

Groton Daily Independent

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"IN COMPASSION, WHEN WE FEEL WITH THE OTHER, WE DETHRONE OURSELVES FROM THE CENTER OF OUR WORLD AND WE PUT ANOTHER PERSON THERE."

KAREN ARMSTRONG

Chicken Soup
for the Soul

July 13
6:30 p.m.: Legion at Mobridge, 1 game
5:00 p.m.: Jr. Legion at Mobridge, 1 game
Cancelled: U10 vs. Renegades in Watertown, DH,
(R/B)

State Legion at Gregory

August 5-7: State Jr. Legion at Clark

July 14
5:30 p.m.: Legion hosts Webster, DH
Jr. Teeners just be completed by this date
6 p.m.: U12 SB hosts Faulkton, DH
6 p.m.: U8 SB at Claremont, 1 game
7 p.m.: U10 SB at Claremont, 1 game

Jul 15-17
U10 State Tourney in Salem

July 18
6 p.m.: Jr. Legion hosts Frederick, DH

July 19-21
Legion Regions at Redfield

July 22-24
Jr. Teeners State Tourney at Hayti

July 23-24
Jr. Legion Region

July 29-Aug. 2

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.

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"Sunshine, Lollipops and Rainbows"

Wednesday, July 13 at Noon
Ladies Luncheon & Program

Silent Auction
10:30 - 11:30
Door Prizes

Ty Eschenbaum
will be the speaker

Advance tickets
required \$10.00



Call Kay Espeland 492-3507 or
Alice Jean Peterson 216-2835

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Summer Fest 2022 car show winners

Congrats to those who received trophies!

2nd Place Chevy- James Schanzenbach 1967
Chevy Camaro RS

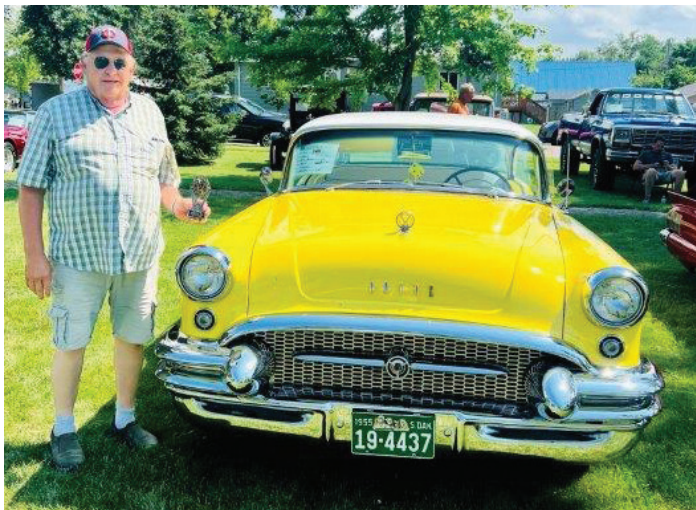
2nd Place Ford- Harvey Opitz 1964 Ford
Galaxy 500

2nd Place Youth- Dylan Anderson 1966
Chevy C10 (not pictured)

Photos courtesy of April Abeln



1st Place Youth- Ryder Daly 1998
Chevy K1500.



2nd Place Olds, Buick, Pontiac- Jim
Brakefield 1955 Buick Special.



1st Place Olds, Buick, Pontiac- Cindy
Reinbold 1964 Buick Riviera.



2nd Place Mopar- Ron Renelt 1970
Plymouth Road Runner.



1st Place Mopar- Kirby Kiesz 1970
Plymouth Duster.

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People's Choice & 1st Place Chevy- Linda Kiefer 1968 Chevy Chevelle SS 396.



2nd Place Truck- Richard Anderson 1949 Chevy 3600, Jacob Vander Vorst accepted the trophy on behalf of Richard.



Best of Show & 2nd Place Street Rod- Dawn Nordstrom, in memory of Randy Nordstrom, 1937 Ford Sedan Delivery.



1st Place Tri-5 Chevy- Dick & Wendy Neitzel 1955 Chevy 210.



1st Place Ford- Terry Haaland 1955 Ford Fairlane.

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1st Place Truck- Gary Hugget 1942 Chevy Pickup, pictured with this year's Summer Fest flier framed.



2nd Place Open- Joe & Linda Torrence 1965 Chevy Chevelle SS Convertible.



1st Place Street Rod- Mike Wiltfang 1934 Plymouth Coupe.



1st Place Open- Bob & Tammie Schweigert 1951 Henry J.

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The Groton Legion team won the Clark Rotary Tournament held last weekend. Pictured is the championship team from left to right: Head Coach Seth Erickson, Ryan Groeblichhoff, Colby Dunker, Kaleb Hoover, Bradin Althoff (MVP) Dillon Abeln, Logan Ringgenberg, Cole Simon, Tate Larson, Jackson Cogley, Andrew Marzahn, Pierce Kettering, Kaleb Antonsen, Douglas Heminger and Cade Larson. (Courtesy Photo)

Groton Post #39 Claims Victory Over FH Hitmen in Blow-Out Fashion, 10-3

Groton Legion Post #39 easily dispatched FH Hitmen 18U 10-3 on Saturday

In the first inning, Groton Legion Post #39 got their offense started. Jackson Cogley drew a walk, scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post #39 tallied four runs in the fourth inning. The offensive firepower by Groton Legion Post #39 was led by Andrew Marzahn and Cole Simon, all sending runners across the plate with RBIs in the inning.

Dillon Abeln pitched Groton Legion Post #39 to victory. Abeln lasted six innings, allowing nine hits and three runs while striking out six.

Layne Cotton took the loss for FH Hitmen 18U. The righty went four innings, allowing eight runs on five hits and striking out eight.

Groton Legion Post #39 totaled eight hits. Cade Larson and Abeln all managed multiple hits for Groton Legion Post #39. Larson went 3-for-3 at the plate to lead Groton Legion Post #39 in hits. Groton Legion Post #39 was sure-handed and didn't commit a single error. Larson made the most plays with nine. Pierce Kettering led Groton Legion Post #39 with two stolen bases, as they ran wild on the base paths with eight stolen bases.

FH Hitmen 18U tallied nine hits in the game. Peyton McDonnell and Cade Schick all had multiple hits for FH Hitmen 18U. FH Hitmen 18U didn't commit a single error in the field. August Kopecky had the most chances in the field with eight.

4-Hit Day for Althoff As Groton Legion Post #39 Skirts Past Post 911 Chargers

Bradin Althoff was in the zone on Saturday, tallying four hits and leading Groton Legion Post #39 to a 16-1 win over Post 911 Chargers. Althoff singled in the first, singled in the third, singled in the fourth, and doubled in the fourth.

Groton Legion Post #39 got on the board in the first inning. Tate Larson doubled on the first pitch of the at bat, scoring one run.

Groton Legion Post #39 scored eight runs in the fourth inning. Dillon Abeln, Ryan Groeblichhoff, Kaleb Antonsen, Pierce Kettering, and Althoff each had RBIs in the frame.

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Jackson Cogley earned the win for Groton Legion Post #39. Cogley went four innings, allowing one run on four hits and striking out three.

Jake Isakson took the loss for Post 911 Chargers. Isakson surrendered eight runs on eight hits over three innings, striking out three.

Groton Legion Post #39 totaled 14 hits. Althoff, Kettering, and Groeblichhoff each collected multiple hits for Groton Legion Post #39. Althoff went 4-for-4 at the plate to lead Groton Legion Post #39 in hits. Groton Legion Post #39 didn't commit a single error in the field. Cade Larson had four chances in the field, the most on the team.

Abeln's Walk-off Gives Groton Post #39 Victory Over Wishek/Linton/Ashley

A walk-off single propelled Groton Legion Post #39 to a decisive, dramatic victory over Wishek/Linton/Ashley, ND, 9-8. Groton Legion Post #39 was down 8-7 in the bottom of the seventh inning when Dillon Abeln singled on a 2-2 count, scoring two runs.

Groton Legion Post #39 earned the victory despite allowing Wishek/Linton/Ashley, ND to score five runs in the sixth inning. Wishek/Linton/Ashley, ND's big inning was driven by a walk by Rykan Salwei, a single by Marshall Lindgren, by Joe Fode, and an error on a ball put in play by Connor Kosiak.

Wishek/Linton/Ashley, ND fired up the offense in the first inning. Wishek/Linton/Ashley, ND scored two runs when Joe Fode doubled.

Groton Legion Post #39 knotted the game up at two in the bottom of the third inning. Cole Simon drove in one when Simon singled.

Pierce Kettering earned the win for Groton Legion Post #39. The righthander lasted one inning, allowing one hit and zero runs while striking out two and walking zero. Bradin Althoff threw one inning in relief out of the bullpen.

Rykan Salwei took the loss for Wishek/Linton/Ashley, ND. The pitcher lasted one-third of an inning, allowing three hits and three runs while striking out one and walking one.

Ryan Groeblichhoff started the game for Groton Legion Post #39. The pitcher lasted five innings, allowing seven hits and five runs while striking out seven. Joe Fode started the game for Wishek/Linton/Ashley, ND. The hurler lasted six innings, allowing four hits and two runs while striking out ten.

Groton Legion Post #39 totaled nine hits. Kettering, Kaleb Hoover, and Simon each racked up multiple hits for Groton Legion Post #39. Kettering led Groton Legion Post #39 with three hits in three at bats.

Wishek/Linton/Ashley, ND saw the ball well today, racking up nine hits in the game. Marshall Lindgren, Rykan Salwei, and Connor Kosiak all managed multiple hits for Wishek/Linton/Ashley, ND.

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FH Hitmen 18U 3 - 10 Groton Legion Post #39

📍 Home 📅 Saturday July 09, 2022

	1	2	3	4	5	6	R	H	E
FHHT	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	9	0
GRTN	3	1	0	4	2	X	10	8	0

BATTING

FH Hitmen 18U	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
P McDonnell	4	1	2	0	0	1
S Bowar (3B)	4	1	1	0	0	2
C Schick	3	0	2	1	0	0
L Cotton (P)	1	0	1	0	2	0
C Stephenson (P)	0	0	0	0	0	0
G Brueggemen	3	0	0	0	0	2
A Sorensen	1	1	0	0	1	1
A Kopecky (C)	3	0	1	0	0	0
P Geditz	3	0	1	0	0	0
B Cassens	3	0	1	1	0	0
Totals	25	3	9	2	3	6

2B: C Schick 2, **TB:** S Bowar, P McDonnell 2, P Geditz, C Schick 4, L Cotton, B Cassens, A Kopecky, **HBP:** A Sorensen, **SB:** L Cotton, **LOB:** 8

PITCHING

FH Hitmen 18	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
L Cotton	4.0	5	8	6	5	8	0
C Stephenson	1.0	3	2	2	1	0	0
Totals	5.0	8	10	8	6	8	0

L: L Cotton, **P-S:** L Cotton 95-55, C Stephenson 28-14, **HBP:** L Cotton, C Stephenson, **BF:** L Cotton 23, C Stephenson 8

Groton Legion Post	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
P Kettering (LF)	3	1	0	1	1	1
C Simon (2B)	2	1	0	0	1	1
B Althoff (1B)	3	1	1	0	0	2
T Larson (RF)	2	0	0	0	1	1
J Cogley (3B)	1	2	0	0	2	1
D Abeln (P)	3	1	2	2	0	0
R Groeblichhoff	3	0	1	1	0	1
C Larson (C)	3	0	3	0	0	0
K Hoover (SS)	3	1	1	0	0	1
A Marzahn (CF)	0	1	0	0	1	0
CR: L Ringgingberg	0	2	0	0	0	0
Totals	23	10	8	4	6	8

2B: K Hoover, C Larson 2, **TB:** K Hoover 2, D Abeln 2, B Althoff, C Larson 5, R Groeblichhoff, **HBP:** A Marzahn 2, **SB:** P Kettering 2, L Ringgingberg, A Marzahn 2, T Larson, J Cogley 2, **LOB:** 5

Groton Legion	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
D Abeln	6.0	9	3	2	3	6	0
Totals	6.0	9	3	2	3	6	0

W: D Abeln, **P-S:** D Abeln 92-64, **HBP:** D Abeln, **BF:** D Abeln 29

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Groton Legion Post #39 16 - 1 Post 911 Chargers

📍 Away 📅 Saturday July 09, 2022

	1	2	3	4	R	H	E
GRTN	1	0	7	8	16	14	0
PST9	0	0	0	1	1	4	4

BATTING

Groton Legion Post	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
P Kettering (LF)	4	2	3	2	0	0
C Simon (2B)	3	2	0	0	1	1
B Althoff (1B)	4	1	4	4	0	0
T Larson (RF)	3	2	1	1	1	0
J Cogley (P)	2	2	1	0	1	1
D Abeln (3B)	3	1	1	2	0	0
R Groeblichhoff	3	2	2	1	0	0
C Larson (C)	2	2	1	0	1	0
K Hoover (SS)	2	1	1	2	0	0
L Ringgingberg (...)	0	1	0	0	1	0
A Marzahn (CF)	1	0	0	0	1	1
K Antonsen (CF)	1	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	28	16	14	13	6	3

2B: B Althoff, T Larson, TB: P Kettering 3, C Larson, R Groeblichhoff 2, D Abeln, K Hoover, B Althoff 5, T Larson 2, J Cogley, SB: C Larson, R Groeblichhoff, K Hoover, T Larson, J Cogley, LOB: 6

PITCHING

Groton Legio	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
J Cogley	4.0	4	1	1	2	3	0
Totals	4.0	4	1	1	2	3	0

W: J Cogley, P-S: J Cogley 57-35, HBP: J Cogley, BF: J Cogley 17

Post 911 Chargers	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
T DeSautel (C)	2	0	1	0	0	0
E Myers (3B)	2	0	0	0	0	1
H Adamson (2B)	2	1	1	0	0	1
K Huyser (1B)	1	0	1	0	1	0
J Isakson (P, LF)	0	0	0	0	1	0
A Connell (CF)	2	0	0	0	0	1
T Connell (SS)	2	0	1	1	0	0
J Tinklenberg (LF,...)	2	0	0	0	0	0
E Van Nieuwenhu...	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	14	1	4	1	2	3

TB: T Connell, H Adamson, T DeSautel, K Huyser, CS: T DeSautel, HBP: J Isakson, SB: T DeSautel, LOB: 4

Post 911 Cha	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
J Isakson	3.0	8	8	1	2	3	0
J Tinklenberg	1.0	6	8	8	4	0	0
Totals	4.0	14	16	9	6	3	0

L: J Isakson, P-S: J Isakson 62-40, J Tinklenberg 40-19, BF: J Isakson 22, J Tinklenberg 12

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Wishek/Linton/Ashley, ND 8 - 9 Groton Legion Post #39

📍 Home 📅 Sunday July 10, 2022

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
WSHK	2	0	0	0	1	5	0	8	9	2
GRTN	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	9	9	5

BATTING

Wishek/Linton/Ash	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Connor Kosiak (S...	4	2	2	1	1	0
Rykan Salwei (LF,...	3	2	2	1	1	1
Marshall Lindgren...	5	1	2	2	0	1
Joe Fode (P, SS, L...	3	0	1	3	0	0
Jace Nitschke (3B)	3	0	0	0	1	1
Daniel Schumach...	4	0	1	0	0	1
Seth Wolf (2B)	3	1	1	0	1	2
Colin Goettle (1B,...	3	1	0	0	1	3
Logan Barnes (RF)	4	1	0	0	0	2
Totals	32	8	9	7	5	11

2B: Marshall Lindgren, Joe Fode, **TB:** Rykan Salwei 2, Marshall Lindgren 3, Daniel Schumacher, Joe Fode 2, Connor Kosiak 2, Seth Wolf, **HBP:** Rykan Salwei, Joe Fode, **SB:** Connor Kosiak, **LOB:** 10

PITCHING

Wishek/Linto	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Joe Fode	6.0	4	2	2	5	10	0
Connor Kosi...	0.0	2	4	3	1	0	0
Rykan Salwei	0.1	3	3	3	1	1	0
Totals	6.1	9	9	8	7	11	0

L: Rykan Salwei, **P-S:** Rykan Salwei 23-12, Joe Fode 107-63, Connor Kosiak 7-3, **WP:** Joe Fode, **BF:** Rykan Salwei 5, Joe Fode 27, Connor Kosiak 4

Groton Legion Post	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
P Kettering (LF, P)	3	1	3	2	1	0
C Simon (2B)	3	1	2	3	1	1
B Althoff (1B, P, 1B)	4	1	1	2	0	1
T Larson (1B, LF)	3	1	0	0	1	2
J Cogley (3B)	3	0	0	0	1	2
D Abeln (RF)	4	0	1	2	0	1
R Groeblichhoff (P)	3	0	0	0	0	2
C Larson (C)	1	1	0	0	2	0
K Hoover (SS)	3	2	2	0	0	1
A Marzahn (CF)	2	2	0	0	1	1
Totals	29	9	9	9	7	11

2B: C Simon, B Althoff, **TB:** C Simon 3, D Abeln, P Kettering 3, K Hoover 2, B Althoff 2, **CS:** P Kettering, **SB:** C Simon, T Larson, P Kettering, B Althoff, **LOB:** 7

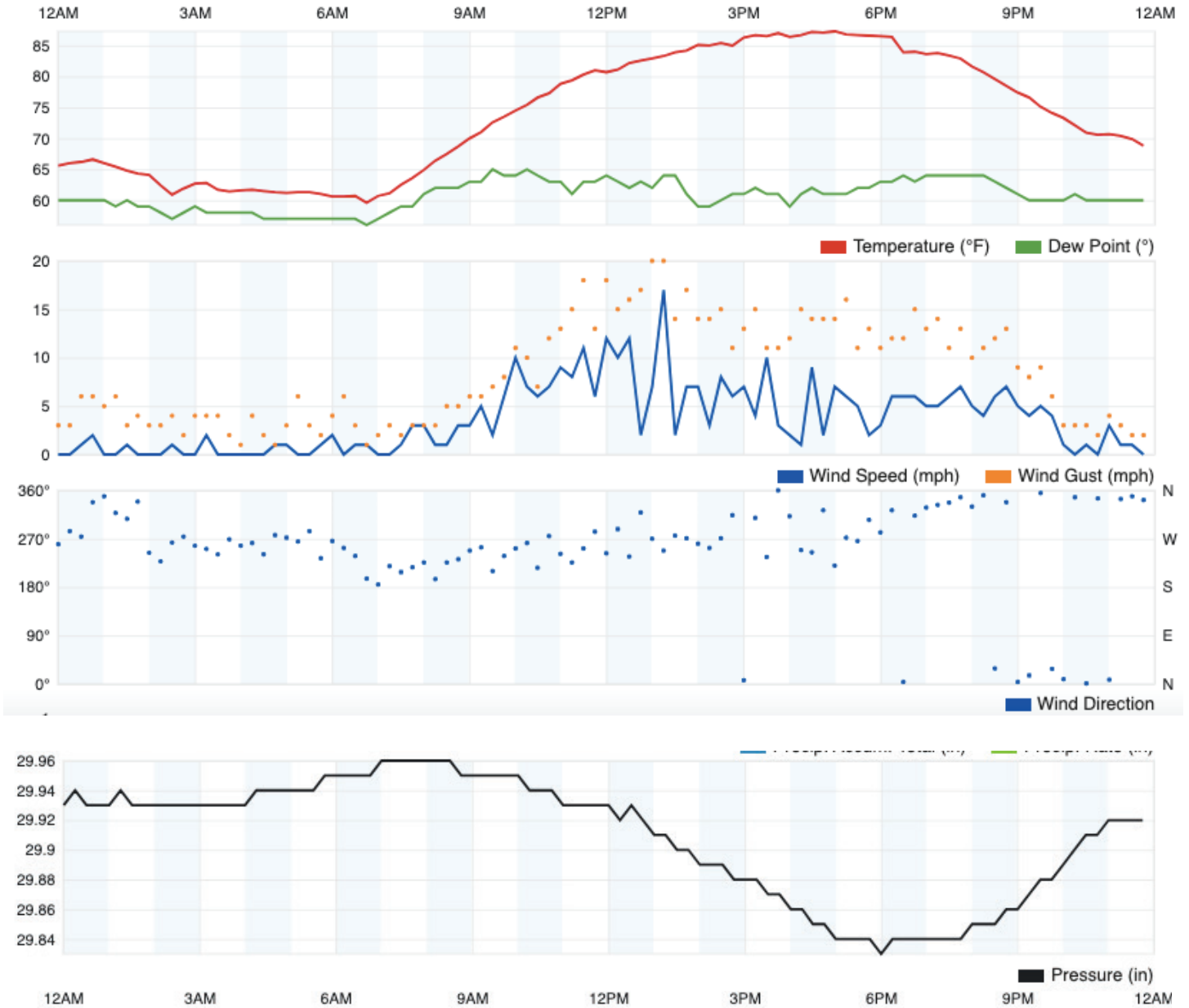
Groton Legion	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
R Groeblich...	5.0	7	5	4	4	7	0
B Althoff	1.0	1	3	0	1	2	0
P Kettering	1.0	1	0	0	0	2	0
Totals	7.0	9	8	4	5	11	0

W: P Kettering, **P-S:** P Kettering 24-17, R Groeblichhoff 97-55, B Althoff 29-18, **HBP:** P Kettering, R Groeblichhoff, **BF:** P Kettering 6, R Groeblichhoff 26, B Althoff 7

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs





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Today	Tonight	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
				
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Hot
High: 87 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 92 °F	Low: 69 °F	High: 91 °F

Rest of the Work-Week

Today	Thursday	Friday
		
82 to 92°	88 to 100°	88 to 96°

Temperatures will be hottest across central SD, and less hot across the Prairie Coteau.

Isolated storms are possible for some areas Thursday afternoon (20% chance). A better chance (20-40%) is across northeastern SD and west central MN Thursday evening and night. This activity could be strong to severe.



Updated: 7/13/2022 4:15 AM Central

Increasingly hot and humid conditions are expected in the days ahead. A few thunderstorms can't be ruled out Thursday afternoon through the night too, but there's a better chance for dry conditions through this time. Showers and storm chances return Friday night through Saturday, but again, it's not a sure bet.

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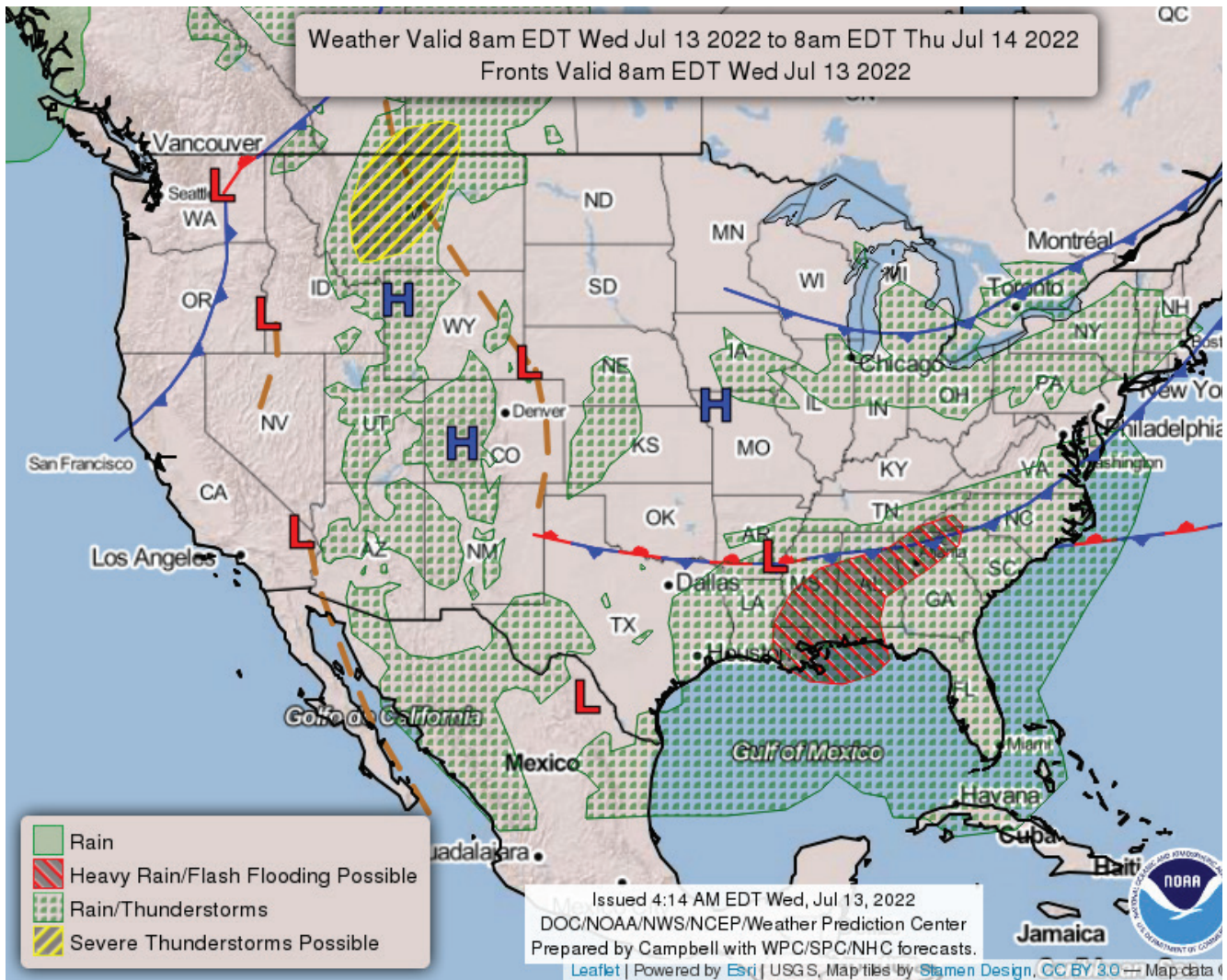
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 88 °F at 4:24 PM
Low Temp: 60 °F at 6:40 AM
Wind: 22 mph at 11:49 AM
Precip: 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 25 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 106 in 1936
Record Low: 44 in 1987
Average High: 85°F
Average Low: 60°F
Average Precip in July.: 1.48
Precip to date in July.: 2.25
Average Precip to date: 12.49
Precip Year to Date: 13.83
Sunset Tonight: 9:21:12 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:56:08 AM



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Today in Weather History

July 13, 1964: Early morning low temperatures dropped into the lower to mid-30s across the northern half of the state. Some low temperatures include 32 degrees at Castlewood, 33 in Andover and 4 miles NW of Onida.

