

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Monday, June 6

Senior Menu: Hamburger on bun, oven-roasted potatoes, cucumber salad, ice cream sundae.

5:30 p.m.: Legion hosts Smithy's DH

6 p.m.: U12 at Webster, DH

5:30 p.m.: U10 hosts Britton, DH, (R/W), Nelson Field

5:30 p.m.: U8 hosts Britton, DH, (R/W), Nelson Field

## Tuesday, June 7

Elementary Library Open 9-11 (Reading time 10 a.m.)

Senior Menu: Breaded codfish, parsley buttered potatoes, creamy coleslaw, fruit, whole wheat bread.

5:30 p.m.: Jr. Legion hosts Milbank, DH

5:30 p.m.: U12 vs. Hannigan in Aberdeen (north complex), DH

5:30 p.m.: U10 vs. Hannigan in Aberdeen (north complex), DH (W/B)

5:30 p.m.: U8 vs. Hannigan in Aberdeen (north complex), DH (W/B)

6 p.m.: U12 SB hosts Britton, Falk Field, DH

6 p.m.: T-Ball practice

## Wednesday, June 8

Senior Menu: Taco salad, Mexican rice, fresh fruit, bread stick

10 a.m.: Little Free Library reading time (south

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

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



Methodist Church)

5:30 p.m.: Jr. Teeners host Webster, DH

5:30 p.m.: U12 hosts Jacobson, DH

6 p.m.: U8 SB at Doland, 1 game

7 p.m.: U10 SB at Doland, 1 game

5 p.m.: T-Ball Black at Doland

## Thursday, June 9

Senior Menu: Oven-Fried chicken, mashed potatoes, mixed vegetables, buttermilk biscuits, banana pudding with bananas.

10 a.m.: Reading Time at Wage Memorial Library

5 p.m.: Legion hosts Mobridge, 1 game

7 p.m.: Jr. Legion hosts Mobridge, 1 game

5:30 p.m.: Jr. Teeners at Britton, DH

6 p.m.: U12 SB hosts Webster, DH, Nelson Field

6 p.m.: U8 SB hosts Webster, 1 game, Nelson Field

7 p.m.: U10 SB hosts Webster, 1 game, Nelson Field

## Groton Jr. Teeners Defeats Aberdeen Despite Allowing 3-Run Inning

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U weathered a scare by Aberdeen in the third inning where Groton Jr. Teeners 14U coughed up three runs, but Groton Jr. Teeners 14U still won 19-4 on Sunday. Jarogoskie and A Williams all moved runners across the plate with RBIs in the inning.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U got things moving in the first inning. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U scored on a stolen base during Kellen Antonsen's at bat. Then Antonsen singled , driving in one.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U notched seven runs in the third inning. Tristin McGannon, Jarrett Erdmann, Karsten Fliehs, Gavin Englund, Lincoln Krause, and Gavin Kroll all drove in runs in the frame.

Nicholas Morris earned the win for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The righthander lasted four and two-thirds innings, allowing eight hits and four runs while striking out seven.

Steve Larson took the loss for Aberdeen. The pitcher allowed seven hits and seven runs over two innings, striking out two.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U collected 17 hits. McGannon, Erdmann, Fliehs, Karter Moody, Englund, Kroll, and Antonsen all managed multiple hits for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. McGannon went 3-for-5 at the plate to lead Groton Jr. Teeners 14U in hits. Fliehs led Groton Jr. Teeners 14U with three stolen bases, as they ran wild on the base paths with 13 stolen bases.

Aberdeen racked up eight hits. Williams, Olson, and Jarogoskie all collected multiple hits for Aberdeen. Williams led Aberdeen with three hits in three at bats. Aberdeen stole six bases during the game as two players stole more than one. Olson led the way with two. Aberdeen didn't commit a single error in the field. Olson had four chances in the field, the most on the team.

## Four RBI Day for Jarrett Erdmann Seals the Deal in Groton Jr. Teeners 14U's Victory Over Aberdeen

Jarrett Erdmann wasted no opportunities at the plate on Sunday, driving in four on two hits to lead Groton Jr. Teeners 14U past Aberdeen 13-3 on Sunday. Erdmann drove in runs on a single in the first and a double in the first.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U secured the victory thanks to nine runs in the first inning. The offensive onslaught came from a walk by Lincoln Krause, a single by Erdmann, a groundout by Karsten Fliehs, a fielder's choice by Tristin McGannon, and a double by Erdmann.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U got things started in the first inning. Groton Jr. Teeners 14U scored one run when Erdmann singled.

Krause took the win for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. The fireballer surrendered three runs on two hits over five innings, striking out two.

Glover took the loss for Aberdeen. Glover surrendered nine runs on five hits over one inning, striking out one.

Groton Jr. Teeners 14U racked up nine hits. Nicholas Morris, Erdmann, and Gavin Englund all managed multiple hits for Groton Jr. Teeners 14U. Morris went 3-for-3 at the plate to lead Groton Jr. Teeners 14U in hits.

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## Groton Jr. Teeners 14U **19 - 4** Aberdeen

📍 Away 📅 Sunday June 05, 2022

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
GRTN	2	5	7	1	4	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>
ABRD	1	0	3	0	0	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0</b>

### BATTING

Groton Jr. Teeners	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
T McGannon (CF)	5	3	3	2	0	0
J Erdmann (LF)	3	4	2	3	2	0
K Flihs (C)	3	2	2	3	2	0
N Morris (P)	4	1	1	2	1	1
K Antonsen (SS)	4	0	2	2	1	0
G Englund (3B)	5	1	2	2	0	1
K Moody (1B)	3	3	2	0	1	1
L Krause (2B)	3	1	1	0	1	1
G Kroll (RF)	2	2	2	1	1	0
R Jangula (RF)	0	2	0	0	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>

**2B:** T McGannon, K Moody, J Erdmann, K Flihs, K Antonsen, **3B:** N Morris, **TB:** T McGannon 4, K Moody 3, N Morris 3, J Erdmann 3, G Kroll 2, L Krause, K Flihs 3, G Englund 2, K Antonsen 3, **SB:** T McGannon 2, K Moody 2, N Morris, J Erdmann 2, K Flihs 3, G Englund, R Jangula, K Antonsen, **LOB:** 8

### PITCHING

Groton Jr. Te	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
N Morris	4.2	8	4	3	4	7	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>

**W:** N Morris, **P-S:** N Morris 106-61, **BF:** N Morris 25

Aberdeen	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
S Larson (P)	1	0	0	0	0	0
PlayerD (P, CF)	1	1	0	0	1	0
Bahr	3	0	1	0	0	1
Olson (C)	3	2	2	0	0	0
Jarogoskie (RF)	2	1	2	1	1	0
A Williams (1B)	3	0	3	1	0	0
Herzig (CF, P, SS)	2	0	0	0	0	2
Peterson (SS, P)	1	0	0	0	1	0
Glover (3B)	1	0	0	0	1	1
Tobert (LF)	2	0	0	0	0	2
Davidson (2B)	2	0	0	0	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>

**TB:** Bahr, Olson 2, Jarogoskie 2, A Williams 3, **CS:** Peterson, **SB:** Glover 2, Olson 2, PlayerD, Jarogoskie, **LOB:** 4

Aberdeen	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
S Larson	2.0	7	7	7	3	2	0
PlayerD	1.0	7	7	7	2	1	0
Herzig	1.1	3	5	5	5	1	0
Peterson	0.2	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

**L:** S Larson, **P-S:** Herzig 51-23, PlayerD 37-21, Peterson 7-4, S Larson 50-30, **WP:** PlayerD, S Larson, **BF:** Herzig 12, PlayerD 12, Peterson 2, S Larson 16

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## Groton Jr. Teeners 14U 13 - 3 Aberdeen

📍 Away 📅 Sunday June 05, 2022

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
GRTN	9	3	0	0	1	13	9	3
ABRD	2	0	1	0	0	3	2	3

### BATTING

Groton Jr. Teeners	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
T McGannon (3B)	3	2	0	1	1	0
J Erdmann (CF)	4	2	2	4	0	0
K Flihs (C)	3	0	0	1	0	0
N Morris (SS)	3	1	3	1	1	0
K Antonsen (RF)	4	1	1	0	0	0
G Englund	3	2	2	1	1	0
K Moody (1B)	2	2	0	0	2	1
G Kroll (2B)	3	0	0	0	0	2
R Jangula (LF)	1	2	0	0	2	1
L Krause (P)	1	1	1	2	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>

**2B:** L Krause, J Erdmann, **TB:** N Morris 3, K Antonsen, L Krause 2, J Erdmann 3, G Englund 2, **HBP:** K Flihs, **SB:** N Morris, K Antonsen, T McGannon 2, G Englund, **LOB:** 9

### PITCHING

Groton Jr. Te	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
L Krause	5.0	2	3	1	4	2	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>

**W:** L Krause, **P-S:** L Krause 75-37, **WP:** L Krause, **HBP:** L Krause, **BF:** L Krause 24

Aberdeen	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Olson	2	2	0	0	0	0
S Larson (CF)	3	0	0	1	0	0
Jarogoskie (C)	2	1	1	1	0	0
A Graves (RF)	1	0	0	0	1	1
B Willems (1B)	1	0	0	0	1	0
Herzig (LF)	1	0	0	0	1	0
Glover (P)	1	0	0	1	1	0
Bahr (SS, P)	2	0	0	0	0	0
Tobert (3B, P, SS)	2	0	0	0	0	1
J Peterson (3B)	2	0	0	0	0	0
Davidson (2B)	2	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>

**TB:** Jarogoskie, Davidson, **HBP:** Olson, **SB:** Jarogoskie, Olson 2, Davidson, **LOB:** 6

Aberdeen	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Glover	1.0	5	9	9	5	1	0
Tobert	1.0	1	3	1	3	0	0
Bahr	3.0	3	1	0	1	3	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

**L:** Glover, **P-S:** Bahr 43-25, Tobert 30-13, Glover 59-25, **WP:** Bahr, Tobert 2, Glover 4, **HBP:** Glover, **BF:** Bahr 14, Tobert 8, Glover 15

## Weekly Vikings Recap

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

As we hit a lull in the offseason, we thought we'd take each week to look at different position groups for the Minnesota Vikings. We'll look at any competition that might occur, as well as make our predictions for who will make the final 53-man roster. This week we will look at the running backs and fullbacks currently on the Vikings.

Running backs:

Dalvin Cook

The obvious star of the running back group in Minnesota is Dalvin Cook, who is coming off his third straight year of rushing for over 1100 yards. Cook will enter the 2022 season at the age of 27, an old age for running backs in the current NFL. Although Cook has been the centerpiece of the Vikings' offense for the past three seasons, I would expect his rushing attempts to decrease a little this year for many reasons. First, Justin Jefferson is already on his way to becoming one of the best wide receivers in football. Second, I believe the offense will look much more different this year with Kevin O'Connell calling plays. No longer will the Vikings run the ball on 2nd & long. Instead, I think Cook will make up for his decrease in rushing attempts with more usage in the passing game. Reports from camp indicate that we might see Cook line up at wide receiver at some points this year.

Alexander Mattison

Alexander Mattison is the most intriguing story of the running backs for the Vikings this offseason. On one hand, he has been a consistent backup running back for the Vikings. With Cook's injury history, the Vikings have been able to rely on Mattison to take over the load for the games Cook is absent. On the other hand, Mattison is entering the final year of his rookie contract with the Vikings. I think the writing is on the wall that this will likely be Mattison's last year here. He will, deservedly, want a bigger role in an offense somewhere - and I do not think the Vikings' can offer him that.

Kene Nwangwu

Of the running backs on the Vikings' roster, Kene Nwangwu will see the biggest increase in workload this season. Last year, Nwangwu had a measly thirteen rushing attempts and five targets in the passing game. Despite that lack of production, Nwangwu was a star on special teams for the Vikings, returning two kickoffs for touchdowns. It appears that Nwangwu will never be that workhorse running back like Dalvin Cook is, but I do believe Nwangwu can add value to the Vikings offense if the new staff uses him appropriately.

Ty Chandler

The Vikings' lone rookie in the running back group is Ty Chandler out of North Carolina. Barring injuries to others, I do not expect Ty Chandler to make any sort of impact this year for the Vikings. I think he was drafted as the next backup guy for when Mattison leaves next offseason in free agency. Drafting Chandler now allows the Vikings to know what they will have at running back next year rather than having to feel forced to take one in next year's draft.

Fullbacks

CJ Ham

Many thought that the hiring of Kevin O'Connell would mean the end of CJ Ham's tenure with the Vikings. In O'Connell's two years with the Los Angeles Rams, they never had a fullback on their roster. However, O'Connell has made it clear that his offense will not be identical to the one he ran with the Rams. One of the main differences we will see with O'Connell's offense will be his use of a fullback, allowing Ham to continue his career with the Vikings.

Jakeargas

After going undrafted in the 2020 draft, Jakeargas will be entering his third season with the Vikings. Unless Ham gets injured, I would expectargas to be subject to the Vikings' practice squad for a third straight season.

53-man roster predictions:

Running backs:

Dalvin Cook, Alexander Mattison, Kene Nwangwu, and Ty Chandler

Fullbacks:

CJ Ham

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## Here Comes the Sun

Summer is just around the corner and warm days outside in the sunshine will soon be here. This is the perfect time to remember the importance of sunscreen. The number of sunscreens has increased over the years and the plethora of options can make it confusing when shopping for one that works best for you and your family.

There are two main categories of sunscreen: chemical and physical. Each type has its own list of pros and cons. Where you are going, how long you are going to be outside, and what you are doing may factor into which type is right for you.

Chemical sunscreens are probably more common to most consumers. They absorb UV rays and convert them into heat energy before they can damage the skin. These sunscreens are easy to find and relatively inexpensive in the form of lotion, gel sticks, and spray. Main ingredients include avobenzone, octinoxate, and oxybenzone.

Chemical sunscreens must absorb into your skin to work properly. They work best when applied 20-30 minutes before you go outside in the sun. They spread on easily and last long. You want to apply generously, but in general, less of this product is needed to get good coverage when compared to physical sunscreens.

Due to absorption into the skin, chemical sunscreens are not recommended for infants under six months. This type of sunscreen can also run the risk of causing allergic reactions, especially those with sensitive skin or conditions such as eczema or atopic dermatitis. Some ingredients in chemical sunscreens can cause damage to coral reefs and are banned in many places such as Hawaii, Key West, parts of Mexico, several Caribbean islands.

The other type of sunscreens available are physical sunscreens. These sit on top of the skin and provide a physical barrier to the UV rays, reflecting them away from the body. The main ingredients are titanium dioxide and zinc dioxide. Physical sunscreens are usually sold in the form of a white, thick paste. Some are available in fine powders than can be brushed on like makeup. Paste is more difficult to rub onto the skin compared to lotion and must be reapplied more frequently as it can be easily rubbed off especially when the skin is sweating. It may leave a film, and if you miss a spot, that area is not protected.

Whichever type of sunscreen you use, look for one that blocks both UVA and UVB rays. Remember to reapply often, even on cloudy days and limit exposure to the sun between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. when the UV rays are at their peak. Enjoy the sun and summer but do so safely. Your skin will thank you.

Jill Kruse, D.O. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices as a hospitalist in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairedoc.org](http://www.prairedoc.org) and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show celebrating its twentieth season of truthful, tested, and timely medical information, broadcast on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

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By Jill Kruse, D.O.

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## O'Neill hands Miss South Dakota Crown over to Widvey

Miss South Dakota 2021 Kaitlin O'Neill, Groton, crowns Miss South Dakota 2022, Hunter Widvey, Rapid City.

## **THIS IS IT!**

**Weber Landscaping Greenhouse  
final sale of the season!**

**15% off all annuals.**

**Veggies buy 1 get 1.**

**10% off planters.**

**Hours this week**

**Monday-Thursday 10-6**

**Final Day is Thursday**

**(605) 380-6587**

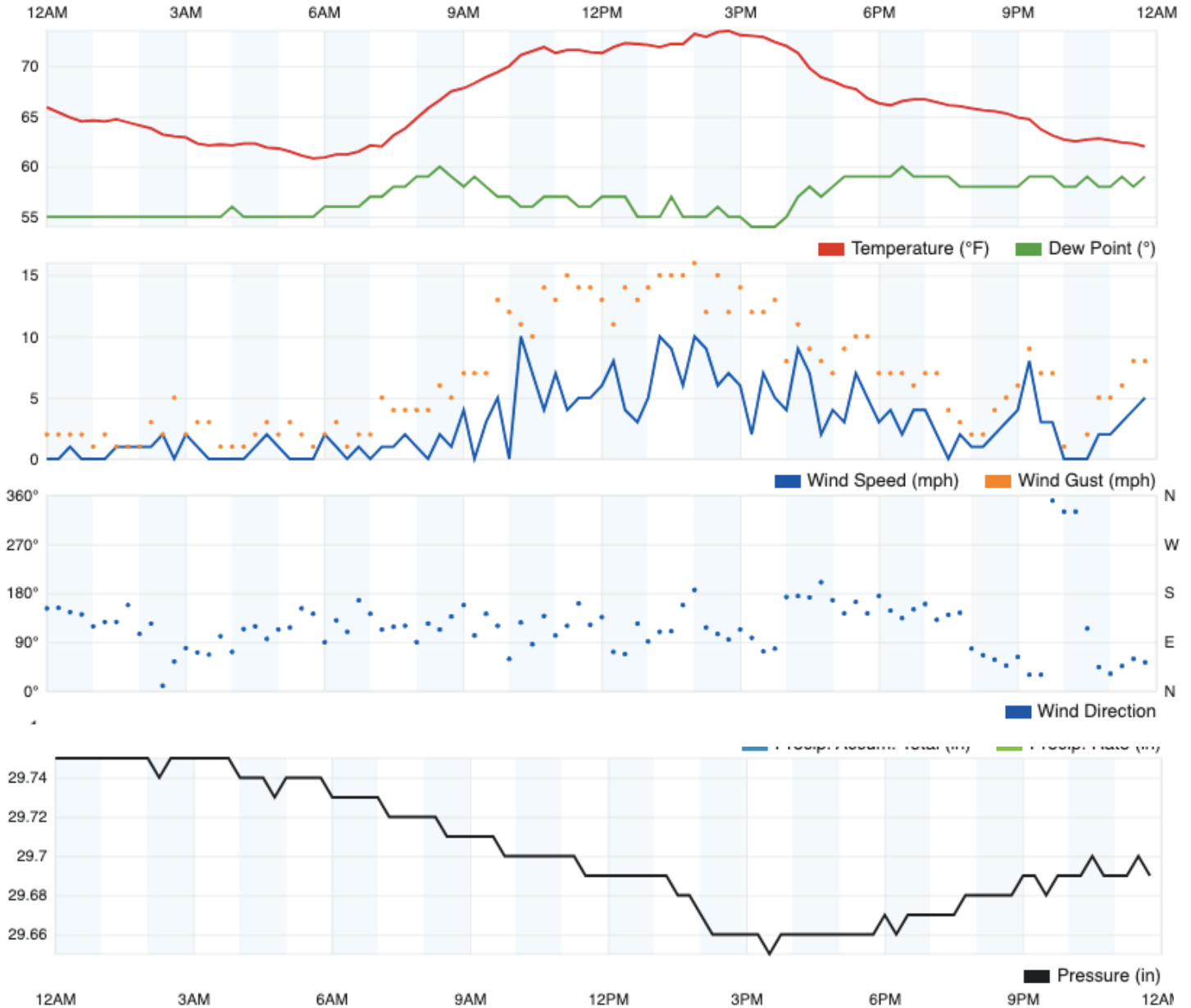
**204 N. State St, Groton, SD**



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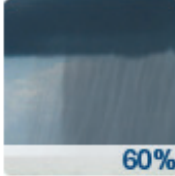


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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
				
Partly Sunny	Slight Chance Showers	Showers Likely	Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny
High: 68 °F	Low: 52 °F	High: 66 °F	Low: 51 °F	High: 70 °F

## Today

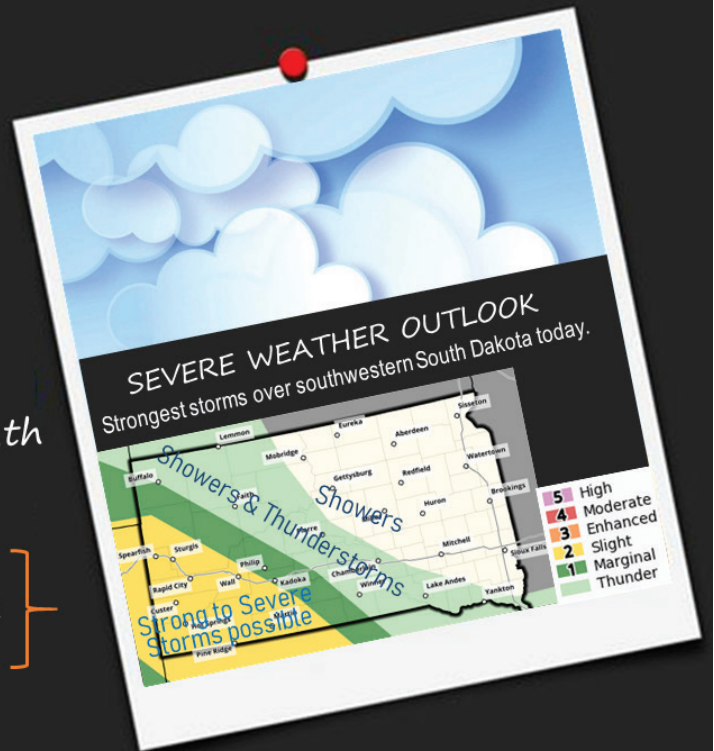
### Highs: 60s

DRY over much of northeastern South Dakota & western Minnesota.

SHOWERS,  
mainly over central South Dakota  
a few THUNDERSTORMS



National Weather Service  
Aberdeen, SD



Your weather for today calls for highs in the 60s with mainly dry weather over northeastern South Dakota and west central Minnesota. Showers and a few thunderstorms will be possible over central South Dakota today and tonight, with a slight risk of severe weather over the southwestern corner of South Dakota.

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## Today in Weather History

June 6, 1895: An estimated F2 tornado moved northeast from 6 miles west of Summit, passing 3 miles northwest of Summit. Buildings were damaged on eight farms.

June 6, 1897: Light to heavy frost, and in some localities, killing frost occurred on the 6th and 7th. These cold temperatures along with last season frost in May and wet conditions several hampered the planting season. Luckily growing conditions changed towards the middle and end of the month. Some low temperatures on the 6th include 26 degrees in Castlewood and Watertown, 29 in Mellette, 30 in Aberdeen and Milbank, and 32 in Highmore. Some low temperatures on the 7th include; 24 degrees in Castlewood, 25 in Watertown, and 30 degrees in Milbank.

June 6, 1999: Heavy rains of 2 to 4 inches caused flash flooding on a creek feeding into the Grand River. At a ranch southwest of Bullhead, a bunkhouse wall moved off the foundation by a wall of water coming down the creek. All of the contents in the bunkhouse were destroyed. A machine shop was washed away along with several pieces of equipment and many tools. Some tools and equipment were found more than a mile down the creek. A pump house and a grain bin were also destroyed. A pickup was washed down the stream, and a propane tank near home was rolled over. A colt was picked up by the water but managed to escape. The powerful flow of water took out several dead trees and washed them downstream. Finally, a road and a culvert were washed out by the flash flood.

1816: The temperature reached 92 degrees at Salem, Massachusetts during an early heat wave, but then plunged 49 degrees in 24 hours to commence the famous "year without a summer." Snow fell near Quebec City, Quebec Canada from the 6th through the 10th and accumulated up to a foot with "drifts reaching the axle trees of carriages."

1894: One of the greatest floods in U.S. history occurred as the Willamette River overflowed to inundate half of the business district of Portland, Oregon. The river crested at 33.5 feet, the worst flood ever recorded in the city.

