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

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GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6

School Board Meeting

June 28, 2021 – 7:00 PM – GHS Conference Room

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Approval of year ending District bills.

OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:

1. Open Forum for Public Participation in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
2. Second reading and approval of recommended handbook changes for MS/HS Student Handbook.
3. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Authorize Business Manager to make necessary Contingency Fund transfers to cover year-ending deficit accounts in General Fund.
2. Approve Supplemental Budget to Capital Outlay and Special Education pursuant SDCL13-11-3.2.
3. Open and approve diesel/gas quotes.
4. Open and approve newspaper quotes and designate official newspaper for FY2022.
5. Approve staff lane changes.
 - a. Emily Dinger, MS+15 to MS+30
 - b. Sarah Hanten, BS+15 to BS+30
 - c. Janene Harry, BS+30 to BS+45
6. Declare Bus #11 (1989 Ford) surplus property for disposal.
7. Executive session pursuant SDCL1-25-2(1) for personnel and SDCL1-25-2(4) for negotiations.

ADJOURN



**School Board
Meeting
Monday,
June 28, 2021
7 p.m. - GHS
Multipurpose Room**

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Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Dominique Clare

The Minnesota Vikings check in to training camp in less than 1 month.

Since adding Sheldon Richardson to the roster, the Vikings have been relatively quiet. While their roster looks solid overall, they have nearly \$14M in cap space available which they can use to bring in an edge player, wide receiver, or another offensive lineman. The Vikings are currently in position to pick up a quality player that becomes available from any team now until the start of the season. As we get closer to final 53-man rosters, players that get cut on one team can be of a much greater need on another.

In addition to the cap space the Vikings currently have, they can still increase that number. There have been reports that Harrison Smith and the Vikings may reach a contract extension prior to the start of the season. If they can get that done, that can free up even more cap space for the Vikings to add some talent to their 2021 roster.

This week, we continue our roster breakdown with the offensive line. I will talk about who I project at each spot right now.

Christian Darrisaw (Left Tackle) – The Vikings were aggressive in addressing the offensive line in the draft this year. With the 23rd overall pick they selected Darrisaw out of Virginia Tech. He is an exceptionally large and powerful tackle. He is ready to start from the get-go and I expect him to be the starting left tackle for the Vikings for many years to come.

He is filling a void left by Riley Reiff who the Vikings cut to create cap space. Reiff had a rather good year last season, so the Vikings need production from Darrisaw right away. The expectations are high for the young tackle.

Ezra Cleveland (Left Guard) – Last season the Vikings took Ezra Cleveland in the second round of 2020 NFL Draft. Cleveland didn't start right away, but when he got his chance, he proved to be a solid choice.

He is a versatile lineman. The original thought was that he was going to replace Reiff at left tackle. Now with Darrisaw on the roster, Cleveland has settled into the left guard spot. This is scary and exciting at the same time. The left side will have two very young players in Darrisaw and Cleveland, and while there will be some growing pains early in the season, they could be a very strong duo in time.

Garrett Bradbury (Center) – The center position has had a little bouncing around in recent history. The Vikings feel like Bradbury has an opportunity to lock down that spot. He has shown that he can provide consistent play.

He has not lived up to the 1st round hype, but he is still young. I struggle completely judging him with so much turnover on the offensive line. This is a make or break it year for Bradbury.

Dakota Dozier (Right Guard) – This isn't who I want to start at right guard but rather who I think will open the season at the position for the Vikings. Dozier simply was not good last season. This is a position where I hope someone else can take this spot. Based on what I have seen from camps, it looks like Dozier will get the early nod at right guard.

Brian O'Neill (Right Tackle) – O'Neill is an example of a pleasant surprise. The Vikings grabbed him in the second round in 2018 and he has become one of the best right tackles in the NFL. He is now the best offensive lineman on the Vikings, and the one player who doesn't have any cause for concern along the o-line. If you would have told me that would be the case in 2018, I would have laughed.

The rest – I mentioned earlier that Dozier isn't who I want to start at right guard. The Vikings selected Wyatt Davis out of Ohio State in the 3rd round. Davis is who should (and will) beat out Dozier as the starter at some point this season.

Another name that could factor into a starting role is Mason Cole. He started several games for Arizona. The addition of Cole to this group sadly makes the guard unit the most competitive it's been in recent history.

For tackle depth the Vikings have Rashod Hill. He is a solid backup that Vikings fans should feel comfortable with getting minutes in any short-term situation.

Health Care Access for Rural Americans

For most of us, seeing the doctor means making a trip to the local clinic to see our primary care physician in person, but an increasing number of patients are seeing their doctor remotely by telehealth, using two-way video telecommunication technology.

The popularity of telehealth services soared during the COVID pandemic much like Zoom and similar technologies. Historically, patients and health care providers alike have been reluctant to adopt it, but federal health policy changes have removed many of the barriers to telehealth access and have promoted its use in both primary and specialty care.

According to the National Institutes of Health, twenty percent of us live in rural America where less than ten percent of physicians practice. I personally have known patients who live more than one hour from their primary physician and more than three hours from a medical specialist. Taking time off work and the travel expense required cause many patients to delay seeking care until their acute illness becomes complicated or their chronic condition deteriorates.

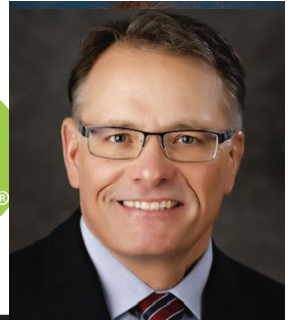
Thankfully, as telehealth services have grown, time and expense of travel to a specialist have decreased and access to care has increased for many. Rural emergency physicians and hospitalists utilize telehealth services for additional support and expert opinions for issues ranging from acute trauma and cardiac arrests to coordination with critical care specialists regarding the optimal management of a patient's ventilator. Although not every specialty is available, the advent of telehealth has afforded many outpatients the opportunity to stay in their hometown and see a specialist.

While my patients and I have had many positive experiences with telehealth, none exemplifies the power of a remote video connection better than one of my first encounters with a critically ill COVID patient in my local ICU last Fall. Moments after placing a call to my telehealth affiliate, I was video chatting with a critical care specialist in Seattle – America's first COVID epicenter. I was in my central South Dakota rural ICU wearing my PPE standing beside my patient who was now on a ventilator struggling with a disease I had never seen or treated and in the room with us virtually, but 1300 miles away, was a specialist with six months of experience treating dozens of patients like the one before me.

There will never be a replacement for in-person health care and a physical examination is required for proper diagnosis in most cases, but I urge you to keep an open mind to seeing a physician remotely by telehealth when necessary and consider the power it can add to your overall health care.

Philip Meyer, D.O., a hospitalist in Pierre, South Dakota, is a contributing Prairie Doc® columnist. He appears as a guest during On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show streaming on Facebook and broadcast on SDPB Thursday, July 1 at 7 p.m. Central. For free and easy access to the entire Prairie Doc® library, visit www.prairiedoc.org and follow Prairie Doc® on Facebook.

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By Philip Meyer, D.O. ~ Prairie Doc® Perspectives

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With Braden On The Mound, Groton Jr Legion Shuts Out Smitty's Jr. Legion

Braden A had all the right stuff on Sunday for Groton Jr Legion, allowing zero runs and besting Smitty's Jr. Legion by a score of 2-0

The pitching was strong on both sides. Braden struck out six, while Smitty's Jr. Legion pitchers sat down eight.

A single by Dingman in the second inning was a positive for Smitty's Jr. Legion.

Braden pitched Groton Jr Legion to victory. The pitcher lasted seven innings, allowing five hits and zero runs while striking out six.

Kusler took the loss for Smitty's Jr. Legion. Kusler allowed five hits and two runs over six and a third innings, striking out eight and walking one.

Tate L went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Groton Jr Legion in hits.

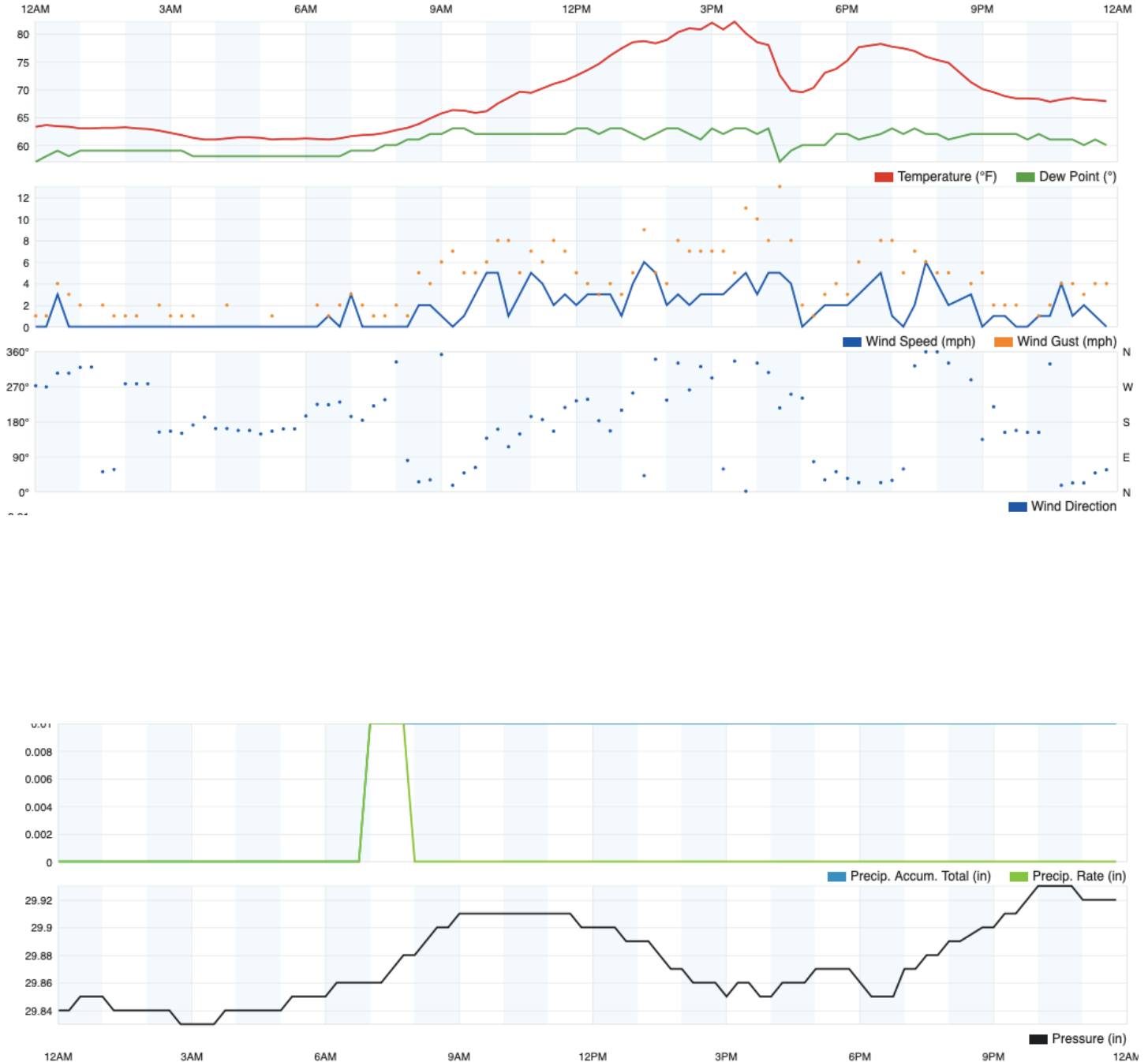
Dingman led Smitty's Jr. Legion with two hits in three at bats.

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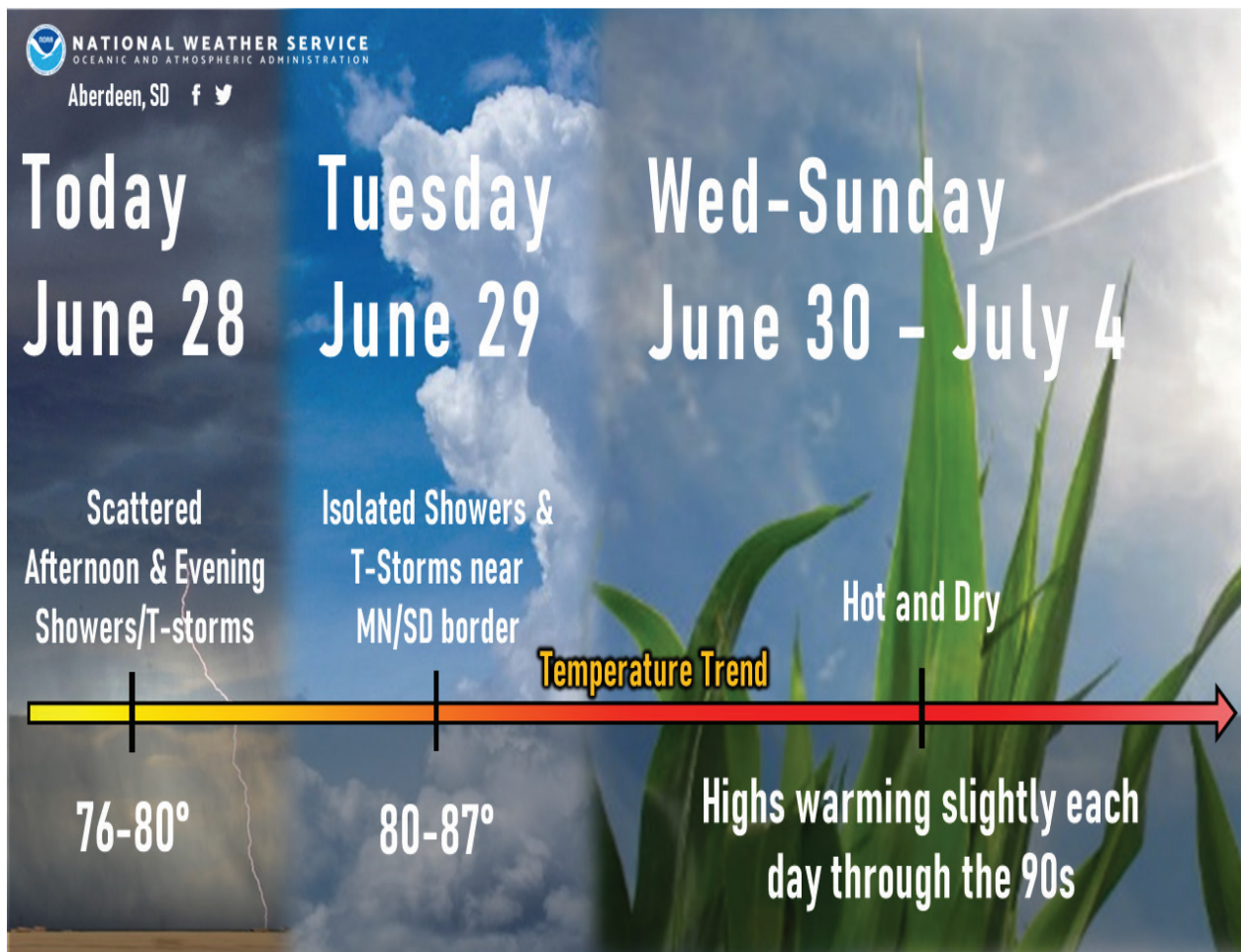
Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
				
Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms then Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Hot
High: 81 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 90 °F



Afternoon and evening showers and thunderstorms are expected again today. The shower and thunderstorm potential will shift east and largely in Minnesota for Tuesday. After Tuesday, hot and dry conditions will be in place through the first part of July.

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Today in Weather History

June 28, 1961: An F2 tornado skipped ESE from about 5 miles south of Eureka to Lake Mina. About twelve farm buildings were destroyed. A house was damaged when a small shed was smashed against it in Hillsvie. The storm struck north of Roscoe where a barn was unroofed. A second F2 tornado hit west of Hoven. On one farm, a barn, and five small buildings were destroyed, although grain bin nearby was untouched. Another farm, across the road, lost four buildings including a house. The Langford area of Marshall County was struck by an EF2 tornado shortly after 8:00 pm. An estimated 15 to 20 farm buildings were demolished or heavily damaged, and a store in town was partially unroofed.

June 28, 1982: An estimated thunderstorm wind gust up to 94 mph knocked down trees and caused minor structural damage to several homes just west of Wheaton, Minnesota.

June 28, 1990: KDIO radio in Ortonville, Minnesota, clocked winds of 80 to 85 mph for several minutes as a thunderstorm passed. There were reports of numerous trees downed and scattered power outages in Ortonville.

1788: The Battle of Monmouth in central New Jersey was fought in sweltering heat. The temperature was 96 degrees in the shade, and there were more casualties from the heat than from bullets.

1892 - The temperature at Orogrande UT soared to 116 degrees to establish a record for the state. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders)

1923 - A massive tornado hit Sandusky, OH, then swept across Lake Erie to strike the town of Lorain. The tornado killed 86 persons and caused twelve million dollars damage. The tornado outbreak that day was the worst of record for the state of Ohio up til that time. (David Ludlum)

1924: An estimated F4 tornado struck the towns of Sandusky and Lorain, killing 85 people and injuring over 300. This tornado is the deadliest ever in Ohio history. Click [HERE](#) for some images from Ohio Historical Society.

1975 - Lee Trevino and two other golfers are struck by lightning at the Western Open golf tournament in Oak Brook, IL. (The Weather Channel)

1980 - The temperature at Wichita Falls, TX, soared to 117 degrees, their hottest reading of record. Daily highs were 110 degrees or above between the 24th of June and the 3rd of July. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms developing along a cold front produced severe weather in the north central U.S. Thunderstorms in Nebraska produced wind gusts to 70 mph and baseball size hail at Arapahoe, and wind gusts to 80 mph along with baseball size hail at Wolback and Belgrade. Six cities in the Ohio Valley reported record low temperatures for the date, including Cincinnati, OH, with a reading of 50 degrees. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Showers and thunderstorms brought much needed rains to parts of the central U.S. Madison, WI, received 1.67 inches of rain, a record for the date, and their first measurable rain since the Mother's Day tornado outbreak on the 8th of May. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Evening thunderstorms deluged Winnfield LA with eleven inches of rain in four hours and fifteen minutes, and Baton Rouge LA reported 11 inches of rain in two days. Totals in west central Louisiana ranged up to 17 inches. Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the Northern High Plains. Two inch hail broke windows in nearly every building at Comstock, NE. Thunderstorms in North Dakota produced two inch hail at Killdeer, and golf ball size hail at Zap. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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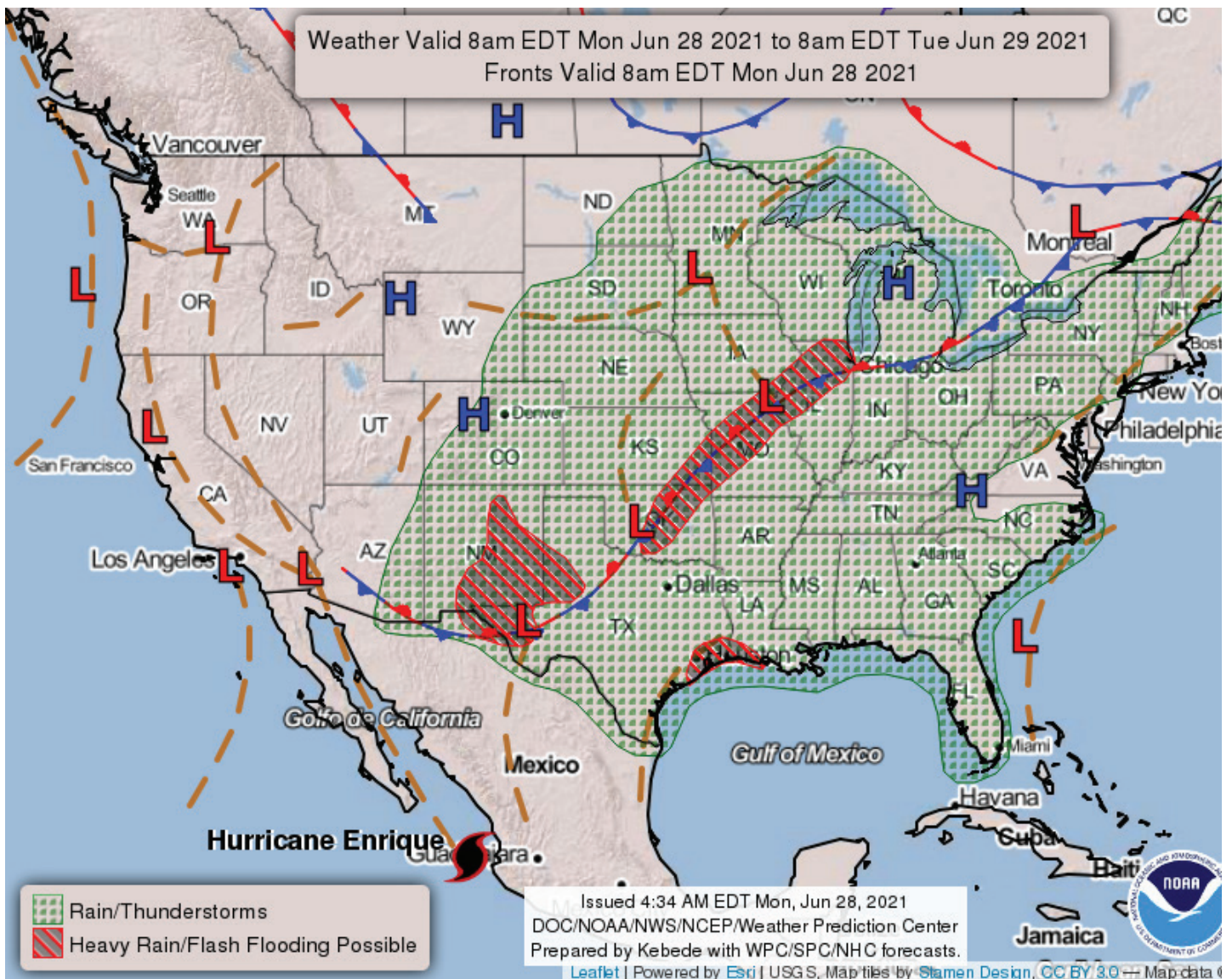
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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 82.2 °F
Low Temp: 61.0 °F
Wind: 13 mph
Precip: .01

Today's Info

Record High: 112° in 1931
Record Low: 40° in 1895, 1951
Average High: 83°F
Average Low: 58°F
Average Precip in June.: 3.37
Precip to date in June.: 0.78
Average Precip to date: 10.62
Precip Year to Date: 4.72
Sunset Tonight: 9:26 p.m.
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:48 a.m.



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THE RIGHT TIME

David did not have a calm and quiet life. It was a life that was filled with trials and tragedies, anxieties and anguish. He had moments of ecstasy followed by days of despair. He was honest with God and willing to admit his mistakes. Yet, he lived with the fact that forgiveness does not remove the consequences of sin.

In Psalm 69 David cries out to God to "Save me, O God for the waters have come up to my neck." And that was just the beginning of his list of problems. Listen to his prayer: "I am sinking to the depths of the mire...I am in deep waters and floods are overwhelming me...I am worn out in calling to You for help... my eyes fail because they cannot see You, O God, and I am forced to restore what I did not steal!" Could things be any worse?

The easy way out would have been for him to give up on God. He even said, "You, God know my folly and my guilt is not hidden from You." Why care for me, God?

Why not cave in, David? Why not give up? Time after time you willingly made a mess of your life. God owes you nothing and now you are getting what you deserve!

But David did not give up on himself or God. He knew God loved him in spite of his wrong doings. So he prayed, "In the time of Your favor, in Your great love answer me with Your salvation!" My life is in Your hands!

