gas reduction plan within a year.

The transportation department must complete pedestrian, bicycle and transit networks in coordination with Hawaii counties within five years, while dedicating at least \$40 million to expanding the public electric vehicle charging network by 2030.

The settlement terms may seem ambitious, but as an isolated island chain the middle of the Pacific, Hawaii is on the "front lines" of climate disasters, Our Children's Trust attorney Andrea Rodgers told the Associated Press on Friday.

"They really have no choice but to step up and address the climate crisis in order to protect their residents and young people who want to live here," she said.

Also under the settlement, Hawaii will be accountable to a judge who will enforce the agreement if disputes arise.

The lawsuit, filed in June 2022, had been scheduled to go to trial next week. The state is not admitting any liability or wrongdoing by settling.

What is significant about the deal? The parties said the settlement was also the first of its kind between a state government and youth plaintiffs to address constitutional issues arising from climate change.

Rodgers is also involved in similar legal battles in Montana and Oregon, however.

The Montana case prevailed at trial, when a judge ruled last year that state agencies were violating the constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment by allowing fossil fuel development.

Early this year, the state Supreme Court declined a government request to block the ruling pending appeal. Oral arguments before the high court are set for July 10.

In the Oregon case, a federal appeals court panel rejected a long-running lawsuit brought by young climate activists challenging the U.S. government's role in climate change. The case is still at the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

Overseas, six young adults and children from Portugal are arguing before the European Court of Human Rights that governments across the continent are not doing enough to protect people from climate change.

What was Hawaii's position? While Gov. Josh Green, Director of Transportation Ed Sniffen and plaintiffs' attorneys all celebrated the settlement, it was a hard-fought battle.

"The defendants aggressively defended the case," Rodgers said.

The state spent nearly \$3 million on an out-of-state law firm and other costs, including expert witness fees. The attorney general's office said it remained the lead on the case despite help from the outside firm.

The state initially moved to dismiss the lawsuit, arguing that the court "cannot coopt legislative and executive power by issuing an injunction ordering HDOT to create new regulatory programs."

The state also had to agree that depositions of plaintiffs would be conducted with the sensitivity ap-

appropriate for their ages, Rodgers said.

"There was resistance," Rodgers said of reaching the settlement. "But at the end of the day, Gov. Green and ... Sniffen displayed incredible leadership and made the decision to work with the youth and not against them."

What happens next? Implementation over the next 21 years will require both commitment from Hawaii's leaders and involvement by young people, Rodgers said.

There will also have to be a cultural shift in Hawaii, which is car-dependent and has bad traffic.

"I think once people start seeing the investments that are needed to be done into the bike, pedestrian and transit assets, people are really going to start seeing that this is a system that works better for Hawaii and for the community," Rodgers said.

"Having youth voices a part of this process will be essential," she added.

Shooting at grocery store in Arkansas kills 3 and wounds 10 others, police say

By ANDREW DeMILLO Associated Press

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — A shooter who opened fire Friday at a grocery store in Arkansas left the store and parked cars riddled with bullet holes as bystanders ducked for cover both indoors and in the parking lot, killing 3 people and wounding 10 others, authorities said.

The wounded included two law enforcement officers who exchanged fire with and shot the suspect, state police said. The shooting occurred about 11:30 a.m. at the Mad Butcher grocery store in Fordyce, a city of about 3,200 people located 65 miles (104 kilometers) south of Little Rock.

"It's tragic, our hearts are broken," Col. Mike Hagar, director of the Arkansas State Police and public safety secretary, told reporters Friday.

Police identified the suspected shooter as 44-year-old Travis Eugene Posey of New Edinburg. He was taken to jail and charged with three counts of capital murder, while other charges are still pending. No court date had been set, according to the inmate roster.

A state police spokesperson did not know if Posey had an attorney, and the Ouachita County Sheriff's Office said it had no information.

Neither the officers' nor Posey's injuries were life threatening. The remaining injuries ranged from "not life-threatening to extremely critical," Hagar said.

It's the latest mass shooting where a grocery store is its backdrop. A white supremacist in 2022 killed 10 Black people at a Buffalo supermarket. That shooting came a little more than a year after one at a Boulder, Colorado, supermarket, where 10 people were killed.

Police did not immediately say whether the shooting occurred inside or outside the store. Police did not identify the victims and have not released a motive for the shooting.

Roderick Rogers, a member of the city council, said he called the county sheriff when employees at his restaurant nearby notified him of the shooting.

Rogers said when he got there, he saw people running for cover in every direction, even one running to the hospital nearby.

"People were just jumping into cars to get to safety," Rogers said.

Video posted on social media showed at least one person lying in the parking lot, while another captured multiple gunshots ringing out.

Amiya Doherty said she was in her mother's car in the grocery store's parking lot when she heard what she was thought was fireworks. When she saw a man holding a gun and firing, she said she ducked out of view.

"I held my sister's hand and I told her I love her," Doherty told Little Rock television station KATV.

Images from reporters on the scene showed a slew of bullet holes in the grocery store's window, and spent shell casings strewn throughout the parking lot. In video footage, local and state agencies could be seen responding to the scene, with at least one medical helicopter landing nearby.

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Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders said she had been briefed on the shooting.

"I am thankful to law enforcement and first responders for their quick and heroic action to save lives," Sanders posted on the social media platform X. "My prayers are with the victims and all those impacted by this."

The White House said President Joe Biden has been briefed on the shooting and his team will continue to keep him updated.

David Rodriguez, 58, had stopped at his local gas station in Fordyce to fill up his car when he heard what he thought were fireworks from a nearby vendor's stand.

"We heard a few little pops," he said.

He then saw people running from the Mad Butcher grocery store into the parking lot, and one person lying on the ground. He began recording video with his phone before the gunfire escalated.

"The police started to show up, and then there was massive gunfire and ambulances pulling up," he said. "The bullets were just flying."

El Salvador death toll rises to 19 as heavy rains continue

By MARCOS ALEMÁN Associated Press

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — The torrential rains hitting El Salvador caused the deaths of another six people on Friday when two girls and four adults were killed after being buried in their homes. Wall collapses and landslides on the outskirts of the capital brought a total of 19 dead.

Two weather systems — one along Guatemala's Pacific coast and the other in the Gulf of Mexico that developed Tropical Storm Alberto — have brought saturating rains to southern Mexico and Central America.

The Civil Protection authorities of El Salvador issued a red alert and the country's Congress declared a state of national emergency for 15 days because of the severity of the rains.

The death of the two girls, ages 5 and 7, was confirmed by the country's Rescue Commands and the Civil Protection, which alerted residents to the danger of landslides because of the accumulation of water that can cause walls to collapse.

According to the official report, a wall collapsed on the girls' house and after several hours of work, they recovered their lifeless bodies. The parents of the minors were rescued alive and taken to a local hospital.

Civil Protection also reported four additional deaths on the rural southern outskirts of San Salvador.

Two older people in the Panchimalco district and two other people in the Planes de Renderos area died after walls collapsed at their homes.

The director of Civil Protection Luis Alonso Amaya said that "we have already resolved a little more than 1,500 incidents. Among these are 19 dead people, 706 fallen trees, and 521 temporarily obstructed roads. Two of those trees caused the death of three people."

The Observatory of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, or MARN, reported that persistent rains would continue throughout the country.

Low pressure conditions could lead to the formation of a second tropical depression, behind Alberto, in the southwest Gulf of Mexico this weekend. This system will continue to bring abundant humidity from the Pacific Ocean, keeping the storm over El Salvador.

Salvadoran authorities have prepared 150 shelters to serve more than 6,000 people nationwide, of which 82 are active, providing protection to 2,582 people, including 1,212 minors.

UK fans wonder if Taylor Swift will say 'So long, London' after Eras Tour

By LISA LEFF Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Taylor Swift fans enjoy parsing the singer-songwriter's lyrics for references to her romantic life and insights into her state of mind.

But the pop superstar's fans in the U.K. didn't have to listen closely to her latest album, "The Tortured

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Poets Department," to get the sense that Swift had soured on the country's capital city after long making it a regular hangout and then her second home. The record's fifth track is titled "So Long, London."

As Swift brings her blockbuster Eras Tour to London's Wembley Stadium, some Swifties therefore are wondering if they are witnessing the beginning of an extended goodbye. She is performing three nights starting Friday, and is scheduled to return to Wembley for five nights in August to close the tour's European leg.

The area around Wembley was transformed for the shows, with fans posing in front of a giant mural of the singer and traveling stairs christened "Swiftie Steps." Swift announced that 88,446 people were in attendance at Friday's show in what she called "the most exhilarating city in the world."

Swift gave fans a wink and a nod toward her London life during one of her two solo acoustic surprise songs: a piano medley that opened with the London-set "The Black Dog" and segued into "Come Back, Be Here" and then "Maroon."

London is the only city on the tour where Swift is stopping twice. Some worry the arrangement may represent a swan song of sorts, while others think it just reflects a new era in Swift's bond with the Big Smoke. Whether "So Long, London" turns out to be a final chapter or a bookend to her valentine to the city, the song "London Boy," Eras is arriving as an emotional milestone.

"Her relationship now kind of assumes London won't be somewhere she will be. It's not like there is an American football player living here," said Maggie Fekete, 22, a Canadian graduate student who credits the London references in Swift's music with orienting her when she moved to the city three years ago. "I think there will be a lot less London in her music, which is sad."

Stella Elgood, 25, of London, said Friday she assumed Swift would sing "So Long, London" at some point during her eight nights in the city but that Swift "will always be welcome."

"Especially since she dated Harry Styles, she's been here in the Zeitgeist," Elgood said.

For those who haven't been paying attention, Swift had a series of romances with famous British citizens (including Styles in 2012) that ended last year, when she started dating Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce. The speculation surrounding "So Long, London" and a mournful companion song that mentions a London pub, "The Black Dog," stems from the 2023 breakup of Swift and English actor Joe Alwyn, who were together for over six years.