1975 - A tornado, reportedly spinning backwards (spinning clockwise), was sighted near Alva, OK. (The Weather Channel)

1977 - Severe thunderstorms with large hail and winds to 100 mph caused one million dollars damage around Norfolk, VA. A forty-two foot fishing boat capsized near the Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel drowning 13 of the 27 persons on board. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms in southern California produced one inch hail at Mount Pinos, and marble size hail at Palmdale. Thunderstorms in southeastern Arizona produced heavy rain leaving some washes under four feet of water. Six cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date as readings soared into the upper 90s. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Seventeen cities in the north central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Williston ND with a reading of 104 degrees. Thunderstorms in Florida produced wind gusts to 65 mph which damaged two mobile homes northwest of Melbourne injuring six people. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing during the late morning hours produced severe weather through the afternoon and night. Thunderstorms spawned 13 tornadoes, and there were 154 reports of large hail and damaging winds. A strong (F-3) tornado injured six persons at Lorenzo, TX, and thunderstorm winds gusting to 100 mph killed one person at Glasscock City, TX. Softball size hail was reported at Lipscomb and Glen Cove TX. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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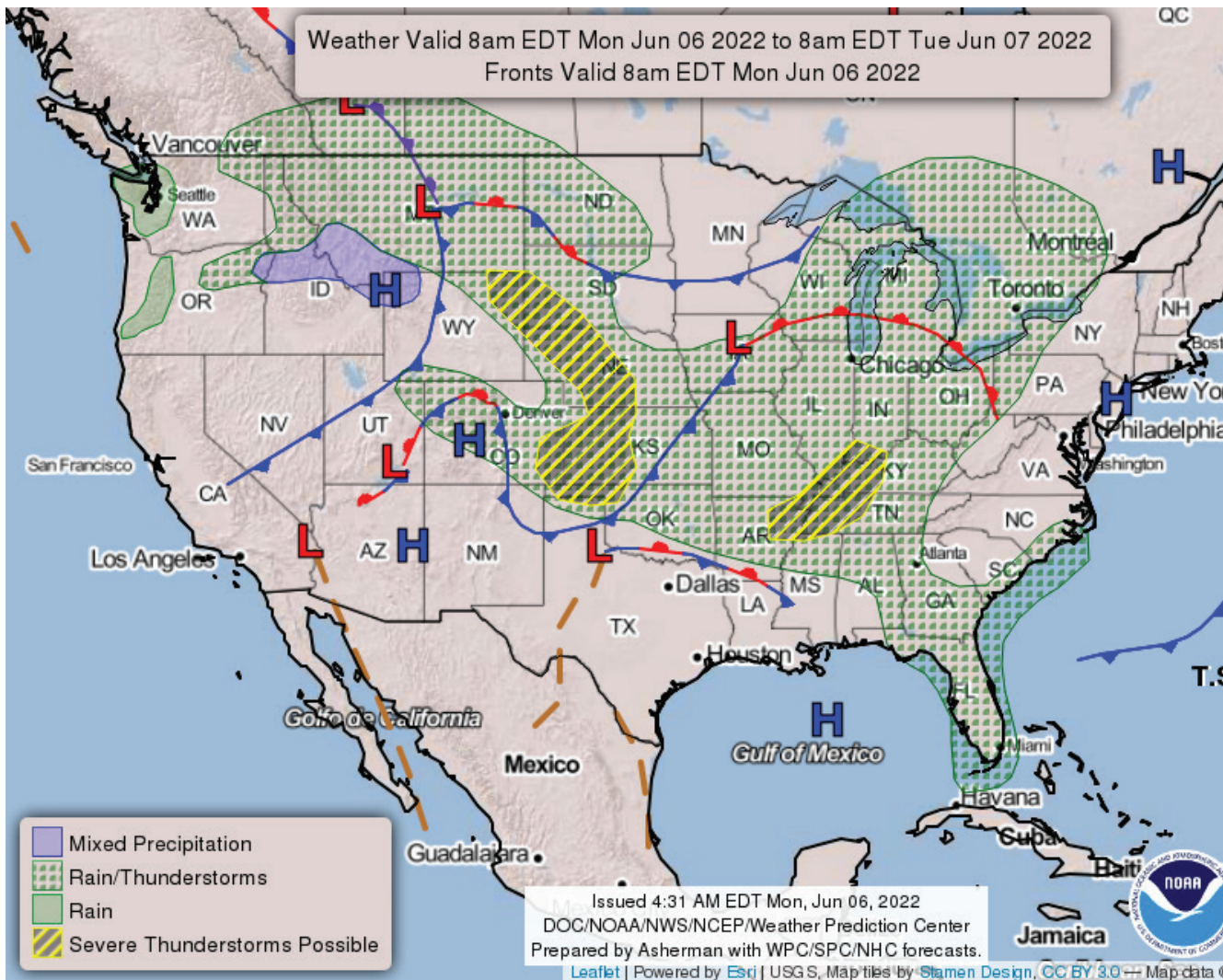
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 74 °F at 2:43 PM**  
**Low Temp: 61 °F at 5:44 AM**  
**Wind: 17 mph at 3:01 PM**  
**Precip: 0.00**

Day length: 15 hours, 36 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 99 in 1950  
Record Low: 30 in 1897  
Average High: 78°F  
Average Low: 53°F  
Average Precip in June.: 0.66  
Precip to date in June.: 0.00  
Average Precip to date: 7.91  
Precip Year to Date: 11.18  
Sunset Tonight: 9:19:17 PM  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:42:39 AM



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## Look And Learn

There are many stories about birds in the Bible. And they all have their place. But of all the birds mentioned, the raven is close to the bottom of the list as far as having any importance. It is a large blackbird and belongs to the crow family. It is noisy and has a loud, rough, very emphatic cry. It's not a bird that is filled with grace and charm.

Even young ravens, while in their nest, have a coarse call - especially at feeding time. Even so, when they call for food, the Lord hears them, and their mother then feeds them.

Jesus once said, "Look at the ravens - they don't plant or harvest or have barns to store away their food, and yet they get along quite well. God feeds them. And you are far more important and valuable to Him than birds."

If the Lord hears the cry of young birds for food, how much more will He hear the cry of His believers when they call out for mercy? If He looks out for birds, how much more will He look out for us? But we must do our part.

Shovels are not made to lean on; they are made to dig with. We cannot expect God to do for us what we will not do for ourselves. Work is as much a part of life as prayer and worship. Never forget that Jesus worked for a living before He began His public ministry. Even though His Father created the world, Jesus set an example for us by working to meet His needs. Our ability to work is a gift from God, and He expects us to work to the best of our ability and for His glory.

The writer of Proverbs said it best: "Good planning and hard work lead to prosperity."

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for the ability to work. Help us follow Your example and do what we do to honor You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Bible Verse: He gives food to the wild animals and feeds the young ravens when they cry. Psalm 147:9

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## 2022 Community Events

- 01/30/2022 84th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)  
01/30/2022 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed, 10am – 1pm, Groton Community Center, 109 N 3rd St, Groton,  
04/07/2022 Groton CDE  
04/09/2022 Lions Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)  
04/09/2022 Dueling Pianos Baseball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39 6-11:30pm  
04/23/2022 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)  
04/24/2022 Princess Prom 4:30-8pm (Sunday after GHS Prom)  
05/07/2022 Lions Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sales 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)  
St John's Lutheran Church VBS 9-11am  
05/30/2022 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)  
Transit Fundraiser at the Community Center 4-7pm (Thursday Mid-June)  
06/17/2022 SDSU Alumni & Friends Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 12pm Start  
06/18/2022 Groton Triathlon  
Ladies Invitational at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Registration 10am Start  
07/04/2022 Firecracker Couples Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Registration, 10am Start  
(4th of July)  
07/10/2022 Lions Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)  
Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar 11am-1pm at the Groton Legion  
Baseball Tourney  
07/21/2022 Pro Am Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course  
Ferney Open Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start  
How can we... "Love Groton"? United Methodist Church 9:30am  
Moonlight Swim at the Swimming Pool 9-11pm for 9th grade to age 20  
Golf Fundraiser Lunch at Olive Grove Golf Course 11a-1pm  
08/05/2022 Wine on Nine at Olive Grove Golf Course 6pm  
08/12/2022 GHS Basketball Golf Tournament  
United Methodist Church VBS 5-8pm  
Groton Firemen Summer Splash Day 4-5pm GHS Parking Lot  
09/10/2022 Lions Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)  
6th Annual Doggie Day at the Swimming Pool 3:30-5pm  
09/11/2022 Couples Sunflower Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 12pm  
Groton Airport Fly-In/Drive-In, Groton Municipal Airport  
10/14/2022 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am (2nd Friday in October)  
10/01/2022 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm  
10/31/2022 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm (working day on or closest to Halloween)  
10/31/2022 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm  
11/12/2022 Legion Post #39 Turkey Party 6:30pm (Saturday closest to Veteran's Day)  
11/24/2022 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm (Thanksgiving)  
12/03/2022 Tour of Homes & Holiday Party at Olive Grove Golf Course  
Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9am-12pm  
01/29/2023 Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)

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## News from the Associated Press

### 2022 midterms: What to watch in primaries in 7 states

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD AP Political Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Primary elections in seven states Tuesday will set the stage for U.S. House and Senate races this fall, with many contests shaped by political fissures in both major parties and the lingering shadow of former President Donald Trump.

With control of Congress in play, a string of Republican House incumbents are contending with challenges from the political right, and some rivals are embracing Trump's baseless claims of election fraud in his 2020 loss to President Joe Biden.

No incumbent governors or senators appear to be in imminent danger. In Iowa, several Democrats are jockeying for the chance to take on seven-term Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley, with the campaign showcasing the breach between the Democratic Party's progressive and establishment wings.

Former Trump Cabinet member Ryan Zinke is seeking the GOP nomination in a newly created House district in Montana.

What to watch in Tuesday's primaries in California, Iowa, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico and South Dakota:

#### CALIFORNIA

California is a Democratic fortress where the party holds every statewide office and its voters outnumber registered Republicans by nearly 2-to-1. Gov. Gavin Newsom and U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla face little-known competitors.

But Republicans retain pockets of strength in some U.S. House districts that are expected to be among the most competitive races in the country.

In a heavily Democratic district in the state's Central Valley farm belt, Republican U.S. Rep. David Valadao is seeing blowback for his vote to impeach Trump over the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol insurrection. Republican Chris Mathys has made Valadao's vote a centerpiece in his campaign to oust him.

In a Democratic-leaning district north of Los Angeles, several Democrats are hoping to take on Republican Rep. Mike Garcia, who is expected to advance to November with one of the Democrats as the top two finishers in the race. Garcia rejected electoral votes from Arizona and Pennsylvania being cast for Biden and opposed Trump's impeachment after the Capitol insurrection.

The crowded Los Angeles mayor's race is shaping up to be a fight between Rick Caruso, a pro-business billionaire Republican-turned-Democrat who sits on the board of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation, and Democratic U.S. Rep. Karen Bass, who was on Biden's shortlist for vice president. If no candidate clears 50%, the top two finishers advance to a November runoff.

In another closely watched election, San Francisco voters are considering whether to recall District Attorney Chesa Boudin, a progressive Democrat who critics say has failed to prosecute repeat offenders, amid widespread frustration with crime and homelessness.

#### IOWA

Republicans have gained an advantage in the state over the past decade, and the Democratic Senate primary provides a snapshot of the minority party's battle for relevance.

Retired Navy Vice Adm. Michael Franken is waging a competitive contest with former U.S. Rep. Abby Finkenauer in a bid to take on the 88-year-old Grassley, who has been endorsed by Trump.

Finkenauer is a 33-year-old, former two-term state representative who argues her youth and more recent experience in Iowa make her a better fit to challenge a Republican first elected to the Senate in 1980. She has made term limits a centerpiece of her campaign.

Franken, 64, is promoting a progressive agenda, including adding a public insurance option to the Affordable Care Act. He is from conservative western Iowa and argues he could be more competitive against Grassley by whittling into the senator's margins in heavily Republican areas.



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Physician Glenn Hurst, a councilman for a small western Iowa city and the Iowa Democratic Party's chair for its rural caucus, is running to the left of both Finkenauer and Franken.

Meanwhile, three Republicans are competing for a chance to run against Iowa's lone Democratic member of Congress, Rep. Cindy Axne.

## MISSISSIPPI

Republican U.S. Rep. Steven Palazzo is facing his largest-ever field of challengers after a congressional ethics watchdog raised questions about his campaign spending.

A 2021 report by the Office of Congressional Ethics found "substantial reason to believe" Palazzo, a military veteran who serves on the Appropriations and Homeland Security committees, abused his office by misspending campaign funds, doing favors for his brother and enlisting staff for political and personal errands. His then-spokesperson, Colleen Kennedy, said the probe was based on politically motivated "false allegations."

His six opponents include a sheriff, Mike Ezell, and a state senator, Brice Wiggins. If no candidate wins a majority of votes, a runoff will be June 28.

Mississippi's two other Republican congressmen, Trent Kelly and Michael Guest, face primary challengers who support Trump's false claims that the 2020 presidential election was stolen.

## MONTANA

It's the first time since 1993 that the state will have two House seats, after one was added to account for Montana's growing population.

Zinke, Trump's former Interior Department secretary, technically is in an open race for the new seat. But the former Navy SEAL is widely considered the de facto incumbent, since he twice won elections for the state's other House seat before stepping down in 2017 to join the Trump administration.

His opponents are drawing attention to Zinke's troubled tenure at the agency, which was marked by multiple ethics investigations. One investigation determined Zinke lied to an agency ethics official about his continued involvement in a commercial real estate deal in his hometown. He's faced a smear campaign over his military service from the extreme right wing of his party and questions about his residency following revelations that his wife declared a house in California as her primary residence.

His opponents in the GOP primary include former state Sen. Al "Doc" Olszewski, an orthopedic surgeon and hard-line conservative who has tried to paint Zinke as a "liberal insider."

Three Democrats are vying for their party's nomination: public health advocate Cora Neumann, Olympic rower and attorney Monica Tranel and former state Rep. Tom Winter.

In the state's other district, first-term Rep. Matt Rosendale, who has Trump's endorsement, will look to fend off three Republican primary challengers.

## NEW JERSEY

A dozen House districts are on the ballot.

Trump said in 2021 he would back a challenger to long-serving Republican Rep. Chris Smith, but that never happened. The absence of an endorsement hasn't stopped conservative talk show host Mike Crispi, one of Smith's Republican challengers, from claiming Trump's mantle.

In northern New Jersey, former state Senate minority leader Tom Kean Jr. has a fundraising edge and establishment support over five rivals. Kean, the son of former Republican Gov. Tom Kean Sr., is hoping for a rematch with Democratic Rep. Tom Malinowski, who won a close contest two years ago.

On the Democratic side, U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez's son, Rob, is running for a seat being vacated by retiring Democratic Rep. Albio Sires. Menendez, a Port Authority of New York and New Jersey commissioner, locked up party support upon entering the race.

## NEW MEXICO

Five Republican candidates are competing to take on Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham. The incumbent is favored to keep her job in a state where Democrats control every statewide office and dominate the Legislature.

Former television meteorologist Mark Ronchetti and state Rep. Rebecca Dow are prominent GOP contenders in a contest touching on concerns about U.S. border security, urban crime, inflation and the teaching

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of race and ethnicity in a heavily Latino and Native American state.

Democratic voters are deciding on a nominee for the state's top law enforcement post to succeed Attorney General Hector Balderas. Albuquerque-based District Attorney Raúl Torrez is competing against state Auditor Brian Colón in a hard-fought campaign with few ideological divisions.

SOUTH DAKOTA

A trio of Republican incumbents face primary challengers running on their political right.

Gov. Kristi Noem, who is considered a potential White House prospect, is favored to win the GOP nomination. One rival, state legislator Steve Haugaard, has argued that Noem spent more time trying to build a national political profile than focusing on her job at home. She's mostly ignored him.

U.S. Sen. John Thune faced Trump's ire after dismissing the former president's election fraud claims. However, no well-known challenger has emerged in Thune's reelection bid. One of his opponents, Mark Mowry, was among the crowd that demonstrated near the Capitol on Jan. 6.

In the House, Republican state lawmaker Taffy Howard is trying to unseat GOP Rep. Dusty Johnson in the state's lone district. Johnson touts his conservative voting record while keeping an ability to work across party lines, but Howard has tried to paint him as a foot soldier for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

## Gunmen at Nigeria church shot from both inside, outside

By CHINEDU ASADU Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — As attackers opened fire on worshippers inside a Catholic church in southwestern Nigeria, other gunmen waited outside to kill those who tried to flee, church officials and witnesses said Monday.

At least 50 people including children were killed in the attack, according to a state lawmaker from the area.

Worshippers had just arrived for Pentecost Sunday Mass when gunfire erupted at the St. Francis Catholic Church in Ondo state, said Bishop Jude Arogundade of the Ondo Catholic Diocese.

Steven Omotayo, who lives near the church, rushed to the scene upon hearing the gunshots.

"I saw a lot of dead bodies — both young and old, even children," he said. "The people came in and started shooting from the gate."

He said the church has three entrances and the main entrance was said to have been locked, making it difficult for many to escape.

"They were just shooting. If they see anyone trying to escape or stand up, they will just shoot the person," he said. "Everybody standing was bombarded with bullets."

It was not immediately known who was behind the church massacre and authorities said the gunmen managed to flee the scene. While northern Nigeria has battled an Islamic insurgency for more than 13 years, Ondo state has long been considered one of the most peaceful states in the country.

Hospital workers struggled to treat scores of wounded following the attack. The Nigeria Medical Association in Ondo state directed all available doctors to head to the hospitals to offer any help to dozens of critically wounded.

"At a stage, even the blood got exhausted at our blood bank and we had to be pleading for blood," said a doctor at the Federal Medical Center in Owo who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to journalists.

"Even as a physician, I have attended to a good number of casualties but what I saw yesterday was far beyond whatever I have seen before in my life and in the practice."

## Muslim nations slam India over insulting remarks about Islam

By SHEIKH SAALIQ Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — India is facing major diplomatic outrage from Muslim-majority countries after top officials in the governing Hindu nationalist party made derogatory references to Islam and the Prophet Muhammad, drawing accusations of blasphemy across some Arab nations that have left New Delhi struggling to contain the damaging fallout.

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At least five Arab nations have lodged official protests against India, and Pakistan and Afghanistan also reacted strongly Monday to the comments made by two prominent spokespeople from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party. Anger has poured out on social media, and calls for a boycott of Indian goods have surfaced in some Arab nations. At home, it has led to protests against Modi's party in some parts of the country.

The controversial remarks follow increasing violence targeting India's Muslim minority carried out by Hindu nationalists who have been emboldened by Modi's regular silence about such attacks since he was first elected in 2014.

Over the years, Indian Muslims have often been targeted for everything from their food and clothing style to inter-religious marriages. Rights groups such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have warned that attacks could escalate. They have also accused Modi's governing party of looking the other way and sometimes enabling hate speech against Muslims, who comprise 14% of India's 1.4 billion people but are still numerous enough to be the second-largest Muslim population of any nation.

Modi's party denies the accusations, but India's Muslims say attacks against them and their faith have increased sharply.

The anger has been growing since last week after the two spokespeople, Nupur Sharma and Naveen Jindal, made speculative remarks that were seen as insulting Islam's Prophet Muhammad and his wife Aisha.

Modi's party took no action against them until Sunday, when a sudden chorus of diplomatic outrage began with Qatar and Kuwait summoning their Indian ambassadors to protest. The BJP suspended Sharma and expelled Jindal and issued a rare statement saying it "strongly denounces insult of any religious personalities," a move that was welcomed by Qatar and Kuwait.

Later, Saudi Arabia and Iran also lodged complaints with India, and the Jeddha-based Organization of Islamic Cooperation said the remarks came in a "context of intensifying hatred and abuse toward Islam in India and systematic practices against Muslims."

India's Foreign Ministry on Monday rejected the comments by the OIC as "unwarranted" and "narrow-minded." On Sunday, India's embassies in Qatar and Kuwait released a statement saying the views expressed about the Prophet Muhammad and Islam were not those of the Indian government and were made by "fringe elements." The statement said that strong action had already been taken against those who made the derogatory remarks.

The criticism from Muslim countries, however, was severe, indicating that insulting Prophet Muhammad was a red line.

Qatar's Foreign Ministry said it expected a public apology from the Indian government, and Kuwait warned that if the comments go unpunished, India would see "an increase of extremism and hatred." The Grand Mufti of Oman described the "obscene rudeness" of Modi's party toward Islam as a form of "war." Riyadh said the comments were insulting and called for "respect for beliefs and religions." And Egypt's Al-Azhar Mosque, the Sunni world's foremost institution of religious learning, described the remarks as "real terrorism (that) can plunge the entire world into severe crises and deadly wars."

The remarks made by Sharma during a TV program in India and Jindal in a tweet risk damaging India's ties with Arab nations.

India maintains strong relations with Gulf countries, which rely on millions of migrant workers from India and elsewhere in South Asia to serve their tiny local populations and drive the machinery of daily life. India also depends on oil-rich Gulf Arab countries, such as Saudi Arabia, to power its energy-thirsty economy.

The remarks also led to anger in India's archrival and neighbor, Pakistan, and in Afghanistan.

On Monday, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry summoned an Indian diplomat and conveyed Islamabad's "strong condemnation," a day after Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif said the comments were "hurtful" and "India under Modi is trampling religious freedoms & persecuting Muslims." India's Foreign Ministry responded by calling Pakistan "a serial violator of minority rights" and said it should not engage "in alarmist propaganda and attempting to foment communal disharmony in India."

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"India accords the highest respect to all religions," ministry spokesperson Arindam Bagchi said.

Criticism also came from Kabul. The Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan said the Indian government should not allow "such fanatics to insult ... Islam and provoke the feelings of Muslims."

Modi's party also faced anger from some of its own supporters, but it was for a different reason. Many Hindu nationalists posted comments on social media saying the government was buckling under international pressure.

Anti-Muslim sentiments and attacks have risen across India under Modi. Last week, U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said India was seeing "rising attacks on people and places of worship," eliciting a response from New Delhi, which called the comments "ill-informed."

More recently, religious tensions have escalated after some Hindu groups went to a local court in northern Varanasi city to seek permission to pray at a 17th century mosque, claiming that it was built by demolishing a temple. Critics say these tensions have been further exacerbated by Indian television anchors during raucous debates.

## UK boosts Ukraine support with high-tech missile system

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The British government said Monday that the multiple-launch rocket systems it is offering to Ukraine will bring "a significant boost in capability" for the country's efforts to resist Russia's invasion.

"If the international community continues its support, I believe Ukraine can win" its war against Russia, British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace said in a statement.

The statement came after comments Sunday by Russian President Vladimir Putin, who warned the West against sending longer-range rocket systems to Ukraine.

The British government described the M270 weapon system as a "cutting edge" military asset which can strike targets up to 80 kilometers (50 miles) away "with pinpoint accuracy." The United Kingdom pledged last week to send the weapons. It gave no details about delivery dates.

The U.S. last week announced plans to deliver \$700 million of security assistance for Ukraine, including four precision-guided, medium-range rocket systems, as well as helicopters, Javelin anti-tank systems, radars, tactical vehicles and more.

Washington and London hope the deliveries will help Ukraine turn the tide of the war in its eastern Donbas region which Russia appears minded to capture entirely.

They are unlikely to have an immediate impact, however. The Pentagon said last week that it will take at least three weeks to get the U.S. weapons onto the battlefield. Russia-backed separatists have fought the Ukrainian government since 2014 in the Donbas.

The U.S. has stopped short of offering Ukraine longer-range weapons that could fire deep into Russia and could inflame tensions with Moscow.

Russia's own use of missiles in Ukraine, meanwhile, continued to pummel targets, with the Russian military claiming Monday it had struck a Ukrainian factory that was repairing armor.

Russian warplanes fired long-range missiles to destroy a plant on the edge of the town of Lozova in the northeastern Kharkiv region that was repairing armored vehicles, Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said.

Russian aircraft hit 73 areas of concentration of Ukrainian troops and equipment, while the Russian artillery struck 431 military targets, Konashenkov said. His claims couldn't be independently verified.

Putin vowed to strike deeper into the heart of Ukraine if the West sends Kyiv longer-range missile systems. In a show of force, Russian missiles struck Ukraine's capital, Kyiv, on Sunday.

Ukraine's General Staff said Russian forces fired five X-22 cruise missiles from the Caspian Sea toward Kyiv, and one was destroyed by air defenses. Four other missiles hit "infrastructure facilities," but Ukraine said there were no casualties.

Before Sunday's early morning attack, Kyiv hadn't faced any such Russian airstrikes since the April 28

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visit of U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on Sunday visited command posts and the frontline positions of Ukrainian troops in the Donetsk and Luhansk regions, which make up the Donbas.

Ukraine's struggle on the 103rd day of war was heartfelt for veterans of D-Day who gathered in northern France on Monday.

American D-Day veteran Charles Shay, 97, was at Omaha Beach in Normandy morning to mark the 78th anniversary of June 6, 1944 landings and pay tribute to those who fell that day.

Asked about his feelings regarding the war being waged on the European continent, Shay told The Associated Press it "is a very sad situation."

"In 1944 I landed on these beaches and we thought we'd bring peace to the world. But it's not possible," he added with regret.

A Ukrainian regional governor said Monday that the situation in a key eastern town has worsened for defending troops.

Luhansk Gov. Serhiy Haidai said Monday that fierce fighting was continuing in the city of Sievierodonetsk, which is at the epicenter of the Russian offensive.

He described the combat situation as "quite dynamic," adding that the Ukrainian forces had lost some of the gains they made over the weekend but are holding their positions in the city's industrial zone.

The Russians have continued intensive bombardment of Sievierodonetsk and nearby Lysychansk, Haidai said.

Russian forces have been focusing in the capture of Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk.