David was often beaten down. But his faith always lifted him up. In spite of his sins and short comings he knew that God would not abandon him. God's love is as eternal as He is.

Life is never hopeless as long as our hope is in God.

Prayer: Lord, give us patience as we place our hope in You to deliver us from any problem that would destroy us. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: In the time of Your favor, in Your great love answer me with Your salvation. Psalm 69:13

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2021 Community Events

- Cancelled** Legion Post #39 Spring Fundraiser (Sunday closest to St. Patrick's Day, every other year)
03/27/2021 Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter Weekend)
04/10/2021 Dueling Pianos Baseball Fundraiser at the American Legion Post #39 6-11:30pm
04/24/2021 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
04/25/2021 Princess Prom (Sunday after GHS Prom)
05/01/2021 Lions Club Spring City-Wide Rummage Sales 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)
05/31/2021 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
6/7-9/2021 St. John's Lutheran Church VBS
06/17/2021 Groton Transit Fundraiser, 4-7 p.m.
06/18/2021 SDSU Alumni & Friends Golf Tournament at Olive Grove
06/19/2021 U8 Baseball Tournament
06/19/2021 **Postponed to Aug. 28th:** Lions Crazy Golf Fest at Olive Grove Golf Course, Noon
06/26/2021 U10 Baseball Tournament
06/27/2021 U12 Baseball Tournament
07/04/2021 Firecracker Golf Tournament at Olive Grove
07/11/2021 Lions Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 10am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)
07/22/2021 Pro-Am Golf Tournament at Olive Grove Golf Course
07/30/2021-08/03/2021 State "B" American Legion Baseball Tournament in Groton
08/06/2021 Wine on Nine at Olive Grove Golf Course
08/28/2021 Lions Club Crazy Golf Fest 9am Olive Grove Golf Course
09/11/2021 Lions Club Fall City-Wide Rummage Sales 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
09/12/2021 Sunflower Classic Golf Tournament at Olive Grove
09/18-19 Groton Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport
10/08/2021 Lake Region Marching Band Festival (2nd Friday in October)
10/09/2021 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm (Saturday before Columbus Day)
10/29/2021 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm
10/31/2021 Groton United Methodist Trunk or Treat (Halloween)
11/13/2021 Legion Post #39 Turkey Party (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)
11/25/2021 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm (Thanksgiving)
12/11/2021 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9am-Noon

News from the Associated Press

Hockey hosts: Aberdeen couple has massive extended family

By JENNA ORTIZ Aberdeen American News

ABERDEEN, S.D. (AP) — Behind every good player is a supportive billet family.

And the Aberdeen Wings are no exception.

Meet the Weismantel family.

Jan Weismantel could have cared less about hockey when her secretary suggested she catch a Wings game nearly one decade ago.

"I said, 'I don't like hockey, it's boring,'" she said. "She goes, 'You need to come watch this Wings team play.'

One game later and her aversion to hockey became a distant memory. Now, Weismantel and her husband, Jim, have made a massive commitment to the game. Their house is not only filled with hockey players, including their three billet sons goalie Jake Sibell, defenseman Cullen Ferguson, and forward Owen DuBois, but the walls of their basement are decked with 16 different jerseys.

The "Wings Cave," as she calls it, has only existed for one year, but has already been a hit with the three residents and their teammates. The basement holds three bedrooms, a bathroom, and a TV room, along with plenty of memorabilia from Wings players past and present.

Following the completion of the Wings Cave, Weismantel told her husband that she wanted to host three players in her second year as a billet. During her first year, she only housed Sibell and five temporary players at different times, the Aberdeen American News reported.

"The running joke is the player with the smallest bedroom gets the biggest TV. Owen's TV is the middle size one and Jake has the biggest bedroom with the smallest TV because he doesn't like the big TVs," Weismantel said.

Sibell was the first to know about the remodeled living space as he spent the past season living in the lone bedroom and shuffling up and down the stairs for the bathroom. But the news came with a twist. Weismantel wanted to maintain the element of surprise and didn't give away too much detail to Sibell, but instead sent him a picture of the new bathroom with the words: "The throne awaits the king in the throne room."

"He didn't quite catch on to what I was doing, but I wasn't going to send any more pictures or any other information until he got there. When he got there this year, he gave me a one-second hug, ran down the stairs, and he's filming all the way down, he's going, Holy crap! You guys really changed it! He was pretty excited," she said.

Not only does Weismantel boast an unforgettable setup for the players, but she also has one of the best cooks on the team.

"Owen is a good cook. He makes the best ribs that will fall off the bone like you would not believe," Weismantel said. "He makes some of the strangest concoctions and in my fridge, I had one whole area that's just his favorite sauces and his favorite condiments for when he eats. He loves to try different things."

While Weismantel has a few solid rules for the players, DuBois' dad makes sure that his son adjusts to adulthood by cooking at least twice a week. And much to the family's benefit, he's found his staples in not only ribs, but also ribeye steak and French toast with eggs, bacon, and sausage.

When a friend dropped off some steaks at their house ahead of the playoffs to give the players some energy, DuBois went right to work at the grill with guidance from his dad over the phone. Soon after, the same friend returned with a heftier task of \$250 worth of steaks. DuBois then delivered once again, this time for the expanded audience of billet parents Larry and Robin Hanson and their billet sons, Seamus Campbell and Jackson Yee.

The youngest of the three, DuBois is the only player who will remain in junior hockey as Sibell moves onto Niagara University and Ferguson heads to Union College next season. While Weismantel is still processing

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the emotions that come with sending off two of her sons to the next stage, she's hopeful for DuBois to return to his spot in the Wings Cave.

"I made him promise that he's going to make it through main camp and he's going to come back to my house, and he did (promise). So I believe him," she said.

After all, there are still many more goals for her to celebrate in the rookie's junior career. Playing on a veteran-heavy team had DuBois seeing only 13 games of action in the regular season. But when he finally found the back of the net, it was a moment neither him or Weismantel would ever forget.

"When Owen scored his first goal, I thought that young man was going to explode. You can just see his chest expand underneath his jersey and it was so cool," she said. "He came in through the door and I said, We have a rockstar! First Wings goal! You get to choose where we're celebrating tonight! I could've cared less if they would have lost both games, but the fact that he scored his first goal was impressive."

Since the season began, the Weismantels began a tradition of celebrating a sweep by taking the three to either Mavericks, Danger von Dempsey's, Pounders, Buffalo Wild Wings, or Buffalo Wings & Rings on Sunday night, followed by Dairy Queen. And since the season's ended, they've spent a lot of time and money at those places as the Wings only lost four times all regular season.

But the financial commitment was never something that bothered the Weismantels. They knew what they were getting into, and they knew the rewards were better than anything money could buy.

"You have to encourage these guys to do the best they can. If you show that you support them and that you are very proud of them, I think they do better," she said.

So much so that Weismantel would put reminders on Ferguson's door to cut down his penalty minutes. With every penalty witnessed comes a new joke on his door.

"He's the one I always make a point to say 'stay out of the penalty box,'" she said.

Ferguson has accrued 89 penalty minutes with the Wings, but only two of those have come during the playoffs. When Ferguson dropped the gloves at the end of April against Bismarck Bobcats' Isaac Henkemeyer-Howe, he sent her a picture of the bloody cut near his eyebrow with the words: "I think I need a band aid or something."

"He's a character," she said. "He's just a fun guy."

Sibell's pregame routines are another thing that Weismantel finds amusing.

"He has such a routine. He must be very superstitious because he wears the same tie, same suit jacket, same shoes, same socks. If he gets to the rink and does something out of order, he'll put everything back on and go out to the car and come back in," she said.

In fact, goalies in general fascinated her when she first welcomed him into her home. Weismantel would often yell at Sibell during games when he'd play the puck behind the net until he explained to her the importance of stopping the opposing team's defensemen from making a backdoor shot on goal.

But being a goalie mom has its challenges.

"I have never been so stressed in my whole life, but I want another one. I like watching him make these contortion moves and he can do the splits sideways, and I'm going, Jake, how can you do that?"

With big moves comes unprecedented challenges, like breaking the buckle on your breezers, or pants, and risking them falling down during a game. Once she found out about his malfunction, she quickly went to work.

She added: "Jake, I do not want to have a visual of your breezers falling in the middle of a game, bring them home and I'll fix them. I put a new buckle on them and he said, That's pretty nice, I don't have to yank on them and I don't have to worry about them falling on my knees. And I said, We don't want to see that visual either, Jake."

When Weismantel went over the rules with her players, she only had a few simple instructions. The main three include respecting both her and her husband, never lying to either of them, and following the previous rules set by the Wings organization. So far, she's been lucky with her groups.

As for rules on the ice, she's has a simple playbook.

"The only rule I tell (Sibell) when he leaves is no pucks in the net. When had his streak of four shutouts, I was amazed. That's my only rule with him. No pucks in the net," she said. "And when Cullen and Owen

leave, I tell them, put every puck in the other guys' nets every time. Only two rules we have."

Community bonded during historic 2011 Missouri River flood

By ALEX KAUTZMAN, SAM NELSON, JACK DURA, TRAVIS SVIHOVEC, AMY R. SISK The Bismarck Tribune BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — John Warford realized the threat to his city when he saw it from the air.

Warford was mayor of Bismarck 10 years ago when the Missouri River overflowed its banks from Montana to Missouri.

Warford recalls taking a helicopter ride with Maj. Gen. David Sprynczynatyk, adjutant general of the North Dakota National Guard at the time, and seeing just how high the river was.

"I always called the Missouri the crown jewel of North Dakota; it's our best resource," he said. "To look at this resource raging out of control from the air, your face pales. Your heart almost stops when you see the extent of the damage."

The Missouri experienced widespread record flooding from May through August 2011, impacting homes, businesses, crops and infrastructure including roads in Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas and Missouri, according to the National Weather Service. The Souris River also flooded that year, swamping a large part of Minot, North Dakota's fourth-largest city, The Bismarck Tribune reported.

The flooding caused by heavy rain and snowmelt on top of soils saturated from a wet 2010 fall resulted in more than \$2 billion in damages, killed five people and led to federal disaster declarations in all seven states, according to the weather service. In the Bismarck-Mandan area, it impacted neighborhoods, a zoo and a state park.

Warford compared the flooding to the coronavirus pandemic -- a stressful time for a community that could do only so much. Area officials and residents in 2011 collaborated to fill more than 11 million sandbags and build 7 miles of levees. Deciding where to build the levees was the hardest decision he had to make, the mayor said.

"When you build these levees, not every home in every neighborhood is going to be protected," he said. "That's very hard for a homeowner to accept, and it's very hard for a mayor to do because you can't protect everybody."

"There are not a lot of easy decisions when you're faced with a natural disaster," Warford said. "I don't know if there are any easy decisions other than you just have to do something."

For the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which manages the river system, doing something involved an unprecedented move.

With Lake Sakakawea swelling behind Garrison Dam on the river to the north of Bismarck, the agency opened the dam's spillway gates for the first time in the dam's history on June 1, 2011, sending a cascade of water down the concrete chute.

Using the spillway helped the Corps manage the flood, though it also necessitated repairs and prompted a study on how to make the dam safer.

The spillway has been used sparingly in the dam's nearly 70-year history. After 2011, it wasn't used again until 2018 and 2019 when construction work elsewhere at the dam prevented the Corps from relying on tunnels meant to discharge water from Lake Sakakawea.

The Tribune reported in 2018 that the use of the spillway at the time was also meant to test the structure's ability to help make incremental adjustments to the lake level.

The Corps has spent hundreds of millions of dollars on repairs at the dam since the 2011 flood, according to Tribune archives.

Millions have been spent in the Bismarck area, as well.

Bismarck didn't have it as bad as Minot, where about 11,000 residents were forced to flee the expanding Souris. But the Missouri flooding forced the evacuation of nearly 900 homes in Burleigh and Morton counties. Low-lying parts of south Bismarck were most affected, including the Fox Island area.

The Burleigh County Water Resource District launched a nearly \$4 million levee project to protect that area from future flooding. The effort involved a 3,500-foot-long levee extending west from Gallatin Loop to

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the riverbank, then north to the Whispering Bay accessory channel. A portion of the road also was raised.

A group of about 20 homeowners took issue with the project because their homes would be outside of the levee. They eventually sued the county over the project in March 2018, claiming that unlike transportation, flood protection did not fall under public use of the roads. The suit went before the North Dakota Supreme Court, which ruled in 2019 that the county did have the right to create the levee.

The project was completed at the end of last year, aside from some grass seeding, according to Water Resource District Manager Dennis Reep. James Landenberger, who oversees the project for the water resource district, said it's considered a success.

Hoge Island to the north of Bismarck also experienced flooding in 2011, and one house was swept away. The Water Resource District bought four properties after the flood for \$1.3 million to make way for a possible levee, but area homeowners were not interested in paying for the project.

The water district later sold the properties for \$121,300 but retained easements in case a flood protection project is approved in the future. No permanent structures are allowed on the properties.

Building and planning regulations with high water in mind were in place in Burleigh County and Bismarck before the 2011 flood. New construction rules were put in place in 2010, prompted by ice jams in 2009. The rules require the floor of a building's lowest level be 2 feet above the base flood elevation established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

The flood changed the mapping in 11 Burleigh County townships. Two of them -- Missouri and Tilfor -- hadn't been mapped for flooding before 2011, according to Mitch Flanagan, county director of building, planning and zoning.

"People are much more aware of the construction requirements and where they can and can't build," he said.

FEMA also establishes 100-year and 500-year floodplains, which outline the risk of flooding in certain areas. The 100-year floodplain is used by the city of Bismarck when crafting construction guidelines. Builders need an elevation certificate before construction is started in a floodplain.

"People are adapting and building according to regulations," said Brady Blaskowski, city building official.

FEMA before and since 2011 with assistance from the State Water Commission has been updating Flood Insurance Rate Maps using current engineer modeling and topography techniques, according to agency spokeswoman Diana Herrera. A flood event is not the main driver in map revisions, but depending on the severity it might be included in the model, she said.

The current flood insurance pricing system is based on flood zone, structure age and elevation. A new pricing methodology will go into effect Oct. 1 for new businesses and homes, and on April 1, 2022, for renewals.

People weren't the only ones impacted by floodwaters a decade ago.

Nearly 100 animals at Bismarck's Dakota Zoo had to be evacuated to other facilities, according to Director Terry Lincoln. Some of the larger animals such as the tigers had to be tranquilized before being relocated. One of the most challenging parts of the evacuation was keeping track of where each animal was going, Lincoln said.

The zoo along the river was protected by a temporary dike and did not completely flood. But it was shut down for six weeks, resulting in an estimated \$250,000 loss in revenue.

Hundreds of volunteers contributed to the evacuation and sandbagging efforts at the zoo.

Fort Abraham Lincoln State Park south of Mandan also borders the river. Its campground was submerged by floodwaters as much as 7 feet deep and was closed for a year. Cleanup began in September 2011 and lasted through the mild winter that followed.

"Sitting on your hands all summer long while the campground was underwater was pretty tough," former park manager Dan Schelske said. "We wanted to do something, and we just couldn't."

Buildings in the campground area were flooded; two cabins had to be replaced. Electrical pedestals and distribution panels were replaced after floodwater compromised the electrical system.

Campsite tables and buildings had to be cleaned and sanitized. The entire campground was reseeded.

Its water lines and sewer lines were purged. Stressed and dead trees were cut down, even in years afterward. Workers hauled away trees, silt and mud from the saturated campground. Schelske said the work was hard on equipment and resulted in long days. Workers had to get tetanus shots.

After the flood, the park took elevation readings of the campground's high and low spots to be prepared should Bismarck's river gauge reach a critical level.

That's when an action plan kicks in for sandbagging drainage areas, disconnecting power and prioritizing infrastructure, including a \$14,000 lift station panel. Cabins now are built on axles, needing only to be lifted onto wheels to be hauled away.

Schelske, who ran the park from 2004-21, said the 2011 flood was "right at the top" of challenges in his career.

"I do remember it was a tough time," he said.

There was a bright spot to the disaster despite the damage, according to Warford. No lives were lost, and the city is now much more prepared to handle significant flooding.

"It really brought the community together," the former mayor said. "I think Bismarck ended up being a friendlier place. We saw what a community could do when everybody was like-minded and wanting to fight a natural disaster such as this."

While numerous local and state agencies and officials were involved in the flood response, "The No. 1 thanks goes to the citizens of Bismarck who are remarkably resilient and strong," Warford said. "They're just so North Dakota tough. They have that can-do spirit where if we're going to have a flood and need 11.2 million sandbags in our metro area, we're going to fill them.

"The people of North Dakota are extraordinary, and Bismarck people are at the top," he said.

Carbon banking hangs in balance in agriculture-heavy states

By DAN GUNDERSON Minnesota Public Radio News

MOORHEAD, Minn. (AP) — The United States is making a big bet on the role that farmers can play in mitigating climate change.

President Joe Biden said he wants American farmers to be the first in the world with net-zero greenhouse gas emissions. How they might achieve that goal is still unclear — but one idea getting a lot of attention involves paying farmers to store carbon in the soil.

It's called carbon banking, and some see it as one way to reduce the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. While the concept has been around for decades, it's still finding a foothold in ag-heavy states like Minnesota.

"It's definitely a change in management. And it definitely requires more management," said A.J. Krusemark, who farms with his wife and parents near the southern Minnesota town of Trimont, about an hour southwest of Mankato.

The idea is that by changing farming practices, carbon dioxide can be removed from the atmosphere, converted and stored as soil carbon. Farmers can then earn credits for the carbon that they store, and companies can offset the pollution that they cause by buying those credits.

Krusemark's family was already committed to the type of agriculture that's focused on developing healthier soil — including many of the same practices that make them eligible to sell carbon credits.

"Our goal is to be as regenerative as possible in our farming practices," he said.

Krusemark is an engineer by training. He moved back to the farm eight years ago and started learning about regenerative agriculture, a set of practices that, in part, increases the amount of carbon in the soil, Minnesota Public Radio News reported.

"I spend a lot of time reading, especially in the winter when we are a little bit slower," he said.

Regenerative agriculture involves four primary principles: Limiting disturbance of the soil; keeping the soil covered throughout the growing season by planting cover crops; grazing livestock on the land; and planting a more diverse mix of crops.

Krusemark plants cover crops to keep roots in the soil after the cash crops are harvested. He doesn't

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till the soil as much. Cattle graze on his fields periodically, and he's added peas to the traditional crop rotation of corn and soybeans.

Those changes qualified the Krusemarks to be paid for carbon credits through Truterra, a subsidiary of the Minnesota-based agriculture giant Land O'Lakes.

Companies that pay farmers to bank carbon take several different approaches in calculating a farm operation's carbon storage. Some look back, some look ahead. Either way, it's an imprecise science, based on calculations and estimates.

Truterra currently bases the price of its credits on the past five years of a farm's practices. It calculates the projected impacts of certain farming practices on the land and pays farmers accordingly.

The company contends this "look-back" approach will result in a higher quality carbon storage program, because the essential farming practices — which often require a costly conversion when farmers move from more traditional practices — are already established, and farmers are more likely to maintain the practices.

Truterra is one of several carbon bank startups. Other carbon banking companies pay farmers for future farming practices, asking them to commit to regenerative approaches over a period of time.

Truterra President Jason Weller said he's seeing a lot of interest in his company's program.

Microsoft was the first buyer of Truterra credits, purchasing 100,000 tons of carbon earlier this year. Truterra won't say how many farmers or how many acres of land are enrolled in the program.

But, Weller said, farmers aren't going to participate just for the money. It's not enough.

"What we're offering today is \$20 a ton for carbon," he said. "When you put that on a per-acre basis, maybe you're looking at half a ton per acre, per year. So you kind of do the simple math, that works out to be 10 bucks an acre."

That per-acre payment alone won't sell farmers on storing carbon, Weller said. It might cost a farmer \$40 or \$50 an acre to buy the necessary equipment and make the changes needed to convert to no-till regenerative farming.

"Once the farmers kind of pencil it out, you know, scratch their head a little bit, they're like, 'That actually doesn't really make a lot of sense, because it's a lot of expense in order to get a low return,'" he said.

So instead, Truterra focuses on convincing farmers that there is value in the healthier soil and other effects of changing how they farm.

The carbon credit money is then simply an incentive to stick with those practices for the long term — and that's an essential element for storing carbon in the soil.

"Once the farmer is really locked in and has a functioning soil carbon sequestration system, they're more likely not to drop out of the system," said Weller. "We need these farmers to maintain the soil-health systems for 10, 20, 50 years — over multiple generations."

Even carbon banking skeptics like Ben Lilliston, the director of climate strategies at the Minneapolis-based Institute for Agriculture and Trade Policy, like the idea of encouraging farmers to make a long-term commitment to improving soil health.

But they say it lets companies off the hook for their own pollution. If they can offset harmful practices by buying carbon credits, they no longer have an incentive to lessen their impact on the environment.

"We do know some carbon is being sequestered under certain practices and certain farming systems. That's good. Let's support that," said Lilliston. "But let's not use that as an excuse for companies (not) reducing their own emissions."

Lilliston agrees that the work and money farmers like A.J. Krusemark invest to store carbon will have long-term benefits for the environment. But he argues that all that work won't do much to help mitigate climate change if big companies are then allowed to buy those carbon credits to offset their own pollution.

"One of the things that we're concerned about is a company saying, 'Hey, look, we've paid for some carbon (to) be sequestered over here. So we don't have to reduce our own emissions over here, our own pollution,'" Lilliston said. "And that kind of trading, that kind of offset of pollution, is what that is called, is a real problem."

Skeptics of carbon banking practices say that, in order for it to have real climate impact, the carbon storage must come in tandem with reductions in greenhouse gas emissions — not as a replacement for

that pollution.

And then there is the complication of how to accurately measure the amount of carbon stored in a particular plot of land.

Weller said the science and practice of carbon soil storage is still an evolving process, but it's important for regenerative agricultural practices to take hold, even if the process of carbon banking and measuring isn't perfect.

"Climatologists tell us we're running out of time," he said. "And we need every tool in the toolbox to be tackling the climate challenge."

Krusemark knows that some farmers are skeptical about regenerative agriculture, thinking perhaps it's just a passing fad.

But he's committed, and he wants others to think about what he's seeing on his farm: Healthier soils, less pollution and long-term cost savings from using less fertilizer and pesticides.

"This is not a one-size-fits-all solution," he said. "You need to figure out what works for you. Because, I think, if you want to make a very simple definition of sustainability, it has to be something you're able to continue to do."

Truterra is betting its business model that farmers will adopt regenerative practices.

And thousands of farmers will need to find the solution that works for them, if regenerative agriculture and carbon farming are going to make a difference in climate change.

Sioux Falls police lieutenant promoted to lead department

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — South Dakota's most populous city is staying in-house to replace its outgoing police chief.

Sioux Falls Police Lt. Jonathan Thum, who has been with department for 16 years, was recommended for the top job by a hiring panel of community members and other organizations, city officials said. He replaces Matt Burns, who announced his retirement last month.

"Lt. Thum's extensive law enforcement experience, genuine passion for public service, and his dedication to the Sioux Falls Police Department will serve our city well in his new leadership role," Sioux Falls Mayor Paul TenHaken said. "As a Sioux Falls native, Lt. Thum is incredibly respected in our community and leads with a collaborative and inclusive approach."

Thum started his career with Sioux Falls police as a patrol officer in 2005. He has worked as a field training officer, department training officer, sergeant, lieutenant and SWAT commander.

TenHaken said Thum helped lead the department's response to the civil unrest during summer 2020 and has represented police in many community forums designed to engage residents in constructive dialogue.

Thum holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Sioux Falls, where he also serves as an adjunct instructor.

The appointment requires approval by the Sioux Falls City Council, which will take up the matter at its July 6 meeting.