1895 - A tornado struck Cherry Hill in New Jersey causing fifty thousand dollars damage. It also descended into the Harlem and Woodhaven areas of New York City killing one person, and finally ended as a waterspout in Jamaica Bay. (David Ludlum)

1951: Rivers across eastern Kansas crest well above flood stage, causing the most significant destruction from flooding in the Midwestern United States at that time. Five-hundred-thousand people were left homeless, and 24 people died in the disaster.

1975 - Dover, DE, was deluged with 8.50 inches of rain to establish a 24 hour record for the state. (The Weather Channel)

1977 - Lightning struck a key electrical transmission line in Westchester County of southeastern New York State plunging New York City into darkness. (David Ludlum)

1980 - Afternoon highs of 108 degrees at Memphis, TN, 108 degrees at Macon, GA, and 105 degrees at Atlanta, GA, established all-time records for those three cities. The high of 110 degrees at Newington, GA, was just two degrees shy of the state record. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Unseasonably cool weather prevailed across the Midwest. Ten cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Casper, WY, with a reading of 39 degrees. By way of contrast, record heat was reported in the eastern U.S., with highs of 93 degrees at Burlington, VT, and 101 degrees around Miami, FL. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - There were just three reports of severe weather across the country, and just one record high temperature reported. Thunderstorms brought much needed rains to the Tennessee Valley area, producing nine inches at Senatobia, MS. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - A thunderstorm at Albany, GA, produced 1.40 inches of rain in forty minutes, along with wind gusts to 82 mph. Afternoon highs of 98 degrees at Corpus Christi, TX, 110 degrees at Tucson, AZ, and 114 degrees at Phoenix, AZ, equalled records for the date. Greenwood, MS, reported 55.65 inches of precipitation for the year, twice the amount normally received by mid July. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

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AN EVERLASTING KINGDOM

World events, at times, are overwhelming. The moral and spiritual decay, the expansion of religions that would eliminate Christianity, the rise of secularism and "political correctness" have dimmed the voice of believers. The increased number of martyrs has raised the question: "Will Christianity survive?"

Absolutely! The Psalmist long ago assured us that: "Your Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom, and Your dominion endures through all generations!"

Nearly two thousand years ago some tried to do away with Jesus. They nailed Him to a cross. Sealed Him in a tomb. Surrounded that tomb with guards and proudly said, "This is the end of Him." They thought that they had rid the world of His presence. But they were fooled. He came back from the dead and became the Living Christ! He was victorious over sin and death and became our Savior.

Robert Ingersoll, the atheist, held up a Bible and declared, "In fifteen years this book will be in a morgue." Fifteen years later it was he who would be in a morgue.

Islam swept across the Middle East in the 7th century determined to destroy Christianity. A Christian church in Damascus was turned into a mosque. Today, the words, "Thy Kingdom, O Christ, is an everlasting Kingdom and Thy dominion endures throughout all generations" are inscribed over the entrance.

One day there will be no kingdoms but God's Kingdom. It is not about endurance, but rather who will be its citizens!

Prayer: Heavenly Father, give us courage to speak Your truth and to do all that we can to expand Your Kingdom! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Your Kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom, and Your dominion endures through all generations. Psalm 145:13a

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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
06/20/2022 Ladies Invitational at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Registration 10am Start
06/25/2022 How can we... "Love Groton"? United Methodist Church 9:30am
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)
07/20/2022 Legion Auxiliary #39 Salad Buffet & Dessert Bar 11am-1pm at the Groton Legion
07/21/2022 Pro Am Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course
07/22/2022 Ferney Open Golf Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Start
Moonlight Swim at the Swimming Pool 9-11pm for 9th grade to age 20
07/27/2022 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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News from the Associated Press

Natural Grocers® Invites the Sioux Falls Community to Celebrate Grand Opening on July 27, 2022

Customers will enjoy a friendly grocery shopping experience with healthy resources, 100% organic produce and an array of natural food and products at Always Affordable PricesSM

LAKEWOOD, Colo., July 13, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- Natural Grocers®, the largest family-operated organic and natural grocery retailer in the U.S., is pleased to announce the opening of its Sioux Falls, SD store on Wednesday, July 27th, with doors opening at 8:30 AM. Located in a vibrant retail area at 2601 S. Louise Ave., Suite 300, this will be Natural Grocers' first location in South Dakota. The community and Natural Grocers' good4u® Crew will celebrate the Grand Opening with discounts, gift card giveaways, prize sweepstakes, and more.

"Natural Grocers is thrilled to expand our family-run stores to the folks in South Dakota. When searching for new markets, we always look for areas in which we can serve the existing community with our Always AffordableSM pricing on the best organic and natural products available. With its beautiful natural landscape, abundant outdoor activities and a vibrant cultural and food scene, Sioux Falls is a great fit for the first Natural Grocers store in South Dakota," said Raquel Isely, Vice President of Marketing for Natural Grocers. "We're excited to meet the community and offer an engaging, friendly shopping experience with our world-class customer service."

Grand Opening Event – Giveaways and Discounts

The Natural Grocers family invites Sioux Falls community members and media to join the July 27th Grand Opening events and discover what makes the Natural Grocers shopping experience stand out from conventional grocery stores. Grand Opening events & discounts include:

Mystery Gift Cards for First 150 Customers: The first 150 customers in line will receive a mystery Natural Grocers gift card (with varying amounts between \$5 - \$500)! [i]Prize Wheel: Customers are invited to spin the Natural Grocers prize wheel for a chance to win fun prizes.[ii]Grand Opening Sweepstakes [iii]: From July 27 – August 10, customers will have the chance to win fabulous prizes, such as an Aventon e-bike, a \$500 Natural Grocers gift card and more. Entry forms will be available at the store.Special Grand Opening Discounts: Customers will enjoy exceptional discounts in every department from July 27 – August 26. [iv] Select 100% organic produce like white peaches (\$2.99/lb.), tomatoes on the vine (\$2.49/lb.), baby peeled carrots (\$1.69/1 lb. bag) and Cremini Mushrooms (\$3.99/8oz pkg.).Additional high-quality products will also be available at impressive discounts, such as bacon and bacon alternatives, Natural Grocers® Brand Organic Cheese shreds and slices, and Natural Grocers Brand bulk organic raisins and bulk organic rolled oats.[v]For even more savings, customers can join {N}power®, Natural Grocers' free loyalty program for exclusive discounts, digital coupons, rewards benefits, and other members-only features. [vi]July 27 – Aug 31 {N}power® members will receive exclusive pricing[vii] on all free-range eggs, (\$1.99/dozen) organic avocados (.99¢ each) and Natural Grocers Brand Organic Canned Beans (.99¢ each). "NOT YOUR AVERAGE GROCERY STORE"

Serving customers with a wide range of natural and organic options since 1955, Natural Grocers offers the Sioux Falls community a unique, family-feel grocery shopping experience with its knowledgeable and friendly good4u Crew, healthy recipes for all diets, high product standards and sustainable building practices.

Sioux Falls area residents and visitors will have access to fresh, 100% USDA certified organic produce, high-quality organic and natural groceries, 100% free-range eggs, 100% pasture-based dairy, 100% non-GMO prepackaged bulk goods, dietary supplements, body care, and household essentials at Always Affordable Prices. Natural Grocers prioritizes humanely raised and sustainably sourced meats produced without antibiotics.

Supported by its good4u Crew, the store will feature a contemporary layout with a modern and efficient, yet friendly checkout experience. Natural Grocers, ever-conscious of its environmental impact, has

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repurposed the existing space with sustainable building features and energy-saving innovations, such as ecologically sensitive building materials and 100% LED lighting, for a lighter environmental footprint.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Knowledge, access and affordability are values Natural Grocers prioritizes at each of their locations to improve the health and wellness of the surrounding communities.

Free Nutrition Education: Natural Grocers' Nutritional Health Coaches (NHCs) support customers' health and wellness journeys with free, one-on-one personalized nutritional health coaching sessions. Sioux Falls customers will be able to book a free session in person, via phone or video. The store will also provide a community room for in-person classes and guest speaker events.**Food Security:** Natural Grocers will be partnering with Feeding South Dakota, a hunger relief organization dedicated to hunger-free South Dakota. The store will be donating five cents per shopping trip each time a customer brings their own bags and will pursue additional food security support once the store is up and running. Download the Natural Grocers Sioux Falls Grand Opening media kit.

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) — These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Tuesday:

Mega Millions

04-07-10-45-64, Mega Ball: 12, Megaplier: 2

(four, seven, ten, forty-five, sixty-four; Mega Ball: twelve; Megaplier: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$480,000,000

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: 66,000,000

Chairman slams Indian Health Services hiring decision

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — The chairman of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe on Tuesday slammed the federal agency that delivers health care to approximately 130,000 Native Americans located in North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska and Iowa for declining to hire tribal leaders' choice for an area director.

Chairman Harold Frazier released a letter to President Joe Biden criticizing the decision for Indian Health Services to re-advertise the Great Plains area director position after tribal leaders had interviewed and recommended a candidate. Frazier's criticism comes as tribal health advocates have pushed for stability in an agency that's chronically underfunded and struggles to meet the needs of Indian Country.

"Your decision to re-advertise this position and not appoint our agreed upon choice has removed our hopes and voices from the nation-to-nation and returned us to the "boss farmer" days of doing what we are told on reservations," Frazier wrote in a fiery letter.

The acting Great Plains area director, Elizabeth Fowler, had written to tribal leaders explaining she had not selected the preferred candidate because it is important "to ensure new leadership is well-positioned to help make sustainable improvements" to the agency's programs.

Indian Health Services did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Frazier's letter.

Abortion ruling prompts variety of reactions from states

By The Associated Press undefined

The U.S. Supreme Court on June 24 overturned Roe v. Wade, the 1973 decision that had provided a constitutional right to abortion. The ruling is expected to lead to abortion bans in roughly half the states, although the timing of those laws taking effect varies.

Some Republican-led states banned or severely limited abortion immediately, while other restrictions will take effect later. At least one state, Texas, is waiting until after the Supreme Court issues its formal judgment in the case, which is separate from the opinion issued in June and could take about a month.

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Nevertheless, the Texas Supreme Court has ruled that a long-dormant 1925 abortion ban is now in effect.

In anticipation of the decision, several states led by Democrats have taken steps to protect abortion access. The decision also sets up the potential for legal fights between the states over whether providers and those who help women obtain abortions can be sued or prosecuted.

Here is an overview of abortion legislation and the expected impact of the court's decision in every state.

ALABAMA

Political control: Alabama's Republican-controlled Legislature and Republican governor want to ban or restrict access to abortions.

Background: In 2019, Alabama lawmakers approved what was then the most stringent abortion ban in the country, making it a felony to perform an abortion at any stage of pregnancy with no exceptions for pregnancies resulting from rape or incest. The only exception would be when the woman's health was at serious risk. A federal judge issued an injunction, under the precedent of *Roe v. Wade*, blocking the state from enforcing the law. In 2018, voters agreed to amend the Alabama Constitution to say the state recognizes the "rights of unborn children" and "does not protect the right to an abortion or require the funding of abortion." A 1951 law made it a crime, punishable by up to 12 months in prison, to induce an abortion, unless it is done to preserve the life or health of the mother.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Abortions became almost entirely illegal in Alabama on June 24. A 2019 state abortion ban took effect making it a felony to perform an abortion at any stage of pregnancy, with no exceptions for pregnancies caused by rape or incest. All three clinics stopped providing abortions that morning under fear of prosecution under the 1951 state law. U.S. District Judge Myron Thompson hours later granted Alabama's request to lift an injunction and allow the state to enforce the 2019 abortion ban. Alabama Attorney General Steve Marshall said it is now a felony to provide an abortion in Alabama beyond the one exception allowed in the 2019 law, which is for the sake of the mother's health. Doctors who violate the law could face up to 99 years in prison. Marshall said the state would also move to lift other injunctions that blocked previous abortion restrictions, including a requirement for doctors who perform abortions to have hospital admitting privileges.

What's next: Some Republican lawmakers have said they would like to see the state replace the 2019 ban with a slightly less stringent bill that would allow exceptions in cases of rape or incest. Proponents said the 2019 ban was deliberately strict in the hopes of sparking a court challenge to *Roe*.

ALASKA

Political control: Republicans currently hold a majority of seats in the Legislature, but the House is controlled by a bipartisan coalition composed largely of Democrats. Fifty-nine of the Legislature's 60 seats are up for election this year. Republican Gov. Mike Dunleavy, who believes life begins at conception, is seeking reelection.

Background: The Alaska Supreme Court has interpreted the right to privacy in the state constitution as encompassing abortion rights.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: The decision has not immediately affected abortion rights in Alaska, given the existing precedent in the state.

What's next: Voters in the fall will be asked if they want to hold a constitutional convention, a question that comes up every 10 years. Many conservatives who want to overhaul how judges are selected and do away with the interpretation that the constitution's right to privacy clause allows for abortion rights see an opportunity in pushing for a convention. Recent efforts to advance a constitutional amendment through the Legislature have been unsuccessful.

ARIZONA

Political control: Both legislative chambers are controlled by Republicans, who regularly pass abortion restrictions that for the past eight sessions have been quickly signed by Republican Gov. Doug Ducey, who

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is to leave office in January because of term limits.

Background: Arizona law allows abortion through about 22 weeks, but the Legislature passed a 15-week abortion ban in March mirroring the Mississippi law that was contested before the Supreme Court. It will take effect Sept. 24. Current restrictions include bans on abortions because of gender and a 2021 law that makes it a felony for a doctor to terminate a pregnancy because the child has a survivable genetic abnormality. Arizona also has a pre-statehood law on the books that would ban all abortions, although it has not been enforced since Roe was decided.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Ducey has said the law he signed in late March takes precedence over the total ban that remains on the books. But that law specifically says it does not overrule the total abortion ban in place for more than 100 years. Abortion providers across the state stopped all procedures because of concerns that the pre-Roe ban could put doctors, nurses and other providers at risk of prosecution. Republican state Attorney General Mark Brnovich said on June 29 that the pre-statehood law could be enforced, putting him at odds with the governor. Brnovich said he would seek to remove an injunction in place since shortly after the Roe decision. The next day, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed Arizona to enforce a ban on abortions done solely because the fetus has a genetic abnormality. A federal judge blocked that part of that 2021 Arizona law last year, saying it was unconstitutionally vague, but will now have to reconsider that decision. The same federal judge on July 12 blocked another part of that law, which grants all rights to fertilized eggs or fetuses. Abortion rights groups renewed a challenge to it after Roe fell, saying it could be used to charge providers with assault, child abuse or other crimes for providing otherwise-legal abortion services. The judge agreed it was likely unconstitutionally vague.

What's next: Brnovich has said he will ask a court to lift the injunction blocking his office and one county from enforcing the pre-statehood total abortion ban. Abortion-rights supporters in Arizona failed to collect enough signatures by the July 7 deadline to ask voters to enshrine the right to abortion in the state constitution this November. Their last-minute effort was a longshot because they needed to collect nearly 360,000 valid signatures in just over seven weeks.

ARKANSAS

Political control: Arkansas' Legislature is controlled by Republicans who have supported dozens of abortion bans and restrictions in recent years. Republican Gov. Asa Hutchinson also has supported bans on abortion with some exceptions. He's term-limited and leaves office in January. Republican nominee Sarah Sanders, press secretary to former President Donald Trump, is widely favored in the November election to succeed him.

Background: Arkansas already had a law banning most abortions 20 weeks into a woman's pregnancy, with exceptions for rape, incest and the life of the mother. The state has several other bans that have been struck down or blocked by courts in recent years, including an outright abortion ban enacted last year that doesn't include rape or incest exceptions. That ban has been blocked by a federal judge, and the state has appealed.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Arkansas has a law it enacted in 2019 that bans nearly all abortions now that Roe is overturned. That ban, along with the outright ban that's been blocked by a federal judge, only allows exceptions to protect the life of the mother in a medical emergency. Hutchinson has said he thinks bans should include rape and incest exceptions, but he has not called on the Legislature to add those to either of the bans.

What's next: Hours after the Supreme Court ruling, Attorney General Leslie Rutledge signed certification that Roe had been overturned. That allowed the state's "trigger ban" to take effect immediately. The only exception is to protect the life of the mother in a medical emergency. The Legislature isn't scheduled to meet until January, but Hutchinson is considering calling a special session to take up tax relief proposals. He said he does not plan on asking lawmakers to consider adding rape and incest exceptions to the state's ban.

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CALIFORNIA

Political control: Democrats who support access to abortion control all statewide elected offices and have large majorities in the Legislature.

Background: California outlawed abortion in 1850, except when the life of the mother was in danger. The law changed in 1967 to include abortions in the case of rape, incest or if a woman's mental health were in danger. In 1969, the California Supreme Court declared the state's original abortion law to be unconstitutional but left the 1967 law in place. In 1972, California voters added a "right to privacy" to the state constitution. Since then, the state Supreme Court has interpreted that "right to privacy" as a right to access abortion, allow minors to get an abortion without their parents' permission and use public funding for abortions in the state's Medicaid program. California now requires private health insurance plans to cover abortions and does not allow them to charge things such as co-pays or deductibles for the procedure.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Abortion remains legal in California prior to the viability of a fetus. Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom has vowed to make California a sanctuary for women who live in states where abortion is outlawed or severely restricted. The number of women who travel to California for abortions is expected to rise significantly.

What's next: The Legislature is considering 13 bills that would strengthen or expand access to abortion. The bills are based on a report from the Future of Abortion Council, which Newsom formed last year to study reproductive rights in California. They include proposals that would help pay for women from other states to come to California for abortions, ban enforcement of out-of-state civil judgments on California abortion providers and volunteers, and increase the number of people who can offer abortions by authorizing some nurse practitioners to perform the procedure without the supervision of a doctor. Lawmakers also plan to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot in November that would explicitly guarantee the right to an abortion and contraceptives.

COLORADO

Political control: The Democrats who control the Colorado Legislature support access to abortion, as does the state's Democratic governor.

Background: A 1967 state law legalized abortion up to 16 weeks of pregnancy. Abortion has been accessible ever since, despite repeated legislative attempts and ballot initiatives to restrict or abolish the procedure. Colorado voters have consistently rejected such initiatives, the latest in 2020 that would have banned abortion during the third trimester of pregnancy. In 2022, Colorado Gov. Jared Polis signed a law placing the right to abortion in state statute. The law guarantees access to reproductive care before and after pregnancy and bans local governments from imposing their own restrictions. It also declares that fertilized eggs, embryos and fetuses have no independent rights. Abortion rights advocates plan a 2024 ballot initiative to add abortion rights to the state constitution and repeal a 1980s constitutional amendment that bans public funding for abortion.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: The decision didn't have any immediate impact on Colorado law -- but providers are preparing for a surge of out-of-state patients. Democratic House Majority Leader Daneya Espartero says lawmakers must consider how to invest in a health care workforce to ensure Colorado has the capacity to meet that anticipated demand. Colorado's health department reports there were 11,580 abortions in the state in 2021; of those, 14% were for non-residents. More than 900 of those non-residents were from Texas, Wyoming and Nebraska.

What's next: It's impossible to predict how many more patients from surrounding states will seek care in Colorado. But the Texas law could induce more people to come. Oklahoma now has an early pregnancy abortion ban; Utah and Wyoming have trigger laws banning abortion; the Kansas Constitution protects abortion rights, but Republican lawmakers placed on an August primary ballot an initiative to overturn it.

CONNECTICUT

Political control: Democrats who control the Connecticut General Assembly support access to abortion,

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as does the state's Democratic governor.

Background: Connecticut passed a law in 1990 giving women the legal right to abortion. Having passed with strong bipartisan support, it was lauded at the time for being a rare compromise between abortion rights advocates and opponents. It affirmed a woman's unqualified right to an abortion "prior to viability of the fetus," as well as later-term abortions "necessary to preserve the life and health of the pregnant woman." It also repealed state laws predating *Roe v. Wade* that had made it a felony to have an abortion or to perform one and required that patients under 16 receive counseling about their options. This year, Gov. Ned Lamont signed legislation to protect medical providers and patients from out-of-state legal actions. The same law allows advanced practice registered nurses, nurse-midwives or physician assistants to perform aspiration abortions in the first 12 weeks of a pregnancy.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Connecticut Attorney General William Tong, a Democrat, has vowed to challenge any attempt to nullify Connecticut's abortion rights law. "Let's not mince words. They will come for us," Tong warned abortion rights supporters during a recent news conference. "We will fight that effort tooth-and-nail. Any court, any place, Connecticut will be there and will fight." The state is already involved in major abortion cases across the country. And while Connecticut is surrounded by mostly pro-abortion states, it's still bracing for out-of-state patients seeking abortions now that *Roe* has been overturned.

What's next: Connecticut's new law protecting abortion providers from other states' bans took effect on July 1. It created a legal cause of action for providers and others sued in another state, enabling them to recover certain legal costs. It also limits the governor's discretion to extradite someone accused of performing an abortion, as well as participation by Connecticut courts and agencies in those lawsuits. There's discussion of possibly amending the state's constitution to enshrine the right to abortion, making it more difficult to overturn, but that would be a multi-year process.

DELAWARE

Political control: Democrats control the governor's office and the General Assembly and have taken several steps to ensure access to abortion.

Background: In 2017, Delaware became the first state following the election of President Donald Trump to codify the right to an abortion. A bill signed by Gov. John Carney, a Catholic, guarantees the unfettered right to an abortion before a fetus is deemed "viable." The law defines viability as the point in a pregnancy when, in a physician's "good faith medical judgment," there is a reasonable likelihood that the fetus can survive outside the uterus without the application of extraordinary medical measures. The law also allows abortion after fetal viability if, in a doctor's "good faith medical judgment," abortion is necessary for the protection of the woman's life or health, or if there is a reasonable likelihood that the fetus cannot survive without extraordinary medical measures. The law eliminated existing code restrictions on abortions, much of which had already been declared unenforceable by Delaware's attorney general in 1973 following the Supreme Court rulings in *Roe v. Wade* and *Doe v. Bolton*. In April of this year, Carney signed a bill allowing physician assistants and advanced practice registered nurses to prescribe abortion-inducing medications including mifepristone and misoprostol.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: "In Delaware, the privacy protections of *Roe v. Wade* are codified in state law, guaranteeing residents have access to legal abortion services even if *Roe* were to be undone at the federal level," Democratic lawmakers noted in June while unveiling legislation further broadening access to abortions. The measure, which passed June 30, allows physician assistants, certified nurse practitioners and nurse midwives to perform abortions before viability. It also includes various legal protections for abortion providers and patients, including out-of-state residents receiving abortions in Delaware. Those provisions include protections from civil actions in other states relating to the termination of a pregnancy, and protecting individuals from extradition to other states for criminal charges related to terminating a pregnancy.

What's next: According to state health officials, 2,042 abortions were performed in Delaware in 2019, with 1,765 involving Delaware residents and 277 involving nonresidents. Delaware is not likely to see a huge influx of women traveling from out of state to get abortions if *Roe v. Wade* is overturned, given that neighboring Maryland and New Jersey also have liberal abortion-access laws. In neighboring Pennsylvania,

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where Republicans control both chambers of the Legislature, future abortion access could hinge on the outcome of this year's gubernatorial contest.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Political control: The local government in the nation's capital is controlled by Democrats, with a Democratic mayor and the D.C. Council split between Democrats and nominal independent politicians, who are all, invariably, Democrats.

Background: Abortion is legal in the District of Columbia at all stages of pregnancy, a status that was upheld in the 1971 Supreme Court case *United States v. Vuitch*. However, Congress has oversight power over D.C. laws and Congress has already banned the city from using local funds to pay for abortions for women on Medicaid.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Elected officials in Washington, D.C., fear Congress could move to restrict abortion access, particularly if Republicans recapture the House of Representatives in midterm elections later this year. President Joe Biden could theoretically veto such a move, but that protection is subject to political calculations and is not guaranteed.

What's next: Local officials have pledged defiance against any sort of Congressional move to restrict local abortion access. The D.C. Council is considering legislation that would declare Washington, D.C., a "sanctuary city" for those coming from states where abortion is banned. According to federal data, most of the women getting abortions in Washington already are coming from out of state. Those numbers could increase, particularly if new Republican Gov. Glenn Youngkin moves to restrict abortion access in neighboring Virginia.

FLORIDA

Political control: Republicans control both chambers of the Florida Legislature and this year passed a ban on abortions after 15 weeks, which was signed into law by the state's Republican governor.

Background: Abortion was legal in Florida until the 24th week of pregnancy, though lawmakers have been tightening access in recent years with bills requiring a one-day waiting period and requiring parents of a pregnant minor to be notified before an abortion can be provided. This year, in anticipation of the U.S. Supreme Court ruling that overturned *Roe v. Wade*, the Legislature passed a ban on abortions after the 15th week, except to save the mother's life, prevent serious injury or if the fetus has a fatal abnormality. It does not allow for exemptions in cases where pregnancies were caused by rape or incest. Gov. Ron DeSantis called the legislation "the most significant protections for life that have been enacted in this state in a generation."