West of those cities, in the towns of Sloviansk and Bakhmut, cars and military vehicles have been speeding into town from the direction of the front line. Dozens of military doctors and paramedic ambulances worked Sunday to evacuate civilians and Ukrainian servicemen, many of whom had been hurt by artillery shelling.

Western military intelligence reports say Ukrainian counterattacks in Sievierodonetsk are probably halting the operational momentum Russian forces previously gained by concentrating their combat units and firepower in the area.

On Monday, Serbia confirmed that a planned visit by Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov to the Balkan country won't take place after reports that Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Montenegro refused to allow his plane to fly over its airspace to reach Serbia.

## **An infamous day. A search for answers. Will America tune in?**

By CALVIN WOODWARD Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans are processing the nightmare of the slaughter of children in Texas, the racist murders in Buffalo, New York, and the other numbingly repeated scenes of carnage in the United States.

They're contending with what feels like highway robbery at the gas pump, they're nagged by a virus that the world can't shake, and they're split into two hostile camps over politics and culture — the twin pillars of the nation's foundation.

They've already been through two set-piece dramas of presidential impeachment — indeed, through the wringer on all things Donald Trump.

Now, beginning in prime time on Thursday, the House Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol is setting out to establish the historical record of an event damaging not only to a community or individual families but to the collective idea of democracy itself.

After more than 100 subpoenas, 1,000 interviews and 100,000 documents, the committee has a story to tell in hearings that open this week. A story for the ages, it's been said.

The open question: How much will the country care?

The committee's examination of the actions of Trump and all the president's men and women, more aggressive than any inquiry before it, has produced a multitude of plot lines that together will tell the tale of a violent uprising fueled by the venom and lies of a defeated president.

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Many Republicans, even those who condemned Trump and the violence in the moment, have adopted a “nothing more to see here” posture since, even rejecting calls for an independent Sept. 11-style commission to investigate.

An entire disinformation ecosystem sprung up with utterly false claims about the nature and character of the attack. Rather than condemn the it, Trump continues to insist his defeat by 7 million votes should be overturned, in effect validating the rioters’ cause.

Dozens of the insurrectionists have been brought to justice, many of them being convicted or pleading guilty to serious crimes. But the committee’s goal is larger: Who in a position of power should also be held to account?

There are endless ribbons of inquiry.

Did Vice President Mike Pence refuse to leave the besieged Capitol because he suspected the Secret Service, at the behest of Trump, was trying to take him away to stop him from certifying Democrat Joe Biden’s victory? Did Trump flush incriminating papers down the White House toilet?

How to explain the gap of more than seven hours in White House telephone logs of Trump’s calls during the insurrection? Will it stand in history alongside the infamous 18 1/2-minute hole in President Richard Nixon’s secret White House recording system in 1972?

The Watergate affair, which exposed Nixon’s cover-up of politically motivated criminal acts and destroyed his presidency, centered on a question posed by a Republican senator, Howard Baker, in a Tennessee drawl: “What did the president know, and when did he know it?”

For the Jan. 6 committee, the key question about Trump’s involvement in the insurrection is: What did the president do, and when did he do it?

One aim is to establish whether Trump’s acts are criminal, as one judge has mused they may be, and whether that would prompt a politically fraught Justice Department prosecution of an ex-president.

More broadly, the effort addresses who might be punished in the large circle of Trump enablers. Some of them are members of Congress who helped him plot how to try to overturn an honest election only to huddle in fear with everyone else in a Capitol hideout when the rioters — in service of that plot — swarmed the marbled corridors of power Jan. 6, 2021.

The prime-time setting for the committee hearing is a rarity and something of a throwback to an era when people gathered en masse at their televisions in the evening before video streaming atomized viewership.

Rep. Jamie Raskin, a Maryland Democrat on the committee, set expectations that may be hard to live up to as the committee tries to renew the interest of this short-attention-span country in machinations that are nearly 18 months in the rearview mirror.

The hazards in that mirror are closer than they appear, as committee members see it.

“The hearings will tell a story that will really blow the roof off the House,” Raskin said in April. “Because it is a story of the most heinous and dastardly political offense ever organized by a president and his followers and his entourage in the history of the United States.”

That offense? In short, he told a Washington forum, “an inside coup” coupled with a violent attack by “neo-fascists.”

Trump is not expected at any of the hearings, but his words and actions will hang heavy over the proceedings as lawmakers look to place him at the center of the chaos. It seems highly plausible that he will find a way to rail against them that does not involve being under oath.

The committee almost certainly will look to draw a tight connection between Trump’s vociferous rejections of the election results and his Jan. 6 rally outside the White House sending the angry crowd off to Capitol Hill.

Free from the burden of proof beyond a reasonable doubt, committee members are likely to try to show that the riot that ravaged the Capitol was not a spontaneous gathering but part of a broader conspiracy and a natural outgrowth of weeks of denunciations of democratic processes.

Biden framed Jan. 6 and its aftermath in existential terms about the threat posed to democracy. It’s a “battle for the soul of America,” he said. But a president can only have one No. 1 priority at a time, and

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this isn't his. Time and again, he's said it's inflation.

Whatever revelations the hearings may produce, much is already known because the attack played out on screens large and small in real time, and Trump exhorted supporters to "fight like hell" in shouts for the world to hear.

"In quieter times, the hearings would have a stronger hold on public attention," said Kathleen Hall Jamieson, director of the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania and an authority on political communications. "But, as is, they will be competing for attention with topics with greater immediate relevance in our lives."

Hungry babies lacking formula. Soaring prices for gas and groceries. Rising COVID-19 hospitalization among the vaccinated. The scenes of destruction in Ukraine and the threat that the Russian invasion will escalate to include use of nuclear weapons. And there's monkeypox.

"To say nothing of summer vacation," Jamieson added.

"If the hearings are to do anything other than reinforce our existing political biases," she said, "they will have to reveal previously covered-up goings-on that threatened something that Democrats, independents and most Republicans can agree should be sacrosanct."

Some of the inquiry's juicy bits are out already. Text messages and emails, thought to be private when sent, have become public, including from chief of staff Mark Meadows.

But the committee has been sitting on much more information and will have tens of thousands of exhibits and hundreds of witnesses, said Democratic Rep. Bennie Thompson of Mississippi, the committee chairman.

Seven Democrats and two Republicans — both shunned by their party — make up the committee. Among them the stakes are surely highest for Rep. Liz Cheney, the deeply conservative but fiercely independent Wyoming lawmaker who is practically alone in the GOP in assailing Trump while also seeking reelection to Congress.

Daughter of a vice president and once an embodiment of the Republican establishment, she is now a renegade in a new order dominated by Trump, who wants her unseated in her primary in August.

That new order became ever clearer in February, when the Republican Party censured Cheney and the committee's other Republican, Illinois Rep. Adam Kinzinger, who's not seeking reelection, for taking part in the inquiry. The party adopted a resolution saying the witnesses summoned by the committee for their actions on and around Jan. 6 had only been engaging in "legitimate political discourse."

Matthew Delmont, a Dartmouth College history professor specializing in Black history, said Jan. 6 cast such an ominous shadow that he expects people in the United States, for all of their other pressing preoccupations, to be drawn to the inquiry.

"I think people will watch the Jan. 6 hearings because they want to understand how our democracy reached this precipice," he said. "I don't know how many people will be willing to hear the evidence that will be presented, but I think it is important for the findings to be shared openly so people today and in the future can appreciate what happened."

Jan. 6 shares certain distinctions with other past agonies. As with 9/11, you can shorthand the date, Jan. 6, and people know. Like Watergate, it speaks to corrupt acts in the highest office. As with the Challenger space shuttle explosion and 9/11 and more, the scene brought so much visceral shock that many people remember where they were and what they were doing when they saw it.

As far as the far right is concerned, the historical analogy is the Boston Tea Party, with liberals, Democrats and the Washington establishment as the redcoats.

Trump-friendly Republicans sanitized what happened that day, once the shock that nearly all felt on Jan. 6 subsided. In measurements of public opinion, Republican voters in the main said they believe the 2020 election was rigged, when by absolutely all measures — the courts, nonpartisan and even Republican state officials, and the Trump administration's own election monitors, including his attorney general — the election was purely fair.

A year later, the patently violent uprising was remembered as very or extremely violent by fewer than 4 in 10 Republicans polled, compared with almost 9 in 10 Democrats.

Even so, there were signs in the latest Republican primaries for the 2022 midterms that Trump's obses-

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sion about getting fired by the voters all those months ago is wearing thin even with them.

Trump won the 2016 election with a minority of voters, lost the House to the Democrats in 2018 and lost in 2020 by a decisive margin — not a glowing electoral record.

Still he holds sway over his party, thanks to supporters whose loyalty seems immovable. Unswayed by facts throughout the fight to discredit and upend Biden's election, they won't be easily dislodged by a congressional committee's revelations.

Through Trump's presidency, audacious falsehoods and elaborate exaggerations were the order of the day. But Trump, at times, had a knack for speaking a larger truth that penetrated his fog of hyperbole and misinformation.

So it was with his comment in Iowa in January 2016, en route to the Republican nomination. The comment foretells that even if the Jan. 6 committee manages to "blow the roof off the House," Trump may remain golden with millions who love him.

"I could stand in the middle of Fifth Avenue and shoot somebody, and I wouldn't lose any voters, OK?" Trump said then. "It's, like, incredible."

## British Prime Minister Johnson to face no-confidence vote

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — British Prime Minister Boris Johnson will face a no-confidence vote Monday that could oust him from power, as discontent with his rule finally threatens to topple a politician who has often seemed invincible despite many scandals.

If Johnson loses the vote among the 359 Conservative lawmakers, the party will choose a new leader, who will also become prime minister. If he wins, as seems more likely, he can't face another challenge for a year under current party rules — though a narrow victory would leave him a hobbled leader whose days are likely numbered.

Regardless of the outcome, the fact that enough lawmakers are demanding such a vote represents a watershed moment for Johnson. It is also a sign of deep Conservative divisions, less than three years after Johnson led the party to its biggest election victory in decades.

Johnson's renown as an election-winner has previously insulated him from the fallout of a growing number of scandals. But recently he has struggled to turn the page on revelations that he and his staff repeatedly held boozy parties that flouted the COVID-19 restrictions they imposed on Britain in 2020 and 2021.

Conservative Party official Graham Brady announced Monday that he had received letters calling for a no-confidence vote from at least 54 Tory legislators, enough to trigger the measure under party rules.

"The threshold of 15% (of Conservatives in the House of Commons) has been passed," Brady said. He said the vote would take place in person in the Commons on Monday evening, with the result announced soon after.

Johnson's Downing Street office said the prime minister welcomed the vote.

"Tonight is a chance to end months of speculation and allow the government to draw a line and move on, delivering on the people's priorities," it said.

Johnson's supporters think he will win the backing of more than 180 lawmakers and defeat the challenge. But he could still emerge severely weakened. The last prime minister to survive a no-confidence vote was Theresa May in 2018. She never regained her authority and resigned within months, sparking a leadership contest that was won by Johnson.

His selection in July 2019 capped a rollercoaster journey to the top. He had held major offices, including London mayor and U.K. foreign secretary, but also spent periods on the political sidelines after self-inflicted gaffes. He kept bouncing back, showing an uncommon ability to shrug off scandal and connect with voters that, for many Conservatives, overshadowed doubts about his ethics or judgment.

But qualms have been growing, and came to a head after an investigator's report late last month that slammed a culture of rule-breaking inside the prime minister's Downing Street office in a scandal known



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as “partygate.”

Civil service investigator Sue Gray described alcohol-fueled bashes held by Downing Street staff members at a time when pandemic restrictions prevented U.K. residents from socializing or even visiting dying relatives.

Gray said the “senior leadership team” must bear responsibility for “failures of leadership and judgment.”

Johnson also was fined 50 pounds (\$63) by police for attending one party, making him the first prime minister sanctioned for breaking the law while in office.

The prime minister said he was “humbled” and took “full responsibility” — but insisted he would not resign. He urged Britons to “move on” and focus on the battered economy and the war in Ukraine.

But a growing number of Conservatives feel that Johnson is now a liability.

Lawmaker Jesse Norman, a longtime Johnson supporter, said the prime minister had “presided over a culture of casual law-breaking” and had left the government “adrift and distracted.”

“I am afraid I can see no circumstances in which I could serve in a government led by you,” Norman wrote in a letter published on social media.

If Johnson is ousted it would spark a Conservative leadership contest, in which several prominent government ministers are likely to run.

Conservative lawmaker Roger Gale, a Johnson critic, said “we have some very good alternatives to the prime minister so we’re not short of choice.”

“Any single one of those people in my view would make a better prime minister than the one that we’ve got at the moment,” he told the BBC.

Discontent seems to have come to a head over a parliamentary break that coincided with celebrations of Queen Elizabeth II’s Platinum Jubilee. For many, the four-day long weekend was a chance to relax — but there was no respite for Johnson, who was booed by some onlookers as he arrived for a service in the queen’s honor at St. Paul’s Cathedral on Friday.

Senior ministers — some of them likely candidates in a future leadership contest — tweeted messages of support for Johnson.

“The Prime Minister has my 100% backing in today’s vote and I strongly encourage colleagues to support him,” said Foreign Secretary Liz Truss, one of the favorites to succeed Johnson.

Cabinet minister Steve Barclay, a Johnson ally, said toppling the leader now would be “indefensible.”

“The problems we face aren’t easy to solve,” he wrote on the Conservative Home website. “But under Boris Johnson’s leadership, our plan for jobs shows how we are navigating through these global challenges.”

“To disrupt that progress now would be inexcusable to many who lent their vote to us for the first time at the last general election, and who want to see our Prime Minister deliver the changes promised for their communities,” he added.

## US, S. Korea fire missiles to sea, matching North’s launches

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The U.S. and South Korean militaries launched eight ballistic missiles into the sea Monday in a show of force matching a North Korean missile display a day earlier that extended a provocative streak in weapons demonstrations.

The allies’ live-fire exercise involved eight Army Tactical Missile System missiles — one American and seven South Korean — that were fired into South Korea’s eastern waters across 10 minutes following notifications for air and maritime safety, according to South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff and U.S. Forces Korea.

The tit-for-tat missile launches were aimed at demonstrating the ability to respond swiftly and accurately to North Korean attacks, the South Korean military said.

The South’s military on Sunday detected North Korea firing eight short-range missiles over 35 minutes from at least four different locations, including from western and eastern coastal areas and two inland areas north of and near the capital, Pyongyang, in what appeared to be a single-day record for the country’s ballistic launches.

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It was North Korea's 18th round of missile tests in 2022 alone — a streak that included the country's first launches of intercontinental ballistic missiles in nearly five years. South Korean and U.S. officials also say North Korea is preparing to conduct its first nuclear test since September 2017 as leader Kim Jong Un pushes a brinkmanship aimed at cementing the North's status as a nuclear power and negotiating economic and security concessions from a position of strength.

U.S. and South Korean forces conducted a similar live-fire exercise following North Korea's previous ballistic launches on May 25, which South Korea's military said involved an ICBM flown on medium-range trajectory and two short-range weapons. Those tests came as Biden wrapped up his trip to South Korea and Japan, where he reaffirmed the U.S. commitment to defend both allies.

South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol during a speech marking the country's Memorial Day on Monday said his government would pursue "fundamental and practical security capabilities" to counter North Korea's growing nuclear weapons and missile threat.

"North Korea's nuclear weapons and missile programs have grown to a point where they are not only a threat to the Korean Peninsula, but to Northeast Asia and world peace," Yoon said at the National Cemetery in Seoul, saying his government would "sternly respond to any kind of North Korean provocation."

Yoon, a conservative who took office in May, has vowed to strengthen the South's defense in conjunction with its alliance with the United States. His goals include enhancing missile strike and interception capabilities and resuming large-scale military exercises with the United States, which were suspended or downsized in recent years to create space for diplomacy with Pyongyang or because of COVID-19.

Yoon's dovish predecessor, Moon Jae-in, who had staked his five-year term on inter-Korean engagement, refrained from missile counter-drills after North Korea resumed ballistic missile tests in 2019 as its diplomacy with the United States fizzled.

North Korean state media have yet to comment on Sunday's launches. They came after the U.S. aircraft carrier Ronald Reagan concluded a three-day naval drill with South Korea in the Philippine Sea on Saturday, apparently their first joint drill involving a carrier since November 2017, as the countries move to upgrade their defense exercises in the face of North Korean threats.

North Korea has long condemned the allies' combined military exercises as invasion rehearsals and often countered with its own missile drills, including short-range launches in 2016 and 2017 that simulated nuclear attacks on South Korean ports and U.S. military facilities in Japan.

Hours after the North Korean launches, Japan and the United States conducted a joint ballistic missile exercise aimed at showing their "rapid response capability" and "strong determination" to counter threats, Japan's Defense Ministry said.

The United States has vowed to push for additional international sanctions if North Korea conducts a nuclear test, but the prospects for meaningful new punitive measures are dim with the U.N. Security Council's permanent members divided.

Russia and China vetoed a U.S.-sponsored resolution that would have imposed additional sanctions on North Korea over its latest ballistic tests on May 25, insisting that Washington should instead focus on reviving negotiations with Pyongyang.

Addressing the brewing animosity, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian called for related nations to "maintain calm and exercise restraint, and avoid any actions that may aggravate tensions."

Nuclear talks between Washington and Pyongyang have stalled since 2019 over disagreements in exchanging the release of crippling U.S.-led sanctions for the North's disarmament steps.

Despite facing harsh challenges at home, including a decaying economy and a COVID-19 outbreak, Kim has shown no willingness to fully surrender an arsenal he sees as his strongest guarantee of survival.

His government has so far rejected the Biden administration's offers for open-ended talks and is clearly intent on converting the dormant denuclearization negotiations into a mutual arms-reduction process, experts say.

**Tropical Storm Alex heads for Bermuda area with wind, rain**

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Tropical Storm Alex, the first named storm of the Atlantic hurricane season, headed for a close pass by Bermuda on Monday after deluging parts of Florida and causing three deaths in Cuba.

Alex strengthened some over the Atlantic after becoming a tropical storm early Sunday when it moved over the Atlantic following its trek across Florida, where it left streets flooded and motorists stranded in some cities Saturday.

The U.S. National Hurricane Center said Alex has weakened and had maximum sustained winds of 65 mph (100 kph) early Monday. Further weakening was expected Tuesday. It was centered about 140 miles (225 kilometers) northwest of Bermuda and moving to the east-northeast at a brisk 28 mph (44 kph). This motion is expected to continue until the storm is absorbed Tuesday.

The storm was expected to pass just north of Bermuda on Monday. A tropical storm warning was in effect on the island, where forecasters said it could drop 1 to 2 inches (25 to 50 mm) of rain from late Sunday into Monday.

Bermuda's national security minister, Michael Weeks, said emergency services were monitoring the storm.

The storm system earlier killed three people in Cuba, damaged dozens of homes in Havana and knocked out electricity in some areas, authorities reported.

Parts of South Florida experienced road flooding from heavy rain and wind Saturday.

Miami Beach Mayor Dan Gelber said the storm tested the system of drainage pumps the city recently installed as climate change has increasingly made flooding an issue in the low-lying area.

"We moved the water off pretty quickly, but in some areas, obviously, it was really challenging," Gelber said.

Alex partially emerged from the remnants of Hurricane Agatha, which made landfall on Mexico's southern Pacific Coast last week, killing at least nine people and leaving five missing as it moved over land.

The storm's appearance was unusually early for the Atlantic hurricane season, which officially began last Tuesday, but it is not unprecedented for Florida.

## Depot fire latest to spotlight Bangladesh industrial safety

By JULHAS ALAM and AI-EMRUN GARJON Associated Press

CHITTAGONG, Bangladesh (AP) — Authorities in Bangladesh were still struggling Monday to determine the cause of a devastating fire that killed at least 49 people, including nine firefighters, and injured more than 100 others, officials and local media reported, as experts have raised concern over the safety standard in the country's industrial sector.

Efforts to extinguish the fire at the BM Inland Container Depot, a Dutch-Bangladesh joint venture, continued overnight after the inferno broke out around midnight Saturday following explosions in a container full of chemicals.

Authorities say there were more than 4,000 containers at the depot spanning over 24 acres of land when the fire and subsequent explosions broke out, and about 1,000 containers had goods including chemicals at that time.

On Monday, nearly 40 hours after the first explosion occurred, smoke was still coming out of containers at the scene. Firefighters called in from nearby districts and from the capital, Dhaka, were extra-careful during their work.

A soldier speaking into megaphone urged people to move.

"We have found more containers with chemicals, please go out," the man shouted.

As many as 21 firefighters were either killed or injured, and the scene became a nightmare for them.

"Working at BM Depot, it was so difficult to carry them (firefighters) on my shoulders, those that I have seen like my own sons, worked with them," said Purna Chandra Mutsuddy, deputy assistant director of the Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defense.

"I feel in this world nothing can be more painful than this," he added.

Officials said the number of casualties rose over the weekend as many workers and firefighters were unaware of chemical storage at the depot, and after the initial fire they got close to the explosive con-

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tainers. A few hundred workers and dozens of firefighters were attempting to extinguish the fire when the first explosion took place.

The depot is located near country's main Chittagong Seaport, about 210 kilometers (130 miles) southeast of the capital, Dhaka, and it is one of 19 such depots in the region.

The latest fire has raised the concern over whether such facilities in Bangladesh, a burgeoning economy in South Asia, is maintaining safety standards.

Khairul Alam Sujan, vice president of Bangladesh Freight Forwarders Association, said Sunday that containers with hazardous chemicals were kept with those full of garment products ready for exports.

He said it was important to maintain distance from containers with any hazardous chemicals.

Firefighters said more than one dozen containers had hydrogen peroxide, which helped spread the fire after the explosion, but it was not clear what caused the initial explosion to be so powerful.

The head of the country's fire service department regretted that they did not get anyone from the depot's management to get details about the containers and the chemicals when they were working at the scene.

Bangladeshi media were critical of the institutional capacity in ensuring safety at such facility.

"The fire ... is the latest in an ever-growing list of tragedies that put Bangladesh's appalling industrial safety record once again under the spotlight," the Daily Star newspaper said in an editorial on Monday.

"The poor infrastructure and institutional preparedness for industrial safety ... makes such fire incidents almost inevitable," the Daily Star said.

The International Labor Organization said in a 2020 report that industrial safety in Bangladesh is very much in a nascent stage.

"A comprehensive framework covering all the safety-related issues across different sectors, economic activities and commercial establishments — with a reference to emergencies such as COVID-19 — needs to be developed," it said.

The ILO said Bangladesh needs a "credible and accountable industrial safety governance structure."

On Monday morning, authorities started collecting DNA samples from the family members of the people who died in the fire as burns made many of the bodies unrecognizable.

Explosives experts from Bangladesh's military were called in to assist the firefighters. The explosions shattered the windows of nearby buildings and were felt as far as 4 kilometers (2 1/2 miles) away, officials and local media reports said.

The death toll remained 49 on Monday, according to Ekattor TV station. But the area's civil surgeon said the number could still rise as the fire raged for a second night.

More than a dozen victims have been airlifted and brought to a specialized hospital in the capital, Dhaka. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her shock at the accident and ordered adequate arrangement for medical treatment of the injured.

Bangladesh has a history of industrial disasters, including factories catching fire with workers trapped inside. Monitoring groups have blamed corruption and lax enforcement.

In the country's massive garment industry, which employs about 4 million people, safety conditions have improved significantly after massive reforms, but experts say accidents could still occur if other sectors do not make similar changes.

In 2012, about 117 workers died when they were trapped behind locked exits in a garment factory in Dhaka.

The country's worst industrial disaster occurred the following year, when the Rana Plaza garment factory outside Dhaka collapsed, killing more than 1,100 people.

In 2019, a blaze ripped through a 400-year-old area cramped with apartments, shops and warehouses in the oldest part of Dhaka and killed at least 67 people. Another fire in Old Dhaka in a house illegally storing chemicals killed at least 123 people in 2010.

In 2021, a fire at a food and beverage factory outside Dhaka killed at least 52 people, many of whom were trapped inside by an illegally locked door.

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## Crowds honor WWII veterans at Normandy D-Day celebrations

By SYLVIE CORBET and JEFF SCHAEFFER The Associated Press

COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER, France (AP) — When D-Day veterans set foot on the Normandy beaches and other World War II sites, they express a mix of joy and sadness. Joy at seeing the gratitude and friendliness of the French toward those who landed on June 6, 1944. Sadness as they think of their fallen comrades and of another battle now being waged in Europe: the war in Ukraine.

As a bright sun was rising over the wide band of sand of Omaha Beach on Monday, 78 years on, U.S. D-Day veteran Charles Shay expressed thoughts for his comrades who fell that day. "I have never forgotten them and I know that their spirits are here," he told The Associated Press.

The 98-year-old Penobscot Native American from Indian Island, Maine, took part in a sage-burning ceremony near the beach in Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer.

Shay, who now lives in Normandy, was a 19-year-old U.S. Army medic when he landed on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944.