Drought woes in dry US West raise July 4 fireworks fears

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Many Americans aching for normalcy as pandemic restrictions end are looking forward to traditional Fourth of July fireworks. But with a historic drought in the U.S. West and fears of another devastating wildfire season, officials are canceling displays, passing bans on setting off fireworks or begging for caution.

Fireworks already have caused a few small wildfires, including one started by a child in northern Utah and another in central California. Last year, a pyrotechnic device designed for a baby's gender reveal celebration sparked a California blaze that killed a firefighter during a U.S. wildfire season that scorched the second-highest amount of land in nearly 40 years.

Some regions of the American West are experiencing their worst drought conditions in more than a

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century this year, said Jennifer Balch, director of Earth Lab at the University of Colorado. People setting off fireworks at home is a concern because of both the tinder-box conditions ripe for starting wildfires and the threat of injuries. Last year, injuries spiked to their highest level in 15 years after the pandemic canceled large gatherings, federal data shows.

"As a fire scientist, I'm bracing myself for this fire season because of how dry and hot it is already," Balch said. "I think fireworks right now are a terrible idea."

Fireworks industry professionals, who also stressed caution in drought-prone areas, expect strong sales despite a shortage caused by pandemic-related manufacturing slowdowns and trade disruptions.

"We think we're going to have a tremendous year," said James Fuller, a fireworks safety expert with Alabama-based TNT Fireworks.

While fireworks are integral to the country's Independence Day celebrations, they ignite thousands of fires a year — including one that burned Bobbie Uno's home in Clearfield, Utah, on the holiday last year. She had to jump out of the way before it struck the side of her house.

"Within five seconds, my house, from the bushes to the rooftop, it was burning," Uno said. The blaze caused \$60,000 in damage and forced her family out of their home for weeks.

"I want everyone to be aware of the danger, because it's scary even in a small cul-de-sac," Uno said.

Several Utah cities are banning people from setting off their own fireworks this year during the record drought, but many Republicans are against a statewide prohibition. GOP Salt Lake County Councilwoman Aimee Winder Newton supports restrictions but thinks this year is a bad time for a blanket ban.

"We're just coming out of this pandemic where people already felt like government was restricting them in so many ways," she said. "When you issue bans arbitrarily, we could have a situation where people who weren't going to light fireworks purposely go and buy fireworks to just send a message to government."

State fireworks laws vary considerably across the U.S., but local bans on personal fireworks are popping up from Montana to Oregon, which was stricken by massive wildfires last year.

In Arizona, which already is being scorched by more than a dozen wildfires, many cities have canceled their public fireworks shows. The Yavapai-Apache Nation typically hosts a display outside its casino near the central Arizona city of Camp Verde.

"This year, with conditions being worse than last year, we decided in May that we would not have fireworks," said James Perry, a spokesman for the tribe's Cliff Castle Casino Hotel. "Based on the large fires currently burning in and around our community, we're happy with our decision."

It's a similar story in Colorado, where dozens of shows have been scuttled, including in Steamboat Springs, a ski town where firefighters are already spread thin.

"The grass always catches on fire ... why are we doing something that causes fire when fire's our biggest issue?" said Winnie DelliQuadri, town special projects manager.

But in neighboring Wyoming, business is booming at fireworks stores, including sales of products prohibited elsewhere. The parking lots fill on weekends, and many cars have out-of-state plates.

"It's not just Colorado," said Ben Laws, manager of Pyro City. "We see people from Nebraska, we see people from Montana, we see people from all over coming to buy."

Other cities, including Boise, Idaho, and Santa Fe, New Mexico, are working to ban personal fireworks while keeping their public displays, where safety precautions are often stronger and firefighters are on alert.

In North Dakota, where more than two-thirds of the state is in extreme or exceptional drought — the two worst categories — some areas are passing local bans. In South Dakota, where conditions are somewhat less dire, the governor is fighting the federal government to hold a fireworks display at Mount Rushmore.

A show that draws tens of thousands of people to Lake Tahoe, Nevada, near the California state line, was originally canceled for the second year in a row, but organizers later decided to mount a "smaller, safe fireworks experience." Holding fireworks shows over water is one of the safer ways to celebrate, said Balch, the professor.

The industry urges people lighting their own fireworks to follow local restrictions, pick a flat location a safe distance from homes, have a water source at hand to douse used products and dispose of them carefully.

Some safety officials would rather see people avoid lighting their own fireworks all together. Michele

Steinberg with the National Fire Protection Association pointed to federal data showing 15,600 Americans went to emergency rooms for fireworks-related injuries last year, thousands more than the year before.

"I love watching the fireworks displays, but they're honestly not safe in consumer hands," she said. "Even a sparkler can get up to 1,200 degrees, which is actually how hot a wildfire burns."

US airstrikes target Iran-backed militias in Syria, Iraq

By LOU KESTEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. military, under the direction of President Joe Biden, carried out airstrikes against what it said were "facilities used by Iran-backed militia groups" near the border between Iraq and Syria, drawing condemnation from Iraq's military and calls for revenge by the militias.

Pentagon Press Secretary John Kirby said the militias were using the facilities to launch unmanned aerial vehicle attacks against U.S. troops in Iraq. It was the second time the Biden administration has taken military action in the region since he took over earlier this year.

Kirby said the U.S. military targeted three operational and weapons storage facilities on Sunday night — two in Syria and one in Iraq.

He described the airstrikes as "defensive," saying they were launched in response to the attacks by militias.

"The United States took necessary, appropriate, and deliberate action designed to limit the risk of escalation — but also to send a clear and unambiguous deterrent message," Kirby said.

The Pentagon said the facilities were used by Iran-backed militia factions, including Kata'ib Hezbollah and Kata'ib Sayyid al-Shuhada.

Two Iraqi militia officials told The Associated Press in Baghdad that four militiamen were killed in the airstrikes near the border with Syria. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to give statements. They said the first strike hit a weapons storage facility inside Syrian territory, where the militiamen were killed. The second strike hit the border strip.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based group that closely monitors the Syrian conflict through activists on the ground, reported that at least seven Iraqi militiamen were killed in the airstrikes.

The Iran-backed Iraqi militia factions vowed revenge for the attack and said in a joint statement they would continue to target U.S. forces. "We ... will avenge the blood of our righteous martyrs against the perpetrators of this heinous crime and with God's help we will make the enemy taste the bitterness of revenge," they said.

The Popular Mobilization Forces, an Iraqi state-sanctioned umbrella of mostly Shiite militias — including those targeted by the U.S. strikes — said their men were on missions to prevent infiltration by the Islamic State group and denied the presence of weapons warehouses.

Iraq's military condemned the strikes as a "blatant and unacceptable violation of Iraqi sovereignty and national security." It called for avoiding escalation, but also rejected that Iraq be an "arena for settling accounts" — a reference to the U.S. and Iran. It represented rare condemnation by the Iraqi military of U.S. airstrikes.

In Iran, foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh accused the U.S. of creating instability in the region.

"Definitely, what the U.S. is doing is disrupting the security of the region," he said on Monday.

U.S. military officials have grown increasingly alarmed over drone strikes targeting U.S. military bases in Iraq, which became more common since a U.S.-directed drone killed Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani near the Baghdad airport last year. Iraqi militia leader Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis was also killed in the attack. The strike drew the ire of mostly Shiite Iraqi lawmakers and prompted parliament to pass a nonbinding resolution to pressure the Iraqi government to oust foreign troops from the country.

Sunday's strikes mark the second time the Biden administration launched airstrikes along the Iraq-Syria border region. In February, the U.S. launched airstrikes against facilities in Syria, near the Iraqi border, that it said were used by Iranian-backed militia groups.

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The Pentagon said those strikes were retaliation for a rocket attack in Iraq earlier that month that killed one civilian contractor and wounded a U.S. service member and other coalition troops.

At that time, Biden said Iran should view his decision to authorize U.S. airstrikes in Syria as a warning that it can expect consequences for its support of militia groups that threaten U.S. interests or personnel.

"You can't act with impunity. Be careful," Biden said when a reporter asked what message he had intended to send.

On Sunday, Kirby said Biden "has been clear that he will act to protect U.S. personnel. Given the ongoing series of attacks by Iran-backed groups targeting U.S. interests in Iraq, the President directed further military action to disrupt and deter such attacks."

The Pentagon spokesman added: "As a matter of international law, the United States acted pursuant to its right of self-defense. The strikes were both necessary to address the threat and appropriately limited in scope."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said in a statement Sunday that the U.S. airstrikes "appear to be a targeted and proportional response to a serious and specific threat," adding, "Protecting the military heroes who defend our freedoms is a sacred priority."

Nations chart future steps against Islamic State extremists

By MATTHEW LEE AP Diplomatic Writer

ROME (AP) — As the U.S. works on its military withdrawal from Afghanistan, members of the global coalition fighting the Islamic State group met Monday to plot future steps against the extremist group.

The meeting came just a day after the U.S. launched airstrikes against Iran-backed militias near the Iraq-Syria border.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Italian Foreign Minister Luigi Di Maio were co-chairing the gathering of senior officials from the seven-year-old, 83-member bloc. Participants were taking stock of their current efforts to ensure the complete defeat of IS, whose remnants still pose a threat in Iraq and Syria and have shown signs of surging in parts of Africa.

Amid significant other international priorities, including taming the coronavirus pandemic and stepping up the fight against climate change, the coalition is hoping to stabilize areas liberated from IS, repatriate and hold foreign fighters accountable for their actions and combat extremist messaging.

Blinken and Di Maio urged representatives of the 77 other countries and five organizations that make up the coalition not to drop their guard despite the destruction of the extremist group's hold over broad swaths of territory in Iraq and Syria.

"Daesh can still be a threat and attract support," Di Maio said, referring to the Islamic State by its Arabic acronym. He appealed for special attention to be paid to Africa, notably in the Sahel region, where IS is gaining traction and called for the coalition to create a special mechanism to deal with that threat.

Blinken noted that despite their defeat, IS elements in Iraq and Syria "still aspire to conduct large scale attacks."

"Together, we must stay as committed to our stabilization goals as we did to our military campaign that resulted in victory on the battlefield," he said.

Blinken announced a new U.S. contribution of \$436 million to assist displaced people in Syria and surrounding countries and called for a new effort to repatriate and rehabilitate or prosecute some 10,000 IS fighters who remain imprisoned by the Syrian Defense Forces.

"This situation is simply untenable," Blinken said. "It just can't persist indefinitely."

The meeting was the first the coalition has had at a senior level that has been held in-person since the COVID-19 pandemic began.

In addition to the meeting on IS, foreign ministers of countries concerned with the broader conflict in Syria were to meet in Rome on Monday ahead of a critical vote at the United Nations on whether to maintain a humanitarian aid corridor from Turkey. Russia has resisted reauthorizing the channel amid stalled peace talks between the Syrian government and rebel groups.

Last week, the U.N. special envoy for Syria, Geir Pederson, said there were worrying signs that the Islamic State may be getting stronger in the country and called for a boost in cooperation to counter it. Pederson has also joined calls for new international talks on ending Syria's civil war.

Since the Syrian conflict erupted in March 2011, numerous high-level gatherings aimed at ending the fighting and guiding the country to a political transition have failed to have any lasting impact.

The U.N., U.S., Russia and many other countries support a December 2015 Security Council resolution endorsing a road map to peace in Syria that calls for a new constitution followed by U.N.-supervised elections.

The Latest: Spain, Portugal further restrict UK travelers

By The Associated Press undefined

PORTUGAL — Spain and Portugal have placed new restrictions on U.K. travelers.

Portugal says they must go into quarantine for two weeks unless they have proof of full vaccination against COVID-19 finished 14 days earlier. The policy took effect Monday. The government says people can quarantine at home or in a place stipulated by Portuguese health authorities. Arrivals from Brazil, India and South Africa come under the same rule.

All others entering Portugal must show either the European Union's COVID Digital Certificate or a negative PCR test.

In Spain, beginning Thursday, people arriving from the U.K. in the Balearic Islands will have to show they have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or have a negative PCR test.

MORE ON THE PANDEMIC

- Australia battles variant clusters; Sydney and Darwin are in lockdown
- Portugal and Spain announce new restrictions on travelers from Britain
- Bangkok, 9 provinces restrict movements to curb rising cases
- As variant rises, U.S. vaccine plan targets 'movable middle'
- Bruce Springsteen marks the return of live shows on Broadway

Follow more of AP's pandemic coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-pandemic> and <https://apnews.com/hub/coronavirus-vaccine>

HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

CANBERRA, Australia — Australia was battling to contain several COVID-19 clusters around the country on Monday in what some experts have described as the nation's most dangerous stage of the pandemic since the earliest days.

Sydney in the east and Darwin in the north were locked down on Monday. Perth in the west made masks compulsory for three days and warned a lockdown could follow after a resident tested positive after visiting Sydney more than a week ago.

Brisbane and Canberra have or will soon make wearing masks compulsory. South Australia state announced new statewide restrictions beginning Tuesday.

Australia has been relatively successful in containing clusters throughout the pandemic, registering fewer than 31,000 cases since the pandemic began. But the new clusters have highlighted the nation's slow vaccine rollout with only 5% of the population fully vaccinated.

Most of the new cases stem from a Sydney limousine driver who tested positive on June 16 to the delta variant, which is thought to be more contagious. He was not vaccinated, reportedly did not wear a mask and is suspected to have been infected while transporting a foreign air crew from Sydney Airport.

MADRID - Spain's prime minister says arrivals from the United Kingdom in the Balearic Islands will have to show they have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 or a negative PCR test.

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Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez told Cadena SER radio on Monday that the measure would be introduced Thursday to give tour group operators and travelers time to adapt to the new rule.

Britain last week added the Mediterranean islands, which include Mallorca and Ibiza, to its "green" list of safe travel destinations amid pressure from airlines and travel companies to relax COVID-19 restrictions.

Southern European Union countries are keen for British holidaymakers to visit and help their tourism-based economies recover from the economic consequences of the epidemic, but a U.K. surge in infections due to the delta variant has made them wary.

MADRID - Authorities on the Spanish Mediterranean island of Mallorca are restricting hundreds of visiting high-school students to their hotels after class vacations to mark the end of the academic year turned into a major COVID-19 outbreak.

Officials say more than 800 COVID-19 cases in eight regions across mainland Spain have been traced back to the Mallorca outbreak, which started last week.

Scores of infected teens are still on Mallorca. Some are being kept in their hotel rooms, others have been moved to a hotel being used by local authorities for isolation of those with mild symptoms or suspected cases. Nine have mild symptoms and are in a local hospital as a precaution.

Mallorca health authorities carried out mass testing on hundreds of students after the outbreak became clear. It is believed to have spread as hundreds of partying students gathered at a concert and street parties.

BANGKOK — Health authorities in Thailand on Monday announced 5,406 new COVID-19 cases, as the country struggles with how to cope with new coronavirus variants and contain its rapid spread around the capital Bangkok and in southern provinces.

Nine of the new cases were prisoners, while the others among the general public marked a record high for that category of patients.

Thailand has had 249,853 confirmed COVID cases since the pandemic began last year, more than 88% occurring in the third wave of the coronavirus that started this April. Twenty-two related deaths announced Monday brought the total deaths to 1,934, 95% in the third wave.

Health officials also announced they have found Bangkok's first case of the beta variant, which originated in South Africa. The patient was a worker in a Bangkok market whose son came up from the southern province of Narathiwat to visit him. The beta variant is believed to have entered Thailand from Malaysia.

Random testing of virus samples by Thailand's Department of Medical Sciences from April to June found that 86.3% were the alpha variant from Britain, 12.3% were the delta variant from India and 1.4% were the beta variant.

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa has reintroduced tough restrictions including a ban on alcohol sales and an extended nightly curfew as it fights a fast-increasing surge of COVID-19 cases.

President Cyril Ramaphosa says the delta variant that was first discovered in India appears to be driving South Africa's new increase.

South Africa recorded more than 15,000 new cases Sunday including 122 deaths. That brings its total fatalities to near 60,000.

The country's most populous province of Gauteng has the brunt of the current surge accounting for about 66% of new infections. The province includes the largest city Johannesburg and the capital Pretoria.

Health authorities are concerned that the country's eight other provinces are likely to soon see spikes in cases to match those in Gauteng, where hospitals are running short of COVID-19 beds and patients are being taken to health facilities in other provinces. Neighboring Zimbabwe, Namibia and Mozambique are also fighting growing numbers of cases, hospitalizations and deaths.

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia — A Malaysian state says it will ease lockdown restrictions, despite the federal

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government's move to extend a nation-wide lockdown indefinitely to curb the pandemic.

Hajiji Noor, chief minister of Sabah state on Borneo island, says more sectors including rubber, timber and furniture factories will be allowed to reopen from Tuesday. He says dine-in will also be allowed at restaurants and hotels, hair salons can operate and sports that do not involve physical contact such as golf and fishing can resume. But he said in a statement Monday that other restrictions will remain in place.

State governments have jurisdiction over the lockdown implementation. Sabah is the only state so far that has decided to loosen curbs.

Just a day earlier, Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin said the national lockdown, imposed since June 1, will continue until daily infections fall below 4,000 and 6% of the population has been vaccinated.

PARIS — The government of Luxembourg says Prime Minister Xavier Bettel has tested positive for COVID-19 and is in isolation for 10 days.

A statement Sunday on the government website said Bettel's symptoms are mild, including a fever and headaches, and that he will continue to work, remotely.

BUCHAREST, Romania — Romania's capital did not record any new coronavirus cases on Sunday, officials said.

Just a few months ago, Bucharest's intensive care units were stretched to maximum capacity as its 14-day accumulative infection rate topped 7 per 1,000 inhabitants. Now the capital's infection rate — the same as the country as a whole — stands at just 0.05 per 1,000 inhabitants.

"Bucharest has the highest vaccination rate in the country," Prime Minister Florin Citu wrote online Sunday. "Also in Bucharest, in the last 24 hours we had 0 (!!!) infected people with SARS-COV2. Vaccination is the only solution to overcome the pandemic."

Romania's vaccination drive has seen nearly 9 million vaccine doses administered in the country of more than 19 million, but there are now concerns as daily vaccine doses administered have slowed dramatically and just 23% of the country's population are fully inoculated against COVID-19.

Since the pandemic, more than 33,000 have died.

ROME — Italian health and regional officials are urging people to leave for vacation only after they are vaccinated, as the delta variant of COVID-19 is becoming more prevalent in the country.

Virus experts in Italy are sounding warnings that the virus with that variant is more transmissible and less sensitive to COVID-19 antibodies.

Italians in some places are increasingly not showing up for their second vaccine dose, or even keeping first-dose appointments, as holiday season gears up.

Gov. Vincenzo De Luca of the Campania region, which includes Naples, is warning that if the metropolis' vaccination rate doesn't improve, a new lockdown could be ordered after summer.

So far, about 30% of people in Italy have completed COVID-19 vaccination.

In the nation of 60 million people, doctors are particularly worried about the 2.7 million persons older than 60 who haven't signed up to receive a first dose.

TOKYO — Tokyo's governor, who has taken time off due to severe fatigue, needs to rest several more days this week, the metropolitan government said Sunday, as experts warn a resurgence of the infections less than a month before the capital city hosts the Olympics.

Gov. Yuriko Koike has been resting since last Wednesday due to severe fatigue. Tokyo metropolitan officials said she will be off several more days. She has been deeply involved with preparations for the Olympics and Paralympics as well as leading the capital's coronavirus response. Officials refused to confirm media reports that Koike has been hospitalized.

After a 1-year postponement, the Olympics will begin on July 23. Last week, Olympic officials decided to allow the public to attend the Games, though caps were set on spectators. Health experts have expressed

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deep concern the Games could cause the virus to surge in the Tokyo region.

Japan last week eased a state of emergency in most other areas, but daily new cases have already been rising back in Tokyo.

Tokyo on Sunday reported 386 new cases, up from 376 a week earlier as the capital makes a week-on-week increase for a eighth consecutive day. Japan had 14,657 deaths amid the pandemic.

JERUSALEM — Israel's new prime minister is urging the country's youth to get vaccinated as coronavirus case numbers have crept up in recent days due to a localized outbreak of the Delta variant.

Naftali Bennett's comments came at a meeting of the government Sunday in Jerusalem.

"We don't want to impose any restrictions: not on parties, on trips or anything like that. But specifically because of this, if you don't want restrictions, go get vaccinated today. Talk to your parents and get vaccinated," he said.

Israel reinstated a mask mandate indoors amid a rise in new infections in the past week. Israel's Health Ministry recorded 113 new coronavirus cases Saturday.

The prime minister also says the government has appointed a special director in charge of managing the country's border crossings — with particular emphasis on Israel's main international airport — and preventing the spread of the coronavirus and other diseases.

GENEVA — The head of the World Health Organization lamented the lack of coronavirus vaccines being immediately donated by rich countries to the developing world.

WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said Friday that there was nothing to discuss during a recent meeting of an advisory group established to allocate vaccines.

In his words: "There are no vaccines to allocate."

Tedros says concerns being raised by some donors that African countries don't have the infrastructure to deliver vaccines or that there are vaccine hesitancy problems are inconsequential. He criticized rich countries that may be using that as a "pretext" not to donate vaccines.

GENEVA — The head of the World Health Organization said the COVID-19 variant first seen in India, also known as the delta variant, is "the most transmissible of the variants identified so far" and that it is now spreading in at least 85 countries.

At a press briefing, WHO director-general Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus said the U.N. agency was concerned about it's the increasing reach of the delta variant, particularly among unvaccinated populations.

"We are starting to see increases in transmission around the world," Tedros said, adding that "more cases means more hospitalizations...which increases the risk of death."

WHO has previously said that two doses of the licensed COVID-19 vaccines appear to provide strong protection against the variant first seen in India, but warned the lack of access to vaccines in poor countries — which have received fewer than 2% of the billion doses administered so far — makes them extremely vulnerable.

Tedros also said the unchecked circulation of the coronavirus could lead to the emergence of even more variants.

"That's what viruses do. They evolve," he said. "But we can prevent the emergence of variants by preventing transmission."

New coronavirus rules enacted for Moscow restaurants

By VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — Restaurants and cafes in Moscow on Monday began requesting that patrons provide proof of vaccination or a negative coronavirus test as the Russian capital faces a surge of new infections.

According to a decision by city authorities last week, all Moscow restaurants, cafes and bars must only admit customers who have been vaccinated, have recovered from COVID-19 in the past six months or can

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provide a negative coronavirus test from the previous 72 hours.

As proof of vaccination for entering a restaurant, customers must visit a government website and get a QR code, a digital pattern designed to be read by a scanner.

In one concession to desperate restaurant owners, the city officials agreed that the QR codes aren't needed for the next two weeks at establishments with outdoor terraces. Underage customers won't have to provide documentation if accompanied by their parents.

The new restrictions come as Moscow has registered infection levels on par with last winter and recorded all-time high daily numbers of coronavirus deaths.

"The coronavirus situation in Moscow remains extremely difficult," Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin told reporters. "Over the past week, we have registered new record highs of hospitalizations, ICU patients and coronavirus deaths."

Although Russia was the first country to announce a coronavirus vaccine, only about 14% of the population has received the shots.

Officials have blamed widespread skepticism about vaccines, lax attitudes toward taking necessary precautions and a quick spread of more infectious variants.

Amid the surge, 18 Russian regions — from Moscow and St. Petersburg to the remote far-eastern region of Sakhalin — have made vaccinations mandatory this month for employees in certain sectors, such as government offices, retail, health care, education, restaurants and other service industries.

In Moscow, authorities said companies should suspend without pay employees unwilling to get vaccinated, and they threatened to temporarily halt operations of businesses that don't meet the goal of having 60% of staff get at least one vaccine shot by July 15 and both shots by Aug. 15.

