

Groton Daily Independent

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“I feel that the most important requirement in success is learning to overcome failure. You must learn to tolerate it, but never accept it.”
-Reggie Jackson

Chicken Soup
for the Soul

June 20 - JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY
Senior Menu: Goulash, green beans, apple crisp, whole wheat bread.

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

Ladies Invitational Golf Tourney at Olive Grove

5:30 p.m.: Legion at Northville, 1 game

7 p.m.: Jr. Legion at Northville, 1 game

5:30 p.m.: U12 hosts Britton, Nelson Field, DH

5:30 p.m.: U10 at Britton, DH (B/W)

5:30 p.m.: U8 at Britton, DH (R/W)

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

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

5 p.m.: T-Ball Gold hosts Doland

June 21

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

Senior Menu: Hot Turkey combination, mashed potatoes with gravy, 7-layer salad, apple sauce, cookie.

5:30 p.m.: U12 vs. Jacobson in Aberdeen, north complex, DH

5:30 p.m.: U10 hosts Flash, DH (R/B)

6 p.m.: U12 SB hosts Warner, DH

June 22

Senior Menu: Ham, sweet potatoes, peas, acini depepi fruit salad, whole wheat bread

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

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

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

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

5:30 p.m.: U10 hosts Hannigan, DH (R/W)

5:30 p.m.: U8 hosts Hannigan, DH (B/W)

June 23

Senior Menu: Honey glazed chicken, parsley buttered potatoes, mixed vegetables, ambrosia salad, whole wheat bread.

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

5:00 p.m.: Legion hosts Lake Norden, 1 game

7 p.m.: Jr. Legion hosts Lake Norden, 1 game

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

7:30 p.m.: U12 at Doland, 1 game

6:30 p.m.: U10 at Doland, 1 game (R/W)

5:30 p.m.: U8 at Doland, 1 game (R/B)

6 p.m.: U8 SB hosts Claremont, 1 game

7 p.m.: U10 SB hosts Claremont, 1 game

June 24

Senior Menu: BBQ beef sandwich, potato salad, carrots and peas, seasonal fresh fruit.

Redfield Pheasants Runs Away With Early Lead in Victory

Locke Electric fell behind early and couldn't come back in a 22-4 loss to Redfield Pheasants on Saturday. Redfield Pheasants scored on a groundout by Logan, an error, and a fielder's choice by Boomsma in the first inning.

The Locke Electric struggled to contain the high-powered offense of Redfield Pheasants, giving up 22 runs.

In the first inning, Redfield Pheasants got their offense started when Logan grounded out, scoring one run.

Redfield Pheasants scored ten runs in the eighth inning. Redfield Pheasants batters contributing to the big inning included Krumm, Logan, Jandel, Gregg, Kuehn, and Dickhaut, all sending runners across the plate with RBIs in the inning.

Gregg pitched Redfield Pheasants to victory. Gregg went six innings, allowing two runs on eight hits, striking out two and walking one. Krumm threw two innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Austin Jones took the loss for Locke Electric. The righty surrendered three runs on three hits over four innings, striking out seven.

Wilson Bonet went 2-for-3 at the plate to lead Locke Electric in hits.

Redfield Pheasants racked up 21 hits on the day. Krumm, Millar, Kuehn, Binger, Boomsma, Dickhaut, and Jandel all collected multiple hits for Redfield Pheasants. Krumm led Redfield Pheasants with five hits in six at bats.

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Redfield Pheasants 22 - 4 Locke Electric

📍 Home 📅 Friday June 17, 2022

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	R	H	E
RDFL	3	0	0	0	3	6	0	10	22	21	3
LCKL	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	4	8	5

BATTING

Redfield Pheasants	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Kuehn (SS)	4	4	3	6	1	1
Krumm (C, P)	6	3	5	1	1	0
Dickhaut (3B)	5	3	2	2	1	2
Logan (RF, C)	6	2	1	3	1	0
Jandel (2B)	7	1	2	2	0	1
Millar (LF)	4	3	3	2	2	0
Boomsma (1B)	6	2	2	3	0	3
Gregg (P, RF)	6	2	1	1	0	2
Binger (CF)	6	2	2	1	0	3
Totals	50	22	21	21	6	12

Locke Electric	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
C Frey (CF)	4	1	1	0	0	1
D Frey (SS)	4	1	0	0	0	0
W Bonet (C)	3	1	2	1	1	0
J Israel (1B, 3B, P)	4	0	1	1	0	0
C Camacho (2B, P..)	3	0	0	1	0	1
C Jensen (RF)	4	0	1	0	0	0
S Locke (LF)	1	0	0	0	0	0
C Furney (LF)	2	1	1	0	0	1
R Tejada (3B)	2	0	1	0	0	0
B Peterson (1B)	2	0	0	0	0	1
A Jones (P)	2	0	1	1	1	0
S Erickson	0	0	0	0	0	0
E Erickson (P, 2B)	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	32	4	8	4	2	4

2B: Dickhaut, Boomsma, Krumm, Binger 2, Millar 2, **HR:** Kuehn, **TB:** Dickhaut 3, Kuehn 6, Jandel 2, Boomsma 3, Krumm 6, Gregg, Binger 4, Millar 5, Logan, **HBP:** Dickhaut, Kuehn 2, **SB:** Jandel, Binger, **LOB:** 13

TB: C Jensen, A Jones, R Tejada, C Furney, C Frey, J Israel, W Bonet 2, **SAC:** S Locke, **SF:** C Camacho, **SB:** C Furney, C Frey, D Frey, W Bonet, **LOB:** 7

PITCHING

Redfield Pheasants	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Gregg	6.0	8	2	2	1	2	0
Krumm	2.0	0	2	0	1	2	0
Totals	8.0	8	4	2	2	4	0

Locke Electric	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
A Jones	4.0	3	3	1	3	7	0
E Erickson	2.0	9	9	5	0	1	1
C Camacho	1.2	8	10	10	3	4	0
J Israel	0.1	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	8.0	21	22	16	6	12	1

W: Gregg, **P-S:** Krumm 26-15, Gregg 107-68, **BF:** Krumm 8, Gregg 28

L: A Jones, **P-S:** A Jones 85-50, E Erickson 53-38, C Camacho 67-35, J Israel 5-5, **WP:** A Jones, **HBP:** A Jones, C Camacho 2, **BF:** A Jones 22, E Erickson 17, C Camacho 18, J Israel 2

Ectopic Pregnancy Often Fatal

It's been a long time since I've worked in the ER, but some stories stay with me. One such story belongs to a woman in her early 30s. After a year of trying to conceive, she was finally pregnant. Then she started spotting. When she developed severe pain, and almost fainted while putting their toddler to bed, her husband brought her to the emergency room.



Debra Johnston, MD

It didn't take long for us to identify an ectopic pregnancy. The fertilized egg had implanted in her fallopian tube. Our obstetrician took her to the operating room, where we found large amounts of blood in her abdomen. The surgeon removed the pregnancy and the damaged tube, stopping the bleeding.

The uterus is a highly specialized organ. It is usually a bit smaller than a pear but stretches with pregnancy to accommodate six plus pounds of baby and another three plus pounds of placenta and amniotic fluid. The muscle is invaded by the developing placenta but remains strong enough to push a baby out months later.

In a normal pregnancy, the fertilized egg divides as it travels down the fallopian tube, entering the uterus approximately four days after fertilization. By seven days after fertilization, or the third week of pregnancy, as many as 300 cells have developed from that fertilized egg. These cells have started to differentiate. Some will form the embryo, and some will go on to form the placenta and other organs that protect and support the pregnancy. It is around this time that the blastocyst, which is the technical term for these cells, will attach to the lining of the uterus. For this attachment to happen, both the uterus and the blastocyst must be in exactly the right stage. The window of opportunity is only a few days which pass by even before a woman misses her period.

Unfortunately, not all pregnancies land in the uterus. Pregnancies that attach elsewhere are called ectopic pregnancies. Most ectopic pregnancies are found in the fallopian tubes, although they can be located on the ovary, the cervix, or somewhere in the abdomen.

Many ectopic pregnancies will resolve on their own: the cells will stop dividing and the mother's body will reabsorb the tissue. However, some will continue to grow, causing tearing and bleeding. Untreated, continuing ectopic pregnancies are almost always fatal for the pregnant person. Even with modern imaging and surgical techniques, ectopic pregnancies are the leading cause of pregnancy-related death in early pregnancy.

My patient's story had a happy ending. Thanks to early diagnosis and treatment, she survived her ectopic pregnancy, and she now dotes on her grandchildren. Too many women around the world don't get that chance.

Debra Johnston, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.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.

Weekly Vikings Roundup

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

As we hit a lull in the offseason for the Vikings, we thought we'd take this time to look at different position groups for the 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 tight ends competing to make the Vikings.

Tight Ends:

Lock to make the 53-man roster: Irv Smith Jr

It is rare to analyze a team's position group and think that there is only one player that is a lock to make the final roster. However, that is the predicament the Vikings find themselves in with the tight end group. Last year at this time, many were thinking that Irv Smith Jr would break out and become a dynamic pass-catching tight end for the Vikings. Some even thought that the Vikings would use him as their third wide receiver, behind Justin Jefferson and Adam Thielen. Nevertheless, all those expectations quickly went away when it was revealed that Irv Smith Jr needed knee surgery which ended his 2021 season before it even began.

With the loss of Irv Smith Jr to injury, the Vikings relied on Tyler Conklin last year to fill the void. This season, the Vikings will not have such a luxury as Tyler Conklin signed with the New York Jets during free agency. Thus, the Vikings are going to need Irv Smith Jr to remain healthy if they want to utilize a tight end in their passing game. The gap between Irv Smith Jr and the next tight end on this Vikings roster is vast when it comes to receiving abilities. Outside of Irv Smith Jr, the remaining tight ends on the roster have a combined career receiving yards total of 103.

News has recently come out that Irv Smith Jr will be 100% healthy as he enters the Vikings' training camp this summer. Irv Smith Jr's health will ultimately dictate what scheme the Vikings can have this season. With Irv Smith Jr, the Vikings' offense will have immense flexibility in the passing game. Without him, the use of tight end for the Vikings will likely be limited to blocking.

Players competing for the second and third tight end spots: Ben Ellefson and Johnny Mundt

As mentioned, the rest of the Vikings' tight end depth features a group of blockers rather than pass catchers. Ben Ellefson, who will be the only tight end on the roster who played any snaps for the Vikings last season, has only caught one pass in his career. Johnny Mundt, who won a Super Bowl with the Los Angeles Rams, has only ten receptions in his career. The rest of the tight end group after that has never seen a snap in the NFL.

The experience of Ellefson and Mundt will likely be the reason they are the backup tight ends on the final roster. However, the playing time of these two might be limited this season. All indications are that the Vikings will run a one-tight end system this season. And, unless Irv Smith Jr gets injured, it will not be with Ellefson and Mundt.

Likely to be cut or placed on the practice squad: Zach Davidson and Nick Muse

Both Zach Davidson and Nick Muse will need to impress in training camp and preseason if they want any chance to make the Vikings' final roster. Since Davidson was on the practice squad all last year, and Muse is a rookie drafted in the 7th round, neither of these two have any resume to rely on when trying to make an argument to not get cut. However, the good thing for Davidson and Muse is that if they can show any sort of possible production in the Vikings' passing game, that could be enough to make the final roster as the two backups in front of them will likely provide none of that.

53-man roster predictions:

Jack Kolsrud's prediction

Irv Smith Jr, Ben Ellefson, and Johnny Mundt

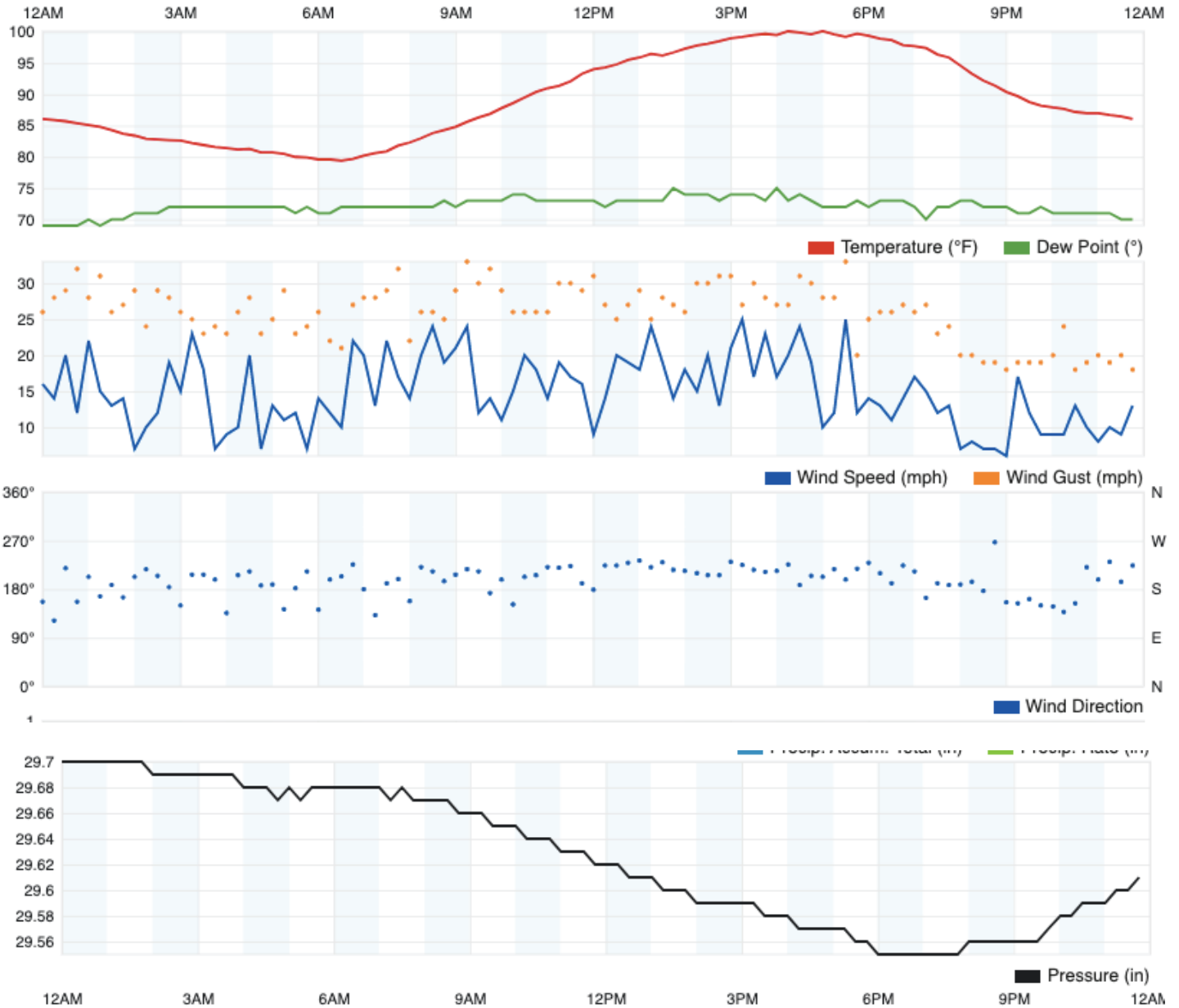
Duane Kolsrud's prediction

Irv Smith Jr, Ben Ellefson, and Johnny Mundt

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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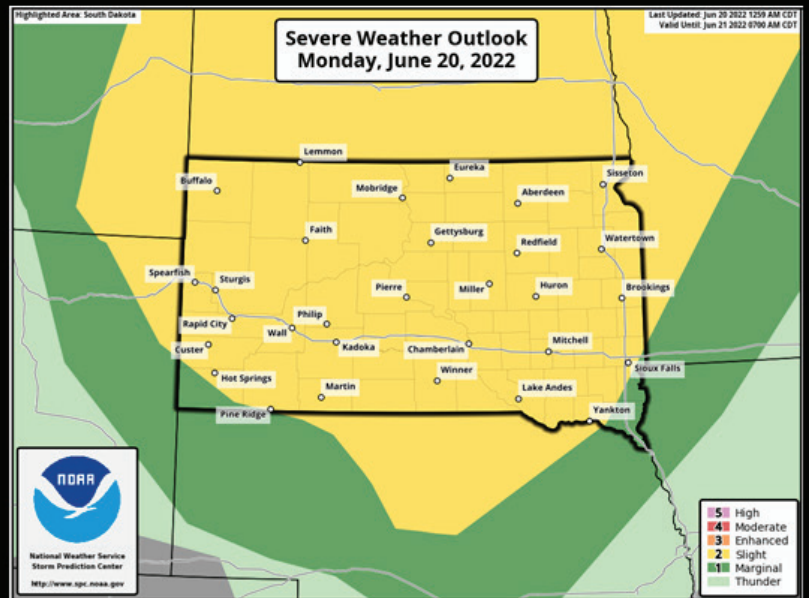
Excessive Heat Warning

Monday		Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
Hot		Chance T-storms then Mostly Clear	Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 97 °F		Low: 63 °F	High: 83 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 86 °F

Hot and Humid with Severe Storms Possible

Maximum Heat Index Forecast							
6/20							
Mon							
	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	Maximum
Aberdeen	79	93	97	101	97	82	101
Britton	85	93	100	100	97	84	100
Eagle Butte	68	78	85	85	78	72	85
Eureka	75	86	93	94	87	75	94
Gettysburg	73	83	92	92	89	75	92
Kennebec	77	88	96	97	94	77	97
McIntosh	68	78	84	83	77	71	84
Milbank	88	97	103	104	104	89	104
Miller	79	91	97	99	98	77	99
Mobridge	75	86	93	93	87	77	93
Murdo	71	83	90	90	88	74	90
Pierre	75	86	95	97	95	79	97
Redfield	83	93	101	103	100	82	103
Sisseton	87	96	104	104	103	88	104
Watertown	82	92	97	99	97	85	99
Webster	82	89	94	97	95	82	97
Wheaton	88	96	101	102	99	87	102

*Table values in °F
 **Created: 3 am CDT Mon 6/20/2022
 ***Values are maximums over the period beginning at the time shown.



We'll see one more hot and humid day today across the region, with some locations likely to see heat indices in excess of 100 degrees this afternoon. Thunderstorms are expected to develop over central South Dakota late this afternoon, then will track eastward during the evening hours. Some of the storms may be strong to severe, with large hail and strong wind gusts being the main threats.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 100 °F at 4:26 PM

Low Temp: 79 °F at 6:20 AM

Wind: 34 mph at 2:02 PM

Precip: 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 44 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 101 in 1988

Record Low: 34 in 1969

Average High: 82°F

Average Low: 56°F

Average Precip in June.: 2.42

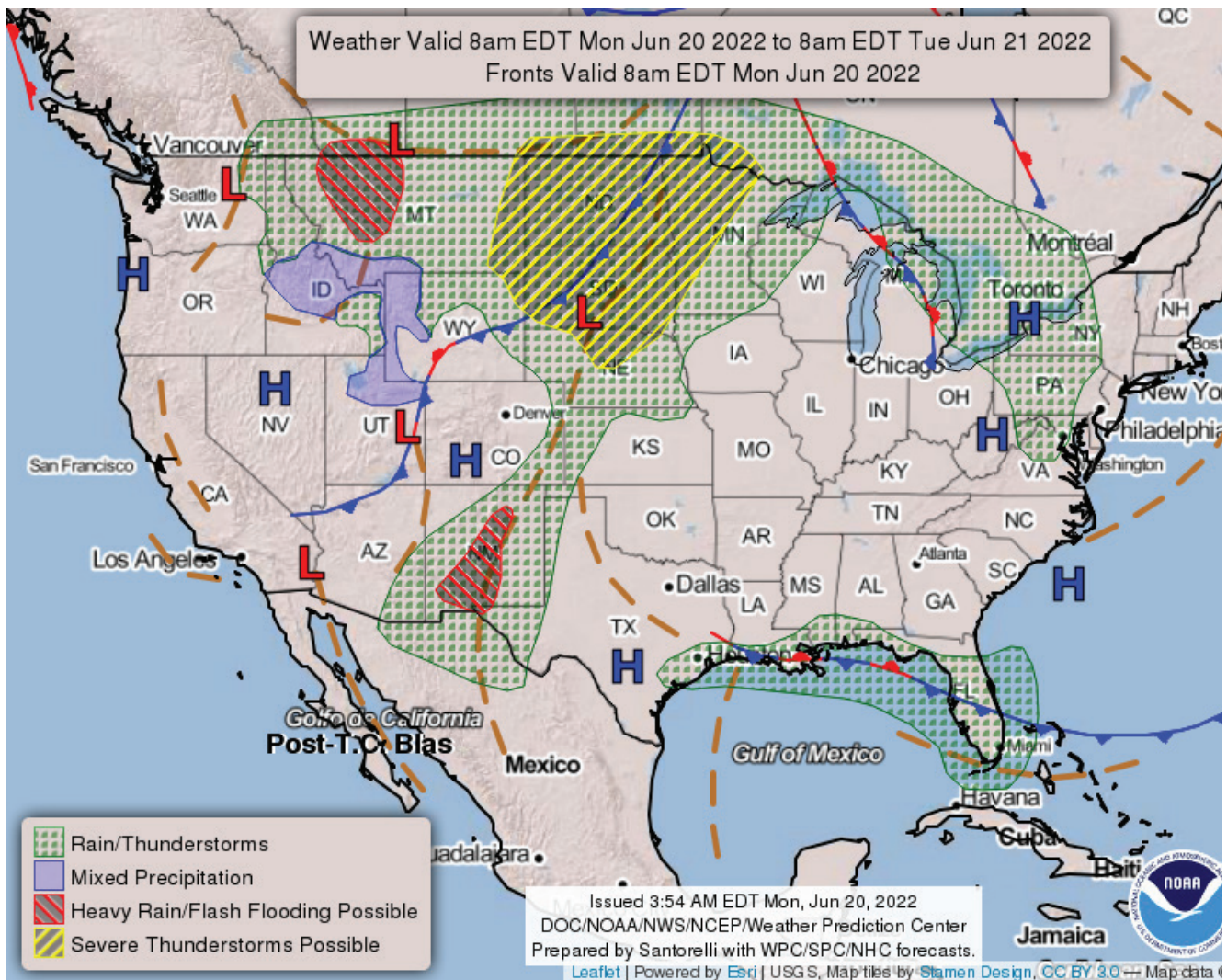
Precip to date in June.: 0.10

Average Precip to date: 9.67

Precip Year to Date: 11.26

Sunset Tonight: 9:26:11 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:42:07 AM



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Today in Weather History

June 20, 1957: An F2 tornado moved ENE from near Rockham to near Athol and Ashton. One person was killed as a mobile home was destroyed near the start of the path. Four barns were destroyed, and one house was unroofed.