He said he was sad to see war in Europe once again, so many years later.

"Ukraine is a very sad situation. I feel sorry for the people there and I don't know why this war had to come, but I think the human beings like to, I think they like to fight. I don't know," he said.

"In 1944 I landed on these beaches and we thought we'd bring peace to the world. But it's not possible."

This year, Shay handed over the remembrance task to another Native American, from the Crow tribe, Julia Kelly, a Gulf War veteran, who performed the sage ritual. "Never forget, never forget," she said. "In this time, in any time, war is not good."

Shay's message to young generations would be "to be ever vigilant."

"Of course I have to say that they should protect their freedom that they have now," he said.

For the past two years, D-Day ceremonies were reduced to a minimum amid COVID-19 lockdown restrictions.

This year, crowds of French and international visitors — including veterans in their 90s — are back in Normandy to pay tribute to the nearly 160,000 troops from Britain, the U.S., Canada and elsewhere who landed there to bring freedom.

Several thousand people were expected Monday at a ceremony later at the American Cemetery overlooking Omaha Beach in the French town of Colleville-sur-Mer. Amid the dozens of U.S. veterans expected to attend was Ray Wallace, 97, a former paratrooper with the 82nd Airborne Division.

On D-Day, his plane was hit and caught fire, forcing him to jump earlier than expected. He landed 20 miles (32 kilometers) away from the town of Sainte-Mere-Eglise, the first French village to be liberated from Nazi occupation.

"We all got a little scared then. And then whenever the guy dropped us out, we were away from where the rest of the group was. That was scary," Wallace told The Associated Press.

Less than a month later, he was taken prisoner by the Germans. He was ultimately liberated after 10 months and returned to the U.S.

Still, Wallace thinks he was lucky.

"I remember the good friends that I lost there. So it's a little emotional," he said, with sadness in his voice. "I guess you can say I'm proud of what I did but I didn't do that much."

He was asked about the secret to his longevity. "Calvados!" he joked, in reference to Normandy's local alcohol.

On D-Day, Allied troops landed on the beaches code-named Omaha, Utah, Juno, Sword and Gold, carried by 7,000 boats. On that single day, 4,414 Allied soldiers lost their lives, 2,501 of them Americans. More than 5,000 were wounded.

On the German side, several thousand were killed or wounded.

Wallace, who is using a wheelchair, was among about 20 WWII veterans who opened Saturday's parade of military vehicles in Sainte-Mere-Eglise to great applause from thousands of people, in a joyful atmosphere. He did not hide his pleasure, happily waving to the crowd as parents explained the achievements of World War II heroes to their children.

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Many history buffs, wearing military and civilian clothes from the period, also came to stage a reenactment of the events.

In Colleville-sur-Mer on Monday, U.S. Air Force aircraft are to fly over the American Cemetery during the commemoration ceremony, in the presence of Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The place is home to the gravesites of 9,386 people who died fighting on D-Day and in the operations that followed.

For 82-year-old Dale Thompson, visiting the site over the weekend was a first.

Thompson, who traveled from Florida with his wife, served in the 101st Airborne Division of the U.S. military in the early 1960s. He was stateside and saw no combat.

Walking amid the thousands of marble headstones, Thompson wondered how he would have reacted if he landed at D-Day.

"I try to put myself in their place," he said. "Could I be as heroic as these people?"

## Can journalists and grieving communities coexist in tragedy?

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — As a knot of journalists stood across from a mortuary witnessing a funeral for a child killed in the Uvalde school massacre, some people passing by didn't disguise their anger.

"Y'all are the scum of the Earth," said one woman, surveying the cameras.

When tragedy comes to town in the 21st century, the media follows, focusing the world's eyes on a community during its most difficult hours. Columbine, Sandy Hook, now Uvalde, Texas — the list of places synonymous with horrible mass killings keeps growing.

Journalists are called upon to explain what happened, and sometimes to ask uncomfortable questions in places where many people want to be left alone to grieve. Is it possible to do it better, to co-exist within a moment no one wants to be part of?

Tempers have flared in Uvalde. One female journalist was told, "I hope your entire family dies in a massacre." Some are threatened with arrest for trespassing while on public property. A group called "Guardians of the Children" blocked camera views, often with the encouragement of police.

Yet there are also people like Ben Gonzalez, who approached reporters near the mortuary after hearing the woman lash out to say that she doesn't speak for everyone. "Thank you for documenting this tragedy," he said. "We'll look back at the photos you take and appreciate it."

The shady courthouse square in Uvalde has been dotted by canopies erected by TV news crews. Journalists have been stationed at Robb Elementary School, where the shooting took place, near a makeshift memorial piled with flowers, stuffed animals and messages. At the local Starbucks, where many journalists go to work, tables are set aside for Uvalde residents.

These are the typical signs of the invasion of journalists that accompanies such events.

"I respect the wishes of people if they want me to leave," said Guillermo Contreras, a senior writer at the San Antonio Express-News. "By the second day (after the shooting), the people were overwhelmed. The town has been overrun by reporters. There was pretty much nowhere you could go without running into the media."

Like most colleagues, Contreras tries to be sensitive to what Uvalde's people are enduring. He has a 10-year-old daughter at home.

"When you are at the epicenter of a situation like that, you really do need protection," said Michele Gay, who lost her daughter Josephine in the Newtown school shooting a decade ago. "You are really not in a state of mind to be offering your feelings in front of the camera."

Gay said she had no idea at the extent of attention given to the story until the state trooper assigned to protect her family drove them around town to see the memorials.

"At first, I was angry," said Gay, co-founder and executive director of Safe and Sound Schools, an advocacy group. "It felt invasive. It felt hurtful ... At the same time, there were members of the media who were so thoughtful, caring and compassionate."

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The sensitivity that most journalists try to bring to such assignments can be undermined by those who stick cameras in the faces of people crying, or ask a grieving parent how it feels. One parent who lost a child in Newtown saw someone outside her home with a camera peering into a window, said Monsignor Robert Weiss of the town's St. Rose of Lima Parish.

In general, journalists do a poor job explaining what they do and a poor job putting themselves in the shoes of the people they are interviewing, many on the worst day of their lives, said Joy Mayer, a former journalism professor.

"It's really valid for people in that community to feel overwhelmed and resentful," said Mayer, the director of Trusting News, which helps members of the media improve their relationship with the public.

Kelly McBride, an expert on journalism ethics at the Poynter Institute for Media Studies, advises news organizations to better prepare when assigned to these stories. Most interviews on the street indicate this work hasn't been done; people in shock and trauma, she said, shouldn't have to make an on-the-spot decision about dealing with a reporter.

She praised CNN for sensitively handling the interview of a young survivor of the shooting who smeared herself in the blood of a dead classmate to appear dead. CNN reported on what the girl said, but didn't show her or play her voice.

Ana Rodriguez, who lost her daughter Maite in the shooting, sat at her dining room table to tell The Associated Press about how the girl aspired to become a marine biologist. She didn't want her face to appear on camera to divert attention from her daughter.

Sometimes there's little time to prepare. Tony Dokoupil of CBS News was told to get on a plane to Texas. Fast. Dokoupil said he tried to get away from the pack and knock on doors; in one case, he came upon someone close to a child who died who helped arrange an interview with her parents.

He found residents polite and respectful even when they didn't want to talk. He was thanked by some people for being there and telling the stories.

Gay recommends journalists focus their attention on people who have lost their lives, not perpetrators. There has been a marked effort on the part of news organizations to minimize mentions of shooters, although Gay was concerned that she had seen more after Uvalde.

In Uvalde, questions raised about the police response to the shooting have lengthened the time the shooting has lingered in the news and increased hostility toward journalists. CNN used a tag team to stake out Pete Arredondo, the schools police chief who directed operations, and get an ambush interview.

"You have people who are supportive of law enforcement," Contreras said. "It's a small town; people know each other. All of a sudden people are pointing fingers at the officers you know, so there's a division."

For people in communities like Newtown and Uvalde in the immediate aftermath of these stories, the sheer repetitiveness is often wearing.

"If there's been one interview out here there's been 150," said one downtown shopkeeper who, like many in Uvalde, didn't want his name in a news story. "I mean, how many times can you interview people who don't know nothing?"

There are some suggestions of what is known in the industry as a pool — where a handful of reporters ask questions of officials and report answers to a larger group. This is used most famously at the White House.

But McBride said this inevitably leads to less aggressive journalism. Most reporters are driven by the impulse to get things their competitors don't. It was tried in a few instances in Uvalde and proved unsatisfying, Contreras said.

Things grew quieter in Uvalde by this past weekend. Only a television satellite truck remained at the Robb school, and just a handful of journalists were at the courthouse square Saturday as a Hawaiian group presented a giant lei and sang songs.

There's no avoiding the shock an influx of journalists brings to a quiet community. Weiss recalls being swarmed by reporters after emerging from a meeting with parents. He didn't know what to say. But in general, the Catholic Monsignor said he found the press respectful and has come to understand the im-

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portance of its role.

"We needed to get the story out there and we needed to keep this story out there," Weiss said. "Because in 10 years, what has changed? If anything, it has gotten worse."

## Highlights from the queen's Platinum Jubilee in photos

LONDON (AP) — Spectacular military parades, street parties up and down the country, drone and light shows at Buckingham Palace, and a surprising starring turn from Queen Elizabeth II and Paddington Bear: Britain's four-day Platinum Jubilee extravaganza has been one long party demonstrating the extraordinary popularity of the monarch after 70 years on the throne.

Britain's longest-reigning monarch only made three brief appearances during the long holiday weekend dedicated to marking her service. But the absence of the leading lady didn't dampen the nation's party atmosphere, with millions turning out for patriotic street shindigs, barbecues and picnics in their cities and villages.

The four days of celebrations were bookended by two Buckingham Palace balcony appearances by the 96-year-old queen — one on Thursday as festivities kicked off, and the other on Sunday at the finale of a massive street pageant.

Crowds erupted into three cheers as the queen waved and smiled on the balcony along with other working royals after the traditional Trooping the Color military parade on the first day.

She then attended a special beacon-lighting ceremony at Windsor Castle that night, but the brief appearances left her tired. She missed a service of thanksgiving at St. Paul's Cathedral the next day.

The queen, who has curtailed her public appearances in recent months due to problems moving around, also skipped the prestigious Epsom Derby horse race and a pop concert staged outside Buckingham Palace on Saturday.

She did, however, delight the country when she starred with a computer-animated Paddington Bear in a comedy sketch played at the start of the concert. The video showed the queen sharing a chaotic afternoon tea with the furry character — and revealing that she stored marmalade sandwiches in her famous black handbag.

The concert, headlined by Diana Ross, the rock band Queen and others, thrilled a crowd of 22,000 with drones flying over the palace that created a giant corgi and teapot in the sky.

Crowds of tens of thousands packed the Mall in front of Buckingham Palace for the climax of the festivities, which saw a huge, colorful pageant parade through central London Sunday.

The gold state coach, which transported the queen to her coronation in 1953, led the procession. A hologram of Elizabeth as she looked 69 years ago was shown at the coach's windows, a poignant reminder of how young she was when she acceded to the throne.

That was followed by 6,000 performers who told the story of the queen's life along with a parade of vintage cars, double-decker buses, a giant moving wedding cake and huge puppets.

Crowds sang "God Save The Queen" and the queen made her second palace balcony appearance, flanked only by those in the immediate line of succession and two future queen consorts.

It was a closing image that prepared the nation for the future of the monarchy.

## Israeli nationalists wage battle against Palestinian flag

By TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — It's not a bomb or a gun or a rocket. The latest threat identified by Israel is the Palestinian flag.

Recent weeks have seen a furor by nationalists over the waving of the red, white, green and black flag by Palestinians in Israel and in Israeli-annexed east Jerusalem.

Yet the fracas over the flag tells a broader story about how much hopes for peace with the Palestinians have diminished and about the stature of the fifth of Israelis who are Palestinian. They for long have been viewed as a fifth column because of their solidarity with the Palestinian cause.



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Palestinian citizens of Israel see the campaign against the flag as another affront to their national identity and their rights as a minority in the majority Jewish state.

"The Palestinian flag reminds Israelis that there is another nation here and some people don't want to see another nation here," said Jafar Farah, who heads Mossawa, an advocacy group promoting greater rights for Palestinian citizens of Israel.

In recent weeks, Israeli authorities have gone out of their way to challenge the hoisting of the Palestinian flag. Police at a funeral in east Jerusalem last month for the well-known Palestinian-American Al Jazeera journalist Shireen Abu Akleh snatched Palestinian flags from mourners, reportedly following an order from a district police chief to make sure the Palestinian colors don't fly at the politically-charged event.

Two Israeli universities were slammed by nationalists for allowing Palestinian flags to be waved at campus events. Israel Katz, a senior opposition lawmaker, urged flag-waving Palestinian-Israeli students to remember the war leading to Israel's establishment in 1948, saying Jews "know how to protect themselves and the concept of the Jewish state."

A group promoting coexistence between Palestinians and Israelis raised the Palestinian flag alongside the Israeli one on a high-rise outside Tel Aviv, only to have authorities remove the Palestinian flag hours later.

Those events culminated in a push by opposition legislators to ban the waving of the Palestinian flag at institutions that receive state funding, which would include universities and hospitals, among others. The bill passed overwhelmingly in its first reading on Wednesday, 63-16, although several parties in the governing coalition were absent and the coalition may seek to block the bill from moving forward.

"In the state of Israel there is room for one flag: the Israeli flag, this flag," Eli Cohen, the legislator who sponsored the bill, said from the dais of Israel's parliament, the Knesset, as he pointed to an Israeli flag hung behind him. "This is the only flag there will be here," he said to applause from some legislators.

According to Adalah, a legal rights group for Palestinian Israelis, waving the flag is not a crime under Israeli law. A police ordinance grants officers the right to confiscate a flag if "it results in disruption of public order or breach of peace."

Israel's Palestinian citizens make up 20% of the population and they've had a turbulent relationship with the state since its creation in 1948, when hundreds of thousands of Palestinians fled or were forced to flee in the events surrounding the establishment of the state.

Those who remained became citizens, but have long been viewed with suspicion by some Israelis because of their ties to Palestinians in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, territories Israel captured in the 1967 Mideast war. That sense deepened last year when mob violence erupted in mixed Jewish-Arab cities, with looting and attacks scarring residents on both sides.

Palestinian citizens have carved a life for themselves in Israeli society, reaching the highest echelons in various spheres, including health, education and public service. An Arab Islamist party for the first time in history is now a member of a governing coalition. But Palestinians in Israel are generally poorer and less educated than Jewish Israelis and they have long suffered discrimination in housing, government funding and public works.

While there have been efforts in recent governments to address that socio-economic gap, the nationalist rights of Palestinians have been slowly eroded over the years, especially as Israeli nationalist sentiment has grown.

"It is our right to raise our Palestinian flag," said Alin Nasra, an activist and student at Tel Aviv University. "This is something that distinguishes us as a minority inside Israel."

Yitzhak Reiter, president of the Middle East and Islamic Studies Association of Israel, said the uproar against the flag is part of a feeling by nationalists and some mainstream Israelis that they are "losing the state," to Palestinian nationalism from within Israel's borders.

He cited previous laws that bar municipalities or institutions from marking Israel's Independence Day as a day of mourning or the Jewish state law that tried to strengthen Israel's character as a Jewish state but which Palestinian citizens saw as a further downgrade of their status and a blow to their national identity. Israel's national symbols — a biblical candelabra, the star of David on its flag — do not include Palestinian or Arab emblems and Israel's anthem speaks of the yearning of the Jewish soul.

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The flag, Reiter said, "symbolizes the enemy, but waving the flag, for those who oppose it, is harmful to Israeli sovereignty."

Israel once considered the Palestinian flag that of a militant group, no different than the Palestinian Hamas or the Lebanese Shiite Hezbollah. But after Israel and the Palestinians signed a series of interim peace agreements known as the Oslo Accords, the flag was recognized as that of the Palestinian Authority.

The left-leaning daily Haaretz chided the bill against the flag, saying Israel had an "obsession" with it because it reminds the country of "the sin of the occupation" of lands the Palestinians want for a future state.

With peace talks a distant memory and the occupation dragging on, the battle over the flag shows how far from reality Palestinian statehood is, with the nationalist narrative in Israel increasingly going mainstream.

Ronni Shaked, of Jerusalem's Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace, said he remembers a time when politicians wore lapel pins that bore both the Israeli and Palestinian flags and that even hawkish former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the current head of the opposition and Israel's longest serving leader, had a Palestinian flag hanging behind him during events with the Palestinian leadership when relations between the sides were less frosty.

"If we are afraid from the Palestinian flag," he said, "it means that we are afraid to make any kind of peace with the Palestinians."

## The party ends but the UK monarchy looks to the future

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Extinguish the beacons, take down the stage, roll up the bunting. The party's over.

After four days of parades, street parties and a gala concert celebrating Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years on the throne, the Platinum Jubilee celebrations ended Sunday with a queen's wave from Buckingham Palace and the crowds outside singing "God Save the Queen."

But as the tributes to Elizabeth's lifetime of service begin to fade, Britain is left with the reality that the second Elizabethan age is in its twilight.

The 96-year-old monarch, limited in recent months by what the palace calls "episodic mobility issues," made only three brief public appearances during the Jubilee. Her son and heir, 73-year-old Prince Charles, stood in for her at other events.

"Inevitably, we're going to lose her sometime. And so this will have been a sort of a tail end of a golden reign, won't it?" historian and royal biographer Hugo Vickers told The Associated Press. "That's why it's got a little bit of hint of sadness, I find."

That truth was the subtext of the weekend's events as newspapers, TV screens and even the walls of the palace were filled with images of Elizabeth changing from a glamorous young queen in crown and diamonds to a global grandmother known for her omnipresent handbag and love of horses and corgis.

Elizabeth is the U.K.'s longest-serving monarch, the only sovereign most people have ever known.

That longevity has bred a deep affection for the queen. The question for the House of Windsor is whether the public will transfer those feelings to Charles when the time comes.

From the opening military review to the closing pageant outside the palace, the royal family sought to build a case for that continuity, underscoring the monarchy's historic traditions and its role as a unifying institution that helps the country celebrate its successes and provides comfort during times of sorrow.

Charles was front and center throughout as he stood in for his mother.

Wearing a ceremonial scarlet tunic and bearskin hat, he reviewed the troops during the Queen's Birthday Parade on Thursday. The next day, he was the last guest to enter St. Paul's Cathedral and took his seat at the front of the church for a service of thanksgiving in honor of the queen. At Saturday's star-studded concert in front of Buckingham Palace, he delivered the main tribute to the woman he addressed as, "Your Majesty, mummy."

The royals know they have work to do. Over the past year, the monarchy has been buffeted by allegations of racism and bullying, a sex scandal involving Prince Andrew and demands that they apologize for Britain's historic role in the enslavement of millions of Africans.

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But if the Windsors wanted proof of the enduring popularity of all things royal, they need look no further than the tens of thousands who crammed the streets and parks around Buckingham Palace to cheer, wave the Union flag and say "Thank you, ma'am" over the past four days.

Demonstrations of public support are crucial to the monarchy's survival, said royal historian Ed Owens. "The Jubilee is defined not simply by the presence of the queen, but by many various other actors, and one of the key actors ... is the British public," said Owens, author of "The Family Firm: Monarchy, Mass Media and the British Public 1932-1953." "All these events are playing to the British public ... the jubilee is as much a celebration of the British people in the British nation as it is the queen herself."

Since assuming the throne after the death of her father on Feb. 6, 1952, Elizabeth has been a symbol of stability as Britain negotiated the end of empire, the dawn of the information age and the mass migration that transformed the country into a multicultural society.

Throughout it all the queen has built a bond with the nation through a seemingly endless series of public appearance as she opened libraries, dedicated hospitals and bestowed honors on deserving citizens.

Actor and writer Stephen Fry captured this lifetime of service, carried out far away from the glittering state occasions and military parades that rivet the media's attention, as he delivered his own tribute during Saturday evening's Jubilee concert outside Buckingham Palace.

"How many local sewage works has her majesty opened with a bright smile? How many plaques unveiled? How many trees planted? How many ribbons cut, ships launched?" Fry asked, drawing a chuckle from the crowd. "How many prime ministers tolerated? For that alone, no admiration is high enough."

While they would have like to see more of the queen, fans like Anne Middleton, 61, seemed to understand the limitations of her health issues.

Middleton, a human resources executive, traveled to London from her home in Wales for the long holiday weekend. Wearing red, white and blue nail polish and a dress covered in the Union and Welsh flags, she and her friends watched Saturday's concert from camp chairs in St. James's Park.

"We wanted to turn out and let her know that we're there for her, too," Middleton said. "Because she's always been there for us."

The queen's public appearances during the Jubilee were brief but symbolic, underscoring three pillars of her reign: a personal bond with the public, strong links to the armed forces and support for the Commonwealth, a group of 54 nations with former colonial ties to Britain.

On Thursday afternoon she joined other senior members of the royal family on the balcony of Buckingham Palace to watch a flypast by 70 military aircraft and wave to supporters who filled the street below. Later, she took part in a beacon lighting ceremony at Windsor Palace, the culmination of event that spanned the Commonwealth.

The weekend concluded with another balcony appearance for the cheering crowds, this time accompanied only by Prince Charles and his wife and Prince William and his wife and children.

The message couldn't have been clearer: Here is the present and the future of the monarchy.

Robert Lacey, a royal historian and adviser to the Netflix series "The Crown," believes the royal family's connection to the British public will endure.

"There is a magic about royalty. If you don't care to accept it, that's up to you," he said.

"But for many Brits, the magic moment (is) when the queen or Prince Charles ... turn up in your neighborhood," he said. "You are touched with a magic — which is no longer divine, but which represents the community — which says, 'You matter and you're part of a bigger picture, a society, a community.'"

## Doctor named in abortion case has nothing to do with lawsuit

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS and MIKE STOBBE Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — Dr. Thomas Dobbs has never gotten involved in political fights over reproductive health, but his name has become shorthand for a legal case that could end abortion rights in the United States. If he has feelings about the situation, he pretty much keeps those to himself.

Mississippi's top public health official is named in Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization, a

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dispute over a state law that would ban most abortions after the 15th week but that could be used to overturn *Roe v. Wade*.

A leaked draft of a U.S. Supreme Court opinion shows a conservative majority of justices are ready to use the case to topple the court's landmark 1973 ruling that established abortion rights nationwide.

Dobbs, 52, is a physician in charge of the state health department, which regulates Mississippi's only abortion clinic. As the state's chief health officer, he is the person who must be named in any lawsuit related to abortion or other health issues, he explained recently in a post on Twitter.

So, while the name at the center of the abortion debate could eventually change from "Roe" to "Dobbs," it is not the health officer but the state attorney general's office that is handling the state's case.

"I had no direct involvement in any component of this legal action," he wrote in the post.

Liz Sharlot, communications director for the state health department, confirmed Dobbs' strictly nominal role and denied a request from The Associated Press to interview him because, she said, he "did not personally initiate this case."

"The Mississippi State Department of Health's only role regarding abortion facilities is the regulations to support the law, the inspection and the licensing of that facility," Sharlot wrote in an email.

Dobbs is a former state epidemiologist who became head of the health department in 2018, months after Mississippi's Republican-controlled Legislature passed the abortion-restriction law that's now at the center of the court case.

He has spent his public health career focused not on abortion, but on pushing for better outcomes in a state plagued by high rates of infant mortality and other poor health statistics.

The legal fight over abortion started when Mississippi's only abortion clinic sued over the 15-week ban. The suit was originally called Jackson Women's Health Organization v. Currier et al. The main defendant was the state health officer at the time, Dr. Mary Currier. After she left, a judge removed Currier's name from the case and replaced it with Dobbs.

A federal district judge blocked the law from taking effect. When the state appealed to the Supreme Court, the name of the case was flipped, to Dobbs versus the clinic.

During an online briefing hosted by the Mississippi State Medical Association in June 2021, Dobbs was asked about his name being on the abortion case. He quickly noted that Dr. Kenneth Cleveland also was named in the lawsuit in his capacity as head of the Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure.

"He didn't make the headline," the medical association president at the time, Dr. Mark Horne, said in a good-natured jab at Dobbs.

"I'm trying to get him to swap with me," Dobbs quipped.

Until now, the name most associated with the abortion debate has been Jane Roe, a pseudonym for a Dallas woman named Norma McCorvey, who was the plaintiff in the famous *Roe v. Wade* case. Wade was Henry Wade, the Dallas County district attorney at the time.

In 1969, the 22-year-old McCorvey became pregnant for the third time and wanted to have an abortion. McCorvey and her attorneys ultimately won the legal battle, but not until she gave birth and gave the girl up for adoption. She later became an anti-abortion activist. McCorvey was 69 when she died in 2017.