Russia's coronavirus task force on Monday reported 21,650 new infections and said 611 people died over the past day. Moscow, the region around the capital and the country's second-largest city of St. Petersburg account for the bulk of infections.

Since the pandemic started, Russia has recorded 5.47 million infection cases and 133,893 deaths.

Pope voices 'affection' for Americans as he meets Blinken

By FRANCES D'EMILIO Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis on Monday voiced affection for the American people as he met at length with the U.S. secretary of state, the Vatican said, without indicating whether the two discussed the sharp divide among U.S. bishops over giving Communion to politicians supporting abortion rights like President Joe Biden.

The pontiff accorded Secretary of State Antony Blinken a substantial chunk of time, especially in view of a government official who isn't a national leader.

The audience in the Apostolic Palace "played out in a cordial atmosphere," a Vatican spokesman, Matteo Bruni, said. "It lasted about 40 minutes, and it was for the pope, the occasion to recall his 2015 visit and to express his affection and his attention to the people of the United States of America."

Bruni was referring to the pontiff's U.S. pilgrimage, which included a meeting at the White House with then-President Barack Obama. Since then U.S. church hierarchy has been increasingly more polarized about U.S. politics and politicians.

Conservative U.S. bishops have been clamoring for clear directives against giving Communion to U.S. political figures who are Catholics and support women's right to abortion. Vatican teaching forbids abortion as a grave sin. This campaign has put the spotlight on Biden, a Catholic who has said while he personally opposes abortion he supports abortion rights.

Francis hasn't weighed in publicly on the latest debate within the heavily polarized U.S. Conference of Bishops, although in 2015 he issued a letter expressing compassion to women over the agonizing choice they face over abortion.

Earlier at the Vatican, Blinken on Monday received VIP treatment, getting a private tour of the Sistine Chapel before he sat down for closed-door talks with Pope Francis.

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Blinken was the first high-level official of Biden's administration to have a private audience with the pontiff. Last year, when Blinken's predecessor, Mike Pompeo, came to the Vatican, he wasn't granted private time with Francis. At the time, Vatican officials said that was because the Holy See didn't want to give any impression of favoritism only weeks before the U.S. presidential election that brought Biden to power.

But China was a thorny issue between both sides. Pompeo had blasted the Vatican for what he said was a lessening of its moral authority by signing an accord with Beijing over the nominations of Chinese bishops. Pompeo called on the Holy See to take a tougher stand against Chinese restrictions on religious freedom.

Biden, for his part, has criticized China for forced labor practices. Francis has championed human rights in many countries to draw attention to peoples' suffering.

But as the bishops' agreement indicates, Francis is also intent on improving conditions for the Catholic church in China. But some in his own church have expressed dismay that Francis hasn't taken a harder stance on Chinese authorities' longtime discrimination against Catholics loyal to the pontiff.

On Monday, Blinken also met with the Holy See's No. 2, Cardinal Pietro Parolin, the Vatican's secretary of state, and with Archbishop Paul Gallagher, its foreign minister.

Visitors to the Sistine Chapel, with its ceiling frescoed by Michelangelo and a 30-by-60-foot wall painting, "Last Judgment," by the Renaissance master almost always emerge wowed. Blinken appeared to be no exception after his short, guided tour.

"Mr. Secretary, pretty impressive?" a reporter asked. Blinken nodded and gestured around the cavernous space.

Blinken is visiting Rome before flying to southern Italy for Tuesday's Group of 20 meeting of foreign ministers, which is focused on improving collaboration among nations on climate change, health issues and development.

Cesar Chavez's legacy lives on in Biden's staff, Oval Office

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When President Barack Obama flew to California to dedicate a national monument to Latino labor leader Cesar Chavez nearly a decade ago, a group of the activist's relatives were invited to pose for photos with the president.

Julie Chavez Rodriguez, Chavez's granddaughter, hung back. As a member of Obama's staff, she had traveled with the official party to the event, but did not want to call attention to herself.

Only when Obama's senior adviser, Valerie Jarrett, insisted did Rodriguez reluctantly step forward, barely making it into the frame.

"I said, 'Julie, you have to be up there with your family,'" said Jarrett, who was Rodriguez's boss in the White House Office of Public Engagement. "And she said, 'No, I'm staff today.'"

White House staffers are often of a type, hard-charging strivers who crave their own sliver of the lime-light or even trade on a famous name. Rodriguez is a clear exception as she begins a second tour serving a president, this time as director of intergovernmental affairs for Joe Biden.

Rodriguez and her staff help state, local and tribal governments, and Puerto Rico and the other U.S. territories, with their federal government needs. Lately, that has centered on combating COVID-19 and distributing aid from the \$1.9 trillion in Biden's coronavirus relief plan.

Jarrett and others who have worked with Rodriguez describe a dedicated worker who, while shaped by a famous progenitor, doesn't put her family front and center.

White House press secretary Jen Psaki recently name-checked "Julie Rodriguez" at a press briefing — dropping "Chavez" in keeping with Rodriguez's preference.

Cecilia Munoz, who led the intergovernmental affairs office for five years under Obama, said Rodriguez has the job now because she is "Julie" -- not because she is a Chavez.

"Being a Chavez is part of who she is," Munoz said, "but she's there because she is so skilled and has such deep integrity."

And because Biden wanted her on his team.

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Rodriguez is among a group of Latinas serving in the White House and advising Biden on matters ranging from communications to policy. Latino advocates had accused Biden during the 2020 presidential campaign of not doing enough to reach out to these voters.

CHAVEZ INFLUENCE

New presidents always freshen up the look of the Oval Office, both to reflect their personal tastes or send broader messages about their values and what inspires them.

Biden's updates for a time included placing a bronze bust of Chavez among family photographs on a desk directly behind his own, giving the late labor leader's likeness prominent placement any time Biden was seen at his desk. The bust is now on a pedestal elsewhere in the Oval Office.

Rodriguez was overwhelmed the first time she saw the bust of her "Tata" in the Oval Office. Her grandfather is a hero to her, someone she hoped to emulate, she said in an interview. Rodriguez described the "profound sense of pride" she felt in knowing that "the contributions that our community has made are being recognized in the most powerful room in the world."

Biden supported her grandfather's cause of improving conditions for migrant farm workers, Rodriguez said, and both men were influenced by their Roman Catholic faith and its teachings.

"I think there's that sort of shared history and shared ... support for the cause that he was leading," Rodriguez said of Biden.

The Biden family's admiration for Chavez and his legacy also is shared by the first lady.

Jill Biden flew to California earlier this year for the March 31 commemoration of Chavez's birth. She visited the family's Forty Acres property near the city of Delano, the first permanent headquarters for the United Farm Workers union.

A national historic landmark, the location is where Chavez conducted two lengthy fasts -- 25 days in 1968 for nonviolence and 36 days in 1988 over the threat of pesticides. It's also where thousands of farm workers received COVID-19 vaccinations this year.

CALIFORNIA ROOTS

Rodriguez, 43, was born in Delano to Chavez's daughter, Linda, and her husband, Arturo Rodriguez. Her grandparents, Cesar and Helen Chavez, volunteered full time for the United Farm Workers of America organization, and Rodriguez often went to labor rallies with both couples and helped them with community outreach.

She grew up in the farm worker movement and was active in campaigns, picket lines, boycotts, marches and union meetings, said Paul Chavez, Rodriguez's uncle.

He recalled how she would hop off the bus when she got home from elementary school and pop into the offices to see what was going on and offer to help. She was engaging and inquisitive, with a level of maturity beyond her years, he said.

"She knew how to talk to older folks and kids her age," Paul Chavez said.

After graduating from the University of California, Berkeley, in 2000 with a degree in Latin American studies, Rodriguez worked at the foundation named for her grandfather before she became a volunteer on Obama's 2008 presidential campaign in Colorado.

She was at the Interior Department working on a youth initiative when Jarrett recruited her to work on immigration and Latino outreach at the White House.

Jarrett said she wanted Rodriguez on her team because of her "extraordinary reputation for excellence, hard work, competency" and "focusing not on herself, but on how we could engage as many voices" as possible.

Rodriguez later became Jarrett's deputy and her portfolio grew to include outreach to veterans, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, and gun violence prevention groups.

Shortly before Obama's term ended in January 2017, Rodriguez was named state director for then-Sen. Kamala Harris of California. Rodriguez later joined Harris' 2020 presidential campaign as a political director and traveling chief of staff.

Rodriguez joined Biden's campaign to help oversee Latino outreach after Harris dropped out. After Biden was elected, he named her to lead the office of intergovernmental affairs.

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Her uncle said Rodriguez's standing with the president is an encouraging message for young people of color.

"Her presence and her being is a very powerful thing for people that haven't had a lot of opportunities, and especially those that have been shut out of the political and civic affairs of our communities," Paul Chavez said.

'HUMBLE' SERVANT

Kendra Barkoff, who served a stint as Interior Department press secretary under Obama, with Rodriguez as her deputy, said Rodriguez was so "humble" that staff members didn't realize the family connections at first.

"Once we learned, we were even more inspired by her," said Barkoff.

Rodriguez still answers Barkoff's telephone calls and emails even though they haven't worked together since Barkoff went to the private sector in 2015.

"She's pretty high up in the White House and still calls me 'boss,'" Barkoff said.

State TV: NKoreans heartbroken over Kim's 'emaciated looks'

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Heartbroken North Koreans have been worrying tearfully about leader Kim Jong Un's "emaciated looks," state media quoted a local resident as saying, in a rare acknowledgement of foreign speculation about his weight loss.

The comments were seen as an effort to boost domestic support for Kim's efforts as he grapples with deepening economic hardships caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, mismanagement, U.N. economic sanctions and natural disasters, some experts said.

"Our people's hearts ached most when we saw (Kim's) emaciated looks," North Korean state TV cited the unidentified male resident wearing a straw hat as saying on Friday. "Everyone says their tears are welling up in their eyes naturally."

In recent state media photos, Kim has appeared to have lost a considerable amount of weight. Some North Korea watchers said Kim, who is about 170 centimeters (5 feet, 8 inches) tall and has previously weighed 140 kilograms (308 pounds), may have lost 10-20 kilograms (22-44 pounds).

Kim's health is the focus of keen outside attention as the 37-year-old leader hasn't publicly anointed a successor who would take charge of North Korea's advancing nuclear arsenal targeting the United States and its allies if he is incapacitated.

Some analysts in Seoul said Kim is likely to have gone on a diet to improve his health, while others speculated that his weight loss might be related to health issues.

Kim, known for heavy drinking and smoking, comes from a family with a history of heart problems. His father and grandfather, who ruled North Korea before him, both died of heart issues.

In recent months, Kim has called for stronger unity to overcome what he calls "the worst-ever" crisis caused by pandemic-related border closings that have sharply reduced North Korea's international trade, persistent U.S.-led sanctions and crop-killing summer storms last year.

UN rights chief: Reparations needed for people facing racism

By JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

GENEVA (AP) — The U.N. human rights chief, in a landmark report launched after the killing of George Floyd in the United States, is urging countries worldwide to do more to help end discrimination, violence and systemic racism against people of African descent and "make amends" to them — including through reparations.

The report from Michelle Bachelet, the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, offers a sweeping look at the roots of centuries of mistreatment faced by Africans and people of African descent, notably from the transatlantic slave trade. It seeks a "transformative" approach to address its continued impact today.

The report, a year in the making, hopes to build on momentum around the recent, intensified scrutiny

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worldwide about the blight of racism and its impact on people of African descent as epitomized by the high-profile killings of unarmed Black people in the United States and elsewhere.

"There is today a momentous opportunity to achieve a turning point for racial equality and justice," the report said.

The report aims to speed up action by countries to end racial injustice; end impunity for rights violations by police; ensure that people of African descent and those who speak out against racism are heard; and face up to past wrongs through accountability and redress.

"I am calling on all states to stop denying — and start dismantling — racism; to end impunity and build trust; to listen to the voices of people of African descent; and to confront past legacies and deliver redress," Bachelet said in a video statement.

While broaching the issue of reparation in her most explicit way yet, Bachelet suggested that monetary compensation alone is not enough and would be part of an array of measures to help rectify or make up for the injustices.

"Reparations should not only be equated with financial compensation," she wrote, adding that it should include restitution, rehabilitation, acknowledgement of injustices, apologies, memorialization, educational reforms and "guarantees" that such injustices won't happen again.

The U.N.-backed Human Rights Council commissioned the report during a special session last year following the murder of Floyd, a Black American who was killed by a white police officer in Minneapolis in May 2020. The officer, Derek Chauvin, was sentenced to 22-1/2 years in prison last week.

Protests erupted after excruciating bystander video showed how Floyd gasped repeatedly, "I can't breathe!" as onlookers yelled at Chauvin to stop pressing his knee on Floyd's neck.

The protests against Floyd's killing and the "momentous" verdict against Chauvin are a "seminal point in the fight against racism," the report said.

The report was based on discussions with more than 340 people — mostly of African descent — and experts; more than 100 contributions in writing, including from governments; and review of public material, the rights office said.

It analyzed 190 deaths, mostly in the U.S., to show how law enforcement officers are rarely held accountable for rights violations and crimes against people of African descent, and it noted similar patterns of mistreatment by police across many countries.

The report ultimately aims to transform those opportunities into a more systemic response by governments to address racism, and not just in the United States — although the injustices and legacy of slavery, racism and violence faced by African Americans was clearly a major theme.

The report also laid out cases, concerns and the situation in roughly 60 countries including Belgium, Brazil, Britain, Canada, Colombia and France, among others.

"We could not find a single example of a state that has fully reckoned with the past or comprehensively accounted for the impacts of the lives of people of African descent today," Mona Rishmawi, who leads a unit on non-discrimination at the U.N. human rights office, told a news conference. "Our message, therefore, is that this situation is untenable."

Compensation should be considered at the "collective and the individual level," she said, while adding that any such process "starts with acknowledgment" of past wrongs and "it's not one-size-fits-all." She said countries must look at their own pasts and practices to assess how to proceed.

The U.N. report called on countries to make "amends for centuries of violence and discrimination" such as through "formal acknowledgment and apologies, truth-telling processes and reparations in various forms."

It also decried the "dehumanization of people of African descent" that was "rooted in false social constructions of race" in the past to justify enslavement, racial stereotypes and harmful practices as well as tolerance for racial discrimination, inequality and violence.

It cited inequalities faced by people of African descent and the "stark socioeconomic and political marginalization" they face in many countries, including unfair access to education, health care, jobs, housing and clean water.

Offices after COVID: Wider hallways, fewer desks

By DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writer

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP) — The coronavirus already changed the way we work. Now it's changing the physical space, too.

Many companies are making adjustments to their offices to help employees feel safer as they return to in-person work, like improving air circulation systems or moving desks further apart. Others are ditching desks and building more conference rooms to accommodate employees who still work remotely but come in for meetings.

Architects and designers say this is a time of experimentation and reflection for employers. Steelcase, an office furniture company based in Grand Rapids, Michigan, says its research indicates half of global companies plan major redesigns to their office space this year.

"This year caused you to think, maybe even more fundamentally than you ever have before, 'Hey, why do we go to an office?'" said Natalie Engels, a San Jose, California-based design principal at Gensler, an architecture firm.

Not every company is making changes, and Engels stresses that they don't have to. She tells clients to remember what worked well — and what didn't — before the pandemic.

But designers say many companies are looking for new ways to make employees feel safe and invigorated at the office, especially as a labor crunch makes hiring more difficult.

That's what drove food and pharmaceutical company Ajinomoto to overhaul the design of its new North American headquarters outside Chicago last year.

Ajinomoto's employees returned to in-person work in May to a building with wider hallways and glass panels between cubicles, to give them more space and try to make them feel more secure. To improve mental health, the company transformed a planned work area into a spa-like "relaxation room" with reclining chairs and soft music. A test kitchen is wired for virtual presentations in case clients don't want to travel. And a cleaning crew comes through twice a day, leaving Post-it notes to show what's been disinfected.

"Maybe it's over the top, but maybe it provides comfort to those that have sensitivities to returning to an in-person work environment," said Ryan Smith, the executive vice president of Ajinomoto North America. Smith estimates 40% of the new headquarters design changed due to COVID.

Shobha Surya, an associate manager of projects and sales at Ajinomoto, is energized by the space.

"The office gives you a balance of work and home life," she said. "You are more focused here and don't have any distractions."

Surya said she's also thrilled to be working alongside her co-workers again.

She's not alone. Surveys show the thing employees miss most about office work is socializing and collaborating with colleagues, said Lise Newman, workplace practice director at architecture firm SmithGroup. Companies are trying to encourage that rapport by building more social hubs for employees. Some mimic coffee houses, with wood floors, booth seating and pendant lamps.

"Companies are trying to create the sense that this is a cool club that people want to come into," Newman said.

Steelcase has divided one of its lobbies into cozy meeting spaces of varying sizes, separated by plant-filled partitions. Mobile video monitors can be wheeled in so that people working remotely can be included in discussions.

But after a year of working from home, some employees crave privacy, so Steelcase added more glassed-in booths for private calls and cocoon-like cubicles with small sliding doors.

Mark Bryan, a senior interior designer with Columbus, Ohio-based M+A Architects, expects a more fluid office culture in the future, with different places to work on any given day. Introverts might choose a small, private room; extroverts, a table in the office café.

Some office changes reflect a new commitment to hybrid work. Valiant Technologies, which provides tech support and other services to businesses, is letting its employees work primarily at home but has

them reserve a desk for the days they want to come to the office. The New York company has removed rows of desks and put more space between the remaining ones. Employees leave their keyboard, mouse and headsets in lockers.

Megan Quick, a sales associate with Valiant, said she appreciated the company allowing her to ease back into office life this month.

"It will take a lot of time for us to readjust," she said. "Valiant letting us set our pace for returning makes me feel safe."

Not every design change will stick. Last summer, when Steelcase started bringing back some workers, they pushed tables in the cafeteria far apart from each other and only allowed one person per table. It made the space so depressing that no one wanted to sit there, Steelcase CEO Jim Keane said.

"An important lesson is that, yes, it has to be safe, but also has to be inspiring," he said. "People are actually going to expect more from offices in the future."

EXPLAINER: Why are Palestinians protesting against Abbas?

By JOSEPH KRAUSS Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Thousands of Palestinians have taken to the streets in recent days to protest against President Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian Authority, whose security forces and supporters have violently dispersed them.

The demonstrations were sparked by the death of an outspoken critic of the PA in security forces' custody last week, but the grievances run much deeper. Abbas' popularity plunged after he called off the first elections in 15 years in April and was sidelined by the Gaza war in May. The PA has long been seen as rife with corruption and intolerant of dissent.

The Palestinian Authority is one of the last manifestations of the peace process, which has been dormant for more than a decade, and is seen by Israel, the United States and the European Union as a key partner in promoting stability.

Here's a look at the PA and the protests against it.

A STATE IN WAITING

The PA was established in the 1990s through interim peace agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, which still represents the cause internationally. It was seen as a state-in-waiting and was granted limited autonomy in parts of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Israel and the PLO held several rounds of peace talks throughout the 1990s and 2000s. The Palestinians, negotiating from a position of weakness, sought an independent state in east Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza, territories Israel seized in the 1967 war. They were never able to reach an agreement, and there have been no substantive talks since 2009.

The Islamic militant group Hamas seized power in Gaza in 2007, a year after winning an landslide victory in Palestinian elections. That confined Abbas' authority to parts of the West Bank. Several attempts at Palestinian reconciliation over the years have failed.

While the PA has ministries, security forces and the trappings of a state, its authority is limited to major population centers that amount to around 40% of the West Bank. Israel has overarching authority and controls access to the PA-run territories, which Palestinians routinely compare to the Black-ruled Bantustans established by apartheid South Africa.

GROWING AUTHORITARIANISM

The increasingly authoritarian PA is dominated by Abbas' secular Fatah party, which is led by a small circle of men in their 60s and 70s. The 85-year-old Abbas, whose four-year presidential term expired in 2009, leads the PA, the PLO and Fatah.

The PA leadership, which enjoys special privileges for cooperating with Israel, is widely seen by the Palestinians as corrupt and self-serving. Its policy of coordinating security with Israel to go after Hamas

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and other mutual foes is extremely unpopular. Protesters at the Al-Aqsa mosque on Friday accused the PA of being collaborators, a charge that amounts to treason.

Last week, security forces raided a home in the occupied West Bank to arrest Nizar Banat, who had repeatedly criticized the PA in online posts. His family says they beat him with batons before dragging him away. The PA says it has launched an investigation into his death, which ignited the latest protests.

Banat was a candidate in the parliamentary elections that Abbas called off in April when it looked like his fractured Fatah would suffer an embarrassing defeat to Hamas. During the Gaza war that erupted shortly thereafter, Hamas was widely seen as fighting for Palestinian rights and defending Jerusalem while the PA did nothing.

A poll taken after the war found a dramatic rise in support for Hamas, with more than half of respondents saying it should lead the Palestinian movement.

STAYING POWER

Despite his unpopularity, Abbas can count on the support of powerful friends, with Israel, the U.S. and Western donors deeply invested in the PA's survival. The PA also pays the salaries of tens of thousands of Palestinian civil servants who would otherwise struggle to find work.

By administering major population centers, the PA reduces the financial and security burden of Israel's 54-year military occupation of the West Bank. It also helps preserve the idea of an eventual two-state solution, even as Israel expands Jewish settlements and consolidates its control over the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

The EU has invested hundreds of millions of dollars in the PA over the years, and the U.S. and other nations have trained and equipped its security forces. The Biden administration has said it hopes to strengthen the PA and work with it to rebuild Gaza — where it has no power.

Israel, the U.S. and the EU all prefer the unelected PA to Hamas — which they consider a terrorist group — or to the chaos that could ensue from the PA's collapse. They are committed to working with the PA to manage the conflict and reduce tensions until some future time when the peace process can be revived.

But after weeks of unrest in Jerusalem, a war in Gaza and now street violence in the West Bank, that approach seems increasingly fraught.

Senators to watch as Dems debate changing filibuster rules

By MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Looming over Senate Democrats this year is a decision that could fundamentally change Congress: whether to change or eliminate the rules of the filibuster to enact President Joe Biden's agenda.

Liberal advocates have pushed hard for the change, urging the Senate to modify or eliminate rules that now require a vote by 60 of the 100 senators to advance most bills. Many Democrats are on board, arguing that Republicans are determined to block almost every one of their priorities in the 50-50 Senate even though Democrats hold Congress and the presidency. But others in the party are wary, fearing it will end bipartisanship in the Senate.

Yet most of the skeptical Democratic senators say they are ultimately open to some changes to the rules if Republicans won't negotiate on their major policy goals, particularly legislation — filibustered by Republicans just last week — that would overhaul elections and make it easier to vote.

The two biggest Democratic obstacles to filibuster changes, for now, are Sens. Joe Manchin of West Virginia and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona. Both have reiterated their opposition in recent weeks. A simple majority can change the Senate's rules, but getting all 50 Democrats to agree could prove difficult.

Changes won't come easily, and it could be months or more before Democrats decide what to do.

Some senators to watch as Democrats ponder a consequential vote:

SEN. JOE MANCHIN, D-W.VA.

Manchin has been a defender of the filibuster for many years, and he has stuck to that position as many

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of his Senate colleagues have shifted on the issue. Manchin said in an op-ed in the Charleston Gazette-Mail earlier this month that he could not explain to voters in his state, increasingly dominated by the GOP, why he was "blowing up the Senate rules to expedite one party's agenda."

Still, he has not completely ruled out changes. Earlier this year, he suggested he might be open to the "talking filibuster," requiring senators to slow a bill by holding the floor, but then grants a simple majority vote if they give up. It's unclear if other senators would be open to that option, and enacting it could prove complicated.

SEN. KYRSTEN SINEMA, D-ARIZ.