Also on this day, an F5 tornado cut a swath through Fargo, North Dakota killing 10 and injuring at least 103 people. This tornado was the northernmost confirmed F5 tornado until the Elie, Manitoba tornado on June 22, 2007.

June 20, 1989: A meteorological "hot flash" hit Pierre. Descending air from collapsing thunderstorms caused the temperature in Pierre to warm from 86 degrees at midnight to 96 at one a.m. and to 104 at 2 a.m. Pierre's record high for the date of 105 degrees in 1974.

1682 - A major tornado ripped through southwestern Connecticut, passing through Stratford, Milford, and New Haven, and then into Long Island Sound. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1921 - Circle, MT, received 11.5 inches of rain in 24 hours, a record for the state. The town of Circle received a total of 16.79 inches of rain that month to establish a rainfall record for any town in Montana for any month of the year. (The Weather Channel)

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

1964 - A squall line producing large hail swept through central Illinois. A second squall line moved through during the early morning hours of the 21st, and a third one moved through shortly after dawn. The series of hailstorms caused nine million dollars damage. Hailstones as large as grapefruit caused heavy damage to trees, utility lines, crops and buildings. The thunderstorms also produced as much as five inches of rain in an eight hour period. (David Ludlum)

1970: Nesbyen, Norway reached 96 degrees on this day, becoming the warmest temperature recorded in Norway.

1987 - Thunderstorms prevailed east of the Rockies, producing severe weather in the Central High Plains Region. Thunderstorms spawned four tornadoes in Colorado, and produced wind gusts to 70 mph at Goodland, KS. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thirty-eight cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Afternoon highs of 97 degrees at Flint, MI, and 104 degrees at Chicago, IL, equalled records for the month of June. Thunderstorms in North Dakota produced baseball size hail near Kief, and wind gusts to 100 mph near McGregor. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - An early morning thunderstorm produced wind gusts to 61 mph at Pierre, SD, and the hot thunderstorm winds raised the temperature from 86 degrees at midnight to 96 degrees by 1 AM, and 104 degrees by 2 AM. Butte, MT, and Yellowstone Park, WY, reported snow that afternoon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2001: Large hail driven by strong thunderstorm winds raked Denver International and front-range airports. Wind gusting to 54 mph along with hail as large as 2 inches in diameter punched at least 14 thousand holes and cracks in the flat roofs of several buildings at Denver International Airport. Also, 93 planes and hundreds of cars were damaged. About 100 flights had to be canceled stranding 1500 travelers. The Airport was completely shut down for about 20 minutes. The storm also damaged ground avoidance radar used to track planes on the ground to prevent collisions. Damage was estimated at 10 million dollars not counting the cost to the 93 airliners. The storm moved south and struck Watkins Colorado with hail as large as 2 1/2 inches in diameter and winds gusting to 60 mph.

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What's A Proverb?

Little Ruby was saying her bedtime prayers. "Dear God," she prayed, "please help bad people to be good and good people to be nice." Whether Ruby knew it or not, she provided a simple way of describing what the book of Proverbs is: "a guidebook for living a life that pleases God."

Over the years, various cultures and societies have established different criteria to describe whether or not one is "successful." Many have put "wealth" at the top of the list. And, money, to some degree, is important and necessary if one is to have the necessities of life. Others would speak of power, prestige, and one's position in society as being critical. Those words express the core values of individuals who want to be recognized for what they have accomplished on the world's stage in politics, the military, banking, or finance. No doubt some want to be remembered for doing some "thing" that no one else has done - like discovering a medicine that extends life or setting a record in a particular sport, inventing a product or procedure that makes life better or is useful, valuable or delightful.

But, those whose lives are guided by the lessons that we find in The Proverbs are those who fear God and allow Him to guide them, guard them and give them His gifts.

We often talk about hindsight, sometimes we wish we had foresight, but Solomon's Proverbs gives us the insight to make decisions based on God's laws. Proverbs provide us with God's wisdom that is underwritten by God to give us His power to live good, godly lives.

Prayer: Grant us willful hearts, Lord, to obey Your laws. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Today's Bible Verse: The proverbs of Solomon son of David, king of Israel. Proverbs 1:1

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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
-6/20/2022 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
10/01/2022 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
10/07/2022 Lake Region Marching Band Festival 10am
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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The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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News from the Associated Press

Le Pen: Huge gains in French parliament a 'seismic event'

PARIS (AP) — Far-right leader Marine Le Pen said on Monday that her party's extraordinary surge in the country's parliamentary election is a "historic victory" and a "seismic event" in French politics.

Many voters in Sunday's poll opted for far-right or far-left candidates, denying President Emmanuel Macron's centrist alliance a straight majority in the National Assembly.

Le Pen's National Rally got 89 seats in the 577-member parliament, up from a previous total of eight. On the other side of the political spectrum, the leftist Nupes coalition, led by hardliner Jean-Luc Melenchon, won 131 seats to become the main opposition force.

Macron's centrist alliance Together! won the most seats — 245 — but fell 44 seats short of a straight majority in the National Assembly, France's most powerful house of parliament.

The outcome of the legislative election is highly unusual in France and the strong performance of both Le Pen's National Rally and Melenchon's coalition — composed of his own hard-left party, France Unbowed, the Socialists, Greens and Communists — will make it harder for Macron to implement the agenda he was reelected on in May, including tax cuts and raising France's retirement age from 62 to 65.

"Macron is a minority president now. ... His retirement reform plan is buried," a beaming Le Pen declared on Monday in Hénin-Beaumont, her stronghold in northern France, where she was reelected for another five-year term in the parliament. "It's a historic victory (...) a seismic event."

She told reporters: "We are entering the parliament as a very strong group and as such we will claim every post that belongs to us." As the biggest single party in the parliament — Macron and Melenchon both lead coalitions — she said National Rally will seek to chair the parliament's powerful finance committee, one of the eight commissions that oversee the national budget.

Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne suggested Sunday evening that Macron's alliance will seek to find "good compromises" with lawmakers from diverse political forces.

Macron himself has not commented on the elections' results yet.

His government will still have the ability to rule, but only by bargaining with legislators. The centrists could try to negotiate on a case-by-case basis with lawmakers from the center-left and from the conservative party — with the goal of preventing opposition lawmakers from being numerous enough to reject the proposed measures.

The government could also occasionally use a special measure provided by the French Constitution to adopt a law without a vote.

A similar situation happened in 1988 under Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, who then had to seek support from the Communists or the centrists to pass laws.

'It's just hell there': Russia still pounds eastern Ukraine

By JOHN LEICESTER and DAVID KEYTON Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia's military machine persevered in its ferocious effort to grind down Ukraine's defenses Monday, as the war's consequences for food and fuel supplies increasingly weighed on minds around the globe after warnings that the fighting could go on for years.

In Ukraine's eastern Luhansk region, which in recent weeks has become the focal point of Moscow's attempt to impose its will on its neighbor, battles raged for the control of multiple villages, the local governor said.

The villages are around Sievierodonetsk and Lysychansk, two cities in the Luhansk region yet to be captured by the Russians, according to Luhansk governor Serhiy Haidai.

Russian shelling and airstrikes on the industrial outskirts of Sievierodonetsk have intensified, he said.

Haidai told The Associated Press on Monday that the situation in Sievierodonetsk was "very difficult," with the Ukrainian forces maintaining control over just one area — the Azot chemical plant, where a number

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of Ukrainian fighters, along with about 500 civilians, are taking shelter.

The Russians keep deploying additional troops and equipment in the area, he said.

"It's just hell there. Everything is engulfed in fire, the shelling doesn't stop even for an hour," Haidai said in written comments.

Only a fraction of 100,000 people who used to live in Sievierodonetsk before the war remain in the city, with no electricity, communications, food or medicine.

Even so, Haidai said, the staunch Ukrainian resistance is preventing Moscow from deploying its resources to other parts of the country.

The British defense ministry noted that the war is not going all Russia's way, despite its superior military assets.

Russian ground troops are "exhausted," the defense ministry said in an intelligence report Monday. It blamed poor air support for Russia's difficulty in making swifter progress on the ground.

Across the world, drivers are rethinking their habits and personal finances amid surging prices for gasoline and diesel, fueled by Russia's war in Ukraine as well as the global rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic. Energy prices are a key driver of inflation that is rising worldwide and making the cost of living more expensive.

The European Union's top diplomats gathered in Luxembourg on Monday for talks focused on Ukraine and food security.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell called on Russia to lift its blockades of Ukrainian ports to help deliver the millions of tons of grain waiting to be exported.

"I hope — more than hope, I am sure — that the United Nations will at the end reach an agreement," Borrell said. "It is unconceivable, one cannot imagine that millions of tons of wheat remain blocked in Ukraine while in the rest of the world, people are suffering (from) hunger. This is a real war crime ... You cannot use the hunger of people as a weapon of war."

Financial help for children displaced by the war in Ukraine was due to come from an unlikely quarter later Monday, when Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov looked to auction off his Nobel Peace Prize medal in New York.

Muratov was awarded the gold medal in October 2021. He helped found the independent Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta and was the publication's editor-in-chief when it shut down in March amid the Kremlin's clampdown on journalists and public dissent in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

Muratov had already announced he was donating to charity the \$500,000 cash award that came with the prize. The proceeds will go directly to UNICEF in its efforts to help children displaced by the war in Ukraine.

In other developments Monday:

— A Russian governor said Ukrainian shelling of a Russian village near the border with Ukraine wounded one person. A power station was hit, leaving parts of the village without electricity, according to Alexander Bogomaz, governor of the Bryansk region.

— The Russian military said it hit an airfield in Ukraine's southern Odesa region with a missile, destroying two Bayraktar drones and a drone control station. Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konahsenkov said a high-precision Oniks missile hit an Artsyz airfield on the Odesa region. Earlier on Monday, the Ukrainian military said its air defense system deterred two airstrikes on the Odesa region, destroying the incoming missiles. The contradicting reports couldn't be immediately reconciled.

South Asia floods hampering access to food, clean water

By JULHAS ALAM and WASBIR HUSSAIN Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Days of flooding are challenging authorities Monday in South Asia as they try to deliver food and drinking water to shelters across submerged swaths of India and Bangladesh.

The high water brought on by seasonal monsoon downpours has already claimed more than a dozen lives, displaced hundreds of thousands and flooded millions of homes.

Bangladesh called in soldiers Friday to help evacuate people, and Ekattor TV station said millions re-

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mained without electricity.

Enamur Rahman, junior minister for disaster and relief, said that up to 100,000 people have been evacuated in the worst-hit Sunamganj and Sylhet districts, and about 4 million people have been marooned in the area, the United News of Bangladesh agency said.

Flooding also continued to ravage India's northeastern Assam where two policemen engaged in rescue operations were washed away by floodwaters Sunday, an official in the state capital Gauhati said.

Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma said Monday his administration was in the process of airlifting food and fuel by military helicopters to some parts of the state that were badly affected.

Officials said nearly 200,000 people were taking shelter in 700 relief camps. Water levels in all major rivers across the state were flowing above danger levels.

Assam has been reeling from massive floods after heavy torrential rains over the past few weeks made the Brahmaputra River break its banks, leaving millions of homes underwater and severing transport links.

The Brahmaputra flows from China's Tibet through India and into Bangladesh on a nearly 800-kilometer (500-mile) journey through Assam.

Major roads in Bangladesh have been submerged, leaving people stranded. In the country that has a history of climate change-induced disasters, many expressed their frustration that authorities haven't done more locally.

"There isn't much to say about the situation. You can see the water with your own eyes. Water level inside the room has dropped a bit. It used to be up to my waist," said Muhit Ahmed, owner of a grocery shop in Sylhet.

"All in all, we are in a great disaster. Neither the Sylhet City Corporation nor anyone else came here to inquire about us," he said. "I am trying to save my belongings as much as I can. We don't have the ability to do any more now."

In the latest statement Sunday from the country's Flood Forecasting and Warning Center in the nation's capital, Dhaka, said that flooding in the northeastern districts of Sunamganj and Sylhet could worsen further in next 24 hours. It said the Teesta, a major river in the northern Bangladesh, may flow above danger. The situation could also deteriorate in the country's northern districts of Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Nilphamari, Rangpur, Gaibandha, Bogra, Jamalpur and Sirajganj, it said.

Officials said water has started receding already from the northeastern region but is posing a threat to the country's central region, the pathway for flood waters to reach the Bay of Bengal in the south.

Media reports said those affected by flooding in remote areas are struggling to access drinking water and food.

Arinjoy Dhar, a senior director of the nonprofit developmental organization BRAC, asked for help ensuring food for the flood-affected in a video posted online.

Dhar said they opened a center Monday to prepare food items as part of a plan to feed 5,000 families in Sunamganj district, but the arrangement was not enough.

BRAC said they alone were trying to reach out to about 52,000 families with emergency supplies.

Last month, a pre-monsoon flash flood triggered by a rush of water from upstream in India's northeastern states hit Bangladesh's northern and northeastern regions, destroying crops and damaging homes and roads.

Bangladesh, a nation of 160 million people, is low-lying and faces threats from natural disasters such as floods and cyclones, made worse by climate change. According to the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, about 17% of people in Bangladesh would need to be relocated over the next decade or so if global warming persists at the present rate.

Belgium returns Congo independence hero's tooth to family

By SAMUEL PETREQUIN Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — Belgian authorities on Monday returned a gold-capped tooth belonging to the slain Congolese independence hero Patrice Lumumba, as the former colonial power continues to confront its

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bloody past and look toward reconciliation.

The restitution of the relic took place after Belgium's King Philippe earlier this month expressed his "deepest regrets" for his nation's abuses in its African former colony, Congo, which is 75 times the size of Belgium.

Following a private ceremony in the presence of relatives of Lumumba during which the federal prosecutor handed over a case containing the tooth, Belgium's prime minister and Congolese officials are also due to meet with Lumumba's family.

After his assassination in 1961, Lumumba's body was dismembered and dissolved with acid in an apparent effort to keep any grave from becoming a pilgrimage site. The tooth was seized by Belgian officials decades later from the daughter of the Belgian police commissioner who said he took it after overseeing the destruction of Lumumba's body.

Two years ago, the federal prosecutor's office said there is no absolute certainty that the tooth being returned is Lumumba's since no DNA test could be conducted.

Lumumba remains for many in Congo a symbol of what the country could have become after its independence. Instead, it became mired in decades of dictatorship that drained its vast mineral riches.

After pushing for an end to colonial rule, Lumumba became the newly independent Congo's first prime minister in 1960.

But historians say when he reached out to the Soviet Union for help in putting down a secessionist movement in the mineral-rich Katanga region, he quickly fell out of favor during Cold War times with both Belgium and the United States.

So when dictator Mobutu Sese Seko seized power in a military coup later that year, Western powers did little to intervene as Lumumba was arrested and jailed. Lumumba's assassination by separatists in January 1961 ultimately cleared the way for Mobutu to rule the country, which he later renamed Zaire, for decades until his death in 1997.

Even though Lumumba's killers were Congolese, questions have persisted over how complicit Belgium and the United States may have been in his death because of his perceived Communist ties.

A Belgian parliamentary probe later determined that the government was "morally responsible" for Lumumba's death. A U.S. Senate committee found in 1975 that the CIA had hatched a separate, failed plan to kill the Congolese leader.

Two years ago, the 60th anniversary of Congo's independence reignited calls to put Lumumba's soul to rest. Protesters gathered outside the Belgian Embassy in Kinshasa, seeking restitution of his remains along with cultural artifacts taken during colonial rule.

In Belgium, the international protests against racism that followed the death of George Floyd in the United States gave a new momentum to activists fighting to have monuments to King Leopold II removed.

Leopold had plundered Congo during his 1865-1909 reign and forced many of its people into slavery to extract resources for his own profit. In 1908, he handed it over to the Belgian state, which continued to rule over the colony until it became independent in 1960.

Amid the Black Lives Matter actions, protesters took down busts of the former monarch held responsible for the death of millions of Africans, and King Philippe later expressed regret for the violence carried out by the country when it ruled over Congo. None of his predecessors had gone so far as to convey remorse.

Unlikely duo: Pennsylvania Democrats aim for united front

By MARC LEVY Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — One candidate is unabashedly blunt, willing to embrace progressive positions, doing little to build rapport with party leaders and dominating rooms with a 6-foot-8-inch frame. The other crafts a more moderate image, a deliberate public speaker who became a congressional aide out of college and has carefully cultivated relationships within the party ever since.

In both style and substance, John Fetterman and Josh Shapiro strike dramatically different profiles.

Yet their fate — and that of the Democratic Party — is intertwined in a pair of Pennsylvania elections that will be among the most closely watched in the U.S.

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Fetterman offers Democrats their clearest path to picking up a U.S. Senate seat, which could go a long way in helping the party keep control of the chamber.

Shapiro, meanwhile, poses even larger existential questions as he faces a Republican rival for governor who has embraced conspiracies about the last presidential election and would have significant influence over running the next one in the premier battleground state.

"The stakes have never been higher, the contrast has never been clearer," Shapiro told state Democratic Party committee members at their Saturday meeting in Gettysburg. "This commonwealth has the power to decide whether we have the 51st senator. This commonwealth has the power to decide whether the great experiment that started in the city of Philadelphia 245 years ago continues."

With the stakes so high, Fetterman and Shapiro are working toward a united front ahead of the fall election.

They are participating in a coordinated campaign funded and run by national and state party organizations, including the Democratic National Committee, Democratic Governors Association and the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee.

Together, these groups could send more money to Pennsylvania than anywhere else to register and persuade voters as part of what the state party calls "the largest and earliest midterm coordinated campaign in Pennsylvania history."

Such help from national organizations may be badly needed in a big swing state.

After backing Donald Trump in the 2016 presidential campaign, Pennsylvania swung to Joe Biden in 2020 — but only by about 1 percentage point. And Democrats gearing up for the 2022 campaign are already facing huge challenges.

Fetterman suffered a stroke just days before winning his party's nomination for the Senate race last month and has not yet returned to the campaign trail, or given much indication when he will do so. And both candidates will be running in a difficult environment for Democrats, weighed down by Biden's unpopularity and rising prices for everyday goods, food and gasoline.

Aides to both campaigns say the coordination has already begun.

Fetterman's and Shapiro's campaigns say they have been in touch often, and Shapiro said he has texted with Fetterman since Fetterman's stroke.

Campaign aides say they expect the men will appear together at bigger events, such as rallies, regional campaign office openings or party events to raise money, help boost turnout or highlight down-ticket candidates.

Earlier this month, Fetterman's wife, Gisele, stood in for him at an event with Shapiro where they spoke at the opening of a coordinated campaign office in Pittsburgh.

"I look forward to getting John out here, and I know he's chomping at the bit to get out, too," Shapiro said Friday. Fetterman's campaign said in a statement that "we look forward" to campaigning with Shapiro and helping other Democrats on the fall ballot.

For now, Fetterman's health hangs over the campaign amid questions his whether he has been honest about the severity of his condition.

Fetterman's neurologists and cardiologist have not taken questions from reporters, and the campaign took three weeks after the stroke to disclose that he also had a serious heart condition.

Republican campaign coordination is run through the Republican National Committee, but the party's top-of-the-ticket candidates — celebrity heart surgeon turned Senate candidate Dr. Mehmet Oz and gubernatorial nominee Doug Mastriano — are making no firm commitments so far to campaigning together.

In a statement, Oz's campaign said he "supports the Republican ticket in Pennsylvania because he believes we've got to send a message to Joe Biden about inflation, gas prices, and the out of control crime problem" and "looks forward to seeing (Mastriano) out on the trail this summer."

The campaigns haven't said whether Oz and Mastriano have even met, other than exchanging text messages after their respective primary victories. Mastriano's campaign did not respond to questions.

Mastriano is viewed warily by party leaders and campaign strategists. He has spread Trump's lies about

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widespread election fraud in the 2020 presidential election and was a leading proponent in Pennsylvania of Trump's drive to overturn the result. He also was in the crowd outside the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6, 2021, attack by Trump supporters after attending the "Stop the Steal" rally nearby.

If they do campaign together, it may be uncomfortable: Mastriano, a state senator, endorsed a rival to Oz in the primary and criticized Oz on the campaign trail, suggesting at one point that Oz is really a liberal and a carpetbagger — a nod to Oz moving from his longtime home in New Jersey to run in Pennsylvania.

Plus, before Mastriano was elected to the state Senate in 2019, he repeatedly posted Islamophobic material on Facebook. Oz is Muslim.

In a statement, the RNC said it has been "on the ground" in Pennsylvania since 2016, training and mobilizing activists, registering voters, opening offices and working with the state party and its nominees.

For now, Republicans are trying to paint Fetterman and Shapiro as extreme, but also zeroed in on Fetterman's stroke in a digital ad, suggesting he has not been honest about the effects of it.

"Has John Fetterman been telling the truth about his health?" says a narrator in the digital ad by the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

Democrats insist they aren't worried about Fetterman recovering from the stroke, and Colleen Guiney, the party chair in Delaware County, said it will only be talked about as a distraction from important issues, such as Republican attempts to destroy the county's democracy and render the Senate dysfunctional through the filibuster.

Fetterman has avoided media interviews as party leaders — including Biden — try to assure rank-and-file Democrats that Fetterman is fine and will be able to resume campaigning soon.

"I know he can't wait to get back on the trail," Biden said during remarks at last week's AFL-CIO convention in Philadelphia. "He's looking good."

Fetterman and his wife gave a 90-second video address played Saturday at the state party's committee meeting in Gettysburg. In it, Fetterman stressed the Shapiro-Fetterman ticket to go up against "the Oz-Mastriano extreme, bizarre and dangerous ticket."

"I'm so proud to be one part of the ticket here," Fetterman said. "And this year we have Josh Shapiro to be our next governor. And let me just let you know that we will be back very soon, to be back up to 100% to be back in every one of our 67 counties, because Josh and I have always been committed to a full every-67-county campaign."

Shapiro and Fetterman have a political relationship going back to at least 2016, when Fetterman hosted a fundraiser for Shapiro at his home in Braddock.

Still, Shapiro and Fetterman have at times had a strained relationship over conflicting stances on the state pardons board — and a report just days before the primary election by The Philadelphia Inquirer underscored that.