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: The decision places Florida's 15-week ban on firm legal ground, at least under federal law. However, the legislation is being challenged in state court on arguments that it violates a guarantee of the right to privacy under the state constitution.

What's next: Florida's 15-week ban took effect July 1. It was briefly on hold July 5 due to a judge's order in a case brought by reproductive health providers who argued it "violates the privacy provision of the Florida Constitution." But the state's appeal automatically put the restrictions into effect. Although only about 2% of Florida's abortions take place after 15th week, abortion rights advocates have expressed concern over declining access to the procedure not only for Floridians but for residents from nearby Southern states where restrictions are stricter than in Florida.

GEORGIA

Political control: Georgia has a GOP-controlled General Assembly and a Republican governor who support abortion restrictions, but all are up for election this November. Republicans are likely to retain legislative control, but there's a possibility a Democrat could become governor.

Background: Georgia lawmakers in 2019 passed a law by one vote that would ban most abortions after about six weeks of pregnancy, when fetal cardiac activity can be detected. The measure is unlike other

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so-called "heartbeat" bills in that it also contains language designating a fetus as a person for certain state-law purposes such as income tax deductions and child support. A federal judge quickly put the law on hold and in 2020 struck it down, saying it was unconstitutional. The state appealed to the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. The 11th Circuit said it would wait to rule on the appeal pending a ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court in the Mississippi case.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: The day the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, Georgia's attorney general asked the 11th Circuit to reverse the lower court's ruling and allow the state's abortion law to take effect. That same day, the 11th Circuit directed the parties to file briefs within three weeks addressing what effect, if any, the Supreme Court decision has on the Georgia appeal. If the law takes effect, it would ban the large majority of abortions that currently take place in Georgia – about 87%, according to providers. The change could happen in the middle of tightly contested races in Georgia for governor and U.S. Senate. Democratic U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock and challenger for governor Stacey Abrams say they want to secure abortion rights. Republican Senate challenger Herschel Walker and incumbent Republican Gov. Brian Kemp support restrictions.

What's next: Some Republican lawmakers and candidates want Georgia to go further and ban abortion entirely, but Kemp is unlikely to call a special session before this November's general election. Lawmakers are likely to consider further action when they return for their annual session in January. The General Assembly or courts will have to sort out whether the provisions designating a fetus as a person are workable.

HAWAII

Political control: Hawaii's governor is a Democrat and Democrats control more than 90% of the seats in the state House and Senate.

Background: Hawaii legalized abortion in 1970, when it became the first state in the nation to allow the procedure at a woman's request. The state allows abortion until a fetus would be viable outside the womb. After that, it's legal if a patient's life or health is in danger. For many years, only licensed physicians could perform the procedure. Last year, the state enacted a law allowing advanced practice care nurses to carry out in-clinic abortions during the first trimester. This helps women on more rural islands who have been flying to Honolulu to obtain abortions because of doctor shortages in their communities. The law allows the nurses to prescribe medication to end a pregnancy and to perform aspiration abortion, a type of minor surgery during which a vacuum is used to empty a woman's uterus.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Existing Hawaii law allows abortions, but Gary Yamashiroya, a spokesperson for the state attorney general's office, has said the attorney general was carefully considering measures Hawaii might take to protect and strengthen reproductive rights.

What's next: Political support for abortion rights is strong. Anti-abortion bills are rarely heard at the state Legislature. When they have been, they haven't made it out of committee. Gov. David Ige issued a statement supporting abortion rights when the Supreme Court's draft opinion overturning *Roe* leaked. "No matter what the Supreme Court decides, I will fight to ensure a woman's right to choose in the State of Hawaii," he said. The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women earlier this month said 72% of the state Senate and 53% of state House members signed a pledge supporting abortion rights.

IDAHO

Political control: Republicans hold supermajorities in the House and Senate and oppose access to abortion, as does the state's Republican governor.

Background: Following the U.S. Supreme Court's *Roe v. Wade* ruling, Idaho passed a law generally allowing abortions in the first and second trimester up to viability at about 23 to 24 weeks. The law allows abortions after viability only to protect the mother's life or in cases of nonviable fetuses. This year, lawmakers passed a Texas-style ban prohibiting abortions after about six weeks of pregnancy and authorizing family members to sue medical providers for performing an abortion. That law is on hold following a challenge by Planned Parenthood. The Idaho Supreme Court is scheduled to hear arguments in August.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: It triggers a 2020 Idaho law banning all abortions except in cases of

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reported rape or incest, or to protect the mother's life, to take effect 30 days after the Supreme Court ruling. Under the law, the person performing the abortion could face a felony prosecution punishable by up to five years in prison. In cases of rape or incest, the law requires pregnant women to file a police report and provide a copy of the report to the provider prior to an abortion. If the Idaho Supreme Court upholds the state's Texas-style abortion ban and Roe v. Wade is tossed aside, a medical provider who performs an abortion in Idaho could face a lawsuit and criminal charges.

What's Next: Pregnant women seeking abortions will have to travel out of state; the nearest abortion providers would be in Washington, Oregon, Nevada and Colorado. Planned Parenthood is renting space in the town of Ontario on the Idaho-Oregon border and says it's preparing for an influx of patients seeking abortions. Some Republican lawmakers in Idaho might propose new legislation in January to outlaw abortion pills and emergency contraception.

ILLINOIS

Political control: Illinois is overwhelmingly Democratic with laws providing greater access to abortion than most states. Democrats hold veto-proof supermajorities in the House and Senate, and the Democratic first-term governor seeking reelection this year, J.B. Pritzker, has promoted peaceful street protests to protect the constitutional right to an abortion.

Background: Abortion is legal in Illinois and can only be restricted after the point of viability, when a fetus is considered able to survive outside the womb. Medical science determines viability at 24 to 26 weeks, but the Illinois law does not specify a timeframe, saying a medical professional can determine viability in each case. Abortions are also allowed after viability to protect the patient's life or health.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: It did not change access to abortion in Illinois. The Illinois Abortion Act of 1975 legalized abortion but enacted a "trigger law" that would reinstate the ban if Roe were overturned. That trigger law was repealed in 2017 in legislation that also required Medicaid and state employees' group health insurance to cover abortions. The 2019 Reproductive Health Act replaced the 1975 law, large parts of which were never enforced because they were found to be unconstitutional.

What's next: Like other states providing access to abortions, Illinois has seen a steady influx of patients crossing the state line for abortions in recent months and those numbers are expected to increase. Planned Parenthood of Illinois says it expects to handle an additional 20,000 to 30,000 patients in Illinois in the first year following the reversal of Roe.

INDIANA

Political control: Indiana has a Republican-dominated Legislature and a Republican governor in favor of restricting abortion access.

Background: Abortion in Indiana is legal up to about 20 weeks, with some provisions for medical emergencies. Before an abortion, patients must undergo an 18-hour waiting period. Medical providers must tell patients about the risks involved in abortion and must say the fetus can feel pain around 20 weeks, which is disputed. Providers must report complications related to abortion; failure to report can result in a misdemeanor, 180 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine. Federal courts have blocked several restrictions in Indiana, including an attempt to ban a common second-trimester abortion procedure and a law that would have required doctors to tell pregnant women about a disputed treatment to potentially stop a drug-induced abortion.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: A federal judge on July 7 lifted an injunction that had blocked a 2019 law banning a second-trimester abortion procedure that the legislation called "dismemberment abortion," a move that allowed the law to take effect. Indiana's Republican attorney general has also asked federal judges to lift orders blocking a law aimed at prohibiting abortions based on gender, race or disability, and another requiring parents to be notified if a court allows a girl younger than 18 to get abortion without parental consent.

What's next: Republican legislative leaders said they expected lawmakers to act on tightening Indiana's

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abortion laws during a special legislative session starting July 25 but have given no details about what restrictions would be considered.

IOWA

Political control: Iowa's Legislature is controlled by Republicans who want to ban or restrict abortion access and a Republican governor who agrees and is up for reelection this year.

Background: Iowa allows most abortions until the 20th week of pregnancy, when they're banned except to save a patient's life or prevent a substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function. In 2018, the state Supreme Court declared access to abortion a "fundamental" right under the state constitution, granting stronger protections to abortion rights than the U.S. Constitution. The state's high court, now with a conservative majority, overturned that decision June 17, thus allowing a state law requiring a 24-hour waiting period to go into effect immediately. That requirement is being challenged in district court.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Nothing changed immediately in Iowa. The GOP-controlled Legislature has been working to get an amendment on the ballot in 2024 that would declare the state constitution does not grant a right to abortion but, with Roe overturned, Iowa lawmakers can ban abortion without completing that lengthy process.

What's next: Now that the Iowa Supreme Court has struck down its 2018 ruling, the state Legislature can convene a special session this summer and pass abortion restrictions. Republicans could still move to get the constitutional amendment on a public ballot in 2024.

KANSAS

Political control: Kansas has a Legislature controlled by Republicans who want to ban or restrict access to abortions but a Democratic governor who supports access and is up for reelection this year.

Background: Under current law, Kansas does not ban most abortions until the 22nd week of pregnancy, when they're allowed only to save a patient's life or to prevent "a substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function." The state Supreme Court in 2019 declared that access to abortion is a "fundamental" right under the state constitution, granting stronger protections to abortion rights than the U.S. Constitution does currently. State law, however, doesn't allow providers to dispense abortion medications through telemedicine consultations.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Nothing changed immediately in Kansas. The state Supreme Court blocked enforcement of a 2015 legislative ban on a common second-trimester procedure, and abortion opponents fear a host of other rules could fall to legal challenges in the near future. The GOP-controlled Legislature responded by putting a constitutional amendment on the ballot during the Aug. 2 primary, when turnout is expected to be much lower than in a general election and will likely see a higher proportion of Republicans voting. The amendment would declare that the state constitution does not grant a right to abortion. It would allow lawmakers to restrict abortion as much as the federal courts will allow .

What's next: If voters approve the amendment, the Legislature would still have to approve the new restrictions, and lawmakers are out of session until January 2023. They can call themselves in to special session with two-thirds majorities, but they're likely to wait until after voters decide in the November general election whether to give Democratic Gov. Laura Kelly a second term.

KENTUCKY

Political control: Republicans have a supermajority in the Kentucky Legislature and have been restricting abortion rights since the 2016 election over the vetoes of Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear, who supports abortion rights and will seek a second term in 2023.

Background: Kentucky bans abortions after 20 weeks, but all abortion services were temporarily halted in April after the Legislature imposed new restrictions and reporting requirements on the state's two abortion clinics. The clinics, both in Louisville, said they suspended abortions because state officials hadn't written guidelines on how to comply with the new law. Noncompliance could result in stiff fines, felony penalties

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and revocation of physician and facility licenses. Abortions were allowed to resume after a federal judge on June 30 temporarily blocked key parts of the law, including a provision banning abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Abortion services in Kentucky immediately became illegal under a “trigger law” enacted in 2019, but were then allowed to resume by a judge on June 30. The measure contains a narrow exception allowing abortion to prevent the death or permanent injury of a pregnant woman. Kentuckians will be able to vote this November on a proposed amendment declaring there is no right to an abortion in the state constitution.

What’s next: Abortion-rights activists say the suspension of abortion services in April foreshadowed what would happen in Kentucky and other Republican-leaning states if *Roe v. Wade* was overturned. It likely ends several legal challenges pending against other Kentucky abortion laws including a 2018 measure that abortion-rights supporters say would effectively ban a standard abortion method in the second trimester of pregnancy. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in March that Kentucky’s Republican attorney general, Daniel Cameron, can defend the measure that was struck down by lower courts.

LOUISIANA

Political control: Louisiana’s Legislature is controlled by Republicans who want to ban or restrict abortion access. Its Democratic and Catholic governor also opposes abortions, though he supports exceptions for victims of rape or incest.

Background: Voters approved a constitutional amendment in 2020 stating that “a right to abortion and the funding of abortion shall not be found in the Louisiana Constitution.” Of the about 2 million people who voted, 62% approved the amendment. Abortion had been legal in Louisiana through the 19th week of pregnancy. After that, it was legal only if the fetus would die anyway or if continuing the pregnancy would threaten the mother’s life or health.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Louisiana has a trigger law that immediately outlaws abortions. There is no exception for rape or incest. The only exception is if there is substantial risk of death or impairment to the woman. In June, Gov. John Bel Edwards, a Democrat, signed a bill updating various aspects of the law and subjecting abortion providers to up to 10 years in prison and fines up to \$100,000. Edwards’ office said the bill allows the use of emergency contraception “for victims of rape and incest prior to when a pregnancy can be clinically diagnosed.”

Edwards signed another bill that would require the doctor to certify that a drug used for abortion was being prescribed for another medical reason. The bill makes it illegal to deliver abortion medication to a state resident “by mail-order, courier, or as a result of a sale made via the internet.”

What’s next: Louisiana’s three abortion clinics — in New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Shreveport — were allowed to provide abortions for a time under a court order that barred enforcement. But the clinics stopped offering abortions July 8, when a judge ruled that she did not have authority to extend the order.

MAINE

Political control: Both chambers of the Maine Legislature, which has adjourned, are controlled by Democrats. Democratic Gov. Janet Mills has vowed to protect the right to an abortion, saying she will “fight with everything I have to protect reproductive rights.”

Background: A Republican governor in 1993 signed a Maine law affirming the right to abortion before a fetus is viable. After that, abortion is only allowed if the life or health of the mother is at risk, or if the pregnancy is no longer viable. In 2019, lawmakers eliminated a physician-only rule and Mills signed it into law, allowing nurse practitioners, physician assistants and other medical professionals to perform abortions.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Nothing has changed in Maine. Any attempt to restrict abortions when lawmakers reconvene next year would face fierce pushback. Abortion providers, meanwhile, said there could be an influx of patients seeking abortions from states that outlaw the procedure.

What’s next: Any major changes are unlikely unless former Gov. Paul LePage, a Republican, unseats

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Mills and Republicans take control of both chambers of the Legislature in November. LePage, a Catholic who opposes abortion rights, has said it's up to lawmakers to address the abortion issue as they see fit.

MARYLAND

Political control: Maryland's General Assembly is controlled by Democrats who expanded abortion access this year by ending a restriction that only physicians can provide them and requiring most insurance plans to cover abortion care without cost. The legislature overrode Republican Gov. Larry Hogan's veto of the bill in April.

Background: The right to abortion is protected in Maryland law. The state approved legislation in 1991 to protect abortion rights if the Supreme Court should ever restrict access. Voters approved the right in 1992 with 62% of the vote. Maryland law prohibits restrictions on abortion prior to viability. Maryland does not have a gestational limit. After viability, clinicians make the determination, based on clinical standard of care.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Nothing changed immediately in Maryland law.

What's next: Maryland's new law to enable nurse practitioners, nurse midwives and physician assistants to provide abortions with training took effect July 1. However, \$3.5 million in state funding to provide training isn't mandated until fiscal year 2024. Hogan, who is term limited, has indicated he will not approve the money sooner. Some nurse practitioners, nurse midwives and physician assistants already have received training on medication abortion and will be able to provide those services starting next month.

MASSACHUSETTS

Political control: The Democrats who control the Massachusetts Legislature support access to abortion, as does the state's Republican governor, although they differ on specific policies.

Background: Massachusetts once had a contentious relationship with abortion in part due to the powerful influence of the Catholic Church, which opposes it. In recent years, that influence has waned and Massachusetts has become a strong supporter of abortion rights. In 2018, in anticipation of the conservative tilt on the U.S. Supreme Court, the state removed an 1845 abortion ban from its books that was not enforced. Two years later, Democratic state lawmakers clashed with Republican Gov. Charlie Baker — who says he supports access to abortion — over an effort to codify abortion rights into state law, allow abortions after 24 weeks of pregnancy in cases where the child would not survive after birth, and lower from 18 to 16 the age at which women could seek an abortion without consent from a parent or guardian. Lawmakers passed the bill — dubbed the Roe Act — over Baker's veto.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Baker has vowed to fight to keep abortion legal in Massachusetts, but it is his last year in office. Both Democratic candidates for governor — state Sen. Sonia Chang-Diaz and Attorney General Maura Healey — support abortion rights. Republican candidate Geoff Diehl said he believes in "the need to protect human life wherever and whenever possible." Fellow GOP candidate Chris Doughty said he would "not seek any changes to our state's abortion laws."

What's next: There is little chance Massachusetts will restrict abortion rights. Baker signed an executive order June 24 barring state agencies from assisting another state's investigation into people or businesses for receiving or delivering reproductive health services that are legal in Massachusetts. The state also won't cooperate with extradition requests from states pursuing criminal charges against such individuals. The state House of Representatives has approved a bill later that is similar to the governor's executive order. It would add protections into state law for individuals seeking abortions and providers so they would not be subject to actions taken by other states.

MICHIGAN

Political control: Both chambers of Michigan's Legislature are controlled by Republicans who want to ban or restrict abortion access, but the state's Democratic governor supports access.

Background: A dormant 1931 law bans nearly all abortions in Michigan but it hasn't been enforced since Roe v. Wade. The law made it a felony to use an instrument or administer any substance with the intent

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to abort a fetus unless necessary to preserve the woman's life. It has no exceptions in cases of rape and incest. Anticipating that Roe could be overturned, Planned Parenthood of Michigan filed a lawsuit challenging Michigan's ban. A state judge suspended the law in May, saying it violates the state's constitution. Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and Attorney General Dana Nessel, both Democrats, hailed the decision.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: The injunction granted in the Planned Parenthood case ensures that abortion does not immediately become illegal. Planned Parenthood of Michigan and other supporters hope the injunction indicates abortion rights in the state will be preserved. But in a statement to The Associated Press, Nessel's office said "given the ongoing lawsuits, we cannot speculate what the state of abortion rights will be in Michigan" after Roe.

What's next: Whitmer also filed suit asking the state's Supreme Court to declare the 91-year-old law unconstitutional. It has not acted yet. Michigan abortion rights supporters hope to put the issue on ballots this fall. Their proposed constitutional amendment would affirm the right to make pregnancy-related decisions without interference, including about abortion and other reproductive services such as birth control. The Reproductive Freedom for All committee needed to collect about 425,000 valid voter signatures and it turned in 753,759 signatures on July 11. The signatures must be validated by the Board of State Canvassers before the proposed amendment can appear on the Nov. 8 ballot. The measure would become law if voters approved it. The issue also is expected to shape legislative and statewide elections this fall, when the ballots will include Whitmer and Nessel's reelection efforts.

MINNESOTA

Political control: The Minnesota Legislature is divided; Anti-abortion Republicans control the Senate and Democrats have the House, but the majorities are slim in both chambers, so control will be up for grabs in the November elections. Most legislative Democrats support abortion rights. Democratic Gov. Tim Walz has said "no abortion ban will ever become law" while he's governor. But he faces a challenge this year from Republican Scott Jensen, who opposes abortion rights.

Background: Abortion is legal in Minnesota up to the point of fetal viability, around the 24th week of pregnancy. A judge on July, 11, lifted most of the state's other existing restrictions, including a 24-hour waiting period with state-mandated counseling, plus requirements that both parents generally must be notified prior to a minor getting an abortion, that only physicians can perform abortions, and that abortions after the first trimester must be performed in hospitals.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Nothing changed immediately in Minnesota because the state Supreme Court ruled in 1995 that the state constitution protects abortion rights. If Republicans take control of both chambers, they could put a constitutional amendment on the ballot as soon as 2024 to reverse that ruling, but it's not clear yet if they would take that path. Minnesota governors can't block constitutional amendments with vetoes. But amendments are hard to enact because they require the backing of most of the citizens voting in that election, not just those voting on the amendment. Leaving the ballot blank counts as a "no."

What's next: Providers are preparing for a surge in women coming from other states to get abortions. Sarah Stoesz, president and CEO of Planned Parenthood North Central States, said before the ruling that her organization was "fortifying" its delivery systems, including telemedicine. Dr. Sarah Traxler, the group's medical director, has said demand in Minnesota is expected to rise by up to 25%.

MISSISSIPPI

Political control: Republican Gov. Tate Reeves and leaders of the Republican-controlled Mississippi Legislature have been working for years to chip away at abortion access.

Background: Mississippi already had a law banning most abortions at 20 weeks, although the state's lone abortion clinic offered the procedure only through 16 weeks. The state tried to enact a law in 2018 to ban most abortions after 15 weeks. That law is the basis for the case that the Supreme Court used to overturn Roe v. Wade in a ruling issued June 24. Reeves was lieutenant governor in 2018 when Mississippi

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tried to enact the 15-week ban, and in 2019 when the state tried to enact a six-week ban. Mississippi law does not allow providers to dispense abortion medications through telemedicine consultations.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Mississippi's only abortion clinic, Jackson Women's Health Organization, stopped doing abortions on July 6. The clinic sued June 27 challenging a law that bans most abortions once Roe v. Wade is overturned. A judge rejected the clinic's request to block the law from taking effect. As of July 7, abortions are allowed only if the woman's life is endangered by the pregnancy or if the pregnancy was caused by a rape that was reported to law enforcement. Any person who knowingly performs or attempts to induce an abortion, except the pregnant woman, could be punished by up to 10 years in prison.

What's next: Clinic attorneys filed papers July 7 asking the Mississippi Supreme Court to block the new ban on most abortions. Justices set a July 25 deadline for the state attorney general to respond. The state's only abortion clinic is not seeing patients, and the owner says she will shut down the facility if the new law is allowed to remain in place.

MISSOURI

Political control: Both GOP Gov. Mike Parson and the Republican-led General Assembly support laws against abortion.

Background: Missouri law previously allowed abortions up until 22 weeks of pregnancy. But a 2019 state law banned abortions "except in cases of medical emergency," contingent upon the U.S. Supreme Court overturning its 1973 Roe v. Wade decision. Under that Missouri law, performing an illegal abortion is a felony punishable by 5 to 15 years in prison, though women receiving abortions cannot be prosecuted.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: The 2019 law banning most abortions kicked in the day the Supreme Court ruled in June.

What's next: Some Missouri residents wanting abortions are likely to travel to neighboring states, including Illinois and Kansas. A new Illinois logistics center near St. Louis helps women from out of state find travel, lodging and childcare if they need help getting to the area for an abortion, and it connects them with funding sources. The Kansas Supreme Court in 2019 declared that access to abortion is a "fundamental" right under the state constitution. Even without the ban in Missouri, the number of Missouri patients seeking abortions in Kansas has gone up in recent years, increasing about 8% from 2020 to 2021.

MONTANA

Political control: The Republicans who control the Montana Legislature and Republican Gov. Greg Gianforte want to limit access to abortion.

Background: Abortion used to be legal in Montana up until viability, or about 24 weeks of pregnancy, but the state Legislature passed a bill in 2021 to reduce that to 20 weeks, arguing that is when the fetus can feel pain. That law, along with one that requires chemical abortions to be done with in-person medical supervision, are being challenged in court. A state judge temporarily blocked enforcement in October 2021 while the challenges move through the courts. The state has asked the Montana Supreme Court to vacate that injunction and overturn a 1999 Montana Supreme Court opinion that found the state's constitutional right to privacy guarantees a woman's access to abortion care.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: The effect is unclear because of the unresolved legal challenges to the 2021 state legislation. Montana does not have an abortion ban that was triggered when Roe v. Wade was overturned, but the Legislature could seek to further restrict access in the next session.

What's next: The Montana Supreme Court will issue a decision on the preliminary injunction. The Montana Legislature also passed a referendum to ask voters this November whether they support a state law to require abortion providers to give lifesaving treatment to a fetus that is born alive after a botched abortion. Opponents argue federal law already offers those protections.

NEBRASKA

Political control: Nebraska has an officially nonpartisan Legislature with a Republican majority, but not a super-majority that would let the party unilaterally pass an abortion ban. Democrats appear to have

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enough votes to block such a bill, but just one defector could swing the vote. Nebraska's Republican governor vehemently opposes abortion.

Background: Nebraska allows most abortions until the 22nd week of pregnancy, although a few small towns have voted to outlaw the procedure within their borders. The state requires doctors to be physically present when patients take the first of two drugs that are used in medication abortions. Lawmakers have rejected attempts to allow abortion medications to be administered remotely, which would provide easier abortion access in rural areas.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: A ruling that lets states set their own abortion laws will trigger an immediate push by Nebraska conservatives to ban the procedure, but it's not clear whether they could do it this year. Unlike other conservative states, Nebraska doesn't have a trigger law that automatically outlaws abortion. Gov. Pete Ricketts and other top Republicans have said they'll seek a special legislative session, but it's not clear whether they have enough votes to pass anything.

What's next: If Ricketts calls a special session, attention will likely shift to state Sen. Justin Wayne, an Omaha Democrat who has declined to specify where he stands on abortion. Wayne was notably absent from a vote on the issue this year; his support would give Republicans the super-majority they need to enact a ban. He has struck deals with senators from both parties in the past. If a proposed abortion ban fails during a special session or if no special session is called, the issue will likely become a factor in the November election.

NEVADA

Political control: Nevada's governor and state attorney general are Democrats who are up for reelection this year. Democrats control the state Senate and Assembly.

Background: Nevada voters enshrined the right to abortion into state law in 1990. The law says a pregnancy can be terminated during the first 24 weeks, and after that to preserve the life or health of the pregnant person. It would take another statewide vote to change or repeal the law. Most Republican candidates for Congress, governor, state attorney general and other statewide posts say they oppose abortions.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: "Here in Nevada, overturning Roe would not be felt immediately," state Attorney General Aaron Ford said in a position paper released after the draft U.S. Supreme Court opinion became public. Ford noted that a federal ban on abortion would supersede state law and said it would be naive not to recognize that some people want to ban abortions or make them more difficult to obtain. But he said his office will fight "attacks on abortion rights, rights to birth control access and rights for LGBTQ people." Gov. Steve Sisolak on June 28 signed an executive order protecting abortion patients and providers from prosecution by other states. State agencies are barred from assisting other states in investigations of people who come to Nevada from other states for abortions. The order also protects providers from discipline and having their license revoked.