Sinema has said it is time to debate the legislative filibuster. But she has also made a persuasive case against eliminating it.

Narrowly elected in 2018 to represent her swing state, Sinema has vowed to be independent-minded and to work with Republicans. She wrote in a Washington Post op-ed this month that bipartisan cooperation is the best way to achieve lasting results, and that eliminating the filibuster would enable temporary victories that would be constantly reversed when the other party takes power.

She said removing the filibuster could increase "the likelihood of repeated radical reversals in federal policy, cementing uncertainty, deepening divisions and further eroding Americans' confidence in our government."

SEN. TOM CARPER, D-DEL.

Carper, a 20-year veteran of the Senate, has been reluctant to consider nixing the filibuster and has repeatedly pointed to bipartisan successes to argue for keeping it. But he said in an interview with The Associated Press on Thursday that "it could be an option."

Carper said senators should not be able to "phone it in" when they want to block a bill, like they can now. Senators should have to "actually stand there and filibuster," he said.

For now, he says, he's following negotiations on the elections bill to see if there can be compromise. But he says that if something "that important" falls apart in the end, "and we're unable to make progress to better ensure people's ability to vote and register to vote," then the Senate might have to change the rules.

"But that would not be my first option, that would be my last option," Carper said. "But it could be an option."

SEN. CHRIS COONS, D-DEL.

Coons has made a name for himself by touting bipartisanship, though he rarely bucks his party.

In recent interviews, he has argued both sides of the filibuster question.

He told NPR last week that "we have to strike a balance" and noted that Republicans did not change the legislative filibuster rules on legislation when they controlled Congress and the presidency just four years ago.

But, he said, "I won't stand by this entire Congress and watch President Biden's agenda blocked, so I think this is an important moment of decision for Republicans."

SEN. JACK REED, D-R.I.

One of the quieter and more policy-focused members of the Senate, Reed has said very little about the filibuster rules. In a statement, he was not fully forthcoming on the issue but hinted that he's in line with other Democrats who have said it is a last resort.

"I'm focused on the Senate passing legislation that addresses the pandemic, the economy, our defense and our environment," he said. "The onus is on Senate Minority Leader (Mitch) McConnell. He can either be a constructive part of that effort or create a wall of partisan obstruction and further threaten the Senate's traditions."

SEN. MARK KELLY, D-ARIZ.

Kelly, who won a special election to replace the late Sen. John McCain in 2020, must run for reelection in 2022 and will face inevitable comparisons to Sinema.

He told NBC News last week that he is open to looking at any changes in the rules, and he will ultimately make a decision based on what is in the best interest of Arizona and the country. "And I'm not looking for something that is in the best interest of just Democrats," he said.

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SEN. DIANNE FEINSTEIN, D-CALIF.

Feinstein, who has been in the Senate for nearly three decades, has long been a champion of bipartisanship and has opposed eliminating the filibuster. But that is out of line with her deeply blue state.

In recent comments, she has said she may be open to changes.

"I've received many calls and letters from constituents and groups that are frustrated by the lack of action in the Senate on important issues, and I agree with them," she said in a statement. "I understand their concern and I'm giving the matter a lot of thought. I look forward to continued discussions with my colleagues on how to solve problems for the American people."

SEN. JEANNE SHAHEEN, D-N.H.

Shaheen, a former New Hampshire governor who often works across the aisle, said on a New Hampshire radio show Friday morning that she thinks the filibuster should be reformed but "I have reservations about eliminating it." She did not say what reforms she favors.

"Everything from reproductive rights to support for education to health care would be on the line if we eliminate the filibuster entirely," Shaheen said. "So I think we really need to be thoughtful about that."

SEN. ANGUS KING, I-MAINE

King, an Independent former Maine governor who caucuses with Democrats, said Thursday that "I haven't given up" hope that Democrats and Republicans can find compromise on major issues.

In a March op-ed in *The Washington Post*, King said he had long been wary of changing the filibuster rules. "The reality is that once the filibuster is gone, it will never come back," he wrote. "Why would a future majority ever impose such a limitation on its own power?"

Still, he said, that only works if Republicans are willing to find agreement over obstruction. And he said voting rights are a "special case" as many GOP-led states have moved to change voting laws.

"All-out opposition to reasonable voting rights protections cannot be enabled by the filibuster; if forced to choose between a Senate rule and democracy itself, I know where I will come down," King wrote.

Uprooted again: Venezuela migrants cross US border in droves

By JOSHUA GOODMAN Associated Press

DEL RIO, Texas (AP) — Marianela Rojas huddles in prayer with her fellow migrants, a tearful respite after trudging across a slow-flowing stretch of the Rio Grande and nearly collapsing onto someone's backyard lawn, where, seconds before, she stepped on American soil for the first time.

"I won't say it again," interrupts a U.S. Border Patrol agent, giving orders in Spanish for Rojas and a dozen others to get into an idling detention van. "Only passports and money in your hands. Everything else — earrings, chains, rings, watches — in your backpacks. Hats and shoelaces too."

It's a frequent scene across the U.S.-Mexico border at a time of swelling migration. But these aren't farmers and low-wage workers from Mexico or Central America, who make up the bulk of those crossing. They're bankers, doctors and engineers from Venezuela, and they're arriving in record numbers as they flee turmoil in the country with the world's largest oil reserves and pandemic-induced pain across South America.

Two days after Rojas crossed, she left detention and rushed to catch a bus out of the Texas town of Del Rio. Between phone calls to loved ones who didn't know where she was, the 54-year-old recounted fleeing hardship in Venezuela a few years ago, leaving a paid-off home and once-solid career as an elementary school teacher for a fresh start in Ecuador.

But when the little work she found cleaning houses dried up, she decided to uproot again — this time without her children.

"It's over, it's all over," she said into the phone recently, crying as her toddler grandson appeared shirtless on screen. "Everything was perfect. I didn't stop moving for one second."

Last month, 7,484 Venezuelans were encountered by Border Patrol agents along the U.S.-Mexico border — more than all 14 years for which records exist.

The surprise increase has drawn comparisons to the midcentury influx of Cubans fleeing Fidel Castro's communist rule. It's also a harbinger of a new type of migration that has caught the Biden administration

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off guard: pandemic refugees.

Many of the nearly 17,306 Venezuelans who have crossed the southern border illegally since January had been living for years in other South American countries, part of an exodus of nearly 6 million Venezuelans since President Nicolás Maduro took power in 2013.

While some are government opponents fearing harassment and jailing, the vast majority are escaping long-running economic devastation marked by blackouts and shortages of food and medicine.

With the pandemic still raging in many parts of South America, they have had to relocate again. Increasingly, they're being joined at the U.S. border by people from the countries they initially fled to — even larger numbers of Ecuadorians and Brazilians have arrived this year — as well as far-flung nations hit hard by the virus, like India and Uzbekistan.

U.S. government data shows that 42% of all families encountered along the border in May hailed from places other than Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras — the traditional drivers of migratory trends. That compares with just 8% during the last sharp increase in migration in 2019. The Border Patrol recorded more than 180,000 encounters in May, a two-decade high that includes migrants' repeated attempts to cross.

Compared with other migrants, Venezuelans garner certain privileges — a reflection of their firmer financial standing, higher education levels and U.S. policies that have failed to remove Maduro but nonetheless made deportation all but impossible.

The vast majority enter the U.S. near Del Rio, a town of 35,000 people, and they don't try to evade detention but rather turn themselves in to Border Patrol agents to seek asylum.

Like many of the dozens of Venezuelans The Associated Press spoke to this month in Del Rio, 27-year-old Lis Briceno had already migrated once before. After graduating with a degree in petroleum engineering, she couldn't get hired in the oil fields near her hometown of Maracaibo without declaring her loyalty to Venezuela's socialist leadership. So she moved to Chile a few years ago, finding work with a technology company.

But as anti-government unrest and the pandemic tanked Chile's economy, sales plunged and her company shuttered.

Briceno sold what she could — a refrigerator, a telephone, her bed — to raise the \$4,000 needed for her journey to the U.S. She filled a backpack and set out with a heart lock amulet she got from a friend to ward off evil spirits.

"I always thought I'd come here on vacation, to visit the places you see in the movies," Briceno said. "But doing this? Never."

While Central Americans and others can spend months trekking through the jungle, stowing away on freight trains and sleeping in makeshift camps run by cartels on their way north, most Venezuelans reach the U.S. in as little as four days.

"This is a journey they're definitely prepared for from a financial standpoint," said Tiffany Burrow, who runs the Val Verde Border Humanitarian Coalition's shelter in Del Rio, where migrants can eat, clean up and buy bus tickets to Miami, Houston and other cities with large Venezuelan communities.

They first fly to Mexico City or Cancun, where foreign visitors are down sharply but nearly 45,000 Venezuelans arrived in the first four months of 2021. Smugglers promoting themselves as "travel agencies" have cropped up on Facebook, claiming to offer hassle-free transport to the U.S. in exchange for about \$3,000.

"We're doing things the way they do things here — under the table," a smuggler said in a voice message a migrant shared with the AP. "You'll never be alone. Someone will always be with you."

The steep price includes a guided sendoff from Ciudad Acuna, where the bulk of Venezuelans cross the Rio Grande. The hardscrabble town a few hundred wet steps from Del Rio is attractive to both smugglers and migrants with deeper pockets because it had been largely spared the violence seen elsewhere on the border.

"If you're a smuggler in the business of moving a commodity — because that's how they view money, guns, people, drugs and everything they move, as a product — then you want to move it through the safest area possible charging the highest price," said Austin L. Skero II, chief of the U.S. Border Patrol's

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Del Rio sector.

But the number of smugglers caught with weapons has recently increased in the area, and agents who normally hunt down criminals are tied up processing migrants.

The uptick in migrants crossing is "purely a diversion tactic used by the cartels" to carry out crime, Skero said as a group of Haitians carrying young children emerged from a thicket of tall carrizo cane on the riverbank.

Once in the U.S., Venezuelans tend to fare better than other groups. In March, Biden granted Temporary Protected Status to an estimated 320,000 Venezuelans. The designation allows people coming from countries ravaged by war or disaster to work legally in the U.S. and gives protection from deportation.

While new arrivals don't qualify, Venezuelans requesting asylum — as almost all do — tend to succeed, partly because the U.S. government corroborates reports of political repression. Only 26% of asylum requests from Venezuelans have been denied this year, compared with an 80% rejection rate for asylum-seekers from poorer, violence-plagued countries in Central America, according to Syracuse University's Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse.

"I can write their asylum requests almost by heart," said Jodi Goodwin, an immigration attorney in Harlingen, Texas, who has represented over 100 Venezuelans. "These are higher-educated people who can advocate for themselves and tell their story in a chronological, clean way that judges are accustomed to thinking."

Even Venezuelans facing deportation have hope. The Trump administration broke diplomatic relations with Maduro when it recognized Juan Guaidó as Venezuela's rightful leader in 2019. Air travel is suspended, even charter flights, making removal next to impossible.

Meanwhile, as the migrants leave Del Rio to reconnect with loved ones in the U.S., they are confident that with sacrifice and hard work, they'll get an opportunity denied them back home.

Briceno said that if she had stayed in Venezuela, she would earn the equivalent of \$50 a month — barely enough to scrape by.

"The truth is," says Briceno, hustling to catch a bus to Houston where her boyfriend landed a well-paying oil industry job, "it's better to wash toilets here than being an engineer over there."

Australia battles several clusters in new pandemic phase

By ROD McGUIRK Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australia was battling to contain several COVID-19 clusters around the country on Monday in what some experts have described as the nation's most dangerous stage of the pandemic since the earliest days.

Sydney in the east and Darwin in the north were locked down on Monday. Perth in the west made masks compulsory for three days and warned a lockdown could follow after a resident tested positive after visiting Sydney more than a week ago.

Brisbane and Canberra have or will soon make wearing masks compulsory. South Australia state announced new statewide restrictions from Tuesday.

Australia has been relatively successful in containing clusters throughout the pandemic, registering fewer than 31,000 cases since the pandemic began. But the new clusters have highlighted the nation's slow vaccine rollout with only 5% of the population fully vaccinated.

Most of the new cases stem from a Sydney limousine driver who tested positive on June 16 to the delta variant, which is thought to be more contagious. He was not vaccinated, reportedly did not wear a mask and is suspected to have been infected while transporting a foreign air crew from Sydney Airport.

New South Wales state on Monday reported 18 new cases in the latest 24-hour period. The tally was fewer than 30 cases recorded on Sunday and 29 on Saturday.

Authorities warned that a two-week Sydney lockdown that began on Friday would not reduce infection rates for another five days.

"We have to be prepared for the numbers to bounce around and we also have to be prepared for the

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numbers to go up considerably," New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian said.

Health policy adviser Bill Bowtell, who was the architect of Australia's first AIDS response in the 1980s, said the government needed to consider hastening vaccinations by shortening the gap between Astra-Zeneca shots from 12 to 8 weeks.

"We really face the most serious crisis in the COVID pandemic since the early days in February-March last year," Bowtell said.

The crisis has also highlighted the dangers posed by hotel quarantine, which is the source of most cases of community virus spread in Australia.

A mine worker is suspected to have become infected with the delta variant while in hotel quarantine in Brisbane in Queensland state before flying to a gold mine in the Northern Territory.

The miner infected at least six people at the mine. One of the infected miners had since traveled home to Queensland and another to New South Wales.

Authorities were attempting to track down 900 mine workers around the country who could have been infected by the initial case.

The Northern Territory capital Darwin, and neighboring Palmerston, on Sunday locked down for 48 hours after an infected miner returned home to Palmerston.

That lockdown would be extended to Friday after another miner tested positive after returning home to Darwin on Friday, officials said on Monday. The Northern Territory has never before experienced COVID-19 spreading in the community.

Queensland on Monday reported three new cases, including the miner. She is one of 170 potentially infected miners who live in the state and fly to an from work.

Masks will become compulsory from Tuesday for two weeks in Brisbane and several surrounding towns.

"The next 24-to-48 hours are going to be very crucial in Queensland about whether or not we see any spread of this delta strain," Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczu said.

The Queensland government has called on the federal government to tighten already tough border restrictions to reduce the number of travelers arriving in Australia.

Western Australia state reported one new case in Perth linked to the Sydney cluster. The state is home to 177 of the potentially infected miners.

Rescuers stay hopeful about finding more survivors in rubble

By TERRY SPENCER and RUSS BYNUM Associated Press

SURFSIDE, Fla. (AP) — Rescue workers digging feverishly for a fifth day Monday stressed that they could still find survivors in the rubble of a collapsed Florida condo building, a hope family members clung to even though no one has been pulled out alive since the first day the structure fell.

The death toll rose by just four people Sunday, to a total of nine confirmed dead. But more than 150 people are still missing in Surfside.

Families of the missing rode buses to a site nearby from which they could watch teams at work Sunday: firefighters, sniffer dogs and search experts employing radar and sonar devices.

U.S. Rep. Debbie Wasserman Schultz said at a Sunday evening news conference that she had met with some of the rescue workers and was able to "hear the hope that they have."

"We obviously have some realism that we're dealing with. But ... as long as the experts that we trust are telling me they have hope to find people who might have been able to survive, then we have to make sure that we hold on to that hope," she said.

Israeli Diaspora Affairs Minister Nachman Shai, head of a humanitarian delegation from Israel that includes several search-and-rescue experts, said the professionals have told him of cases where survivors were found after 100 hours or more.

"So don't lose hope, that's what I would say," he said.

Some families had hoped their visit to the site near the 12-story building would allow them to shout messages to loved ones possibly buried deep inside the pile. As they returned to a nearby hotel, several

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paused to embrace as they got off the bus. Others walked slowly with arms around each other back to the hotel entrance.

"We are just waiting for answers. That's what we want," said Dianne Ohayon, whose parents, Myriam and Arnie Notkin, were in the building. "It's hard to go through these long days and we haven't gotten any answers yet."

Authorities on Sunday identified the additional four people that had been recovered as Leon Oliwkowicz, 80; Christina Beatriz Elvira, 74; Anna Ortiz, 46; and Luis Bermudez, 26. The number of people left unaccounted for was 152, said Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava. The last live person rescued was on Thursday, just hours after the collapse.

Miami-Dade Assistant Fire Chief Raide Jadallah explained that conditions at the site — the building pancaked when it fell — have frustrated crews looking for survivors. Alan Cominsky, chief of the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department, said his team is holding out hope of finding someone alive, but must continue to move slowly and methodically.

"The debris field is scattered throughout, and it's compact, extremely compact," he said, noting that teams must stabilize and shore up debris as they go.

"We can't just go in and move things erratically, because that's going to have the worst outcome possible," he said.

Among the tools rescuers used was a microwave radar device developed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab and the Department of Homeland Security that "sees" through up to 8 inches (20 centimeters) of solid concrete, according to Adrian Garulay, CEO of Spec Ops Group, which sells them. The suitcase-size device can detect human respiration and heartbeats and was being deployed Sunday by a seven-member search-and-rescue team from Mexico's Jewish community.

Levine Cava said six to eight teams are actively searching the pile at any given time, with hundreds of team members on standby ready to rotate in. She said teams have worked around the clock since Thursday, and there was no lack of personnel.

President Joe Biden said in a statement he spoke with FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell about efforts on the ground after Criswell visited the site. Biden said his administration is prepared to provide assistance and support.

"This is an unimaginably difficult time for the families enduring this tragedy," Biden said. "My heart goes out to every single person suffering during this awful moment."

Crews spent Saturday night digging a trench that stretches 125 feet long, 20 feet across and 40 feet deep (38 meters long, 6 meters across and 12 meters deep), which, she said, allowed them to find more bodies and human remains.

Earl Tilton, who runs a search-and-rescue consulting firm in North Carolina, said rushing into the rubble without careful planning and execution would injure or kill rescuers and the people they are trying to save.

"Moving the wrong piece of debris at the wrong time could cause it to fall" on workers and crush them, he said.

But Tilton agreed families were not wrong to continue holding out hope. During past urban rescues, he said, rescuers have found survivors as long as a week past the initial catastrophe.

Cardi B, Queen Latifah, Lil Nas X shine at BET Awards

By MESFIN FEKADU AP Music Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Cardi B's "WAP" had new meaning at the BET Awards: winning and pregnant.

The Grammy-winning star debuted her baby bump during a live performance Sunday alongside husband Offset as well as Quavo and Takeoff of Migos. She also won video of the year for her Megan Thee Stallion-assisted No. 1 hit "WAP."

Cardi B didn't stay to accept the honor at the Microsoft Theater in Los Angeles, but Megan Thee Stallion rushed to the stage to pick up the award, forgetting to thank Cardi during her speech.

But the "Savage" rapper made up for it when she won best female hip-hop artist moments later.

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"I really forgot to say 'thank you Cardi' for even putting me on 'WAP' because it makes me feel so good to be acknowledged by one of my peers, who I think so highly of," said Megan Thee Stallion, who was the big winner of the night with four trophies. "I think so highly of all the women who was nominated in this category."

Along with celebrating female artists, the BET Awards also highlighted gay pride with a seductive performance by Lil Nas X and Queen Latifah, who thanked her reported partner and son when she accepted the Lifetime Achievement Award.

As she rattled on thank you's, she said: "Ebony, my love, Rebel, my love." The 51-year-old ended with: "Peace! Happy pride!"

Queen Latifah was honored for her illustrious career as a Grammy-winning rapper, a Golden Globe-winning actor and an Emmy-winning TV producer. Rapsody and Monie Love kicked off the tribute with a performance of "Ladies First," which was followed by Lil Kim and MC Lyte rapping the classic "U.N.I.T.Y."

Lil Nas X won over the crowd with his No. 1 hit "Montero (Call Me By Your Name)," which ended with the rapper locking lips with a male background dancer, as the crowd roared loudly. Some audience members jumped out of their seats in praise.

His stage was set in Ancient Egypt, much like Michael Jackson's "Remember the Time," which Lil Nas X paid tribute to with a skilled dance break during the performance.

Mothers were also saluted during the three-hour-plus show: Queen Latifah, who attended with her father, held a photo on her mother onstage; Megan Thee Stallion remembered her mother, who died in 2019, during her speech: "She can't be here with me today but I still think about her everyday and she is the reason why I keep going." And Jazmine Sullivan — who won album of the year for her critically acclaimed EP "Heaux Tales" — attended the show with her mother, who is battling cancer.

"My mom was diagnosed with breast cancer two years ago so we didn't see any of this happening, but God has been so faithful to us and my mom is in remission," she said. "This is my prize. This is my gift. It means more to me than anything that she's here with me. She supported me all my life."

The ceremony was dedicated to "the year of the Black woman," as actor and host Taraji P. Henson put at the top of the show. Rep. Maxine Waters said her signature phrase — "reclaiming my time" — before Sullivan hit the stage for a sultry, top-notch performance featuring fellow R&B singer Ari Lennox. The first award of the night went to Andra Day, who won best actress, while Darnella Frazier — the teenager who pulled out her cellphone and began recording when she saw George Floyd being pinned to the ground by a police officer — was given the Shine a Light Award.

Frazier didn't attend the awards show but the honor came weeks after she was awarded a special citation by the Pulitzer Prizes for her video that helped to launch a global movement to protest racial injustice.

H.E.R., who also wowed the audience with her performance, won best female R&B/pop artist. The Grammy winner told the crowd that it is "important for us to recognize each other and celebrate each other."

"If we don't, who else will?" she added.

Rapper Lil Baby won best male hip-hop artist and joined forces with gospel artist Kirk Franklin to kick off the show with a performance that got Issa Rae, Queen Latifah, DJ Khaled and Zendaya bouncing in their seats.

Swizz Beatz curated the tribute to DMX, who died in April at age 50. Performers included Busta Rhymes, Method Man, The Lox, Michael K. Williams and Griselda.

Other winners Sunday included Chris Brown, who won best male R&B/pop artist; Giveon, named best new artist; and Silk Sonic — the duo of Bruno Mars and Anderson .Paak — took home the best group award. Chadwick Boseman posthumously won best actor.

'Cops' creator Langley dies during off-road race in Mexico

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — John Langley, who was the creator of the long-running TV series "Cops," has died during a road race in Mexico, a family spokeswoman said.

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Langley died in Baja, Mexico, of an apparent heart attack Saturday during the Coast to Coast Ensenada-San Felipe 250 off-road race, family spokeswoman Pam Golum said. He was 78.

"Cops" was among the first reality series on the air when it debuted in 1989, and it would become an institution through 32 seasons. Langley and production partner Malcolm Barbour had shopped the idea for years, and found a home for it on the fledgling Fox network.

The show was famous for following police, from deputies in the Deep South to officers from big city police departments, on long, boring nights in patrol cars or in fevered foot chases.

Its quirks, including its often shirtless suspects and its reggae theme song "Bad Boys," were frequent fodder for standup comics and were often referenced in films, TV shows and songs.

It ran on Fox until 2013, when Viacom-owned Spike TV, later re-branded as The Paramount Network, picked it up.

It came under criticism for what was considered a slanted, pro-police perspective, and was permanently pulled from the air by Paramount last year during worldwide protests over the killing of George Floyd.

Some versions of the show still air internationally in syndication.

Langley was born in Oklahoma City and raised in Los Angeles. He graduated from California State University, Dominguez Hills, and served in the U.S. Army in the early 1960s.

Langley was also a producer on the 2009 film "Brooklyn's Finest," directed by Antoine Fuqua and starring Richard Gere and Don Cheadle, and on the non-fiction series "Jail," "Vegas Strip" and "Anatomy of a Crime."

He was an off-road racing enthusiast and frequently drove in events like the one he took part in Saturday.

Langley is survived by his son and producing partner, Morgan, who oversees their company Langley Productions; another son, Zak; two daughters, Sara Langley Dews and Jennifer Blair; his wife, Maggie, and seven grandchildren.