Citing unnamed people as the source, the Inquirer reported that Fetterman had threatened a couple of years ago to run for governor against Shapiro — unless Shapiro voted for certain applicants in front of the pardons board.

Shapiro did, but has denied that politics drove his votes or that any such conversation with Fetterman ever happened, and a spokesperson for the attorney general's office called the claim "nothing short of outrageous." Fetterman has been silent about it.

Democrats say it is not a point of discussion among activists, and they are rather focused on what is on the line in the Nov. 8 election.

That election is about choosing between candidates "who are working for effective government that will serve all of our communities," Guiney said, and candidates aligned with "people who are willing to sacrifice the fundamental fabric of our democracy for their personal gain."

Colombia picks 1st leftist president in tight runoff contest

By REGINA GARCIA CANO and ASTRID SUAREZ Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Colombia will be governed by a leftist president for the first time after for-

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mer rebel Gustavo Petro narrowly defeated a real estate millionaire in a runoff election that underscored people's disgust with the country's traditional politicians.

Petro's third attempt to win the presidency earned him 50.48% of the votes Sunday, while political outsider Rodolfo Hernández got 47.26%, according to results released by election authorities.

The election came as Colombians struggle with rising inequality, inflation and violence — factors that led voters in the election's first round last month to punish long-governing centrist and right-leaning politicians and pick two outsiders for the runoff contest.

Petro's win in Latin America's third most populous nation was more than a defeat of Hernández. It puts an end to Colombia's long stigmatization of the left for its perceived association with the country's half century of armed conflict. The president-elect was once a rebel with the now-defunct M-19 movement and was granted amnesty after being jailed for his involvement with the group.

Petro issued a call for unity during his victory speech Sunday night and extended an olive branch to some of his harshest critics, saying all members of the opposition will be welcomed at the presidential palace "to discuss the problems of Colombia."

"From this government that is beginning there will never be political persecution or legal persecution, there will only be respect and dialogue," he said, adding that he will listen to those who have raised arms as well as to "that silent majority of peasants, Indigenous people, women, youth."

The vote is also resulting in Colombia having a Black woman as vice president for the first time. Petro's running mate, Francia Márquez, 40, is a lawyer and environmental leader whose opposition to illegal mining resulted in threats and a grenade attack in 2019.

Hernández, whose campaign was based on an anti-corruption fight, conceded his defeat shortly after results were announced.

"I accept the result, as it should be, if we want our institutions to be firm," he said in a video on social media. "I sincerely hope that this decision is beneficial for everyone."

Petro's showing was the latest leftist political victory in Latin America fueled by voters' desire for change. Chile, Peru and Honduras elected leftist presidents in 2021, and in Brazil former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is leading the polls for this year's presidential election.

But the results were an immediate reason to fret for some voters whose closest reference to a leftist government is the troubled neighboring Venezuela.

"We hope that Mr. Gustavo Petro complies with what was said in his government plan, that he leads this country to greatness, which we need so much, and that (he) ends corruption," said Karin Ardila García, a Hernández supporter in the north-central city of Bucaramanga. "That he does not lead to communism, to socialism, to a war where they continue to kill us in Colombia. ... (H)e does not lead us to another Venezuela, Cuba, Argentina, Chile."

About 21.6 million of the 39 million eligible voters cast a ballot Sunday. Abstentionism has been above 40% in every presidential election since 1990.

Petro, 62, will be officially declared winner after a formal count that will take a few days. Historically, the preliminary results have coincided with the final ones.

Several heads of state congratulated Petro on Sunday. So did a fierce critic, former President Álvaro Uribe, who remains a central figure in Colombia's politics.

Polls ahead of the runoff had indicated Petro and Hernández — both former mayors — were in a tight race since they topped four other candidates in the initial May 29 election. Neither got enough votes to win outright and headed into the runoff.

Petro won 40% of the votes in the initial round and Hernández 28%, but the difference quickly narrowed as Hernández began to attract so-called anti-Petrista voters.

Petro has proposed ambitious pension, tax, health and agricultural reforms and changes to how Colombia fights drug cartels and other armed groups. But he will have a tough time delivering on his promises as he does not have a majority in Congress, which is key to carrying out reforms.

"The people who do support him have very high hopes, and they are probably going to be disappointed

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pretty quickly when he can't move things right away," said Adam Isacson, an expert on Colombia at the Washington Office on Latin America think tank.

"I think you might find a situation where he either has to strike some deals and give up a lot of his programs just to get some things passed or the whole country could be gridlocked," Isacson added.

Petro is willing to resume diplomatic relations with Venezuela, which were halted in 2019. He also wants to make changes to Colombia's relations with the U.S. by seeking a renegotiation of a free trade agreement and new ways to fight drug trafficking.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement that the Biden administration looks forward to working with Petro.

Polls say most Colombians believe the country is heading in the wrong direction and disapprove of President Iván Duque, who was not eligible to seek reelection. The pandemic set back the country's anti-poverty efforts by at least a decade. Official figures show that 39% of Colombia's lived on less than \$89 a month last year.

The rejection of politics as usual "is a reflection of the fact that the people are fed up with the same people as always," said Nataly Amezcua, a 26-year-old civil engineer waiting to vote. "We have to create greater social change. Many people in the country aren't in the best condition."

But even the two outsider candidates left her cold. She said she would cast a blank ballot: "I don't like either of the two candidates. ... Neither of them seems like a good person to me."

BTS break sparks debate on activism, military exemptions

By JUWON PARK Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The surprise announcement by BTS last week that they were taking a break to focus on members' solo projects stunned their global fanbase, shaking their label's stock price and leaving many questions about the K-pop supergroup's future.

HYBE, the company behind the band, denied the group was taking a hiatus — a word used in a translation of the group's emotional dinnertime video announcement. In the days since, band members have remained active on social media, continuing the stream of posts, photos and assurances that the band wasn't breaking up.

Despite the immediate impacts — HYBE's stock initially dropped more than 25% and has yet to fully recover — several factors may still affect BTS' future. One is looming military enlistment for older BTS members, as well as how engaged the group and their devoted fans, known as ARMY, will continue to be in social issues.

In 2020, at the height of BTS' success, the South Korean government revised the country's military law that requires able-bodied South Korean men to perform approximately two years of military service. The revised law allows top K-pop stars — including Jin, the oldest member of BTS — to defer their military service until they turn 30 if they've received government medals for heightening the country's cultural reputation and apply for the postponement. All BTS members meet the criteria as recipients of government medals in 2018.

"Obviously, there's a looming military enlistment so they might have thought it'd be good to do something individually before it's too late and that's why I think military enlistment was the biggest factor," said Lee Dong Yeun, a professor at Korea National University of Arts.

There have been calls — including from South Korea's former culture minister — for an exemption for BTS because of their contribution to heightening South Korea's international reputation. But critics say that such an exemption would be bending the conscription rules to favor the privileged.

Jin, 29, is expected to enlist this year unless he receives an exemption.

Military enlistment of members has always been a headache for HYBE; BTS once accounted for 90% of the label's profit. Currently, the group makes up 50%-60% of the label's profit according to a report from eBest Investment & Securities.

The eBest report noted that the rapid stock plunge might have resulted from an "anticipation that the

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activities as the whole group might be uncertain after being discharged from the military.”

HYBE has been attempting to diversify its portfolio by debuting new K-pop bands, making online games, and rolling out Korean language tutorials.

As the most successful K-pop band to date with hits like “Dynamite” and “Butter,” BTS has for years commanded tremendous attention on social media and with each new music release. They recently performed several sold-out shows in the United States, became the first K-pop act to get a Grammy Award nomination, released an anthology album, “Proof,” and channeled their global influence with an address at the United Nations and a trip to the White House to campaign against hate crimes directed at Asians.

“Once you achieve success like BTS achieved success, then it means there’s a constant expectation to continue doing something that is connected to what you’ve already done, where you’ve already been. In the most recent releases that BTS has brought out, also we can see how they continually reflect back on where they have been,” said CedarBough Saeji, professor of Korean and East Asian Studies at Pusan National University.

She said Tuesday’s announcement signaled the band’s intention to figure out “where they are going for themselves without interference from other people” and “being able to choose their own path forward as artists.”

Last week’s announcement also leaves in doubt the group’s social justice efforts, which have included vocal support for the Black Lives Matter movement and anti-violence campaigns. BTS’ legions of fans have embraced the causes, matching a \$1 million donation to Black Lives Matter after George Floyd’s death.

But the group has faced mushrooming questions about why it isn’t as vocal about discrimination in their own country.

A leading South Korean newspaper recently published a column in which the author mused why South Korea, despite having BTS — “the ambassador of anti-discrimination and human rights” — has struggled to enact an anti-discrimination law for 15 years.

“It’s an irony,” the writer said. “South Korea needs their force for good.”

The country’s lack of an anti-discrimination law has led to unfair treatment against women and foreigners, among others.

Jumin Lee, the author of the book “Why Anti-Discrimination Law?” told the Associated Press that there’s a dire need for the anti-discrimination law in the country.

“South Korea is in essentially the same situation legally as America’s Jim Crow South. Equal protection exists as a constitutional concept, but there is no implementing legislation that allows the government to force private businesses to comply,” Lee said. “What that means in practice is that if I’m a business owner, I could post a sign on my door tomorrow that says ‘no gays’ ‘no blacks’ or ‘no old people,’ and absent extraordinary intervention by the Constitutional Court, there’s very little the law can do to stop me.”

Lee recently expressed disappointment in the band for not speaking up about the important domestic issue.

“BTS and their business folks know that speaking up in the US is profitable but doing the same back home would be more trouble than it’s worth. So they don’t,” tweeted Lee after the band’s visit to Washington.

Despite that, Lee said the band’s silence is understandable, stating that BTS would be met with “indifference at best and hostility at worse” from politicians if they did speak up.

Some South Korean celebrities like singers Harisu and Ha:tfelt have been speaking out on touchy subjects such as the anti-discrimination law and feminism, despite backlashes.

After speaking out about the 2014 sinking of the Sewol ferry, which killed 304 people in one of the country’s worst disasters, Cannes-winning actor Song Kang-ho and director Park Chan-wook were blacklisted by the administration of the ousted President Park Geun-hye, noted Areum Jeong, a scholar of Korean pop culture.

“So, although many idols might be politically conscious, they might choose not to discuss social issues,” Jeong said.

Several BTS members said during last week’s announcement that they were struggling with the group’s

successes and having trouble writing new songs.

"For me, it was like the group BTS was within my grasp until 'On' and 'Dynamite,' but after 'Butter' and 'Permission to Dance,' I didn't know what kind of group we were anymore," member RM said. "Whenever I write lyrics and songs, it's really important what kind of story and message I want to give out but it was like that was gone now."

While that clouds what BTS' next steps might be, Saeji said their continued candor was necessary because of how much the group has impacted their fanbase.

"They're meeting the fans with that same honesty and saying to them, 'You had my help when I needed it. And now I need my help,'" she said. "I need to be on my own. To think for myself, to know what I want to write a lyric about, to understand my own mind, to become inspired on my own."

William at 40: A milestone birthday in a life under scrutiny

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The world watched as Prince William grew from a towheaded schoolboy to a dashing air-sea rescue pilot to a balding father of three.

But as he turns 40 on Tuesday, William is making the biggest change yet: assuming an increasingly central role in the royal family as he prepares for his eventual accession to the throne.

That was clear two weeks ago when William took center stage at the extravaganza concert marking Queen Elizabeth II's 70 years on the throne, lauding his grandmother as an environmental trailblazer as he delivered a call to action on climate change.

"Tonight has been full of such optimism and joy — and there is hope," he said, as images of wildlife, oceans and jungles were projected on the walls of Buckingham Palace behind him. "Together, if we harness the very best of humankind, and restore our planet, we will protect it for our children, for our grandchildren and for future generations to come."

Get ready to see more of this.

Slowed by age and health problems, the 96-year-old queen is gradually handing over more responsibilities to her son and heir, Prince Charles. That in turn gives William, his eldest son, a more important role to play and more opportunities to put the stamp on a new generation of the monarchy.

"William has been very keen to kind of show how he will treat things differently," said royal expert Pauline Maclaran, author of "Royal Fever: The British Monarchy in Consumer Culture."

"And so we see that more and more, where the future of the line is being emphasized, with Charles being put more in a kind of holding position for William. We're always reminded that William is after Charles," she added.

William's position as the eventual heir to throne was, of course, sealed at his birth on June 21, 1982, the first son of Charles and the late Princess Diana. That put him in the public eye from the second that Charles and Diana presented him to the TV cameras outside the Lindo Wing of St. Mary's Hospital in London.

The world has watched William from his school days in London to his courtship of Kate Middleton at St. Andrews University in Scotland and their spectacular marriage at Westminster Abbey.

He paraded before the cameras once again when he graduated from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst, then went on to active duty in the Army, Navy and Royal Air Force. Finally, he became a civilian air ambulance pilot before moving into full-time royal duties five years ago.

His charities and causes — from mental health to the environment — have given hints of what sort of monarch he might one day be.

But events just before and during the celebrations of the queen's platinum jubilee started to give a clearer indication of William's vision of the future.

William and Kate represented the queen last March when they made an eight-day tour of Belize, Jamaica and the Bahamas, three of the 14 independent countries where the British monarch still serves as head of state.

They were met with brass bands and gala dinners, but also demonstrations by protesters demanding

reparations for Britain's role in the enslavement of millions of Africans. Jamaican Prime Minister Andrew Holness told the royals his country intended to become a republic, severing ties to the monarchy.

After the trip, the young royals were criticized as "tone deaf" for perpetuating images of Britain's colonial rule.

But rather than falling back on the House of Windsor's traditional response of "never complain, never explain," William took the unusual step of issuing a statement reflecting on all that had happened.

"I know that this tour has brought into even sharper focus questions about the past and the future," William said. "In Belize, Jamaica and the Bahamas, that future is for the people to decide upon."

"Catherine and I are committed to service," he continued. "For us, that's not telling people what to do. It is about serving and supporting them in whatever way they think best."

That willingness to be approachable is critical for the House of Windsor as it seeks to remain relevant to younger people and cement its role in British society, Maclaran said.

"It's important that William shows there are going to be changes to the monarchy," she said. "Otherwise, you know, I suspect it really can't survive."

How much for gas? Around the world, pain is felt at the pump

By DANIEL NIEMANN, PAOLA CORONA, JADE LE DELEY and HAU DINH Associated Press

COLOGNE, Germany (AP) — At a gas station near the Cologne, Germany, airport, Bernd Mueller watches the digits quickly climb on the pump: 22 euros (\$23), 23 euros, 24 euros. The numbers showing how much gasoline he's getting rise, too. But much more slowly. Painfully slowly.

"I'm getting rid of my car this October, November," said Mueller, 80. "I'm retired, and then there's gas and all that. At some point, you've got to scale back."

Across the globe, drivers like Mueller are rethinking their habits and personal finances amid skyrocketing prices for gasoline and diesel, fueled by Russia's war in Ukraine and the global rebound from the COVID-19 pandemic. Energy prices are a key driver of inflation that is rising worldwide and making the cost of living more expensive.

A motorcycle taxi driver in Vietnam turns off his ride-hailing app rather than burn precious fuel during rush-hour backups. A French family scales back ambitions for an August vacation. A graphic designer in California factors the gas price into the bill for a night out. A mom in Rome, figuring the cost of driving her son to camp, mentally crosses off a pizza night.

Decisions across the world's economy are as varied as the consumers and countries themselves: Walk more. Dust off that bicycle. Take the subway, the train or the bus. Use a lighter touch on the gas pedal to save fuel. Review that road trip — is it worth it? Or perhaps even go carless.

For the untold millions who don't have access to adequate public transportation or otherwise can't forgo their car, the solution is to grit their teeth and pay while cutting costs elsewhere.

Nguyen Trong Tuyen, a motorcycle taxi driver working for the Grab online ride-hailing service in Hanoi, Vietnam, said he's been simply switching off the app during rush hour.

"If I get stuck in a traffic jam, the ride fee won't cover the gasoline cost for the trip," he said.

Many drivers have been halting their services like Tuyen, making it difficult for customers to book rides.

In Manila, Ronald Sibeyee used to burn 900 pesos (\$16.83) worth of diesel a day to run his jeepney, a colorfully decorated vehicle popular for public transportation in the Philippines that evolved from U.S. military jeeps left behind after World War II. Now, it's as much as 2,200 pesos (\$41.40).

"That should have been our income already. Now there's nothing, or whatever is left," he said. His income has fallen about 40% due to the fuel price hikes.

Gasoline and diesel prices are a complex equation of the cost of crude oil, taxes, the purchasing power and wealth of individual countries, government subsidies where they exist, and the cut taken by middlemen such as refineries. Oil is priced in dollars, so if a country is an energy importer, the exchange rate plays a role — the recently weaker euro has helped push up gasoline prices in Europe.

And there's often geopolitical factors, such as the war in Ukraine. Buyers shunning Russian barrels and

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Western plans to ban the country's oil have jolted energy markets already facing tight supplies from the rapid pandemic rebound.

There's a global oil price — around \$110 a barrel — but no global pump price due to taxes and other factors. In Hong Kong and Norway, you can pay more than \$10 per gallon. In Germany, it can be around \$7.50 per gallon, and in France, about \$8. While lower fuel taxes mean the U.S. average for a gallon of gas is somewhat cheaper at \$5, it's still the first time the price has been that high.

People in poorer countries quickly feel the stress from higher energy prices, but Europeans and Americans also are being squeezed. Americans have less access to public transport, and even Europe's transit networks don't reach everyone, particularly those in the countryside.

Charles Dupont, manager of a clothing store in Essonne region south of Paris, simply has to use his car to commute to work.

"I practice eco-driving, meaning driving slower and avoiding sudden braking," he said.

Others are doing what they can to cut back. Letizia Cecinelli, filling her car at a Rome gas station, said she was biking and trying to reduce car trips "where possible."

"But if I have a kid and I have to take him to camp? I have to do it by cutting out an extra pizza," she said.

Pump prices can be political dynamite. U.S. President Joe Biden has pushed for Saudi Arabia to pump more oil to help bring down gas prices, deciding to travel to the kingdom next month after the Saudi-led OPEC+ alliance decided to boost production. The U.S. and other countries also have released oil from their strategic reserves, which helps but isn't decisive.

Several countries have fuel price caps, including Hungary, where the discount doesn't apply to foreign license plates. In Germany, the government cut taxes by 35 euro cents a liter on gasoline and 17 cents on diesel, but prices soon began to rise again.

Germany also has introduced a discounted 9-euro monthly ticket for public transportation, which led to crowded stations and trains on a recent holiday weekend. But the program only lasts for three months and is of little use to people in the countryside if there's no train station nearby.

In fact, people are pumping just as much gas as they did before the pandemic, according to Germany's gas station association.

"People are filling up just as much as before — they're grumbling but they're accepting it," group spokesman Herbert Rabl said.

Is there any relief in sight? A lot depends on how the war in Ukraine affects global oil markets. Analysts say some Russian oil is almost certain to be lost to markets because the European Union, Russia's biggest and closest customer, has vowed to end most purchases from Moscow within six months.

Meanwhile, India and China are buying more Russian oil. Europe will have to get its supply from somewhere else, such as Middle Eastern exporters. But OPEC+, which includes Russia, has been failing to meet its production targets.

For many, spending on things like nights out and, in Europe, the near-religious devotion to extended late summer vacations, are on the cutting table.

Isabelle Bruno, a teacher in the Paris suburbs, now takes the bus to the train station instead of making the 10-minute drive.

"My husband and I are really worried about the holidays because we used to drive our car really often while visiting our family in southern France," she said. "We will now pay attention to train tickets and use our car only for short rides."

Leo Theus, a graphic designer from the San Francisco Bay Area city of Hayward, has to be "strategic" in budgeting gas as he heads to meet clients — he might not fill the tank all the way. Gas prices in California are the highest in the U.S., reaching close to \$7 per gallon in some parts of the state.

When it comes to going to a club or bar after work, "you've got to think about gas now, you got to decide, is it really worth it to go out there or not?" Theus said.

New body armor rules in NY miss vest worn by Buffalo killer

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By MAYSOON KHAN Associated Press/Report for America

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — New York's new law barring sales of bullet-resistant vests to most civilians doesn't cover the type of armor worn by the gunman who killed 10 people at a Buffalo supermarket, a gap that could limit its effectiveness in deterring future military-style assaults.

During the May 14 attack, Payton Gendron wore a steel-plated vest, an armor strong enough to stop a handgun round fired by a store security guard who tried to halt Gendron's rampage.

A law hastily enacted by state lawmakers after the attack restricts sales of vests defined as "bullet-resistant soft body armor."

Soft vests, which are light and can be concealed beneath clothing, can be effective against pistol fire. Vests carrying steel, ceramic or polyethylene plates, which can potentially stop rifle rounds, aren't explicitly covered by the legislation.

That has left some retailers confused about what they can and can't sell — and lawmakers talking about a possible fix.

"I know you said soft vests, but what about hard armor plates, plate carriers, or armors that aren't vests, but clothing that provide protection. Is that also prohibited? It is so vague," said Brad Pedell, who runs 221B Tactical, a tactical gear and body armor store in New York City. He said his store tends to sell more hard-plated armor than the soft type being banned.

With the toughest armor still allowed to be sold, "I'm not convinced that this legislation is very meaningful," said Warren Eller, a public policy professor at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice.

Assemblymember Jonathon Jacobson, a lead sponsor of the legislation, told The Associated Press he would "be glad to amend the law to make it even stronger."

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, a Democrat, is also aware of the need for changes, her office said.

"Governor Hochul was proud to sign the groundbreaking new law passed by the legislature to restrict sales of body armor, and will work with the legislature to expand the definitions in the law at the first available opportunity," it said.

Nationwide, there are few limits on sales of body armor. Before New York's law passed, Connecticut had one of the few restrictions. It only allows people to buy it from dealers in person, not via mail order.

Pedell says many customers at his New York City store buy the armor for their own protection.

"It's disappointing because residents are just scared, and they come to us because they are scared, and we offer help that makes them feel more confident, that they won't get stabbed or injured or potentially killed," Pedell said. "The fact (lawmakers) are taking that away, for whatever purpose they have in their minds, I find that really sad and unnecessary and morally wrong."

New York's ban is aimed at stopping criminals from gaining an advantage over peace officers, or security guards like Aaron Salter, who was killed trying to stop the gunman's racist attack on the Buffalo supermarket.

Of the shooters who killed four or more people in a public space since 1966, 12% wore body vests, said sociologist James Densley, a co-founder of The Violence Project, a nonprofit think tank with a database on mass shootings.