What's next: Anti-abortion advocates are not expected to focus on trying to repeal Nevada's abortion law. But they will seek laws affecting waiting periods, mandatory counseling or requiring parental notification or consent. Melissa Clement, executive director of Nevada Right to Life, said she believes there is strong support for parental involvement.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Political control: New Hampshire has a Republican governor and the GOP controls the 424-member Legislature. All face reelection this fall.

Background: Any abortion restrictions New Hampshire had on the books before Roe v. Wade were not enforced after the landmark 1973 ruling, and they were repealed altogether in 1997. The state had no restrictions until January, when a ban on abortion after 24 weeks of pregnancy was enacted. In June, an exemption was added for cases in which the fetus has been diagnosed with "abnormalities incompatible with life." Anticipating the Supreme Court action, Democrats this year tried unsuccessfully to enshrine abortion rights into state law and the state constitution. Gov. Chris Sununu calls himself pro-choice and

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says he is committed to upholding Roe v. Wade, but he also has boasted "I've done more on the pro-life issue than anyone."

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Nothing changed immediately in New Hampshire. The Legislature won't return until fall, when there will be a one-day session to take up vetoed bills, and it would take a two-thirds majority vote to introduce new legislation then.

What's next: The majority leader of the New Hampshire House has said the public should not expect Republicans in the Legislature to further tighten state abortion laws. But anti-abortion lawmakers who have filed bills in the past are expected to try again. Democrats are urging Sununu to call a special session of the Legislature to codify abortion rights into state law, but both he and Republican legislative leaders say there is no need.

NEW JERSEY

Political control: Democrats control both houses of the state Legislature and the governorship. Gov. Phil Murphy started his second consecutive term this year.

Background: Murphy ran for reelection on the promise that he would sign legislation to enshrine abortion rights into state law, and he fulfilled that promise in January. The measure also guaranteed the right to contraception and the right to carry a pregnancy to term. It stopped short of requiring insurance coverage for abortions, something advocates had sought. Instead, it authorizes the state Banking and Insurance Department to study the issue and possibly adopt regulations if a need is discovered. Under Murphy's predecessor, Republican Chris Christie, state funds to women's clinics, including Planned Parenthood, were slashed. Murphy restored those and has been a strong supporter of abortion rights. New Jersey doesn't have any significant restrictions on abortion, such as parental consent or a mandatory waiting period.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Officials, including the governor, have said the end of Roe would not lead to any rollback of abortion services in the state. "Instead of hoping for the best, we prepared ourselves for the worst," Murphy said in May, addressing reports of a leaked draft of a Supreme Court ruling.

What's next: A week after the Supreme Court's ruling, Murphy signed two bills aimed at protecting the right to abortion for out-of-state residents and barring extradition of providers and patients to states that have prohibited the procedure. Another bill that would require health insurance companies to cover abortion services and set aside \$20 million for access to the procedure remains pending in the Legislature. The bill would set aside \$5 million for an abortion training program, \$5 million for a "health security" grant and \$10 million for health care facilities.

NEW MEXICO

Political control: The Democrats who control the New Mexico Legislature support access to abortion, as does the state's Democratic governor. Several conservative Democratic state senators who voted against the repeal of the abortion ban in 2019 were ousted from office in 2020 by more socially progressive primary challengers.

Background: In 2021, state lawmakers repealed a dormant 1969 statute that outlawed most abortion procedures as felonies, thus ensuring access to abortion even after the federal court rolled back guarantees. Albuquerque is home to one of only a few independent clinics in the country that perform abortions in the third trimester without conditions. An abortion clinic in Santa Teresa, New Mexico, is just a mile from the state line with Texas and caters to patients from El Paso, western Texas and Arizona.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: There was no immediate change in New Mexico after the high court overturned Roe v. Wade. It is unclear if Democrats, who control the state Legislature, will pursue additional guarantees to abortion access when lawmakers convene in January. Possible avenues of legislative reform include enshrining abortion rights in the state constitution, which requires approval by voters. Abortion rights activists say the state's equal rights amendment could be harnessed to guide more public funding for abortion-related programs. Raúl Torrez, the district attorney in Albuquerque and the Democratic nominee for attorney general, is urging lawmakers to take further steps to protect access to abortions, including

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protections for women coming from other states. The state Republican Party said it's time to elect more anti-abortion candidates to the Legislature.

What's next: The state can expect to continue to see a steady influx of people seeking abortions from neighboring states with more restrictive abortion laws. It already hosts patients from Texas and Oklahoma where among the strictest abortion bans in the country were introduced this year.

NEW YORK

Political control: The Democrats who control the New York Legislature support access to abortion, as does the state's Democratic governor.

Background: Abortion has been legal in New York state since a 1970 law was passed by the Republican-controlled Legislature and signed by Republican Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller. The law allows abortions within the first 24 weeks of pregnancy or to preserve the mother's life. The 2019 Reproductive Health Act removed abortion from the state's criminal code, codified Roe v. Wade and allowed abortions after 24 weeks if a fetus isn't viable or to protect the mother's life or health. Lawmakers have passed laws extending legal protections for people seeking and providing abortions in New York.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Roe v. Wade protections are enshrined in state law. New York is planning to give abortion providers \$35 million this year to expand services and boost security in anticipation of an influx of out-of-state people seeking abortions once any ruling comes down. It's unclear how many more people from neighboring states could travel to New York to receive abortion care. New York had 252 facilities providing abortions as of 2017, according to the Guttmacher Institute, a research organization that supports abortion rights.

What's next: Planned Parenthood and civil liberty groups are urging lawmakers to start the process of passing a constitutional amendment protecting access to abortion care in case a future Legislature repeals the state law.

NORTH CAROLINA

Political control: Republicans hold majorities in the state House and Senate, but the party lacks the margins to defeat a veto by Democratic Gov. Roy Cooper, a strong abortion-rights supporter. Since 2017, Cooper has vetoed a "born-alive" abortion measure and a bill prohibiting abortion based on race or a Down syndrome diagnosis. He can't seek reelection in 2024 due to term limits.

Background: A 1973 North Carolina law that banned most abortions after 20 weeks of pregnancy is currently unenforceable after federal judges struck it down as unconstitutional in 2019 and 2021. Instead, abortions can be performed until fetal viability. A state law approved in 2015 provides for post-viability abortions only in a "medical emergency," which means the woman would die or face a "serious risk" of substantial and irreversible physical impairment without the procedure.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Now that Roe v. Wade has been overturned, the 20-week ban could be restored. Legal experts say formal action would have to be taken to cancel the earlier court rulings striking it down. On the day of the ruling, Republican legislative leaders asked state Attorney General Josh Stein, a Democrat and abortion rights supporter whose agency's lawyers defended the 20-week law, to demand the ban's injunction be lifted. Otherwise, they said they would seek to intervene. Stein hasn't committed to going to court, telling lawmakers on July 1 that a "thorough legal review" of the matter may take weeks to complete. Separately, Cooper signed an executive order on July 6 that shields out-of-state abortion patients from extradition and prohibits agencies under his control from assisting other states' prosecutions of abortion patients who travel to North Carolina for the procedure.

What's next: Republican General Assembly leaders didn't consider additional abortion restrictions in their legislative session that ended July 1. The party will likely intensify its efforts in this year's elections to gain the five additional seats it needs for veto-proof margins. Cooper and other Democrats already are making abortion rights a key campaign issue. Abortion politics also are expected to figure into two state Supreme Court elections in November. Republicans would gain a majority on the court if they win at least one of them.

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NORTH DAKOTA

Political control: North Dakota has a Legislative Assembly dominated by Republicans who want to ban abortion, and the GOP governor had hoped to see Roe v. Wade wiped off the books in favor of state's rights.

Background: The state has passed some of the nation's strictest abortion laws, including one that would have banned abortions once fetal cardiac activity can be detected, which can happen before a woman knows she is pregnant. The law never took effect because the state's lone abortion clinic successfully challenged it in court. One failed Republican proposal would have charged abortion providers with murder with a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: North Dakota has a trigger law that will shut down the state's sole abortion clinic in Fargo after 30 days, though the state's sole abortion clinic filed a lawsuit in early July seeking to ban the law from taking effect. That 2007 state law makes it a felony to perform an abortion unless necessary to prevent the pregnant woman's death or in cases of rape or incest. Violators could be punished with a five-year prison sentence and a \$10,000 fine. The Red River Women's Clinic argues that the ban violates the rights to life, safety and happiness guaranteed by the state constitution that protect the right to abortion. The suit also questions Attorney General Drew Wrigley's statement that the ban would take effect July 28. The clinic argued that the Supreme Court released its opinion on June 24 but has not yet issued its judgment, which it said is a necessary step to trigger the state ban.

What's next: The owner and operator of the Red River Women's Clinic in Fargo has said she would explore all legal options to ensure abortion services are available in North Dakota. Should that fail, clinic leader Tammi Kromenaker plans to move across the river to Moorhead, Minnesota, where abortion has not been outlawed. Planned Parenthood says it can provide abortions in Moorhead until Kromenaker gets up and running.

OHIO

Political control: The Ohio Legislature is controlled by Republicans who support restricting or banning abortions, and the Republican governor backs those efforts. He is up for reelection this year against a former mayor who supports abortion rights.

Background: Before the Supreme Court's ruling, Ohio did not ban most abortions until the 22nd week of pregnancy; after that they're allowed only to save a patient's life or when their health is seriously compromised. But the state imposes a host of other restrictions, including parental consent for minors, a required ultrasound, and in-person counseling followed by a 24-hour waiting period. Abortions are prohibited for the reason of a fetal Down syndrome diagnosis. Ohio also limits the public funding of abortions to cases of rape, incest or endangerment of the patient's life. It limits public employees' abortion-related insurance coverage and coverage through health plans offered in the Affordable Care Act health exchange to those same scenarios. Clinics providing abortions must comply with a host of regulations.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: A ban on most abortions at the first detectable fetal cardiac activity became the law in Ohio hours after the ruling. Enforcement of Ohio's 2019 "heartbeat" ban had been on hold for nearly three years under a federal court injunction. The state attorney general, Republican Dave Yost, asked for that to be dissolved because of the high court's ruling, and U.S. Judge Michael Barrett agreed hours later.

Two trigger bills are on hold in the Legislature, but a key legislative leader has said he anticipates needing to write new legislation after the decision is reversed that more carefully reflects the actual ruling. That all but certainly would not happen until lawmakers return to the capital after the November election.

OKLAHOMA

Political control: Republicans in Oklahoma have a supermajority in both chambers of the Legislature and a Republican governor up for reelection this year who has vowed to sign "every pro-life legislation that came across my desk."

Background: Abortion services were halted in Oklahoma in May after Gov. Kevin Stitt signed a bill that

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prohibits all abortions with few exceptions. The ban is enforced by civil lawsuits rather than criminal prosecution. Republican lawmakers have been pushing to restrict abortion in the state for decades, passing 81 different restrictions since *Roe v. Wade* was decided in 1973, according to the Guttmacher Institute.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: It will have little practical effect given that abortions are no longer being provided in Oklahoma. Oklahoma also has a "trigger law" that outlawed abortion as soon as *Roe* was overturned.

What's next: Given the fierce opposition to abortion from the governor and Legislature, Oklahoma will continue to prohibit the practice if states are given the option to do so. Meanwhile, abortion providers who had been operating in the state are taking steps to help patients seek abortions out of state, including coordinating funding for these women and developing a referral network of therapists to help address complications before or after a woman receives an abortion.

OREGON

Political control: The Democrats who control the Oregon Legislature support access to abortion, as does the state's Democratic governor.

Background: The Oregon Legislature passed a bill legalizing abortion in 1969. In 2017, Gov. Kate Brown signed into law a bill expanding health care coverage for reproductive services, including abortions, to thousands of Oregonians, regardless of income, citizenship status or gender identity. Oregon does not have any major abortion restrictions and it is legal at all stages of pregnancy.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: The Guttmacher Institute has estimated that Oregon will experience a 234% increase in women seeking abortions arriving from out of state, especially from Idaho. In March, Oregon lawmakers approved \$15 million to expand abortion availability and pay for abortions and support services such as travel and lodgings for residents and out-of-state patients.

What's next: Brown said after the draft Supreme Court decision was leaked that access to abortion is a fundamental right and that she will fight to ensure access to abortion continues to be protected by state law in Oregon. Democratic state lawmakers recently formed the Reproductive Health and Access to Care Work Group of providers, clinics, community organizations and legislators that will make recommendations for the 2023 legislative session and beyond. Recommendations may include proposals to protect, strengthen, and expand equitable access to all forms of reproductive care.

PENNSYLVANIA

Political control: Republicans who control the Pennsylvania Legislature are hostile to abortion rights, but the state's Democratic governor is a strong supporter and has vetoed three GOP-penned bills in five years that would have added restrictions beyond the state's 24-week limit. The race for governor this year could tilt that balance.

Background: Abortion is legal in Pennsylvania under decades of state law, including a 1989 law that was challenged all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. That produced the landmark *Planned Parenthood v. Casey* ruling that affirmed the high court's 1973 decision in *Roe v. Wade* that legalized abortion nationwide, but also allowed states to put certain limits on abortion access.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Gov. Tom Wolf has vowed to protect access to abortion for the remainder of his time in office, through January. Running to replace him is the state's Democratic attorney general, Josh Shapiro, who supports abortion rights, and Republican state Sen. Doug Mastriano, who has said he supports banning abortion altogether, with no exceptions. The Legislature is expected to remain in Republican hands next year. Abortion clinics in some parts of the state already are experiencing fallout from the ruling. Less than a week after it came out, a clinic in Pittsburgh was flooded with patients who suddenly lost appointments in Ohio, the clinic director said. Clinic representatives are warning that Pennsylvanians will have a harder time finding appointments because of rising demand from out-of-state residents.

What's next: Legislation to outlaw abortion after the detection of fetal cardiac activity—which can happen at six weeks, before many women even know they are pregnant—has passed a House committee

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and is awaiting a floor vote. The state Supreme Court is considering a lawsuit filed by Planned Parenthood and other abortion providers aiming to overturn a 1982 law that bans the use of state dollars for abortion, except in cases of rape, incest or to save the life of the mother. In response, Republican lawmakers are advancing a proposed amendment that would declare there is no constitutional right to an abortion in Pennsylvania or to public funding for an abortion.

RHODE ISLAND

Political control: Democrats who control Rhode Island's General Assembly support access to abortion, as does the Democratic governor.

Background: Rhode Island's governor signed legislation in 2019 to enshrine abortion protections in case the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. The law says the state will not restrict the right to an abortion prior to fetal viability or after if necessary to protect the health or life of the pregnant woman. It repealed older laws deemed unconstitutional by the courts. The Rhode Island Supreme Court upheld the 2019 law in May, two days after the U.S. Supreme Court draft opinion was leaked suggesting that a majority of the justices were prepared to overturn Roe. Abortion opponents had argued the law violates the state constitution. In 2020, 2,611 abortions were performed in Rhode Island, according to the state health department.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Rhode Island's attorney general believes the 2019 Reproductive Privacy Act will continue to protect access to abortion. Planned Parenthood Votes! Rhode Island also said abortion remains legal because the right was codified in state law.

What's next: Democratic Gov. Daniel McKee signed an executive order July 5 prohibiting state agencies from cooperating with other states' investigations into people who travel to Rhode Island to seek abortions or health care providers that perform them. Two of McKee's opponents in September's Democratic primary for governor, Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea and Matt Brown, want state lawmakers to return for a special session to add abortion coverage to Rhode Island's Medicaid program and to the insurance coverage for state employees. Legislative leaders said they will address abortion coverage next year.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Political control: South Carolina has a Republican governor, and its General Assembly is dominated by the GOP. However, the party doesn't quite have the two-thirds majority in either chamber needed to overcome procedural hurdles or a veto if a Democrat wins the 2022 gubernatorial election.

Background: In 2021, South Carolina passed the "Fetal Heartbeat and Protection from Abortion Act" that requires doctors to use an ultrasound to try to detect fetal cardiac activity if they think a pregnant woman is at least eight weeks along. If they find cardiac activity, they can only perform an abortion if the woman's life is in danger, or if the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest. The law is currently tied up in a federal lawsuit.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: After the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade, a federal judge allowed the state to begin enforcing the 2021 law. Planned Parenthood and others dropped their lawsuit, but the organization said it would continue to perform abortions in South Carolina under the parameters of the new law.

What's next: The South Carolina General Assembly's regular session ended in May, but Republican leaders had agreed they could return for a special session to take up more restrictive abortion bills if the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. They have yet to announce a special session. Some Republican lawmakers have opposed a complete abortion ban, especially without exceptions for victims of rape and incest.

SOUTH DAKOTA

Political control: Republicans hold super-majorities in both Statehouse chambers. Republican Gov. Kristi Noem is up for reelection this year and has been an ardent opponent of abortion rights.

Background: South Dakota law bans abortions except if the life of the woman is at risk. The state had

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only one clinic that regularly provided abortions, a Planned Parenthood facility in Sioux Falls. The Legislature has worked over the years to make it more difficult for women to get abortions, passing mandatory waiting periods and requiring them to review and sign paperwork that discourages them from ending their pregnancies.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: South Dakota's trigger law immediately banned abortions except if the life of the pregnant woman is at risk.

What's next: Noem has called for a special session to craft laws under the new legal landscape now that Roe v. Wade is overturned. She hasn't commented on specific legislation, but lawmakers have floated proposals that would make it more difficult for women to seek an abortion out of state. However, South Dakota voters rejected outright bans in 2006 and 2008, and abortion rights advocates are preparing for a similar referendum on abortion access. The ban on abortions could eventually be challenged through a citizen-initiated ballot measure.

TENNESSEE

Political control: Tennessee has a Republican governor who is consistently vocal about his opposition to abortion. The GOP holds a supermajority in the General Assembly and has steadily chipped away at abortion access.

Background: In 2020, Tennessee passed a law banning most abortions when the fetal cardiac activity can be detected at about six weeks, before many women know they're pregnant. The measure has never been enforced because it was promptly blocked by a federal court. On June 28, a federal appeals court let it take effect. Tennessee voters approved an amendment in 2014 declaring that the state's constitution doesn't protect or secure the right to abortion or require the funding of an abortion, and empowering state lawmakers to "enact, amend, or repeal statutes regarding abortion." State law also doesn't allow providers to dispense abortion medications through telemedicine consultations. There are six abortion providers in Tennessee.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: The state's attorney general, a Republican, has said a trigger law will go into effect in mid-August that bans all abortions in Tennessee except when necessary to prevent death or "serious risk of substantial and irreversible impairment of a major bodily function." Doctors could be charged with a felony for providing an abortion under the law.

What's next: Tennessee's attorney general has said the trigger law will take precedence over the 2020 law banning most abortions at about six weeks. Meanwhile, Republicans are expected to continue to have supermajority control after this year's midterm elections. Reproductive rights activists say they will direct patients seeking abortion to clinics in Illinois if Roe v. Wade is overturned, or to Florida, which would ban abortions at 15 weeks. North Carolina and Virginia also could be options for women in eastern Tennessee.

TEXAS

Political control: The GOP has commanding majorities in the Texas Legislature and has controlled every statewide office for nearly 30 years. Republican Gov. Greg Abbott is up for reelection in November and is favored to win a third term.

Background: Texas has given the nation a preview of the landscape of abortion access without the protections enshrined in Roe v. Wade. A new Texas law banning most abortions after about six weeks — before many women know they are pregnant — took effect in September and makes no exceptions in cases of rape or incest. Because of how Republicans wrote the law, which is enforceable only through lawsuits filed by private citizens against doctors or anyone who helps a woman obtain an abortion, Texas has essentially outmaneuvered decades of Supreme Court precedent governing a women's constitutional right to an abortion. State data shows the number of abortions performed in Texas' roughly two dozen clinics fell by half in the five months after the law came into effect compared to the same period a year earlier.

Effect of the Supreme Court ruling: The fall of Roe put in motion Texas' trigger law that will ban virtually all abortions in the coming weeks. Clinics have tried to continue serving patients in the meantime, but a new round of court battles over whether a dormant 1925 abortion ban can be enforced for now has

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already stopped most doctors from performing abortions. Without Roe v. Wade, abortions will soon only be allowed in Texas when the patient's life is in danger or if they are at risk of "substantial impairment of a major bodily function."

What's next: Many Texas women have already traveled out of state for abortions since the law took effect, but they would likely have to travel much farther now that Roe is overturned as more states outlaw abortion. Some Republican lawmakers also want to punish companies that help their Texas-based employees get abortions elsewhere, although it's unclear how much support that idea will have when the Legislature returns in 2023.

UTAH

Political control: Utah is deeply conservative and the Legislature is controlled by a Republican supermajority.

Background: The state has been restricting abortion for years and, after the Supreme Court ruling, moved to implement two new restrictions — a "trigger law" outlawing nearly all abortions upon Roe v. Wade being overturned and a ban on abortions after 18 weeks that was passed a year earlier.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: The trigger law banning nearly all abortions became enforceable the evening of the Supreme Court ruling, after the legislative general counsel certified the ruling to lawmakers. It does have narrow exceptions for rape and incest if those crimes are reported to law enforcement, and for serious risk to the life or health of the mother, as well as confirmed lethal birth defects. The Planned Parenthood Association of Utah subsequently filed a lawsuit in state court arguing it violated the Utah Constitution. Meanwhile, legal challenges blocking the 18-week law based on Roe v. Wade were dismissed. That law took effect while courts weigh state constitutional challenges to its trigger law.

What's next: A judge on July 11 put Utah's trigger law banning most abortions on hold until Planned Parenthood's lawsuit is decided. If it takes effect, performing an abortion would be a felony punishable by up to 15 years in prison and a \$10,000 fine. While the law is aimed primarily at providers, lawmakers have acknowledged that a woman who self-administers an abortion, including through medication, could face charges.

VERMONT

Political control: The Vermont Legislature is controlled by Democrats, but Republican Gov. Phil Scott is a firm supporter of abortion rights.

Background: Vermont has a 2019 law guaranteeing the right to an abortion and voters will consider a proposal in November to amend the state constitution to protect abortion rights. Also in 2019, the Vermont Legislature began the process of amending the constitution to protect abortion rights, known as the Reproductive Liberty Amendment or Proposition 5. Vermont's proposed amendment does not contain the word "abortion." Proponents say that's because it's not meant to authorize only abortion but also would guarantee other reproductive rights such as the right to get pregnant or access birth control. Opponents say vague wording could have unintended consequences that could play out for years. Lawmakers approved the proposed amendment in February, leading the way for a statewide vote.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Nothing changed immediately in Vermont.

What's next: Vermont voters will cast ballots in November to decide if the state will amend its constitution to protect abortion rights.

VIRGINIA

Political control: Virginia has a Republican governor who says he would support new state-level restrictions on abortion. Gov. Glenn Youngkin said that he will seek legislation to ban most abortions after 15 weeks. Youngkin told The Washington Post he has asked four antiabortion Republican lawmakers to draft the legislation. He told the Post that a cutoff at 20 weeks might be necessary to build consensus in the divided Virginia General Assembly, where Republicans control the House and Democrats control the Senate. Youngkin generally supports exceptions to abortion restrictions in cases of rape, incest or when the life of the mother is in danger.

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Background: In recent years, when Democrats were in full control of state government, lawmakers rolled back abortion restrictions. They ended strict building code requirements on facilities where abortions are performed and did away with requirements that a patient seeking an abortion undergo a 24-hour waiting period and ultrasound. Advocates said the changes would make Virginia a haven for abortion access in the South. Republican victories in the November elections shook up the state's political landscape, but Senate Democrats defeated several measures that would have limited abortion access during the 2022 legislative session.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: There was no immediate change to abortion laws in Virginia now that Roe v. Wade has been overturned. Some abortion providers expect to see an uptick in patients seeking care in Virginia from neighboring states with "trigger laws" that would ban abortion.

What's next: The future of abortion access in Virginia is murky. Senate Democrats say they intend to continue blocking attempts to roll back abortion access, though they control the chamber by the narrowest possible margin and have one caucus member who personally opposes abortion and says he is open to new restrictions. Republicans also have a narrow hold on the House, with several moderate members. Every seat in the General Assembly will be on the ballot in 2023.

WASHINGTON

Political control: The Democrats who control the Washington Legislature support access to abortion, as does the state's Democratic governor.

Background: Abortion has been legal in Washington state since a 1970 statewide ballot referendum. Another ballot measure approved by voters in 1991 declared a woman's right to choose physician-performed abortion prior to fetal viability and further expanded and protected access to abortion in the state if Roe v. Wade was overturned. And in 2018, the Legislature passed a measure that would require Washington insurers offering maternity care to also cover elective abortions and contraception. Earlier this year, Gov. Jay Inslee signed a measure that grants specific statutory authorization for physician assistants, advanced registered nurse practitioners and other providers acting within their scope of practice to perform abortions. Supporters say the move is designed to help meet the demand from the potential influx of out-of-state patients. That same measure also prohibits legal action by Washington state against people seeking an abortion and those who aid them.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: The state "will use every available tool to protect and preserve Washingtonians' fundamental right to choose, and protect the rights of anyone who wants to come here to access reproductive health care," said Attorney General Bob Ferguson, a Democrat. Data from the Washington state Department of Health from 2020 shows that of the 16,909 abortions performed in the state that year, 852 involved non-residents. The majority of those people came from neighboring states such as Idaho and Oregon.

What's next: It's impossible to predict how many more non-resident patients will potentially seek care in Washington now that Roe v. Wade has been overturned, but the increase will likely be in the thousands, said Jennifer Allen, CEO of Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates. The state has more than 30 in-person abortion clinics, though the vast majority are in western Washington along the Interstate 5 corridor.