Another name that often arises in the debate is that of is Robert P. Casey, a former Democratic governor of Pennsylvania who was an anti-abortion advocate. In 1989, he worked with the state's legislature to enact a law that placed several limitations on abortion. Planned Parenthood of Southeastern Pennsylvania challenged the law. In 1992, the Supreme Court upheld most of the restrictions, but also affirmed a woman's right to an abortion. Casey died in 2000. The name of the case was *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.

While Dobbs has not been involved in the abortion debates, he has spent the past two years engulfed in a different contentious health issue: the COVID-19 pandemic. At dozens of news conferences and other public appearances, he has implored people to get vaccinated, wear masks and maintain social distancing. He persisted even as many people, including some public officials, resisted.

In August, Dobbs said he had received threats from people who believed false conspiracy theories about him and his family as he promoted vaccination against COVID-19. Dobbs said one lie is that his son, who is also a physician, receives a World Bank-funded kickback when Dobbs urges people to get vaccinated.

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"I get zero \$ from promoting vaccination," Dobbs wrote on Twitter.

Before COVID-19 vaccinations were available, the usually even-tempered Dobbs expressed frustration at people's insistence on attending social events and extracurricular school activities, including sports competitions.

"Our hierarchy of prioritization is extremely stupid," Dobbs said in November 2020. "We're prioritizing youth sports, not only over academics. We're actually prioritizing it over community health, just to be honest."

While in the thick of the stressful pandemic fight, Dobbs said he turned to exercise and listening to music — jazz and The Rolling Stones — as ways to disconnect from work. He announced in March that he will retire at the end of July.

Dr. Georges Benjamin is executive director of the American Public Health Association, one of several public health and research groups that have filed a legal brief critical of Mississippi's 15-week abortion ban.

Benjamin said he does not know Dobbs' personal opinion about abortion and the legal issues involved in the case, and expressed doubt that Dobbs would state them publicly.

"Your name may get associated with a legal case when you're in these jobs," Benjamin said. "But your name being associated may not align with your own views. You are the public official, and unfortunately that's what happens when you take these jobs."

Benjamin said Dobbs has done an "incredible" job as Mississippi's health officer during the pandemic, including remarkable work addressing issues of inequity. He called him a "trusted figure who follows scientific principles."

Benjamin's hope, he said, is that Dobbs' reputation "does not get tarnished" by having his name on the abortion case.

## Jennifer Lopez, 'Spider-Man' highlight MTV Movie & TV Awards

By JONATHAN LANDRUM Jr. AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Jennifer Lopez made an emotional speech about how believers and skeptics contributed to her success, as she accepted a career achievement honor at the MTV Movie & TV Awards on Sunday.

"I want to thank the people who gave me joy and the ones who broke my heart — the ones who were true and the ones who lied to me," said Lopez, who nabbed this year's Generation Award for actors whose diverse contributions have made them household names. She also took home best song — a new category — for the track "On My Way" from the "Marry Me" soundtrack.

MTV's youth-focused celebration of film and TV offered a lighter, breezier awards show, with 26 categories in gender-neutral categories like best villain, best kiss and new category "here for the hookup." Hosted by Vanessa Hudgens, the ceremony returned to a live format after being pre-recorded for several years.

Lopez shed tears as she thanked fans, her longtime manager and children for "teaching me to love," bringing the audience to their feet at the Barker Hangar in Santa Monica, California.

"I want to thank the people who gave me this life," said Lopez, 52, later adding, "You're only as good as the people who you work with. But if you're lucky, they make you better. I've been very lucky in that regard."

Lopez's first breakthrough came as a dancer on the 1990s sketch comedy series "In Living Color." She pursued an acting career and landed a leading role in "Selena" in 1997. She would go on to appear in such films including "Anaconda," "Out of Sight," "The Wedding Planner," "Hustlers" and her latest, "Marry Me."

As a singer, Lopez has earned success on the pop and Latin charts with multiple hit songs and albums. She released her multi-hit debut "On the 6" in 1999 and topped the Billboard Hot 100 chart with songs like "If You Had My Love," "All I Have" and the remixes of "I'm Real" and "Ain't It Funny."

And in 2020, Lopez performed during the Super Bowl halftime show alongside Shakira.

"Spider-Man: No Way Home" entered the awards as the leading nominee with seven. It took home best movie, and the film's star Tom Holland won for best performance in a movie. With almost \$1.9 billion earned at the box office, it was the biggest film of the year and a fan favorite, but was largely overlooked

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by the major awards shows.

Zendaya won for best performance in a show for her role in "Euphoria," which came away with best show. The HBO series also won here for the hookup.

Early in the broadcast, 19-year-old singer Olivia Rodrigo won best music documentary for her project "Olivia Rodrigo: driving home 2 u." Rodrigo, who won three Grammys this year including best new artist, spoke about the importance of creating the film, which involves a road trip, live performances and reflections on her debut album "Sour."

"I made 'driving home 2 u' for the fans, especially those who couldn't come to see me on tour," Rodrigo said.

Jack Black also received a career achievement award, Comic Genius. He ran onstage and seemed almost out of breathe before giving his acceptance speech.

"I need a little blast of oxygen," he said before rattling off several films he starred in, like "School of Rock" and two "Jumanji" films. He played in other comedies including "Shallow Hal," "Tropic Thunder" and the animated "Kung Fu Panda" franchise films, where Black voiced the main character.

"Comedic genius. C'mon are you kidding? For what?" he said. "I don't deserve this, but I'll take it."

The ceremony kicked off with "Loki" star Sophia Di Martino winning breakthrough performance for her role as Sylvie on the Disney Plus television series. After the actor claimed her trophy, she talked about being 9 months pregnant when she was offered the role, and her baby being just 3 months old when she started filming.

"It's been quite the journey, so this really means a lot to me," she said. "Thank you to the audience. It's all for you. Thank you for letting Sylvie into your imaginations."

Daniel Radcliffe won best villain for his portrayal of a billionaire in the adventure comedy "The Lost City."

Diplo and Swae Lee performed "Tupelo Shuffle" from the upcoming "Elvis" biopic from director Baz Luhrmann.

## 2022 midterms: What to watch in primaries in 7 states

By MICHAEL R. BLOOD AP Political Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Primary elections in seven states Tuesday will set the stage for U.S. House and Senate races this fall, with many contests shaped by political fissures in both major parties and the lingering shadow of former President Donald Trump.

With control of Congress in play, a string of Republican House incumbents are contending with challenges from the political right, and some rivals are embracing Trump's baseless claims of election fraud in his 2020 loss to President Joe Biden.

No incumbent governors or senators appear to be in imminent danger. In Iowa, several Democrats are jockeying for the chance to take on seven-term Republican Sen. Chuck Grassley, with the campaign showcasing the breach between the Democratic Party's progressive and establishment wings.

Former Trump Cabinet member Ryan Zinke is seeking the GOP nomination in a newly created House district in Montana.

What to watch in Tuesday's primaries in California, Iowa, Mississippi, Montana, New Jersey, New Mexico and South Dakota:

### CALIFORNIA

California is a Democratic fortress where the party holds every statewide office and its voters outnumber registered Republicans by nearly 2-to-1. Gov. Gavin Newsom and U.S. Sen. Alex Padilla face little-known competitors.

But Republicans retain pockets of strength in some U.S. House districts that are expected to be among the most competitive races in the country.

In a heavily Democratic district in the state's Central Valley farm belt, Republican U.S. Rep. David Valadao is seeing blowback for his vote to impeach Trump over the Jan. 6 U.S. Capitol insurrection. Republican Chris Mathys has made Valadao's vote a centerpiece in his campaign to oust him.

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In a Democratic-leaning district north of Los Angeles, several Democrats are hoping to take on Republican Rep. Mike Garcia, who is expected to advance to November with one of the Democrats as the top two finishers in the race. Garcia rejected electoral votes from Arizona and Pennsylvania being cast for Biden and opposed Trump's impeachment after the Capitol insurrection.

The crowded Los Angeles mayor's race is shaping up to be a fight between Rick Caruso, a pro-business billionaire Republican-turned-Democrat who sits on the board of the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation, and Democratic U.S. Rep. Karen Bass, who was on Biden's shortlist for vice president. If no candidate clears 50%, the top two finishers advance to a November runoff.

In another closely watched election, San Francisco voters are considering whether to recall District Attorney Chesa Boudin, a progressive Democrat who critics say has failed to prosecute repeat offenders, amid widespread frustration with crime and homelessness.

## IOWA

Republicans have gained an advantage in the state over the past decade, and the Democratic Senate primary provides a snapshot of the minority party's battle for relevance.

Retired Navy Vice Adm. Michael Franken is waging a competitive contest with former U.S. Rep. Abby Finkenauer in a bid to take on the 88-year-old Grassley, who has been endorsed by Trump.

Finkenauer is a 33-year-old, former two-term state representative who argues her youth and more recent experience in Iowa make her a better fit to challenge a Republican first elected to the Senate in 1980. She has made term limits a centerpiece of her campaign.

Franken, 64, is promoting a progressive agenda, including adding a public insurance option to the Affordable Care Act. He is from conservative western Iowa and argues he could be more competitive against Grassley by whittling into the senator's margins in heavily Republican areas.

Physician Glenn Hurst, a councilman for a small western Iowa city and the Iowa Democratic Party's chair for its rural caucus, is running to the left of both Finkenauer and Franken.

Meanwhile, three Republicans are competing for a chance to run against Iowa's lone Democratic member of Congress, Rep. Cindy Axne.

## MISSISSIPPI

Republican U.S. Rep. Steven Palazzo is facing his largest-ever field of challengers after a congressional ethics watchdog raised questions about his campaign spending.

A 2021 report by the Office of Congressional Ethics found "substantial reason to believe" Palazzo, a military veteran who serves on the Appropriations and Homeland Security committees, abused his office by misspending campaign funds, doing favors for his brother and enlisting staff for political and personal errands. His then-spokesperson, Colleen Kennedy, said the probe was based on politically motivated "false allegations."

His six opponents include a sheriff, Mike Ezell, and a state senator, Brice Wiggins. If no candidate wins a majority of votes, a runoff will be June 28.

Mississippi's two other Republican congressmen, Trent Kelly and Michael Guest, face primary challengers who support Trump's false claims that the 2020 presidential election was stolen.

## MONTANA

It's the first time since 1993 that the state will have two House seats, after one was added to account for Montana's growing population.

Zinke, Trump's former Interior Department secretary, technically is in an open race for the new seat. But the former Navy SEAL is widely considered the de facto incumbent, since he twice won elections for the state's other House seat before stepping down in 2017 to join the Trump administration.

His opponents are drawing attention to Zinke's troubled tenure at the agency, which was marked by multiple ethics investigations. One investigation determined Zinke lied to an agency ethics official about his continued involvement in a commercial real estate deal in his hometown. He's faced a smear campaign over his military service from the extreme right wing of his party and questions about his residency following revelations that his wife declared a house in California as her primary residence.

His opponents in the GOP primary include former state Sen. Al "Doc" Olszewski, an orthopedic surgeon

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and hard-line conservative who has tried to paint Zinke as a "liberal insider."

Three Democrats are vying for their party's nomination: public health advocate Cora Neumann, Olympic rower and attorney Monica Tranel and former state Rep. Tom Winter.

In the state's other district, first-term Rep. Matt Rosendale, who has Trump's endorsement, will look to fend off three Republican primary challengers.

## NEW JERSEY

A dozen House districts are on the ballot.

Trump said in 2021 he would back a challenger to long-serving Republican Rep. Chris Smith, but that never happened. The absence of an endorsement hasn't stopped conservative talk show host Mike Crispi, one of Smith's Republican challengers, from claiming Trump's mantle.

In northern New Jersey, former state Senate minority leader Tom Kean Jr. has a fundraising edge and establishment support over five rivals. Kean, the son of former Republican Gov. Tom Kean Sr., is hoping for a rematch with Democratic Rep. Tom Malinowski, who won a close contest two years ago.

On the Democratic side, U.S. Sen. Bob Menendez's son, Rob, is running for a seat being vacated by retiring Democratic Rep. Albio Sires. Menendez, a Port Authority of New York and New Jersey commissioner, locked up party support upon entering the race.

## NEW MEXICO

Five Republican candidates are competing to take on Democratic Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham. The incumbent is favored to keep her job in a state where Democrats control every statewide office and dominate the Legislature.

Former television meteorologist Mark Ronchetti and state Rep. Rebecca Dow are prominent GOP contenders in a contest touching on concerns about U.S. border security, urban crime, inflation and the teaching of race and ethnicity in a heavily Latino and Native American state.

Democratic voters are deciding on a nominee for the state's top law enforcement post to succeed Attorney General Hector Balderas. Albuquerque-based District Attorney Raúl Torrez is competing against state Auditor Brian Colón in a hard-fought campaign with few ideological divisions.

## SOUTH DAKOTA

A trio of Republican incumbents face primary challengers running on their political right.

Gov. Kristi Noem, who is considered a potential White House prospect, is favored to win the GOP nomination. One rival, state legislator Steve Haugaard, has argued that Noem spent more time trying to build a national political profile than focusing on her job at home. She's mostly ignored him.

U.S. Sen. John Thune faced Trump's ire after dismissing the former president's election fraud claims. However, no well-known challenger has emerged in Thune's reelection bid. One of his opponents, Mark Mowry, was among the crowd that demonstrated near the Capitol on Jan. 6.

In the House, Republican state lawmaker Taffy Howard is trying to unseat GOP Rep. Dusty Johnson in the state's lone district. Johnson touts his conservative voting record while keeping an ability to work across party lines, but Howard has tried to paint him as a foot soldier for House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

## Biden hoping to avoid Summit of the Americas flop in LA

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, JOSHUA GOODMAN and CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When leaders gather at the Summit of the Americas this week, the focus is likely to veer from policy issues — migration, climate change and galloping inflation — and instead shift to something Hollywood thrives on: the drama of the red carpet.

With Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador topping a list of leaders threatening to stay home to protest the exclusion by the host United States of authoritarian leaders from Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela, experts say the event could turn into an embarrassment for U.S. President Joe Biden.

Even some progressive Democrats have criticized the administration for bowing to pressure from exiles in the swing state of Florida and barring communist Cuba, which attended the last two summits.

"The real question is why the Biden administration didn't do its homework," said Jorge Castañeda, a former Mexican foreign minister who now teaches at New York University.



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While the Biden administration insists the president in Los Angeles will outline his vision for a “sustainable, resilient, and equitable future” for the hemisphere, Castañeda said it’s clear from the last-minute wrangling over the guest list that Latin America is not a priority for the U.S. president.

“This ambitious agenda, no one knows exactly what it is, other than a series of bromides,” he said.

The U.S. is hosting the summit for the first time since its launch in 1994, in Miami, as part of an effort to galvanize support for a free trade agreement stretching from Alaska to Patagonia.

But that goal was abandoned more than 15 years ago amid a rise in leftist politics in the region. With China’s influence expanding, most nations have come to expect — and need — less from Washington.

As a result, the premier forum for regional cooperation has languished, at times turning into a stage for airing historical grievances, like when the late Venezuelan leader Hugo Chávez at the 2009 summit in Trinidad & Tobago gave President Barack Obama a copy of Eduardo Galeano’s classic tract, “The Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent.”

The U.S. opening to former Cold War adversary Cuba, which was sealed with Obama’s handshake with Raul Castro at the 2015 summit in Panama, lowered some of the ideological tensions.

“It’s a huge missed opportunity,” Ben Rhodes, who led the Cuba thaw as deputy national security advisor in the Obama administration, said recently in his “Pod Save the World” podcast. “We are isolating ourselves by taking that step, because you’ve got Mexico, you’ve got Caribbean countries saying they’re not going to come — which is only going to make Cuba look stronger than us.”

To bolster turnout and avert a flop, Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris worked the phones in recent days, speaking with the leaders of Argentina and Honduras, both of whom initially expressed support for Mexico’s proposed boycott. Former Sen. Christopher Dodd crisscrossed the region as a special adviser for the summit, in the process persuading far-right Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who was a staunch ally of President Donald Trump and hasn’t once spoken to Biden, to belatedly confirm his attendance.

Ironically, the decision to exclude Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela wasn’t the whim of the U.S. alone. The region’s governments in 2001, in Quebec City, declared that any break with democratic order is an “insurmountable obstacle” to future participation in the summit process.

The governments of Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela aren’t even active members of the Washington-based Organization of the American States, which organizes the summit.

“This should’ve been a talking point from the beginning,” said Tom Shannon, a former undersecretary of state for political affairs who in a long diplomatic career attended several summits. “It’s not a U.S. imposition. It was consensual. If leaders want to change that, then we should have a conversation first.”

After the last summit in Peru, in 2018, which Trump didn’t even bother to attend, many predicted there was no future for the regional gathering.

In response to Trump’s pullout, only 17 of the region’s 35 heads of state attended. Few saw value in bringing together for a photo op leaders from such dissimilar places as aid-dependent Haiti, industrial powerhouses Mexico and Brazil and violence-plagued Central America — each with their own unique challenges and bilateral agenda with Washington.

“As long as we don’t speak with a single voice, no one is going to listen to us,” said former Chilean President Ricardo Lagos, who also faults Mexico and Brazil — the region’s two economic powers — for the current drift in hemispheric relations. “With a cacophony of voices, it is much more difficult to find our place in the world.”

To the surprise of many, the U.S. in early 2019 picked up the ball, offering to host the summit. At the time, the Trump administration was enjoying something of a leadership renaissance in Latin America, albeit among mostly similar-minded conservative governments around the narrow issue of restoring democracy in Venezuela.

But that goodwill unraveled as Trump floated the idea of invading Venezuela to remove Nicolás Maduro — a threat recalling the worst excesses of the Cold War. Then the pandemic hit, taking a devastating human and economic toll on a region that accounted for more than a quarter of the world’s COVID-19 deaths despite making up only 8% of the population. The region’s politics were upended.

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The election of Biden, who was Obama's point man for Latin America and had decades of hands-on experience in the region from his time on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, set expectations for a relaunch.

But as popular angst spread during the pandemic, the Biden administration was slow to match the vaccine diplomacy of Russia and China, although it did eventually provide 70 million doses to the hemisphere. Biden also maintained the Trump-era restrictions on migration, reinforcing the view that it was neglecting its own neighbors.

Since then, Biden's hallmark policy in the region — a \$4 billion aid package to attack the root causes of migration in Central America — has stalled in Congress with no apparent effort to revive it. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has also diverted attention from the region, something experts say could come back to bite Biden if rising interest rates in the U.S. trigger a stampede of capital outflows and debt defaults in emerging markets.

There have been smaller snubs too: When leftist millennial Gabriel Boric was elected president in Chile, setting high expectations for a generational shift in the region's politics, the U.S. delegation to his inauguration was led by the second-lowest ranking Cabinet member — Isabel Guzman, head of the Small Business Administration.

Shannon said for the summit to be successful Biden shouldn't try to lay out a grand American vision for the hemisphere but rather show sensitivity to the region's embrace of other global powers, concerns about gaping inequality and traditional mistrust of the U.S.

"More than speeches, he will need to listen," Shannon said.

## Warriors answer in Game 2, top Celtics 107-88 to even Finals

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Just like in Game 1, the Golden State Warriors took command with a big third quarter.

Unlike Game 1, they finished the job.

The NBA Finals are now tied, after the Warriors turned a close game into a rout with a third-quarter masterpiece. Stephen Curry scored 29 points, Jordan Poole connected from just inside of midcourt to cap the pivotal period and the Warriors beat the Boston Celtics 107-88 on Sunday night in Game 2.

"I thought everybody was more engaged," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said after his team improved to 5-0 after a loss in these playoffs. "It's pretty obvious. Just our level of force and physicality was ramped up quite a bit, and it had to be."

Poole finished with 17 points for the Warriors, who outscored Boston 35-14 in the third quarter to turn a two-point halftime lead into a 23-point edge. And when the Warriors then scored the first six points of the fourth, the Celtics waved the surrender flag and emptied their bench.

"We said we needed to play with desperation," Curry said. "That's what we did."

Golden State also got 12 from Kevon Looney on 6-for-6 shooting, and 11 apiece from Andrew Wiggins and Klay Thompson.

Jayson Tatum scored 21 of his 28 points in the first half for Boston. Jaylen Brown added 17 for the Celtics, but fought through a 5-for-17 shooting night, and Derrick White scored 12.

Just like in Game 1, a huge run decided everything. The Celtics went on a 48-18 run in the second half to decide the opener. The Warriors didn't wait that long in Game 2, going on a 43-14 burst from late in the first half until early in the fourth quarter to turn a tie game into an absolute runaway.

Game 3 is Wednesday in Boston.

Curry had 14 of his points in the third, making three of his five 3-pointers in the quarter. Boston was 4 for 15 in the quarter, got outscored 21-6 on 3s and let the Warriors turn five turnovers into 11 points.

"Steph was breathtaking in that quarter," Kerr said.

The Celtics turned a 15-point third-quarter deficit into a 15-point fourth-quarter lead in Game 1, but that wasn't happening again Sunday. Boston coach Ime Udoka even picked up a technical in an effort to show

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his displeasure with things, including whistles or lack thereof, to no avail.

"I just let them know how I felt throughout the game in a demonstrative way, on purpose, to get a technical," Udoka said.

Poole provided the exclamation point as the third quarter closed, taking a pass in the final seconds, dribbling over the midcourt stripe, creating a bit of space and letting fly.

Swish.

Curry greeted him with a smile and a hug, the fans at Chase Center leaped to their feet — if they weren't there already — and the outcome was pretty much decided.

And for the first time, the crowd in the Warriors' new building finally saw the Celtics lose. Boston entered the night 4-0 in the Warriors' 3-year-old home, the only team to have won its first four games in the arena.

But giving up 33 points off 19 turnovers meant that streak had no chance of continuing.

"We have to take better care of the ball," Tatum said.

The Celtics were bidding to join only two other teams — the 1993 Chicago Bulls and 1995 Houston Rockets — on the list of clubs that swept two road games to open the finals. Those Bulls and Rockets went on to win the championship, and 31 of the previous 36 teams to open with 2-0 leads ended up celebrating a title.

All is not lost for Boston. The Celtics need to only win their remaining home games to become champions, though that won't be easy against a Warriors team that has won at least one road game in an NBA-record 26 consecutive playoff series.

"It is what it is," said the Celtics' Al Horford, who had 26 points in Game 1 and was held to two points Sunday. "On to Game 3."

TIP-INS

Celtics: The Celtics fell to 8-3 on the road in these playoffs. They remain tied for the second-most road wins in a single postseason; the record is nine, set by Houston in 1995. ... Robert Williams III, who has dealt with knee issues throughout the playoffs, took a tough fall in the third quarter after getting crashed into by Marcus Smart. He was subbed out 21 seconds later and didn't return. ... Tatum and Brown had 40 of Boston's first 54 points.

Warriors: Draymond Green's impact on Game 2: nine points, seven assists, five rebounds, a technical foul and a whole ton of physicality. "No impact," Horford said. ... Andre Iguodala (right knee inflammation) was out for Game 2, after logging 12 minutes in Game 1. But the knee swelled up Saturday and he sat for the 13th time in the Warriors' last 14 games. ... Gary Payton II played for the first time since fracturing his elbow in the Memphis series.

BIG QUARTERS

The Warriors' 35-14 advantage in the third quarter was the 91st different quarter in these playoffs where one team had a double-digit margin over the other. That's the most in a single playoff year ever, topping the 90 such quarters in the 2017 playoffs.

STATEMENT GAME

Players and coaches from both teams wore orange T-shirts before the game bearing the words "End Gun Violence" on the front, a topic that Kerr — whose father was killed in an act of gun violence 38 years ago — has spoken out on often. "It comes down to convincing politicians that things like background checks are really crucial, and things that don't impact people's Second Amendment rights," Kerr said.

SPECTACULAR ANNIVERSARY

Sunday marked the 31st anniversary of the first NBA Finals game win for Michael Jordan, when he and the Chicago Bulls rolled past the Los Angeles Lakers in Game 2 in 1991. Jordan made 13 consecutive shots in that game, the last of those the iconic change-hands-in-mid-air layup in the fourth quarter. "A spectacular move by Michael Jordan," was NBC announcer Marv Albert's call.

## Russia hits Kyiv with missiles; Putin warns West on arms

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia took aim Sunday at Western military supplies for Ukraine, launching airstrikes

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on Kyiv that it claimed destroyed tanks donated from abroad, as Vladimir Putin warned that any Western deliveries of longer-range rocket systems would prompt Moscow to hit "objects that we haven't yet struck."

The Russian leader's cryptic threat of military escalation did not specify what the new targets might be. It came days after the United States announced plans to deliver \$700 million of security assistance for Ukraine that includes four precision-guided, medium-range rocket systems, as well as helicopters, Javelin anti-tank systems, radars, tactical vehicles and more.

Military analysts say Russia hopes to overrun Ukraine's embattled eastern industrial Donbas region, where Russia-backed separatists have fought the Ukrainian government since 2014, before the arrival of any U.S. weapons that might turn the tide. The Pentagon said last week that it will take at least three weeks to get the U.S. weapons onto the battlefield.