New York's law restricts sales of soft bullet-resistant vests to people who work in law enforcement and the military, plus people in certain other professions that require protective gear. The list of what types of jobs qualify someone to buy armor, and which don't, is still to be determined by state officials.

The Department of State in New York said in an emailed statement that officials are reviewing the new law and plan to develop regulations for eligible professions that require the use of a body vest.

The leaders of the Deadline Club, the New York City chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, had urged Hochul to veto the bill citing concerns about whether it would make it tough for news organizations to buy armor for journalists who work in conflict zones or cover civil unrest in the U.S.

"I know a number of photographers who have worn protective gear as a precautionary measure while out in situations that may get violent," said Peter Szekely, the group's advocacy chair.

New Yorkers are still allowed to own body vests and purchase them in other states, though Jacobson, a Democrat, said he would work to eliminate that option during the next Legislative session in January.

"We wanted to get things done as quickly as possible, and not let the perfect get in the way of the good," said Jacobson. "Like all laws in New York State, we always try to make them better in the future. Of course we'll try to make this law better."

Russian journalist sells Nobel Prize for Ukrainian children

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — What's the price of peace?

That question could be partially answered Monday night when Russian journalist Dmitry Muratov auctioned off his Nobel Peace Prize medal. The proceeds will go directly to UNICEF in its efforts to help children displaced by the war in Ukraine.

Muratov, awarded the gold medal in October 2021, helped found the independent Russian newspaper Novaya Gazeta and was the publication's editor-in-chief when it shut down in March amid the Kremlin's clampdown on journalists and public dissent in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

It was Muratov's idea to auction off his prize, having already announced he was donating the accompanying \$500,000 cash award to charity. The idea of the donation, he said, "is to give the children refugees a chance for a future."

In an interview with The Associated Press, Muratov said he was particularly concerned about children who have been orphaned because of the conflict in Ukraine.

"We want to return their future," he said.

He added that it's important international sanctions levied against Russia do not prevent humanitarian aid, such as medicine for rare diseases and bone marrow transplants, from reaching those in need.

"It has to become a beginning of a flash mob as an example to follow so people auction their valuable possessions to help Ukrainians," Muratov said in a video released by Heritage Auctions, which is handling the sale but not taking any share of the proceeds.

Muratov shared the Nobel Peace Prize last year with journalist Maria Ressa of the Philippines.

The two journalists, who each received their own medals, were honored for their battles to preserve free speech in their respective countries, despite coming under attack by harassment, their governments and even death threats.

Muratov has been highly critical of Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea and the war launched in February that has caused nearly 5 million Ukrainians to flee to other countries for safety, creating the largest humanitarian crisis in Europe since World War II.

Independent journalists in Russia have come under scrutiny by the Kremlin, if not outright targets of the government. Since Putin came into power more than two decades ago, nearly two dozen journalists have been killed, including at least four who had worked for Muratov's newspaper.

In April, Muratov said he was attacked with red paint while aboard a Russian train.

Muratov left Russia for Western Europe on Thursday to begin his trip to New York City, where live bidding will begin Monday afternoon.

Online bids began June 1 to coincide with the International Children's Day observance. Monday's live bidding falls on World Refugee Day.

As of early Monday morning, the high bid was \$550,000. The purchase price is expected to spiral upward, possibly into the millions.

"It's a very bespoke deal," said Joshua Benesh, the chief strategy officer for Heritage Auctions. "Not everyone in the world has a Nobel Prize to auction and not every day of the week that there's a Nobel Prize crossing the auction block."

Since its inception in 1901, there have been nearly 1,000 recipients of the Nobel Prizes honoring achievements in physics, chemistry, physiology or medicine, literature and the advancement of peace.

The most ever paid for a Nobel Prize medal was in 2014, when James Watson, whose co-discovery of the structure of DNA earned him a Nobel Prize in 1962, sold his medal for \$4.76 million. Three years later, the family of his co-recipient, Francis Crick, received \$2.27 million in bidding run by Heritage Auctions, the

same company that is auctioning off Muratov's medal.

Melted down, the 175 grams of 23-karat gold contained in Muratov's medal would be worth about \$10,000. The ongoing war and international humanitarian efforts to alleviate the suffering of those affected in Ukraine are bound to stoke interest, Benesh said, adding it's hard to predict how much someone would be willing to pay for the medal.

"I think there's certainly going to be some excitement Monday," Benesh said. "It's it's such a unique item being sold under unique circumstances ... a significant act of generosity, and such a significant humanitarian crisis."

Muratov and Heritage officials said even those out of the bidding can still help by donating directly to UNICEF.

Australian leader refuses to publicly intervene on Assange

By ROD McGUIRK Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese on Monday rejected calls for him to publicly demand the United States drop its prosecution of WikiLeaks founder and Australian citizen Julian Assange.

The Australian government has been under mounting pressure to intervene since the British government last week ordered Assange's extradition to the United States on spying charges. Assange's supporters and lawyers say his actions were protected by the U.S. Constitution.

Albanese, who came to power at elections a month ago, declined to say whether he had spoken to President Joe Biden about the case.

"There are some people who think that if you put things in capital letters on Twitter and put an exclamation mark, that somehow makes it more important. It doesn't," Albanese told reporters.

"I intend to lead a government that engages diplomatically and appropriately with our partners," Albanese added.

Attorney General Mark Dreyfus and Foreign Minister Penny Wong responded to the British government's decision by saying Assange's "case has dragged on for too long and ... should be brought to a close."

They said they would continue to express that view to the U.K. and U.S. governments, but their joint statement fell short of calling for the United States to drop the case.

Assange supporters calling for Australian government intervention include his wife Stella Assange.

"The Australian government can and should be speaking to its closest ally to bring this matter to a close," she told Australian Broadcasting Corp.

Bob Carr, who was foreign minister when Albanese's center-left Labor Party was last in power in 2012 and 2013, wrote in an opinion piece in The Sydney Morning Herald on Monday that an Australian request to drop Assange's prosecution was "small change" in Australia's defense alliance with the United States.

American prosecutors say Assange helped U.S. Army intelligence analyst Chelsea Manning steal classified diplomatic cables and military files that WikiLeaks later published, putting lives at risk.

Carr noted that Manning's sentence was commuted in 2017.

"It looks like one rule for Americans, another for citizens of its ally," Carr wrote.

Carr told AuBC that Assange going on trial in the United States would "ignite anti-Americanism in Australia in a way we haven't seen."

He said hostility to the Australian-American alliance wasn't "in the interests of either country."

Assange's lawyers plan to appeal, extending the process by months or even years.

His wife Stella Assange said her husband was being prosecuted for exposing war crimes and abuses of power.

"The only goal here is to free Julian because this has been going on since 2010. He's been in prison for over three years and the case against him is a travesty," Stella Assange said.

The moments resonating from the Jan. 6 hearings (so far)

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — By the numbers, the Jan. 6 committee hearings attracted 20 million live viewers on opening night, 11 million for the first daytime session and nearly 9 million for Thursday's third installment. Yet those traditional Nielsen company yardsticks don't begin to measure the true reach of what is being said there.

Memorable moments from each hearing are sliced for quick consumption on countless news programs, comedy shows and online, to the point where some have been seen more times later than when they were live.

In many respects, it's the first congressional hearing in memory that seems specifically designed with modern media needs in mind, said Jeff Jarvis, a City University of New York journalism professor and frequent blogger on the media.

"That has already worked," he said.

While it's impossible to know what — if anything — covered in the initial stages of the hearing will stick much beyond the week's news, there are already breakout moments and characters.

GIULIANI AND ALCOHOL

Receiving wide circulation: snippets where President Donald Trump's former political director, Bill Stepien, aide Jason Miller and committee member Liz Cheney say that lawyer Rudy Giuliani had too much to drink before advising Trump on election night 2020.

Hours after the allegation had been made, the clips were featured in the monologues of top-rated late-night comics Stephen Colbert and Jimmy Kimmel. The shows are typically seen by a combined audience of nearly 5 million people each night, with many more people watching online the next morning. Kimmel accompanied it with a film package of times when Giuliani acted oddly in defense of Trump.

The episode resonated in part because it was a connectable moment in an otherwise very serious story, said Robert Thompson, director of Syracuse University's Bleier Center for Television and Popular Culture.

"Having people who are major figures in a national political setting outed for being wasted is something that people can find immediately understandable," Thompson said.

BARR'S REALITY

Former Attorney General William Barr's recorded testimony that he found Trump "detached from reality" with some of his claims about election fraud was the lead in several news stories about Monday's hearing. It was a vivid and disturbing image of a former president from the man who ran Trump's Justice Department.

The ABC, CBS and NBC evening newscasts that night all featured the clip of Barr's comment, and together the three programs typically reach more than 20 million viewers — or double the amount of people who saw the hearing live.

There's no count of how many times it was repeated on cable news, or estimate of how many people saw it that way.

Two anecdotal examples illustrate the extent to which it was seen online. A clip of the moment posted by Reuters on Facebook was watched 928,000 times, and the clip posted on The New York Times' Instagram account was seen 404,000 times.

DAUGHTER AND SON-IN-LAW

Filed testimony from Ivanka Trump and her husband Jared Kushner has been particularly potent, in large part simply because they come from the family of a man who prizes loyalty.

A clip of Ivanka Trump saying she trusted Barr's assessment of the fraud allegations amassed more than 1.6 million views in an Instagram post published by The Shade Room, a media outlet that focuses on celebrity entertainment, and 1 million when Bloomberg shared it on Twitter. Twitter posts of the video uploaded by MSNBC and the committee itself got more than 900,000 views together.

A video of her recollection of a phone call her father made to Vice President Mike Pence on the morning of Jan. 6, 2021 was shown on each of the three evening newscasts on Thursday, sometimes accompanied by the colorful descriptions of his language.

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Kushner's halting response when asked about what he had said to his father-in-law about Giuliani — as if he was weighing in real time what it meant to be under oath — became fodder for jokes.

NEW STAR

Previously little-known, former White House attorney Eric Herschmann has become a breakout star this past week for his filmed testimony concerning his conversations with John Eastman, architect of Trump's failed maneuvering to hold onto power.

Editing his own colorful language, Herschmann recalls saying "are you out of your effing mind?" when Eastman talks the day after the Capitol riot about a potential appeal of Georgia election results. Like a stern parent, he tells Eastman that the only words he wants to hear from him are "orderly transition" and advises him to "get a great f-ing criminal defense lawyer. You're going to need it."

Recognizing the testimony's potential impact, Cheney released it on Twitter the day before it was prominently featured in the hearing, giving it extra attention. That also served to highlight the committee's finding that Eastman had unsuccessfully sought a presidential pardon.

Politico even did a story on the art hanging on the wall behind Herschmann during his testimony.

CHENEY'S PREDICTION

Cheney's prosecutor-like outline of the committee's case at the top of its only prime-time hearing drew wide attention, along with some advice that may live longer than her political career.

"Tonight, I say this to our Republican colleagues who are defending the indefensible: There will come a day when Donald Trump is gone — but your dishonor will remain," she said.

The Associated Press' tweet with video of Cheney making that remark has been seen more than 1 million times.

Someday, depending on how history regards the events of Jan. 6, 2021, it may wind up the moment most recalled, like when it was revealed during the Watergate hearings that John Dean has warned Richard Nixon about a "cancer on the presidency," Thompson said.

"I see that as the classic quote," Thompson said.

EXPLAINER: What is Title IX and what impact has it had?

By COLLIN BINKLEY and ERICA HUNZINGER Associated Press

Title IX, the law best known for its role in gender equity in athletics and preventing sexual harassment on campuses, is turning 50.

It was signed into law by President Richard Nixon on June 23, 1972, after being shepherded through Congress in part by Rep. Patsy Mink, a Democrat from Hawaii who was the first woman of color elected to the U.S. House.

The law forbids discrimination based on sex in education, and despite its age remains a vital piece in the ongoing push for equality, including in the LGBTQ community.

WHAT DOES TITLE IX SAY?

The statute itself is one sentence long.

"No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving Federal financial assistance."

Translation: The law is meant to ensure equity between men and women in education, and it's broad, covering most K-12 schools and colleges and universities, as well as vocational schools, libraries and museums. That means it applies to tens of millions of students, as well as educators.

WHAT DOES TITLE IX COVER?

The law applies to several areas of education: athletics, the classroom, sexual assault and violence on campus, employment, discrimination, admissions, retaliation and even financial assistance with tuition.

It also has been extended to other forms of gender and sex discrimination; Title IX was invoked when the Obama administration advised that transgender people should be allowed to use the bathroom of their choice in schools.

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HOW DOES TITLE IX AFFECT ATHLETICS?

In so many ways, and at the K-12 and powerful collegiate levels. Women's and men's teams are to be treated equally under the law, and schools should look to expand the opportunities for women to play sports.

This doesn't necessarily mean that each sport will have exactly the same budget for equipment, facilities, travel or meals. For example, the women's tennis team might have more money put toward racquets than the men's tennis team. Athletic departments work under what is known as "equal in effect," meaning a benefit for a men's or women's team in one area can be offset in another area as long as "the overall effects of any differences is negligible."

In the hopes of ensuring compliance with Title IX, each athletic department at a college or university must provide annual Equity in Athletics Data Analysis reports. These track participation, coaching staff and salaries, revenues and expenses, including recruiting and game-day expenses.

Many Title IX athletics disputes deal with what's known as the participation gap. Athletic departments must make sure the ratio of men's athletic participation opportunities to women's participation opportunities are "substantially proportionate" to a school's undergrad enrollment.

For example, the University of Connecticut settled a lawsuit after its women's rowing team won a temporary restraining order against being shut down. UConn was accused of putting inflated women's rowing roster numbers (about 20 more than would compete) on its equity report, meaning the actual participation gap was "well above a viable team size."

HOW DOES TITLE IX AFFECT SEXUAL HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS?

Title IX's protections extend to sexual harassment on campus, including dating violence, domestic violence and stalking.

The bottom line is that all students are supposed to have a learning environment free from sexual harassment. When violations occur, the law is meant to help students get the problem resolved, which can mean moving to a different dorm, for example, or getting an alleged attacker removed from the school entirely.

Under new Title IX regulations that were finalized in 2020, students who come forward with abuse allegations may now face an in-person hearing and cross-examination by a person chosen by the alleged attacker. These rules have been criticized by Democrats and others for not fully protecting victims and for discouraging complaints, and the Biden administration is expected to propose new regulations soon.

The Associated Press reported that some universities saw a decrease in the number of complaints brought to Title IX offices.

WHAT ABOUT DISCRIMINATION?

Under Title IX, there's a broad definition of discrimination that could involve students, faculty, administrators or staff. It also covers discrimination against pregnant people. The law has also been invoked to outlaw discrimination of LGBTQ students and educators.

Nothing in Title IX or its federal regulations explicitly protects LGBTQ people, but the Biden administration said last year that the law should be interpreted to protect against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. It was based on a 2020 Supreme Court decision ruling that LGBTQ people are protected from discrimination in employment.

As a result, the Education Department said it can launch a civil rights investigation if students are blocked from things like using bathrooms or joining sports teams that match their gender identities.

Tennessee and several other Republican-led states filed a federal lawsuit challenging that guidance; it has yet to be decided.

The Biden administration has signaled that its upcoming regulation will explicitly expand Title IX to protect LGBTQ students from discrimination. If finalized as a federal regulation, it would carry the force of law.

WHO OVERSEES TITLE IX IN SCHOOLS?

Every school and college is supposed to have at least one Title IX coordinator, whose function is to make sure the institution is in compliance with all arms of Title IX. Sometimes the officer is simply the school's principal, while many universities have whole offices dedicated to Title IX compliance.

WHAT TYPES OF COMPLAINTS CAN BE FILED?

There are two types: local and federal.

Local grievances run through the school's Title IX coordinator or office, which have procedures in place to handle cases involving sex discrimination, sexual harassment and sexual violence. The schools can dole out discipline for these grievances.

Federal complaints go to the Education Department's Office for Civil Rights. These investigations can take months or years to complete. The list of current federal Title IX investigations can be found at the OCR's website.

Those who believe their rights have been violated can also bring their cases to federal courts through Title IX lawsuits.

Yellowstone aims for quick opening; flooded towns struggling

By MATTHEW BROWN and BRITTANY PETERSON Associated Press

GARDINER, Mont. (AP) — Most of Yellowstone National Park should re-open within the next two weeks — much faster than originally expected after record floods pounded the Yellowstone region last week and knocked out major roads, federal officials said Sunday.

Yellowstone Superintendent Cam Sholly said the world-renowned park will be able to accommodate fewer visitors for the time being, and it will take more time to restore road connections with some southern Montana communities.

Park officials said Sunday they'll use \$50 million in federal highway money to speed up road and bridge repairs. There's still no timetable for repairs to routes between the park and areas of Montana where the recovery is expected to stretch for months.

Yellowstone will partially reopen at 8 a.m. Wednesday, more than a week after more than 10,000 visitors were forced out of the park when the Yellowstone and other rivers went over their banks after being swelled by melting snow and several inches of rainfall.

Only portions of the park that can be accessed along its "southern loop" of roads will be opened initially and access to the park's scenic backcountry will be for day hikers only.

Within two weeks officials plan to also open the northern loop, after previously declaring that it would likely stay closed through the summer season. The northern loop would give visitors access to popular attractions including Tower Fall and Mammoth Hot Springs. They'd still be barred from the Lamar Valley, which is famous for its prolific wildlife including bears, wolves and bison that can often be seen from the roadside.

"That would get 75 to 80% of the park back to working," National Park Service Director Charles "Chuck" Sams said Sunday during a visit to Yellowstone to gauge the flood's effects.

It will take much longer — possibly years — to fully restore two badly-damaged stretches of road that link the park with Gardiner to the north and Cooke City to the northeast.

During a tour of damaged areas on Sunday, park officials showed reporters one of six sections of road near Gardiner where the raging floodwaters obliterated most of the roadway.

Muddy water now courses through where the roadbed had been only a week ago. Trunks of huge trees litter the surrounding canyon.

With no chances for an immediate fix, park Superintendent Cam Sholly said 20,000 tons of material were being hauled in to construct a temporary, alternate route along an old road that runs above the canyon. That would let employees who work at the park headquarters in Mammoth get to their homes in Gardiner, Sholly said. The temporary route also could be used by commercial tour companies that have permits to lead guided visits.

"We've gotten a lot more done than we thought we would a week ago," Sholly said. "It's going to be a summer of adjustments."

Meanwhile, some of those hardest hit in the disaster — far from the famous park's limelight — are leaning heavily on one another to pull their lives out of the mud.

In and around the agricultural community of Fromberg, the Clarks Fork River flooded almost 100 homes and badly damaged a major irrigation ditch that serves many farms. The town's mayor says about a third

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of the flooded homes are too far gone to be repaired.

Not far from the riverbank, Lindi O'Brien's trailer home was raised high enough to avoid major damage. But she got water in her barns and sheds, lost some of her poultry and saw her recently deceased parents' home get swamped with several feet of water.

Elected officials who showed up to tour the damage in Red Lodge and Gardiner — Montana tourist towns that serve as gateways to Yellowstone — haven't made it to Fromberg to see its devastation. O'Brien said the lack of attention is no surprise given the town's location away from major tourist routes.

She's not resentful but resigned to the idea that if Fromberg is going to recover, its roughly 400 residents will have to do much of the work themselves.

"We take care of each other," O'Brien said as she and two longtime friends, Melody Murter and Aileen Rogers, combed through mud-caked items scattered across her property. O'Brien, an art teacher for the local school, had been fixing up her parents' home with hopes of turning it into a vacation rental. Now she's not sure it's salvageable.

"When you get tired and get pooped, it's OK to stop," O'Brien said to Murter and Rogers, whose clothes, hands and faces were smeared with mud.

A few blocks away, Matt Holmes combed through piles of muck and debris but could find little to save out of the trailer home that he shared with his wife and four children.

Holmes had taken the day off, but said he needed to get back soon to his construction job so he could begin making money again. Whether he can bring in enough to rebuild is unclear. If not, Holmes said he may move the family to Louisiana, where they have relatives.

"I want to stay in Montana. I don't know if we can," he said.

Ex-rebel wins runoff to be Colombia's 1st leftist president

By REGINA GARCIA CANO and ASTRID SUAREZ Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Former rebel Gustavo Petro narrowly won a runoff election over a political outsider millionaire Sunday, ushering in a new era of politics for Colombia by becoming the country's first leftist president.

Petro, a senator in his third attempt to win the presidency, got 50.48% of the votes, while real estate magnate Rodolfo Hernández had 47.26%, with almost all ballots counted, according to results released by election authorities.

Petro's victory underlined a drastic change in presidential politics for a country that has long marginalized the left for its perceived association with the armed conflict. Petro himself was once a rebel with the now-defunct M-19 movement and was granted amnesty after being jailed for his involvement with the group.

"Today is a day of celebration for the people. Let them celebrate the first popular victory," Petro tweeted. "May so many sufferings be cushioned in the joy that today floods the heart of the Homeland."

Petro issued a call for unity during his victory speech and extended an olive branch to some of his harshest critics, saying all members of the opposition will be welcomed at the presidential palace "to discuss the problems of Colombia."

"From this government that is beginning there will never be political persecution or legal persecution, there will only be respect and dialogue," he said, adding that he will listen to not only those who have raised arms but also to "that silent majority of peasants, Indigenous people, women, youth."

Outgoing conservative President Iván Duque congratulated Petro shortly after results were announced, and Hernández quickly conceded his defeat.

"I accept the result, as it should be, if we want our institutions to be firm," Hernández said in a video on social media. "I sincerely hope that this decision is beneficial for everyone."

Colombia also elected its first Black woman to be vice president. Petro's running mate, Francia Márquez, is a lawyer and environmental leader whose opposition to illegal mining has resulted in threats and a grenade attack in 2019.

The vote came amid widespread discontent over rising inequality, inflation and violence — factors that

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led voters in the election's first round last month to turn their backs on long-governing centrist and right-leaning politicians and choose two outsiders in Latin America's third-most populous nation.

Petro's showing was the latest leftist political victory in Latin America fueled by voters' desire for change. Chile, Peru and Honduras elected leftist presidents in 2021, and in Brazil, former President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva is leading the polls for this year's presidential election.

"What I do think it shows is that the strategy of fear, hate and stigmatization towards the left no longer works as a policy to win voters," said Elizabeth Dickinson, senior analyst for Colombia at the firm International Crisis Group.

But the results were an immediate reason to fret for some voters whose closest reference to a leftist government is the troubled neighboring Venezuela.