Alwyn is assumed to have inspired "London Boy," a song from her 2019 album "Lover." A special-edition "Lover" CD included what appeared to be a January 2017 diary entry in which Swift talked about being "essentially based in London" but trying to lay low. British tabloids later reported that Swift spent much of the COVID-19 pandemic sheltering with Alwyn in north London.

The Sun newspaper reported in December that the multiple Grammy-winner had bought a large property in the area and was remodeling it to be her base in Europe. After Swift released "The Tortured Poets Department" last month, however, a writer for the British edition of ELLE magazine observed that Londoners had an opening "for an all-American A-lister who can slot into her place in our collective consciousness."

"We had Swift before we lost her to her record-breaking, box office-breaking Eras Tour and now, it would appear that her vacant position has been filled by Zendaya," writer Naomi May playfully posited before listing the various locations the American actor had been spotted with her longtime boyfriend, British actor Tom Holland.

Either way, the capital is putting on quite a show of its own to make sure Swift and her fans feel appreciated. Guides are offering walking, bus and taxi tours that retrace her footsteps, including a kebab shop whose owner says his establishment is supplying sandwiches for the singer and her crew on Friday.

Before the end of August, Swifties can partake in a full diet of Swift-themed brunches and dance parties, or ride the London Eye Ferris wheel accompanied by a string quartet playing her music. Souvenir stalls in Camden Market, one of the places mentioned in "London Boy," stocked up on Swift-specific caps, T-shirts, bags and stickers in preparation.

Amy Unsworth, 34, who is from a small town near Manchester, England, and was born a month before Swift, said Friday that the singer's ties to the U.K. and vice versa extend beyond the capital.

"I feel like as a Northerner I have an affinity with her," Unsworth said, noting that Swift wrote many of

the songs on her "Evermore" album while in England's Lake District with Alwyn.

"It's hard to know how she feels right now, being back, given her history."

Unsworth isn't worried Swift will turn her back on the U.K. Swift said from the stage that her British fans "have been some of the most supportive people in my corner since I started making music." Swift performed in London for the first time at age 17, when she appeared at the student union of Kings College London.

"I think she will come back" after Eras, Unsworth said. "She has too many dedicated fans not to come back. She's built up too much momentum here to just forget about us."

Zachary Hourihane, who co-hosts a Swift podcast called "Evolution of a Snake" and posts YouTube and TikTok videos under the name Swiftologist, said Thursday that it's too soon to know whether the singer will retain her honorary citizenship or part ways with London. As her fans know all too well, only time will tell with Taylor.

"Taylor is someone who retraces her steps a lot. Things are never really over with her. She likes to re-visit things that have finished," he said. "Let's be realistic about it. Her relationship, even if it is, 'so long, goodbye,' she has good reason to be in London and good money to make there."

New Mexico judge rejects request to compel new testimony from movie armorer in Alec Baldwin trial

By MORGAN LEE Associated Press

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — A New Mexico judge denied a request Friday to use immunity to compel testimony from a movie set armorer in the involuntary manslaughter trial of actor Alec Baldwin who fatally shot a cinematographer during rehearsal for the Western movie "Rust."

Armorer Hannah Gutierrez-Reed was convicted in March of involuntary manslaughter for her role in the shooting of Halyna Hutchins on a movie-set ranch and she was sentenced to 18 months in prison. Her statements to investigators and workplace safety regulators will likely feature prominently in Baldwin's trial, scheduled for July.

Further testimony could be limited by the armorer's reluctance to testify, and Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer said Friday that other witnesses can fill in most of the gaps if she doesn't testify. At a pretrial interview in May, Gutierrez-Reed exercised her Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination and declined to answer all questions.

"It's pretty clear that she does not intend to cooperate," Marlowe Sommer said. "I haven't heard of anything that she might testify to that someone else could not testify to."

But the judge acknowledged that Gutierrez-Reed could offer new testimony about gun-safety training and whether Baldwin fully participated.

Special prosecutor Kari Morrissey indicated that the state could still call on Gutierrez-Reed to testify without immunity. Baldwin and Gutierrez-Reed both oppose efforts to compel her testimony.

Baldwin figured prominently at her trial, which highlighted gun-safety protocols and his authority as a co-producer and the lead actor on "Rust."

Gutierrez-Reed is appealing her conviction and has also been charged separately with carrying a firearm into a Santa Fe bar weeks before the fatal shooting.

An attorney for Gutierrez-Reed said compelling her to testify, even with immunity, would "virtually eliminate" the possibility of a fair trial on the pending firearms charge and could disrupt her appeal.

The virtual hearing also cleared the way for testimony at trial by a "Rust" crew member who says he witnessed the shooting at close range.

In a recent pretrial interview, boom operator Zac Sneesby "revealed that he was standing very close to Mr. Baldwin when he shot and killed Halyna Hutchins," special prosecutor Erlinda Ocampo Johnson told the court Friday. "Mr. Sneesby specifically said he saw Mr. Baldwin pull the trigger. And as you know, the defense position has always been that he didn't pull the trigger. Well, now there's an eyewitness."

Also during Friday's hearing, Marlowe Sommer ruled against a request by defense attorneys to dismiss the trial because they said Baldwin had no reason to believe the gun could contain live ammunition and

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wasn't "subjectively aware" of the risks.

The court delayed until Monday discussion of a second motion for dismissal based on the argument that the firearm was heavily damaged during FBI forensic testing before it could be examined for possible modifications that might exonerate the actor.

"The government took the most critical evidence in this case — the firearm — and destroyed it by repeatedly and pointlessly striking it with a mallet," defense attorneys said in court filings. "Government agents knew that the firearm would not survive."

Attorneys for Baldwin are highlighting a previously undisclosed expert analysis that outlines uncertainty about the origin of "toolmarks" on the gun's firing mechanism. The hearing is scheduled to reconvene Monday.

During the fatal rehearsal on Oct. 21, 2021, Baldwin was pointing the gun at Hutchins when it went off, killing her and wounding director Joel Souza, who survived. Baldwin says he pulled back the gun's hammer but did not pull the trigger.

Prosecutors plan to present evidence at trial that they say shows the firearm "could not have fired absent a pull of the trigger" and was working properly before the shooting.

At Gutierrez-Reed's trial, an FBI expert testified the gun was fully functional with safety features when it arrived at an FBI laboratory. The expert said he had to strike the fully cocked gun with a mallet and break it for the gun to fire without depressing the trigger.

Baldwin has pleaded not guilty to the involuntary manslaughter charge, which carries a maximum sentence of 18 months in prison.

Marlowe Sommer previously rejected another Baldwin motion for dismissal, ruling that the grand jury was able to make an independent judgement on the indictment.

Last year, special prosecutors dismissed an involuntary manslaughter charge against Baldwin, saying they were informed the gun might have been modified before the shooting and malfunctioned. But they pivoted after receiving a new analysis of the gun and successfully pursued a grand jury indictment.

Teamsters president will speak at the Republican National Convention

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

CHAPIN, S.C. (AP) — The president of the Teamsters Union is set to speak at next month's Republican National Convention, as Donald Trump angles to chip away at President Joe Biden's support among the blue-collar workers who are expected to play a major role in the general election, particularly in crucial Midwestern swing states like Wisconsin and Michigan.

In a post on his Truth Social platform, Trump said that Sean O'Brien had "accepted my invitation to speak at the RNC Convention in Milwaukee."

Teamsters spokesperson Kara Deniz said Friday that O'Brien had requested a speaking slot at both major party conventions and accepted Trump's invitation for the RNC, marking the first time a Teamsters president would speak at the GOP event.

Planners for the Democratic National Convention said Friday that no final decisions about programming had yet been made for the August event.

"We are building a convention in Chicago that will tell our story to the American people, including the stories of labor and union leaders and workers that President Biden has been delivering for as the most pro-union president in modern history," party spokesperson Matt Hill told The Associated Press.

Trump has been trying to make inroads among Biden's support among organized labor heading into the general election, as he works to win over the blue-collar workers who helped fuel his 2016 victory. Union members tend to vote Democratic, with 56% of members and households backing Biden in 2020, according to AP VoteCast.

In September, while his GOP rivals met for a debate, Trump traveled to Michigan and tried to win over

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autoworkers by lambasting Biden's electric vehicles push in the midst of a strike. During his speech, Trump urged the United Auto Workers to endorse him, directly appealing to union president Shawn Fain — though he spoke from the floor of a nonunionized auto-parts plant.

Fain instead called Trump a "scab," a derogatory term for workers who cross union picket lines and work during a strike, as he endorsed Biden. In January, Trump called on UAW members to oust Fain after the group endorsed Biden.

O'Brien meanwhile has met privately with Trump at his Mar-a-Lago club, where the two discussed issues including right-to-work laws that allow those in unionized workplaces to opt out of paying dues and fees. After a roundtable with Teamster leaders in January, Trump called the event "a very productive meeting," acknowledging that the union typically backs Democrats, but, referencing the possibility of an endorsement, "Stranger things have happened."

O'Brien later described the roundtable conversation with Trump as "pleasant" and "direct" but said the union was a long way from making a decision. After meeting with Biden in March, O'Brien said the president has been "great" for workers but stressed that "there's still a lot of work to be done" to bolster unions.

Biden — who has long billed himself as the most labor-friendly president in history, going so far as to turn up on a picket line in the Detroit area during the autoworkers strike last fall — has already received significant organized labor backing with early endorsements from the AFL-CIO and others. But Trump is hoping to cut into that support as he casts himself as pro-worker and tries to exacerbate divisions between union leaders and some rank-and-file members.

The Teamsters union represents 1.3 million workers, including UPS drivers, film and television workers, freight operators, members of law enforcement and other government workers.