Ukraine said the missiles aimed at the capital hit a train repair shop. Elsewhere, Russian airstrikes in the eastern city of Druzhkivka destroyed buildings and left at least one person dead, a Ukrainian official said. Residents described waking to the sound of missile strikes, with rubble and glass falling down around them.

"It was like in a horror movie," Svitlana Romashkina said.

The Russian Defense Ministry said air-launched precision missiles were used to destroy workshops in the Donetsk region of eastern Ukraine, including in Druzhkivka, that were repairing damaged Ukrainian military equipment.

Meanwhile, Ukraine's General Staff said Russian forces fired five X-22 cruise missiles from the Caspian Sea toward Kyiv, and one was destroyed by air defenses. Four other missiles hit "infrastructure facilities," but Ukraine said there were no casualties.

Nuclear plant operator Energoatom said one cruise missile buzzed close to the Pivdenoukrynsk nuclear plant, 350 kilometers (220 miles) to the south, seemingly on its way to Kyiv. It warned of the possibility of a nuclear catastrophe if even one missile fragment had hit the facility.

The missiles that struck Kyiv destroyed T-72 tanks supplied by Eastern European countries and other armored vehicles, the Russian Defense Ministry said on the Telegram app.

Ukraine's railway authority subsequently led reporters on a guided tour of a rail car repair plant in eastern Kyiv that it said was hit by four missiles. The authority said no military equipment had been stored there, and Associated Press reporters saw no remnants of any in the facility's destroyed building.

"There were no tanks, and you can just be witness to this," said Serhiy Leshchenko, an adviser to the Ukrainian president's office.

However, a government adviser said on national TV that military infrastructure also was targeted. AP reporters saw a building burning in an area near the destroyed rail car plant. Two residents of that district said the warehouse-type structure that billowed smoke was part of a tank-repair facility. Police blocking access to the site told an AP reporter that military authorities had banned the taking of images there.

In a television interview that aired Sunday, Putin lashed out at Western deliveries of weapons to Ukraine, saying they aim to prolong the war.

"All this fuss around additional deliveries of weapons, in my opinion, has only one goal: to drag out the armed conflict as much as possible," Putin said. He insisted such supplies were unlikely to change the military situation for Ukraine's government, which he said was merely making up for losses of similar rockets.

If Kyiv gets longer-range rockets, he added, Moscow will "draw appropriate conclusions and use our means of destruction, which we have plenty of, in order to strike at those objects that we haven't yet struck."

The U.S. has stopped short of offering Ukraine longer-range weapons that could fire deep into Russia. But the four medium-range High Mobility Artillery Rocket Systems in the security package include launchers on wheels that allow troops to strike a target and then quickly move away — which could be useful against Russian artillery on the battlefield.

Moscow also accused the West on Sunday of closing off lines of communication by forcing Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov's plane to cancel a trip to Serbia for talks Monday.

Serbia's neighbors closed their airspace to Lavrov's plane, ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told Italian television in comments reported by Russian news agencies. Earlier in the day, Serbian newspaper

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Vecernje Novosti had said that Bulgaria, North Macedonia and Montenegro would not allow Lavrov's plane to come through.

"This is another closed channel of communication," Zakharova said.

The Spanish daily El Pais reported Sunday that Spain planned to supply anti-aircraft missiles and up to 40 Leopard 2 A4 battle tanks to Ukraine. Spain's Ministry of Defense did not comment on the report.

Before Sunday's early morning attack, Kyiv had not faced any such Russian airstrikes since the April 28 visit of U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres. The attack triggered air-raid alarms and showed that Russia still had the capability and willingness to hit at Ukraine's heart, despite refocusing its efforts to capture Ukrainian territory in the east.

In recent days, Russian forces have focused on capturing Ukraine's eastern cities of Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk. On Sunday they continued their push, with missile and airstrikes on cities and villages in the Donbas.

In the cities of Sloviansk and Bakhmut, cars and military vehicles were seen speeding into town from the direction of the front line. Dozens of military doctors and paramedic ambulances worked to evacuate civilians and Ukrainian servicemen, and a hospital was busy treating the injured, many hurt by artillery shelling.

The U.K. military said in its daily intelligence update that Ukrainian counterattacks in Sieverodonetsk were "likely blunting the operational momentum Russian forces previously gained through concentrating combat units and firepower." Russian forces previously had been making a string of advances in the city, but Ukrainian fighters have pushed back in recent days.

The statement also said Russia's military was partly relying on reserve forces of Luhansk separatists.

"These troops are poorly equipped and trained, and lack heavy equipment in comparison to regular Russian units," the intelligence update said, adding that the move "indicates a desire to limit casualties suffered by regular Russian forces."

Both sides in the conflict have been waging an information war, especially on television, along with military attacks. Russia's Tass news agency reported Sunday that Ukrainian forces had knocked out broadcast TV service in Donetsk, where it said a broadcast tower had toppled. Ukrainian authorities did not immediately confirm the attack.

In the Azov Sea port of Mariupol, which Russia claimed to have captured in May following a brutal monthslong siege, a mayoral aide said water supplies contaminated by decomposing corpses and garbage were causing dysentery and posing a threat of cholera and other diseases.

In remarks carried by Ukraine's Unian news agency, Petro Andriushchenko said Russian authorities controlling the city have imposed a quarantine. He did not describe what measures Russian authorities had included, and his report could not be independently confirmed.

World Health Organization officials warned last month about the threat of cholera and other infectious diseases in Mariupol.

Also Sunday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy traveled to the Zaporizhzhia region in the southeast, which is partly under Russian control. He received a battle report, thanked troops and met with refugees in what was only his second public visit outside the Kyiv area since the war began.

Far from the battlefield, Ukraine's national soccer players missed out on qualifying for a World Cup spot, losing 1-0 to Wales in an emotionally charged match in Cardiff. Back home, some Ukrainians gathered in bars to watch the game.

## 3 dead, 11 wounded in Philadelphia shooting on busy street

By RON TODT Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Gunfire from several shooters killed three people and wounded at least 11 others in a popular Philadelphia entertainment district late Saturday night, authorities said.

Police officers were patrolling the area on South Street in central Philadelphia at about 11:30 p.m. Saturday when they heard multiple shots. Racing to the scene, they found several people with gunshot wounds

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lying on the sidewalk and in the street and began to render aid, Police Commissioner Danielle Outlaw said.

Another responding officer saw a man on a street corner firing a handgun into a large crowd about half a block away, Outlaw said. The officer drew his weapon and fired several times, and police believe the man was struck before he dropped his handgun onto the sidewalk and fled, Outlaw said.

A police statement said the dead were 34-year-old Gregory Jackson, 27-year-old Alexis Quinn, and a 22-year-old man who was not identified. Investigators believe one of the three killed was involved in "a physical altercation" with another man, and those two began firing at each other, with both struck by gunfire, Outlaw said.

The other two people who were killed and a number of wounded, who ranged from age 17 to 69, are believed to have been innocent bystanders, Outlaw said. She called it "a dark day" for the city when many people out enjoying a beautiful evening were victims of "horrendous and unthinkable acts ... in a very popular local and tourist hangout."

"It's important that we bring justice to the victims, their families, and our community," she said.

Two handguns were recovered, including one with an extended magazine, but Chief Inspector Frank Vanore said investigators know from evidence at the scene that a total of five guns were involved. In addition, police are investigating several other shootings before and afterward, one fatal, to see whether they might be related.

Thomas Jefferson University Hospital spokesperson Damien Woods said 10 patients came to that particular hospital; three dead, six in stable condition and one who has since been discharged.

Outlaw said police planned to bolster resources Sunday night in that area, as well as in the nearby Penn's Landing area along the Delaware River that separates Pennsylvania from New Jersey.

South Street is known for its entertainment venues and night life with multiple bars, restaurants and businesses. Surveillance video from a local business posted by WTXF-TV showed scores of people milling about on the sidewalks and in the street, then fleeing as the gunfire broke out. Police were seeking video surveillance footage from businesses in the area.

Mayor Jim Kenney called the shooting "beyond devastating."

"Once again, we see lives senselessly lost and those injured in yet another horrendous, brazen and despicable act of gun violence," he said in a statement Sunday morning. "My heart is with the family, friends, loved ones of those lost or injured, and with everyone impacted by this terrible tragedy."

Kenney said the surge in gun violence in the city and across the nation "makes me not just heartbroken, but angry." He said, however, fighting this violence would be "an uphill battle" without measures to address the "availability and ease of access to firearms."

Eric Walsh, closing up the outdoor seating area of a bar along the block, told The Philadelphia Inquirer that the scene was "chaos." He said he saw a young woman collapse to the ground on the corner.

"People were coming off the street with blood splatters on white sneakers and skinned knees and skinned elbows," Walsh said. "We literally just were balling up napkins and wetting them and handing them to people."

## Former Bon Jovi bassist, founding member Alec John Such dies

By The Associated Press undefined

NEW YORK (AP) — Alec John Such, the bassist and a founding member of the iconic rock band Bon Jovi, has died. He was 70.

The group on Sunday announced the death of Such, the New Jersey band's bassist from 1983 to 1994. No details on when or how Such died were immediately available. A publicist for singer-songwriter Jon Bon Jovi didn't immediately respond to messages.

"He was an original," Bon Jovi wrote in a post on Twitter. "As a founding member of Bon Jovi, Alec was integral to the formation of the band."

Bon Jovi credited Such for bringing the band together, noting that he was a childhood friend of drummer Tico Torres and brought guitarist and songwriter Richie Sambora to see the band perform. Such had

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played with Sambora in a band called Message.

The Yonkers, New York-born Such was a veteran figure in the thriving New Jersey music scene that helped spawn Bon Jovi. As manager of the Hunka Bunka Ballroom in Sayreville, New Jersey, Such booked Jon Bon Jovi & The Wild Ones before joining the singer-songwriter's band. He played with Bon Jovi through the group's heyday in the 1980s.

Such departed the band in 1994, when he was replaced by bassist Hugh McDonald. He later rejoined the band for its induction into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in 2018.

"When Jon Bon Jovi called me up and asked me to be in his band many years ago, I soon realized how serious he was and he had a vision that he wanted to bring us to," said Such at the Hall of Fame induction. "And I am only too happy to have been a part of that vision."

## Over 50 feared dead in Nigeria church attack, officials say

By CHINEDU ASADU Associated Press

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP) — Gunmen opened fire on worshippers and detonated explosives at a Catholic church in southwestern Nigeria on Sunday, leaving dozens feared dead, state lawmakers said.

The attackers targeted the St. Francis Catholic Church in Ondo state just as the worshippers gathered on Pentecost Sunday, legislator Ogunmolasuyi Oluwole said. Among the dead were many children, he said.

The presiding priest was abducted as well, said Adelegbe Timileyin, who represents the Owo area in Nigeria's lower legislative chamber.

"Our hearts are heavy," Ondo Governor Rotimi Akeredolu tweeted Sunday. "Our peace and tranquility have been attacked by the enemies of the people."

Authorities did not immediately release an official death toll. Timileyin said at least 50 people had been killed, though others put the figure higher. Videos appearing to be from the scene of the attack showed church worshippers lying in pools of blood while people around them wailed.

Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said "only fiends from the nether region could have conceived and carried out such dastardly act," according to a statement from his spokesman.

"No matter what, this country shall never give in to evil and wicked people, and darkness will never overcome light. Nigeria will eventually win," said Buhari, who was elected after vowing to end Nigeria's prolonged security crisis.

In Rome, Pope Francis responded to news of the attack.

"The pope has learned of the attack on the church in Ondo, Nigeria and the deaths of dozens of worshippers, many children, during the celebration of Pentecost. While the details are being clarified, Pope Francis prays for the victims and the country, painfully affected at a time of celebration, and entrusts them both to the Lord so that he may send his spirit to console them," the pope said in a statement issued by the Vatican press office.

It was not immediately clear who was behind the attack on the church. While much of Nigeria has struggled with security issues, Ondo is widely known as one of Nigeria's most peaceful states. The state, though, has been caught up in a rising violent conflict between farmers and herders.

Nigeria's security forces did not immediately respond to questions about how the attack occurred or if there are any leads about suspects. Owo is about 345 kilometers (215 miles) east of Lagos.

"In the history of Owo, we have never experienced such an ugly incident," said lawmaker Oluwole. "This is too much."

## Autonomous Mayflower reaches American shores -- in Canada

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

A crewless robotic boat that had tried to retrace the 1620 sea voyage of the Mayflower has finally reached the shores of North America — this time in Canada instead of the Massachusetts coast where its namesake landed more than 400 years ago.

The sleek autonomous trimaran docked in Halifax, Nova Scotia, on Sunday, after more than five weeks

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crossing the Atlantic Ocean from England, according to tech company IBM, which helped build it.

Piloted by artificial intelligence technology, the 50-foot (15-meter) Mayflower Autonomous Ship didn't have a captain, navigator or any humans on board — though it might have helped to have a mechanic.

"The technology that makes up the autonomous system worked perfectly, flawlessly," said Rob High, an IBM computing executive involved in the project. "Mechanically, we did run into problems."

Its first attempt at the trans-Atlantic crossing to Plymouth, Massachusetts, in June 2021 was beset by technical glitches, forcing the boat to return to its home port of Plymouth, England.

It set off again from England nearly a year later on April 27, bound for Virginia — but a generator problem diverted it to Portugal's Azores islands, where a team member flew in to perform emergency repairs. More troubles on the open sea came in late May when the U.S.-bound boat developed a problem with the charging circuit for the generator's starter batteries.

AI software is getting better at helping self-driving machines understand their surroundings and pilot themselves, but most robots can't heal themselves when the hardware goes awry.

Nonprofit marine research organization ProMare, which worked with IBM to build the ship, switched to a back-up navigation computer on May 30 and charted a course to Halifax — which was closer than any U.S. destination. The boat's webcam on Sunday morning showed it being towed by a larger boat as the Halifax skyline neared — a safety requirement under international maritime rules, IBM said.

## Police: Tennessee shooting leads to 3 dead, 14 injured

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. (AP) — A shooting near a Tennessee nightclub early Sunday led to three deaths and 14 people suffering gunshot wounds and other injuries, police said.

Fourteen people were hit by gunfire and three were hit by vehicles while trying to flee the scene, according to Chattanooga Police Chief Celeste Murphy. Two people died from gunshot wounds and one person died after being hit by a vehicle. Sixteen of the victims were adults and one was a juvenile and several remained in critical condition, she said.

Chattanooga Mayor Tim Kelly, who described himself as an "avid hunter" and gun owner, called on Congress to enact "common sense regulations" to address gun violence. Kelly is an independent.

"That doesn't mean taking guns away from responsible gun owners, but it does mean mandatory background checks and prohibiting high-capacity magazines that allow shooters to hurt dozens of people without even having to reload," he said at a press conference. Kelly said his administration would announce new steps in the coming weeks aimed at reducing gun violence locally.

Officers responded to a report of a shooting at 2:42 a.m. on McCallie Avenue near a nightclub and found multiple victims upon arrival. Murphy said officers immediately began rendering aid and securing the scene.

There were multiple shooters and Murphy asked anyone in the community with information about the shooting to come forward. She said police believe it was an isolated incident and authorities don't believe there's an ongoing public safety threat.

Murphy said it would be a complex investigation going forward.

"We're trying to determine exactly what happened and what led up to this taking place," she said.

The shooting comes the weekend after six juveniles were wounded during an exchange of gunfire in a downtown Chattanooga business district.

"It's going to be a long summer, and we have got to get out in front of it and put a stop to it," Kelly said.

## Biden scrambles to avoid Americas Summit flop in Los Angeles

By ELLIOT SPAGAT, JOSHUA GOODMAN and CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When leaders gather this week in Los Angeles at the Summit of the Americas, the focus is likely to veer from common policy changes — migration, climate change and galloping inflation — and instead shift to something Hollywood thrives on: the drama of the red carpet.

With Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador topping a list of leaders threatening to stay home to protest the U.S.' exclusion of authoritarian leaders from Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela, experts say the



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event could turn into an embarrassment for U.S. President Joe Biden. Even some progressive Democrats have criticized the administration for bowing to pressure from exiles in the swing state of Florida and barring communist Cuba, which attended the last two summits.

"The real question is why the Biden administration didn't do its homework," said Jorge Castañeda, a former Mexican foreign minister who now teaches at New York University.

While the Biden administration insists the president in Los Angeles will outline his vision for a "sustainable, resilient, and equitable future" for the hemisphere, Castañeda said it's clear from the last-minute wrangling over the guest list that Latin America is not a priority for the U.S. president.

"This ambitious agenda, no one knows exactly what it is, other than a series of bromides," he said.

The U.S. is hosting the summit for the first time since its launch in 1994, in Miami, as part of an effort to galvanize support for a free trade agreement stretching from Alaska to Patagonia.

But that goal was abandoned more than 15 years ago amid a rise in leftist politics in the region. With China's influence expanding, most nations have come to expect — and need — less from Washington. As a result, the premier forum for regional cooperation has languished, at times turning into a stage for airing historical grievances, like when the late Venezuelan leader Hugo Chávez at the 2009 summit in Trinidad & Tobago gave President Barack Obama a copy of Eduardo Galeano's classic tract, "The Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent."

The U.S. opening to former Cold War adversary Cuba, which was sealed with Obama's handshake with Raul Castro at the 2015 summit in Panama, lowered some of the ideological tensions.

"It's a huge missed opportunity," Ben Rhodes, who led the Cuba thaw as deputy national security advisor in the Obama administration, said recently in his "Pod Save the World" podcast. "We are isolating ourselves by taking that step because you've got Mexico, you've got Caribbean countries saying they're not going to come — which is only going to make Cuba look stronger than us."

To bolster turnout and avert a flop, Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris have been working the phones in recent days, speaking with the leaders of Argentina and Honduras, both of whom initially expressed support for Mexico's proposed boycott. Former Senator Christopher Dodd has also crisscrossed the region as a special adviser for the summit, in the process convincing far right Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro, who was a staunch ally of Trump but hasn't once spoken to Biden, to belatedly confirm his attendance.

Ironically, the decision to exclude Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela wasn't the whim of the U.S. alone. The region's governments in 2001, in Quebec City, declared that any break with democratic order is an "insurmountable obstacle" to future participation in the summit process.

The governments of Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela aren't even active members of the Washington-based Organization of the American States, which organizes the summit.

"This should've been a talking point from the beginning," said former Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Tom Shannon, who in a long diplomatic career attended several summits. "It's not a U.S. imposition. It was consensual. If leaders want to change that, then we should have a conversation first."

After the last summit in Peru, in 2018, which President Trump didn't even bother to attend, many predicted there was no future for the regional gathering. In response to Trump's historic pullout, only 17 of the region's 35 heads of state attended. Few saw value in bringing together for a photo op leaders from such dissimilar places as aid-dependent Haiti, industrial powerhouses Mexico and Brazil and violence-plagued Central America — each with their own unique challenges and bilateral agenda with Washington.

"As long as we don't speak with a single voice, no one is going to listen to us," said former Chilean President Ricardo Lagos, who also faults Mexico and Brazil — the region's two economic powers — for the current drift in hemispheric relations. "With a cacophony of voices, it is much more difficult to find our place in the world."

To the surprise of many, the U.S. in early 2019 picked up the ball, offering to host the summit. At the time, the Trump administration was enjoying something of a leadership renaissance in Latin America, albeit among mostly similar-minded conservative governments around the narrow issue of restoring democracy in Venezuela.

But that goodwill unraveled as Trump floated the idea of invading Venezuela to remove Nicolás Maduro

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— a threat recalling the worst excesses of the Cold War. Then the pandemic hit, taking a devastating human and economic toll on a region that accounted for more than a quarter of the world's COVID-19 deaths despite making up only 8% of the population. The region's politics were upended.

The election of Biden, who was Obama's point man for Latin America and had decades of hands-on experience in the region from his time on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, set expectations for a relaunch. But as popular angst spread during the pandemic, the Biden administration was slow to match the vaccine diplomacy of Russia and China, although it did eventually provide 70 million doses to the hemisphere. Biden also maintained the Trump-era restrictions on migration, reinforcing the view that it was neglecting its own neighbors.

Since then, Biden's hallmark policy in the region — a \$4 billion aid package to attack the root causes of migration in Central America — has stalled in Congress with no apparent effort to revive it. Russia's invasion of Ukraine has also diverted attention away from the region, something experts say could come back to bite Biden if rising interest rates in the U.S. trigger a stampede of capital outflows and debt defaults in emerging markets.

There have been smaller snubs too: When leftist millennial Gabriel Boric was elected president in Chile, setting high expectations for a generational shift in the region's politics, the U.S. delegation to his inauguration was led by the second-lowest ranking Cabinet member, Small Business Administrator Isabel Guzman.

Shannon said for the summit to be successful Biden shouldn't try to lay out a grand American vision for the hemisphere but rather show sensitivity to the region's embrace of other global powers, concerns about gaping inequality and traditional mistrust of the U.S.

"More than speeches," says Shannon, "he will need to listen."

## 'Top Gun' stays aloft with \$86M in its 2nd weekend

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The high-flying "Top Gun: Maverick" continued to soar in its second weekend, dropping just 32% from its opening with \$86 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The Paramount Pictures release, with Tom Cruise reprising his role from the 1986 original, is holding steadier than any film of its kind has before. Its modest drop — 50-65% is more typical for blockbusters — is the smallest decline for a movie that opened above \$100 million. "Top Gun: Maverick" debuted with \$124 million last weekend, scoring Cruise's biggest opening yet.

Overseas, director Joseph Kosinski's film is performing even better. In 64 overseas markets, "Top Gun: Maverick" dipped only 20% in its second weekend with \$81.7 million.

Riding stellar word of mouth, terrific reviews and a global promotional tour, "Top Gun: Maverick" has already grossed \$548.6 million worldwide, making it easily one the biggest hits of Cruise's career. In domestic ticket sales (\$291.6 million thus far), the "Top Gun" sequel already ranks as the 59-year-old's best performer.

While "Top Gun: Maverick" is unlikely to match the \$1.89 billion worldwide of Sony Pictures' "Spider-Man: No Way Home," the biggest box-office smash of the pandemic, Cruise and company have been hailed for leading the final push in the recovery of movie theaters. Paramount delayed its release two years.

But whereas "No Way Home" had little-to-no big-budget competition through January, "Top Gun: Maverick" kicks off a string of more closely packed summer movies. Next weekend, Universal Pictures debuts "Jurassic World: Dominion," the culmination of the dinosaur franchise trilogy of sequels. The week after that, the Walt Disney Co. releases "Toy Story" spinoff "Lightyear," the first Pixar release to open in theaters in more than two years.

"Top Gun: Maverick," which actually added screens in its second week to extend its record total to 4,751, will soon find itself in more of a dog fight for audience attention.

"Jurassic World: Dominion" got a head start over the weekend in 15 international markets, where the Colin Trevorrow-directed film grossed \$55.5 million. Universal said that was in line with the previous franchise entries. "Jurassic World" made \$1.67 billion in 2015, while its 2018 follow-up, "Jurassic World: Fallen

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Kingdom," grossed \$1.31 billion.

In U.S. and Canadian theaters, no new wide release challenged "Top Gun: Maverick." "Vikram," an Indian Tamil-language action thriller, opened with \$1.8 million in 460 theaters.

Fresh off its premiere at the Cannes Film Festival, David Cronenberg's "Crimes of the Future" opened with \$1.1 million in 773 theaters. The Neon release, starring Viggo Mortensen, Lea Seydoux and Kristen Stewart, is the Canadian auteur's first film in eight years.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Comscore. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Top Gun: Maverick," \$86 million.
2. "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness," \$9.3 million.
3. "The Bob's Burgers Movie," \$4.5 million.
4. "The Bad Guys," \$3.3 million.
5. "Downton Abbey: A New Era," \$3 million.
6. "Everything Everywhere All at Once," \$2 million.
7. "Vikram," \$1.8 million.
8. "Sonic the Hedgehog 2," \$1.7 million.
9. "The Lost City," \$1.4 million.
10. "Crimes of the Future," \$1.1 million.

## Alaska's unusual House primary draws Palin, Santa, 46 others

By BECKY BOHRER Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Alaska voters are facing an election unlike any they've seen, with 48 candidates running to succeed the man who had held the state's only U.S. House seat for 49 years.

While some of the candidates in this week's special primary have name recognition, including Sarah Palin and Santa Claus — yes, Santa Claus — many are relative unknowns or political novices — a fishing guide, a contractor, a gold miner who went to prison for allegedly threatening federal land managers.

The huge number of candidates and the short timeline for holding the election after Republican U.S. Rep. Don Young's death on March 18 has some voters overwhelmed and scrambling to learn more about their options. This will be the first election under a system approved by voters in 2020 that ends party primaries, meaning all candidates are on the same one-page ballot.

The four candidates who win the most votes will advance to an August special election, in which ranked choice voting will be used. The winner of that contest will serve the remainder of Young's term, which ends in January. A separate set of elections later this year will decide who serves a two-year term beginning in January.