"We hope that Mr. Gustavo Petro complies with what was said in his government plan, that he leads this country to greatness, which we need so much, and that (he) ends corruption," said Karin Ardila García, a Hernández supporter in the north-central city of Bucaramanga. "That he does not lead to communism, to socialism, to a war where they continue to kill us in Colombia. ... (H)e does not lead us to another Venezuela, Cuba, Argentina, Chile."

About 21.6 million of the 39 million eligible voters cast a ballot Sunday. Abstentionism has been above 40% in every presidential election since 1990.

Petro, 62, will be officially declared winner after a formal count that will take a few days. Historically, the preliminary results have coincided with the final ones.

Several heads of state congratulated Petro on Sunday. So did a fierce critic, former President Álvaro Uribe, who remains a central figure in Colombia's politics.

Polls ahead of the runoff had indicated Petro and Hernández — both former mayors — were in a tight race since they topped four other candidates in the initial May 29 election. Neither got enough votes to win outright and headed into the runoff.

Petro won 40% of the votes in the initial round and Hernández 28%, but the difference quickly narrowed as Hernández began to attract so-called anti-Petrista voters.

Petro has proposed ambitious pension, tax, health and agricultural reforms and changes to how Colombia fights drug cartels and other armed groups. But he will have a tough time delivering on his promises as he does not have a majority in Congress, which is key to carrying out reforms.

"The people who do support him have very high hopes, and they are probably going to be disappointed pretty quickly when he can't move things right away," said Adam Isacson, an expert on Colombia at the Washington Office on Latin America think tank.

"I think you might find a situation where he either has to strike some deals and give up a lot of his programs just to get some things passed or the whole country could be gridlocked," Isacson added.

Petro is willing to resume diplomatic relations with Venezuela, which were halted in 2019. He also wants to make changes to Colombia's relations with the United States by seeking a renegotiation of a free trade agreement and new solutions in the fight against drug trafficking.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said in a statement that the Biden administration looks forward to working with Petro.

Hernández, who made his money in real estate, is not affiliated with any major political party and rejected alliances. His austere campaign, waged mostly on TikTok and other social media platforms, was self-financed and based mostly on a fight against corruption, which he blames for poverty and the loss of state resources that could be used on social programs.

Polls say most Colombians believe the country is heading in the wrong direction and disapprove of Duque, who was not eligible to seek reelection. The pandemic set back the country's anti-poverty efforts by at least a decade. Official figures show that 39% of Colombia's lived on less than \$89 a month last year.

The rejection of politics as usual "is a reflection of the fact that the people are fed up with the same people as always," said Nataly Amezcua, a 26-year-old civil engineer waiting to vote. "We have to create greater social change. Many people in the country aren't in the best condition."

But even the two outsider candidates left her cold. She said she would cast a blank ballot: "I don't like

either of the two candidates. ... Neither of them seems like a good person to me."

World swimming bans transgender athletes from women's events

By CIARÁN FAHEY AP Sports Writer

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — World swimming's governing body has effectively banned transgender women from competing in women's events, starting Monday.

FINA members widely adopted a new "gender inclusion policy" on Sunday that only permits swimmers who transitioned before age 12 to compete in women's events. The organization also proposed an "open competition category."

"This is not saying that people are encouraged to transition by the age of 12. It's what the scientists are saying, that if you transition after the start of puberty, you have an advantage, which is unfair," James Pearce, who is the spokesperson for FINA president Husain Al-Musallam, told The Associated Press.

"They're not saying everyone should transition by age 11, that's ridiculous. You can't transition by that age in most countries and hopefully you wouldn't be encouraged to. Basically, what they're saying is that it is not feasible for people who have transitioned to compete without having an advantage."

Pearce confirmed there are currently no transgender women competing in elite levels of swimming.

The World Professional Association for Transgender Health just lowered its recommended minimum age for starting gender transition hormone treatment to 14 and some surgeries to 15 or 17.

FINA's new 24-page policy also proposed a new "open competition" category. The organization said it was setting up "a new working group that will spend the next six months looking at the most effective ways to set up this new category."

Pearce told the AP that the open competition would most likely mean more events, but those details still need to be worked out.

"No one quite knows how this is going to work. And we need to include a lot of different people, including transgender athletes, to work out how it would work," he said. "So there are no details of how that would work. The open category is something that will start being discussed tomorrow."

The members voted 71.5% in favor at the organization's extraordinary general congress after hearing presentations from three specialist groups — an athlete group, a science and medicine group and a legal and human rights group — that had been working together to form the policy following recommendations given by the International Olympic Committee last November.

The IOC urged shifting the focus from individual testosterone levels and calling for evidence to prove when a performance advantage existed.

FINA's "deeply discriminatory, harmful, unscientific" new policy is "not in line with (the IOC's) framework on fairness, inclusion and non-discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sex variations," Anne Lieberman of Athlete Ally, a nonprofit that advocates for LGBTQ athletes, said in a statement.

"The eligibility criteria for the women's category as it is laid out in the policy (will) police the bodies of all women, and will not be enforceable without seriously violating the privacy and human rights of any athlete looking to compete in the women's category," Lieberman said.

FINA said it recognizes "that some individuals and groups may be uncomfortable with the use of medical and scientific terminology related to sex and sex-linked traits (but) some use of sensitive terminology is needed to be precise about the sex characteristics that justify separate competition categories."

In March, Lia Thomas made history in the United States as the first transgender woman to win an NCAA swimming championship, the 500-yard freestyle.

Thomas said last month on ABC's "Good Morning America" that she was aiming to become an Olympic swimmer. She also disputed those who say she has an unfair biological edge that ruins the integrity of women's athletics, saying "trans women are not a threat to women's sports."

Thomas didn't immediately respond to a message left with the University of Pennsylvania seeking comment.

Dr. Alireza Hamidian Jahromi, co-director of the Gender Affirmation Surgery Center at Temple University

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Hospitals in Philadelphia, said 12 is an arbitrary age.

"Where did that 12 come from?" he said. "Is that a specific age that everybody is supposed to have passed through puberty, because it may not be the case."

Age of puberty varies for different people, he said.

Hamidian Jahromi said the transition involves three stages: social, medical involving hormones and surgical. "Which of these three do they mean? Should the patient have undergone surgery by that time, which is almost impossible," he said.

Other sports have also been examining their rules around transgender athletes.

On Thursday, cycling's governing body updated its eligibility rules for transgender athletes with stricter limits that will force riders to wait longer before they can compete.

The International Cycling Union (UCI) increased the transition period on low testosterone to two years, and lowered the maximum accepted level of testosterone. The previous transition period was 12 months but the UCI said recent scientific studies show that "the awaited adaptations in muscle mass and muscle strength/power" among athletes who have made a transition from male to female takes at least two years.

US Open updates: Fitzpatrick hangs on, wins U.S. Open by 1

BROOKLINE, Mass. (AP) — The Latest on the U.S. Open (all times local):

7 p.m.

Englishman Matt Fitzpatrick won the U.S. Open, winning his first major on the same course where he took the U.S. Amateur title nine years earlier.

Fitzpatrick shot a 2-under 68 at The Country Club to finish the tournament at 6-under 274 and beat Will Zalatoris and Scottie Scheffler by one.

Leading by one shot, Fitzpatrick hooked his drive on No. 18 into a bunker to the left of the fairway. But he hit the middle of the green and two-putted from 18 feet for par. Zalatoris had a 14-foot birdie putt to tie, but missed it by a fraction.

This marked the second straight runner-up finish at a major for Zalatoris, who lost to Justin Thomas in a playoff last month at the PGA Championship. It was Zalatoris' sixth top-10 finish in seven majors since he made his major debut at Winged Foot in the 2020 U.S. Open.

Fitzpatrick hit 17 greens in regulation. He becomes the first Englishman to win the U.S. Open since Justin Rose at Merion in 2013, the same year Fitzpatrick won the U.S. Amateur at The Country Club.

He also joins Jack Nicklaus as the only player to win both the U.S. Open and Amateur on the same course. Nicklaus won at Pebble Beach in 1961 and 1972.

6 p.m.

Will Zalatoris and Matt Fitzpatrick were tied at the U.S. Open with four holes to go Sunday in the final round

They headed to the 15th tee box at 5 under, one shot ahead of Masters champion Scottie Scheffler. Hideki Matsuyama, the 2021 Masters champ, was in the clubhouse at 3-under 277.

If there a tie, there will be an aggregate two-hole playoff to decide the champion. The playoff holes are Nos. 1 and 18.

Still ahead for the three leaders is the famous par-4 17th hole, a 375-yard dogleg left that is playing as the easiest hole at The Country Club in the final round. That's where Frances Ouimet made a birdie to force a playoff that gave him his historic win at the 1913 U.S. Open. Justin Leonard sank a long putt there to clinch the Ryder Cup in 1991.

Zalatoris and Fitzpatrick are both seeking their first major after a close call last month at the PGA Championship. Fitzpatrick played in the final twosome on Sunday at Southern Hills, while Zalatoris lost to Justin Thomas in a playoff.

4:45 p.m.

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Matt Fitzpatrick made the turn with a one-shot lead over Will Zalatoris and Scottie Scheffler in what's shaping up as a three-man race for the U.S. Open title over the final nine holes.

Fitzpatrick birdied No. 8 and made par on No. 9 to turn at 6-under par for the tournament. His birdie came about the same time as Scheffler made bogey on No. 10 to fall to 5 under.

Zalatoris made an 18-foot putt for birdie on No. 9 to join Scheffler at 5 under.

Collin Morikawa, Hideki Matsuyama and Denny McCarthy are tied for fourth, four shots behind Fitzpatrick.

Scheffler already has four wins over the last four months and is hoping to add this major title to the Masters championship he won in April.

Zalatoris and Fitzpatrick, in the final group at The Country Club, are each going for their first major title. Last month at the PGA Championship, Fitzpatrick played in the final pairing, while Zalatoris lost to Justin Thomas in a playoff.

4:25 p.m.

Top-ranked Scottie Scheffler made four birdies over the front nine to make the turn with a one-shot lead in the closing round of the U.S. Open.

The Masters champion made the turn in 4-under 31 and was at 6 under for the tournament with nine holes left. That was one shot ahead of Matt Fitzpatrick and two clear of Will Zalatoris, who were paired in the day's final twosome.

Scheffler is trying to become the first player to win the Masters and U.S. Open in the same season since Jordan Spieth in 2015.

Scheffler's lead looked in jeopardy when his approach shot into the heavily sloped green on the par-5 eighth spun backward off the green, almost back to his feet around 65 yards from the hole. But he got up and down to save par, then made another par on 9 to turn at 6-under.

3:15 p.m.

Go back to late Friday afternoon to find Denny McCarthy needing par on the final hole to make the cut in the U.S. Open. And look at him now. McCarthy had a 68 in the third round, started Sunday with three birdies in five holes and is in a tie for fourth.

He's become the most unlikely contender on a leaderboard filled with stars.

Scottie Scheffler and Matt Fitzpatrick are setting the pace. Scheffler had three birdies in four holes to give the Masters champion the lead. Fitzpatrick has been steady as always and made birdie on No. 3 to tie Scheffler at 5 under.

Jon Rahm has all pars through four holes and is two behind. Rory McIlroy is up and down, three birdies and two bogeys and is three back.

2:55 p.m.

World No. 1 Scottie Scheffler birdied the first two holes of the final round in the U.S. Open to move into a tie for the lead.

Scheffler started the day at 2 under and two holes later he had matched Will Zalatoris and Matt Fitzpatrick at minus-4. The overnight co-leaders teed off at 2:45, so the entire field has started the final round at The Country Club.

Scheffler made a six-foot putt for birdie on No. 1 and a 15-footer on the second hole. He's the reigning Masters champion, looking for his second career major victory.

1:50 p.m.

The USGA is back with some historic pin placements for the final round of the U.S. Open

The governing body says the front-left hole location on No. 17 at The Country Club is in the same place as it was when Francis Ouimet made a birdie in the final round of the 1913 tournament to force a playoff against British pros Harry Vardon and Ted Ray.

And the front-right 18th hole is where it was on Sunday for the 1988 U.S. Open, when Curtis Strange

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made par from the front bunker to force a Monday playoff with Nick Faldo.

On Saturday, the 17th pin was in the same place it was when Justin Leonard made a 45-foot birdie to clinch the Ryder cup for the United States in 1999.

The par-3 11th hole is also getting some attention: It's playing at just 119 yards. That didn't make it any easier. It was playing as the eighth-hardest in the early going, with 10 bogeys and just three birdies in the first 26 players.

1:50 p.m.

Guido Migliozzi is off to a good start in the final round at The Country Club.

The Italian finished tied for fourth last year in his U.S. Open debut. He was 3 under through 14 holes on Sunday as he tried to overcome a 74 in the third round that dropped him to plus-6 through 54 holes.

Second-round co-leader Collin Morikawa picked up a birdie on the fourth hole and was at 1 over for the tournament. He is trying to recover from a third-round 77 that dropped him off the leaderboard.

Noon.

Grayson Murray is getting a lot of TV time at the U.S. Open — for all the wrong reasons.

Murray tossed his putter after a quadruple bogey on the seventh hole at The Country Club. Then he snapped an iron over his knee on No. 10.

The 28-year-old from North Carolina missed the cut in his only other U.S. Open, in 2013. But playing on the weekend is apparently no reason for him to celebrate.

Murray needed four tries to get out of the rough behind the seventh hole on Sunday and then threw his putter into the high fescue as he left the green. After a par on No. 8, he made a triple on the ninth hole.

When he missed the green with his approach on the ninth hole and snapped the club over his knee.

Murray was plus-9 for the fourth round and 17 over for the tournament. That left him tied with Harris English for last place.

8:15 a.m.

The idea of a firm and fiery final round of the U.S. Open has been doused.

Rain and temperatures began falling overnight at The Country Club, leaving weather that makes the U.S. Open feel like a dreary day at the Pebble Beach Pro-Am.

There hasn't been enough accumulation of rain to soften the course. But the forecast was for cloud cover and temperatures barely reaching 60 degrees when Will Zalatoris and Matt Fitzpatrick tee off in the final group.

Rain or shine, this U.S. Open should be wide open. Defending champion Jon Rahm is one shot behind. Masters champion Scottie Scheffler is another shot back, as is New England favorite and former PGA champion Keegan Bradley.

Also very much in the mix is Rory McIlroy, who turned a tough Saturday into a 73 that kept the four-time major champion within three shots of the lead.

Maryland Apple workers face hurdles after vote to unionize

TOWSON, Md. (AP) — The historic vote by employees of a Maryland Apple store to unionize — a first for the technology giant — is a significant step in a lengthy process that labor experts say is heavily stacked against workers in favor of their employers.

Apple store employees in a Baltimore suburb voted to unionize by a nearly 2-to-1 margin Saturday, joining a growing push across U.S. retail, service and tech industries to organize for greater workplace protections.

It's not yet clear whether the recent wave of unionizations represent a broader shift in U.S. labor. But experts say the current shortage of workers for hourly and low-wage jobs means employees have more power than they had historically, especially when unemployment is low.

"It's not that big a deal to lose one of these jobs because you can get another crummy job," said Ruth Milkman, labor scholar at the City University of New York.

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The question is, what happens now?

The Apple retail workers in Towson, Maryland, voted 65-33 to seek entry into the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, the union's announcement said. The National Labor Relations Board now has to certify the outcome. A spokesperson referred initial queries about the vote to the board's regional office, which was closed late Saturday. The board did not immediately respond to an Associated Press message on Sunday.

Once the vote is certified, the union and Apple can begin negotiating a contract.

"Labor law in the United States is a long process. And so the fact that a single store negotiates or elects a union doesn't mean that there's a negotiated contract in the workplace. And we know in recent history that in many of these situations, parties are unable to come to terms on an initial contract," Michael Duff, a former NLRB lawyer and professor at University of Wyoming College of Law, said Sunday.

"The employer in the United States has an awful lot of rights to simply withdraw recognition at the end of the process. The employer can prove that it no longer supports a majority of the employees in the bargaining unit," Duff added.

Even after a union is certified, a company has a number of legal maneuvers at its disposal to fight it, Duff said. For instance, Apple could say it doesn't believe that the bargaining unit certified by the NLRB is an appropriate bargaining unit. and refuse to bargain with the union.

"If that happens, the whole thing goes to the courts and it could easily be a year or two before you even get the question of whether the employer is required to bargain with the union," Duff added.

Labor experts say it's common for employers to drag out the bargaining process in an effort to take the momentum out of union campaigns. It's also possible that Apple — or any other company — restructures its business so the unionized workers are reclassified as independent contractors and not employees, in which case the union vote is moot, Duff said.

Apple declined to comment on Saturday's development, company spokesperson Josh Lipton told The Associated Press by phone. Reached again Sunday, Apple did not comment.

The successful vote serves to inspire workers around the country to organize, said John Logan, director of labor and employment studies at San Francisco State University.

"Workers are already organizing at other Apple stores, but this shows them the company is not invincible," he said.

Apple's well-known brand name is also likely to help.

"The public has a very direct relationship with companies like Apple, so the first union victory will generate enormous traditional media and social media coverage," Logan said. "Young workers learn union activism through this coverage, and some will likely be inspired to try to organize their own workplaces."

Despite U.S. labor law being stacked against workers, Duff said he thinks that "if there is going to be a reawakened labor movement in the United States it will happen in just this way."

Union organizing in a variety of fields has gained momentum recently after decades of decline in U.S. union membership. Organizers have worked to establish unions at companies including Amazon, Starbucks, Google parent company Alphabet and outdoors retailer REI.

The International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers and the Apple employees who wanted to join said they sent Apple CEO Tim Cook notice last month that they were seeking to form a union. The statement said their driving motivation was to seek "rights we do not currently have." It added that the workers recently organized in the Coalition of Organized Retail Employees, or CORE.

"I applaud the courage displayed by CORE members at the Apple store in Towson for achieving this historic victory," IAM International President Robert Martinez Jr. said in the statement. "They made a huge sacrifice for thousands of Apple employees across the nation who had all eyes on this election."

Martinez called on Apple to respect the election results and to let the unionizing employees fast-track efforts to secure a contract at the Towson location.

The IAM bills itself as one of the largest and most diverse industrial trade unions in North America, representing approximately 600,000 active and retired members in the aerospace, defense, airlines, railroad,

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transit, healthcare, automotive, and other industries. Logan said the Apple victory shows that the established labor movement “is capable of adapting its self to the needs of the group of independent-minded, self-confident workers you find at Apple stores.”

The Apple store unionization vote comes against a backdrop of other labor organizing efforts nationwide — some of them rebuffed.

Amazon workers at a warehouse in New York City voted to unionize in April, the first successful U.S. organizing effort in the retail giant’s history. However, workers at another Amazon warehouse on Staten Island overwhelmingly rejected a union bid last month. Meanwhile, Starbucks workers at dozens of U.S. stores have voted to unionize in recent months, after two of the coffee chain’s stores in Buffalo, New York, voted to unionize late last year.

Many unionization efforts have been led by young workers in their 20s and even in their teens. A group of Google engineers and other workers formed the Alphabet Workers Union last year, which represents around 800 Google employees and is run by five people who are under 35.

“This is the generation with the kind of world view that’s really different than we’ve seen in many generations,” said CUNY’s Milkman. “They believe in this.”

Outside Yellowstone, flooded towns struggle to recover

By MATTHEW BROWN and BRITTANY PETERSON Associated Press

FROMBERG, Mont. (AP) — With Yellowstone National Park pushing to reopen to tourists more quickly than anticipated after record floods pounded southern Montana, some of those hardest hit in the disaster live far from the famous park’s limelight and are leaning heavily on one another to pull their lives out of the mud.

Park officials said Sunday that they hope to have most of Yellowstone open within two weeks, as they use a \$50 million infusion of federal highway money to accelerate road and bridge repairs. There’s still no timetable for restoring connections between the park and neighboring portions of Montana where the recovery is expected to stretch for months.

In and around the agricultural community of Fromberg, the Clarks Fork River flooded almost 100 homes and badly damaged a major irrigation ditch that serves many farms. The town’s mayor says about a third of the flooded homes are too far gone to be repaired.

Not far from the riverbank, Lindi O’Brien’s trailer home was raised high enough to avoid major damage. But she got water in her barns and sheds, lost some of her poultry and saw her recently deceased parents’ home get swamped with several feet of water.

Elected officials who showed up to tour the damage in Red Lodge and Gardiner — Montana tourist towns that serve as gateways to Yellowstone — haven’t made it to Fromberg to see its devastation. O’Brien said the lack of attention is no surprise given the town’s location away from major tourist routes.

She’s not resentful but resigned to the idea that if Fromberg is going to recover, its roughly 400 residents will have to do much of the work themselves.

“We take care of each other,” O’Brien said as she and two longtime friends, Melody Murter and Aileen Rogers, combed through mud-caked items scattered across her property. O’Brien, an art teacher for the local school, had been fixing up her parents’ home with hopes of turning it into a vacation rental. Now she’s not sure it’s salvageable.

“When you get tired and get pooped, it’s OK to stop,” O’Brien said to Murter and Rogers, whose clothes, hands and faces were smeared with mud.

A few blocks away, Matt Holmes combed through piles of muck and debris but could find little to save out of the trailer home that he shared with his wife and four children.

Holmes had taken the day off, but said he needed to get back soon to his construction job so he could begin making money again. Whether he can bring in enough to rebuild is unclear. If not, Holmes said he may move the family to Louisiana, where they have relatives.

“I want to stay in Montana. I don’t know if we can,” he said.

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Yellowstone will partially reopen at 8 a.m. Wednesday, more than a week after more than 10,000 visitors were forced out of the park when the Yellowstone and other rivers went over their banks after being swelled by melting snow and several inches of rainfall.

Only portions of the park that can be accessed along its "southern loop" of roads will be opened initially and access to the park's scenic backcountry will be for day hikers only.

Within two weeks officials hope to open the northern loop, after previously declaring that it would likely stay closed through the summer season. The northern loop would give visitors access to popular attractions including Tower Fall and Mammoth Hot Springs. They'd still be barred from the Lamar Valley, which is famous for its prolific wildlife including bears, wolves and bison that can often be seen from the roadside.

"That would get 75 to 80% of the park back to working," National Park Service Director Charles "Chuck" Sams said Sunday during a visit to Yellowstone to gauge the flood's effects.

It will take much longer — possibly years — to fully restore two badly-damaged stretches of road that connect the park with Gardiner to the north and Cooke City to the northeast.