It backed Hillary Clinton in 2016 and Biden in 2020, although O'Brien has stressed that the union is keeping an open mind on endorsements this cycle. The group generally waits until after both parties' summer nominating conventions to make a formal endorsement, and it will "most likely" do so again this year, once it polls its members, solicits rank-and-file input and reconvenes its leadership team, O'Brien has said.

FEMA is ready for an extreme hurricane and wildfire season, but money is a concern, Mayorkas says

By REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The head of the Homeland Security Department said Friday that the agency tasked with responding to disasters across the country is prepared as it goes into what is expected to be an intense hurricane and wildfire season but he's concerned about looming budget shortfalls.

As parts of the U.S. are sweltering under potentially record-breaking temperatures, Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said extreme heat could qualify as a major disaster under a law governing how the federal government responds to natural disasters but that local communities historically have been able to deal with major heat waves or wildfire smoke without needing federal financial assistance.

Mayorkas spoke to The Associated Press during a visit to the headquarters of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for a briefing about the hurricane season, which started on June 1. Experts think this year could be one of the busiest Atlantic hurricane seasons on record as climate change causes storms to become more intense. Already Tropical Storm Alberto, the season's first named storm, brought heavy rain to parts of Mexico.

Mayorkas said one reason FEMA is prepared is that the agency staff has gotten so much practice responding to disasters as climate change has intensified.

"They have exercised these muscles regrettably year after year. As the impacts of climate change have been more and more evident, we have seen and experienced increasing frequency and gravity of extreme weather events," Mayorkas said.

Against that backdrop, the secretary said he was concerned about the size of the agency's disaster relief fund. That's the primary way that FEMA funds its response to hurricanes, wildfires, floods and other disasters.

"We expect the disaster relief fund, which is the critical fund that we use to resource impacted communities, we expect it will run out by mid-August. And we need Congress to fund the disaster relief fund," he said.

If the fund runs out of money, it doesn't mean the agency doesn't respond to emergencies. Instead, the agency goes into what's called immediate needs funding — redirecting money from other programs so it can respond to the most urgent, lifesaving needs. But that can take away money from longer-term recoveries.

Much of the United States has been baking in a heat wave, with numerous areas expected to see record-breaking temperatures and hot weather expected to continue through the weekend. The hot start to the summer comes after the U.S. last year experienced the most heat waves since 1936.

With climate change raising temperatures nationwide, advocates and some members of Congress have questioned whether heat waves should be considered natural disasters in the same way hurricanes, tornadoes and floods are.

Environmental and labor groups earlier this week petitioned FEMA to include extreme heat and wildfire smoke as major disasters under the Stafford Act, the law spelling out federal disaster response. They argued that both are among the biggest environmental killers and that a clear federal designation would unlock money for things like cooling centers to be used in heat waves or community solar energy projects to reduce grid load.

"In recent years, increasing extreme heat events have impacted millions of workers and communities — ranging from farmworkers sowing outdoor crops under fatal heat dome conditions, to postal workers ducking in and out of searing hot trucks, to warehouse workers experiencing record indoor heat while undertaking fast-paced physical labor, and to communities of color suffering disproportionate heat while living in concrete urban heat islands," the petition read.

Mayorkas said the law doesn't prevent extreme heat or smoke from qualifying as a major disaster but that the federal government only steps in to help when a local community doesn't have the resources to respond itself. But historically that "has not been the case with respect to extreme heat and smoke," he said.

Trump lawyers in classified files case challenge prosecutor's appointment at start of 3-day hearing

By ERIC TUCKER and ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (AP) — Lawyers for Donald Trump made a longshot argument Friday that the Justice Department prosecutor who charged the former president with hoarding classified documents at his Florida estate was illegally appointed and that the case should therefore be dismissed.

The challenge to the legality of special counsel Jack Smith's appointment kicked off a three-day hearing that is set to continue next week and bring further delays to a criminal case that had been scheduled for trial last month but has been snarled by a pileup of unresolved legal disputes. The motion questioning Smith's selection by the Justice Department is one of multiple challenges to the indictment the defense has raised, so far unsuccessfully, in the year since the charges were brought.

U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon heard hours of arguments Friday from lawyers for both sides, with Trump attorney Emil Bove asserting that the Justice Department risked creating a "shadow government" through the appointment of special counsels to prosecute select criminal cases.

Prosecutors say there was nothing improper or unusual about Smith's appointment, with James Pearce, a member of Smith's team at one point saying: "We are in compliance. We have complied with all of the department's policies."

Cannon did not immediately rule, but in an apparent sign that she was taking the Trump team motion seriously, grilled Pearce on what oversight role Attorney General Merrick Garland — who appointed Smith — had in seeking the indictment.

Pearce did not have an immediate answer to the question but noted, "I don't want to make it seem like

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I'm hiding something."

Even as Smith's team looks to press forward on a prosecution seen by many legal experts as the most straightforward and clear-cut of the four prosecutions against Trump, Friday's arguments didn't concern the allegations against the former president but centered instead on arcane regulations governing the appointment of Justice Department special counsels like Smith. The hearing reflects the judge's continued willingness to entertain defense arguments that prosecutors say are frivolous and meritless, contributing to the indefinite cancellation of a trial date.

Cannon, a Trump appointee, had exasperated prosecutors even before the June 2023 indictment by granting a Trump request to have an independent arbiter review the classified documents taken from Mar-a-Lago — an order that was overturned by a unanimous federal appeals panel.

Since then, she has been intensely scrutinized over her handling of the case, including for taking months to issue rulings and for scheduling hearings on legally specious claims — all of which have combined to make a trial before the November presidential election a virtual impossibility. She was rebuked by prosecutors in March after she asked both sides to formulate jury instructions and to respond to a premise of the case that Smith's team called "fundamentally flawed."

The New York Times, citing two anonymous sources, reported Thursday that two judges — including the chief federal judge in the southern district of Florida — urged Cannon to step aside from the case shortly after she was assigned to it.

The hearing is unfolding just weeks after Trump was convicted in a separate state case in New York of falsifying business records to cover up a hush money payment to a porn actor who has said she had sex with him. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court is poised to issue within days a landmark opinion on whether Trump is immune from prosecution for acts he took in office or whether he can be prosecuted by Smith's team on charges that he schemed to overturn the results of the 2020 presidential election.

At issue in Friday's hearing was a Trump team claim that Smith was illegally appointed in November 2022 by Garland because he was not first approved by Congress and because the special counsel office that he was assigned to lead was not also created by Congress.

Smith's team has said Garland was fully empowered as the head of the Justice Department to make the appointment and to delegate prosecutorial decisions to him.

They note that a similar argument failed in a challenge to the appointment of Robert Mueller, who was tapped as special counsel by the Trump administration Justice Department to investigate potential ties between Russia and Trump's 2016 campaign. Lawyers for President Joe Biden's son Hunter also unsuccessfully challenged the appointment and funding of special counsel David Weiss before a trial this month that resulted in the younger Biden being convicted of federal gun charges.

The hearing continues Monday when the two sides again discuss matters related to Smith's appointment, as well as a limited gag order that prosecutors have requested to bar Trump from comments they fear could endanger the safety of FBI agents and other law enforcement officials involved in the case.

The restrictions were sought after Trump falsely claimed that the agents who searched his Mar-a-Lago estate for classified documents in August 2022 were prepared to kill him. In his comments, Trump was referencing boilerplate language from standard FBI policy about use of force during the execution of search warrants.

The FBI had intentionally selected a day for the search when it knew Trump and his family would be out of town, and the policy Trump was citing is meant to limit, rather than encourage, the use of force.

Trump's lawyers have said any speech restrictions would infringe on his free speech rights. Cannon initially rejected the prosecution's request on technical grounds, saying Smith's team had not sufficiently conferred with defense lawyers before seeking the restrictions. Prosecutors subsequently renewed the request.

FDA OKs first menthol e-cigarettes, citing potential to help adult smokers

By MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Food and Drug Administration on Friday authorized the first menthol-flavored electronic cigarettes for adult smokers, acknowledging that vaping flavors can reduce the harms of traditional tobacco smoking.

The FDA said it authorized four menthol e-cigarettes from Njoy, the vaping brand recently acquired by tobacco giant Altria, which also sells Marlboro cigarettes.

The decision lends new credibility to vaping companies' longstanding claim that their products can help blunt the toll of smoking, which is blamed for 480,000 U.S. deaths annually due to cancer, lung disease and heart disease. E-cigarettes have been sold in the U.S. since 2007 but in recent years their potential benefits for smokers have been overshadowed by their use by adolescents and teens.

Parents and anti-tobacco groups immediately criticized the decision, which follows years of advocacy efforts to keep menthol and other flavors that can appeal to teens off the market.

"This decision could mean we'll never be able to close the Pandora's box of the youth vaping epidemic," said Meredith Berkman, co-founder of Parents Against Vaping E-cigarettes. "FDA has once again failed American families by allowing a predatory industry to source its next generation of lifetime customers — America's children."

Youth vaping has declined from all-time highs in recent years, with about 10% of high schoolers reporting e-cigarette use last year. Of those who vaped, 90% used flavors, including menthol.

All the e-cigarettes previously authorized by the FDA have been tobacco, which isn't widely used by young people who vape.

Njoy is one of only three companies that previously received FDA's OK for vaping products. Like those products, two of the Njoy menthol varieties come as cartridges that plug into a reusable device that heats liquid nicotine, turning it into an inhalable aerosol. The other two Njoy menthol products are disposable e-cigarettes.

Njoy's products accounted for less than 3% of U.S. e-cigarette sales in the past year, according to retail data from Nielsen. Vuse, owned by Reynolds American, and Juul control about 60% of the market, while hundreds of disposable brands account for the rest.

Most teens who vape use disposable e-cigarettes, including brands like Elf Bar, which come in flavors such as watermelon and blueberry ice.