WEST VIRGINIA

Political control: West Virginia's Legislature is controlled by Republicans who want to ban or restrict access to abortions. Gov. Jim Justice, a Republican, opposes abortion access and has signed two anti-abortion laws since taking office in 2017.

Background: Before the Supreme Court ruling, West Virginia law banned abortion after the 20th week of pregnancy unless a patient's life is in danger or they face "substantial and irreversible physical impairment of a major bodily function." The state has several other abortion restrictions that include: requiring patients seeking abortions to wait 24 hours after undergoing legislatively mandated counseling that is designed to discourage a woman from ending a pregnancy; requiring minors to get parental permission; banning the

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use of telemedicine to administer a medication abortion; and prohibiting abortions on the grounds that the child will be born with a disability.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: West Virginia's only abortion clinic announced after the Supreme Court's ruling that it would immediately halt abortion services out of concern that staff could be prosecuted under a state law banning abortion that dates back to the 1800s. Charleston-based Women's Health Center of West Virginia Executive Director Katie Quinonez said it would be "impossible" for the clinic to continue performing abortions with such a law on the books. Under that law, providers who perform abortions can face felony charges and three to 10 years in prison, unless the abortion is conducted to save a patient's life. The law makes no exceptions for rape or incest. In 2018, West Virginia voters approved a constitutional amendment to declare patients do not have the right to abortion and banning state funding for abortions.

What's next: State officials have not said formally how the 19th century abortion ban will be enforced. Abortion is addressed in numerous statutes in West Virginia state code, including the 20-week ban passed in 2015 that acknowledges the right to abortion access in the state. State Senate President Craig Blair and Speaker of the House Roger Hanshaw, both Republicans, said legislative attorneys are reviewing each statute on the books "to determine how they apply" in light of the high court's decision. No lawmakers have commented on whether they intend to outlaw medication abortion. The governor has said he will not hesitate to call the Legislature into a special session if the state's abortion law needs to be clarified. Quinonez said while her clinic is not currently performing abortions, it will remain open to continue to provide reproductive care, such as birth control and diagnosis, and to treat sexually transmitted diseases. She said the clinic will help women travel to other states for abortions through its abortion fund.

WISCONSIN

Political control: Wisconsin's Legislature is controlled by Republicans who want to ban or restrict access to abortions, but the Democratic governor supports access and is up for reelection this year.

Background: Wisconsin has allowed most abortions until the 22nd week of pregnancy to save the health or life of the mother. A woman seeking an abortion must meet with a counselor and doctor before obtaining an abortion and wait at least 24 hours before having it done. Anyone under age 18 must have an adult relative over age 25 with them to obtain an abortion.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: Now that Roe v. Wade has been overturned, it is presumed that a state law passed in 1849 making an abortion a felony offense could go into effect, and doctors have halted procedures. However, Wisconsin's Democratic attorney general argues that the law is so old that it's unenforceable. The language allows a woman to legally destroy her own fetus or embryo and grants immunity if an abortion is needed to save a woman's life and is performed at a hospital. Another state law, passed in 1985, prohibits abortions performed after a fetus reaches viability -- when it could survive outside the womb -- conflicting with the 1849 ban.

What's next: Wisconsin Attorney General Josh Kaul filed a lawsuit June 28 against Republican leaders of the Legislature, arguing that the 1849 abortion ban conflicts with a 1985 law that prohibits abortion either after 20 weeks or at the point of fetal viability. His lawsuit says the 1985 law should take precedence. Republican lawmakers are expected to attempt to clarify the 19th century law during next year's legislative session to ensure a ban is in place, even as that issue is being argued in the courts. Lawmakers' efforts would be stymied if Democratic Gov. Tony Evers wins reelection. Assembly Speaker Robin Vos, a Republican, said he supports a rape exception to an abortion ban, but also said the overturning of Roe could prompt Republican lawmakers to consider other reproductive issues, such as contraception.

WYOMING

Political control: Wyoming has one of the most Republican legislatures in the U.S. and a long tradition of libertarian-type if not always social or religious conservatism. That may be changing. In March, Republican Gov. Mark Gordon signed into law a bill that would ban abortion in nearly all instances should the Supreme Court overturn Roe v. Wade.

Background: Current Wyoming law allows abortions up to when a fetus might be able to survive on its

own outside its mother's body. The law does not specify when that happens, but it is generally considered to be at around 23 weeks into pregnancy. Wyoming currently doesn't allow abortions after then except to protect the mother from substantial risk to her life or health. Wyoming Republicans have traditionally taken a hands-off approach to abortion but have proven more willing to limit the practice lately. The number of Democrats in the Legislature has dwindled from 26 in 2010 to just nine out of 90 total seats now. A 2021 law requires physicians to provide lifesaving care to any aborted fetus born alive.

Effect of Supreme Court ruling: The new state law that bans abortion only provides exceptions in cases of rape or incest or to protect the mother's life or health, not including psychological conditions. Though Wyoming has no abortion clinics, abortions still occur. Ninety-eight took place in Wyoming in 2021, according to state officials.

What's next: A planned women's health clinic in Casper that would have been the only one offering abortions in the state was on track to open in mid-June but an arson fire May 25 delayed those plans by around six months. Clinic founder Julie Burkhart that despite the ruling she still plans to open the clinic and will continue to seek legal means to keep abortion legal in Wyoming. Police continue to look for a suspect in the arson investigation, and have offered a \$5,000 reward for information leading to an arrest.

State lottery advertising tells players half of the story

By VANESSA G. SÁNCHEZ, SHANNON CLARK, VICTORIA A. IFATUSIN, ZOE PIERCE, SHREYA VUTTALURU, RACHEL LOGAN, AADIT TAMBE / Howard Center for Investigative Journalism Howard Center for Investigative Journalism

HOUSTON (AP) — The sign at the SHOP N Go front counter says "WE SOLD \$10,000 WINNER!!"

Located in a Hispanic neighborhood, the store sells Texas Loteria, a popular game marketed by the state lottery that resembles the iconic bingo lotería game in Mexico.

The sign and the game attract players like Manuel Constancia, who said he buys the lottery scratch tickets at SHOP N Go almost every day.

The 50-year-old landscape worker had just bought five \$5 Texas Loteria tickets but said he did not win anything. He said he often buys the \$50 tickets and has lost enough to come up short on rent and food "many times."

Yet he keeps coming back.

"I feel that in the next ticket I can become a millionaire," he said.

State lotteries spend more than a half-billion dollars a year on pervasive marketing campaigns that deliver a similarly hopeful message, designed to persuade people to play often, spend more and overlook the long odds of winning.

A Texas Lottery internet ad tells players they can "unleash the power of luck" by purchasing \$20 scratch tickets.

A sign outside a supermarket in New Jersey beckons passersby to "Give Your Dreams A Chance."

A YouTube video reminds Virginia players they can win more if they wager more.

A phone app in Michigan sends alerts "reminding you to purchase tickets before the draw."

The investment has paid off for the lotteries. For every \$1 spent on advertising nationwide, they have made about \$128 in ticket sales, according to an analysis of lottery data by the Howard Center for Investigative Journalism at the University of Maryland.

But behind that success are millions of people like Constancia. For every dollar players spend on the lottery, they will lose about 35 cents on average, the data shows. For many, the losses add up to thousands, even tens of thousands, of dollars over time.

That's not a statistic the lotteries advertise, and they don't have to. As state agencies, they are exempt from Federal Trade Commission regulations that prohibit misleading and deceptive advertising.

"The FTC does not regulate state lotteries because they are regulated at the state level, but the most important part is that we do not regulate them because they are not interstate commerce," a commission spokesperson said.

That leaves oversight of advertising up to the state legislatures that depend on lottery revenue to help

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balance their budgets.

The conflict of interest has hindered efforts to rein in advertising, such as a 2020 bill that a South Dakota legislator introduced to ban lotteries from promoting their games over concerns they were addictive. It failed to get out of committee after a state official testified it would reduce the flow of lottery money for education spending by \$1 million.

"It troubles me how the state promotes gambling while at the same time running ads warning people about opioids, meth, tobacco and every other addictive habit people may be susceptible to," state Rep. John Mills, a Republican who sponsored the bill, wrote in an email.

Government reliance on gambling funds also puts pressure on lotteries to pursue "new marketing, glossier colors on the scratch tickets, whatever it may be to get people to keep coming, because otherwise the numbers go down," said Les Bernal, national director of Stop Predatory Gambling, a nonprofit advocacy group based in Washington, D.C.

The impact of the aggressive marketing is especially profound on lower-income Black and Hispanic populations. Studies have found they spend more on lottery games than other groups.

The Howard Center found that stores in the vast majority of the states that sell lottery tickets – 45 states, plus Washington, D.C., have lotteries – are disproportionately concentrated in communities with lower levels of education and income and higher poverty rates, with larger populations of Black and Hispanic people.

"They prey on people's hopes," said David Surdam, professor of economics at the University of Northern Iowa. "They figure their chances of ever having real prosperity are pretty slender and the lottery may be the only hope they have."

Lottery agencies can point to "play responsibly" messages and winning odds disclosures in their ads and on their websites.

But most of the participants in a 2021 study at the University of Memphis had trouble finding or remembering the odds-of-winning statements on scratch-off tickets and only 20% interpreted them correctly.

Another 2021 study, by researchers from the Center for Gambling Studies at Rutgers University, found that most lottery websites admonished players to gamble responsibly but information on what that means was "inconsistent and sparse."

The Howard Center analyzed annual reports, advertising campaigns and state lottery marketing plans obtained through public records requests and found they frequently promote the risky behavior that their responsible gambling messages discourage.

In the most recent annual report available on its website, the Connecticut Lottery touted its ad campaign urging players to use their common sense.

One of the campaign ads, "Myths," shows someone circling the 15 on a calendar with "birthday" inscribed below it and then filling in 15 on a lottery ticket. A ball with the number 39 drops in the next frame, followed by a written message: "Using special numbers doesn't change your odds. Avoid common gambling myths." The eight-second spot had fewer than 100 views as of early May.

The video appears on the Connecticut Lottery's YouTube channel along with "Indelible Numbers," a 30-second video that sends the opposite message. That ad follows a couple from their meeting, marriage, first home and their child's birth. Through the commercial, numbers are pulled from those meaningful events to form a group of five numbers they use to fill out a Cash 5 lottery slip.

"They're not just any numbers, they're your numbers. Play them today, and every day," the narrator says. That video had more than 3,700 views.

A tiny "Play responsibly" link at the bottom of the Virginia Lottery website leads to this statement: "At the Virginia Lottery, we encourage friendly competition and responsible play. We are committed to presenting all Virginia Lottery products in the most responsible and ethical manner."

But a Virginia Lottery ad on its YouTube channel encourages players to play Cash Pop, "an exciting new game," five times a day with separate drawings at "coffee break," "lunch break," "rush hour," "prime time" and "after hours."

The video goes on to show how players can bet up to \$10 per number and up to 15 numbers per draw-

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ing. It fails to mention the cost of following those suggestions would add up to \$750 a day.

The odds of winning the \$2,500 top prize, "1 in 15,000," appear briefly in small type on the last frame. Lottery advertising plans also show that online lotteries are giving state lotteries the ability to track players and target them more directly.

The 2019 Michigan Lottery marketing plan details how use of device-level data allowed tailoring of push notifications to "increase engagement and improve player retention with a seamless experience by delivering the right message, at the right time on the right platform."

"Whether it be app download, app open, message open, location update, shopping cart abandonment, or app uninstall, having the ability to respond to player behavior at this level will ensure better acquisition and retention," the plan says.

The marketing plan includes development of a ChatBot that reaches customers through artificial intelligence-based conversations as "a pivotal next step to increase player engagement."

Officials at the Michigan, Virginia, Connecticut, New Jersey and Texas lotteries contacted for this story did not respond or declined to discuss their marketing campaigns. David Gale, executive director of the North American Association of State and Provincial Lotteries, referred questions about industry practices to the state lottery agencies.

Opponents of the Texas lottery won a provision in the 1991 law that created the lottery, banning advertisements or promotions "of a nature that unduly influences any person to purchase a lottery ticket."

But efforts to enforce it have faltered. A bill to prohibit the lottery from advertising in counties with a per-capita income below 150% of the poverty line and another to ensure advertising didn't target any specific demographic both failed.

The Howard Center's analysis, based on 2020 data, found that census tracts in Texas with lottery retailers, like the one where Constanca buys his tickets, had larger Hispanic populations and higher poverty levels. And the lottery's own 2020 study found Hispanic players outspent players belonging to any other demographic group on lottery games by 30%.

The Texas Lottery Commission, the agency that oversees the lottery, has adopted some safeguards. Its advertising "sensitivity" policies require marketing agencies to design campaigns that do not "exploit a person, specific group or economic class."

Yet the commission has made its scratch-off Texas Loteria games the centerpiece of a four-year, \$3 million marketing campaign to boost its brand and sales with a special emphasis on "ethnic markets," according to documents obtained through a records request.

The lottery originally introduced them as \$3, \$5 and \$10 scratch offs. But beginning in 2018, it added two \$20 Loteria games and most recently, a \$50 version — one of the most expensive games in the Texas market today.

LatinWorks Marketing LLC, a firm specializing in ad campaigns that tap into the growing Hispanic market, won the contract to promote sales. The company, now called Third Ear, proposed hiring a Hispanic and a non-Hispanic influencer to get around ad blockers and reach both groups.

In year one of the campaign, sales of Million Dollar Loteria, Mega Loteria and Super Loteria scratch-off tickets topped \$540 million, contributing to a record \$4.85 billion in scratch-off ticket sales, according to a 2021 Texas Lottery report.

In an email, a spokesperson said the "Texas Lottery declines to participate in this project, either by conducting an interview or answering written questions."

Three arrested after Sioux Falls police shoot at suspect

SIOUXFALLD, (AP) — Sioux Falls police fired numerous gunshots at a man who threatened officers with a shotgun, according to the city's police chief.

No one was hit by the gunshots fired Monday afternoon in a car wash parking lot, said Chief Jon Thum.

Police responded to a tip about parole absconders, saw a vehicle leaving a home and attempted to make a traffic stop.

Thum says the driver pulled into the car wash lot, made a U-turn and came head-to-head with police. At that point, a person in the backseat "brandished" a shotgun and police fired "multiple" shots, according to Thum.

Two people in the front seat crawled out of the vehicle and laid down on the concrete, while the man in the backseat left his shotgun in the car and fled into an office at the car wash, Thum said. Police followed and used a stun gun to arrest him, the Argus Leader reported.

The South Dakota Division of Criminal Investigation is leading the investigation into the shooting, which is the fourth involving Sioux Falls officers since January and sixth in the past nine months.

Biden heads to Mideast jittery about Iranian nuclear program

By JOSH BOAK, JOSEF FEDERMAN and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Joe Biden starts the first visit to the Middle East of his presidency with a monumental task: assuring uneasy Israeli and Saudi Arabian officials that he is committed to preventing Iran from becoming a nuclear power.

Biden begins the visit Wednesday with a three-day stop in Israel, where officials say Iran's quickly evolving nuclear program is at the top of their agenda for talks with the U.S. president. Biden made reviving the Iran nuclear deal, brokered by Barack Obama in 2015 and abandoned by Donald Trump in 2018, a key priority as he entered office.

But indirect talks for the U.S. to reenter the deal have stalled as Iran has made rapid gains in developing its nuclear program. That's left the Biden administration increasingly pessimistic about resurrecting the deal, which placed significant restrictions on Iran's nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief.

Shortly after his arrival in Israel on Wednesday, Biden is expected to get a briefing on the country's new "Iron Beam" missile defense system and visit the Yad Vashem, a memorial to Holocaust victims. Besides meetings with Israeli and Palestinian officials, he's slated to receive Israel's Presidential Medal of Honor and visit with U.S. athletes taking part in the Maccabiah Games, which involve thousands of Jewish and Israeli athletes from around the globe.

Biden, in a Washington Post op-ed published Saturday, laced into Trump for quitting the nuclear deal that Britain, France, Germany, Russia, China and the European Union also signed onto. But Biden also suggested that he's still holding onto at least a sliver of hope that the Iranians will come back into compliance.

"My administration will continue to increase diplomatic and economic pressure until Iran is ready to return to compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal, as I remain prepared to do," he wrote.

Israeli officials, who briefed reporters ahead of Biden's departure from Washington on Tuesday, said the U.S. and Israel would issue a broad-ranging "Jerusalem Declaration" that will take a tough stance on Iran's nuclear program.

The declaration commits both countries to use "all elements of their national power against the Iranian nuclear threat," according to an Israeli official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to preview the statement.

The official said the Israelis would stress to Biden their view that Iran has calculated "time is on their side" and is loath to give any concessions. The Biden administration's last round of indirect negotiations with Iran in Doha, Qatar, late last month ended without success.

Separately, Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid issued a joint statement on Wednesday announcing the two nations were launching a new strategic high-level dialogue on technology. The partnership is to focus on the use of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence and other tech-based solutions, to take on global challenges such as pandemic preparedness and climate change.

The White House has also been frustrated with repeated Iran-sponsored attacks on U.S. troops based in Iraq, though the administration says the frequency of such attacks has dropped precipitously over the last two years. Tehran also sponsored the rebel Houthis in a bloody war with the Saudis in Yemen. A U.N.-brokered cease-fire has been in place for more than four months, a fragile peace in a war that began in 2015.

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Separately, White House national security adviser Jake Sullivan on Monday said the administration believes Russia is turning to Iran to provide it with hundreds of unmanned aerial vehicles, including weapons-capable drones, for use in its ongoing war in Ukraine.

The Saudis, like the Israelis, have been frustrated that the White House has not abandoned efforts to revive the nuclear deal with Tehran. Biden heads to the Saudi port city of Jeddah on Friday to meet with King Salman and the Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, who is widely known by his initials MBS, and to attend a gathering of the Gulf Cooperation Council, where Iran's nuclear program is on the agenda.

Also looming over the Saudi visit is the president's strained relationship with the crown prince.

As a White House candidate, Biden, a Democrat, said he would look to make the kingdom a "pariah" nation over its human rights abuses. The relationship was further strained when Biden last year approved the release of a U.S. intelligence report that determined that MBS likely approved the 2018 killing of U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

The president will arrive in Saudi Arabia, among the world's biggest oil producers, at a moment of skyrocketing gas and food prices around the globe — driven, in part, by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. White House officials and energy analysts say there are low expectations that the Saudis or fellow members of OPEC+ will deliver relief.

Another factor in seeking a détente in the Saudi relationship is growing concern in the administration that the Saudis could move closer to China and Russia amid strains with the United States.

Aaron David Miller, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and former U.S. State Department official, said Biden is looking forward to visiting Saudi Arabia "like I would look forward to a root canal operation."

"You've got a president who is terribly conflicted about this meeting," Miller said. "He can't even acknowledge, in all of his public remarks, that he's even going to meet with Mohammed bin Salman."

But Israeli officials are cautiously optimistic that the Biden visit could be a breakthrough moment on a slow path toward normalizing relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia. Biden will be the first U.S. president to travel directly from Israel to Saudi Arabia, and the two nations' shared enmity for Iran has led to subtle cooperation.

Earlier this week, opposition leader Benjamin Netanyahu praised the crown prince's "contribution" to the Abraham Accords, declarations of diplomatic and economic normalization signed by Bahrain, Israel, the United Arab Emirates and the United States while Netanyahu was prime minister.

Israel is expected to hold new elections in the fall after the fragile coalition government led by Naftali Bennett crumbled last month.

UK Conservatives cast votes in 1st round of leadership race

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press Writer

LONDON (AP) — Conservative Party lawmakers in Britain are casting ballots Wednesday in the first round of an election to replace Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

The internal party contest will replace the flamboyant, scandal-ridden Johnson — a figure famous in Britain and around the world — with a new and much lesser-known prime minister.

Eight candidates have secured the required backing of 20 of their colleagues to make the first ballot. The 358 Tory legislators will vote Wednesday afternoon, with the last-placed candidate and any others who fail to get 30 votes dropping off the list. Further rounds of voting will take place Thursday and, if needed, next week.

The final two contenders will face a runoff vote by about 180,000 Conservative Party members across the country. The winner is scheduled to be announced Sept. 5 and will automatically become prime minister, without the need for a national election.

Few of the contenders have a high public profile. Former Treasury chief Rishi Sunak is the bookies' favorite and has the largest number of declared supporters, followed by Foreign Secretary Liz Truss and Trade Minister Penny Mordaunt.

Treasury chief Nadhim Zahawi, backbench lawmaker Tom Tugendhat, ex-Equalities Minister Kemi Badenoch, former Foreign Secretary Jeremy Hunt and Attorney General Suella Braverman are also on the ballot.

The candidates are jostling to replace Johnson, who quit as Conservative leader last week amid a party revolt triggered by months of ethics scandals. He will remain in office as a caretaker prime minister until his replacement as party chief is chosen.

Mordaunt, at her official campaign launch on Wednesday, said the party had "standards and trust to restore" after the scandal-tarnished Johnson years.

She said voters "are fed up with us not delivering, they are fed up with unfulfilled promises and they are fed up with divisive politics."

The slate of candidates is strikingly diverse, with four contenders from ethnic minorities and four women. But all are offering similar tax-slashing pledges, with only Sunak offering a note of caution. He has cast himself as the candidate of fiscal probity, saying said the country needs "honesty and responsibility, not fairytales" to get through economic shockwaves from the coronavirus pandemic and the war in Ukraine.

The Latest: Biden kicks off Mideast visit in Israel

By The Associated Press undefined

The Latest on U.S. President Joe Biden's trip to the Mideast (all times local):

JERUSALEM — The United States and Israel are launching a new strategic high-level dialogue between the countries that will focus on technology.

The new talks were announced in a joint statement from U.S. President Joe Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Yair Lapid on Wednesday, just hours before Biden was scheduled to arrive in Israel for his first Mideast visit as president.

The partnership is to focus on the use of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence and other tech-based solutions, against global challenges such as pandemic preparedness and climate change, the statement said.

The leaders pledged to work together to "advance and protect critical and emerging technologies in accordance with our national interests, democratic principles and human rights, and to address geostrategic challenges."

On Wednesday, Biden begins his trip to the region in Israel and the occupied West Bank. He is scheduled to fly to Saudi Arabia on Friday.

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HERE'S WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING:

Biden to ping through Israel's iconic spots on Mideast tour

Six things to watch during Biden's trip to the Middle East

With Biden, Palestinians seeking freedom get permits instead

Minister: Ukraine needs assurances to resume grain exports

By OLEKSANDR STASHEVSKIY, HANNA ARHIROVA and MARIA GRAZIA MURRU Associated Press

Kyiv, Ukraine (AP) — The Ukrainian foreign minister says grain exports from his country's ports won't resume without security guarantees for ship owners, cargo owners and Ukraine as an independent nation.

Military officials from Russia and Ukraine were set to hold their governments' first face-to-face talks in months Wednesday. They planned to meet in Istanbul to discuss a United Nations plan for getting blocked Ukrainian grain to world markets through the Black Sea.

Speaking to The Associated Press ahead of the talks, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba said any agreement needs to ensure Russia "will respect these corridors, they will not sneak into the harbor and attack ports or that they will not attack ports from the air with their missiles."

Kuleba also told the AP on Tuesday that Ukraine's military is "planning and preparing for full liberation" of Russian-occupied cities and towns near the country's Black Sea coast. Ukrainian forces already have stepped up their activity to retake territory in the south as Russia concentrates on eastern Ukraine.

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Asked about the likelihood of negotiations to end the war that started when Russia invaded neighboring Ukraine on Feb. 24, the foreign minister said peace talks were unlikely to happen soon.

"Russia continues to be in the war mood, and they are not seeking negotiations in good faith. They are seeking a way to make us implement their ultimatums, which is not going to happen," Kuleba said.

Moscow is attempting a de facto annexation of Kherson, Mariupol and other seized cities by introducing a Russian school curriculum, doing business in Russia's currency and offering Ukrainians Russian passports, he said.

"I'm pretty confident that once these territories are liberated, the vast majority of people will burn their Russian passports quietly in their fireplaces," Kuleba said.

In the meantime, Ukraine is insisting upon a full withdrawal of Russian forces as a condition for ending the conflict, he said.

"We are fighting for our freedom, for our territorial integrity, and we want peace. This war was imposed on us. This was not our choice," Kuleba told the AP.

He stressed that while Ukraine appreciates the support it has received from the United States and European nations during the war, the country needs Western weapons deliveries to speed up as the fighting drags on into a fifth month.

"As long as there is not enough to win, we will keep asking for more," Kuleba said. "You know, until you win, there are never enough weapons."

The foreign minister acknowledged that Ukraine suffered significant troop losses as the Kremlin concentrated its military offensive in the Donbas, an industrial region near the Russian border where Moscow's forces have gradually gained ground.

Ukraine nevertheless has enough people willing to join the armed forces, he said.

"The only goal that we pursue in this war is our survival. When you are fighting for your survival, you have no choice. You have to fight," Kuleba said.

Ukraine's top diplomat credited U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and the Turkish government for facilitating Wednesday's talks on grain shipments. A Turkish delegation and U.N. representatives were scheduled to join the discussion between Russian and Ukrainian military officials.

President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has said a Russian naval blockade stranded about 22 million tons of grain inside Ukraine, a country known as the "breadbasket of Europe" for its exports of wheat, corn and sunflower oil.

With shipments stalled because of the war is endangering food supplies in many developing nations and could worsen hunger for up to 181 million people, according to the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization. Kuleba said he was hopeful the talks in Istanbul would yield a deal on creating safe shipping corridors.

Ukraine's future, as well as his own, is still uncertain, the 41-year-old minister said.

"There were numerous wars between the Ukraine and Russia in the last 300 years. But all of the leaders of these efforts, on the Ukrainian side, in the end, they were either killed, or they wrote their memoirs in exile," Kuleba said. "So my personal ambition is to write my memoirs in Ukraine. And it will be a memoir of victory and a memoir of a person who belonged to the generation that changed history."