During a tour of damaged areas on Sunday, park officials showed reporters one of six sections of road near Gardiner where the raging Gardner River had obliterated most of the roadway. Muddy water now courses through where the roadbed had been only a week ago. Trunks of huge trees litter the walls of the surrounding canyon.

Park Superintendent Cam Sholly said 20,000 tons of material were being hauled in to construct a temporary, alternate route along an old road that runs above the canyon, so that employees who work at the park headquarters in Mammoth can get to their homes in Gardiner.

Meanwhile, outside of the population centers that border the park, there's a maze of damaged roads that have left remote areas isolated. A key bridge that leads to the town of Fishtail collapsed, causing traffic to divert through a single-lane county road. There are about 500 people in Fishtail.

Lee Johnson and his wife and daughter run the Fishtail restaurant MontAsia, so named because it's a fusion of Malaysian and Montana cuisine. He said business has plummeted.

"When we opened for the first time after the flood, it started just dead. And you start to have that sense of dread creep in. Did I do all this, did I sink all this money in, have I started this business and people can't even get here anymore?" Johnson said.

Johnson and his Malaysian wife Yokie took over the lease on a landmark 124-year-old Fishtail building earlier this year, transferring their restaurant from another part of the state. For Yokie, the business was a dream come true.

"Not being from Montana, I wanted to own something," she said. Going into business with her family was her biggest goal. Yokie said running the restaurant gives her strength as she battles cancer.

"I'm not sure how much time I have left, so the time I have left I want to be with my family, work with them every day, see them every day," she said.

Johnson said he is humbled by the chance to support his wife and determined to keep the restaurant open while the flood damage is repaired.

"You hitch your wagon to this community and it's just a matter of keeping up," he said.

Church shooting survivor: Gunman 'disengaged,' sat alone

By KIM CHANDLER Associated Press

The 70-year-old suspected gunman in a shooting that killed three people at an Alabama church sat by himself drinking liquor, rejecting offers to join the others gathered at the potluck dinner, before gunfire shattered the peace of the evening, a survivor recalled.

"It felt like he was disengaged," Susan Sallin, 73, said. Sallin was seated at the same table at the "Boomers Potluck" with the three people who died in the Thursday night shooting at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Vestavia Hills, Alabama.

The suspected gunman had previously attended church services and a few church gatherings for people of the Baby Boomer generation and older, but didn't seem to interact much with others, she said. That

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night, he sat at a table by himself. While wine was available at the potluck, he was drinking from what appeared to be a small bottle of Scotch, and shunned invitations to join the others.

"I personally invited him to come and sit at our table twice because I wanted him to feel a sense of inclusion, but he did not come," Sallin said. She said a woman, whose husband would be killed moments later in the shooting, "realized he had not fixed himself a plate and went up and offered to make him a plate." He declined that as well.

Robert Findlay Smith, 70, is charged with capital murder in the shooting that killed three people. Walter Bartlett Rainey, 84, Sarah Yeager, 75, of Pelham, and another woman were killed in the shooting. Police did not release the name of the third victim, but friends referred to her as Jane.

The gathering was joyful, as the friends — who had not been able to gather as much during the pandemic — chatted about the food before them that night, their favorite cars and other light-hearted topics. Sallin said she doesn't remember hearing any arguing or heated conversation before the gunfire suddenly erupted.

"I heard this loud metallic sound, and I thought a metal chair had fallen over on the floor. And then there was another sound, and another sound, and I realized it was a gun," she recalled. "People were diving for the floor. I was diving for the floor. When I got down to the floor, I realized that two of my girlfriends who were sitting at the table with me had been hit."

Sallin said she crawled across the floor to reach her friends. "I was trying to calm them and pat them and tell them, 'You are not alone. You are not alone.' That's the message that I wanted them to get."

Nearby, Linda Foster Rainey cradled her husband. According to a family statement, "he died in her arms while she murmured words of comfort and love into his ears."

Sallin said one of the men in the group, who is also in his 70s, was able to subdue the gunman. "I did see him get the gun out of the man's hand and hit him on the head with the gun," she said.

The Rev. Doug Carpenter, St. Stephen's pastor for three decades before he retired in 2005, said he understood the man hit the gunman with a folding chair before wrestling him to the ground and taking the gun.

"The person that subdued the suspect, in my opinion, was a hero," Vestavia Hills police Capt. Shane Ware told reporters a news conference Friday, saying that act was "extremely critical in saving lives."

The church had been closed off for several days as a crime scene, but the congregation returned Sunday for worship services with a message of choosing love over hate.

The Rev. John Burruss, the rector of St. Stephen's, invoked the Christian story of the last supper, where Jesus invited the friend who would ultimately betray him.

"There is not a doubt in my mind that Bart and Sharon and Jane would invite their Judas again and again to sit down and share a meal, because they knew God's unconditional love," he said, using the first names that the three victims went by.

"It was their guiding ethic and they fully embodied it. ... They taught us that all are welcome at the table," Burruss said.

Zelenskyy Father's Day post spotlights family ties amid war

By JOHN LEICESTER and DAVID KEYTON Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — One photograph shows a kneeling soldier kissing a child inside a subway station, where Ukraine families shelter from Russian airstrikes. In another, an infant and a woman who appears on the brink of tears look out from a departing train car as a man peers inside, his hand spread across the window in a gesture of goodbye.

In an uplifting Father's Day message Sunday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy posted 10 photos of parents and children set against the grim backdrop of war, praising fathers who "protect and defend the most precious."

There are scenes of childbirth, as a man and woman look toward a swaddled baby in what appears to be a hospital room where the spackled walls show scars of fighting. In another, a man lifts a child over a

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fence toward a woman with outstretched arms on a train platform.

"Being a father is a great responsibility and a great happiness," Zelenskyy wrote in English text that followed the Ukrainian on Instagram. "It is strength, wisdom, motivation to go forward and not to give up."

He urged his nation's fighters to endure for the "future of your family, your children, and therefore the whole of Ukraine."

His message came as four months of war in Ukraine appear to be straining the morale of troops on both sides, prompting desertions and rebellion against officers' orders. NATO's chief warned the fighting could drag on for "years."

"Combat units from both sides are committed to intense combat in the Donbas and are likely experiencing variable morale," Britain's defense ministry said in its daily assessment of the war.

"Ukrainian forces have likely suffered desertions in recent weeks," the assessment said, but added that "Russian morale highly likely remains especially troubled."

It said "cases of whole Russian units refusing orders and armed stand-offs between officers and their troops continue to occur."

Separately, the Ukrainian Main Intelligence Directorate released what it said were intercepted phone calls in which Russian soldiers complained about front-line conditions, poor equipment, and overall lack of personnel, according to a report by the Institute for the Study of War.

In an interview published on Sunday in the German weekly Bild am Sonntag, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said that "nobody knows" how long the war could last.

"We need to be prepared for it to last for years," he said.

He also urged allies "not to weaken support for Ukraine, even if the costs are high, not only in terms of military aid, but also because of the increase in energy and food goods prices."

In his nightly address Sunday, Zelenskyy said the week ahead would be "historic" and perhaps bring Ukraine closer to membership in the European Union. But that move could portend a more hostile response from Russia, he warned.

EU leaders recommended Friday that Ukraine join the bloc, and their proposal was to go to members for discussion this week in Brussels. Zelenskyy called the outcome of those talks one of the most fateful moments for Ukraine since independence from the Soviet Union in 1991.

"I am sure that only a positive decision meets the interests of the whole of Europe," he said.

"In such a week we should expect greater hostile activity from Russia," he added. "And not only against Ukraine, but also against Europe. We are preparing."

In recent days, Gazprom, the Russian gas company, has reduced supplies to two major European clients — Germany and Italy. In Italy's case, energy officials are expected to huddle this week about the situation. The head of Italian energy giant ENI said on Saturday that with additional gas purchased from other sources, Italy should make it through the coming winter, but he warned Italians that "restrictions" affecting gas use might be necessary.

Germany will limit the use of gas for electricity production amid concerns about possible shortages caused by a reduction in supplies from Russia, the country's economy minister said on Sunday. Germany has been trying to fill its gas storage facilities to capacity ahead of the cold winter months.

Economy Minister Robert Habeck said that Germany will try to compensate for the move by increasing the burning of coal, a more polluting fossil fuel. "That's bitter, but it's simply necessary in this situation to lower gas usage," he said.

Stoltenberg stressed, though, that "the costs of food and fuel are nothing compared with those paid daily by the Ukrainians on the front line."

Stoltenberg added: What's more, if Russian President Vladimir Putin should reach his objectives in Ukraine, like when he annexed Crimea in 2014, "we would have to pay an even greater price."

Britain's defense ministry said that both Russia and Ukraine have continued to conduct heavy artillery bombardments on axes to the north, east and south of the Sieverodonetsk pocket, but with little change in the front line.

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Luhansk governor Serhiy Haidai said via Telegram on Sunday: "It is a very difficult situation in Sievierodonetsk, where the enemy in the middle of the city is conducting round-the-clock aerial reconnaissance with drones, adjusting fire, quickly adjusting to our changes."

Russia's defense ministry claimed on Sunday that Russian and separatist forces have taken control of Metolkine, a settlement just to the east of Sievierodonetsk.

Bakhmut, a city in the Donbas, is 55 kilometers (33 miles) southwest of the twin cities of Lysyhansk and Siervierodonetsk, where fierce military clashes have been raging. Every day, Russian artillery pummels Bakhmut.

But Bakhmut's people try to go about their daily lives, including shopping in markets that have opened again in recent weeks.

"In principle, it can be calm in the morning," said one resident, Oleg Drobelnnikov. "The shelling starts at about 7 or 8 in the evening." Still, he said, it has been pretty calm in the last 10 days or so.

"You can buy food at small farmer markets," said Drobelnnikov, a teacher. "It is not a problem. In principle, educational institutions, like schools or kindergartens, are not working due to the situation. The institutions moved to other regions. There is no work here."

Ukraine's east has been the main focus of Russia's attacks for more than two months.

On Saturday, Zelenskyy made a trip south from Kyiv to visit troops and hospital workers in the Mykolaiv and Odesa regions along the Black Sea. He handed out awards to dozens of people at every stop, shaking their hands and thanking them again and again for their service.

Zelenskyy, in a recorded address aboard a train back to Kyiv, vowed to defend the country's south.

"We will not give away the south to anyone. We will return everything that's ours and the sea will be Ukrainian and safe."

He added: "Russia does not have as many missiles as our people have a desire to live."

Zelenskyy also condemned the Russian blockade of Ukraine's ports amid weeks of inconclusive negotiations on safe corridors so millions of tons of siloed grain can be shipped out before the approaching new harvest season.

In other attacks in the south, Ukraine's southern military operational command said Sunday that two people were killed in shelling of the Galitsyn community in the Mykolaiv region and that shelling of the Bashtansky district is continuing.

Russia's defense ministry said seaborne missiles destroyed a plant in Mykolaiv city where Western-supplied howitzers and armored vehicles were stored.

British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has expressed concerns "that a bit of Ukraine fatigue is starting to set in around the world."

"It would be a catastrophe if Putin won. He'd love nothing more than to say, 'Let's freeze this conflict, let's have a cease-fire,'" Johnson said on Saturday, a day after a surprise visit to Kyiv, where he met with Zelenskyy and offered offer continued aid and military training.

Western-supplied heavy weapons are reaching front lines. But Ukraine's leaders have insisted for weeks that they need more arms, and sooner.

Macron alliance projected to lose parliamentary majority

By SYLVIE CORBET and THOMAS ADAMSON Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — French President Emmanuel Macron's centrist alliance was projected to lose its majority despite getting the most seats in the final round of parliamentary elections Sunday, while the far-right National Rally appeared to have made big gains.

The projections, which are based on partial results, say Macron's candidates would win between 230 and 250 seats — much less than the 289 required to have a straight majority at the National Assembly, France's most powerful house of parliament.

The situation, which is highly unusual in France, is expected to make Macron's political maneuvering difficult if the projections are borne out.

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A new coalition — made up of the hard left, the Socialists and the Greens — is expected to become the main opposition force with about 140 to 160 seats.

The National Rally is projected to register a huge surge with potentially more than 80 seats, up from eight before. Polling was held nationwide to select the 577 members of the National Assembly.

The strong performance of both the National Rally and the leftist coalition called Nupes, led by hard-left leader Jean-Luc Mélenchon, is expected to make it harder for Macron to implement the agenda he was reelected on in May, including tax cuts and raising France's retirement age from 62 to 65.

Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne said the "unprecedented" situation "is a risk to our country faced with challenges at the national level as well as at the international scale."

"As the central force in that new Assembly ... we will work, as of tomorrow, to build an action-oriented majority," she said.

"There's no alternative but gathering to guarantee our country some stability and lead the necessary reforms," she added.

Borne, who herself won a seat in western France, suggested Macron's centrist alliance will seek to get support from lawmakers from diverse political forces to find "good compromises."

The National Rally's leader, Marine Le Pen, who lost to Macron in the presidential election, was reelected as MP in her stronghold of Hénin-Beaumont, in northern France.

"The Macron adventure has reached its end," Le Pen said. The group of National Rally lawmakers "will be by far the biggest of the history of our political family."

Acting National Rally president Jordan Bardella compared his party's showing to a "tsunami." "Tonight's message is that the French people made from Emmanuel Macron a minority president," he said on TF1 television.

"It's the electoral failure of the 'Macronie'," Mélenchon said, criticizing "a moral failure of those people who lectured everyone non-stop and said they would block the far-right, and the main result is that they reinforced it."

Macron's government will still have the ability to rule, but only by bargaining with legislators. The centrists could try to negotiate on a case by case basis with lawmakers from the center-left and from the conservative party — with the goal of preventing opposition lawmakers from being numerous enough to reject the proposed measures.

The government could also occasionally use a special measure provided by the French Constitution to adopt a law without a vote.

Government spokesperson Olivia Grégoire said on France 2 television that "we've known better evenings."

"This is a disappointing top position, but still a top position," she said.

"We are holding out a helping hand to all those who are OK to make that country move forward," she said, notably referring to The Republicans party, which is expected to have less seats than the far-right.

A similar situation happened in 1988 under Socialist President Francois Mitterrand, who then had to seek support from the Communists or the centrists to pass laws.

These parliamentary elections have once again largely been defined by voter apathy — with over half the electorate staying home.

Audrey Paillet, 19, who cast her ballot in Boussy-Saint-Antoine in southeastern Paris, was saddened that so few people turned out.

"Some people have fought to vote. It is too bad that most of the young people don't do that," she said.

Macron had made a powerfully choreographed plea to voters earlier this week from the tarmac ahead of a trip to Romania and Ukraine, warning that an inconclusive election, or hung parliament, would put the nation in danger.

"In these troubled times, the choice you'll make this Sunday is more crucial than ever," he said Tuesday, with the presidential plane waiting starkly in the background ahead of a visit to French troops stationed near Ukraine. "Nothing would be worse than adding French disorder to the world's disorder," he said.

Some voters agreed, and argued against choosing candidates on the political extremes who have been

gaining popularity. Others argued that the French system, which grants broad power to the president, should give more voice to the multi-faceted parliament and function with more checks on the presidential Elysee palace and its occupant.

"I'm not afraid to have a National Assembly that's more split up among different parties. I'm hoping for a regime that's more parliamentary and less presidential, like you can have in other countries," said Simon Nouis, an engineer voting in southern Paris.

At the Nupes' headquarters in Paris on Sunday evening, Pierre Migozzi, a leftist supporter, said the results show French politics have been rekindled.

"There is a divide between people who want to guarantee the established order (Macron), people against free-market policies who want a new world turned toward the youth (Nupes), and people who recognize themselves in the National Rally's motto of being the party of the people," he said.

The 26-year-old, who grew up in central France, expressed concern about the far-right's results, saying the National Rally "is not an answer" to the issues of France's suburbs and rural areas.

Jan. 6 committee setting its sights on Pence, Ginni Thomas

By HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Members of the House committee investigating the Capitol riot said Sunday they may subpoena former Vice President Mike Pence and are waiting to hear from Virginia "Ginni" Thomas, the wife of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, about her role in the illegal plot to overturn the 2020 election.

Lawmakers indicated they will release more evidence about Donald Trump's alleged effort to defraud supporters by fundraising off false claims of a stolen presidential election. They also pledged to provide pertinent material to the Justice Department by the end of the month for its criminal investigation. The department complained in a letter last week that the committee was complicating its investigation by not sharing transcripts from its 1,000 interviews.

"We're not taking anything off the table in terms of witnesses who have not yet testified," said Rep. Adam Schiff, who described a Pence subpoena as "certainly a possibility."

"We would still, I think, like to have several high-profile people come before our committee," said Schiff, D-Calif.

For example, the committee has been able to document most of Trump's end of his call to Pence on the morning of the insurrection on Jan. 6, 2021, when the then-president made his final plea for Pence to stop the certification of Joe Biden's victory when Pence presided over the Electoral College count in Congress. Members have not yet documented directly what Pence said in response.

The committee chairman, Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., recently said the committee was still "engaging" with Pence's lawyers, while also suggesting it may not be necessary for him to appear because of testimony from many of Pence's closest aides.

Committee members also hope to learn more about Ginni Thomas' own effort to keep Trump in office and the potential conflicts of interest posed on her husband as a result on Jan. 6 cases that come before the Supreme Court.

Republican state Rep. Rusty Bowers, the Arizona House speaker, is scheduled to testify at the committee's hearing Tuesday focusing on state officials who were contacted by Trump and the White House as Trump tried to overturn the results. Bowers is likely to be asked about emails he received from Thomas urging him and other state officials to set aside Biden's 2020 win and choose their own set of electors.

"We have questions for her and we may have questions for him as well," said Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-Calif.

Thomas has publicly indicated that she "can't wait" to appear before the committee after receiving their request by letter last week.

Along with emailing Arizona officials, Thomas, who attended a rally Trump held just before the Capitol riot, also had written to then-White House chief of staff Mark Meadows in the weeks after the election encouraging him to work to overturn Biden's victory. Emails recently obtained by the committee also show

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Thomas had email communications with John Eastman, the lawyer who played a key role on behalf of Trump in efforts to pressure Pence to overturn the election.

"I think the committee will be interested, in among other things, whether this was discussed with Justice Thomas, given that he was ruling on cases impacting whether we would get some of this information," Schiff said.

This past January, Thomas was the lone member of the court who supported a bid by Trump to withhold documents from the Jan 6. committee.

Lofgren said the committee would release additional evidence it has gathered on the "big rip off," in which the committee alleges Trump may have committed fraud by fundraising by making a false claim the election was stolen.

Rep. Adam Kinzinger, R-Ill., said that in the end, the public will have a clear picture of a "failure of the oath" by Trump.

"I think what we're presenting before the American people certainly would rise to a level of criminal involvement by a president," he said.

Kinzinger also said that he and his family have received threats because of his role on the committee. He spoke of his concern that "there's violence in the future. ... And until we get a grip on telling people the truth, we can't expect any differently."

Schiff appeared on CNN's "State of the Union," Lofgren was on CBS' "Face the Nation" and Kinzinger spoke on ABC's "This Week."

Gennady Burbulis, top Yeltsin aide and official, dies at 76

MOSCOW (AP) — Gennady Burbulis, a top aide to Russian President Boris Yeltsin who helped prepare and sign the 1991 pact that led to the formal breakup of the Soviet Union, has died. He was 76.

As secretary of state and first deputy chairman of the government from 1991-1992, Burbulis was instrumental in steering the new, post-Soviet Russian state.

With Yeltsin, he was a signatory for Russia to the agreement reached on Dec. 8, 1991, with the leaders of Ukraine and Belarus to disband the Soviet Union. The pact was signed in the Belovezha forest, in what is now Belarus.

Burbulis is the third key player to the agreement who has died in the past several weeks. Former Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk and former Belarusian President Stanislav Shushkevich both died in May.

The hopes of peaceful coexistence among the three former Soviet republics have been dashed since Russia's military operation in Ukraine began in February. Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a televised address then that the Soviet collapse followed "historic, strategic mistakes" by Communist leaders.

Burbulis died in Baku, where he had flown for a conference.

"He was not sick, he felt great, and he just took part in the IX Global Baku Forum, which discussed the issue of the 'Threat to the Global World Order,'" his press secretary, Andrey Markov, told the Interfax news agency.

Burbulis was born on Aug. 4, 1945, in Pervouralsk. He aided Yeltsin during his rise to lead Soviet Russia in 1990 and then independent Russia in 1991, as its first president.

From 1993 to 1999, Burbulis was a member of parliament, and later was vice governor of the Novgorod region.

"Another of the key persons in the European transformation has left us. Burbulis was influential as few others in breaking with the Soviet past and trying to build a new and democratic Russia," Swedish diplomat Carl Bildt tweeted Sunday.

Bitcoin-boosting Salvadoran leader asks for patience

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — El Salvador's Bitcoin-boosting president has asked people to be patient after the price of the cryptocurrency fell below \$20,000 — less than half the price the government paid.

According to the tracking site nayibtracker.com, El Salvador under President Nayib Bukele's administra-

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tion has spent about \$105 million on Bitcoin, starting last September and paying an average of almost \$46,000 per coin.

The value of that investment in the currency, also known as "BTC," is now calculated to have fallen by over 57%, or around \$61 million.

"I see that some people are worried or anxious about the #Bitcoin market price," Bukele wrote in his Twitter account late Saturday. "My advice: stop looking at the graph and enjoy life. If you invested in #BTC your investment is safe and its value will immensely grow after the bear market."

"Patience is the key," the president wrote.

On Tuesday, when a Bitcoin publication crowed that El Salvador has lost "only" \$40 million on its investment, Bukele tweeted with apparent incredulity: "You're telling me we should buy more #BTC?"

Bukele became the first leader in the world to make the cryptocurrency legal tender last year and was a devoted booster at least up to May, when he boasted of "buying the dip" in the currency's price. But the coin has slid further since then.

Finance Minister Alejandro Zelaya sought to put a good face on the situation Wednesday in an interview with a local television station, saying that because El Salvador hasn't sold any of its Bitcoins, it hasn't really suffered any loss.

"When they tell me that El Salvador's budgetary risk has increased because of the supposed loss, that loss doesn't exist," Zelaya said. "That must be made clear, because we have not sold."

However, most companies and governments do write down the value of what accountants call an "unrealized loss," even if they don't sell the distressed asset.

Zelaya also insisted the Bitcoin slide doesn't matter very much for El Salvador, saying that "this doesn't even represent 0.5% of our budget."