Altria's data showed Njoy e-cigarettes helped smokers reduce their exposure to the harmful chemicals in traditional cigarettes, the FDA said. The agency stressed the products are neither safe nor "FDA approved," and that people who don't smoke shouldn't use them.

Friday's action is part of a sweeping FDA review intended to bring scientific scrutiny to the multibillion-dollar vaping market after years of regulatory delays. Currently the U.S. market includes thousands of fruit- and candy-flavored vapes that are technically illegal but are widely available in convenience stores, gas stations and vape shops.

The FDA faced a self-imposed court deadline at the end of this month to wrap up its yearslong review of major vaping brands, including Juul and Vuse.

Those brands have been sold in the U.S. for years, awaiting FDA action on their scientific applications. To stay on the market, companies must show that their e-cigarettes provide an overall health benefit for smokers, without significantly appealing to kids.

"Based upon our rigorous scientific review, in this instance, the strength of evidence of benefits to adult smokers from completely switching to a less harmful product was sufficient to outweigh the risks to youth," said Matthew Farrelly of FDA's Center for Tobacco Products.

Richmond-based Altria previously took a \$13 billion stake in Juul in 2018, when the brand controlled most of the U.S. vaping market. But Juul's value plummeted after it was hit with lawsuits and investigations over its role in sparking a national spike in underage vaping.

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Long a Republican state, Louisiana is redder than ever under new governor

By SARA CLINE Associated Press

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Louisiana has long been reliably red. The Bayou State has voted for the Republican candidate in every presidential election since 2000, with residents overwhelmingly supporting Donald Trump during the past two, and the GOP has held a majority in the statehouse for years.

But policies in the state have veered even further right under the leadership of Republican Gov. Jeff Landry, who has carried out a sweeping conservative agenda in just six months on the job. This week he signed the nation's first law requiring that the Ten Commandments be posted in every public classroom, a first-of-its-kind bill allowing judges to order the surgical castration of rapists who prey on children, and a Texas-style immigration measure that allows law enforcement to arrest and jail migrants who enter the U.S. illegally. He enacted a new law classifying abortion pills as dangerous controlled substances. He expanded death row execution methods and concealed carry of a gun without a permit.

The moves have made global headlines and firmly embedded Louisiana in the conservative movement on practically every issue animating the Republican base in 2024. Democrats are appalled at the message Landry is sending but some conservatives in Louisiana see the moves as a bold and powerful step as he raises his national profile.

"From about 500 miles away, it certainly appears that he has been effective very quickly," said Matt Mackowiak, a Texas-based GOP strategist who has worked for two Congress members and a governor. "He has hit the ground running and the potential is really high."

'Pent-up Republican policy preferences' When Landry entered office in January, he did so with Republicans having secured every statewide elected position for the first time in nearly a decade.

With the help of the Legislature, he also upheld one of the country's strictest abortion bans and pushed anti-LGBTQ+ policies, including Louisiana's version of a "Don't Say Gay" bill.

While Landry hasn't indicated whether he will sign the Democrat-authored castration bill into law, many Republicans and several Democrats supported it.

GOP lawmakers, in turn, have often praised the former state attorney general and one-time congressman.

"It certainly gives you hope that your efforts are going to be productive when you've got a governor who you know where he stands on things and also know that there's a good chance he will sign them," said speaker pro tempore state Rep. Michael T. Johnson.

Johnson, who was elected to the House in 2019, described Landry as easy to work with, transparent and a leader who he believes will "move the state forward." He added that the session was "more productive" because there were "clear and organized goals we were trying to accomplish."

"I think what you saw in this latest legislative session is pent-up Republican policy preferences," said Robert Hogan, a professor and chair of Louisiana State University's political science department. "They opened up the floodgates and it started pouring out, with a lot of them very successful."

Across the aisle, Democrats frequently decried Landry's efforts and the pace at which bills were passing, sometimes with little feedback from the public.

The LGBTQ+ community, which for eight years prior had an ally in the governor's mansion, has become one of Landry's harshest critics.

"It is definitely a different climate here in the Legislature, especially with Gov. Landry prioritizing these very harmful bills, pushing them through very fast and making it very difficult and uncomfortable to be here," said SarahJane Guidry, executive director of the LGBTQ+ rights group Forum for Equality, said in an interview during the session.

Louisiana's recent political shift was at times fended off by former Gov. John Bel Edwards, who couldn't immediately run again because of term limits.

Edwards, the only Democratic governor in the Deep South during his two terms, sought over eight years to steer the state toward more Democratic avenues by expanding Medicaid coverage, joining climate change initiatives and vetoing some of the measures that Landry has since signed into law.

Many voters seemed ready for the change Landry has brought, though. He won the election outright

with 52% of the vote, obliterating the Democratic runner-up's 26%.

While not everyone wanted Landry for the job, many agree he has followed through on campaign promises — whether they support the policies or not.

"I'm not surprised one iota, this is completely what I expected when he became governor," said Chris Dier, a high school teacher in New Orleans who has opposed a lot of Landry's initiatives. "I think a lot of the conversations before he even became governor were how do we respond to certain pieces of legislation when they pass."

Eyeing a bigger stage? In a time of Trump-era conservatives, some believe Landry could follow in the footsteps of other high-profile governors — becoming a national figure or running for higher office. His eagerness to put into place first-of-its-kind legislation, willingness to pick and enter national fights and tendency to court media coverage echo tactics employed by other politicians who rise to the national stage.

Pearson Cross, a political science professor at the University of Louisiana, points to Texas Gov. Greg Abbott and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis as examples of where Landry could go.

"I think Jeff Landry is very comfortable with that kind of profile. I think he feels like he is standing up for the state and representing his constituents who are generally conservative — and perhaps pushing back against federal government overreach," Cross said.

Like Abbott, Landry was a state attorney general for years before he became governor. He also, like DeSantis, spent time in the U.S. House of Representatives, though with a much shorter tenure.

But Landry, whose office declined an interview request from The Associated Press, has given little indication of where his future aspirations lie.

He recently joined Abbott and other Republican governors at Eagle Pass, a Texas town that has become the center of a turf war over immigration enforcement, to discuss the border crisis. He also headlined the Tennessee Republican Party's annual fundraising dinner in Nashville last weekend.

He also signed a bill that hides from public records details about his schedule and/or those of his spouse or children on grounds of safety concerns. While not unusual, opponents argue the law will be used to hide who Landry meets with and where he travels to.

Chatter at the state Capitol is meanwhile swirling about whether Landry might be offered a cabinet position if Trump wins the presidential election in the fall. Steven Cheung, a spokesperson for Trump's campaign team, said there haven't been any discussions about who would serve in the administration. But, that hasn't stopped people from speculating.

"I think he has that (national recognition) and as it helps our state I certainly am glad, but I don't want it to result in him leaving for a cabinet position," Johnson said. "However, I think Louisiana has so much to offer, and if he can be an ambassador on a national level then I think absolutely that is positive."

NY prosecutors urge judge to keep gag order blocking Trump from criticizing jurors who convicted him

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Prosecutors on Friday urged the judge overseeing Donald Trump's criminal hush money case to uphold provisions of a gag order that bar him from criticizing jurors and court staff, while agreeing to lift a restriction on his public statements about trial witnesses.

In court papers filed Friday, prosecutors with the Manhattan district attorney's office argued that portions of the gag order remained necessary given the Republican former president's "singular history of inflammatory and threatening public statements," as well as efforts by his supporters to "identify jurors and threaten violence against them."

"Since the verdict in this case, defendant has not exempted the jurors from his alarming rhetoric that he would have 'every right' to seek retribution as president against the participants in this trial as a consequence of his conviction because 'sometimes revenge can be justified,' the filing states.

The gag order, issued in March, prohibited Trump from making or directing others to make public statements about witnesses, jurors and others connected to the case. It does not restrict comments about the

judge, Juan M. Merchan, or Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, whose office prosecuted the case. Attorneys for Trump have called on the judge to lift the order following the culmination of his trial last month, which ended in his conviction on 34 felony counts for falsifying records to cover up a potential sex scandal. Trump, who has denied any wrongdoing, is set to be sentenced on July 11.

Defense attorneys argue Trump should be free to fully address the case as he campaigns for the White House, pointing to comments made by President Joe Biden and the continued public criticism of him by his ex-lawyer Michael Cohen and the porn actor Stormy Daniels, both key prosecution witnesses.

"Now that the trial is concluded, the concerns articulated by the government and the Court do not justify continued restrictions on the First Amendment rights" of Trump, they wrote earlier this month.

In their letter, prosecutors agreed that the provision barring statements about trial witnesses no longer needed to be enforced but said the restrictions on statements about court staff and members of the prosecution, excluding Bragg, should remain in place.

They cited an "intensified" threat situation in recent months, with more than 60 "actionable threats" directed against Bragg, his family and court staff since April. The threats include social media posts disclosing the address of an employee of the district attorney's office and a photo showing sniper sights aimed on people involved in the case, according to police.

Merchan is expected to issue a ruling soon, possibly before Trump's June 27 debate with President Joe Biden.

Earlier this week, New York's top court declined to hear Trump's appeal on the gag order, finding it does not raise "substantial" constitutional issues that would warrant an immediate intervention.

The Supreme Court upholds a gun control law intended to protect domestic violence victims

By MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Friday upheld a federal gun control law that is intended to protect victims of domestic violence.

In their first Second Amendment case since they expanded gun rights in 2022, the justices ruled 8-1 in favor of a 1994 ban on firearms for people under restraining orders to stay away from their spouses or partners. The justices reversed a ruling from the federal appeals court in New Orleans that had struck down the law.

Chief Justice John Roberts, writing for the court, said the law uses "common sense" and applies only "after a judge determines that an individual poses a credible threat" of physical violence.

Justice Clarence Thomas, the author of the major 2022 Bruen ruling in a New York case, dissented.

President Joe Biden, who has been critical of previous high-court rulings on guns, abortion and other hot-button issues, praised the outcome.