Max Sumner, a general contractor from Wasilla running for the seat as a Republican, said he's as serious about his bid "as anyone else that knows they aren't going to win." He said he was interested in being part of the "first experiment" under the new elections process and in saying he had run for Congress.

"I don't agree with the government being run by career politicians. I think it should be like a couple terms and you're out," he said.

He said he voted for himself and is asking others to do so but isn't campaigning. He said he's also pulling for another Republican in the race, Josh Revak, a state senator who was co-chair of Young's reelection campaign and has been endorsed by Young's widow.

In all, there are 16 Republican candidates including Palin, a former Alaska governor; Nick Begich, a businessman from a political family of prominent Democrats; former state lawmaker John Coghill; and Tara Sweeney, who also was a co-chair of Young's campaign and who has been endorsed by a group representing leaders of the state's influential Alaska Native regional corporations.

Nearly half the candidates running, 22, are independents. That includes Al Gross, an orthopedic surgeon who ran for Senate in 2020 with support from the state Democratic party, and a self-described "independent, progressive, democratic socialist" whose legal name is Santa Claus and who serves on the city

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council for the community of North Pole.

Gross angered some Democrats when in an interview with the Anchorage Daily News he didn't commit to caucusing with Democrats if elected. He has since said he would. The Alaska Democratic party has urged voters to pick from one of the six Democrats running.

The closest a Democrat came to beating Young in the last 20 years was in 2008, when Young won 50% of the vote and Ethan Berkowitz 45%.

"Alaskans have this propensity to vote for status quo, gauge viability, vote for the devil you know, and I really think under this new system, especially with ranked choice voting, we have an opportunity to change" that dynamic, said Lindsay Kavanaugh, the Alaska Democratic party's executive director.

Revak released a video in which he says he's "waging a war on Santa" and his "Marxist fantasies." Revak's campaign said the video was meant to be light-hearted, but Claus said he isn't running as a joke.

"I'm 75, and I want to spend my time and energy wisely," Claus said.

Claus' candidacy and particularly his support of abortion rights caught the attention of voter Sandi Hicks, a Juneau independent. She last month sought advice on a community Facebook page about where to find candidate information. Commenters shared links to news sites, including one that posted candidate surveys.

Others on her short list include Gross; Democrat Mary Peltola, a former legislator; and independent Jeff Lowenfels, a gardening expert with a legal background, including as a former assistant attorney general.

"I'm feeling like I'm more comfortable about, you know, instead of 48 people, I'm down to three or four people," Hicks said.

Around 100,000 ballots already have been returned in what is primarily a by-mail election. That is more than the 88,817 cast in the 2016 regular primary, when turnout was just 17%. It's anyone's guess how many of the ballots sent to registered voters will be returned.

There are opportunities for in-person or early voting in around 165 communities, many of them rural, where mail service can be spotty. The state Division of Elections and advocacy groups have been working to educate voters on the new elections process, including reminding them they only pick one candidate this go-round.

The division's online candidate list includes contact information and links to candidate websites, for those who have them. One candidate, Republican John T. Callahan, has a website simply featuring a quote often attributed to Civil War General William Tecumseh Sherman: "If nominated, I will not run. If elected, I will not serve."

Libertarian Chris Bye said his candidacy began with him and others complaining about Congress and challenging each other to run. He decided to go for it. He is one of the few candidates, including Begich and Democrat Christopher Constant, who began running for the House before Young's death.

Bye, who said he quit his job with the military to run, calls himself a "normal dude." He said he works in retail and as a fishing guide and that Congress needs people like him.

"I believe that typical Alaskans can make better decisions than groomed or professional politicians, period," he said.

Coghill, whose late father was heavily involved in Alaska politics, said he's "sorry" there are so many candidates "because it makes it more confusing (in) a very confusing election."

Name recognition in this race is important, he said.

"My name is at least recognized, sometimes well respected, sometimes not so well — but at least known," Coghill said.

Adam Wool, a state lawmaker running as a Democrat in the race, said the election reminds him of the online poll in Britain years ago in which people were asked what the country's new polar research vessel should be called. The runaway winning suggestion: Boaty McBoatface.

"This election has a little bit of that going for it, with a bunch of people that we don't know and people with funny names and celebrity-type candidates, like Sarah Palin," he said, adding that he doesn't want the election to turn into one where people make choices for "shock value."

"I don't want (voters) to Boaty McBoatface the Alaskan election," he said.

## Trump's Ukraine impeachment shadows war, risks GOP response

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — When President Donald Trump was impeached in late 2019 after pressuring Ukraine's leader for "a favor," all while withholding \$400 million in military aid to help confront Russian-backed separatists, even the staunchest defense hawks in the Republican Party stood virtually united by Trump's side.

But as Russian President Vladimir Putin's military marched toward Kyiv this February, threatening not only Ukraine but the rest of Europe, Republicans and Democrats in Congress cast aside impeachment politics, rallied to Ukraine's side and swiftly shipped billions to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's defense.

The question ahead, as Ukrainians battle Russia's grinding invasion now past its 100th day, is whether the rare bipartisanship on Capitol Hill is resilient enough to withstand Trump's isolationist influences on his party or whether Republicans who yielded to Trump's "America First" approach will do so again, putting military and humanitarian support for Ukraine at risk.

"Maybe there is a recognition on both Republican side and Democratic side that this security assistance is very important," said Bill Taylor, a former ambassador to Ukraine, in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

"And maybe neither side is eager to crack that coalition."

The fraught party politics comes at a pivotal moment as the Russian invasion drags on and the United States gets deeper into the conflict before the November elections, when lawmakers face voters with control of Congress at stake.

A recent AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research poll shows public support in the U.S. for punishing Russia over the war is wavering if it comes at the expense of the economy.

While Congress mustered rare and robust bipartisan support to approve a \$40 billion Ukraine package, bringing total U.S. support to a staggering \$53 billion since the start of the war, opposition on the latest round of aid came solely from the Republican side, including from Trump.

That is a warning sign over the sturdiness of the bipartisan coalition that the top Republican in Congress, Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, tried to shore up when he led a delegation of GOP senators to stand by Zelenskyy's side in a surprise trip to Kyiv last month.

"There is some isolationist sentiment in my party that I think is wrongheaded, and I wanted to push back against it," McConnell told a Kentucky audience this past week, explaining his Ukraine visit.

The divisions within the GOP over Ukraine are routinely stoked by Trump, who initially praised Putin's invasion of Ukraine as a "genius" negotiating strategy. Trump has repeatedly lashed out against the U.S. aid to Ukraine, including last weekend at a rally in Wyoming. Before the Senate vote on the \$40 billion in assistance, Trump decried the idea of spending abroad while America's "parents are struggling."

As Trump considers whether to run for the White House in 2024, the persistence of his "America First" foreign policy approach leaves open questions about the durability of his party's commitment to U.S. support for a democratic Ukraine. Senators are poised this summer to vote to expand NATO to include Sweden and Finland, but Trump has repeatedly criticized U.S. spending on Western military alliance.

Sen. Josh Hawley of Missouri, among 11 Republican senators who voted against the Ukraine package, called the tally an "astronomical number" at a time when foreign policy should be focused elsewhere, including on China.

"That is nation-building kind of number," Hawley said in an interview. "And I think it's a mistake."

It was nearly three years ago that Ukraine was at the center of U.S. politics with the 2019 Trump impeachment proceedings that rocked Washington.

Zelenskyy, a comedian turned politician, had just been elected when he asked Trump during a July 25, 2019, phone call for a meeting to strengthen U.S.-Ukraine relations and ensure military aid, according to a transcript released by Trump's White House.

"We are almost ready to buy more Javelins from the United States for defense purposes," Zelenskyy told Trump, referring to anti-tank weaponry Ukraine relies on from the West.

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Trump replied: "I would like you to do us a favor, though."

Trump asked Zelenskyy to investigate Joe Biden, a chief Democratic rival to Trump at the time and now the American president, and Biden's son Hunter, who served on the board of a Ukrainian gas company.

The impeachment investigation, sparked by a government whistleblower's complaint over Trump's call, swiftly became a milestone, the first in a generation since Democrat Bill Clinton faced charges over an affair with a White House intern.

During weeks of impeachment proceedings over Ukraine, witnesses from across the national security and foreign service sphere testified under oath about the alarms that were going off in Washington and Kyiv about Trump's conversation with Zelenskyy.

Complicated stories emerged about the scramble by Trump allies to secure the investigations of the Bidens — and of the civil servants pushing back against what they saw as a breach of protocol.

Yet American opinions over the gravity of the charges against Trump were mixed, polling at the time by the AP showed.

Trump was impeached by the Democratic-led House and acquitted by the Senate, with just one Republican, Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah, joining Democrats to convict.

"The allegations were all horse hockey," said Rep. Morgan Griffith, R-Va., recalling his decision not to impeach.

Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., brushed back questions about whether Trump's actions then played any role in Russia's decision to invade Ukraine this February.

"It wasn't like Putin invaded right after. It's been almost two years," Rubio said.

Republicans are quick to remind that Trump was, in fact, the first president to allow lethal arms shipments to Ukraine — something Barack Obama's administration, with Biden as vice president, declined to do over worries of provoking Putin.

Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, the co-chair of the Senate's Ukrainian Caucus who persuaded Trump in a phone call to ultimately release the \$400 million in aid, stood by his decision not to convict Trump over the delay of that assistance.

"As long as it was done," Portman said about the outcome.

But Romney said people need to remain "clear-eyed" about the threat Putin poses to the world order. "I did the right thing at the time, and I haven't looked back," he said.

Democrats are blistering in their criticism of Republicans over the impeachment verdict.

"It's a shame," said Sen. Bob Menendez, D-N.J., chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"Every single Republican who voted in support of Donald Trump's geopolitical shakedown and blackmail of Volodymyr Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian people should be ashamed of themselves," said Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., "because the consequences of Donald Trump's actions were understood to us then, and now the world understands."

## World War II veterans honored a day before D-Day anniversary

By SYLVIE CORBET and JEFF SCHAEFFER Associated Press

RANVILLE, France (AP) — More than 20 British World War II veterans gathered Sunday near Pegasus Bridge in northwestern France, one of the first sites liberated by Allied forces from Nazi Germany, for commemorations honoring the nearly 160,000 troops from Britain, the U.S., Canada and other nations who landed in Normandy on June 6, 1944.

Veterans, their families and French and international visitors braved the rainy weather to take part in series of events this weekend and on Monday for the 78th anniversary of D-Day.

This year's D-Day anniversary comes after two successive years of the COVID-19 pandemic restricted or deterred visitors. Many felt the celebrations paying tribute to those who brought peace and freedom on the continent held special meaning this year as war is raging again in Europe since Russia's invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24.

Dozens of U.S. veterans were also attending events in the region, ahead of Monday's ceremony at the

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Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, home to the gravesites of 9,386 who died fighting on D-Day and in the operations that followed.

Peter Smoothy, 97, served in the British Royal Navy and landed on the beaches of Normandy on D-Day. "The first thing I remember are the poor lads who didn't come back ... It's a long time ago now, nearly 80 years ... And here we are still living," he told The Associated Press. "We're thinking about all these poor lads who didn't get off the beach that day, their last day, but they're always in our minds."

Welcomed to the sound of bagpipes at the Pegasus Memorial in the French town of Ranville, British veterans attended a ceremony commemorating a key operation in the first minutes of the Allied invasion of Normandy, when troops had to take control a strategically crucial bridge.

Bill Gladden, 98, took part to the D-Day British airborne operation and was later shot while defending the bridge.

"I landed on D-Day and was injured on the 18th of June ... So I was three years at the hospital," he said.

Meanwhile, on the British side of the Channel, then 17-year-old Mary Scott was working at the communications center in Portsmouth, listening to the coded messages coming from the front line and passing them on as part of the operations on Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword Beaches.

"The war was in my ears," she recalled, describing the radio machine she operated via levers.

"When they (communication officers) had to respond to my messages and they lifted their lever, you heard all the sounds of the men on the beaches: bombs, machine guns, men shouting, screaming."

Scott, who will soon turn 96, said she got very "emotional" when arriving to Normandy on Saturday on a trip organized by the Taxi Charity for Military Veterans. She was in tears when seeing the D-Day beaches.

"Suddenly I thought maybe some of those young men I spoke to... that they had died," she said.

The symbol is even stronger as across the Channel, Queen Elizabeth II, who served in World War II as an army driver and mechanic, is celebrating her 70 years on the throne.

"Women were involved," Scott stressed. "I mean, I'm enormously proud to have been a minute part of Operation Overlord."

Scott's face turned to sadness when she mentioned the war in Ukraine.

"Why can't we learn from past experiences? Why can't we do that? What's wrong with us?" she asked. "War should teach us something but it never penetrates for very long."

Many visitors this year came to see the monuments marking the key moments of the fight and show their gratitude to the soldiers. World War II history enthusiasts dressed in wartime uniforms were seen in jeeps and military vehicles on the small roads of Normandy.

Greg Jensen, 51, came with his 20-year-old daughter from Dallas. On Saturday, they visited the Normandy American Cemetery and Memorial, overlooking Omaha Beach.

"I took a moment to just hold the sand and you think, gosh, the blood that was spilled to give me that moment and the freedom to hold that sand," he said. "That was emotional for me."

"I hope a lot of this younger generation is watching because we can't forget what happened 78 years ago," Jensen said, especially thinking of the fighting in Ukraine.

Andy Hamilton, a 57-year-old retired police officer, came on holiday with his family, including his two 8-year-old grandsons, from Shropshire in England.

"We're now showing our respects of the sites here and to give the grandchildren a sense of what World War II was like ... and the amount of people that have given their lives to sacrifice for the freedom of everyone," he said.

On D-Day, Allied troops landed on the beaches code-named Omaha, Utah, Juno, Sword and Gold, carried by 7,000 boats. On that single day, 4,414 Allied soldiers lost their lives, 2,501 of them Americans. More than 5,000 were wounded. On the German side, several thousand were killed or wounded.

## Digital currencies flow to campaigns, but state rules vary

By ANDREW SELSKY and STEVE LEBLANC Associated Press

For congressional candidate Shrina Kurani, cryptocurrency is not only the future of money, it's a trans-

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formative technology that could revolutionize campaign funding and attract a new generation of voters. She is among a vanguard of candidates courting campaign contributions in digital currencies such as Bitcoin.

"We are a campaign that is speaking to a large part of the population, especially younger people," said the American-born daughter of Indian immigrants, who is on Tuesday's primary ballot as she seeks the Democratic nomination for a congressional seat east of Los Angeles.

Kurani's foray into digital currency to help fund her campaign would not be possible if she were running for the California Legislature or some other office within the state. While the federal government allows political donations in cryptocurrency, California does not, having banned the practice four years ago.

The difference underscores not just the rising popularity of cryptocurrencies but also how regulation varies widely across the U.S.

Some states, including Arkansas and North Carolina, also don't allow for cryptocurrency donations in state races under existing campaign finance laws. Others have followed federal rules for congressional candidates and allow donations with disclosure requirements and contribution caps, typically set at \$100. Still other states, including Hawaii, Idaho and South Dakota, have adopted no specific policies around digital currency donations.

Digital currencies offer an alternative that does not depend on banks. Instead, transactions are validated and recorded on a decentralized digital ledger called the blockchain.

Perianne Boring, founder and CEO of the Chamber of Digital Commerce, a trade association representing the blockchain industry, likened the use of cryptocurrency in politics to former presidents Barack Obama using smartphone technology and Donald Trump leveraging social media.

"Blockchain technology can increase participation in the political process in a very positive way," Boring said, noting that is particularly true for younger people and members of minority groups who might be skeptical of traditional monetary methods.

Critics say the potential downside is lack of transparency — not knowing who is ultimately behind the donation.

Beth Rotman, director of the Money in Politics and Ethics Program for the nonpartisan watchdog group Common Cause, worries that traceability is more difficult with cryptocurrency.

"In campaign finance, you want disclosure. You need backup information," Rotman said. "I know (cryptocurrency) is sexy and signals to people that you're a hip new candidate, but there has to be a better way to do it than compromise the other parts of the campaign finance system."

Timothy Massad, a former chairman of the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, also is concerned about disclosures.

"The danger is that this is still, in my mind, a sector where there is insufficient regulation, particularly on the risk of illicit activity and money laundering," said Massad, currently a research fellow at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

Cryptocurrency donations have been permitted in federal races for years, after the Federal Election Commission allowed their use in a 2014 opinion.

The commission said political committees should value digital currency contributions based on the market value at the time the donation is received. Candidates also must return contributions that come from prohibited sources or exceed contribution limits.

In the 2017-18 election cycle, cryptocurrency donations reported to the Federal Election Commission came to just over \$1.2 million. They have hit about \$500,000 so far in the current cycle, which has months to go before the general election.

Shortly after the Federal Election Commission allowed cryptocurrency donations, then-U.S. Rep. Jared Polis, a Democrat, began soliciting them. Now governor of Colorado, Polis is seeking similar contributions as he runs for reelection, with donations in cryptocurrency capped at \$100.

"Through campaigns accepting cryptocurrency donations, we can show the security, accessibility and the opportunity of using crypto in different types of transactions and also help send the message that



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Colorado is a home of innovation," said Amber Miller, Polis' campaign spokesperson.

As the popularity of digital currencies grows, some states that prohibited cryptocurrency contributions are reassessing.

Jay Wierenga, spokesperson for the California Fair Political Practices Commission, said the agency will reexamine its ban later this year.

"The commission is always seeking to keep up with and get ahead of the changing universe around political activity," Wierenga said.

Oregon is one of the more innovative states in elections, having been the first to institute vote-by-mail. But in 2019, Oregon banned candidates campaigning for offices within the state from accepting cryptocurrency donations. That was despite former Secretary of State Dennis Richardson, a Republican, saying they should be considered as "a new and innovative way to expand participation."

Two months after Richardson died of cancer in 2019, the Oregon Legislature closed the door to such donations. As the Senate prepared to vote, state Sen. Jeff Golden, a Democrat, said: "One of the widely shared objectives of this legislative session is to increase the transparency of money in politics, and cryptocurrency tends to go in the opposite direction."

That feeling isn't unanimous. One of the few state lawmakers who opposed prohibiting cryptocurrency donations was Republican Rep. Bill Post. He said a lot of people in the Legislature simply didn't understand it.

"I don't want (us) to sound like a bunch of old fuddy-duddies here," he said. "Let's get up to speed on the 21st century."

Jesse Grushack, 30, is one of those voters fond of cryptocurrencies and who supports using them for political contributions. The New Yorker donated to the campaign of Democrat Matt West, a fellow cryptocurrency enthusiast who had a failed bid for an Oregon congressional seat this year.

"At this point in American politics, anyone who's pro-crypto is someone I want to support," Grushack said.

Kurani, 29, said her embrace of cryptocurrency is more than just a chance to display her tech credentials. It's also a way to reach those for whom the digital alternatives to U.S. dollars are becoming their legal tender of choice.

She downplays concerns about donor secrecy, saying her campaign converts crypto donations into dollars and pursues the same information — name, address, employer, occupation — that it would for any donor.

"We are really making sure that we can represent American people who are participating with new kinds of digital currency," she said.

## **Inflation divide: The wealthy splurge, the poorest pull back**

By ANNE D'INNOENZIO and CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Business Writers

NEW YORK (AP) — Americans at the low end of the income rung are once again struggling to make ends meet.

A confluence of factors — the expiration of federal stimulus checks and surging inflation on staples like gas and food — are driving an even bigger wedge between the haves and have-nots.

While wealthier shoppers continue to splurge, low-income shoppers have pulled back faster than expected in the past two months. They're focusing on necessities while turning to cheaper items or less expensive stores. And they're buying only a little at a time.

It's a reversal from a year or so ago when low-income shoppers, flush with money from the government and buoyed by wage increases, were able to spend more freely.

Kisha Galvan, a 44-year-old mother of eight children from ages 9 to 27, was able to stock up on groceries for the week and buy extras like clothing and shoes at Walmart for her children last year.

But without the pandemic-related government support and inflation hovering at a near 40-year high, she is buying more canned food and depending on the local food pantry several times a week instead of once a week.

"I shop meal to meal," said the Rockford, Illinois, resident who has lived on disability for the past 15 years. "Before, we didn't have to worry about what we were going to get. We just go get it."

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The deep divide in spending was reflected in the latest round of quarterly earnings for retailers. At the high end of the spectrum, Nordstrom and Ralph Lauren reported stronger-than-expected sales as their well-heeled shoppers returned to pre-pandemic routines. Lululemon also reported strong quarterly sales of its pricey athletic wear.

But on the other end, Walmart's customers are switching to cheaper lunch meats and half gallons of milk from full gallons. Kohl's, a mid-priced department store, said its customers were spending less on each visit. And Gap slashed its annual financial outlook, specifically citing the strain from inflation at its low-price Old Navy chain.

Both Dollar Tree and Dollar General, which historically benefit from shoppers trading down during difficult economic times, raised their sales outlooks last month. Meanwhile, discounter Big Lots suffered steep sales declines in the latest quarter, noting cutbacks in items like furniture.

"We are now in a new chapter where high inflation is greatly limiting the ability of consumers to make discretionary purchases, especially of high ticket items," Big Lots CEO and President Bruce K. Thorn told analysts late last month. "We know that many Americans now are once again living paycheck-to-paycheck."

The pullback among low-income shoppers has not affected overall spending, which is still up. In April, the government said retail sales outpaced inflation for a fourth straight month, a reassuring sign that consumers — the primary drivers of America's economy — are still providing vital support and helping ease concerns that a recession might be near.

But analysts believe even affluent shoppers could retrench if the stock market continues to weaken. Marshal Cohen, chief industry advisor at market research firm The NPD Group Inc., said the stock market affects higher income shoppers "psychologically" and more losses on paper could make them cut back.

The spending mood has shifted from last October and November, when the Fed conducted a survey and found that almost eight in 10 adults were either "doing okay or living comfortably" when it came to their finances in 2021, the highest proportion to say so since the survey began in 2013. For those earning less than \$25,000, the proportion that said they were doing at least okay jumped to 53% from 40%.

But inflation has taken a bigger bite out of personal budgets and wiped away some of the wage gains, especially for those who earn less. The national average cost of a gallon of gas, for example, has jumped to \$4.76 from \$4.20 a month ago and a painful 56% from a year earlier, according to AAA.

At the Northern Illinois Food Bank, which feeds people in 13 counties including Galvan and her family, the average monthly number of visits grew to more than 400,000 in the February through April period, from 311,000 in the July through September period, according to president and CEO Julie Yurko.

Across the economy, median wages jumped 6% in April from a year earlier, according to the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. But even though that was the largest increase since 1990, it was still below the inflation rate of 8.3%.

Meanwhile, the poorest one-fifth of Americans have exhausted the savings they'd built up during the pandemic in part through stimulus checks, child tax credit payments and higher wages, according to calculations by Jeffries, an investment bank. Americans' bank accounts. The other four-fifths of U.S. households are still sitting on a large stockpile of additional savings since the pandemic, with much of that held by the top fifth.

Inflation is playing out differently within businesses that cater to shoppers with varying income levels.

Michelle Gass, CEO of Kohl's, said some shoppers are trading up to premium brands like Tommy Hilfiger and Calvin Klein, while others are going to lower-price store labels. Macy's boosted its annual outlook based on the spending habits of its wealthier shoppers, but its customers with median household income of \$75,000 and below are switching more to its off-price brand.

The current environment is making it difficult for retailers to pass on higher costs. Macy's, for instance, got pushback after raising prices on some casual clothing items and home accessories.

"We're definitely seeing some balk at some of the prices," Macy's CEO Jeff Gennette recently told analysts on the company's earnings call. "We've made adjustments there."

For the Northern Illinois Food Bank — like many food banks — food costs are spiking amid dwindling donations.

"Inflation and rising food costs mean the food bank has to make tough choices about our budget," Yurko said. "What foods can we provide consistently and what foods can we only provide if they are donated to us?"

## Abortion rights advocates say they need more men's voices

By DEEPTI HAJELA Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — If Donovan Atterberry thought about abortion at all as a young man, it was perhaps with some vague discomfort, or a memory of the anti-abortion protesters outside the clinic that he would pass on his way to the park as a child.

It became real to him in 2013, when his girlfriend, now his wife, became pregnant with their first child together. She'd had a healthy pregnancy before, his stepdaughter, but this time genetic testing found a lethal chromosomal disorder in the developing fetus, one that would likely result in a stillbirth and also possibly put her life at risk during a delivery.

"As a man, I didn't know how to console her, how to advise her," Atterberry, now 32, recalls. "I said, 'If I had to choose, I would choose you.' ... It wasn't a matter of do I believe in abortion or I don't believe in abortion. At that point, I was thinking about her life."

She chose to terminate the pregnancy and "it changed my whole perspective ... on bodily autonomy and things of that nature," said Atterberry.

So much so, that he now works as a voting engagement organizer for New Voices for Reproductive Justice, which focuses on the health of Black women and girls, with abortion access being among the areas of concern.