That might prove a hard sell in a country where about one-fifth of the people live on less than \$5.50 per day.

In January, El Salvador rejected a recommendation by the International Monetary Fund to drop Bitcoin as legal tender.

Zelaya said at the time that "no international organization is going to make us do anything, anything at all," calling it an issue of "sovereignty."

The IMF recommended that El Salvador dissolve the \$150 million trust fund it created when it made the cryptocurrency legal tender and return any of those unused funds to its treasury.

The IMF cited concerns about the volatility of Bitcoin prices, and the possibility of criminals using the cryptocurrency.

Bukele has touted Bitcoin as a way to significantly increase financial inclusion, drawing millions of people who previously lacked bank accounts into the financial system. He has also spoken of the parallel tourism promotion targeting Bitcoin enthusiasts.

Bukele led the push to adopt Bitcoin as legal tender alongside the U.S. dollar. El Salvador's Legislative Assembly made the country the first to do so in June 2021.

Witnesses say more than 200 killed in Ethiopia ethnic attack

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Witnesses in Ethiopia said Sunday that more than 200 people, mostly ethnic Amhara, have been killed in an attack in the country's Oromia region and are blaming a rebel group, which denies it.

It is one of the deadliest such attacks in recent memory as ethnic tensions continue in Africa's second most populous country.

"I have counted 230 bodies. I am afraid this is the deadliest attack against civilians we have seen in our lifetime," Abdul-Seid Tahir, a resident of Gimbi county, told The Associated Press after barely escaping the attack on Saturday. "We are burying them in mass graves, and we are still collecting bodies. Federal army units have now arrived, but we fear that the attacks could continue if they leave."

Another witness, who gave only his first name, Shambel over fears for his safety, said the local Amhara

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community is now desperately seeking to be relocated somewhere else "before another round of mass killings happen." He said ethnic Amhara that settled in the area about 30 years ago in resettlement programs are now being "killed like chickens."

Both witnesses blamed the Oromo Liberation Army for the attacks. In a statement, the Oromia regional government also blamed the OLA, saying the rebels attacked "after being unable to resist the operations launched by (federal) security forces."

An OLA spokesman, Odaa Tarbii, denied the allegations.

"The attack you are referring to was committed by the regime's military and local militia as they retreated from their camp in Gimbi following our recent offensive," he said in a message to the AP. "They escaped to an area called Tole, where they attacked the local population and destroyed their property as retaliation for their perceived support for the OLA. Our fighters had not even reached that area when the attacks took place."

Ethiopia is experiencing widespread ethnic tensions in several regions, most of them over historical grievances and political tensions. The Amhara people, the second-largest ethnic group among Ethiopia's more than 110 million population, have been targeted frequently in regions like Oromia.

The government-appointed Ethiopian Human Rights Commission on Sunday called on the federal government find a "lasting solution" to the killing of civilians and protect them from such attacks.

'Lightyear' stays earthbound, 'Jurassic World' holds No. 1

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

"Lightyear" did not go to infinity (or beyond) in its first weekend in theaters: Pixar's first major theatrical release since March 2020 blasted off with \$51 million in its debut weekend in North America, according to studio estimates on Sunday.

Not only did it open lower than expected, but it also failed to conquer "Jurassic World: Dominion," which held on to the first-place spot with \$58.7 million its second weekend.

It is a mixed bag for Disney and Pixar as "Lightyear," an origin story about the movie that inspired the space ranger action figure in the "Toy Story" movies, is one of the biggest launches for an animated family film over the pandemic. Including international showings, which grossed \$34.6 million, "Lightyear's" global opening weekend totals to \$85.6 million.

But expectations were higher for a release this high-profile and based on a beloved, well-known character. Going into the weekend, some analysts had pegged "Lightyear" for a \$70 million North American debut.

"The expectations are always incredibly high for any Pixar movie, particularly one that has a direct connection to the Toy Story brand," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for box office tracker Comscore.

"Toy Story" launched Pixar in 1995 and its four films have made over \$3 billion. "Toy Story 3" and "Toy Story 4" also both broke the \$1 billion mark.

The family audience has proved a little more reluctant than other segments to return to movie theaters. Many studios, including Disney and Pixar, have opted for streaming or hybrid releases for their animated titles. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the company has sent its Pixar titles — "Soul," "Luca," and "Turning Red" — directly to Disney+ free for subscribers. Disney's other big animated titles, "Raya and the Last Dragon" and "Encanto" got hybrid releases.

"There may have been a little confusion about whether it's just in theaters," Dergarabedian said. "This is a movie that is going to have to be marketed in real time as family audiences connect the dots."

Critics were mostly favorable to "Lightyear," which features Chris Evans as Buzz Lightyear and a supporting voice cast that includes Keke Palmer and Taika Waititi. Directed by Angus MacLane, it currently holds a 77% critics score on Rotten Tomatoes. Audiences gave it an A- CinemaScore.

With a reported production budget of \$200 million, which doesn't account for the millions spent on marketing and promotion, "Lightyear" has a long journey ahead of it to get to profitability. But it could also have a slow, steady burn over the summer. And it's the only big family offering playing in theaters until

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"Minions: The Rise of Gru" opens July 1.

"Lightyear" opened in 4,255 locations domestically and in 43 markets overseas. Thirteen nations from the Muslim world and the Palestinian territory barred "Lightyear" from playing in their cinemas because of the inclusion of a brief kiss between a lesbian couple.

"Jurassic World: Dominion," meanwhile, has now earned over \$622.2 million worldwide with \$259.2 million of that coming from U.S. and Canadian theaters. It's only the seventh movie released during the pandemic to surpass \$600 million.

In its fourth weekend, "Top Gun: Maverick" dropped only slightly, bringing in an additional \$44 million to take third place. Its domestic total is now at \$466.2 million. Globally, the high-flying sequel has grossed over \$885 million.

Dergarabedian said it's especially notable that there are three movies made over \$40 million this weekend.

"We haven't seen that in a while," he said. "We have a summer movie season here."

Rounding out the top five are "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness" with \$4.2 million and "The Bob's Burgers Movie" with \$1.1 million.

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

1. "Jurassic World: Dominion," \$58.7 million
2. "Lightyear," \$51 million.
3. "Top Gun: Maverick," \$44 million.
4. "Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness," \$4.2 million.
5. "The Bob's Burgers Movie," \$1.1 million.
6. "The Bad Guys," \$890,000.
7. "Everything Everywhere All at Once," \$959,631.
8. "Downton Abbey: A New Era," \$830,000.
9. "Sonic the Hedgehog 2," \$228,000.
10. "Brian and Charles," \$198,000.

After writer's murder in the Amazon, can his vision survive?

By DAVID BILLER Associated Press

LVIV, Ukraine (AP) — British journalist Dom Phillips' quest to unlock the secrets of how to preserve Brazil's Amazon was cut short this month when he was killed along with a colleague in the heart of the forest he so cherished. Some of his discoveries may yet see the light of day.

Phillips in 2021 secured a yearlong fellowship with the Alicia Patterson Foundation to write a book, building on prior research. By June, he had written several chapters.

"Dom's book project was on the cutting edge of environmental reporting in Brazil. It was extremely ambitious, but he had the experience to pull it off," said Andrew Fishman, a close friend and journalist at The Intercept. "We cannot let his assassins also kill his vision."

Phillips' disappearance and then confirmed death has brought calls for justice from Brazil and abroad from actors, musicians and athletes, along with appeals for help to support his wife. Phillips would be gobsmacked to learn that his fate has troubled current and former U.K. prime ministers.

He wrote about Brazil for 15 years, in early days covering the oil industry for Platts, later freelancing for the Washington Post and New York Times then regularly contributing to The Guardian. He was versatile, but gravitated toward features about the environment as it became his passion.

Phillips often hiked in Rio de Janeiro's Tijuca Forest National Park and, atop his paddle board at Copacabana beach, was in his element: floating above the natural world and observing. He might message friends out of the blue, sharing news of spotting a ray with a 3-foot wingspan, reflecting a wonder more common among children than 57-year-old men, and he brought that spirit to his reporting.

He was curious and thorough, whether parsing studies of projected rainfall decline in the agricultural heartland caused by Amazon deforestation or tracking down the driving test administrator who discovered a man disguised as his own mother to take her exam. He recalled an editor telling him: "You spend too

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much time researching news stories.”

Among local correspondents, he earned respect for his humility as well, often sharing others’ reportage rather than tooting his own horn.

Phillips claimed the spotlight, inadvertently, during a televised press conference in July 2019. Noting rising deforestation and that the environment minister had met with loggers, Phillips asked President Jair Bolsonaro how he intended to demonstrate Brazil’s commitment to protect the Amazon region.

“First, you have to understand that the Amazon is Brazil’s, not yours, OK? That’s the first answer there,” Bolsonaro retorted. “We preserved more than the entire world. No country in the world has the moral standing to talk to Brazil about the Amazon.”

Within weeks, man-made fires ravaged the Amazon, drawing global criticism, and the clip of Bolsonaro’s testy response spread among his supporters as evidence the far-right leader wouldn’t be admonished by foreign interlopers. Phillips then received abuse, but no threats.

That didn’t stop him from attending rallies to seek the views of die-hard Bolsonaro backers. He was alarmed by Bolsonaro’s laissez-faire environmental policy, but mindful that prior leftist governments also had spotty records, often catering to agribusiness and building a massive hydroelectric dam that wrought calamitous local damage while vastly underdelivering. His allegiance was to the environment and those depending on it for survival.

Amazon deforestation has hit a 15-year high, and some climate experts warn the destruction is pushing the biome near a tipping point, after which it will begin irreversible degradation into tropical savannah.

Phillips spoke to farmers who deny climate change even as extreme weather threatens their crops. But he returned from a recent trip with spirits buoyed after meeting some reintroducing biodiversity to their land, said Rebecca Carter, his agent. After his disappearance, a video on social media showed him speaking with an Indigenous group, explaining he had come to learn how they organize and deal with threats.

“I’m grateful to have coexisted with a man who loved human beings,” his wife, Alessandra Sampaio, told the newspaper O Globo. “He didn’t speak of villains. He didn’t want to demonize anyone. His mission was to clarify the complexities of the Amazon.”

Phillips was also a crisp writer with an ear for readability. A 2018 story for The Guardian had one of journalism’s most dramatic introductions:

“Wearing just shorts and flip-flop as he squats in the mud by a fire, Bruno Pereira, an official at Brazil’s government Indigenous agency, cracks open the boiled skull of a monkey with a spoon and eats its brains for breakfast as he discusses policy.”

Phillips described his 17-day voyage with Pereira through the remote Javari Valley Indigenous territory at that time as “physically the most grueling thing I have ever done.” This June, he was with Pereira in the same region — it was to be one of his final reporting trips for his book — when they were killed together.

Three suspects are in custody, and police say one confessed. Pereira had previously busted people fishing illegally within the Indigenous territory and received threats.

Phillips, meanwhile, also had been preoccupied with risks to his professional future, betting on a book with wallet-wilting travel costs and praying it would resonate. He had set aside newspaper work to focus on it.

“I’m a freelancer with nothing but a book in my life and not even enough to live on next year while I write it,” he told the AP in a private exchange in September. “Not so much all the eggs in the same basket as the entire hen house.”

He and Sampaio had moved to the northeastern city of Salvador. He was charged up by the change of scene and teaching English to children from poor communities. They had begun the process to adopt a child.

Sampaio told the AP that she doesn’t know what will become of her husband’s book, but she and his siblings want it published — whether only the four chapters already written or including others completed with outside help. Phillips’ optimistic message — that the Amazon can be preserved, with the right actions — could still reach the world.

“We would very much like to find a way to honor the important and essential work Dom was doing,” Margaret Stead, his publisher at Manilla Press, wrote in an email.

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The book's title was "How to Save the Amazon." Bolsonaro has bristled at the idea it needs rescue, saying some 80% of Brazil's portion remains intact and offering to fly foreign dignitaries over its vast abundance. But Phillips knew the view is different from the forest floor; big hardwood trees have been logged to scarcity in many seemingly pristine areas. His companions traveling through the Javari Valley celebrated when coming upon one.

"The Amazon is much less pristine and protected than most people think it is and much more threatened than people realize," he wrote to the AP in September.

He noted, with a hint of intrigue, that he recently visited a preserved area of virgin forest full of massive trees. Places like that, he said, were usually inaccessible.

And where is that hallowed ground?

"You can read it in the book," he wrote, "when it comes out."

Justices seem poised to hear elections case pressed by GOP

By MARK SHERMAN and GARY D. ROBERTSON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court seems poised to take on a new elections case being pressed by Republicans that could increase the power of state lawmakers over races for Congress and the presidency, as well as redistricting, and cut state courts out of the equation.

The issue has arisen repeatedly in cases from North Carolina and Pennsylvania, where Democratic majorities on the states' highest courts have invoked voting protections in their state constitutions to frustrate the plans of Republican-dominated legislatures.

Already, four conservative Supreme Court justices have noted their interest in deciding whether state courts, finding violations of their state constitutions, can order changes to federal elections and the once-a-decade redrawing of congressional districts. The Supreme Court has never invoked what is known as the independent state legislature doctrine, although three justices advanced it in the Bush v. Gore case that settled the 2000 presidential election.

"The issue is almost certain to keep arising until the Court definitively resolves it," Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote in March.

It only takes four of the nine justices to agree to hear a case. A majority of five is needed for an eventual decision.

Many election law experts are alarmed by the prospect that the justices might seek to reduce state courts' powers over elections.

"A ruling endorsing a strong or muscular reading of the independent state legislature theory would potentially give state legislatures even more power to curtail voting rights and provide a pathway for litigation to subvert the election outcomes expressing the will of the people," law professor Richard Hasen wrote in an email.

But if the justices are going to get involved, Hasen said, "it does make sense for the Court to do it outside the context of an election with national implications."

The court could say as early as Tuesday, or perhaps the following week, whether it will hear an appeal filed by North Carolina Republicans. The appeal challenges a state court ruling that threw out the congressional districts drawn by the General Assembly that made GOP candidates likely victors in 10 of the state's 14 congressional districts.

The North Carolina Supreme Court held that the boundaries violated state constitution provisions protecting free elections and freedoms of speech and association by handicapping voters who support Democrats.

The new map that eventually emerged and is being used this year gives Democrats a good chance to win six seats, and possibly a seventh in a new toss-up district.

Pennsylvania's top court also selected a map that Republicans say probably will lead to the election of more Democrats, as the two parties battle for control of the U.S. House in the midterm elections in November. An appeal from Pennsylvania also is waiting, if the court for some reason passes on the North Carolina case.

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Nationally, the parties fought to a draw in redistricting, which leaves Republicans positioned to win control of the House even if they come up just short of winning a majority of the national vote.

If the GOP does well in November, the party also could capture seats on state supreme courts, including in North Carolina, that might allow for the drawing of more slanted maps that previous courts rejected. Two court seats held by North Carolina Democrats are on the ballot this year and Republicans need to win just one to take control of the court for the first time since 2017.

In their appeal to the nation's high court, North Carolina Republicans wrote that it is time for the Supreme Court to weigh in on the elections clause in the U.S. Constitution, which gives each state's legislature the responsibility to determine "the times, places and manner" of holding congressional elections.

"Activist judges and allied plaintiffs have proved time and time again that they believe state courts have the ultimate say over congressional maps, no matter what the U.S. Constitution says," North Carolina Senate leader Phil Berger said when the appeal was filed in March.

The Supreme Court generally does not disturb state court rulings that are rooted in state law.

But four Supreme Court justices — Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch and Kavanaugh — have said the court should step in to decide whether state courts had improperly taken powers given by the U.S. Constitution to state lawmakers.

That was the argument that Thomas and two other conservative justices put forward in *Bush v. Gore*, although that case was decided on other grounds.

If the court takes up the North Carolina case and rules in the GOP's favor, North Carolina Republicans could draw new maps for 2024 elections with less worry that the state Supreme Court would strike them down.

Defenders of state court involvement argue that state lawmakers would also gain the power to pass provisions that would suppress voting, subject only to challenge in federal courts. Delegating power to election boards and secretaries of state to manage federal elections in emergencies also could be questioned legally, some scholars said.

"Its adoption would radically change our elections," Ethan Herenstein and Tom Wolf, both with the Brennan Center's Democracy Program at the New York University Law School, wrote earlier this month.

Yellen: Recession not inevitable, gas tax holiday weighed

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

REHOBOTH BEACH, Del. (AP) — Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Sunday that she expects the U.S. economy to slow in the months ahead, but that a recession is not inevitable.

Yellen offered a dose of optimism even as economists grow increasingly worried about a recession fueled by skyrocketing inflation and the Russian invasion of Ukraine.

She also expressed an openness, during an interview on ABC's "This Week," to a federal gas tax holiday to help give motorists some relief at the pump. Several lawmakers have floated the idea as the average price of gasoline hovers around \$5 per gallon; the tax is 18.4 cents per gallon.

"That's an idea that's certainly worth considering," Yellen said when asked if the administration is weighing it. She added that President Joe Biden wants "to do anything he possibly can to help consumers." And Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm said "it's one of the tools," but told CNN's "State of the Union" that "part of the challenge with the gas tax, of course, is that it funds the roads."

Yellen said overall consumer spending in the United States remains strong, while noting that spending patterns are changing, given the impact of rising food and energy prices. Yellen said household savings during the coronavirus pandemic will help sustain spending.

The national saving rate has fallen to about 6%, below pre-pandemic levels, after reaching 16.6% in 2020, the highest on record dating to 1948, and 12.7% in 2021.

"I expect the economy to slow," Yellen said. "It's been growing at a very rapid rate and the economy has recovered and we have achieved full employment. We expect a transition to steady and stable growth, but I don't think a recession is at all inevitable."

Yellen echoed Biden's optimism in the face of economic headwinds. Biden in an interview with The Associated Press last week insisted that a recession is "not inevitable" and made the case that U.S. is "in a stronger position than any nation in the world to overcome this inflation."

Disagreeing with the assessment from Biden and Yellen, former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers told NBC's "Meet the Press" that in his estimation, "the dominant probability would be that by the end of next year we would be seeing a recession in the American economy."

The Federal Reserve on Wednesday approved its largest interest rate increase in more than a quarter-century to stem a surge in inflation. The move raised the target federal funds rate by three-quarters of a percentage point to a range of between 1.5% and 1.75%

The tightening of monetary policy was accompanied by a downgrade to the Fed's economic outlook, with the economy now seen slowing to a below-trend 1.7% rate of growth this year, unemployment rising to 3.7% by the end of this year and continuing to rise to 4.1% through 2024.

Yellen said it will take "skill and luck" to bring down inflation while maintaining low unemployment. "I believe it's possible," she said.

Inflation taking bite out of new infrastructure projects

By DAVID A. LIEB and MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

The price of a foot of water pipe in Tucson, Arizona: up 19%. The cost of a ton of asphalt in a small Massachusetts town: up 37%. The estimate to build a new airport terminal in Des Moines, Iowa: 69% higher, with a several year delay.

Inflation is taking a toll on infrastructure projects across the U.S., driving up costs so much that state and local officials are postponing projects, scaling back others and reprioritizing their needs.

The price hikes already are diminishing the value of a \$1 trillion infrastructure plan President Joe Biden signed into law just seven months ago. That law had included, among other things, a roughly 25% increase in regular highway program funding for states.

"Those dollars are essentially evaporating," said Jim Tymon, executive director of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. "The cost of those projects is going up by 20%, by 30%, and just wiping out that increase from the federal government that they were so excited about earlier in the year."

In Casper, Wyoming, the low bid to rebuild a major intersection and construct a new bridge over the North Platte River came in at \$35 million this spring — 55% over a state engineer's estimate. The bid was rejected and the project delayed as state officials re-evaluate their options.

"If this inflation keeps the way it is, we will have to roll projects from one year into the next, into the next, into the next," said Mark Gillett, chief engineer of the Wyoming Department of Transportation.

Gillett had hoped the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act would finance a boom in highway and bridge construction.

"But it's just not going to go as far as we had hoped," he said.

In addition to roads, the federal infrastructure bill includes billions of dollars for water projects, railways, airports, broadband internet, electric grids and green-energy projects over the coming years.

Inflation has affected the entire U.S. economy, posing one of Biden's biggest challenges during a midterm election year. Fuel, food and housing costs all have shot up. Consumer prices surged 8.6% in May over last year, the highest rate since 1981, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

Prices for some key materials in infrastructure construction have risen even more. Prices paid to U.S. manufacturers of asphalt paving and tar mixtures were up 14% in May compared to last year, according to data from the Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. Prices for fabricated steel plate, used in bridges, were up 23%, and ductile iron pipes and fittings — used by water systems — were nearly 25% higher.

The hikes are being driven by a variety of factors, including worldwide supply-chain backlogs, strong consumer and business spending in the U.S., Russia's invasion of Ukraine — and, some argue, federal energy and fiscal policies.

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U.S. Rep. Sam Graves, the ranking minority member on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, contends the infrastructure law itself is contributing to inflation by pouring more federal money into an economy already flush with trillions of dollars in federal pandemic aid.

"They are borrowing more money so they can spend more money, (which) is driving inflation, which is cutting down on the projects that they're actually wanting to do," said Graves, a Missouri Republican who voted against the infrastructure bill.

White House senior adviser Mitch Landrieu said the infrastructure law "actually positions us for lowering costs for families in the short- and long-term." He pointed, among other things, to made-in America requirements for steel, iron and other construction materials that could strengthen supply chains and thus lower costs.

Officials at Des Moines International Airport were counting on the federal infrastructure money to replace an aging terminal with a modern structure. Four years ago, a new 14-gate terminal was projected to cost about \$434 million and be open by 2026. By this spring, the cost had soared to \$733 million.

That's more than the airport can afford, even with the federal aid. So officials are planning to break the project into phases, building just five new gates by 2026 at a cost of \$411 million.

"If inflation continues, it may be a decade before the project gets completely done," airport Executive Director Kevin Foley said.

Other projects also have been rocked by inflationary price hikes.

Since voters approved a property tax increase in 2020, the estimated cost of building two light rail lines and a tunnel through Austin, Texas, has gone from \$5.8 billion to \$10.3 billion. Doubling the tunnel length was a big factor. But inflation and surging real estate prices also fueled the increase, forcing officials to consider cutting costs or lengthening the time frame for completing the project.

"It's been a challenge," said David Couch, chief program officer at the Austin Transit Partnership.