"No one who has been abused should have to worry about their abuser getting a gun," Biden said in a statement. "As a result of today's ruling, survivors of domestic violence and their families will still be able to count on critical protections, just as they have for the past three decades."

Last week, the court overturned a Trump-era ban on bump stocks, the rapid-fire gun accessories used in the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. The court ruled that the Justice Department exceeded its authority in imposing that ban.

Friday's case stemmed directly from the Supreme Court's Bruen decision in June 2022. A Texas man, Zackey Rahimi, was accused of hitting his girlfriend during an argument in a parking lot and later threatening to shoot her.

At arguments in November, some justices voiced concern that a ruling for Rahimi could also jeopardize the background check system that the Biden administration said has stopped more than 75,000 gun sales in the past 25 years based on domestic violence protective orders.

The case also had been closely watched for its potential to affect cases in which other gun ownership laws have been called into question, including in the high-profile prosecution of Hunter Biden. Biden's

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son was convicted of lying on a form to buy a firearm while he was addicted to drugs. His lawyers have signaled they will appeal.

A decision to strike down the domestic violence gun law might have signaled the court's skepticism of the other laws as well. But Friday's decision did not suggest that the court would necessarily uphold those law either.

The justices could weigh in soon in one or more of those other cases.

Many of the gun law cases grow out of the Bruen decision. That high court ruling not only expanded Americans' gun rights under the Constitution but also changed the way courts are supposed to evaluate restrictions on firearms.

Roberts turned to history in his opinion. "Since the founding, our nation's firearm laws have included provisions preventing individuals who threaten physical harm to others from misusing firearms," he wrote.

Some courts have gone too far, Roberts wrote, in applying Bruen and other gun rights cases. "These precedents were not meant to suggest a law trapped in amber," he wrote.

In dissent, Thomas wrote, the law "strips an individual of his ability to possess firearms and ammunition without any due process."

The government "failed to produce any evidence" that the law is consistent with the nation's historical tradition of firearm regulation, he wrote.

"Not a single historical regulation justifies the statute at issue," Thomas wrote.

Seven of the nine justices wrote opinions in the guns case spanning 94 pages, mainly focused on the proper use of history in evaluating gun restrictions and other limitations on constitutional rights.

Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote that Roberts' opinion "permits a historical inquiry calibrated to reveal something useful and transferable to the present day, while the dissent would make the historical inquiry so exacting as to be useless." She was among the three liberal justices who dissented in the Bruen case.

Justice Brett Kavanaugh, who was part of the Bruen majority, noted that the court probably will have many more cases about the reach of gun rights because "Second Amendment jurisprudence is in its early innings." It was only in 2008 that the court declared for the first time that the Constitution protects an individual's right to keep and bear arms.

Rahimi's case reached the Supreme Court after prosecutors appealed a ruling that threw out his conviction for possessing guns while subject to a restraining order.

Rahimi was involved in five shootings over two months in and around Arlington, Texas, U.S. Circuit Judge Cory Wilson noted. When police identified Rahimi as a suspect in the shootings and showed up at his home with a search warrant, he admitted having guns in the house and being subject to a domestic violence restraining order that prohibited gun possession, Wilson wrote.

But even though Rahimi was hardly "a model citizen," Wilson wrote, the law at issue could not be justified by looking to history. That's the test Justice Thomas laid out in his opinion for the court in Bruen.

The appeals court initially upheld the conviction under a balancing test that included whether the restriction enhances public safety. But the panel reversed course after Bruen. At least one district court has upheld the law since the Bruen decision.

After the ruling, Attorney General Merrick Garland said the Justice Department "will continue to enforce this important statute, which for nearly 30 years has helped to protect victims and survivors of domestic violence from their abusers."

"As the Justice Department argued, and as the Court reaffirmed today, that commonsense prohibition is entirely consistent with the Court's precedent and the text and history of the Second Amendment," Garland said in a statement.

Advocates for domestic violence victims and gun control groups had called on the court to uphold the law.

Firearms are the most common weapon used in homicides of spouses, intimate partners, children or relatives in recent years, according to data from the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Guns were used in more than half, 57%, of those killings in 2020, a year that saw an overall increase in domestic violence during the coronavirus pandemic.

Seventy women a month, on average, are shot and killed by intimate partners, according to the gun

control group Everytown for Gun Safety.

Gun rights groups backed Rahimi, arguing that the appeals court got it right when it looked at American history and found no restriction close enough to justify the gun ban.

Pennsylvania couple drowns in Florida rip current while on vacation with their 6 children

HUTCHINSON ISLAND, Fla. (AP) — A Pennsylvania couple vacationing in Florida with their six children drowned after they were caught in a rip current while swimming, authorities said.

Brian Warter, 51, and 48-year-old Erica Wishard, and two of their mostly teenage children were caught in the current on Hutchinson Island, along Florida's southeast coast, the Martin County Sheriff's Office said in a Facebook post.

"The kids were able to break the current and attempted to help their parents, but it became too dangerous and they were forced to swim ashore," investigators said.

Martin County Ocean Rescue attempted life-saving measures and took the couple to a local hospital where they were pronounced dead, according to the sheriff's office.

A crisis intervention deputy is assisting the children while other family members travel to meet them in Florida. The sheriff's office did not say where in Pennsylvania the family was from.

A rip current is a fast-moving column of water that flows away from the shore toward open water. Officials say swimmers caught in one should remain calm and then swim parallel to the shore to escape the current.

Fire Rescue officials said there were red flags at the beach Thursday, indicating the possibility of hazardous surf conditions. The National Weather Service office in Melbourne warned on its website Friday of a "high risk" of rip currents all along the Atlantic coast, partly because of higher ocean swells caused by a low-pressure system near the Florida-Georgia state line, said meteorologist Megan Tollefsen.

"A lot of people are locals, they understand rip tides. They know what to do, what not to do," Martin County Chief Deputy John Budensiek told WPTV. "They know where to get in the ocean and where not to. We get these vacationers that come in and, unfortunately, this ends poorly for them. There's no way to get the message out to all of them."

Hutchinson Island is about 55 miles (88 kilometers) north of West Palm Beach.

GOP Convention security will allow guns within outer perimeter, sets parade route for demonstrators

By TODD RICHMOND Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — People will be allowed to carry guns within blocks of the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee next month and protesters will be given two outdoor stages, one within sight of the convention arena, under a security plan law enforcement authorities released Friday.

Demonstrators pushed back, arguing that the plan's protest zones are so far from the Fiserv Forum that they won't be seen or heard.

The plan calls for two perimeters that extend for blocks around the arena. Vehicles will have to pass through checkpoints to travel between the two boundaries. Pedestrians will be allowed to move freely without being screened in that area but only convention goers will be allowed within the inner perimeter.

No weapons of any kind will be allowed within the inner perimeter but people will be able to carry guns openly or concealed elsewhere as allowed under state law. Wisconsin statutes outlaw only machine guns, short-barreled shotguns and silencers.

"It's about behaviors," Milwaukee Police Chief Jeffrey Norman said. "So, understand that there is going to be that level of surveillance and monitoring that that's the particular right that you like to express. Just don't do anything that could be considered a threat or harm to the public."

Weapons haven't been the only question dogging city officials as they grapple with how to handle tens of thousands of people in the city's downtown during the convention, set to run from July 15 through

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July 18. More than 100 organizations have applied to demonstrate at the convention so far, Nick DeSiato, Mayor Cavalier Johnson's chief of staff, said during a news conference.

The Coalition to March on the RNC, a group of local and national organizations including the Milwaukee Democratic Socialists of America, immigrant advocacy group Voces de La Frontera and the American Party of Labor, has planned a protest parade on the first day of the convention.

The coalition contends that it has been trying to obtain a permit for the parade since April 2023 but city officials still haven't granted it. The city also has been slow-walking release of a parade route, the coalition maintains, raising fears that the city won't allow protesters within sight of the arena.

The American Civil Liberties Union filed a federal lawsuit on the coalition's behalf on June 5 alleging the delay in releasing a route amounts to a denial in violation of the coalition's free speech rights.

The ACLU has asked U.S. District Judge Brett Ludwig to issue a temporary injunction forcing the city to designate a route within sight and hearing of the arena and immediately process the coalition's permit applications. Ludwig has set a scheduling conference for the case on Monday.

The security plan authorities released Friday establishes a parade route just inside the far southern edge of the outer perimeter, about five blocks from the arena, with a stage for speakers within the route.

Asked if he believes the route will satisfy the coalition, DeSiato said it runs along the inner perimeter fence and that was as close as authorities could get marchers to the arena when considering exit points and emergency vehicle access. He said setting up the route as a "very complicated math problem."

The plan also establishes a stage for protest speakers on the northern edge of the perimeter about a block from Fiserv Forum.

DeSiato said the city will provide a sound system for speakers on both stages but each speaker will be limited to 20 minutes to ensure everyone gets a chance to talk.

ACLU attorney Tim Muth said in a statement that the organization was "surprised and disappointed" at the sheer size of the inner perimeter. The large radius makes it more important that the city allow free expression and assembly, he said, and he promised to continue the lawsuit.

"We hope for a swift ruling that will vindicate the coalition's plan for a march that passes within sight and sound of Fiserv Forum," he said.

Omar Flores, a coalition co-chair, told reporters at a news conference later Monday that the demonstration zones are unacceptable and accused city leaders of turning Milwaukee into a Republican playground.

He said that coalition demonstrators want to be within sight and sound of Fiserv Forum's front doors and they'll follow their own parade route.

How does heat kill? It confuses your brain. It shuts down your organs. It overworks your heart.

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

As temperatures and humidity soar outside, what's happening inside the human body can become a life-or-death battle decided by just a few degrees.

The critical danger point outdoors for illness and death from relentless heat is several degrees lower than experts once thought, say researchers who put people in hot boxes to see what happens to them.