President flees Sri Lanka amid crisis as ire turns toward PM

By KRISHAN FRANCIS and KRUTIKA PATHI Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Sri Lanka's president fled the country early Wednesday, slipping away only hours before he promised to resign under pressure from protesters angry over a devastating economic crisis. But crowds quickly trained their ire on the prime minister, storming his office and demanding he also go.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa and his wife left aboard a Sri Lankan Air Force plane bound for the Maldives, the air force said in a statement. That brought little relief to the island nation gripped for months by an economic disaster that has triggered severe shortages of food and fuel — and now is beset by political chaos.

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Thousands of protesters demanding that Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe step down rallied outside his office compound and some scaled the walls, as the crowd roared its support and tossed water bottles to those charging in. Some could later be seen inside the building and standing on a rooftop terrace waving Sri Lanka's flag.

In a move only likely to further enrage protesters, Rajapaksa appointed his prime minister as acting president since he was out of the country, according to the Parliament speaker. Rajapaksa has yet to resign, but Speaker Mahinda Yapa Abeywardena said the president assured him he would later in the day.

"We need both ... to go home," said Supun Eranga, a 28-year-old civil servant in the crowd outside Wickremesinghe's office. "Ranil couldn't deliver what he promised during his two months, so he should quit. All Ranil did was try to protect the Rajapaksas."

But Wickremesinghe has said he would only leave once a new government was in place. Police initially used tear gas to try to disperse the protesters outside his office but failed, and more and more marched down the lane toward the compound. As helicopters flew overhead, some demonstrators held up their middle fingers.

Some protesters who appeared to be unconscious were taken to a hospital.

Amid the chaos, Wickremesinghe declared a nationwide state of emergency, and state television briefly stopped broadcasting.

Protesters have already seized the president's home and office and the official residence of the prime minister following months of demonstrations that have all but dismantled the Rajapaksa family's political dynasty, which ruled Sri Lanka for most of the past two decades.

On Wednesday morning, Sri Lankans continued to stream into the presidential palace. A growing line of people waited to enter the residence, many of whom had traveled from outside the capital of Colombo on public transport.

Protesters have vowed to occupy the official buildings until the top leaders are gone. For days, people have flocked to the presidential palace almost as if it were a tourist attraction — swimming in the pool, marveling at the paintings and lounging on the beds piled high with pillows. At one point, they also burned Wickremesinghe's private home.

At dawn, the protesters took a break from chanting as the Sri Lankan national anthem blared from speakers. A few waved the flag.

Malik D' Silva, a 25-year-old demonstrator occupying the president's office, said Rajapaksa "ruined this country and stole our money." He said he voted for Rajapaksa in 2019 believing his military background would keep the country safe after Islamic State-inspired bomb attacks earlier that year killed more than 260 people.

Nearby, 28-year-old Sithara Sedaraliyanage and her 49-year-old mother wore black banners around their foreheads that read "Gota Go Home," the rallying cry of the demonstrations.

"We expected him to be behind bars — not escape to a tropical island! What kind of justice is that?" Sedaraliyanage said. "This is the first time people in Sri Lanka have risen like this against a president. We want some accountability."

Protesters accuse the president and his relatives of siphoning money from government coffers for years and Rajapaksa's administration of hastening the country's collapse by mismanaging the economy.

The family has denied the corruption allegations, but Rajapaksa acknowledged some of his policies contributed to the meltdown, which has left the island nation laden with debt and unable to pay for imports of basic necessities.

The shortages have sown despair among Sri Lanka's 22 million people and were all the more shocking because before the recent crisis, the economy had been expanding and a comfortable middle class growing.

The political impasse has only added fuel to the economic disaster since the absence of an alternative unity government threatened to delay a hoped-for bailout from the International Monetary Fund. In the meantime, the country is relying on aid from neighboring India and from China.

As the protests escalated Wednesday outside the prime minister's compound, his office imposed a state

of emergency that gives broader powers to the military and police and declared an immediate curfew in the western province that includes Colombo.

The air force said in a statement that it provided an aircraft, with the defense ministry approval, for the president and his wife to travel to the Maldives, an archipelago in the Indian Ocean known for exclusive tourist resorts. It said all immigration and customs laws were followed.

The whereabouts of other family members who had served in the government, including several who resigned their posts in recent months, were uncertain.

Sri Lankan presidents are protected from arrest while in power, and it is likely Rajapaksa planned his escape while he still had constitutional immunity. A corruption lawsuit against him in his former role as a defense official was withdrawn when he was elected president in 2019.

Assuming Rajapaksa resigns as planned, Sri Lankan lawmakers agreed to elect a new president on July 20 but have struggled to decide on the makeup of a new government to lift the bankrupt country out of economic and political collapse.

The new president will serve the remainder of Rajapaksa's term, which ends in 2024, and could potentially appoint a new prime minister, who would then have to be approved by Parliament.

"Gotabaya resigning is one problem solved — but there are so many more," said Bhasura Wickremesinghe, a 24-year-old student of maritime electrical engineering, who is not related to the prime minister.

He complained that Sri Lankan politics have been dominated for years by "old politicians" who all need to go. "Politics needs to be treated like a job — you need to have qualifications that get you hired, not because of what your last name is," he said, referring to the Rajapaksa family.

US, allies aim to cap Russian oil prices to hinder invasion

By FATIMA HUSSEIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — With thousands of sanctions already imposed on Russia to flatten its economy, the U.S. and its allies are working on new measures to starve the Russian war machine while also stopping the price of oil and gasoline from soaring to levels that could crush the global economy.

The Kremlin's main pillar of financial revenue — oil — has kept the Russian economy afloat despite export bans, sanctions and the freezing of central bank assets. European allies of the U.S. plan to follow the Biden administration and take steps to stop their use of Russian oil by the end of this year, a move that some economists say could cause the supply of oil worldwide to drop and push prices as high as \$200 a barrel.

That risk has the U.S. and its allies seeking to establish a buyer's cartel to control the price of Russian oil. Group of Seven leaders have tentatively agreed to back a cap on the price of Russian oil. Simply speaking, participating countries would agree to purchase the oil at lower-than-market price.

High energy costs are already straining economies and threatening fissures among the countries opposing Russian President Vladimir Putin for the invasion of Ukraine in February. President Joe Biden has seen his public approval slip to levels that hurt Democrats' chances in the midterm elections, while leaders in the United Kingdom, Germany and Italy are coping with the economic devastation caused by trying to move away from Russian natural gas and petroleum.

The idea behind the cap is to lower gas prices for consumers and help bring the war in Ukraine to a halt. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is currently touring Indo-Pacific countries to lobby for the proposal. In Japan on Tuesday, Yellen and Japanese Finance Minister Suzuki Shunichi said in a joint statement that the countries have agreed to explore "the feasibility of price caps where appropriate."

However, China and India, two countries that have maintained business relationships with Russia during the war, will need to get on board. The administration is confident China and India, already buying from Russia at discounted prices, can be enticed to embrace the plan for price caps.

"We think that ultimately countries around the world that are currently purchasing Russian oil will be very interested in paying as little as possible for that Russian oil," Treasury Deputy Secretary Wally Adeyemo told The Associated Press.

The Russian price cap plan has support among some leading economic thinkers. Harvard economist Jason

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Furman tweeted that if the plan works, it would be a "win-win: maximizing damage to the Russian war machine while minimizing damage to the rest of the world." And David Wessel at the Brookings Institution said an "unpleasant alternative" is not attempting the price cap plan.

If a price cap is not implemented, oil prices will almost certainly spike due to a European Union decision to ban nearly all oil from Russia. The EU also plans to ban insuring and financing the maritime transport of Russian oil to third parties by the end of the year.

Without a price cap mechanism to reduce some Russian revenues, "there would be a greater risk that some Russian supply comes off the market. That could lead to higher prices, which would increase prices for Americans," Adeyemo said.

A June Barclay's report warns that with the EU oil embargo and other restrictions in place, Russian oil could rise to \$150 per barrel or even \$200 per barrel if most of its sea-borne exports are disrupted.

Brent crude on Tuesday was trading just under \$100 per barrel.

James Hamilton, an economist at the University of California, San Diego, said garnering the participation of China and India will be important to enforcing any price cap plan.

"It's an international diplomatic challenge on how you get people to agree. It's one thing if you get the U.S. to stop buying oil, but if India and China continue to buy" at elevated prices, "there's no impact on Russian revenues," Hamilton told the AP.

"The less revenue Russia gets from selling oil, the less money they have to send these bombs on Ukraine," he said.

Jake Sullivan, Biden's national security adviser, said during a Monday news briefing that "if it turns out that countries are imposing their own price cap and it is a substantial denial of revenue to Russia in terms of their ability to sell oil, that is not the failure of sanctions. That's actually the success of economic pressure because it is driving down revenues for Moscow."

One possibility is that Russia could retaliate and take its oil off the market completely.

In that case, "the main question is will countries have enough time to find alternatives" to prevent massive price increases, said Christiane Baumeister, an economist at the University of Notre Dame who studies the dynamics of energy markets.

With five months until the end of the year, when EU bans begin to take effect, a Russian price cap plan would likely need to be in place and operating effectively to avoid further spikes in gas prices that have frustrated U.S. drivers. Biden has warned that high gas prices this summer were the cost of stopping Putin, but prices could climb to new records and lead to economic and political pain for the president.

Without the price cap, "if the EU import ban goes into effect together with the insurance ban," Baumeister said, the impacts "will be passed onto consumers through gasoline prices."

Russian, Ukrainian militaries set to discuss grain exports

By AYSE WIETING and SUZAN FRASER Associated Press

ISTANBUL (AP) — Military officials from Russia and Ukraine were set to hold their governments' first face-to-face talks in months Wednesday during a session in Istanbul devoted to a United Nations plan to export blocked Ukrainian grain to world markets through the Black Sea.

Turkish military officials and U.N. representatives also planned to participate in the discussion focused on finding a way to get millions of tons of grain sitting in silos amid the war in Ukraine shipped out of the country's ports toward the Mediterranean.

Ukraine is one of the world's largest exporters of wheat, corn and sunflower oil, but Russia's invasion and war disrupted production and halted shipments, endangering food supplies in many developing countries, especially in Africa, and contributing to higher prices.

Turkey has offered to provide safe Black Sea corridors and worked with the U.N., Russia and Ukraine to reach an agreement. The U.N. would establish a center in Istanbul to control the shipments, Turkish officials have said.

Russian and Ukrainian officials have traded accusations over the stuck grain shipments, Moscow has said

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Ukraine's heavily mined ports are causing the delay. Russian President Vladimir Putin has pledged that Moscow wouldn't use the corridors to launch an attack, if the sea mines were removed.

Ukrainian officials have blamed a Russian naval blockade for holding up exports and causing a global food crisis. They remained skeptical of Putin's pledge not to take advantage of cleared Black Sea corridors to mount an attack, noting that he insisted at the beginning of the year he had no plans to invade Ukraine.

Ahead of the talks in Istanbul, a senior Russian diplomat said Moscow was willing to ensure safe navigation for ships to carry grain from Ukrainian ports but would press for its right to check the vessels for weapons.

Pyotr Ilyichev, the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's department for ties with international organizations, said Russia's military had repeatedly declared its willingness to allow for safe shipping corridors in the Black Sea.

Seventy vessels from 16 countries have remained stuck in Ukrainian ports, Ilyichev said, alleging that Ukrainian authorities had barred them from departing.

"Our conditions are clear: We need to have a possibility to control and check the ships to prevent any attempts to smuggle weapons in, and Kyiv must refrain from any provocations," Russia's Interfax news agency quoted Ilyichev as saying.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres has worked for months to secure a deal that would allow Ukraine to export wheat and other commodities from Odesa, the country's largest port, and also enable Russia to export grain and fertilizer to global markets.

Asked about Wednesday's talks, Guterres said Tuesday: "We are working hard, indeed, but there is still a way to go."

The war has trapped about 22 million tons of grain inside Ukraine, according to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. U.N., Turkish and other officials are scrambling for a solution that would empty the silos in time for upcoming harvest in Ukraine.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization says the war is endangering food supplies for many developing nations and could worsen hunger for up to 181 million people.

Some grain is being transported through Europe by rail, road and river, but the amount is small compared with sea routes.

Russia isn't able to transport its grain either. Moscow argues that Western sanctions on its banking and shipping industries make it impossible for Russia to export food and fertilizer and are scaring off foreign shipping companies from carrying it.

Complicating the negotiations are accusations that Russia is shipping grain that was stolen from Ukraine.

Ukraine's Foreign Ministry summoned the Turkish ambassador last week after Turkish authorities briefly detained a Russian ship suspected of transporting stolen grain but allowed it to leave and return to a Russian port. A Turkish official said authorities were not able to determine the ship carried stolen grain.

NATO-member Turkey has retained its close ties to both Moscow and Ukraine. Since the war started, it has hosted a meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian foreign ministers, as well as talks between the two countries' negotiating teams.

Israeli museum finds sketches hidden in Modigliani painting

By ILAN BEN ZION Associated Press

HAIFA, Israel (AP) — Curators at an Israeli museum have discovered three previously unknown sketches by celebrated 20th-century artist Amedeo Modigliani hiding beneath the surface of one of his paintings.

The unfinished works by Modigliani, an Italian-born artist who worked in Paris before his death in 1920, came to light after the canvas of "Nude with a Hat" at the University of Haifa's Hecht Museum was X-rayed as part of a sweeping forensic study of his work for an upcoming exhibit in Philadelphia.

Inna Berkowits, an art historian at the Hecht Museum, said it was "quite an amazing discovery."

"Through the X-rays, we are really able to make this inanimate object speak," she told The Associated Press.

Modigliani is considered one of the 20th century's great Modernist artists. His lived a short, turbulent,

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Bohemian life in France, where his nude paintings were controversial. His work is typified by slender, elongated necks and faces, a signature style influenced by African and Cycladic Greek art that was just starting to arrive in France in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Jewish artist died aged 35, penniless.

One of his paintings, "Reclining Nude," fetched over \$170 million when it was sold at auction in 2015, making it one of the most expensive paintings ever sold. Another was sold in 2018 for \$157 million at auction.

The high demand for authentic Modigliani works has generated a thriving market for fakes and forgeries.

The last time Italy staged a big Modigliani show, a 2017 exhibit at Genoa's Palazzo Ducale, museum officials closed the show early after experts alleged that many of the works on display were fakes. A criminal trial has been underway for over a year.

In 2018, X-ray technology revealed a previously unknown Modigliani portrait beneath one of his paintings at London's Tate Gallery.

Modigliani's 1908 "Nude with a Hat" is already an unusual painting. Both sides of the canvas have portraits that are painted in opposite directions. Visitors entering the Hecht Museum's galleries are met by an upside down nude portrait. A likeness of Maud Abrantes, a female friend of the artist, on the reverse side is right-side up.

In 2010, the museum's curator noticed the eyes of a third figure peeking from beneath Abrantes' collar. But only this year was the hidden image brought into focus.

"When we decided to do the X-ray, we were only looking to learn a little bit more about the hidden figure underneath Maud Abrantes," Berkowits said. In addition to a hidden woman wearing a hat, they found two more portraits on the opposite side that were completely invisible to the naked eye: one of a man, and another of a woman with her hair pulled up in a bun.

The "Nude with a Hat" dates from early in Modigliani's career, not long after he moved to Paris from Italy, when he was struggling to find buyers for his art. The painting was purchased by the museum's founder in 1983.

The canvas is now known to contain five of his paintings, likely painted one atop the other out of necessity to save money on new canvases. X-ray photography and other noninvasive technologies have found hidden works by other artists such as Degas and Rembrandt.

Berkowits called the artwork "a sketchbook on a canvas," showing Modigliani's repeated tries and "never-ending search for artistic expression." She said there is "no doubt at all" that the painting is authentic.

"He was one of the very first multicultural artists who pulled inspiration from different sources," said Kenneth Wayne, director of the Modigliani Project, an organization that is working to compile an authenticated collection of the artist's works. He cited Modigliani's contemporaries Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse as other examples.

Modigliani sought "an air of the strange and beauty" and achieved that through the incorporation of those foreign styles in his art, Wayne added. Wayne and his colleagues use scientific methods and art expertise to weed out fakes.

The X-ray photography was conducted ahead of a sweeping exhibition of Modigliani's works at the Barnes Foundation in Philadelphia.

Wayne said a growing number of technical studies like that by the Barnes Foundation have increased confidence in confirming genuine Modiglianis.

The foundation museum said the exhibit opens Oct. 16 and will explore the artist's working methods and materials based on forensic study of dozens of Modigliani's paintings and sculptures loaned from collections around the world.

Emmy surprises: 'Squid Game,' Dave Chappelle, 'This Is Us'

By MARK KENNEDY AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Emmy Award nominations announced Tuesday included some snubs and surprises. "This Is Us" and "black-ish" will walk away forever limply and Nathan Lane made history as the

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most-nominated best comedy guest actor in Emmy history.

Here's our rundown.

NOT JUST A GAME

"Squid Game," the brutal Netflix survival drama about desperate adults competing in deadly children's games for a chance to escape debt, won in its bid to become the first non-English-language drama series ever nominated for top drama.

In the bleak and disturbing series from South Korea, hundreds of men and women on the brink of financial ruin compete in a deadly battle for roughly \$38 million in cash. Every game is a traditional Korean children's game such as Red Light, Green Light, but the consequence of losing is death. The winner is the person who outlasts all opponents.

It remains Netflix's most popular series. "Squid Game" became the first series to cross the streamer's 1 billion hours-viewed mark and was awarded 14 Emmy nods in its freshman year. The cultural impact of the show was nearly immediate. People dressed as the pink-jumpsuited "Squid Game" guards for Halloween, TikTok challenges launched and memes filled social media.

The success of "Squid Game" comes three years after the South Korean film "Parasite" won best picture at the Oscars, overcoming what its director Bong Joon-ho called the "one-inch barrier of subtitles."

FAREWELL, US

This may make "This Is Us" fans cry: The show will go into the TV sunset without ever having won the Emmy for outstanding drama series.

The NBC tearjerker has won Emmys for actors Gerald McRaney, Sterling K. Brown and Ron Cephas Jones but has never been crowned best drama. This past season was the show's sixth and final one, and it picked up a single nomination this time, for outstanding original music and lyrics, not exactly a rousing goodbye.

"This Is Us" tells the story of the Pearson family across multiple generations via flashbacks, present-day stories and flash-forwards. It premiered on NBC in 2016 starring Mandy Moore, Milo Ventimiglia, Chrissy Metz, Justin Hartley and Brown.

While some groused that the series was manipulative and overly soap opera-ish, it dealt with real issues like the loss of a parent, struggles with pregnancy, depression, drug addiction, Alzheimer's disease, obesity, coming out and interracial adoption.

The show has been nominated multiple times for best drama — 2021, 2019, 2018 and 2017 — but lost to shows like "Game of Thrones," "The Handmaid's Tale" and "The Crown."

LAUGHING MATTER?

Dave Chappelle's 2021 special "The Closer" which included anti-transgender comments, was nominated for best variety special and directing for a variety special.

Netflix ran into a buzz-saw of criticism not only with the special but in how internal memos responded to employees' concerns. Netflix employees at one point walked out in protest.

But co-CEO Ted Sarandos wrote that Netflix doesn't allow titles that are "designed to incite hate or violence, and we don't believe 'The Closer' crosses that line."

Critics said that while the streaming service offers positive fare for the LGBTQ community, Netflix is having it both ways by also offering a show like Chappelle's that includes disparaging comments about trans women.

Louis C.K.'s "Sorry" in 2021 was his second self-released special since his career slowed down after admitting to sexual misconduct. It did not move Emmy voters.

LASSOING NODS STAYS STEADY

A dip this year after a romp last year was perfectly understandable, but "Ted Lasso," the most nominated freshman comedy series in history, kept up the scoring with Emmy voters.

The Jason Sudeikis-led comedy earned 20 nods, the same number of nominations for "Ted Lasso" last year in its debut season, on its way to eventually winning seven trophies, including outstanding comedy series and lead actor for Sudeikis.

The show centers on an American football coach who takes charge of an elite British soccer team in England despite having little knowledge of the game. Sudeikis' Lasso may be a fish out of water, but he's relentlessly optimistic and kind, armed with homespun wisdom in the face of hostility.

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If the first season established the characters and the tone, the second was about deepening and exploring what the creators have already built, with many secondary characters finding their voices. The dedication to fleshing out characters meant the second season largely abandoned the overall plot machine of the club's success. The third season — expected to be the last — is already in the works.

The show's success may be due in part because the world is reeling from the devastating effects of COVID-19 and Lasso's homespun slogans and kindness in the face of adversity seem to touch a nerve.

'ONLY MURDERS' KILLS IT

Hulu's buzzy true crime satire "Only Murders in the Building" was eligible for the first time this year and slayed with 17 nominations, including writing and outstanding comedy.

It may have helped that stars Martin Short, Steve Martin and Selena Gomez were already appearing in the show's second season during much of Emmy voting. Short and Martin earned acting nods; Gomez didn't get one of those but has a producer credit nomination.

In the first season, the three played true crime podcast fans who solved a murder in their apartment building on New York City's Upper West Side, creating a popular podcast in the process. In the second season, Gomez's character has been accused of killing the building's board president. Martin, who plays a washed-up actor, and Short, a faded stage director, want to prove her innocence

Helping the show along are plenty of guest stars, including Tina Fey, Amy Schumer, Da'Vine Joy Randolph, Jaboukie Young-White, Jackie Hoffman, Jayne Houdyshell, Nathan Lane, Amy Ryan, Ali Stroker and Sting. But much of the show's success is due to the chemistry between the three leads, what BuzzFeed called "the terrific trio we never knew we needed."

STAYING IN HIS LANE

Nathan Lane has made history as the most-nominated best comedy guest actor in Emmy history.

The three-time Tony winner outmuscled the late Fred Willard for the most nominations in the category for his work on "Only Murders in the Building," leaving him with six nods to Willard's five.

Lane has yet to win a Primetime Emmy, though he is the recipient of two Daytime Emmys for his voice work in "Timon and Pumbaa" and "Teacher's Pet." He has been nominated for best comedy guest actor six times and best drama guest actor once. The previous comedy bids were for his work on sitcoms "Frasier," "Mad About You" and "Modern Family."

In "Only Murders in the Building," Lane plays a deli chain owner/podcast sponsor who is harboring dark secrets.

Lane has won Tonys for the Broadway shows "Angels in America," "The Producers" and "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum." He also has a Screen Actors Guild for his work in "The Birdcage."

AN ELEMENTARY CHOICE

Network TV is dead — or is it? "Abbott Elementary" once again proves it is not.

The hilarious mockumentary became ABC's first comedy to quadruple its ratings since its premiere, and it nabbed seven nominations. "Abbott Elementary" follows a documentary crew while they film the lives of teachers and students at a struggling, underfunded Philadelphia school.

It earned nominations for outstanding comedy series, comedy writing, casting and acting for Tyler James Williams, Janelle James and Sheryl Lee Ralph.

It was created and written by comedian Quinta Brunson, who plays Janine Teagues and also earned an acting nod Tuesday. She previously appeared in "A Black Lady Sketch Show" and "Big Mouth," and is currently working on the script for the second season of "Abbott Elementary." It airs on ABC and Hulu.

"Abbott Elementary" is a true workplace comedy in the vein of "The Office" or "Superstore" and achieved ABC's highest ratings since the "Modern Family" finale. At one point, it was the most tweeted-about TV comedy of the year.

TV Guide in June called it the best show on television right now, saying it is "revitalizing the network sitcom by shrinking the distinction between broadcast and streaming."

BROADWAY SATIRE FINDS NO LOVE

The musical theater valentine "Schmigadoon!" didn't make Emmy voters whip out their jazz hands.

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The series starring Cecily Strong with Keegan-Michael Key found hilarity in the clash between modern sensibilities and classic Broadway musical theater norms. But it didn't get any big Emmy nods, earning nominations for production design, choreography, music composition and original music and lyrics.

The town of Schmigadoon is stuck in the overly cheery Technicolor age, where two hotel rooms cost \$1 — unmarried couples should never sleep in one bed, of course — and residents suddenly sing about corn pudding. Strong and Key star as doctors who have grown tired in their relationship and decide to go on a camping retreat, ending up lost in Schmigadoon.

The six-part limited series that premiered on the streaming service last July was filled with some of the best and brightest of Broadway, including Tony winners Alan Cumming, Kristin Chenoweth, Jane Krakowski and Aaron Tveit, plus Oscar-winner Ariana DeBose and legend Martin Short.

Musical television series haven't always hit the high notes with viewers and critics. "Smash," a look behind the scenes at a Broadway musical was cancelled after two seasons and won a single Emmy. The CW's "My Crazy Ex-Girlfriend" ran from 2015-2019 and won four Emmys, while NBC's "Zoey's Extraordinary Playlist," which ran from 2020-2021, won a single statuette, for choreography.

Apple TV+ announced in June that there will be a second season of "Schmigadoon!," which will parody the musicals of the '60s and '70s.

A SAD GOODBYE-ISH

Fans of "black-ish" may feel aggrieved that Emmy love never came, even at the end.

The show — a vehicle for nuanced chapters about racism, parenthood, sexism and police violence all within a comedy — ended its eight-season run this year without ever winning the outstanding comedy series crown or trophies for lead actors Tracee Ellis Ross and Anthony Anderson.

The series earned a prestigious Peabody Award and other awards — including multiple NAACP Image Awards — but top Emmys remained out of reach. It got one, for hairstyling, in 2020. This year it got two nominations: hairstyling and costumes.

The series was a network TV rarity: A depiction of a prosperous, tight-knit family of color, the Johnsons, with Black creators shaping their stories.