Low bids for a series of bridge repairs along Interstate 55 in St. Louis came in at \$63 million this year, 57% over the budgeted amount. Overall, Missouri's highway construction costs for the fiscal year ending in June were \$139 million over budget — an 11% increase that marked a "pretty significant swing" from several under-budget years, said state Department of Transportation Director Patrick McKenna.

Though Missouri forged ahead with this year's projects, inflation "will take a bite out of the future," McKenna said.

Inflation has carried more immediate consequence in some places.

When bids for a road project in Lansing, Michigan, came in 60% above estimates, the city rebid the project and cut its scope in half, said Andrew Kilpatrick, public service director and acting city engineer.

In Huntington, Massachusetts, a 1.5-mile stretch of road won't be finished this year after a 37% spike in the price of liquid asphalt increased the cost for paving a mile to about \$140,000. The town gets \$159,000 annually in state funding for its roads, highway superintendent Charles Dazelle said.

"Right now, one mile of road, that's one year. That is doing nothing else," Dazelle said.

Public water systems across the country also are straining under inflation.

When Tucson, Arizona, launched the first part of a four-phase water main replacement project in September 2020, ductile iron pipe cost \$75-a-foot and a gate valve cost \$3,000. When it bid the most recent phase this spring, pipe costs had risen to nearly \$90-a-foot and gate valves to nearly \$4,100. The city is now prioritizing what other projects it can afford, and which ones have to wait.

"To sum it up, we're doing less work for the same amount of money," said Tucson's chief water engineer, Scott Schladweiler.

The city of Tacoma, Washington, also is altering some of its planned water main replacements because of rising costs.

"Some of them are getting delayed, some of them are being reduced in scope, and it's forcing us to re-evaluate some of the budgets that we've set forth," said Ali Polda, principal engineer in the city's water department.

Residents in a neighborhood west of Little Rock, Arkansas, will pay a \$146 monthly surcharge to Central Arkansas Water to install new water lines. The charge is 17% more than originally planned because of

spikes in construction costs.

Other public utilities also will have to choose between scaling back work and passing along costs to customers, said Michael Arceneaux, acting CEO of the Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies.

"In the end, it's going to be the rate payers that suffer," he said, "because the projects have to get done, and funding will have to come from the rate payers."

GOP hopes to carry Virginia success into US House races

By SARAH RANKIN Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — A GOP sweep of Virginia's 2021 statewide elections — and particularly Gov. Glenn Youngkin's win — appears to have energized the Republican field in two of the country's most competitive U.S. House races.

Tuesday's crowded Republican congressional primaries in Virginia's 2nd and 7th districts will settle who takes on centrist Democrats Elaine Luria and Abigail Spanberger in November's general elections, which in turn could help determine which party controls the U.S. House.

Virginia Republicans like their chances. Along with the party's resurgence last fall, a redistricting process that refashioned Virginia's congressional maps and a national political environment viewed as highly unfavorable to the party in power are also seen as factors that have led to vigorous GOP competition for the seats.

"The climate is so god-awful for Democrats. I mean, it's the worst maybe since 2010, maybe even worse. Republicans feel very emboldened," said John Whitbeck, a former Republican Party of Virginia chairman.

Virginia's unusual off-year 2021 statewide elections were closely watched as an early indication of what this year's midterms could portend. Along with flipping all three statewide offices, Republicans also took control of the state House, animating the state's Republicans after a nearly decadelong stretch of stinging losses.

For comparison's sake, in 2018 when Whitbeck stepped down from his role, Republicans had 14 candidates competing in four nomination contests. This year, the party had 37 candidates competing in eight districts.

Republicans opted to settle several other nomination contests — including an 11-way fight to run for a Democratic-leaning northern Virginia district — in party-run processes in May.

The 2nd and 7th districts will be closely watched, with general elections in both considered a tossup by the nonpartisan Cook Political Report.

In the coastal 2nd District, which includes the state's most populous city, Virginia Beach, four candidates are seeking the GOP nomination to take on Luria.

A retired Navy commander who's cultivated a congressional identity as a centrist, Luria is serving on the Jan. 6 committee investigating the 2021 attack on the Capitol. Luria flipped the district under its previous competitive boundaries in 2018. Under its new boundaries, Youngkin won it by more than 11 points, according to an analysis by the nonpartisan Virginia Public Access Project.

Her four potential opponents are all veterans as well. They include Tommy Altman, a Virginia Beach tattoo shop owner; Andy Baan, a former prosecutor who retired as a captain from the Navy; and Jarome Bell, a retired Navy chief petty officer who calls himself the "MAGA candidate." The three men appear to face an uphill climb against state Sen. Jen Kiggans, a nurse practitioner and Navy veteran who has served in the state legislature since 2020 and has a hefty fundraising lead, plus the backing of the Congressional Leadership Fund, a super PAC dedicated to electing House Republicans.

In an entirely rebooted 7th Congressional District, which shifted away from the Richmond suburbs and now covers a stretch between Charlottesville and the Washington suburbs, the GOP nomination fight to compete against Spanberger appears more wide open. A former CIA officer, Spanberger also flipped a competitive GOP-held seat in 2018 and is now competing under lines that Youngkin would have won, according to Virginia Public Access Project's analysis.

Bryce Reeves, who has served in the state legislature since 2012 and previously ran for statewide office, got into the race with plenty of name recognition. He's facing a challenge from Derrick Anderson, a for-

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mer Green Beret who has nearly kept pace in fundraising, and Yesli Vega, a local elected official with law enforcement experience who's picked up high-profile endorsements. Also in the race are Crystal Vanuch and David Ross, who serve on local boards of supervisors, and Gina Ciarcia, an educator who has trailed the pack in fundraising.

Monica Robinson, a spokesperson for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, said the Republican candidates had spent months running to the right.

"The only thing these candidates have shown is that they are too extreme to survive a general election against two of the strongest women in congress," she said.

Jimmy Frost, 57, a Lowe's salesman who's active in Virginia Beach Republican politics, said he thinks the nation's problems — which he blames on Democrats — helped feed the long list of Republican candidates.

Frost, who said he's backing Bell because he thinks he will tell constituents the "unvarnished truth," said Luria should be ready to face voters who are angry.

"Their kids can't find (baby) formula for their grandkids. They can't afford gasoline to get their kids where they need to go. They don't know how much it's going to cost to go to the grocery store — today or next week. They don't know what interest rates are going to do. There's a lot of people who are walking around going, 'Oh my God, what's next?'" he said.

Without a primary challenge of their own, Spanberger and Luria will almost certainly start the general election season with enormous fundraising leads. Luria reported nearly \$3.4 million cash on hand June 1; Spanberger reported \$4.3 million.

Youngkin hasn't endorsed in either race, nor has Trump, whose false claims of massive voter fraud in the 2020 election have continued to percolate through both primaries.

Bell has called for executing anyone involved in what he claims is widespread fraud. Kiggans recently declined to say in a New York Times interview whether she believed President Joe Biden had won. And no candidate but Bell responded to Virginia Public Media queries about whether they would have voted to certify the 2020 results (he said he would not).

In May, the Democratic Party of Virginia released a video highlighting every 7th District candidate but Vanuch being asked about the violent Jan. 6 assault on the Capitol — each declined to call it an insurrection.

Tom Davis, a former U.S. congressman from northern Virginia who has endorsed Vega, said he doubted whether Jan. 6-focused messaging would resonate in the general election at a time when voters are facing historic inflation and a tanking stock market.

"I'm not saying it's unimportant. I'm just saying voters don't seem to be that interested in it," he said.

DC mayor's race reflects Democratic dilemma over policing

By ASHRAF KHALIL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Mayor Muriel Bowser cruised to reelection in the nation's capital four years ago without serious opposition, and as the city enjoyed prosperous times, the main criticism of her policies was that Washington was growing too quickly, driving up housing costs and pricing out Black residents in an uncontrolled gentrification wave.

One tumultuous term later, and with homicide and violent crime rates spiraling, Bowser finds herself in a reelection fight, fending off two challengers from the District of Columbia Council who accuse her of mishandling public safety issues and criticize her push to hire more police officers.

Against the backdrop of mass shootings around the country, the mayoral campaign reflects a wider dynamic playing out in longtime Democratic strongholds, with progressives facing off against party traditionalists over crime.

"Call it sky blue vs. Tar Heel blue," said Michael Fauntroy, an associate professor of policy and government at George Mason University. "People have an anxiousness around crime. There's no question about that."

This ideological push-pull is taking place under the watchful eye of Republican politicians eager to claim that Democrats cannot control or protect their own cities. The winner of Tuesday's primary is the prohibitive favorite in the November general election.

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Crime and public safety have dominated the campaign. Homicides have risen for four years straight, and the 2021 murder count of 227 was the highest since 2003. In January, a candidate for the D.C. Council, Nate Fleming, was carjacked at gunpoint.

Still, Bowser's challengers question whether adding more police is the answer.

"I don't think the police are the end-all solution for reducing crime," Councilman Trayon White said during a June 1 debate. "During the height of the crack epidemic, D.C. had 5,000-plus police officers, and it never decreased any crime."

Councilman Robert White also criticized Bowser's crime prevention proposals: "I haven't heard the short-term (solution), and I haven't heard a plan, either."

Bowser is campaigning on her experience and leadership as the city emerges from the pandemic and on her history as one of the faces of Washington's ongoing quest for statehood. She blames the D.C. Council, including her challengers, of hamstringing her efforts to rein in crime.

"I've never been to a community where they said they didn't want the police. Never," Bowser, 49, said in a radio debate last month. "We need the police that we need."

Chuck Thies, a longtime district political consultant, identifies a turning point as the wave of protest and upheaval in the summer of 2020 after George Floyd's death in police custody. Some mass protests in Washington and elsewhere turned destructive, while calls to defund the police became more vocal in Democratic circles.

Thies, who is not affiliated with any of the mayoral candidates, said the public safety debate "is going to continue to play out. For Democrats, it's quite awkward."

A Washington Post poll from February found that 30% of city residents said they did not feel safe from crime in their neighborhood, compared with 22% in 2019, and the highest percentage in two decades of polling. Asked to name in an open-ended question the biggest issue facing the district for the mayor to work on, 36% of residents mentioned crime, violence or guns, significantly ahead of housing, poverty or transportation.

Concerns about crime have weighed on other Democratic candidates in local races elsewhere.

In New York City, a former police captain, Eric Adams, was elected mayor last year on a law and order platform. In Atlanta, Keisha Lance Bottoms abruptly announced in May 2021 that she would not seek a second term as mayor, after crime and police brutality issues left her caught between activists and a police department in semi-revolt.

In San Francisco, District Attorney Chesa Boudin was recalled earlier this month after just 18 months amid public outcry over rising crime rates.

Fauntroy said the unique nature of California's system, where freshly elected politicians can face immediate well-funded recalls, makes him reluctant to "draw any conclusions nationally."

But Ron Lester, a prominent Democratic pollster who worked with the late Washington Mayor Marion Barry, said Boudin's loss showed the level of public anxiety over crime amid longtime Democratic constituents.

"Voters did not have confidence that (Boudin) was adequately prosecuting crimes," he said.

Lester said Adams' win in New York "vividly demonstrates that people are not supportive, largely, of defund the police."

Bowser has walked a public tightrope on policing for years. Local activists including those with Black Lives Matter have long derided her as hopelessly biased toward the police. Former President Donald Trump and other conservatives have tried to make the case that she is not supportive enough of law enforcement.

In the early days of the summer 2020 protests, Bowser publicly sided with the demonstrators as Trump usurped local authority and called in a massive federal security response. She responded by renaming the protest epicenter as Black Lives Matter Plaza and commissioned a mural with Black Lives Matter painted on a stretch of 16th Street, one block from the White House, in giant yellow letters.

The local BLM affiliate immediately dismissed it as "a performative distraction" from true policy changes, and activists hijacked the space to make their own point.

The original mural bore a yellow outline of the district's flag — two horizontal lines topped by three stars. Within days, activists had erased the stars to create the appearance of an equal sign and added their own

message, turning the mural into "Black Lives Matter=Defund The Police."

Fauntroy, the George Mason professor, described Bowser as "not really activist-oriented. She's a manager, and managers try to keep the trains moving."

Despite the public pressure, Bowser has largely stood by her police department, fighting public battles with the D.C. Council over the police budget. She quietly replaced an older white police chief with a younger Black successor and is pushing for money to build up Metropolitan Police Department staffing, currently at 3,500, to 4,000 officers over the next decade. A few days before the primary, she announced a \$20,000 hiring bonus to help recruit more police officers.

In April, the D.C. Council's judiciary committee slashed Bowser's latest budget proposal to hire more officers. Neither of her challengers serves on that committee.

Robert White, 40, has a history of successful insurgent campaigns, having unseated an entrenched incumbent for an at-large D.C. Council seat in 2016. He has proposed tackling crime through a massive public and private youth jobs program that Bowser derides as unsustainable.

Trayon White, 38, openly invokes the spirit of Barry, the former mayor and councilmember who remains a controversial but beloved figure among many Washingtonians. A onetime grassroots community activist, White was a protégé of Barry's and now represents Ward 8, as Barry did. It's the city's poorest and most crime-ridden ward.

Trayon White, who was accused of antisemitism in 2018 after saying a prominent Jewish family was controlling the weather in Washington, has opposed Bowser's bids to hire more police officers and favors community violence intervention programs, something he says Bowser was slow to embrace.

US opens COVID vaccine to little kids; shots begin this week

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The U.S. on Saturday opened COVID-19 vaccines to infants, toddlers and preschoolers.

The shots will become available this week, expanding the nation's vaccination campaign to children as young as 6 months.

Advisers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended the vaccines for the littlest children, and the final signoff came hours later from Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the agency's director.

"We know millions of parents and caregivers are eager to get their young children vaccinated, and with today's decision, they can," Walensky said in a statement.

While the Food and Drug Administration approves vaccines, it's the CDC that decides who should get them.

The shots offer young children protection from hospitalization, death and possible long-term complications that are still not clearly understood, the CDC's advisory panel said.

The government has already been gearing up for the vaccine expansion, with millions of doses ordered for distribution to doctors, hospitals and community health clinics around the country.

Roughly 18 million kids will be eligible, but it remains to be seen how many will ultimately get the vaccines. Less than a third of children ages 5 to 11 have done so since vaccination opened up to them last November.

Here are some things to know:

WHAT KINDS ARE AVAILABLE?

Two brands — Pfizer and Moderna — got the green light Friday from the FDA and Saturday from the CDC. The vaccines use the same technology but are being offered at different dose sizes and number of shots for the youngest kids.

Pfizer's vaccine is for children 6 months to 4 years old. The dose is one-tenth of the adult dose, and three shots are needed. The first two are given three weeks apart, and the last at least two months later.

Moderna's is two shots, each a quarter of its adult dose, given about four weeks apart for kids 6 months through 5 years old. The FDA also approved a third dose, at least a month after the second shot, for children with immune conditions that make them more vulnerable to serious illness.

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HOW WELL DO THEY WORK?

In studies, vaccinated youngsters developed levels of virus-fighting antibodies as strong as young adults, suggesting that the kid-size doses protect against coronavirus infections.

However, exactly how well they work is hard to pin down, especially when it comes to the Pfizer vaccine.

Two doses of Moderna appeared to be only about 40% effective at preventing milder infections at a time when the omicron variant was causing most COVID-19 illnesses. Pfizer presented study information suggesting the company saw 80% with its three shots. But the Pfizer data was so limited — and based on such a small number of cases — that experts and federal officials say they don't feel there is a reliable estimate yet.

SHOULD MY LITTLE ONE BE VACCINATED?

Yes, according to the CDC. While COVID-19 has been the most dangerous for older adults, younger people, including children, can also get very sick.

Hospitalizations surged during the omicron wave. Since the start of the pandemic, about 480 children under age 5 are counted among the nation's more than 1 million COVID-19 deaths, according to federal data.

"It is worth vaccinating even though the number of deaths are relatively rare, because these deaths are preventable through vaccination," said Dr. Matthew Daley, a Kaiser Permanente Colorado researcher who sits on the CDC's advisory committee.

In a statement Saturday, President Joe Biden urged parents to get them for their young children as soon as possible.

WHICH VACCINE SHOULD MY CHILD GET?

Either one, said Dr. Peter Marks, the FDA's vaccine chief.

"Whatever vaccine your health care provider, pediatrician has, that's what I would give my child," Marks said Friday.

The doses haven't been tested against each other, so experts say there's no way to tell if one is better.

One consideration: It takes roughly three months to complete the Pfizer three-shot series, but just one month for Moderna's two shots. So families eager to get children protected quickly might want Moderna.

WHO'S GIVING THE SHOTS?

Pediatricians, other primary care physicians and children's hospitals are planning to provide the vaccines. Limited drugstores will offer them for at least some of the under-5 group.

U.S. officials expect most shots to take place at pediatricians' offices. Many parents may be more comfortable getting the vaccine for their kids at their regular doctor, White House COVID-19 coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha said. He predicted the pace of vaccination will be far slower than it was for older populations.

"We're going see vaccinations ramp up over weeks and even potentially over a couple of months," Jha said.

CAN CHILDREN GET OTHER VACCINES AT THE SAME TIME?

It's common for little kids to get more than one vaccine during a doctor's visit.

In studies of the Moderna and Pfizer shots in infants and toddlers, other vaccinations were not given at the same time so there is no data on potential side effects when that happens.

But problems have not been identified in older children or adults when COVID-19 shots and other vaccinations were given together, and the CDC is advising that it's safe for younger children as well.

WHAT IF MY CHILD RECENTLY HAD COVID-19?

About three-quarters of children of all ages are estimated to have been infected at some point. For older ages, the CDC has recommended vaccination anyway to lower the chances of reinfection.

Experts have noted re-infections among previously infected people and say the highest levels of protection occur in those who were both vaccinated and previously infected.

The CDC has said people may consider waiting about three months after an infection to be vaccinated.

Today in History: June 20, Victoria takes the throne

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

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Today is Monday, June 20, the 171st day of 2022. There are 194 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 20, 1837, Queen Victoria acceded to the British throne following the death of her uncle, King William IV.

On this date:

In 1782, Congress approved the Great Seal of the United States, featuring the emblem of the bald eagle.

In 1863, West Virginia became the 35th state.

In 1893, a jury in New Bedford, Massachusetts, found Lizzie Borden not guilty of the ax murders of her father and stepmother.

In 1943, race-related rioting erupted in Detroit; federal troops were sent in two days later to quell the violence that resulted in more than 30 deaths.

In 1944, during World War II, Japanese naval forces retreated in the Battle of the Philippine Sea after suffering heavy losses to the victorious American fleet.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman vetoed the Taft-Hartley Act, which was designed to restrict the power of labor unions, but had his veto overridden by Congress. Gangster Benjamin "Bugsy" Siegel was shot dead at the Beverly Hills, California, home of his girlfriend, Virginia Hill, apparently at the order of mob associates.

In 1967, boxer Muhammad Ali was convicted in Houston of violating Selective Service laws by refusing to be drafted and was sentenced to five years in prison. (Ali's conviction was ultimately overturned by the U.S. Supreme Court).

In 1972, three days after the arrest of the Watergate burglars, President Richard Nixon met at the White House with his chief of staff, H.R. Haldeman; the secretly made tape recording of this meeting ended up with the notorious 18 1/2-minute gap.

In 1974, the film noir "Chinatown," starring Jack Nicholson and Faye Dunaway, was released by Paramount Pictures.

In 1990, South African Black nationalist Nelson Mandela and his wife, Winnie, arrived in New York City for a ticker-tape parade in their honor as they began an eight-city U.S. tour.

In 2014, the Obama administration granted an array of new benefits to same-sex couples, including those living in states where gay marriage was against the law; the new measures ranged from Social Security and veterans benefits to work leave for caring for sick spouses.

In 2016, a divided U.S. Supreme Court bolstered police powers, ruling 5-3 that evidence of a crime in some cases may be used against a defendant even if the police did something wrong or illegal in obtaining it.

Ten years ago: A Republican-controlled House committee voted along party lines, 23-17, to hold Attorney General Eric Holder in contempt of Congress for failing to turn over Justice Department documents related to Operation Fast and Furious. (The full House voted in favor of the contempt citation eight days later.) Pittsburgh Penguins center Evgeni Malkin won the Hart Trophy as the NHL's most valuable player. Painter and sketch artist LeRoy Neiman, best known for evoking the kinetic energy of the world's biggest sporting and leisure events with bright quick strokes, died in New York at age 91.

Five years ago: A runoff election between Republican Karen Handel and Democrat Jon Ossoff was held in Georgia's 6th Congressional District; Handel was declared the winner with 52 percent of the vote to Ossoff's 48. Uber CEO Travis Kalanick resigned under pressure from investors and Uber's board. Rapper Prodigy, a member of the hardcore New York hip-hop duo Mobb Deep, died in Las Vegas at age 42.

One year ago: A tornado packing 140 mph winds swept through communities in heavily populated suburban Chicago, damaging more than 100 homes and causing multiple injuries. Jon Rahm birdied the last two holes to win the U.S. Open by one shot over Louis Oosthuizen at Torrey Pines in San Diego.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Bonnie Bartlett is 93. Actor James Tolkan is 91. Movie director Stephen Frears is 81. Singer-songwriter Brian Wilson is 80. Actor John McCook is 78. Singer Anne Murray is 77. TV personality Bob Vila is 76. Musician Andre Watts is 76. Actor Candy Clark is 75. Producer Tina Sinatra is 74. R&B singer Lionel Richie is 73. Actor John Goodman is 70. Rock musician Michael Anthony is 68. Pop musician John Taylor is 62. Rock musician Mark degli Antoni (de-gee-an-toh-nee) is 60. Christian rock musician Jerome Fontamillas (Switchfoot) is 55. Actor Nicole Kidman is 55. Country/bluegrass singer-musician Dan

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Tyminski is 55. Movie director Robert Rodriguez is 54. Actor Peter Paige is 53. Actor Josh Lucas is 51. Rock musician Jeordie White (AKA Twiggy Ramirez) is 51. Rock singer Chino Moreno (Deftones) is 49. Country-folk singer-songwriter Amos Lee is 45. Country singer Chuck Wicks is 43. Actor Tika Sumpter is 42. Country musician Chris Thompson (The Eli Young Band) is 42. Actor-singer Alisan Porter is 41. U.S. Olympic beach volleyball gold medalist April Ross is 40. Christian rock musician Chris Dudley (Underoath) is 39. Rock singer Grace Potter (Grace Potter & the Nocturnals) is 39. Actor Mark Saul is 37. Actor Dreama Walker is 36. Actor Chris Mintz-Plasse (plahs) is 33. Actor Maria Lark is 25.