With much of the United States, Mexico, India and the Middle East suffering through blistering heat waves, worsened by human-caused climate change, several doctors, physiologists and other experts explained to The Associated Press what happens to the human body in such heat.

Key body temperature The body's resting core temperature is typically about 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit (37 degrees Celsius).

That's only 7 degrees (4 Celsius) away from catastrophe in the form of heatstroke, said Ollie Jay, a professor of heat and health at the University of Sydney in Australia, where he runs the thermoergonomics laboratory.

Dr. Neil Gandhi, emergency medicine director at Houston Methodist Hospital, said during heat waves anyone who comes in with a fever of 102 or higher and no clear source of infection will be looked at for

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heat exhaustion or the more severe heatstroke.

"We routinely will see core temperatures greater than 104, 105 degrees during some of the heat episodes," Gandhi said. Another degree or three and such a patient is at high risk of death, he said.

How heat kills Heat kills in three main ways, Jay said. The usual first suspect is heatstroke — critical increases in body temperature that cause organs to fail.

When inner body temperature gets too hot, the body redirects blood flow toward the skin to cool down, Jay said. But that diverts blood and oxygen away from the stomach and intestines, and can allow toxins normally confined to the gut area to leak into circulation.

"That sets off a cascade of effects," Jay said. "Clotting around the body and multiple organ failure and, ultimately, death."

But the bigger killer in heat is the strain on the heart, especially for people who have cardiovascular disease, Jay said.

It again starts with blood rushing to the skin to help shed core heat. That causes blood pressure to drop. The heart responds by trying to pump more blood to keep you from passing out.

"You're asking the heart to do a lot more work than it usually has to do," Jay said. For someone with a heart condition "it's like running for a bus with dodgy (hamstring). Something's going to give."

The third main way is dangerous dehydration. As people sweat, they lose liquids to a point that can severely stress kidneys, Jay said.

Many people may not realize their danger, Houston's Gandhi said.

Dehydration can progress into shock, causing organs to shut down from lack of blood, oxygen and nutrients, leading to seizures and death, said Dr. Renee Salas, a Harvard University professor of public health and an emergency room physician at Massachusetts General Hospital.

"Dehydration can be very dangerous and even deadly for everyone if it gets bad enough — but it is especially dangerous for those with medical conditions and on certain medications," Salas said.

Dehydration also reduces blood flow and magnifies cardiac problems, Jay said.

Attacking the brain Heat also affects the brain. It can cause a person to have confusion, or trouble thinking, several doctors said.

"One of the first symptoms you're getting into trouble with the heat is if you get confused," said University of Washington public health and climate professor Kris Ebi. That's little help as a symptom because the person suffering from the heat is unlikely to recognize it, she said. And it becomes a bigger problem as people age.

One of the classic definitions of heat stroke is a core body temperature of 104 degrees "coupled with cognitive dysfunction," said Pennsylvania State University physiology professor W. Larry Kenney.

Humidity matters Some scientists use a complicated outside temperature measurement called wet bulb globe temperature, which takes into account humidity, solar radiation and wind. In the past, it was thought that a wet-bulb reading of 95 Fahrenheit (35 Celsius) was the point when the body started having trouble, said Kenney, who also runs a hot box lab and has done nearly 600 tests with volunteers.

His tests show the wet-bulb danger point is closer to 87 (30.5 Celsius). That's a figure that has started to appear in the Middle East, he said.

And that's just for young healthy people. For older people, the danger point is a wet bulb temperature of 82 (28 degrees Celsius), he said.

"Humid heat waves kill a lot more people than dry heat waves," Kenney said.

When Kenney tested young and old people in dry heat, young volunteers could function until 125.6 degrees (52 degrees Celsius), while the elderly had to stop at 109.4 (43 degrees Celsius). With high or moderate humidity, the people could not function at nearly as high a temperature, he said.

"Humidity impacts the ability of sweat to evaporate," Jay said.

Rushing to make patients cool Heatstroke is an emergency, and medical workers try to cool a victim down within 30 minutes, Salas said.

The best way: Cold water immersion. Basically, "you drop them in a water bucket," Salas said.

But those aren't always around. So emergency rooms pump patients with cool fluids intravenously, spray

them with misters, put ice packs in armpits and groins and place them on a chilling mat with cold water running inside it.

Sometimes it doesn't work.

"We call it the silent killer because it's not this kind of visually dramatic event," Jay said. "It's insidious. It's hidden."

Trump ally Bannon asks the Supreme Court to delay his 4-month prison sentence on contempt charges

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Steve Bannon, a longtime ally of former President Donald Trump, asked the Supreme Court on Friday to delay his prison sentence while he fights his convictions for defying a subpoena from the House committee that investigated the attack on U.S. Capitol.

The emergency application came after a federal appeals court panel rejected Bannon's bid to avoid reporting to prison by July 1 to serve his four-month sentence. It was addressed to Chief Justice John Roberts, who oversees emergency appeals from courts in Washington, D.C.

The high court asked the Justice Department to respond to the request by Wednesday, days before the court is set to begin its summer recess. The court denied a similar request from another Trump aide shortly after receiving a response in March.

Bannon was convicted nearly two years ago of two counts of contempt of Congress: one for refusing to sit for a deposition with the Jan. 6 House Committee and the other for refusing to provide documents related to his involvement in Trump's efforts to overturn his 2020 presidential election loss to Democrat Joe Biden.

Bannon has cast the case as politically motivated, and his attorney David Schoen has said the case raises "serious constitutional issues" that need to be examined by the Supreme Court.

If Bannon goes to prison next month, he will likely have to serve his full sentence before the high court has the chance to review those questions, since the court is due to take its summer recess at the end of June, attorney Trent McCotter wrote in his emergency application.

His lawyer says the former adviser didn't ignore the subpoena but was still negotiating with the congressional committee when he was charged. His previous attorney told him that the subpoena was invalid because the Republican former president has asserted executive privilege and the committee would not allow a Trump lawyer in the room.

In court papers, Bannon's lawyers also previously argued that there is a "strong public interest" in allowing him to remain free in the run-up to the 2024 election because Bannon is a top adviser to Trump's campaign.

Bannon's prison term has been delayed as he appealed. U.S. District Judge Carl Nichols ordered him to turn himself in after an appeals court panel upheld his contempt of Congress convictions.

A second Trump aide, trade adviser Peter Navarro, was also convicted of contempt of Congress. He reported to prison in March to serve his four-month sentence after the Supreme Court refused his bid to delay the sentence.

Courts have rejected his executive-privilege argument, finding Navarro couldn't prove Trump had actually invoked it.

Bannon is also facing criminal charges in New York state court alleging he duped donors who gave money to build a wall along the U.S. southern border. Bannon has pleaded not guilty to money laundering, conspiracy, fraud and other charges, and that trial has been postponed until at least the end of September.

Paris police chief outlines security measures for Olympics

By TOM NOUVIAN Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — With the Paris Olympics a month away, city police chief Laurent Nunez addressed security concerns on Friday.

Nunez said police forces remain on high alert. The Olympics start on July 24, and two days later is the opening ceremony.

"We are concerned about the threat of terrorism, especially Islamic terrorism, but also the low-intensity threat from radicalized environmentalists, left-wing extremists, and the pro-Palestinian movement," Nunez said at a news conference.

"There is still no clear-cut threat to the Games or to our country, but I would remind you that at the end of May, two individuals were arrested in Saint-Étienne and were plotting an attack directly aimed at the Olympic Games."

Nunez announced plans to deploy around 30,000 police officers each day, including armed police, with a peak of 45,000 for the opening ceremony on the Seine river. The police will be supported by the military, with about 18,000 members of the army involved during the competition.

"Since the end of the Second World War, there has never been such a massive mobilization of military forces on French soil," said General Christophe Abad, who is in charge of the military operations in Paris.

During the opening ceremony, Nunez confirmed that 35 security boats will accompany the 94 riverboats carrying athletes along a six-kilometer (nearly four-mile) section of the Seine. Snipers will be stationed along the route, and the three tactical forces of the French police —BRI, RAID, and GIGN — will cooperate for the first time ever during the ceremony.

"We will create a bubble on the ground, in the air, and in the water," Abad said.

Nunez assured that police plans for securing the Paris Games remained unchanged regardless of the results of the snap elections on July 7.

The prospect of the far-right party National Rally coming on top in the elections and taking a main role in President Emmanuel Macron's next government has already led to street protests this week, with another round potentially occurring after the results.

"I have substantial reinforcements at my disposal that will allow me to handle these demonstrations," Nunez said.

Concerns regarding private security were also addressed. Initially projected to be about 20,000, the number of private security agents for the Olympics is expected to be about 25,000, according to Nunez.

At this stage, 93% of private security needs have been met. But organizers are still looking for 400 agents for the opening ceremony.

"We're very confident that we'll be able to meet all our needs between now and the start of the Games," said Tony Estanguet, president of the Paris Games organizing committee.

How Biden and Trump are taking very different approaches to preparing for next week's debate

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — President Joe Biden begins an intense period of private preparations Friday at Camp David for what may be the most consequential presidential debate in decades.

The 81-year-old Democrat's team is aware he cannot afford an underwhelming performance when he faces Republican rival Donald Trump for 90 minutes on live television June 27. Biden's team expects aggressive attacks on his physical and mental strength, his record on the economy and immigration and even his family.

Trump, 78 and ever confident, will stay on the campaign trail before going to his Florida estate next week for two days of private meetings as part of an informal prep process.

The ex-president's allies are pushing him to stay focused on his governing plans but expect him to be

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tested by pointed questions about his unrelenting focus on election fraud, his role in the erosion of abortion rights and his unprecedented legal baggage.

The CNN debate will be full of firsts, with the potential to reshape the presidential race. Never before in the modern era have two presumptive nominees met on the debate stage so early in the general election season. Never before have two White House contenders faced off at such advanced ages, with widespread questions about their readiness.