Anderson did score an impressive seven best comedy actor nominations in a row, plus four additional bids for producing when "black-ish" earned best comedy series nominations in 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2021.

'SEVERANCE' NOT CUT OFF

"Severance," Apple TV+'s vicious satire of office culture, managed to charm Emmy voters with 14 nominations.

"Severance" is set in a shadowy corporate headquarters where employees have agreed to get a chip implanted in their brains that separates the personal life from office life. Though conceived before the pandemic, it arrived just as many white-collar workers were making their first tentative steps back to the office — and questioning why.

The show — written by newcomer Dan Erickson, with all episodes directed by Ben Stiller and Aoife McArdle — is drenched in paranoia about what corporate work does to people and became one of the most acclaimed series of the year.

Adam Scott stars as the leader of a group who work under bright florescent lights and wander down endless antiseptic corridors, cut off from the world outside. In Season One, the series morphs from satire to thriller as some employees start questioning what is happening to them.

Among the show's nominations are a berth in top drama series and a best writing honor. Scott earned a lead actor nod, Patricia Arquette got one as a supporting actor and Stiller for directing the episode "The We We Are."

Biden to ping through Israel's iconic spots on Mideast tour

By LAURIE KELLMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — President Joe Biden's dash through Israel and the occupied West Bank this week is expected to cut across some of the region's most iconic places.

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Both luxurious and grueling, Biden's visit starts with a VIP arrival at Israel's main commercial airport — an on-and-off nightmare for regular travelers this summer due to huge lines and delays — and pings through Jerusalem and the West Bank.

Most of his travels are focused on business. Upon arrival, he will get a close-up look at Israel's advanced missile-defense technology. The threat of Iran's nuclear capabilities and the 2022 U.S. midterm elections shadow the whole exercise as Biden steps back on the world stage in his first visit to the region as president.

But in between meetings with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, he will visit an array of well-known sites while staying at a historic Jerusalem hotel. Here's a look at some of the expected highlights of Biden's tour before he flies off to Saudi Arabia on Friday.

FAMOUS DIGS

The King David Hotel is fully booked this week for Biden and his retinue of hundreds of staff, security and journalists.

It's Biden's first time as president bedding down behind the building's iconic pink limestone façade, which overlooks the domes and minarets of Jerusalem's Old City.

The King David has been a witness to — and sometimes a participant in — Israel's history.

It was opened in 1931, when the area was still governed by British mandatory authorities. A bombing by a Zionist militant group in 1946 struck its southwest facade, killing 91 people. After Israeli independence in 1948, it overlooked a valley in no-man's land.

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin were photographed having a tense dinner in 1977 ahead of the Camp David Peace Accords.

Hollywood has been here, too. Movie stars Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton reportedly quarreled in public during their stay. Scenes from the 1960 movie "Exodus" were filmed in the gilded lobby and on the hotel's fancy terrace.

Presidents going back to Richard Nixon have stayed at the King David. Dozens of kings and prime ministers also make the hotel's client list.

Tiles that span the building's first floor bear images of the signatures of luminaries, from Madonna to former President Donald Trump, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former California Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger. A stairwell behind the reception desk doubles as a gallery of famous faces in the house, including a priceless image of then-U.S. President Jimmy Carter in shorts as he returned from a morning jog.

All that history and the sweeping views don't come cheap. The 153 square-meter (1,600 square-foot) presidential suite goes for more than \$3,800 a night the week after Biden leaves, according to the hotel's web site.

YAD VASHEM

Biden on Wednesday will stop at Israel's Holocaust museum, Yad Vashem, which memorializes the 6 million Jews killed during World War II by the Nazis and their allies.

The spike-shaped building in Jerusalem tells the story of the Holocaust emphasizing the experiences of the individual victims. It's about 180 meters (591 feet) long and slashes through a mountain, its upper edge protruding through the ridge.

Biden will rekindle the Eternal Flame and lay a wreath on a slab over a spot where ashes from the extermination camps are buried, the museum said.

He'll also meet with two survivors, Rena Quint of the former Czechoslovakia and Giselle Cycowicz of Poland in the Museum of Holocaust Art.

FROM THE WHITE HOUSE TO THE PRESIDENT'S RESIDENCE

U.S. and Israeli flags have been ironed and displayed. A long red carpet has been rolled out. A stage has been built.

Such are the preparations at the President's Residence in Jerusalem, where Israel's Isaac Herzog will

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present Biden with the country's highest civilian award. The Presidential Medal of Honor has been awarded since 2012 to 26 people who have "made an extraordinary contribution to the State of Israel or to humanity through their talents, their service, or in any other way," according to the government.

Herzog's office said Biden has proven himself over a half century in American public service to be "a true friend of the whole Jewish People." Other recipients include former President Barack Obama. Biden served as his vice president.

Home to Israel's president since 1971, the residence sits in an upscale Jerusalem neighborhood on about 2.5 acres (1 hectare). Israel's third president, Zalman Shazar, asked that it be situated in accordance with the biblical verse, "Among my own people I dwell."

AUGUSTA VICTORIA HOSPITAL

Biden is expected to cross to east Jerusalem to visit Augusta Victoria Hospital for a meeting with the heads of six hospitals that serve Palestinians in the area.

Two Palestinian officials said that Biden is expected to restore the \$25 million that Trump cut in 2018 after his recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. They spoke on condition of anonymity pending the formal announcement.

The Palestinians claim east Jerusalem, captured by Israel in 1967, as the capital of a future state and Biden's visit to a Palestinian hospital in the area carries deep symbolism. Israel has annexed east Jerusalem in a move that is not internationally recognized.

Augusta Victoria Hospital opened in 1910 and provides specialized cancer and dialysis treatment to east Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank as part of a six-hospital network.

Biden is looking to shore up relations with the Palestinians after he has struggled to unwind some of Trump's foreign policy in the Mideast.

He is to wind up his visit by meeting Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank town of Bethlehem. He also plans a stop at the Church of the Nativity — built at the spot where Christians believe Jesus was born.

MACCABIAH GAMES

Biden is expected to visit with the athletes participating in the Maccabiah Games at Teddy Stadium on Thursday in Jerusalem.

Also known as the "Jewish Olympics," the games are the country's largest sporting event. Olympian Mark Spitz is the games' most recognizable claim to world fame. He swam in his first international competition at the 1965 Maccabiah Games and returned four years later in preparation for his dominant performance in the 1972 Olympics.

Once every four years, Israeli and Jewish athletes from all over the world compete in their events. This year's games, slated to take place over a two-week period, are expected to draw some 10,000 athletes from 60 countries, competing in dozens of sports.

Africa looks to private sector to fund ocean climate action

By WANJOHI KABUKURU Associated Press

MOMBASA, Kenya (AP) — Countries on Africa's west coast are increasingly turning to climate funding initiatives to boost livelihoods of oceanside communities, aid biodiversity and take climate action.

On the margins of the high-level political forum on sustainable development currently underway at the United Nations headquarters in New York, African coastal and island states and conservation groups outlined plans to boost ocean conservation and economic development through a system of "blue bonds" — a method of financing projects that would also benefit ocean health.

Following on from Africa's Great Green Wall, which spans across the continent's Sahel region, east African nations are now seeking funds for the Great Blue Wall initiative, which aims to protect marine areas across the coastline. Both blue and green finance refers to funding aimed at preventing environmental damage

and combating climate change while creating sustainable ecosystems.

"The blue bond is a powerful example of the critical role that the capital markets can play in supporting sustainable objectives," said Jorge Familiar, Vice President of the World Bank.

The Great Blue Wall initiative, launched last year by ten western Indian Ocean states during the U.N.'s climate conference in Glasgow, aims to create a network of coastal and marine protected areas which supporters say would restore and conserve some 2 million hectares of ocean, capture 100 million tons of carbon dioxide and secure livelihoods for over 70 million people.

The project spans the continent's west coast — from Somalia to South Africa — and includes the island states of Comoros, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Somalia and the French territories, Mayotte and Reunion.

Jean-Paul Adam, who heads the climate division at the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa, said the blue wall initiative would recognize "the true value the environment has in future wealth creation and empowerment of local communities".

"We need to dramatically upscale private sector investment into green and blue sectors," he said. Less than one percent of so-called blue and green bonds, which are used for marine and land projects respectively, are issued for African countries.

"The next steps are to make these markets more accessible to African countries," he added.

The U.N. says many of the financial climate promises made by richer countries are not being committed to in full, meaning that many African nations are unable to take necessary adaptation and mitigation measures against the effect of climate change.

In its latest assessment, the African Development Bank said that between \$1.3 trillion and \$1.6 trillion is needed by 2030 to implement climate action in line with nationally determined contributions — targets set by individual countries to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees F) and no more than 2C (3.6 F). But blue bonds are currently just a fraction of ocean conservation funding, the bank added.

"Bonds alone are not a panacea for the financing gap but they can allow us to raise large amounts," Adam said.

Heard faces high legal hurdles seeking to reverse Depp win

By MATTHEW BARAKAT and DENISE LAVOIE Associated Press

FALLS CHURCH, Va. (AP) — The Johnny Depp-Amber Heard libel trial, which generated intense interest for two months earlier this year as a livestreamed, no-holds-barred soap opera featuring one of Hollywood's biggest stars, is not fading away quietly.

Earlier this month, Heard's lawyers filed a 51-page motion asking Judge Penney Azcarate to set aside the jury's verdict, which gave \$10 million to Depp and \$2 million to Heard on competing defamation claims.

The motion cites multiple reasons that the verdict is untenable, from the surprising decision to declare both sides victorious to one extent or another, to a bizarre case of mistaken identity with one of the jurors.

Among the issues raised:

WHY \$10 MILLION?

Depp sued for \$25 million in Fairfax County after Heard wrote a 2018 op-ed piece in The Washington Post about domestic violence in which she referred to herself as "a public figure representing domestic abuse." The article never mentioned Depp by name, but his lawyers said several passages in the article defamed him by implication by referring to highly publicized abuse allegations she made in 2016 as she filed for divorce.

Heard then filed a \$50 million counterclaim, also for defamation. By the time the case went to trial, her counterclaim had been whittled down to a few statements made by one of Depp's lawyers, who called Heard's abuse allegations a hoax.

The jury awarded \$15 million to Depp and \$2 million to Heard on her counterclaim. The \$15 million judgment was reduced to \$10.35 million because Virginia law caps punitive damages at \$350,000.

Heard's lawyers say in court papers that the \$10 million verdict is unsupported by the facts, and seems

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to demonstrate that jurors failed to focus on the fallout from the 2018 op-ed piece — as they were supposed to do — and instead just looked broadly at the damage Depp's reputation suffered as a result of the alleged abuse.

Depp's lawyers, though, say the damages are supported by testimony from his agent and others. They say the precedents cited by Heard's team to support her arguments "are decades old, and none involves an international A-list celebrity."

Steve Cochran, a civil lawyer in Virginia who was appointed by a judge as a neutral conciliator in the case to try to minimize pretrial discovery disputes, said he always believed the weakest link in Depp's case was the damages, given evidence that the actor's reputation had been ruined in Hollywood well before the publication of the op-ed. Still, he said he's skeptical that Heard can get the verdict set aside.

Scott Surovell, a lawyer and Democratic state senator who practices law in Fairfax, also said he sees little reason to set aside the damages.

"What the judge looks for ... is that the verdict was adequately supported at trial and wasn't based on speculation or conjecture. (Depp) makes a lot of money from movies. That doesn't sound to me like the damages were based on speculation or conjecture, but on evidence," he said.

"INCONSISTENT AND IRRECONCILABLE"

Heard's lawyers argue that the verdicts for Depp on one hand and Heard on the other are fundamentally nonsensical.

"The jury's dueling verdicts are inconsistent and irreconcilable," her lawyers wrote.

Depp's lawyers, though, say the verdict form used by jurors allowed them to express with specificity exactly which statements they found defamatory. When you look at the individual statements, they say, the dueling verdicts make sense.

Jeremiah Denton III, a Virginia Beach attorney with experience in defamation cases, said he doesn't view the verdicts as irreconcilable. If anything, he said, the award most in jeopardy is the \$2 million given to Heard, because he said it's legally dubious that Depp can be held liable for statements made by his attorney.

"I don't understand why the judge even allowed that issue to go to the jury," he said.

JUROR #15

One of the more unusual items in the discussion is a case of apparent mistaken identity with one of the jurors. According to court papers, a 77-year-old county resident received a summons for the trial. But the man's son, who has the same name and lives at the same address, responded to the summons and served in his stead.

Heard's lawyers say Virginia law is strict about juror identities, and the case of mistaken identity is grounds for a mistrial. They have presented no evidence that the 52-year-old son, identified in court papers only as Juror #15, purposefully or insidiously sought to replace his father, but they argue that possibility should not be discounted.

"The Court cannot assume, as Mr. Depp asks it to, that Juror 15's apparently improper service was an innocent mistake. It could have been an intentional attempt to serve on the jury of a high-profile case," Heard's lawyers wrote.

Paul Bekman, a Baltimore lawyer who has also tried cases in Virginia, said Heard's team needed to raise any issues about the juror ahead of time.

"Anybody looking at a 52-year-old and a 77-year-old would be able to tell — hopefully — that there's a difference of 25 years, and they would have the right to inquire about that," he said. "I believe it is too late to complain about the juror."

Cochran also said he was skeptical that the confusion could result in a mistrial or the judge setting aside the verdict, but he cautioned that it's difficult to predict because the issue is so rare.

"I've been practicing for 50 years and never seen that issue come up," he said.

Sri Lankan president flees the country amid economic crisis

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By KRISHAN FRANCIS and KRUTIKA PATHI Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — The president of Sri Lanka fled the country early Wednesday, slipping away in the middle of the night only hours before he was to step down amid a devastating economic crisis that has triggered severe shortages of food and fuel.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa, his wife and two bodyguards left aboard a Sri Lankan Air Force plane bound for the city of Male, the capital of the Maldives, according to an immigration official who spoke on the condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.

Rajapaksa had agreed to resign under pressure. Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said he would leave once a new government was in place.

The president's departure followed months of demonstrations that culminated Saturday in protesters storming his home and office and the official residence of his prime minister. The protests have all but dismantled his family's political dynasty, which ruled Sri Lanka for most of the past two decades.

On Wednesday morning, Sri Lankans continued to stream into the presidential palace. A growing line of people waited to enter the residence, many of whom had traveled from outside Colombo on public transport.

"What Rajapaksa did — flee the country — is a timid act," said Bhasura Wickremesinghe, a 24-year-old student of maritime electrical engineering, who came with friends. "I'm not celebrating. There's no point celebrating. We have nothing in this country at the moment."

He complained that Sri Lankan politics have been dominated for years by "old politicians" who all need to go. "Politics needs to be treated like a job — you need to have qualifications that get you hired, not because of what your last name is," he said, referring to the Rajapaksa family.

There was no end to the crisis in sight, and protesters vowed to occupy the official buildings until the top leaders are gone. For days, people have flocked to the presidential palace almost as if it were a tourist attraction — swimming in the pool, marveling at the paintings and lounging on the beds piled high with pillows. At one point, they also burned the prime minister's private home.

At dawn, the protesters took a break from chanting as the Sri Lankan national anthem blared from speakers. A few waved the flag.

Malik D' Silva, a 25-year-old demonstrator occupying the president's office, said Rajapaksa "ruined this country and stole our money. He said he voted for Rajapaksa in 2019 believing his military background would keep the country safe after Islamic State-inspired bomb attacks earlier that year killed more than 260 people.

Nearby, 28-year-old Sithara Sedaraliyanage and her 49-year-old mother wore black banners around their foreheads that read "Gota Go Home," the rallying cry of the demonstrations.

"We expected him to be behind bars — not escape to a tropical island! What kind of justice is that?" Sithara said. "This is the first time people in Sri Lanka have risen like this against a president. We want some accountability."

The air force said in a statement that it provided an aircraft for the president and his wife to travel to the Maldives with the defense ministry's approval. It said all immigration and customs laws were followed.

"This shows what befalls a leader who uses his power to the extreme," said lawmaker Ranjith Madduma Bandara, a senior official of the main opposition party in Parliament, United People's Force.

Sri Lankan lawmakers agreed to elect a new president next week but have struggled to decide on the makeup of a new government to lift the bankrupt country out of economic and political collapse.

The new president will serve the remainder of Rajapaksa's term, which ends in 2024, and could potentially appoint a new prime minister, who would then have to be approved by Parliament.

The current prime minister is to serve as president until a replacement is chosen — an arrangement that was sure to inflame protesters who want Wickremesinghe out immediately.

Sri Lankan presidents are protected from arrest while in power, and it is likely Rajapaksa planned his escape while he still had constitutional immunity. A corruption lawsuit against him in his former role as a defense official was withdrawn when he was elected president in 2019.

Corruption and mismanagement have left the island nation laden with debt and unable to pay for imports of basic necessities. The shortages have sown despair among the country's 22 million people. Sri Lankans

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are skipping meals and lining up for hours to try to buy scarce fuel.

Until the latest crisis deepened, the Sri Lankan economy had been expanding and growing a comfortable middle class.

Sithara said the people want new leaders who are young, educated and capable of running the economy. "We don't know who will come next, but we have hope they will do a better job of fixing the problems," she said. "Sri Lanka used to be a prosperous country."

As a restaurant manager in a hotel in Colombo, she once had a steady income. But with no tourists coming in, the hotel closed, she said. Her mother, Manjula Sedaraliyanage, used to work in Kuwait but came back to Sri Lanka a few years ago after she suffered a stroke. Now the daily medication she needs has become harder to find and more expensive, Sithara said.

The political impasse added fuel to the economic crisis since the absence of an alternative unity government threatened to delay a hoped-for bailout from the International Monetary Fund. In the meantime, the country is relying on aid from neighboring India and from China.

Protesters accuse the president and his relatives of siphoning money from government coffers for years and Rajapaksa's administration of hastening the country's collapse by mismanaging the economy. The family has denied the corruption allegations, but Rajapaksa acknowledged some of his policies contributed to the meltdown.

Surging gas prices likely drove US inflation to 40-year high

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. inflation likely reached a new 40-year high in June, driven up by a spike in gas costs, more expensive food and rent, and pricier cars and hotel rooms.

A government report Wednesday is expected to show that consumer prices soared 8.8% in June compared with a year earlier, according to data provided by FactSet. That would be an increase from 8.6% in May and the biggest yearly rise since December 1981.

Inflation at that level would make it highly likely the Federal Reserve will implement another large interest rate increase at its next meeting in two weeks. Higher rates are intended to cool consumer and business spending and slow the economy and inflation.

Such large price increases would also highlight the brutal impact that inflation has had on many families' finances, as the costs of many necessities has soared at a faster pace than incomes. Lower-income Americans and Black and Hispanic families have fared worse, as a greater percentage of their budgets are spent on items like gas and food.

So far in July, however, gas prices have fallen from the eye-watering \$5 a gallon reached in mid-June to an average of \$4.66 nationwide as of Tuesday. That is still far higher than a year ago, but the drop points to the potential for sharply lower inflation this month and possibly in August.

Still, rising prices have caused a steep decline in consumers' confidence in the economy, dragged down President Joe Biden's approval ratings and present major political risks for congressional Democrats this fall. Forty percent of U.S. adults said tackling inflation should be a top government priority this year in a June AP-NORC poll, up from just 14% in December.

Americans sharply ramped up their spending as the pandemic waned a year ago, initially splurging on furniture, exercise equipment, and other home goods and in recent months switching more to travel, dining out, and going to movies and concerts. Surging demand, partly fueled by government stimulus checks, overwhelmed supply chains and sent prices soaring.

On a monthly basis, economists forecast that Wednesday's report will show prices rose 1.1% in June from May, according to FactSet. Some economists estimate that as much as half of that gain would reflect higher prices at the pump.

Excluding the volatile food and energy categories, prices likely rose 0.6% in June for the third straight month and 5.7% from a year earlier.

Monthly increases of that size would likely cement the case at the Federal Reserve for another large, 0.75 percentage point increase in its benchmark short-term interest rate, which is currently in a range of

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1.5% to 1.75%. At its rate-setting meeting last month, Fed officials implemented a 0.75 percentage point hike, the largest in nearly three decades.

The persistence of inflation has unnerved Fed Chair Jerome Powell and other Fed officials, who are engaged in the fastest series of rate hikes since the late 1980s in an effort to bring it to heel.

Powell has emphasized that the central bank wants to see "compelling evidence" that inflation is slowing before dialing back its rate hikes. Such evidence would need to be a "series of declining monthly inflation readings," he said at a press conference last month.

Some economists worry that the Fed's desire to quell inflation could cause it to hike rates too quickly, even as the economy, by some measures, is slowing. Much higher borrowing costs could tip into recession next year.

Consumers have started to pull back a bit on spending, home sales are falling as mortgage rates rise, and factory output slipped in May.

The Fed would like to see weaker growth, which should help bring down inflation. Healthy job gains in June point to an economy that is still expanding, with little sign of an imminent recession.

Inflation is likely to slow later this year, but it's not clear by how much. Oil prices fell Tuesday to about \$96 a barrel and other commodities, including metals such as copper, have also gotten cheaper, mostly because of recession fears in the U.S. and Europe.

Shipping costs for international freight have fallen and there are fewer ships stuck at the Port of Los Angeles and Long Beach, America's largest. Wholesale gas prices have fallen to about \$3.40 a gallon, which suggests retail prices could drop to as low as \$4.20 by August, according to Omair Sharif, founder of Inflation Insights. Wholesale used car prices are also falling, which point to declining used car prices in the coming months.

Yet plenty of items are still rising in price. Apartment rents have jumped as more solid job gains and wage increases have encouraged more Americans to move out on their own. Average rents for new leases have increased 14% in the past year, according to real estate brokerage Redfin, to an average of \$2,016 a month.

Rents as measured by the government's inflation index have increased more slowly because they include all rents, including existing leases. But economists expect the rising expense of new leases will push the government's inflation measure higher in the coming months.

Inflation has spiked overseas as well. It reached 9.1% in the United Kingdom in May, the highest level in four decades, driven mostly by higher gas and food costs. In the 19 European countries that use the euro currency, it hit 8.1% that month, from a year earlier, the most on records dating back to 1997.

EXPLAINER: How Trump allies may be pushed to testify in Ga.

By KATE BRUMBACK Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — As a Georgia investigation into potential criminal interference in the 2020 election heats up, prosecutors are trying to force allies and advisers of former President Donald Trump to come to Atlanta to testify before a special grand jury.

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis opened the criminal investigation early last year, and the special grand jury was seated in May at her request. In a letter asking the county superior court chief judge to impanel a special grand jury, she mentioned the need to be able to issue subpoenas for witnesses who were otherwise unwilling to speak with her team.

For witnesses who live outside Georgia, the process of getting a subpoena is more involved than for in-state witnesses. Willis last week initiated that process for seven Trump associates, including former New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani and U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.

WHY IS IT MORE COMPLICATED TO SUBPOENA AN OUT-OF-STATE WITNESS?

State courts don't generally have subpoena power beyond the borders of the state where they are located. For that reason, prosecutors must follow a multistep process laid out in laws passed in each state that gives prosecutors the authority to require an out-of-state witness to come testify.

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WHAT DOES A PROSECUTOR HAVE TO DO?

The prosecutor files a petition with the court explaining why the person's testimony is "material and necessary" for the grand jury investigation. Because the prosecutor must justify forcing a person to travel to another state, the petition can provide valuable insight into the otherwise secret workings of a grand jury investigation.

For example, in several of the petitions filed last week in the investigation, Willis alleged that there was "a multi-state, coordinated plan by the Trump Campaign to influence the results of the November 2020 election in Georgia and elsewhere."

In each petition, she outlined specific actions by the person whose testimony she was seeking to compel and identified "unique knowledge" the person has that makes their testimony necessary.

WHAT'S THE ROLE FOR JUDGES?

If the judge in the jurisdiction where the prosecutor works agrees that the witness's testimony is necessary, the judge issues a "certificate of material witness" with the court's seal. That document is meant to be filed, along with the petition, in a court in the county where the witness lives in another state.

Fulton County Superior Court Judge Robert McBurney, the judge who's overseeing the special grand jury, last week signed off on the petitions Willis filed. The next step is for the Fulton County district attorney's office to work with local prosecutors in each state where witnesses live to file the documents with courts there and to serve notice on the person whose testimony is sought.

The notice tells the person to appear before a local judge in their home state. If the person plans to fight the summons, the judge will set a hearing to determine whether the subpoena should be issued requiring them to travel to Atlanta to testify before the special grand jury. The witness is entitled to be represented by a lawyer at the hearing. Fulton County prosecutors may travel to be present at the hearing to provide support to the local prosecutors and possibly to testify about why the person's testimony is needed.

At the hearing, the judge will determine whether the person is, indeed, a "material and necessary" witness and whether it will cause the person undue hardship to travel to Atlanta to testify. If the judge agrees with the prosecutor, the judge issues a subpoena requiring the person to go to Atlanta to testify.

CAN THE WITNESS FIGHT THE SUBPOENA?

Yes. It is possible that the person could appeal the local judge's order issuing the subpoena. If the person doesn't appeal that order or if the appeal is rejected, the person can still file a motion to quash the subpoena with the court in Atlanta. It would then be up to McBurney to decide whether the person has to testify or whether any limits should be placed on the questions that prosecutors and grand jurors can ask.

If a person doesn't show up when ordered to testify, they may be found in contempt of court and face a penalty that could include a fine or jail time.

IF SOMEONE IS CALLED TO TESTIFY AS A WITNESS, DOES THAT MEAN THEY WON'T BE INDICTED?

No. Unlike a regular grand jury, a special grand jury can subpoena a target of an investigation. But the special grand jury can't issue an indictment. When it's done with its investigation, the special grand jury will issue recommendations. Willis is not bound by the special grand jury's recommendations, and it's ultimately her decision whether to seek an indictment from a regular grand jury.