Families of the missing visit site of Florida condo collapse

By TERRY SPENCER and RUSS BYNUM Associated Press

SURFSIDE, Fla. (AP) — Families of the missing visited the scene of the Florida condo building collapse Sunday as rescuers kept digging through the mound of rubble and clinging to hope that someone could yet be alive somewhere under the broken concrete and twisted metal.

The death toll rose by just four people, to a total of nine confirmed dead. The latest four victims were identified Sunday night by police as Christina Beatriz Elvira, 74; Luis Bermudez, 26; Leon Oliwkowicz, 80; and Anna Ortiz, 46.

After almost four full days of search-and-rescue efforts, more than 150 additional people were still missing in Surfside. No one has been pulled alive from the pile since Thursday, hours after the collapse.

Some families had hoped their visit would allow them to shout messages to loved ones possibly buried deep inside the pile.

Buses brought several groups of relatives to a place where they could view the pile and the rescuers at work. As relatives returned to a nearby hotel, several paused to embrace as they got off the bus. Others walked slowly with arms around each other back to the hotel entrance.

"We are just waiting for answers. That's what we want," said Dianne Ohayon, whose parents, Myriam and Arnie Notkin were in the building. "It's hard to go through these long days and we haven't gotten any answers yet."

Israeli Diaspora Affairs Minister Nachman Shai, who visited with family members, led a humanitarian delegation to Surfside that included several Israeli experts in search-and-rescue operations. He said the experts have told him of cases where survivors were found after 100 hours or more.

"So don't lose hope, that's what I would say. But you have everyone understanding the longer it takes, the prospects of finding someone alive goes down," he said.

"If you watch the scene, you know it's almost impossible to find someone alive," Shai added. "But you never know. Sometimes miracles happen, you know? We Jews believe in miracles."

Rescuers sought to reassure families that they were doing as much as possible to find missing loved

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ones, but the crews said they needed to work carefully for the best chance of uncovering survivors.

Some relatives have been frustrated with the pace of rescue efforts.

"My daughter is 26 years old, in perfect health. She could make it out of there," one mother told rescuers during a weekend meeting with family members. A video of the meeting was posted by Instagram user Abigail Pereira.

"It's not enough," continued the mother, who was among relatives who pushed authorities to bring in experts from other countries to help. "Imagine if your children were in there."

Scores of rescue workers remained on the massive heap of rubble Sunday, searching for survivors but so far finding only bodies and human remains.

In a meeting with families Saturday evening, people moaned and wept as Miami-Dade Assistant Fire Chief Raide Jadallah explained why he could not answer their repeated questions about how many victims they had found.

"It's not necessarily that we're finding victims, OK? We're finding human remains," Jadallah said, according to the video posted on Instagram.

He noted the pancake collapse of the 12-story building, which had crumbled into a rubble pile that could be measured in feet. Those conditions have frustrated crews looking for survivors, he said.

Every time crews find remains, they clean the area and remove the remains. They work with a rabbi to ensure any religious rituals are done properly, Jadallah said.

If crews find any "artifacts," such as documents, pictures or money, they turn them over to police, officials said.

Alan Cominsky, chief of the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department, said they are holding out hope of finding someone alive, but they must be slow and methodical.

"The debris field is scattered throughout, and it's compact, extremely compact," he said.

Debris must be stabilized and shored up as they go.

"If there is a void space, we want to make sure we're given every possibility of a survivor. That's why we can't just go in and move things erratically, because that's going to have the worst outcome possible," he said.

In meetings with authorities, family members repeatedly pushed rescuers to do more. One asked why they could not surgically remove the largest pieces of cement with cranes, to try to uncover bigger voids where survivors might be found.

"There's not giant pieces that we can easily surgically remove," replied Maggie Castro, of the fire rescue agency.

"They're not big pieces. Pieces are crumbled, and they're being held together by the rebar that's part of the construction. So if we try to lift that piece, even as carefully, those pieces that are crumbling can fall off the sides and disturb the pile," Castro said.

She said they try to cut rebar in strategic places and remove large pieces, but that they have to remove them in a way that nothing will fall onto the pile.

"We are doing layer by layer," Castro said. "It doesn't stop. It's all day. All night."

Rescuers swept the mound with dogs trained to sniff out humans.

They also used a microwave radar device developed by NASA's Jet Propulsion Lab and the Department of Homeland Security that "sees" through up to 8 inches (20 centimeters) of solid concrete, according to Adrian Garulay, CEO of Spec Ops Group, which sells them. The suitcase-sized device can detect human respiration and heartbeats and was being deployed Sunday by a seven-member search-and-rescue team from Mexico's Jewish community.

Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said six to eight teams are actively searching the pile at any given time, with hundreds of team members on standby ready to rotate in. She said teams have worked around the clock since Thursday, and there was no lack of personnel.

Teams are also working with engineers and sonar to make sure the rescuers are safe.

Crews spent Saturday night digging a trench that stretches 125 feet long, 20 feet across and 40 feet

deep (38 meters long, 6 meters across and 12 meters deep), which, she said, allowed them to find more bodies and human remains.

Earl Tilton, who runs a search-and-rescue consulting firm in North Carolina, said rushing into the rubble without careful planning and execution would injure or kill rescuers and the people they are trying to save, said Tilton, who runs Lodestar Professional Services in Hendersonville, North Carolina.

"I understand the families' concerns on this. If it was my family member, I would want everyone in there pulling rubble away as fast as humanly possible," Tilton said. "But moving the wrong piece of debris at the wrong time could cause it to fall on them and crush them."

During past urban rescues, rescuers have found survivors as long as a week past the initial catastrophe, Tilton said.

Rescue workers identified an additional four bodies that had been recovered earlier, bringing the number of people unaccounted for to 152, the Miami-Dade mayor said Sunday.

Authorities are gathering DNA samples from family members to aid in identification. Late Saturday, four of the victims were identified as Stacie Dawn Fang, 54; Antonio Lozano, 83; Gladys Lozano, 79; and Manuel LaFont, 54.

Remembering the dead and missing in Florida condo collapse

By KELLI KENNEDY and MICHAEL TARM Associated Press

SURFSIDE, Fla. (AP) — Authorities have identified eight of the nine people confirmed to have died after the collapse of a 12-story beachfront condominium in Florida. About 150 others remained missing Sunday as rescuers painstakingly searched through the rubble of the Champlain Towers South. The Associated Press has been reporting brief descriptions of the victims.

The Miami-Dade Police Department said the dead include Stacie Dawn Fang, Manuel LaFont and Antonio and Gladys Lozano. Four more people who died were identified Sunday night as Christina Beatriz Elvira, 74; Luis Bermudez, 26; Leon Oliwkowicz, 80; and Anna Ortiz, 46.

The missing include Linda March, whose penthouse apartment was ripped apart, leaving her office chair next to the abyss; Elaine Sabino, a former baton twirler and flight attendant who stayed active as a belly dancer, and Claudio Bonnefoy, a second cousin of the former Chilean president.

LINDA MARCH

Among the missing was Linda March, who eagerly traded a cramped New York apartment for fresh air and ocean views after surviving a COVID-19 infection. She even bought a bright pink bicycle to cruise around Miami with, best friend Rochelle Laufer said.

March rented Penthouse 4, and was using the second bedroom of the furnished apartment as her office, Laufer told The Associated Press on Sunday.

Thursday's partial collapse of the condominium building left the penthouse's interior exposed, with bunk beds and an office chair still intact just inside the broken edge where the rest of the 12-story structure crumbled into a pile of debris.

Another friend, Dawn Falco, said she had been talking on the phone with March until just two hours before the disaster. Falco said she immediately began searching for word on her friend, who she said never leaves the house "without a smile."

"My heart is breaking as I see the office chair that she just purchased next to the bunkbeds," Falco said.

Florida was a new start for the 58-year-old attorney. In the past decade, she'd lost her sister and mother to cancer, her father died a few years later and she and her husband divorced. She had no children.

"She would say to me, 'I'm all alone. I don't have family,' and I would say, 'You're my sister, you don't have to be born sisters. And I said you always have me,'" Laufer recounted through tears.

Laufer said March loved the ocean views but hated the incessant noise from nearby construction and had decided to break her lease. "She was looking for another apartment when this happened," Laufer said sadly.

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Still, Laufer had been planning to visit her friend this fall.
"I joked I'm going to take the top bunk when I visit," she said.

THE PATEL FAMILY

The missing include Vishal Patel, his wife, Bhavna, and their 1-year-old daughter. Bhavna Patel is four months pregnant.

Vishal Patel's niece Sarina Patel told KABC-TV that she talked to her uncle on Father's Day, telling him that she had bought a ticket to go see the couple and meet their child. Since the building's collapse, her family has tried texting and calling, but hasn't heard back, she said.

"We're starting to prepare for the negative possibility, especially as the hours pass, but at the end of the day our family is very hopeful," she said. "I just keep praying they have found a pocket somewhere where they were able to seek shelter and just waiting to be found."

Sarina Patel said her aunt and uncle moved into the building two years ago. Her family is desperate for answers, she said.

"If they said they wanted volunteers, I would be on a plane and I would go start helping. Anything to make it go faster," she told KABC. "Miracles do happen," she said.

JUDY SPIEGEL

Rachel Spiegel is still waiting for word on her mother, 66-year-old Judy Spiegel, who lived for her family and would go to any length to show her love. She had been swimming with her two granddaughters this month when one of them remarked how much she wanted a specific Disney princess dress.

The dress was sold out, Rachel said, but the doting grandmother immediately began hunting across several stores until she found it.

"She's very thoughtful, she cared about the details," a tearful Rachel told The Associated Press. "She was certainly the matriarch of our family."

Her daughter joked that Judy was a terrible cook, but whenever anyone came to the house, she knew everyone's favorite foods and quirks and made sure everything was perfectly arranged. She never went a night without her beloved Ben and Jerry's chocolate ice cream, her daughter said.

She was also a passionate advocate for Holocaust awareness.

"My mom is an incredible person. She has the best heart and we need to find her."

ELAINE SABINO

Elaine Sabino, 70, treated others with the same care and kindness she displayed as a flight attendant for US Airways and JetBlue, her friend said.

"The main thing people know about Elaine is, she's always there to give you a hand in everything you're doing," her friend, Shelly Angle, told the Miami Herald. "She was the ultimate hostess, on the airplane, everywhere."

Sabino, who was in a penthouse on the 12th floor when the structure collapsed, is still missing.

Angle said her friend was staying active, and was an excellent jazz and belly dancer. Sabino graduated from the University of Florida, where she was a baton twirler on the Gatorette team. Later, she taught baton twirling and judged national competitions.

She had been complaining about construction on the roof of the condo building, her brother-in-law, Douglas Berdeaux, told The Washington Post. There has been no determination about what made the building crumble.

"She said she was worried that the ceiling was going to collapse on top of her bed," he said.

CLAUDIO and MARIA OBIAS BONNEFOY

The worried daughters of a Chilean man and his wife who lived on the 10th floor of Champlain Towers South arrived at the scene with growing anger over what they're learning about problems with the build-

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ing before it collapsed.

Sisters Anne Marie and Pascale Bonnefoy said their father Claudio Bonnefoy and his Filipino-American wife Maria Obias Bonnefoy had been spending little time in the apartment, and probably wouldn't have been among the missing if not for the pandemic.

Bonnefoy, an 85-year-old lawyer, is the second cousin of former Chilean President and High Commissioner for Human Rights Michelle Bachelet, and both he and his wife worked for international organizations, they said.

"We are just processing all this but this is starting to make me angry because reports from years ago reporting serious structural damage to the building are little by little being known," said Pascale Bonnefoy. "Notifications that have been ignored, or even that the building was built on wetlands, that the construction was with sand and that the salt began to corrode the iron."

RICHARD AUGUSTINE

Richard Augustine, 77, was just hours away from a flight to Chicago, where his daughter, Debbie Hill, had planned to pick him up at the airport.

Instead, she watched video of the condo collapse, and could see her dad's upper-floor unit plummeting, then disappearing in a cloud of dust.

"That was pretty scary to watch," she told Chicago's ABC7. "Immediately I tried to call him and his phone went straight to voicemail."

Augustine had just visited his son in California, and went back to his Florida home to repack for the weekend visit with his daughter.

Augustine grew up in the Chicago area and lived in the suburbs before moving to Florida, where he worked in the air freight industry and planned to retire in the fall.

Hill told FOX32 in Chicago that her father shared the apartment with a roommate, who also was still missing.

THE MORA FAMILY

Juan Mora Jr., who works for Morton Salt in Chicago, had been staying with his parents, Juan and Ana Mora, when the building collapsed.

Immigrants from Cuba and devout Catholics, they took their family on missionary trips to the Caribbean to build churches and bridges, said Jeanne Ugarte, a close friend of Ana's. Later, they became like second parents to Juan Jr.'s friends in Chicago, where their son has managed East Coast distribution for Morton Salt's road salt business, his friend Matthew Kaade said.

When the Moras came to visit, they would take all of Juan Jr.'s friends out to dinner. In Florida, they introduced Kaade to Cuban coffee and food, he said. "They were the kind of people that even if someone says 'I'm not hungry,' they would just continue to order food to make sure you had a full belly," he said.

Kaade, who graduated with Mora from Loyola University Chicago in 2011, said he texted this month saying he was planning to return to Chicago in early August.

"I was super excited to get him to come back," said Kaade. He described Juan Jr., an avid Chicago Cubs fan, as genuine and someone his friends could always rely on "to be real and straight" with them.

No matter what happens, a group of friends will travel down to Florida — hopefully to celebrate with Juan Jr. and his family when they are found — but sure to celebrate him either way, because that's what he would have wanted, Kaade said.

"No matter the outcome, it will be a celebration of his life," he said. "I keep saying your story is not over. ... I have hope that it will be Juan continuing his own story, but no matter what, I'll be there to be one of the many to help carry it on," he said.

STACIE DAWN FANG

Stacie Dawn Fang, 54, was with her son Jonah Handler, a teenager, when the building collapsed. They lived on the tenth floor. The boy's small hand waved through the wreckage as a man out walking his dog

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hurried to the site, climbed through a pile of glass and rebar and promised to get help right away.

Rescuers helped the boy out from under a pile of cement and carried him away on a stretcher to a hospital.

"There are no words to describe the tragic loss of our beloved Stacie," members of her family said in a statement. "Many heartfelt words of encouragement and love have served as a much needed source of strength during this devastating time."

Asked about the boy's condition, a family friend, Lisa Mozloom told the AP "He will be fine. He's a miracle."

MANUEL LAFONT

Manuel LaFont, 54, was a proud father, a baseball fan and a business consultant who lived on the building's eighth floor. He had a 10-year-old son and 13-year-old daughter with his ex-wife Adriana LaFont, the Miami Herald reported.

Adriana asked her friends on Facebook to pray the rosary for Manny before his body was found. "So many memories inside the walls that are no more today, forever engraved experiences in the heart," she wrote.

LaFont, a Houston native, coached his son's baseball team, the Astros, at North Shore Park, just a mile away from the Champlain. He was a parishioner at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Miami Beach. The parish's school parents gathered Saturday afternoon to pray for LaFont and his neighbors who were still missing.

An alumnus of Sharpstown High School in Houston, LaFont had worked across Latin America and the Caribbean for a manufacturing firm, leading a division focusing on roadway safety that built crash cushions and moveable barriers, the Herald reported.

"I got into this industry specifically because I don't want to sell widgets. I want to help people. I want to do something good in this world," he said at an industry conference in 2016. "When I die, I want to say that my life meant something."

ANTONIO AND GLADYS LOZANO

Antonio and Gladys Lozano lived on the ninth floor. The two had known each other over 60 years and would have celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on July 21.

Their sons told WPLG-TV that the couple had joked neither wanted to die before the other, because neither wanted to live without the other. Their one solace, the brothers said, was that they were together when they died.

Authorities confirmed on Saturday that Antonio, 83, and Gladys, 79, were among the dead.

Sergio Lozano said he had dinner with his parents hours before the collapse. He lived in one of the towers of the complex and could see his parents' apartment across the way from his. That night, he said he heard a loud noise they thought could be a storm.

"The building is not there," he said he told his wife. "My parents' apartment is not there. It's gone."

Unprecedented: Northwest heat wave builds, records fall

Associated Press undefined

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — Intense. Prolonged. Record-breaking. Unprecedented. Abnormal. Dangerous.

That's how the National Weather Service described the historic heat wave hitting the Pacific Northwest, pushing daytime temperatures into the triple digits, disrupting Olympic qualifying events and breaking all-time high temperature records in places unaccustomed to such extreme heat.

Portland, Oregon, reached 112 degrees Fahrenheit (44.4 Celsius) Sunday, breaking the all-time temperature record of 108 F (42.2C), which was set just a day earlier.

In Eugene, Oregon, the U.S. track and field trials were halted Sunday afternoon and fans were asked to evacuate the stadium due to extreme heat. The National Weather Service said it hit 110 F (43.3 C) in Eugene, breaking the all-time record of 108 F (42.2 C).

Oregon's Capital city, Salem, also recorded the highest temperature in its history on Sunday: 112 F (44.4 C), breaking the old mark by 4 degrees.

The temperature hit 104 F (40 C) in Seattle. The NWS said that was an all-time record for the city better

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known for rain than heat and was the first time the area recorded two consecutive triple digit days since records began being kept in 1894.

Records were being broken across the region, and the sizzling temperatures were expected to get even hotter Monday before beginning to cool Tuesday.

There were also some power outages. Portland General Electric said about 3,000 customers were without electricity in the greater Portland area Sunday afternoon. Puget Sound Energy reported 3,400 customers down in the greater Seattle area.

The heat wave stretched into British Columbia, with the temperature in Lytton, a village in the Canadian province, reaching 115 F (46.1 C) Sunday afternoon, marking a new all-time high recorded in Canada.

A heat warning is in effect for most of Western Canada and the country's weather agency says numerous daily temperature records have been shattered across British Columbia, which is directly north of Washington state.

It got so hot in Seattle Sunday the city parks department closed a community pool in the southern portion of the city because of "unsafe, dangerous pool deck temperatures."

King County closed several COVID-19 testing sites because of the heat. Seattle opened additional public library branches Sunday, and will again Monday, to provide additional cooling centers, The Seattle Times reported.

Seattle's light rail trains may have to operate at reduced speeds because of excessive heat on the tracks, causing delays that could continue into the work week, Sound Transit said Sunday.

The heat wave also moved into Idaho, where temperatures above 100 F (38 C) are forecast in Boise for at least seven days starting Monday. Ontario, Oregon — a city near the Idaho border — could see at least a week of triple-digit temperatures, including a high of 109 F (42.8 C) Wednesday, forecasters said.

Cities were reminding residents where pools, splash pads and cooling centers were available and urging people to stay hydrated, check on their neighbors and avoid strenuous activities.

Still, about 3,000 athletes participated in an Ironman Triathlon in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, on Sunday. The race start was moved up to 5 a.m. The event includes a 2.4-mile swim, a 112-mile bike ride and a 26.2-mile marathon run (a 3.9-kilometer swim, a 180-kilometer bike ride and a 42-kilometer run).

Race organizers said they had 62,000 pounds (28,000 kilograms) of ice at hydration stations, misting stations and chilled towels to hand out to athletes, KHQ-TV reported.

The Coeur d'Alene Fire Department brought in extra firefighters and paramedics because they usually see extra dehydration calls during the event. Rather than a crew of 17 firefighters, they had a crew of 60 on Sunday, KREM-TV reported.

Ironman medical tent coordinator Stan Foster said 525 people were in the medical tent during the 2015 Ironman, when temperatures also rose into the 100s. Five people went to the hospital, he told KREM-TV.

"The biggest thing that we tell people is, No. 1, don't try to set a record on your race. Go slow. Enjoy your day. It's going to be hot," he said. "And then don't just drink water."

The National Weather Service in Coeur d'Alene said this week's weather "will likely be one of the most extreme and prolonged heat waves in the recorded history of the Inland Northwest."

The scorching weather was caused by an extended "heat dome" parked over the Pacific Northwest. Kristie Ebi, a professor at the University of Washington who studies global warming and its effects on public health, says the dayslong heat wave was a taste of the future as climate change reshapes global weather patterns.

The high temperatures were forecast to move into western Montana beginning Monday.

Before building collapse, \$9M+ in repairs needed

By CURT ANDERSON and BERNARD CONDON Associated Press

Owners of units in a Florida oceanfront condo building that collapsed with deadly consequences were just days away from a deadline to start making steep payments toward more than \$9 million in major repairs that had been recommended nearly three years earlier.

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That cost estimate, from the Morabito Consultants engineering firm in 2018, meant owners at Champlain Towers South were facing payments of anywhere from \$80,000 for a one-bedroom unit to \$330,000 or so for a penthouse, to be paid all at once or in installments. Their first deadline was July 1.

One resident whose apartment was spared, Adalberto Aguero, had just taken out a loan to cover his \$80,000 bill.

"I figured I would pay it off after they fixed the building. I didn't want to pay it off before because you never know," said Aguero, adding that he pulled paperwork to make the installment payments a day after Thursday's collapse. "I said cancel everything."

An itemized bill sent by the condo board in April to owners of the building's 136 units showed that much of the planned work was in the pool area and the façade. Installing new pavers and waterproofing the pool deck and building entrance would cost \$1.8 million, with another \$1 million going to "structural repairs" and "planter landscaping," according to a condo board email obtained by The Associated Press. A line item of "miscellaneous repairs" that included work on the garage was estimated to cost \$280,000.

Total costs assessed, including many items that appeared to be for aesthetic purpose: \$15 million.

Engineers and construction experts say the Morabito documents that focused just on the structural work make clear there were several major repairs that needed to be done as soon as possible. Other than some roof repairs, that work had not begun, officials said.

The cost estimate emailed by Morabito Consultants to Surfside officials was among a series of documents released as rescue efforts continued at the site of the collapsed building, where more than 150 people remained unaccounted for. At least nine people were killed in the collapse, authorities said Sunday.

Another 2018 Morabito report submitted to the city said waterproofing under the pool deck had failed and had been improperly laid flat instead of sloped, preventing water from draining off.

"The failed waterproofing is causing major structural damage to the concrete structural slab below these areas. Failure to replace the waterproofing in the near future will cause the extent of the concrete deterioration to expand exponentially," the report said.

The firm recommended that the damaged slabs be replaced in what would be a major repair.

That came as news to Susana Alvarez, who lived on the 10th floor of the doomed tower and said a Surfside official assured residents in a 2018 meeting that there was no danger. It wasn't clear who that official was.

"The Town of Surfside told us the building was not in bad shape. That is what they said," Alvarez said on National Public Radio's Weekend Edition program. "No one ever told us that building was in such bad shape."

A daughter of Claudio Bonnefoy, a resident from Chile who is missing, said it appears that someone ignored key signals the building was in danger.

"This is starting to make me angry because reports from years ago reporting serious structural damage to the building are little by little being known," said the daughter, Pascale Bonnefoy. "It seems this was predictable because the technicians alerted (others about it) and nobody did anything."

The Morabito firm said in a statement that it was hired in June 2020 by Champlain Towers South to begin the 40-year recertification process required of all buildings in Miami-Dade County that reach that age. The Champlain building was constructed in 1981.

"At the time of the building collapse, roof repairs were under way, but concrete restoration had not yet begun," the statement said.

An attorney for the Champlain Towers South condominium association, which was in charge of the repair work, did not immediately respond Sunday to an email seeking comment. Surfside officials also did not respond to an email seeking comment.

A new batch of emails from building officials and condo board members that were made public Sunday has added to the mystery.

In one email, a Surfside official praised the building's board for plans to start the 40-year recertification process early after attending a November 2018 meeting.

"This particular building is not due to begin their forty year until 2021 but they have decided to start the process early which I wholeheartedly endorse and wish that this trend would catch on with other proper-

ties," said Surfside Building Official Ross Prieto.