And never before has a general election debate participant been saddled with a felony conviction. The debate stage meeting comes just two weeks before Trump is scheduled to be sentenced on 34 felony counts in his New York hush money trial.

"You can argue this will be the most important debate, at least in my lifetime," said Democratic strategist Jim Messina, a 54-year-old who managed President Barack Obama's 2012 campaign.

PRESSURE ON BIDENThe ground rules for the June 27 debate, the first of two scheduled meetings, are unusual.

The candidates agreed to meet at a CNN studio in Atlanta with no audience. Each candidate's microphone will be muted, except when it's his turn to speak. No props or prewritten notes will be allowed onstage. The candidates will be given only a pen, a pad of paper and a bottle of water.

There will be no opening statements. A coin flip determined Biden would stand at the podium to the viewer's right, while Trump would deliver the final closing statement.

The next debate won't be until September. Any stumbles June 27 will be hard to erase or replace quickly.

Biden arrived at Camp David on Thursday night and is expected to hunker down with senior campaign aides until the debate. While traveling to the mountainside retreat, he gave a thumbs up to reporters when asked how debate prep was going.

The president's aides have been reluctant to share details about his preparations, run by former chief of staff Ron Klain. But they've signaled he's preparing to be aggressive and wouldn't shy away from using the term "convicted felon" to describe his opponent.

One adviser not authorized to speak publicly about debate strategy noted Biden has been increasingly punchier in recent remarks about Trump and plans to carry that theme through to the debate. That's still while trying to project himself as "the wise and steady leader" in contrast with Trump, the adviser said.

Among some political operatives, there's the sense Biden may have more to lose given his struggle to generate momentum amid signs of weakness within his political coalition. Trump and his allies have set an extraordinarily low bar, however, by suggesting for months Biden is contending with serious physical limitations that make it difficult for him to stand for 90 minutes or string together two sentences.

"It's like the mirror test. Put a mirror under Biden's nose, and if it fogs it up, he wins, right? That's about what the threshold is for Biden," Republican strategist and Trump ally David Urban said with a laugh. "Can Biden demonstrate that he's mentally nimble? That's the big question."

Yet Trump sought to shift expectations in a Thursday interview with the "The All-In Podcast" in which he veered sharply away from his typical Biden taunts. He said Biden "destroyed" vice presidential nominee Paul Ryan in their 2012 debate.

"I assume he's going to be somebody that will be a worthy debater," Trump said of Biden. "I don't want to underestimate him."

Biden's aides have dismissed concerns about his age and mental readiness. They're fighting against what they allege is deceptive editing of video clips to suggest he's confused.

But while some Democrats project confidence, Biden's allies also say he has spent much of the last two weeks traveling — in Europe and on the West Coast — limiting his ability to prepare. Others note incumbent presidents typically struggle in the season's opening general election debate.

Messina made both points even as he sought to play up the political stakes for Trump. He suggested Trump was taking an unnecessary political risk by debating Biden.

"I wouldn't have done the debate if I was him," Messina said of Trump. The strategist added, "Why would you want to give him this air? He decided he wanted to do this to knock him out, and if he doesn't, then I think he's in real trouble."

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TRUMP PROJECTING CONFIDENCE Trump's team sees the faceoff as an opportunity to demonstrate a clear contrast with Biden's leadership ability and governing record.

And while downplaying his preparations, Trump aides have a pattern of insisting he doesn't prepare for debates when, in fact, he does — in his own way. Instead of mock debates with lecterns and stand-ins or hours spent poring over policy books, the ex-president is expected to rely on a series of conversations about policy and strategy with aides and political allies.

Trump will also make public appearances over the coming days.

On Saturday, he's set to host a rally in Philadelphia and deliver a keynote address to a conference of Christian conservatives in Washington. He also has a fundraiser in New Orleans on Monday before going to his Florida estate for meetings.

"Biden needs rehearsals with handlers to find some way to explain this mess he's made of our nation," Trump spokesman Brian Hughes said. "President Trump is always prepared to present to Americans his record of success and Biden's weakness and failures."

Biden's camp is aware Trump will likely focus on his son Hunter, as the then-president did on the debate stage four years ago. Hunter Biden was recently convicted on three felony charges related to the purchase of a gun while allegedly being addicted to drugs. Republicans have also criticized Hunter Biden's foreign business dealings when Joe Biden was vice president.

Biden's allies are also concerned, however, their famously combative rival might be on good behavior.

"For both campaigns, the goal here is reaching an audience of moderate, independent, swing voters in swing states who will, in many ways, be the deciding factor in this election," said former Biden administration official Bill Russo.

"Trump has kind of a golden opportunity here. If he can pretend that he's a reasonable human being for 90 minutes while he's in the spotlight, he's got a lot to gain," Russo added. "The real key here is which Trump shows up."

Russia-North Korea pact could dent China's influence, but Beijing still holds sway over both

By DIDI TANG and KEN MORITSUGU Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — With no obvious options, China appears to be keeping its distance as Russia and North Korea move closer to each other with a new defense pact that could tilt the balance of power among the three authoritarian states.

Experts say China's leaders are likely fretting over a potential loss of influence over North Korea after its leader Kim Jong Un and Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the deal this week, and how that could increase instability on the Korean Peninsula.

Beijing may also be struggling to come up with a response to what could be the strongest Russia-North Korea partnership since the Cold War because it has conflicting goals: keeping peace in the Koreas while countering the U.S. and its Western allies on the global stage.

Beijing so far has not commented on the deal — which requires both countries to provide defense assistance if the other is attacked — and only reiterated boilerplate statements that it seeks to uphold peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and advance a political settlement of the North-South divide.

The Chinese response has been "very weak," said Victor Cha, senior vice president for Asia and Korea chair at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, adding that it could be a sign that Beijing doesn't yet know what to do.

"Every option is a bad option," he said. "You're either unable to make a decision because of very strongly held competing views or ... you're just incapable of making a decision because you just don't know how to evaluate the situation."

Some in Beijing may welcome the Russia-North Korea partnership as a way of pushing back at America's dominance in world affairs, but Cha said that "there is also a great deal of discomfort" in China, which

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doesn't want to lose its sway over its neighbor to Russia, doesn't want to see a destabilizing nuclear power on its doorstep, and doesn't want to bring the conflict in Europe to Asia.

But China isn't raising these concerns publicly. "They don't want to push Kim Jong Un further into the arms of Vladimir Putin," Cha said, referring to the leaders of the two countries.

Lin Jian, a spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, declined to comment on the new agreement. "The cooperation between Russia and the DPRK is a matter between two sovereign states. We do not have information on the relevant matter," he said, referring to North Korea by the initials for its official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

John Kirby, the White House national security spokesman, told reporters that the pact between Russia and North Korea "should be of concern to any country that believes that the U.N. Security Council resolutions ought to be abided by." The Security Council has imposed sanctions on North Korea to try to stop its development of nuclear weapons.

Kirby also said the agreement "should be of concern to anybody who thinks that supporting the people of Ukraine is an important thing to do. And we would think that that concern would be shared by the People's Republic of China."

One area that China could be concerned about is whether Russia will help North Korea's weapons program by sharing advanced technology, said Alexander Gabuev, director of the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center.

"If China is indeed concerned, it has leverage in both Russia and North Korea and it could probably try to put some limitations to that relationship," he said.

The meeting between Putin and Kim this week was the latest chapter in decades of complicated political and military relationships in East Asia, where the Chinese Communist Party, once an underdog, has emerged as a leading power that wields influence over both North Korea and Russia.

That and other developments have raised alarms in the U.S. that Beijing, now the world's second-largest economy, could challenge the U.S.-led world order by aligning itself with countries such as Russia, North Korea and Iran. Beijing has rejected that allegation.

Sun Yun, director of the China program at the Stimson Center, said Beijing doesn't want to form a three-way alliance with North Korea and Russia, because it "needs to keep its options open."

Such a coalition could mean a new Cold War, something Beijing says it is determined to avoid, and locking itself to Pyongyang and Moscow would be contrary to China's goals of maintaining relationships with Europe and improving ties with Japan and South Korea, she said.

Sun added that the rapprochement between North Korea and Moscow "opens up possibilities and potentials of uncertainty, but based on what has happened so far, I don't think that China's national interests have been undercut by this."

Closer ties between Putin and Kim could weaken Beijing's sway and leave it as the "biggest loser," said Danny Russel, who was the top U.S. diplomat for Asia in the Obama administration.

"Apart from irritation over Putin's intrusion into what most Chinese consider their sphere of influence, the real cost to China is that Russia's embrace gives North Korea greater impunity and room to maneuver without consideration to Beijing's interests," he said.

Russel, now vice president for international security and diplomacy at the Asia Society Policy Institute, said that Kim is eager to reduce his country's dependence on China.

"The dilution of Chinese leverage means Kim Jong Un can disregard Beijing's calls for restraint," he said, "and that is much more likely to create chaos at a time when (Chinese leader) Xi Jinping desperately wants stability."

The Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022. Here's the state of abortion rights now in the US

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

Judges, state lawmakers and voters are deciding the future of abortion in the U.S. two years after the Supreme Court jolted the legal status quo with a ruling that overturned Roe v. Wade.

The June 24, 2022, ruling in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization sparked legislative action, protest and numerous lawsuits — placing the issue at the center of politics across the country.

Abortion is now banned at all stages of pregnancy, with limited exceptions, in 14 Republican-controlled states. In three other states, it's barred after about the first six weeks, which is before many know they are pregnant. Most Democratic-led states have taken actions to protect abortion rights, and become sanctuaries for out-of-state patients seeking care.

That's changed the landscape of abortion access, making it more of a logistical and financial ordeal for many in conservative states. But it has not reduced the overall number of procedures done each month across the U.S.

Here's what to know about the state of abortion rights in the U.S. now.