"What I'm trying to convey is that it's a human right for someone to have a choice," he said.

That Atterberry is a man in support of abortion rights isn't unusual; according to polls, a majority of American men say they support some level of access to abortion. And history is replete with men who have played active roles in supporting abortion, through organizations, as legislators and in the case of Dr. George Tiller, as an abortion provider. Tiller was assassinated in church by an anti-abortion extremist in Kansas in 2009.

Still, there is room for a lot more who are willing to speak out and be active in the political battles over abortion availability, Atterberry says.

Where men have always played an outsize role is in pushing for and enacting abortion restrictions — as advocates, state elected officials and most recently, as a U.S. Supreme Court justice. Justice Samuel Alito authored a draft of a high court ruling that would overturn the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision establishing a nationwide right to abortion. The draft, which was leaked to a news outlet last month, appears to have the support of the majority of the six men sitting on the nine-justice court.

Women have always taken the lead in the fight to preserve abortion rights, for obvious reasons: They are the ones who give birth and who, in so many instances, are tasked with caring for children once they are brought into the world.

No one is calling for that leadership to change, said David Cohen, a law professor at Drexel University who specializes in law and gender.

"Men should not be out there trying to run the movement or take away leadership positions," he said. "But being a part of it, supporting, listening and being active are all things that men can and should be doing."

That's what Oren Jacobson is trying to do at Men4Choice, the organization he co-founded in 2015, where the goal is to get men who say they support abortion rights to speak out and do more, such as protesting, making it a voting priority, and especially talking to other men.

"Everything we're doing is focused on getting what are really millions of men — who in theory are pro-choice but are completely passive when it comes to their voice and their energy and their time in the fight for abortion rights and abortion access — to get off the sidelines and step in the fight as allies," he said.

It hasn't been the easiest of tasks.

Abortion "is almost never a conversation inside of male circles unless it's introduced by somebody who

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is impacted by the issue in most cases," he said. "Not only that, but ... you're talking about a heavily stigmatized issue in society. You're talking about sex and sexuality, you're talking about anatomy, and none of those things are things that guys feel particularly comfortable talking about."

But it is something that affects them and the culture they live in, notes Barbara Risman, sociology professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

"Sexuality has become so integrated into our lives, whether or not we're partnered," she said. "That is directly related to women's control of fertility — and women do not control fertility in a world where abortion is not legal. ... Certainly, heterosexual sexual freedom is dependent on the ability to end an unwanted pregnancy."

Also, a society in which the state has a say in reproductive decisions could lead to one in which the state has control over other decisions that could affect men more directly, Cohen said.

"Abortion law, abortion precedent is not just about abortion, it's also about controlling intimate details to your life," he said. "So whether it's your sex life, your family life, other parts of your private life, medical care, decision-making, all of those are wrapped up into abortion law and abortion jurisprudence and abortion policy," he said.

Since the Supreme Court draft was leaked, Jacobson said he's seen more men speak out about abortion access and show more interest in his group's work than he has in the past several years.

What remains to be seen, he said, "is whether or not it's going to catalyze the type of allyship that's needed now and frankly has been needed for a long time."

## **Bolsonaro using medals to celebrate allies, family, himself**

By MAURICIO SAVARESE and DÉBORA ALVARES Associated Press

SAO PAULO (AP) — Elon Musk arrived in Brazil for his first-ever visit, not knowing his cachaca from his churrasco, and within hours had a prestigious medal draped around his neck as he clasped the hand of President Jair Bolsonaro.

The Tesla and SpaceX CEO was the first foreign civilian without a government position to receive the Defense Ministry honor since its 2002 creation, according to an Associated Press review of recent records.

But it came as little surprise given Bolsonaro's benevolence in decorating ideological allies, ministers, loyalists and family — sometimes on questioned grounds. Bolsonaro himself has received six medals from his own administration.

In Bolsonaro's cabinet, a medal has practically come with the job. The nation's three medals regarded as most prestigious are the Order of Defense Merit, Order of Rio Branco and the Medal of Victory, and Bolsonaro awarded more than three-quarters of current or former ministers at least one.

He has distributed at least 76 of the three top medals to ministers since 2019, more than any of his three elected predecessors throughout their two terms.

Bolsonaro also gave three medals of various sorts to his wife Michelle and senator son Flávio. His son Eduardo, a lawmaker, got at least six.

The awards are meant "to forge the appearance of being surrounded by people with merit, of high caliber," said Carlos Melo, a political science professor at Insper University. "One or another could be, but you can't say that for all of them."

In a November article titled "The Farce of the Medals," magazine Istoe wrote that Bolsonaro had transformed the government into a medal dispensary. The presidential palace didn't respond to AP questions about motives for the medals.

Heads of state often bestow awards on controversial grounds. Donald Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner received Mexico's highest honor, the Order of the Aztec Eagle, for helping to renegotiate the North American trade agreement. Barack Obama gave out more Presidential Medals of Freedom than any U.S. leader since its creation, including one for billionaire Warren Buffett and another for then-Vice President Joe Biden.

But it's rarer for presidents to decorate themselves. The same medal the Defense Ministry awarded to Musk was given to Bolsonaro on his first day in office, Jan. 1, 2019. The former army captain has accumu-

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lated others of varying importance in the three years since, mostly from the armed forces. In March, he got two medals from his Justice Ministry, one of which honors altruistic service for Indigenous peoples.

That scandalized environmentalists, human rights activists and Indigenous groups who see the president's push for development within Indigenous territories as profoundly damaging.

Veteran ethnographer Sydney Possuelo, who once headed the nation's Indigenous agency and demarcated Indigenous territories nationwide, was shocked when he heard the news. He protested by returning his own medal, which he received 35 years prior.

"If I'd seen it the same day, I would have rushed down and thrown the medal at the entry of the presidential palace," Possuelo, 83, told the AP by phone. "How can a president who promises to ignore a Supreme Court ruling on demarcation of Indigenous lands give himself that accolade?"

There aren't public records to show whether former presidents received as many medals from their own administrations. The AP filed freedom of information requests to president's office and several ministries for year-by-year information on medals awarded since the country's 1988 return to democracy, but received scant response.

Former Presidents Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva and Fernando Henrique Cardoso accepted the same medal as Musk while in office. Dilma Rousseff won it before her election, while a minister. The medal was created in 2002, replacing a similar honor.

José Chrispiniano, the spokesperson for da Silva, said his boss "doesn't have the slightest idea" how many medals he received from his own government. "He never cared much about that," the spokesperson said. Da Silva leads all polls to win October elections, in which Bolsonaro is seeking a second term.

History Professor Ruth Ben-Guiat, a specialist on authoritarian leaders at New York University, said she wasn't aware of other presidents receiving so many medals from their own administrations.

"Behaviors like this often correspond to leaders' fears about their political future, and they start to try and buy people off with honors and other things to keep their loyalty," she said by email. "I would imagine that these behaviors will increase as the election gets closer."

In at least one instance, Bolsonaro overruled expert recommendations on granting awards, cutting two scientists from a technical committee's list of recipients: One had worked on improving health of transgender people and the other published a study showing the anti-malarial drug chloroquine was ineffective against COVID-19. Bolsonaro had insistently touted it as a cure.

The Brazilian Academy of Sciences issued a statement calling the snub "unprecedented in the country and typical of authoritarian regimes." And 21 other intended recipients refused the accolade, long seen as a major professional honor. Among them was Carlos Gustavo Moreira, a member of the Brazilian Academy of Sciences.

"His intervention was a step beyond," said Moreira. "Many of us were uncomfortable receiving it from this administration. After he took the two names off, it was easy to decide."

Bolsonaro didn't make explicit why Musk got the Defense Ministry medal, but within days SpaceX launched two satellites for the Brazilian Air Force from Cape Canaveral. At the event in Brazil's countryside, Bolsonaro said the billionaire's plans to conduct satellite monitoring of the Amazon rainforest would debunk lies about environmental destruction, called his prospective purchase of Twitter a "breath of hope" and deemed the man "the legend of freedom." Many of Bolsonaro's boosters view Musk as a champion against social media speech restrictions.

"Bolsonaro supporters want to see him give a medal to someone they believe is in favor of what they call liberty, freedom of speech," João Martins Filho, former head of the Brazilian Association of Defense Studies, told the AP by phone. "So he gladly does it."

## Students of color push back on calls for police in schools

By ANNIE MA Associated Press

After the mass shooting at a Texas elementary school, schools around the country pledged to boost security measures and increased the presence of law enforcement on campus — partly to reassure par-

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ents and students.

But police inside schools can make some students more uneasy, not less. Especially for Black students and other students of color, their personal experiences with policing can leave them feeling unsafe and alienated from school when they see officers on campus.

High school senior Malika Mobley has seen three different school resource officers patrolling the campus in Raleigh, North Carolina. Once on the way home from school, Mobley saw officers detain a visibly distraught classmate and push the student into the back of a police vehicle.

"They were crying, 'Why are you doing this to me? I didn't do anything,'" said Mobley, co-president of Wake County Black Student Coalition. "I was just forced to stand there and couldn't do anything."

Since 2020, the student group has advocated for eliminating police officers from school buildings in favor of investing in counselors and support staff for students.

"We don't see police presence as part of the solution," Mobley said. "If you really think about why police don't make us safer, you can draw connections to all types of tragedies that impact the most marginalized among us."

Police officers have a regular presence at schools across the country in recent decades, often in the form of school resource officers, who are tasked with building relationships with young people to promote trust of law enforcement, providing security, and enforcing laws. Critics say having armed police on campus often results in Black students being disproportionately arrested and punished, leading to what they call the school-to-prison pipeline.

Researchers have found that Black students report feeling less safe around police officers than their white peers and that officers in predominantly Black school districts were more likely to view students themselves to be threats.

Black students and other students of color also are disproportionately likely to have negative interactions with police in schools, ranging from referrals to law enforcement to being arrested or restrained, said Katherine Dunn, director of the Opportunity to Learn program at the Advancement Project. Since 2007, the Advancement Project has documented at least 200 instances of officers at schools assaulting students, she said.

"It shows all the physical harms that young people experience by police," she said. "It's also the experience of being degraded and made to feel like a criminal because you have to walk down the hallway to your class with several armed cops, who are not there for your safety, who you see arrest your friends, assault your friends."

In 2018, after the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, the state Legislature passed laws mandating public schools to have either law enforcement or armed personnel present on campuses.

A study of the law's impact by F. Chris Curran, a University of Florida professor, found the expanded police presence was followed by an increase in school arrests and the number of reported behavioral incidents. He said there are many factors to consider in deciding the role police play in schools.

"I'd like to see that conversation include thoughtful considerations of potential benefits, decreasing certain kinds of behaviors, but also the potential unintended consequences, if that's increasing the likelihood students are arrested or potentially increasing racial disparities in discipline and arrest rates," Curran said.

While there are examples of school resource officers who have intervened in incidents of gun violence, Curran said, the presence of law enforcement does not always guarantee that shootings or other violence won't occur, or that the officer would be immediately effective at stopping the perpetrator and minimizing casualties.

In a statement issued this week on best practices for school security in the wake of the Uvalde, Texas, shooting, the National Association of School Resource Officers emphasized the importance of having "a carefully selected, specifically trained SRO on its campus whenever school is in session."

The nonprofit group has rejected criticism that officers contribute to a school-to-prison pipeline. Officers who follow its best practices, it says, do not arrest students for disciplinary issues that would be handled ordinarily by educators.

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As elsewhere around the country last week, the police presence was increased outside schools across North Carolina to provide reassurance to families in the wake of the Uvalde, Texas shooting.

Wake County schools have 75 school resource officers, drawn from several local law enforcement agencies.

The Wake County Black Student Coalition's campaign to remove the officers stemmed partly from student accounts of bad experiences with officers, including a 2017 incident where a school resource officer was filmed picking up a Black girl and slamming her to the ground, said Chalina Morgan-Lopez, a high school senior who is co-president of the student group.

"I think it's a reasonable response to want more officers in schools, especially from people who genuinely do feel protected by law enforcement, even though that's not my lived experience," Morgan-Lopez said. "But I think people need to take into account ... that officers do in fact do more harm than they do good."

Last summer the school system made several changes to its school resource officer program, including a new process for fielding grievances involving officers and adjustments to training to prepare them better for the school environment, said Lisa Luten, a spokesperson for the school system. The review was based on community feedback the district sought in the wake of the killing of George Floyd and the resurgence of the Black Lives Matter movement, Luten said.

"This is not a new conversation for us," she said. "That certainly brought it back to light."

## Funeral for Uvalde girl who dreamed of going to art school

UVALDE, Texas (AP) — Mourners on Sunday were remembering a girl who was an aspiring artist, whose joy at reaching the double-digit age of 10 charmed broken hearts around the world.

Alithia Ramirez was among the 19 children who, along with their two teachers, died on May 24 when an 18-year-old gunman opened fire with an AR-15-style rifle inside Robb Elementary School in Uvalde, Texas. Alithia's funeral was set for Sunday afternoon at First Baptist Church. Funerals will continue into mid-June.

Alithia Ramirez

Ten-year-old Alithia Ramirez was a loving and caring girl who loved to draw.

Her obituary described her as smart and an "extremely loving young lady who dreamt of attending Art School in Paris. She was very reliable, always wanted to take care of everyone, and was a role model to her siblings."

Alithia's parents met with President Joe Biden during his visit to Uvalde on May 29, KENS-TV reported. They said Biden asked if he could have one of her drawings to hang in the White House.

Ryan Ramirez said Biden told the parents, "Whenever we hang it up, we are going to send you a picture of where it is hanging, and you are free to see it anytime."

Ryan Ramirez rushed to Robb Elementary when he heard about the shooting. He told KTRK-TV he simply wanted to find his daughter and take her home.

After her death, a photo was shown around the world of Alithia, smiling broadly as she wore a tie-dye T-shirt that read: "Out of single digits" and "I'm 10." Her birthday was April 28.

Her father later posted that same photo on Facebook with no words, but with Alithia wearing angel wings. "This is a parent's nightmare. This is the worst of the worst," Ryan Ramirez told KENS-TV on Wednesday.

## At least 49 dead in 2nd day of Bangladesh cargo depot fire

By JULHAS ALAM Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — A massive fire at a container depot near a port city in southeastern Bangladesh killed at least 49 people, including nine firefighters, and injured more than 100 others, officials and local media reported Sunday, as efforts to extinguish the blaze continued into a second night.

The inferno at the BM Inland Container Depot, a Dutch-Bangladesh joint venture, broke out around midnight Saturday following explosions in a container full of chemicals. The cause of the fire could not be immediately determined. The depot is located near country's main Chittagong Seaport, 216 kilometers

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(134 miles) southeast of the capital, Dhaka.

At least nine firefighters were among the dead, according to Brig. Gen. Main Uddin, director general of the Bangladesh fire service and civil defense. More than 10 others were being treated for burns, he added.

Multiple rounds of explosions occurred after the initial blast as the fire continued to spread, Uddin said. Explosives experts from Bangladesh's military have been called in to assist the firefighters. The explosions shattered the windows of nearby buildings and were felt as far as 4 kilometers (2 1/2 miles) away, officials and local media reports said.

The death toll reached 49 by Sunday evening, according to Ekattor TV station, and the area's civil surgeon said the number could still rise as the fire raged for a second night.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her shock at the accident and ordered adequate arrangement for medical treatment of the injured.

Bangladesh has a history of industrial disasters, including factories catching fire with workers trapped inside. Monitoring groups have blamed corruption and lax enforcement.

Global brands, which employ tens of thousands of low-paid workers in Bangladesh, have come under fire to improve factory conditions in recent years. In the country's massive garment industry, which employs about 4 million people, safety conditions have improved significantly after massive reforms, but experts say accidents could still occur if other sectors do not make similar changes.

In 2012, about 117 workers died when they were trapped behind locked exits in a garment factory in Dhaka.

The country's worst industrial disaster occurred the following year, when the Rana Plaza garment factory outside Dhaka collapsed, killing more than 1,100 people.

In 2019, a blaze ripped through a 400-year-old area cramped with apartments, shops and warehouses in the oldest part of Dhaka and killed at least 67 people. Another fire in Old Dhaka in a house illegally storing chemicals killed at least 123 people in 2010.

In 2021, a fire at a food and beverage factory outside Dhaka killed at least 52 people, many of whom were trapped inside by an illegally locked door.

## Philippine volcano spews ash and steam, alarms villagers

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A volcano southeast of the Philippine capital spewed ash and steam about a kilometer (half a mile) into the sky on Sunday, scattering ash on nearby villages and alarming residents, officials said.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology raised the alert level at Mount Bulusan in Sorsogon province following the 17-minute blast but added there was no sign of an impending major eruption.

There were no reports of injuries, officials said. Fourteen people with four guides were hiking on a trail on the 1,565-meter (5,134-foot) volcano when it erupted close to noontime but everyone reached a nearby town safely, they said.

Villager Rica Tomale was hanging her laundry when ashfall rained down on her coastal town of Juban near Bulusan, shrouding the sky in darkness. Two motorcycles slipped on the ash-covered road but the drivers were unhurt, she said.

"I got scared and ran back to the house, where we hurriedly put on our face masks," Tomale, a mother of two, told The Associated Press by telephone, adding she was surprised by the ashfall because she did not hear the volcano explode.

One of the country's most active volcanoes, Bulusan has been showing signs of unrest with on-and-off ash and steam explosions in recent years.

"It is currently in an abnormal condition," the government volcanology institute said, and asked people to stay away from a 4-kilometer (2.4-mile) permanent danger zone around the volcano.

Ashfall hit at least seven villages in and near Juban at the foot of Bulusan where people were asked to stay indoors and wear masks. Motorists were advised to drive cautiously.

Officials said they were assessing whether to evacuate residents, especially pregnant women, the elderly



and children.

Outside the permanent danger zone, the institute warned people including those living on the vulnerable southeastern side of the volcano to stay alert due to the increased possibilities of sudden eruptions and mudflows amid the rainy season. Aircraft were advised not fly close to the volcano, which is about 600 kilometers (373 miles) southeast of Manila.

The Philippine archipelago, which has about two dozen active volcanoes, lies on the Pacific Ocean's "Ring of Fire," where volcanic activity and earthquakes are common.

## Researchers: Breast cancer drug could help more patients

By CARLA K. JOHNSON AP Medical Writer

For the first time, a drug targeting a protein that drives breast cancer growth has been shown to work against tumors with very low levels of the protein.

It's not a cure. But this latest gain for targeted cancer therapy could open new treatment possibilities to thousands of patients with advanced breast cancer.

Until now, breast cancers have been categorized as either HER2-positive — the cancer cells have more of the protein than normal — or HER2-negative. Doctors reporting the advance Sunday said it will make "HER2-low" a new category for guiding breast cancer treatment.

About half of patients with late-stage breast cancer formerly categorized as HER2-negative may actually be HER2-low and eligible for the drug.

The drug is Enhertu, an antibody-chemotherapy combo given by IV. It finds and blocks the HER2 protein on cancer cells, while also unloading a powerful cancer-killing chemical inside those cells. It belongs to a relatively new class of drugs called antibody-drug conjugates.

The drug was already approved for HER2-positive breast cancer, and in April the Food and Drug Administration granted it breakthrough status for this new group of patients.

In the new study, the drug lengthened the time patients lived without their cancer progressing and improved survival compared with patients given standard chemotherapy.

The study compared Enhertu to standard chemo in about 500 patients with HER2-low breast cancer that had spread or could not be treated with surgery. The drug stopped the progress of cancer for about 10 months compared with about 5 1/2 months in the group getting regular care. The drug improved survival by about six months (from 17.5 months to 23.9 months).

"It's a practice-changing study," said Dr. Sylvia Adams, who directs breast cancer care at NYU Langone Health and enrolled several patients in the study. "It addresses a major unmet need for patients who have metastatic breast cancer."

Now, it will be important to define the HER2 gray area to make sure the right patients receive the treatment and then to monitor them closely, experts said.

The drug, which costs about \$14,000 a month, can have severe complications. Three patients in the study died of a lung disease that's a known hazard of the drug. Doctors need to make sure patients report breathing problems right away so the drug can be stopped and patients treated with steroids.

The findings were featured Sunday at the annual meeting of the American Society of Clinical Oncology in Chicago and published by the New England Journal of Medicine. Funding for the study came from Tokyo-based Daiichi Sankyo and U.K.-based AstraZeneca, which jointly developed the drug.

Patients take the drug until they can no longer tolerate it.

"A lot of people, including a lot of patients, will not have heard of HER2-low breast cancer before," said the study's lead author, Dr. Shanu Modi of Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York.

"We finally have a HER2-targeted drug that for the first time can target that low level of HER2 expression," Modi said. "This drug actually helps to define HER2-low breast cancer. It makes it, for the first time, a targetable population."

**Today in History: June 6, D-Day in Normandy**

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By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, June 6, the 157th day of 2022. There are 208 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 6, 1944, during World War II, Allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy, France, on "D-Day" as they began the liberation of German-occupied Western Europe.

On this date:

In 1844, the Young Men's Christian Association was founded in London.

In 1912, Novarupta, a volcano on the Alaska peninsula, began a three-day eruption, sending ash as high as 100,000 feet; it was the most powerful volcanic eruption of the 20th century and ranks among the largest in recorded history.

In 1934, the Securities and Exchange Commission was established.

In 1939, the first Little League game was played as Lundy Lumber defeated Lycoming Dairy 23-8 in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

In 1968, Sen. Robert F. Kennedy died at Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, 25 1/2 hours after he was shot by Sirhan Bishara Sirhan.

In 1977, a sharply divided U.S. Supreme Court struck down a Louisiana law imposing an automatic death sentence on defendants convicted of the first-degree murder of a police officer.

In 1982, Israeli forces invaded Lebanon to drive Palestine Liberation Organization fighters out of the country. (The Israelis withdrew in June 1985.)

In 1989, burial services were held for Iran's spiritual leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. Washington state Democrat Tom Foley succeeded Jim Wright as House speaker.

In 2001, Democrats formally assumed control of the U.S. Senate after the decision of Vermont Republican James Jeffords to become an independent.

In 2005, the Supreme Court ruled, 6-3, that people who smoked marijuana because their doctors recommended it to ease pain could be prosecuted for violating federal drug laws.

In 2006, soul musician Billy Preston died in Scottsdale, Arizona, at age 59.

In 2020, tens of thousands rallied in cities from Australia to Europe to honor George Floyd and voice support for the Black Lives Matter movement. Massive, peaceful protests took place nationwide to demand police reform, as services for George Floyd were held in North Carolina, near his birthplace.

Ten years ago: Business social network LinkedIn reported that some of its users' passwords had been stolen and leaked onto the Internet. New Yorkers lined the West Side waterfront to welcome the space shuttle Enterprise as it sailed up the Hudson River to its new home aboard the Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum.

Five years ago: Bill Cosby's chief accuser, Andrea Constand, took the stand at his sexual assault trial to tell her story publicly for the first time, saying the comedian groped her after giving her three blue pills that left her paralyzed and helpless. (The jury deadlocked, resulting in a mistrial, but Cosby was convicted in a second trial; Pennsylvania's highest court would toss out that conviction.) George and Amal Clooney welcomed twins Ella and Alexander. Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi, 81, once one of the world's richest men, who was implicated in the Iran-Contra affair, died in London.

One year ago: Several ceremonies were held in France to commemorate the 77th anniversary of D-Day, though for the second year in a row, commemorations were marked by virus travel restrictions that prevented many veterans and families of fallen soldiers from attending. Roger Federer withdrew from the French Open, a day after a four-set third-round victory, in order to rest before Wimbledon.

Today's Birthdays: Singer-songwriter Gary "U.S." Bonds is 83. Country singer Joe Stampley is 79. Jazz musician Monty Alexander is 78. Actor Robert Englund is 75. Folk singer Holly Near is 73. Singer Dwight Twilley is 71. Sen. Marsha Blackburn, R-Tenn., is 70. Playwright-actor Harvey Fierstein (FY'-ur-steen) is 70. Comedian Sandra Bernhard is 67. International Tennis Hall of Famer Bjorn Borg is 66. Actor Amanda Pays is 63. Comedian Colin Quinn is 63. Record producer Jimmy Jam is 63. Rock musician Steve Vai is 62.

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Rock singer-musician Tom Araya (Slayer) is 61. Actor Jason Isaacs is 59. Actor Anthony Starke is 59. Rock musician Sean Yseult (White Zombie) is 56. Actor Max Casella is 55. Actor Paul Giamatti is 55. R&B singer Damion Hall (Guy) is 54. Rock musician James "Munky" Shaffer (Korn) is 52. TV correspondent Natalie Morales is 50. Country singer Lisa Brokop is 49. Rapper-rocker Uncle Kracker is 48. Actor Sonya Walger is 48. Actor Staci Keanan is 47. Jazz singer Somi is 46. Actor Amber Borycki is 39. Actor Aubrey Anderson-Emmons is 15.