A few months later, a board member wrote to Prieto that workers next door were digging "too close to our property, and we have concerns regarding the structure of our building."

Prieto wrote back to monitor a nearby fence, the building's pool and adjacent areas for damage.

Surfside has hired Allyn Kilsheimer of KCE Structural Engineers to consult on the Champlain Towers disaster. Surfside officials say Kilsheimer has worked on numerous such cases, including the World Trade Center after the 9/11 attacks and the collapse of a pedestrian bridge at Florida International University.

Stephanie Walkup, an engineering professor at Villanova University, said it will take time to pinpoint the cause — or series of causes — that brought down Champlain Towers South.

"The ultimate cause of the collapse may have been related to design error, construction error, deterioration or other event," Walkup said in an email.

"We all want answers and engineers will want to learn from this collapse as we have others, but we want to make sure we have the right ones," she added.

Whoa, Nelly! A major title for Korda and No. 1 world ranking

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

JOHNS CREEK, Ga. (AP) — First came the tears when Nelly Korda hugged her older sister and didn't want to let go. That was followed by the spray of champagne on the 18th green to celebrate a day that will be hard for her to top even at age 22.

With one round, she became a major champion for the first time and reached No. 1 in the world.

"Is this week even real?" Korda said. "It's amazing."

Just like her performance Sunday in the KPMG Women's PGA Championship.

Korda powered her way to a pair of eagles that wore down Lizette Salas at Atlanta Athletic Club and put an American atop the world ranking for the first time in seven years.

Korda nearly holed out with a 7-wood from 243 yards for a tap-in eagle. She seized control by using her length from that graceful swing, leaving her a 6-iron into the par-5 12th hole that narrowly cleared the water and set up an 8-foot eagle putt.

The final stroke was a 15-foot par putt for a 4-under 68 and a three-shot victory over Salas.

"The past few days, the battle with Lizette, it's been a lot of fun. It's been stressful. I think it's had everything," Korda said. "But I just can't believe it. I'm still in shock."

At 19-under 269, she tied the Women's PGA record to par last matched by Inbee Park at Westchester Country Club in 2015.

Korda won for the second straight week — her third LPGA title this year — and it was enough to become the first American at No. 1 in the women's world ranking since Stacy Lewis in 2014.

Jin Young Ko had held the No. 1 spot for nearly two years.

Her only mistake came when it didn't matter.

Korda seized control with a 6-iron she caught heavy enough to worry it might not clear the pond on the par-5 12th and was relieved when it rolled out to 8 feet for eagle. That turned into a three-shot swing when Salas — who spent the weekend hitting hybrids on holes that Korda had short irons — hit wedge over the green into a bunker and made bogey.

"That was my favorite wedge, too," Salas said. "The good thing is I was committed to that shot. This wind is pretty swirly. Maybe a little drop-kick, I don't know. Got a few extra yards out of it."

Korda made an 18-foot birdie putt on No. 14 to stretch her lead to five shots with four holes to play, only to end 49 consecutive holes without a bogey by hitting into the water on the par-3 15th for a double bogey.

But she steadied herself with a pair of pars and played it conservatively down the par-5 closing hole over water.

Korda's older sister, Jessica, was among the first to embrace her on the 18th green as the emotions began to emerge.

Jessica finished much earlier — they shared a hug as Nelly was teeing off and Jessica was making the

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turn — though the older sibling had another reason to celebrate. She easily held down the fourth American spot for the Olympics in Japan.

It was a big celebration for one of the top sporting families in the world. The Korda sisters each have six LPGA victories. Their younger brother, Sebastian, is at Wimbledon this week as the 50th-ranked player in men's tennis and has a chance to join them in Tokyo for the Olympics.

Their father is Petr Korda, who won the Australian Open in tennis in 1998.

"You don't realize it until someone really talks about it because we're always so in the zone," Korda said of the family success. "We're always just striving to achieve more, and for our family just to back each other through every situation ... it's so surreal."

Salas, who felt a burden lifted this week when she opened up about emotional struggles exposed during the COVID-19 pandemic, closed with a 71 and made Korda work for it.

They started the final round tied for the lead, five clear of anyone else, and it was up for grabs until the pivotal 12th hole.

Korda took the lead for good with a birdie on the third hole. Even after he eagle on the fifth, Salas bounced back with a tee shot on the reachable par-4 sixth that set up birdie to close the gap to one shot.

But it all turned so quickly. Salas had a 15-foot birdie putt on the 10th to tie for the lead. Two holes later, she was four shots behind against a player who was not about to let Salas back in the game.

"She played great, and there's nothing I could have done differently to change her game plan, and that says a lot about her," Salas said. "I'm just lucky she's on the American side for that Solheim Cup."

Korda is the first American to win a major since Angela Stanford three years ago in the Evian, and it extended a big year for U.S. women's golf. Americans have won six times on the LPGA Tour this season. South Korea and Thailand are next with two apiece.

With virtual and in-person events, NYC commemorates Pride

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City's annual LGBTQ Pride parade was held virtually for the second year in a row Sunday due to the pandemic, but that didn't stop thousands from marching, celebrating and making their presence felt at a series of events around the city.

The main New York City Pride parade, which usually draws throngs of participants and spectators, was presented as a television broadcast special, since now-lifted pandemic restrictions were still in effect at the time it was being planned.

In a pre-recorded video aired during the event, actor Wilson Cruz, one of the parade's grand marshals, said, "Pride for me is about how we work in earnest to truly include all of us across the spectrum of identities in our struggle for freedom and liberation."

On a day marked with high temperatures and brilliant sunshine, throngs gathered around the city, at PrideFest, a street fair with vendors, food and entertainment in Manhattan; at Herald Square where a dance party was planned, and at Washington Square Park, where videos posted online showed a raucous party in progress. Fireworks, music and food were prepared for Pier 45 in Hudson River Park.

Sean Gannon from Maplewood, New Jersey, attended with his husband and two 3-year-old sons.

"It's such an important thing for them to see that they have two dads and that there are other people that have two moms, two dads, single dads, single moms," Gannon told WCBS Radio. "There are all different ways that families are made up, so it's really awesome to be able to share this experience with them today."

For people looking to march for LGBTQ rights, the Reclaim Pride Coalition held its third Queer Liberation March from Bryant Park to the Stonewall National Monument and into Washington Square Park. The liberation march event does not allow police or corporate participation.

New York City's gay pride parades began in 1970 to commemorate the 1969 Stonewall uprising, which started after a police raid on a Manhattan gay bar.

The Stonewall Inn is still there, now under different owners.

French far right beaten in regional elections

PARIS (AP) — Mainstream candidates delivered a stinging setback to France's far right in regional elections Sunday, thwarting its hopes of winning control of a region for the first time and slowing its momentum ahead of the presidential contest next year.

National Rally leader Marine Le Pen quickly conceded that the far-right, anti-immigration party failed to win any of mainland France's 12 regions. She immediately looked forward to next year's presidential vote, saying it "appears more than ever to be the election that allows for changes of politics and politicians."

Le Pen complained that the organization of the two rounds of voting over successive weekends had been "disastrous and erratic." Still, the National Rally's showing in Sunday's decisive runoffs suggested that the party remains anathema to many voters. It accrued no more than 20% of votes nationally, the Ifop polling agency calculated, trailing both the mainstream right and the combined showing of green and leftist candidates.

Most notably, the National Rally was roundly beaten in the southeast, the region that had been seen as its best chance of securing a breakthrough victory in the balloting for regional councils.

As in previous national and local elections, voters put political differences aside in coming together to prevent a National Rally breakthrough.

Mainstream candidates crowed that they had delivered painful blows to the far-right party previously named the National Front. No region changed camps, with the right keeping the seven it had previously and the left still in control of the other five, according to official results and polling agencies' projections.

On the right, winning incumbent Xavier Bertrand crowed that the National Rally wasn't only "stopped" in his region, the Hauts-de-France in the north, but "we made it retreat greatly."

Another winner on the right, Laurent Wauquiez, said the far right had been left "no room to prosper" in his region, Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes.

Although focused on local issues, and marked by record-low turnout, the regional voting was scrutinized as a test of whether the National Rally is gaining in acceptability. Le Pen has spent a decade trying to cast off the extremist reputation that repelled many French voters in the party's previous guise as the National Front. The party's renewed failure to win a region suggested that Le Pen and her party remain unpalatable to many before the 2022 presidential vote.

But voter interest was also tepid, at best, with only one-third turning out. Among the few who cast ballots, some lamented that young voters, in particular, appeared to be squandering the last voting opportunity before the 2022 presidential poll.

"It's shameful," said Suzette Lefèvre, a retiree who voted in Saint-Quentin in northern France. "Our parents fought for us for this and people aren't following suit."

Philippe Corbonnois, another retiree who turned out in Saint-Quentin, opined that young people "maybe don't believe in politics."

A record-low turnout of 33% in the first round of voting June 20 proved particularly damaging for the National Rally and Le Pen's hopes of securing a regional breakthrough.

Polls had suggested Le Pen's party had some momentum. But that wasn't borne out at the ballot box. A major question in the runoff had been whether voters would band together to keep Le Pen's party out of power as they did in the past, repulsed by her anti-immigration and anti-European Union populism and the racist, anti-Semitic image that clung to the National Front, which was founded by her father, Jean-Marie Le Pen.

The party dominated the first round of the last regional elections in 2015, but also collapsed in the runoff as parties and voters joined together against it.

Yabba dabba dispute resolved. Fred Flintstone can stay

HILLSBOROUGH, Calif. (AP) — Fred Flintstone fought the law — and he won.

Technically, the owner of the fanciful Flintstones house in a posh San Francisco suburb settled a lawsuit with the town of Hillsborough. But the agreement will allow Fred and his friends to remain.

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In a yabba dabba dispute that pitted property rights against government rules that played out in international media, retired publishing mogul Florence Fang defended her colorful, bulbous-shaped house and its elaborate homage to "The Flintstones" family, featuring Stone Age sculptures inspired by the 1960s cartoon, along with aliens and other oddities.

The town, however, called the towering dinosaurs and life-size sculptures "a highly visible eyesore" and sued Fang, alleging she violated local codes when she put dinosaur sculptures in the backyard and made other landscaping changes that caused local officials to declare it a public nuisance.

An attorney for the town previously said residents are required to get a permit before installing such sculptures, regardless of the theme.

Hillsborough went to court in 2019 after Fang failed to comply with multiple stop-work orders, as well as an order to remove the features around the multimillion-dollar property with its 2,730-square-foot (254-square-meter) home. Fang counter-sued. The Daily Post in Palo Alto first reported news of the settlement on Thursday.

Mark Hudak, an attorney for Hillsborough, previously said the town prides itself on its rural, woodsy feel, and rules are in place "so neighbors don't have to look at your version of what you would like to have, and you don't have to look at theirs."

According to records, the settlement stipulates that the town will review and approve a survey of the landscaping improvements. In turn, Fang will apply for building permits. The town will also pay Fang \$125,000, and she will drop the lawsuit — which was dismissed in state court on April 27.

No news on Barney Rubble's role in the matter.

'F9' puts charge back into movie theaters with \$70M opening

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In the strongest sign yet that life is left in movie theaters, "F9" sped to a box office take of \$70 million in its first weekend, the biggest opening for a film since the pandemic began, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The ninth installment in the "Fast & Furious" franchise, starring franchise regulars Vin Diesel and Michelle Rodriguez, opened only in theaters and had the widest release of any movie since the start of the coronavirus crisis.

The domestic total for Universal Pictures' "F9" topped the previous pandemic-best of \$48.4 million for "A Quiet Place Part II" four weeks ago. It was the biggest opening of any film since "Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker" in December 2019.

"We couldn't be more gratified to see that the audience embraced the 'Fast' family and came out to see 'F9' in tremendous numbers," said Jim Orr, head of distribution for Universal. "The debut this weekend has really ignited the domestic box office and set it on a tremendous path for the rest of the year."

"A Quiet Place Part II" came in a very distant second with \$6.2 million. But it has now earned \$136.4 million since its release. "The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard" brought in \$4.88 million in the third spot.

"F9," whose release was delayed several times, looks to have landed on just the right weekend to open in North America. It seemed to be a fitting film for the industry moment, with young audiences eager to be in theaters for a movie that emphasizes a loud, action-packed, immersive experience.

"It's the perfect intersection of growing consumer confidence and vaccinations in North America, with movies that have already been released creating momentum," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "I don't think you could have imagined a better scenario for the industry, with a few speed bumps in there. With 'Furious 9' being really the first summer blockbuster in two years."

"F9" debuted internationally on May 19, and has now grossed more than \$400 million globally.

Universal eschewed the hybrid approach of combining theatrical and streaming releases, as Disney did earlier in the year with "Cruella" and Warner Bros. did with "Godzilla vs. Kong."

It also came after most major theater chains have significantly loosened restrictions on capacity and masking.

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The trends suggest that Hollywood might have something resembling a regular summer movie season, albeit one that starts months late and won't be setting any industry records.

Releases in the coming weeks include Disney and Marvel's "Black Widow" and Warner Bros.' "The Suicide Squad." Studios are using a variety of hybrid release plans. While the time movies spend between theaters and streaming has shrunk, probably permanently, there is an increasing emphasis back on the big screen.

"It's a delayed start to a summer that's been a long time coming. To have late June be ostensibly the start of summer is unusual, but better late than never," Dergarabedian said. "A big Fourth of July weekend is coming up, with virtually every genre represented, and a week later we have 'Black Widow,' so we're on the road to recovery."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included.

1. "F9," \$70 million, (\$334.9 million international).
2. "A Quiet Place Part II," \$6.2 million, (\$112.1 million international).
3. "The Hitman's Wife's Bodyguard," \$4.88 million, (\$14.5 million international).
4. "Peter Rabbit 2: The Runaway," \$4.85 million, (\$79 million international).
5. "Cruella," \$3.7 million, (\$112.5 million international).
6. "The Conjuring: The Devil Made Me Do It," \$2.9 million, (\$101.5 million international).
7. "In The Heights," \$2.2 million, (\$5.9 million international).
8. "Spirit Untamed," \$591,917.
9. "12 Mighty Orphans," \$560,000.
10. "Nobody," \$229,000.

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton on Twitter: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton>

Report: Classified UK defense papers found at bus stop

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Sensitive defense documents containing details about the British military have been found at a bus stop in England, the BBC reported Sunday.

The papers included plans for a possible U.K. military presence in Afghanistan, as well as discussion about the potential Russian reaction to the British warship HMS Defender's travel through waters off the Crimean coast last week, the BBC said.

The broadcaster said a member of the public who wanted to remain unnamed contacted it when they found the pile of documents — about 50 pages in all — in a soggy heap Tuesday behind a bus stop in Kent, southeast of London.

The Ministry of Defense said an employee had reported the loss of the documents last week. It did not provide details about the incident or confirm the documents were found at a bus stop.

"The Ministry of Defense was informed last week of an incident in which sensitive defence papers were recovered by a member of the public," it said in a statement. "The department takes the security of information extremely seriously and an investigation has been launched."

"The department takes the security of information extremely seriously and an investigation has been launched," it said in a statement. "It would be inappropriate to comment further."

John Healey, the defense spokesman for the opposition Labour party, said the incident was both embarrassing and worrying.

"Ministers must be able to confirm to the public that national security has not been undermined, that no military or security operations have been affected and that the appropriate procedures are in place to ensure nothing like this happens again," he said.

The HMS Defender upset Russia's military on Wednesday when it sailed south of the Crimean Peninsula in a Black Sea area that Moscow claims as its territorial waters. Many nations, including the U.K., do not accept Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine and consider that area to be Ukrainian waters.

Russia said one of its warships fired warning shots in response to the destroyer's intrusion, but Britain denied that account and said the warship was not in Russian waters. The U.K.'s Ministry of Defense said the ship was "conducting innocent passage through Ukrainian territorial waters in accordance with international law."

The documents showed officials conducted high-level discussions before Wednesday's clash about how Russia may react if HMS Defender sailed close to Crimea, the BBC said.

Bipartisan infrastructure deal back on track after walk-back

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bipartisan deal to invest nearly \$1 trillion in the nation's infrastructure appeared to be back on track Sunday after a stark walk-back by President Joe Biden to his earlier insistence that the bill be coupled with an even larger Democrat-backed measure in order to earn his signature.

Republican senators who brokered the agreement with the White House and Democrats to fund badly needed investments in roads, bridges, water and broadband internet indicated they were satisfied with Biden's comments that he was dropping the both-or-nothing approach. In a statement issued Saturday after 48 hours of behind-the-scenes maneuvering by the White House to salvage the deal, Biden said it was not his "intent" to suggest he was issuing a veto threat on the bill.

That proved to be enough for some wavering Republicans, who have privately and not-so-privately registered their displeasure at the linkage.

"Over the weeks and weeks in negotiations with Democrats and with the White House on an infrastructure bill, the president's other agenda was never linked to the infrastructure effort," Utah Republican Sen. Mitt Romney said on CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday. He said that if Biden had not put out the statement, "I think it would have been very, very hard for Republicans to say, yes, we support this."

"We're not going to sign up for a multitrillion-dollar spending spree," he added, referencing the larger Democratic bill.

Romney said he believed there was now sufficient GOP support in the Senate to reach the 60-vote threshold to overcome a potential filibuster and pass the bipartisan package. Another GOP negotiator, Sen. Bill Cassidy of Louisiana, even predicted that Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, who has staked out a path back to the majority relying in large part on stiff opposition to the Biden agenda, would even support the final bill.

"If we can pull this off, I think Mitch will favor it," he said on NBC's "Meet the Press." "I think Leader McConnell will be for it, if it continues to come together as it is."

Montana Sen. Jon Tester, a Democrat, predicted the measure would draw more than the minimum 10 Republican senators needed to pass the bipartisan accord in the 50-50 Senate, where 60 votes are required to advance most bills, but he said there would likely be "bumps in the road" along the way.

"We'll work those problems," he said on CBS News' "Face The Nation." "I think we'll get far more than 60 votes."

The bipartisan accord has been a key priority for Biden as he tries to deliver on a campaign promise to restore bipartisan cooperation to Washington and to show centrist Democrats and others that the White House was working with Republicans before Biden tries to push the broader package through Congress.

The two measures were always expected to move together through Congress: the bipartisan plan and a second bill that would advance under special rules allowing for passage solely with majority Democrats' votes and is now swelling to as much as \$6 trillion. Biden reiterated that was his plan on Saturday but said he was not conditioning one on the other.

"So to be clear," his statement said, "our bipartisan agreement does not preclude Republicans from attempting to defeat my Families Plan; likewise, they should have no objections to my devoted efforts to pass that Families Plan and other proposals in tandem."

Still, it remained to be seen what impact Biden's comments would have on progressive lawmakers in the House and Senate, who have pushed Biden not to moderate his agenda in pursuit of bipartisanship.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., has said her chamber would not take up the bipartisan proposal until the Senate first acted on the larger Democrat-backed bill.

"I think it's very important for the president to know that House progressives, and I believe, you know, the Democratic Caucus, is here to ensure that he doesn't fail," New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez said on "Meet the Press." "And we're here to make sure that he is successful in making sure that we do have a larger infrastructure plan."

"It's very important that we pass a reconciliation bill and a Families Plan that expands child care, that lowers the cost of Medicare, that supports families in the economy," she added.

Pressed on whether Biden was serious about signing the bipartisan bill without the Democratic one, White House senior adviser Cedric Richmond said Biden's words "speak for themselves."

"I don't think it's a yes-or-no question," he said on CNN's "State of the Union." "We expect to have both bills in front of us to sign. And I expect that President Biden will sign the infrastructure bill, he will sign the Families Plan."

Biden was set to travel to Wisconsin on Tuesday for the first stop on a nationwide tour to promote the infrastructure package, the White House said.

UK government accused of hypocrisy as health minister quits

By SYLVIA HUI Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's health secretary has resigned after a tabloid splashed photos and videos of him kissing an aide in his office — breaking the same coronavirus social distancing rules he imposed on the nation.

While Matt Hancock was swiftly replaced, the scandal was another blow to Prime Minister Boris Johnson and his Conservative government, which has repeatedly come under criticism for incompetence and hypocrisy in its handling of the pandemic over the past year.

"People have made huge sacrifices to beat the pandemic and what riles them is the whiff of hypocrisy that people make the rules and don't stick to them themselves," Conservative lawmaker Andrew Bridgen told the BBC on Sunday.

Hancock announced his resignation Saturday, a day after apologizing for breaching social distancing rules after the Sun tabloid published images showing him and senior aide Gina Coladangelo embracing and kissing in his office. The Sun said the images were taken on May 6, before lockdown rules were eased to allow hugs and physical contact with people not in one's own household.

Hancock, who is married, wasn't the first senior British politician caught red-handed for breaking the government's own COVID-19 rules.

Johnson's former top aide, Dominic Cummings, was accused of undermining the government's "stay home" message during Britain's first lockdown in 2020 when he broke a travel ban and drove across England to his parents' home. The breach caused a furor and was widely seen to erode public trust in Johnson's government.

And Neil Ferguson, a leading government scientific adviser who advocated for strict lockdown rules, quit his position in May 2020 after it emerged he didn't practice what he preached and allowed his girlfriend to visit him at home. At the time, Hancock remarked that the social distancing rules in place "are there for everyone" and are "deadly serious."

On Sunday, many questioned why Johnson publicly stood by Hancock after evidence of the latest rule breach emerged. Johnson had expressed confidence in the health minister, and his office said he had considered the matter closed after Hancock's apology, despite widespread calls to fire him.

"Boris Johnson should have had the guts, the spine, the awareness, the judgment, to sack him on Friday," said Jonathan Ashworth, the opposition Labour Party's health spokesman.

Hancock had come under fire for his leadership in the government's response to the pandemic long before the publishing of the intimate photos.

He was accused of cronyism for hiring his friend, businesswoman Dido Harding, to run the much-criticized

national test and trace system. Questions were also raised after the government awarded a lucrative coronavirus testing contract to a company run by a pub landlord near Hancock's former constituency home. Hancock has denied involvement in the contract.

Some are now also asking how Coladangelo, a close friend of Hancock's from university, landed her job as a non-executive director at the Department of Health.

The scandal came on the back of wider accusations from the opposition about "sleaze" in the Conservative party. Last month, former Prime Minister David Cameron was called before lawmakers to answer questions about lobbying work he did to win government funds for a now-bankrupt financial services company.

Lucy Powell, a Labour lawmaker, said the fact that Hancock wasn't fired reflected poorly on Johnson's judgment.

"I'm afraid it feels to me that the prime minister has a very dangerous blind spot when it comes to issues of integrity and conduct in public life," she told Sky News. "That's a really big problem and it's an even bigger problem when you're in the middle of a pandemic and you're asking the public to also have integrity and conduct in the way that they go about with their own lives."

End to COVID-19 hotel housing for homeless raises worries

By KELLI KENNEDY and LISA RATHKE Associated Press Writers

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Everyone on the streets knows "Sir Charles," the skinny guy with the saxophone, sunglasses, felt hat and megawatt smile. At a gig this week at the iconic Elbo Room beach bar, he danced with a soda in his hand as the bouncers teased him, the ladies applauded and patrons slipped a few dollars into his tip jar.

But after the magic of a street musician's nightlife wore off, the 63-year-old returned to a seedy Fort Lauderdale motel, laid his head on a pillow and wondered how many nights he had left with a roof over his head.

Charles Adams has spent the last three months living at a motel paid for with federal money aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19 by taking homeless residents off the streets. But as hotels reopen to tourists and funding wanes, tens of thousands of homeless nationwide are being forced from the motels.

Several cities like New Orleans ended their programs months ago amid financing shortages. Experts warn there aren't enough shelter beds, which means sending many back on the streets. In one Vermont community, social workers are offering camping equipment to some homeless people no longer eligible to stay at motels come month's end.