Limited abortion access prompts more out-of-state travel Bans in Republican-led states have prompted many people seeking abortions to travel to get care.

That translates into higher costs for gas or plane tickets, hotels and meals; more logistics to figure out, including child care; and more days off work.

A new study by the Guttmacher Institute, which advocates for abortion access, found that out of just over a million abortions provided in clinics, hospitals and doctors' offices, more than 161,000 — or 16% — were for people who crossed state lines to get them.

More than two-thirds of abortions done in Kansas and New Mexico were for out-of-staters, particularly Texans.

Since Florida's six-week abortion ban kicked in in May, many people had to travel farther than before, since throughout the Southeast, most states have bans.

Low-income patients and those lacking legal permission to be in the country are more likely to be unable to travel. There can be lasting costs for those who do.

In Alabama, the Yellowhammer Fund, which previously helped residents pay for the procedure has paused doing so since facing threats of litigation from the state.

Jenice Fountain, Yellowhammer's executive director, said she met a woman recently who traveled from Alabama to neighboring Georgia for an abortion but found she couldn't get one there because she was slightly too far into her pregnancy. So she then went to Virginia. The journey wiped out her rent money and she needed help to remain housed.

"We're having people use every dime that they have to get out of state, or use every dime they have to have another child," Fountain said.

It's usually provided with pills rather than procedures Nearly two-thirds of known abortions last year were provided with pills rather than procedures.

One report found that pills are prescribed via telehealth and mailed to about 6,000 people a month who live in states with abortion bans. They're sent by medical providers in states with laws intended to protect them from prosecution for those prescriptions. The laws in Colorado, Massachusetts, New York, Vermont and Washington specifically protect medical providers who prescribe the pills to patients in states with bans.

The growing prominence of pills, which were used in about half of all abortions just before the Dobbs ruling, is a frontier in the latest chapter of the legal fight.

The U.S. Supreme Court this month unanimously rejected an effort by abortion opponents who were seeking to overturn or roll back the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's approval of mifepristone, one of two drugs usually used together for medication abortions. The issue is likely to return.

Abortion is on the 2024 ballot In this presidential election year, abortion is a key issue.

Protecting access has emerged as a key theme in the campaigns of Democrats, including President Joe

Biden in his reelection bid. Former President Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican nominee, has said states should decide whether to restrict abortions. He also suggested states could limit contraception use but changed his tune on that.

"We recognize this could be the last Dobbs anniversary we celebrate," Kelsey Pritchard, a spokesperson for Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America said in an interview, noting that if Democrats win the presidency and regain control of both chambers of Congress, a right to abortion could be enshrined in the law.

The issue will also be put directly before voters in at least four states. Colorado, Florida, Maryland and South Dakota have ballot measures this year asking voters to approve state constitutional amendments that would protect or expand access to abortion. A New York measure would bar discrimination against someone who has an abortion. There are attempts to put questions about abortion access on the ballots this year in Arkansas, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska and Nevada.

There's also a push for a ballot measure in Arizona, where the state Supreme Court this year ruled that an 1864 abortion ban could be enforced. With the help of some Republicans — Democrats in the Legislature were able to repeal that law.

Generally, abortion rights expand when voters are deciding. In the seven statewide abortion policy-related votes since 2022, voters have sided with abortion rights advocates in every case.

It's still up to the courts — including the Supreme Court. The Dobbs ruling and its aftermath gave rise to a bevy of legal questions and lawsuits challenging nearly every ban and restriction.

Many of those questions deal with how exceptions — which come into play far more often when abortion is barred earlier in pregnancy — should apply. The issue is often raised by those who wanted to be pregnant but who experienced life-threatening complications.

A group of women who had serious pregnancy complications but were denied abortions in Texas sued, claiming the state's ban is vague about which exceptions are allowed. The all-Republican Texas Supreme Court disagreed in a May ruling.

The Supreme Court also heard arguments in April on the federal government's lawsuit against Idaho, which says its ban on abortions at all stages of pregnancy can extend to women in medical emergencies. The Biden administration says that violates federal law. A ruling on that case could be issued at any time.

Meanwhile, bans have been put on hold by judges in Iowa, Montana, Utah and Wyoming.

Historic flooding in southern China kills 47, with more floods feared in coming days

BEIJING (AP) — At least 47 people have died as downpours in southern China's Guangdong province caused historic flooding and slides, state media reported Friday, while authorities warned of more extreme weather ahead in other parts of the country.

State broadcaster CCTV said Friday afternoon that another 38 people were confirmed dead in a county under the jurisdiction of Meizhou city, adding to nine others previously reported dead elsewhere in Meizhou.

Heavy rains caused landslides, floods and mudslides that severely damaged eight townships in Pingyuan county, where the latest deaths were reported, CCTV said. The heaviest rains were on Sunday, with an average rainfall of 199 mm (7.83 inches), and one town seeing 365.7 mm (14.4 inches). It is unclear from the report when the deaths occurred.

The extreme weather also destroyed some 356 kilometers (221 miles) of road, damaged more than a hundred bridges and flooded farmland.

The previous day, CCTV reported four deaths in Meizhou's Meixian district, and five in Jiaoling County.

The heaviest rains were from Sunday into Tuesday, toppling trees and collapsing homes. A road leading to Meixian district completely collapsed during the heavy rains. The Songyuan river, which winds through Meizhou, experienced its biggest recorded flood, according to CCTV.

The estimated direct economic loss is 3.65 billion yuan (\$502 million) in Jiaoling county, while in Meixian district, the loss is 1.06 billion yuan (\$146 million).

Other parts of the country also face torrential rains and extreme weather in the next 24 hours, with the

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National Meteorological Center issuing a warning for several provinces in the south and a few individual places in the north.

Henan and Anhui provinces in central China, as well as Jiangsu province on the coast and the southern province of Guizhou, all are expecting hail and strong thunderstorms, according to the forecast. Rainfall could be as high as 50 mm to 80 mm (1.9 to 3.14 inches) in one day in Henan, Anhui and Hubei provinces, the National Meteorological Center said.

Last week, it was southern Fujian and Guangxi provinces that experienced landslides and flooding amid heavy rain. One student died in Guangxi after falling into a river swollen from the downpour.

Today in History: June 22 Hitler and the Nazis invade the Soviet Union

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, June 22, the 174th day of 2024. There are 192 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 22, 1941, Nazi Germany launched Operation Barbarossa, a massive and ultimately ill-fated invasion of the Soviet Union that would prove pivotal to the Allied victory over the Axis Powers.

In 1940, during World War II, Adolf Hitler gained a stunning victory as France was forced to sign an armistice eight days after German forces overran Paris.

On this date:

In 1815, Napoleon Bonaparte abdicated for a second time as Emperor of the French.

In 1870, the United States Department of Justice was created.

In 1937, Joe Louis began his reign as world heavyweight boxing champion by knocking out Jim Braddock in the eighth round of their fight in Chicago.

In 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, more popularly known as the "GI Bill of Rights."

In 1945, the World War II battle for Okinawa ended with an Allied victory.

In 1965, movie producer David O. Selznick ("Gone with the Wind") died in Los Angeles at age 63.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon signed an extension of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that lowered the minimum voting age to 18.

In 1977, John N. Mitchell became the first former U.S. Attorney General to go to prison as he began serving a sentence for his role in the Watergate cover-up.

In 1981, Mark David Chapman pleaded guilty to killing rock star John Lennon. Abolhassan Bani-Sadr was deposed as president of Iran.

In 1992, the U.S. Supreme Court, in *R.A.V. v. City of St. Paul*, unanimously ruled that "hate crime" laws that banned cross burning and similar expressions of racial bias violated free-speech rights.

In 1999, in a major upset at Wimbledon, top-ranked Martina Hingis lost in the opening round to Jelena Dokic, a 16-year-old qualifier ranked 129th.

In 2012, ex-Penn State assistant coach Jerry Sandusky was convicted by a jury in Bellefonte, Pennsylvania, on 45 counts of sexually assaulting 10 boys over 15 years.

In 2022, a powerful earthquake struck a rugged, mountainous region of eastern Afghanistan, flattening stone and mud-brick homes and killing at least 1,000 people.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Prunella Scales (TV: "Fawlty Towers") is 92. Singer-actor Kris Kristofferson is 88. Actor Klaus Maria Brandauer is 81. Fox News analyst Brit Hume is 81. Singer/producer Peter Asher (Peter and Gordon) is 80. Singer Howard "Eddie" Kaylan is 77. Singer-musician Todd Rundgren is 76. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Mass., is 75. Actor Meryl Streep is 75. Actor Lindsay Wagner is 75. Singer Alan Osmond is 75. Actor Graham Greene is 72. Pop singer Cyndi Lauper is 71. Actor Chris Lemmon is 70. Rock musician Derek Forbes is 68. Actor Tim Russ is 68. Rock musician Garry Beers (INXS) is 67. Actor-producer-writer Bruce Campbell is 66. Rock musician Alan Anton (Cowboy Junkies) is 65. Actor Tracy Pollan is 64. Envi-

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ronmental activist Erin Brockovich is 64. Rock singer-musician Jimmy Somerville is 63. Basketball Hall of Famer Clyde Drexler is 62. Actor Amy Brenneman is 60. Author Dan Brown is 60. Rock singer-musician Mike Edwards (Jesus Jones) is 60. Rock singer Steven Page is 54. Actor Michael Trucco is 54. Actor Mary Lynn Rajs kub (RYS'-kub) is 53. TV personality Carson Daly is 51. Rock musician Chris Traynor is 51. Actor Donald Faison (FAY'-zahn) is 50. Actor Alicia Goranson is 50. Actor-comedian Mike O'Brien (TV: "Saturday Night Live") is 48. TV personality/actor Jai Rodriguez is 45. Americana singer-songwriter John Moreland is 39. Pop singer Dinah Jane (Fifth Harmony) (TV: "The X Factor") is 27.