Cities drew from various federal pots to fund the homeless hotels. The Federal Emergency Management Agency extended its funding through September, but the approval process is so arduous that many jurisdictions are not taking advantage of it.

The crunch comes as millions across the country face uncertainty over the end of a federal freeze on most evictions on July 31. The ban kept many people from being turned onto the streets during the pandemic, yet it also artificially kept many units off the market meaning less long-term housing for those already homeless.

City officials and advocacy groups are working to secure housing for the homeless leaving hotels, but it's challenging. Big cities like Los Angeles and San Francisco, which put up at least 10,000 and 2,000 people respectively, face staffing shortages to help with logistics like securing the required ID documents and background checks, said Samantha Batko, senior researcher at the Urban Institute.

Additional federal resources are coming, including tens of billions of dollars from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, but it takes time to set up new programs. Experts warn there will be a lag.

"Those programs are in the process of being rolled out now, and all of those resources are not in hand in communities," Batko said.

At the Fort Lauderdale motel, Adams gets free lunches and dinners, clean linens and doesn't have to hunt for a place to shower before a gig. A caseworker at the motel, which the city requested not be named because it's now open for tourists, works on scheduling mental health appointments and other social services.

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Fort Lauderdale housed roughly 130 people in motels last summer until it shuttered the program amid funding shortages. Tents quickly sprang up, and the city restarted the program in April, spending \$1.2 million overall.

Adams is one of roughly 50 homeless people still at the Fort Lauderdale motel. He was on the street for a year before that.

"I didn't get a lot of sleep. I lost a lot of weight," he said.

The motel program was supposed to end a few weeks ago, "but we don't want to put people back on the street," said city spokeswoman Ashley Doussard. "We're having a really difficult time finding places for them to go."

Families were prioritized first. That left single men like Adams. His caseworker told him he may have to go to a shelter in a couple weeks.

Gazing at his polished saxophone in its case, Adams shook his head.

"I don't like it, the filthiness, thieves, drug dealers, drug addicts," he said of shelters. "I can't be around people like that."

The shades were still on, as always, but in a rare moment the cool cat admitted he's worried: "I don't have any other place to go."

It's a stressful picture unfolding in cities nationwide for many homeless Americans who found themselves with a stable address, often for the first time in years, during COVID-19.

New York City is moving roughly 9,000 homeless people out of hotels and back into traditional shelters now that hotels are filling with tourists.

Placing the homeless in hotels is far more expensive than congregant housing and was always a stop-gap. Some states used federal pandemic money to buy hotels to use as shelters or convert into more permanent housing. California and Oregon have already acquired some and King County, Washington, is doing the same.

New Orleans housed 618 homeless people in hotels during the pandemic in a program financed by the city and state, but it ended in November amid struggles with reimbursement funding.

About 75% were placed in permanent housing, some went to emergency shelters and 87 returned to the street, joining a growing number of homeless caused by the pandemic, said Martha Kegel, executive director of the nonprofit UNITY of Greater New Orleans. The latest count from January showed nearly 500 people living on the streets of The Big Easy.

In Berlin, Vermont, David Moran will have to leave his temporary home Wednesday at the Hilltop Inn. It's been a convenient spot next to his job at an Applebee's restaurant, and he wishes the voucher program would be extended.

"I'm not going to be able to get a shower on a regular basis, which around food is not a good thing," he said. "I think there should be more available funds for people that are really trying."

Ivy LeGrand and her boyfriend camped outdoors before getting a room at the motel. Now the 35-year-old says they may have no choice but to again live in a tent.

Vermont spent \$79 million on hotel vouchers, housing up to 2,000 households on some nights, but the program was not financially sustainable. The state has extended it 84 days for families with children, the disabled and other vulnerable, and is giving \$2,500 checks to those no longer eligible. It's also investing \$120 million to expand shelter beds and find more permanent housing.

The past year in the motel was a blessing, said LeGrand, who struggles with mental health and substance abuse issues. She and her boyfriend are considering using their checks from the state to invest in a camper.

"Being here I felt like it softened me up, you know," she said of the motel. "I haven't had to survive outside, and it's just not easy, you know. It's hell to be honest."

Bruce Springsteen marks the return of live shows on Broadway

By DAVID BAUDER AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — In another sign of live entertainment's rebirth, Bruce Springsteen returned to Broad-

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way this weekend, strapping on a guitar and reviving a show for an audience that included a member of his E Street Band and the governor of his home state.

Springsteen had ended his residency in December 2018 after 236 performances, but was persuaded to return for a summer's encore ahead of most Broadway shows coming back in September.

The tough rock 'n' roller was clearly emotional. He wiped away tears toward the end of his show, which mixes personal remembrances with performances of his songs. He said the summer reprise allows him to spend more time, figuratively speaking, with his late father and other fallen relatives.

Every week brings fresh evidence of life resuming in entertainment following a 15-month COVID-19 pause. Festivals and concert tours are being booked, and Springsteen plans to take his band on the road next year. The Foo Fighters reopened New York's Madison Square Garden for music with a cathartic June 20 concert.

Thrilled to be back, fans cheered Springsteen's words so often he had to profanely tell them to settle down, lest the show take all night. His longtime guitarist, Steven Van Zandt, received a standing ovation when he took a seat in the audience. New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy and U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg were also there Saturday night.

"It's good to see everyone here tonight unmasked, sitting next to each other," Springsteen said. "What a year. I'm 71 years on this planet and I've never seen anything like it."

Audience members had to show proof of vaccination to enter the St. James Theatre. That attracted a boisterous handful of anti-vaccination demonstrators to gather at the entrance and complain Springsteen was promoting segregation.

Inside, one audience member, Gina Zabinski of Wyomissing, Pennsylvania, said it felt amazing to see music performed live again. "I'm going to cry," she said.

"I didn't think I would miss it as much as I did," said Zabinski, who brought her son Zak, a musical theater student at the University of Miami. "I think I just took it for granted because we would go to shows all the time."

Another fan, Benjamin Smith of Philadelphia, said "I can't think of a better person to help us return to a sense of normalcy."

Springsteen said he and his family were lucky during the pandemic, able to stay healthy and keep busy.

"I had a podcast with the president of the United States (Barack Obama)," he said. "I was handcuffed and thrown in jail."

The latter referred to his Nov. 14, 2020 arrest for drunken driving and reckless driving in New Jersey. Those charges were later dismissed since he had a blood alcohol level below the state's legal limit and he paid a fine for downing two tequila shots in an area where alcohol wasn't allowed.

"New Jersey," he said. "They love me there."

While the case provided him with fresh fodder for jokes, the structure and stories of Springsteen's show was similar, if a little streamlined, to the way it was the first time he was on Broadway.

He eliminated the iconic closer, "Born to Run," replacing it with the thematically sharper "I'll See You in My Dreams," off his 2020 album. The two-song duet with his wife, Patti Scialfa, featured a smoldering version of "Fire," his song that became a 1978 hit for the Pointer Sisters.

In a clear reference to the George Floyd killing, Springsteen performed his own song about a police shooting, "American Skin (41 Shots)," standing onstage in a blood red spotlight.

Springsteen said he's never seen American democracy as threatened as it is today, and that it frightened him.

"I'm still stubborn," he said. "I believe we're going to make it."

Case files on 1964 civil rights worker killings made public

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Never before seen case files, photographs and other records documenting the investigation into the infamous slayings of three civil rights workers in Mississippi are now open to the public for the first time, 57 years after their deaths.

The 1964 killings of civil rights activists James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Michael Schwerner in

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Neshoba County sparked national outrage and helped spur passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. They later became the subject of the movie "Mississippi Burning."

The previously sealed materials — dating from 1964 to 2007 — were transferred to the Mississippi Department of Archives and History from the Mississippi attorney general's office in 2019. As of last week, they are now available for viewing by the public at William F. Winter Archives and History Building in Jackson.

The records include case files, Federal Bureau of Investigation memoranda, research notes and federal informant reports and witness testimonies. There are also photographs of the exhumation of the victims' bodies and subsequent autopsies, along with aerial photographs of the burial site, according to an announcement from the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

The collection is being stored in three catalog records: Series 2870 houses the attorney general's research files, Series 2902 houses the FBI memos and Series 2903 houses the photographs.

The three Freedom Summer workers, all in their 20s, had been investigating the burning of a black church near Philadelphia, Mississippi when they disappeared in June of 1964.

A deputy sheriff in Philadelphia had arrested them on a traffic charge, then released them after alerting a mob. Mississippi's then-governor claimed their disappearance was a hoax, and segregationist Sen. Jim Eastland told President Lyndon Johnson it was a "publicity stunt" before their bodies were dug up, found weeks later in an earthen dam.

Nineteen men were indicted on federal charges in the 1967 case. Seven were convicted of violating the victims' civil rights. None served more than six years.

In 2004, the Mississippi Attorney General's office reopened the investigation. That led to the June 2005 conviction of Edgar Ray Killen, a 1960s Ku Klux Klan leader and Baptist minister, on manslaughter charges.

During his state trial in 2005, witnesses testified that on June 21, 1964, Killen went to Meridian to round up carloads of klansmen to ambush Schwerner, Chaney and Goodman, telling some of the klan members to bring plastic or rubber gloves. Witnesses said Killen then went to a Philadelphia funeral home as an alibi while the fatal attack occurred.

Killen died in prison in 2018. Mississippi then-Attorney General Jim Hood officially closed the investigation in 2016.

Alzheimer's drug stirs hope for patients, worry for doctors

By TOM MURPHY and MATTHEW PERRONE Associated Press

In the weeks since a new Alzheimer's drug was approved, hopeful patients have bombarded Dr. Alireza Atri with calls and emails about a treatment that has sparked both excitement and skepticism.

They want to know if the drug might be right for them. Like many physicians, Atri has no easy answers.

"It's not a simple yes or no," said the neurologist at the Banner Sun Health Research Institute in Arizona.

It probably won't be for a while. Doctors across the country are still trying to figure out who should receive the drug called Aduhelm, which, at best, slows the fatal disease marginally. Other drugs for Alzheimer's disease only temporarily ease symptoms like memory problems, insomnia and depression.

While some clinics have already started giving the drug, many providers say it will take weeks or months before they are ready. Insurers — including the biggest bill payer for this drug, Medicare — still need to determine which patients to cover for a treatment that could cost more than \$50,000 a year. And doctors worry that emotions will affect decisions by patients and families in seeking the drug.

"People are desperate. It's a really horrible disease," said Stanford University's Dr. Michael Greicius.

Karl Newkirk hopes to start taking Aduhelm if his doctor gives the OK because he doesn't see any other treatments worth trying.

"It looks like the only star in the sky," said the 80-year-old Sarasota, Florida, resident, who has early-stage Alzheimer's.

Newkirk's doctor confirms he's a good candidate for the drug. While the retired technology consultant is still fit enough to ride roller coasters with his grandchildren at nearby Busch Gardens, he struggles with short-term memory loss. He wants to try Aduhelm, even though he's aware of the drug's limits.

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Michele Hall, 54, of Bradenton, Florida, also is eager to discuss the drug at her next appointment with an Alzheimer's specialist.

A former government attorney, Hall had to quit her job after struggling with once-simple tasks like spelling, public speaking and remembering deadlines. She was diagnosed with early Alzheimer's last November by doctors at the Mayo Clinic.

Hall calls Aduhelm "the first tiny glimmer of hope" that she'll get more quality time with her husband and their three adult children.

"When you get that diagnosis, you really wake up every morning and go 'Here I am, it's ticking away and I'm just waiting,'" she said. "Well, now you have something to look forward to."

Biogen's Aduhelm is the first Alzheimer's medication in nearly 20 years. Its Food and Drug Administration approval earlier this month triggered a swift backlash from many experts, including the agency's own outside advisers who had warned that its supposed benefit relied on flimsy data. Three resigned over the FDA's decision.

Aduhelm does not reverse mental decline. It only slowed it in one study that was marred by hard-to-interpret results. The data were so murky that the FDA ultimately granted the drug conditional approval based on a different measure: its ability to get rid of harmful clumps of plaque in the brains of patients with early forms of the disease.

The FDA approval isn't limited to those early patients. Anyone with Alzheimer's — at least theoretically — could get prescribed the drug. But advocacy groups like the Alzheimer's Association and many doctors say the focus should be patients with an early diagnosis, like those helped in the study.

"I don't want to see people pull their mothers from nursing homes to get this treatment," said Dr. Babak Tousi, a Cleveland Clinic geriatrician who consulted with Biogen and helped run one of the testing sites for Aduhelm.

Safety will be a key consideration, according to Dr. Ronald Petersen at the Mayo Clinic, which is coming up with its own use guidelines for the drug.

"We want to be conservative here," said Petersen, an Alzheimer's specialist who has consulted with most major drugmakers in the field, including Biogen.

About 40% of patients getting the full drug dose in Biogen's studies had swelling or tiny bleeds in the brain. While the side effects usually resolved, in rare cases they led to more severe bleeding that could potentially cause brain injury or other dangerous complications.

Monitoring patients on the drug involves regular brain scans. That's on top of a different type of scan to tell if patients have the brain plaque targeted by the drug. Running all those tests could easily approach \$10,000 the first year, according to physicians.

Insurers will likely require prior approval of those scans, which could delay care. And depending on coverage, patients still might be liable for thousands of dollars annually from the scans and treatments due to deductibles and other out-of-pocket costs.

Biogen says about 900 sites in the U.S. have the equipment and expertise to immediately begin giving the drug, which requires monthly IVs.

The private Michigan Institute for Neurological Disorders has already started treating early-stage Alzheimer's patients. The institute said it will pick up most of the cost if an insurer ultimately denies coverage "because it's a therapy we believe in," a spokeswoman said.

Meanwhile, Stanford's Greicius, a neurologist and Alzheimer's specialist, has no plans to prescribe Aduhelm.

"I don't think there's sufficient evidence that it works, and there's plenty of evidence that it can harm patients," he said.

He said he plans to lay out a "compelling and compassionate" case for why he doesn't want to give patients the medicine. But he worries that some patients may simply turn to a doctor who will provide it.

The Cleveland Clinic's Tousi said talking about expectations, cost and the side effects may counter some emotional pressure to give the drug to patients not suited for it.

But part of the challenge is family members often think a patient is in an earlier stage of the disease than they actually are. He said they have to understand that the medication will not bring someone back

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to who they were.

"What we wish cannot always be translated to real life," he said.

One likely consequence of Aduhelm's approval is earlier screening and diagnosis for Alzheimer's, a long-time aim of those who study the disease, given that it develops slowly over years or decades.

But an earlier diagnosis combined with Aduhelm's incremental benefit may simply prolong the hardships of caring for someone with Alzheimer's.

"It could turn out that it actually increases your caregiver burden if it's just slowing things down a little bit," said Dr. Suzanne Schindler of Washington University in St. Louis. "I think it's going to be really disappointing for a lot of people."

Mike Gravel, former US senator for Alaska, dies at 91

SEASIDE, Calif. (AP) — Mike Gravel, a former U.S. senator from Alaska who read the Pentagon Papers into the Congressional Record and confronted Barack Obama about nuclear weapons during a later presidential run, has died. He was 91.

Gravel, who represented Alaska as a Democrat in the Senate from 1969 to 1981, died Saturday, according to his daughter, Lynne Mosier. Gravel had been living in Seaside, California, and was in failing health, said Theodore W. Johnson, a former aide.

Gravel's two terms came during tumultuous years for Alaska when construction of the trans-Alaska oil pipeline was authorized and when Congress was deciding how to settle Alaska Native land claims and whether to classify enormous amounts of federal land as parks, preserves and monuments.

He had the unenviable position of being an Alaska Democrat when some residents were burning President Jimmy Carter in effigy for his measures to place large sections of public lands in the state under protection from development.

Gravel feuded with Alaska's other senator, Republican Ted Stevens, on the land matter, preferring to fight Carter's actions and rejecting Stevens' advocacy for a compromise.

In the end, Congress passed the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act of 1980, a compromise that set aside millions of acres for national parks, wildlife refuges and other protected areas. It was one of the last bills Carter signed before leaving office.

Gravel's Senate tenure also was notable for his anti-war activity. In 1971, he led a one-man filibuster to protest the Vietnam-era draft and he read into the Congressional Record 4,100 pages of the 7,000-page leaked document known as the Pentagon Papers, the Defense Department's history of the country's early involvement in Vietnam.

Gravel reentered national politics decades after his time in the Senate to twice run for president. Gravel, then 75, and his wife, Whitney, took public transportation in 2006 to announce he was running for president as a Democrat in the 2008 election ultimately won by Obama.

He launched his quest for the 2008 Democratic presidential nomination as a critic of the Iraq war.

"I believe America is doing harm every day our troops remain in Iraq — harm to ourselves and to the prospects for peace in the world," Gravel said in 2006. He hitched his campaign to an effort that would give all policy decisions to the people through a direct vote, including health care reform and declarations of war.

Gravel garnered attention for his fiery comments at Democratic forums.

In one 2007 debate, the issue of the possibility of using nuclear weapons against Iran came up, and Gravel confronted then-Sen. Obama. "Tell me, Barack, who do you want to nuke?" Gravel said. Obama replied: "I'm not planning to nuke anybody right now, Mike."

Gravel then ran as a Libertarian candidate after he was excluded from later Democratic debates.

In an email to supporters, he said the Democratic Party "no longer represents my vision for our great country." "It is a party that continues to sustain war, the military-industrial complex and imperialism — all of which I find anathema to my views," he said.

He failed to get the Libertarian nomination.

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Gravel briefly ran for the Democratic nomination for president in 2020. He again criticized American wars and vowed to slash military spending. His last campaign was notable in that both his campaign manager and chief of staff were just 18 at the time of his short-lived candidacy.

"There was never any ... plan that he would do anything more than participate in the debates. He didn't plan to campaign, but he wanted to get his ideas before a larger audience," Johnson said.

Gravel failed to qualify for the debates. He endorsed Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders in the contest eventually won by now-President Joe Biden.

Gravel was born Maurice Robert Gravel in Springfield, Massachusetts, on May 13, 1930.

In Alaska, he served as a state representative, including a stint as House speaker, in the mid-1960s.

He won his first Senate term after defeating incumbent Sen. Ernest Gruening, a former territorial governor, in the 1968 Democratic primary.

Gravel served two terms until he was defeated in the 1980 Democratic primary by Gruening's grandson, Clark Gruening, who lost the election to Republican Frank Murkowski.

Today in History

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, June 28, the 179th day of 2021. There are 186 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On June 28, 1940, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Alien Registration Act, also known as the Smith Act, which required adult foreigners residing in the U.S. to be registered and fingerprinted.

On this date:

In 1838, Britain's Queen Victoria was crowned in Westminster Abbey.

In 1863, during the Civil War, President Abraham Lincoln appointed Maj. Gen. George G. Meade the new commander of the Army of the Potomac, following the resignation of Maj. Gen. Joseph Hooker.

In 1914, Archduke Franz Ferdinand of Austria and his wife, Sophie, were shot to death in Sarajevo (sah-ruh-YAY'-voh) by Serb nationalist Gavrilo Princip (gavh-REE'-loh PREEN'-seep) — an act which sparked World War I.

In 1919, the Treaty of Versailles (vehr-SY') was signed in France, ending the First World War.

In 1950, North Korean forces captured Seoul (sohl), the capital of South Korea.

In 1951, a TV version of the radio comedy program "Amos 'N' Andy" premiered on CBS. (It was the first network TV series to feature an all-Black cast, but came under criticism for racial stereotyping.)

In 1964, civil rights activist Malcolm X declared, "We want equality by any means necessary" during the Founding Rally of the Organization of Afro-American Unity in New York.

In 1978, the Supreme Court ordered the University of California-Davis Medical School to admit Allan Bakke (BAH'-kee), a white man who argued he'd been a victim of reverse racial discrimination.

In 2000, seven months after he was cast adrift in the Florida Straits, Elian Gonzalez was returned to his native Cuba.

In 2010, Sen. Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., the longest-serving senator in the nation's history, died in Falls Church, Virginia, at 92. The Supreme Court ruled, 5-4, that Americans had the right to own a gun for self-defense anywhere they lived.

In 2013, tens of thousands of supporters and opponents of Egyptian President Mohammed Morsi rallied in Cairo, and both sides fought each other in the country's second-largest city of Alexandria, where two people — including an American — were killed and scores injured. The four plaintiffs in the U.S. Supreme Court case that overturned California's same-sex marriage ban tied the knot, just hours after a federal appeals court freed gay couples to obtain marriage licenses in the state for the first time in 4 1/2 years.

In 2019, avowed white supremacist James Alex Fields, who deliberately drove his car into a crowd of counterprotesters in Charlottesville, Virginia, killing a young woman and injuring dozens, apologized to his victims before being sentenced to life in prison on federal hate crime charges.

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Ten years ago: Taliban fighters raided an international hotel in Kabul and killed 10 people on the eve of a conference to discuss plans for Afghan forces to take over security when international troops left by the end of 2014.

Five years ago: House Republicans concluded their \$7 million, two-year investigation into the deadly attacks in Benghazi, Libya, with fresh accusations of lethal mistakes by the Obama administration but no "smoking gun" pointing to wrongdoing by Hillary Clinton, who said the report "found nothing, nothing to contradict" the findings of earlier investigations. Three suicide bombers armed with assault rifles stormed Istanbul's Ataturk airport, killing 44 victims and wounding nearly 150; no one claimed responsibility, but Turkish officials said they suspected the Islamic State group. Death claimed Pat Summitt, the most successful coach in major college basketball history, at age 64; former pro football coach Buddy Ryan at age 85; and pioneering rock guitarist Scotty Moore at age 84.

One year ago: A St. Louis couple, Mark and Patricia McCloskey, waved guns at protesters who marched on their private street amid the national racial injustice demonstrations. (The McCloskeys, who were initially indicted on felony charges including unlawful use of a weapon, pleaded guilty to misdemeanor charges and agreed to give up the weapons they used during the confrontation.) President Donald Trump tweeted approvingly of a video showing one of his supporters chanting "white power," a racist slogan associated with white supremacists. (Trump later deleted the tweet, and the White House said he had not heard "the one statement" on the video.) Trump denied that he'd been made aware of the conclusions of U.S. intelligence officials that Russia had offered bounties to militants for killing U.S. troops in Afghanistan. The world surpassed two coronavirus milestones – 500,000 confirmed deaths, 10 million confirmed cases, while also hitting another high mark for daily new infections. California Gov. Gavin Newsom ordered bars that had opened in seven counties to immediately close, and urged bars in eight other counties to do the same, amid the rapid spread of the coronavirus in parts of the state.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian-movie director Mel Brooks is 95. Former Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., is 87. Comedian-impressionist John Byner is 84. Former Defense Secretary Leon Panetta is 83. Rock musician Dave Knights (Procul Harum) is 76. Actor Bruce Davison is 75. Actor Kathy Bates is 73. Actor Alice Krige is 67. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer John Elway is 61. Jazz singer Tierney Sutton is 58. Actor Jessica Hecht is 56. Rock musician Saul Davies (James) is 56. Actor Mary Stuart Masterson is 55. Actor John Cusack is 55. Actor Gil Bellows is 54. Actor-singer Danielle Brisebois is 52. Jazz musician Jimmy Sommers is 52. Actor Tichina Arnold is 52. Actor Steve Burton is 51. Entrepreneur Elon Musk is 50. Actor Alessandro Nivola (nih-VOH'-luh) is 49. Actor Camille Guaty is 45. Rock musician Tim Nordwind (OK Go) is 45. Rock musician Mark Stoermer (The Killers) is 44. Country singer Big Vinny Hickerson (Trailer Choir) is 38. Country singer Kellie Pickler is 35.