Anyone who is subpoenaed can assert the Fifth Amendment right against self-incrimination when being questioned before a special grand jury.

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT TRUMP COULD BE SUBPOENAED?

Yes. Willis could use this process to try to compel testimony from the former president. Given his past record in legal cases, it's likely that would lead to a drawn-out fight in the courts.

WHAT CHARGES ARE PROSECUTORS CONSIDERING?

In a letter Willis sent to top-ranking state officials last year, she said she was looking into "potential violations of Georgia law prohibiting the solicitation of election fraud, the making of false statements to state and local government bodies, conspiracy, racketeering, violation of oath of office and any involvement in violence or threats related to the election's administration."

Among the things Willis has said her team is looking into is a Jan. 2, 2021, phone call in which Trump urged Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger to "find" enough votes to overturn his loss, calls that

Graham made to Raffensperger and false claims of election fraud that were made by Giuliani and others during December 2020 legislative committee hearings at the state Capitol.

Uvalde's new anguish: Video shows police waiting in school

By ACACIA CORONADO and PAUL J. WEBER Associated Press

UVALDE, Texas (AP) — A new wave of anger swept through Uvalde on Tuesday over surveillance footage of police officers in body armor milling in the hallway of Robb Elementary School while a gunman carried out a massacre inside a fourth-grade classroom where 19 children and two teachers were killed.

The video published Tuesday by the Austin American-Statesman is a disturbing 80-minute recording of what has been known for weeks now about one of the deadliest school shootings in U.S. history: that heavily armed police officers, some armed with rifles and bulletproof shields, massed in the hallway and waited more than an hour before going inside and stopping the May 24 slayings.

But the footage, which until now had not surfaced publicly, anguished Uvalde residents anew and doubled calls in the small South Texas city for accountability and explanations that have been incomplete — and sometimes inaccurate — in the seven weeks since the shooting. Hours after the video was published, some residents at a Uvalde City Council meeting said they had not been able to bring themselves to watch it.

Jesus Rizo said officers who are paid taxpayer dollars to protect people should not have “sat there” when children were in danger.

“You could’ve saved some lives. You could have held somebody’s hand as they were dying,” he said. “The parents could have seen them one last time as they were dying.”

Others demanded consequences for police and more information in an investigation marked by confusing statements that have had to be retracted at times.

“Give these families some closure,” said Daniel Myers, a pastor in Uvalde and family friend to one of the victims.

An investigative committee led by Texas lawmakers had earlier announced plans to show the video to Uvalde residents for the first time Sunday, in addition to sharing their findings after weeks of closed-door testimony from more than 40 witnesses.

“This has been the most unprofessional investigation or handling of it that I’ve ever seen in my life,” Uvalde Mayor Don McLaughlin said in an interview with The Associated Press. “These families get blind-sided constantly.”

The footage from a hallway camera inside the school shows the gunman entering the building with an AR-15 style rifle and includes 911 tape of a teacher screaming, “Get down! Get in your rooms! Get in your rooms!”

Two officers approach the classrooms minutes after the gunman enters, then run back amid the sounds of gunfire.

As the gunman first approaches the classrooms a child whose image is blurred can be seen poking their head around a corner down the hallway and then running back while shots ring out. Later, about 20 minutes before police breach the room, the video shows a man wearing a vest that says “sheriff” use a hand sanitizer dispenser mounted on the wall.

Throughout the video, the screams of children are redacted.

Officials said the 77 minutes of footage they are preparing to release this weekend does not contain images of children in the classroom. Rep. Dustin Burrows, a Republican who is leading the investigation, said after the video was posted by the Statesman that “watching the entire segment of law enforcement’s response, or lack thereof, is also important.”

But the video alone does not answer all the questions that remain — nearly two months later — about the law enforcement response. Among them are how schools police Chief Pete Arredondo came to the forefront of the massive law enforcement response involving numerous local, state and federal agencies.

State authorities have cast Arredondo as the on-scene commander and said his errors delayed police

killing the gunman. Arredondo, however, has told the Texas Tribune he didn't consider himself to be in charge of operations and that he assumed someone else had taken control of the law enforcement response. He did not have a police radio at the time.

The roles of the ranking on-scene officers from other agencies, including the Texas Department of Public Safety, remain unclear. McLaughlin has accused DPS of minimizing its involvement in the response and releasing inaccurate timelines.

Last week, a critique of the police response written by tactical experts and requested by DPS alleged that a Uvalde police officer had a chance to open fire on the gunman before he entered the school. McLaughlin has said that account was inaccurate.

"All they keep doing is piling missed facts on missed facts, and throwing it out there and see what sticks," McLaughlin said.

In a statement, DPS Director Steve McCraw said the video provides "horrifying evidence" that the law enforcement response was a failure.

Jan. 6 probe: Trump sets rally after 'unhinged' WH meeting

By LISA MASCARO and FARNOUSH AMIRI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a heated, "unhinged" dispute, Donald Trump fought objections from his White House lawyers to a plan, eventually discarded, to seize states' voting machines and then, in a last ditch effort to salvage his presidency, summoned supporters to march on the U.S. Capitol for what turned into the deadly riot, the House Jan. 6 committee revealed Tuesday.

In another disclosure, raising the question of witness tampering, the panel's vice-chair said Trump himself had tried to contact a person who was talking to the committee about potential testimony. And still more new information revealed that Trump was so intent on making a showing at the Capitol that his aides secretly planned for a second rally stage there on the day of the attack.

Rep. Liz Cheney, the panel's vice chair, said it had notified the Justice Department that Trump had contacted the witness who has yet to appear in public.

"We will take any effort to influence witness testimony very seriously," said Cheney, a Wyoming Republican.

A Trump spokesperson did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Justice Department spokesman Anthony Coley declined to comment when asked if the department was investigating the call.

The hearing Tuesday was the seventh for the Jan. 6 committee, which is portraying the defeated Trump as "detached from reality," clinging to false claims of voter fraud and working feverishly to reverse his election defeat. It all led to his "be there, will be wild" tweet summoning supporters to Washington.

The panel delved into a critical three weeks of secret planning in the run-up to the Capitol attack and heard remorseful testimony from an Ohio father who believed Trump's election lies and answered the defeated president's tweet to come to Washington. The panel also heard from a former spokesman for the extremist Oath Keepers who warned of the far-right group's ability for violence.

"I think we need to quit mincing words about just talk. ... What it was going to be was an armed revolution," said Jason Van Tatenhove. "I mean, people died that day."

Tuesday's session focused in part on December 2020, a time when many Republicans were moving on from the November election Trump lost to Joe Biden. Testimony brought out details of a late night Dec. 18 meeting at the White House with Trump's private lawyers suggesting he order the U.S. military to seize state voting machines in an unprecedented effort to pursue his false claims of voter fraud.

The panel featured new video testimony from Pat Cipollone, Trump's White House counsel at the time, recalling the explosive meeting when Trump's outside legal team brought a draft executive order to seize the states' voting machines — a "terrible idea," Cipollone said.

"That's not how we do things in the United States," he testified.

Another former White House aide, Cassidy Hutchinson, called the meeting "unhinged" in separate video testimony.

Cipollone and other White House officials scrambled to intervene as Trump met late into the night with

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attorneys Sidney Powell and Rudy Giuliani, retired national security aide Michael Flynn and the former head of the online retail company Overstock. It erupted in shouting and screaming, another aide testified.

"Where is the evidence?" Cipollone demanded of the claims of voter fraud.

"What they were proposing, I thought, was nuts," testified another official, Eric Herschmann.

But Trump was intrigued and essentially told his White House lawyers that at least Powell and outside allies were trying to do something.

As night turned to morning, Trump tweeted his call for supporters to come to Washington on Jan. 6, when Congress would be tallying the Electoral College results. "Be there. Will be wild," Trump wrote.

Instantly, the extremists reacted.

The panel showed graphic and violent text messages and played videos of right-wing figures, including Alex Jones, and others vowing that Jan. 6 would be the day they would fight for the president.

Messages beaming across the far-right forums laid out plans for the big day that they said Trump was asking for in Washington. It would be a "red wedding," said one, a reference to a mass killing in "Game of Thrones." "Bring handcuffs."

Several members of the U.S. Capitol Police who fought the mob that day sat stone-faced in the front row of the committee room.

Members of the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers groups are now facing rare sedition charges over the siege. Nine people died the day of the attack and in its aftermath.

"This tweet served as a call to action -- and in some cases a call to arms," said one panel member, Rep. Stephanie Murphy, D-Fla.

The committee revealed new details about what happened next, as planning was underway for Trump's big rally on the Ellipse outside the White House, and aides scrambled to secretly set up a second stage outside the Capitol complex across the street from the Supreme Court.

In a Jan. 4 text message from rally organizer Kylie Kremer to Trump ally Mike Lindell, the MyPillow CEO, Kremer explains: "This stays only between us, we are having a second stage at the Supreme Court again after the Ellipse. POTUS is going to have us march there/the Capitol."

Kremer warns that if the information gets out, others will try to sabotage the plans and the organizer "will be in trouble" with the National Park Service and other federal agencies.

"But POTUS is going to just call for it 'unexpectedly,'" Kremer wrote.

On the morning of Jan. 5, Trump ally Ali Alexander sent a similar text to a conservative journalist saying: "Ellipse then US capitol. Trump is supposed to order us to capitol at the end of his speech but we will see."

And the panel showed a draft tweet from Trump, which was obtained from the National Archives and never sent, calling on supporters to arrive early for the rally and expect crowds.

"March to the Capitol after. Stop the Steal!" the draft Trump tweet said.

Committee member Murphy said, "This was not a spontaneous call to action, but rather was a deliberate strategy."

Tuesday's was the only hearing this week, as new details emerge. An expected prime-time hearing has been rescheduled for July 21.

Cheney said the Trump team is shifting its strategy in dealings with the committee, and is now trying to shield the former president from blame, suggesting he received bad advice from "crazy" advisers or was otherwise "incapable" of understanding some of the details of the situation.

Trump is "not an impressionable child," Cheney said. "Just like everyone else in our country he is responsible for his own actions."

The panel also heard from a sorrowful Stephen Ayres, the Ohio father who said he got caught up in social media after the election, but has since lost his job and his house after joining the mob at the Capitol. He pleaded guilty last month to disorderly and disruptive conduct in a restricted building.

When Trump summoned supporters to Washington, "I felt like I needed to be down here," he testified.

Ayers hugged and apologized to the police officers after the hearing.

"The problem of politicians whipping up mob violence to destroy fair elections is the oldest domestic enemy of constitutional democracy," said Rep. Jamie Raskin, D-Md..

Jan. 6 rioter apologizes to officers after House testimony

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER undefined

A man who joined the pro-Trump mob that attacked the U.S. Capitol apologized Tuesday to officers who protected the building after telling lawmakers that he regrets being duped by the former president's lies of election fraud.

During a hearing before the U.S. House committee that's investigating the insurrection, Stephen Ayres testified that he felt called by former President Donald Trump to come to Washington on Jan. 6, 2021.

He described being swept up by Trump's bogus claims, and believing as he marched to the Capitol that Trump would join them there and that there was still a chance the election could be overturned.

"I felt like I had like horse blinders on. I was locked in the whole time," said Ayres, who is scheduled to be sentenced in September after pleading guilty to a misdemeanor in the riot.

His message to others: "Take the blinders off, make sure you step back and see what's going on before it's too late."

"It changed my life," he said. "And not for the good."

Ayres, who was not accused of any violence or destruction on Jan. 6, said he worked for a cabinet company in northeast Ohio for 20 years, but lost his job and sold his home after the riot. He was joined by his wife at the hearing.

After the hearing, Ayres approached officers in the committee room who have testified about being verbally and physically attacked by the angry mob. Ayres apologized for his actions to Capitol Police Officers Aquilino Gonell and Harry Dunn, Metropolitan Police Officer Daniel Hodges and former MPD officer Michael Fanone.

The officers appeared to have different responses to Ayres' attempt to make amends.

Fanone told The Associated Press that the apology was not necessary because "it doesn't do s--- for me." Hodges said on CNN that he accepted the apology, adding that "you have to believe that there are people out there who can change."

Gonell, who recently found out that the injuries he succumbed to on Jan. 6 won't allow him to be a part of the force any longer, said he accepted the sentiment from Ayres, but it doesn't amount to much.

"He still has to answer for what he did legally. And to his God. So it's up to him," the former sergeant said.

Dunn, who didn't stand up when Ayres approached him, said he does not accept his apology.

The Jan. 6 House committee that's investigating the insurrection sought to use Ayres' testimony to show how Trump's Dec. 19, 2020, tweet calling his supporters to Washington mobilized not only far-right extremist groups, but average Americans to descend on the nation's capital.

Ayres described being a loyal follower of Trump on social media before Jan. 6 and said he felt he needed to heed the president's call to come to Washington, D.C., for the "Stop the Steal" rally.

"I was very upset, as were most of his supporters," Ayres said when asked about Trump's unfounded election claims. Asked by Rep. Liz Cheney if he still believes the election was stolen, Ayres said, "Not so much now."

Ayres said he wasn't planning to storm the Capitol before Trump's speech "got everybody riled up." He had believed the president would be joining them at the Capitol.

"Basically, we were just following what he said," Ayres said.

Ayres said he and friends who accompanied him to Washington decided to leave the Capitol when Trump sent a tweet asking rioters to leave. If Trump had done that earlier in the day, "maybe we wouldn't be in this bad of a situation," Ayres said.

Ayres said it makes him mad that Trump is still pushing his bogus claims about the election.

"I was hanging on every word he was saying," he said. "Everything he was putting out, I was following it."

His testimony echoed the words of many Capitol rioters who have expressed remorse for their crimes at sentencing hearings.

He's among about 840 people who have been charged with federal crimes related to the Jan. 6 riot.

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More than 330 of them have pleaded guilty, mostly to misdemeanor charges punishable by no more than one year in prison. More than 200 have been sentenced.

In his court case, Ayres admitted that he drove from Ohio to Washington on the eve of the "Stop the Steal" rally to protest Congress' certification of the Electoral College vote count. He entered the Capitol through the Senate Wing doors and remained inside for about 10 minutes, joining other rioters in chanting.

In a Facebook post four days before the riot, Ayres attached an image of a poster that said "the president is calling on us to come back to Washington on January 6th for a big protest."

In another Facebook post before the riot, he wrote, "Mainstream media, social media, Democrat party, FISA courts, Chief Justice John Roberts, Joe Biden, Nancy Pelosi, etc....all have committed TREASON against a sitting U.S. president! !! All are now put on notice by 'We The People!'"

7-Eleven shooter ended a life that had just turned around

By STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After years of addiction, Matthew Hirsch was sober. He landed a stable job working overnight shifts at a 7-Eleven in Southern California, lived with his girlfriend in a nearby apartment and spoke to his father every day.

Around 4:15 a.m. Monday, a masked shooter gunned down the 40-year-old clerk inside the convenience store. Authorities say it was one of six robberies by the same man at 7-Eleven stores across the region, senseless attacks that left two dead and three wounded.

The tragedy left Hirsch's father reeling on Tuesday. Jim Hirsch had long feared his son's death would come from another heroin overdose.

"I'd walk into his room at night and see needles," Hirsch told The Associated Press. "Do I throw him out to die under a bridge? Or let him overdose in the house?"

Still, he always had an open-door policy for "Matt" at the home where his son grew up. Matt eventually sobered up as "he slowly straightened himself out" more than a year ago, his father said. He began working at the 7-Eleven in Brea about six months ago, juggling his job and his recovery.

Jim Hirsch was glad his son was employed but worried about him working alone late at night.

"He hadn't had time to enjoy a normal life," his father said. "He goes through a struggle for goodness and it ends in a shooting."

The robberies occurred in a five-hour span early on Monday. Following the deadly robberies, 7-Eleven Inc. urged Los Angeles-area stores to close Monday and Tuesday nights for safety.

Investigators aren't sure what led to Hirsch's death in Brea, or what sparked the robberies in Ontario, Upland, Riverside, Santa Ana and La Habra. Riverside Police Officer Ryan Railsback said it doesn't seem coincidental that 7-Eleven was targeted on July 11 — or 7/11, the day when the company celebrates its anniversary.

Hirsch was shot to death after authorities believe the gunman earlier gravely wounded a customer in Riverside and then fatally shot Matthew Rule, 24, outside a Santa Ana store. After those three shootings, the suspect then shot two people at a store in La Habra before disappearing.

Rule's aunt said his mother was too distraught Tuesday to speak to a reporter.

Armed robberies also occurred at stores in Ontario and Upland shortly before the shootings. Authorities in those cities on Tuesday confirmed that the crimes they were investigating are linked to the crimes at the other locations.

Authorities in Ontario, Brea and Upland shared images of a masked man wearing what appeared to be the same black sweatshirt with a hood over his head. The sweatshirt had white lettering with green leaves on the front.

The first robbery happened around midnight in Ontario, about 35 miles (56 kilometers) east of Los Angeles. Then, about 45 minutes later, a gunman stole a few items and \$400 to \$500 in cash from a store in the neighboring city of Upland. About an hour later, the Riverside store was robbed and a customer shot and gravely wounded.

Another shooting occurred around 3:20 a.m. in Santa Ana. There, officers found Rule dead in the 7-Eleven parking lot. The victim did not work at the store, and surveillance video shows the suspect dropping items — believed to be the victim's belongings while fleeing, police said.

About 40 minutes later, Hirsch was fatally shot and less than an hour later officers discovered two gunshot victims at a store in nearby La Habra. Those two victims are expected to survive.

Jan. 6 takeaways: 'Screaming' and a Trump tweet never sent

By MARY CLARE JALONICK, NOMAAN MERCHANT and FARNOUSH AMIRI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A presidential tweet that some saw as a "call to arms." An "unhinged" meeting in the White House. Violent extremists planning to storm the Capitol as President Donald Trump pushed lies about election fraud.

At its seventh hearing, the House Jan. 6 panel on Tuesday showed further evidence that Trump was told, repeatedly, that his claims of fraud were false — but that he continued to push them anyway. And at the same time, he turned to the widest possible audience on Twitter, calling his supporters, some of them violent, to Washington on Jan. 6, 2021, to not only protest but "be wild" as Congress certified President Joe Biden's victory.

'A CALL TO ACTION ... A CALL TO ARMS'

A major focus of the hearing was Trump's Dec. 19 tweet about a "big protest" at the coming joint session of Congress: "Be there, will be wild!"

Florida Rep. Stephanie Murphy, a Democratic member of the panel, said the tweet "served as a call to action and in some cases as a call to arms." She said the president "called for backup" as he argued that Vice President Mike Pence and other Republicans didn't have enough courage to try to block Biden's certification as he presided over the joint session.

The tweet "electrified and galvanized" Trump's supporters, said Maryland Rep. Jamie Raskin, another Democratic committee member, especially "the dangerous extremists in the Oath Keepers, the Proud Boys and other far-right racist and white nationalist groups spoiling for a fight."

The committee showed a montage of videos and social media posts after the tweet as supporters reacted and planned trips to Washington, some of them using violent rhetoric and talking about killing police officers.

AN 'UNHINGED' MEETING

The committee spliced together video clips from interviews to describe a chaotic meeting on Dec. 18, in the hours before Trump's tweet, in almost minute-to-minute fashion.

Former White House aide Cassidy Hutchinson, who testified live before the panel two weeks ago, called the meeting between White House aides and informal advisers pushing the fraud claims "unhinged" in a text that evening to another Trump aide. Other aides described "screaming" and profanity in the meeting as the advisers floated wild theories of election fraud with no evidence to back them up, and as White House lawyers aggressively pushed back.

The video clips included testimony from lawyer Sidney Powell, who had pushed some of the wildest theories, including of breached voting machines and hacked thermostats that she somehow tied to the false claims of fraud.

White House lawyer Eric Herschmann, one of the aides who pushed back, said the theories were "nuts" and "it got to the point where the screaming was completely, completely out there."

The aides described a chaotic six hours of back and forth, starting with Trump talking to a group of the informal advisers with no White House aides present. Both Pat Cipollone, the White House counsel, and Powell said in interviews that Cipollone rushed in to disrupt the gathering. Powell said sarcastically that she thought Cipollone set a new "ground speed record" getting there.

Cipollone, who sat with the committee for a private interview last week after a subpoena, said he didn't think the group was giving Trump good advice and said he and the other White House lawyers just kept asking them, "where is the evidence?" But they did not receive any good answers, he said.

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Hours later, at 1:42 a.m., Trump sent the tweet urging supporters to come to Washington on Jan. 6.
A RIOTER, AND A FORMER OATH KEEPER

Two witnesses were in the hearing room for testimony — a rioter who has pleaded guilty to entering the Capitol and a former Oath Keeper who described his experiences with the group.

Stephen Ayres, who pleaded guilty last month to a misdemeanor count of disorderly conduct and is scheduled to be sentenced in September, said he was in Washington on Jan. 6 at the behest of Trump, and that he left the Capitol when Trump — after several hours — told them in a tweet to leave. “Basically we were just following what the president said,” Ayres said.

He said his arrest less than a month later “changed my life, not for the better” and it makes him angry that he hung on Trump’s every word, and that some people are still doing that. Asked by Wyoming Rep. Liz Cheney if he still believes the election was stolen, Ayres said, “Not so much now.”

Jason Van Tatenhove, a former ally of Oath Keepers leader Stewart Rhodes who left the group years before the insurrection, said the group is a “violent militia.”

“I think we need to quit mincing words and just talk about truths and what it was going to be was an armed revolution,” he said. “I mean, people died that day ... This could have been the spark that started a new civil war.”

Rhodes and other members of the Oath Keepers, along with another far-right group, the Proud Boys, have been charged with seditious conspiracy in the most serious cases the Justice Department has brought so far in the Jan. 6 attack.

INSIDE THE WHITE HOUSE

The committee revealed that Trump planned for days to have his supporters march to the Capitol — and that he would join them.

The panel showed a draft tweet, undated and never sent, that said “Please arrive early, massive crowds expected. March to the Capitol after. Stop the Steal!” And they showed texts and email exchanges between planners and White House aides about a secret plan for the march.

“This stays only between us, we are having a second stage at the Supreme Court” after Trump’s rally, wrote one of the rally’s organizers, Kylie Kremer, to a Trump confidant. “POTUS is going to have us march there/the Capitol.” People will try to “sabotage” it if they found out, she said.

Murphy said the president’s call for the march at his rally was “not a spontaneous call to action, but rather was a deliberate strategy decided upon, in advance, by the president.”

Hutchinson’s testimony last month also focused on Trump’s desire to march with the protesters, and his anger at security officials who would not let him go.

The committee examined Trump’s speech at the rally that morning and some of his ad-libs about Vice President Mike Pence that were not in the original drafts of the speech. In the end, he would mention the vice president eight times, telling the crowd that he hoped Pence would “do the right thing” and try and block Biden’s certification at the joint session of Congress.

IGNORED ADVICE AND STAFF REGRETS

As they have at several hearings, the committee lawmakers showed video testimony from White House aides who said they did not believe there was widespread fraud in the election and had told the president that. Several aides said they were firmly convinced Biden’s victory was a done deal after the states certified the electors on Dec. 14 and after dozens of Trump’s campaign lawsuits failed in court.

Ivanka Trump, the former president’s daughter, said it was her sentiment that the election was over after Dec. 14 and “probably prior as well.” Former White House Press Secretary Kayleigh McEnany said she planned for life after the White House at that point. Eugene Scalia, Trump’s labor secretary, said he told the president in a call that it was time to say that Biden had won.

And there were regrets afterward. In one text exchange revealed by the panel, former Trump campaign aide Brad Parscale wrote to aide Katrina Pierson: “This week I feel guilty for helping him win,” and “If I was Trump and knew my rhetoric killed someone.”

“It wasn’t the rhetoric,” Pierson responded.

"Katrina," wrote Parscale, who still participates in a weekly strategy call with Trump aides. "Yes it was."
WITNESS TAMPERING?

At the end of the hearing, Cheney revealed some new information: Trump had tried to call a future witness, and the committee had alerted the Justice Department about the call.

The witness did not take the call, according to Cheney. She did not identify the witness but said it was someone the public has not yet heard from.

The committee has previously said that people in Trump's orbit have contacted witnesses in ways that could reflect or at least create the appearance of inappropriate influence.

'Don't fall ill': Sri Lanka doctors warn of drug shortage

By KRISHAN FRANCIS Associated Press

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — Don't fall ill or get into accidents: That's the advice doctors in Sri Lanka are giving patients as the country's economic crisis leaves its health care system short of drugs and other vital supplies.

The South Asian island nation lacks the money to pay for basic imports like fuel and food, and medicine is also running out. Such troubles threaten to undo its huge gains in public health in recent decades.

Some doctors have turned to social media to try to get donations of supplies or the funds to buy them. They're also urging Sri Lankans living overseas to help. So far there's no sign of an end to the crisis that has thrust the country into an economic and political meltdown.

That means 15-year-old Hasini Wasana might not get the medicine she needs to protect her transplanted kidney. Diagnosed with a kidney ailment as a toddler, she got a transplant nine months ago and needs to take an immune suppressant every day for the rest of her life to prevent her body from rejecting the organ.

Hasini's family is depending on donors to help now that her hospital can no longer provide the Tacrolimus tablets that she received for free until a few weeks ago. She takes eight and a half tablets a day and the cost adds up to more than \$200 a month, just for that one medicine.

"We are being told (by the hospital) that they don't know when they will have this tablet again," said Ishara Thilini, Hasini's older sister.

The family sold their home and Hasini's father got a job in the Middle East to help pay for her medical treatment, but his income is barely enough.

Cancer hospitals, too, are struggling to maintain stocks of essential drugs to ensure uninterrupted treatment.

"Don't get ill, don't get injured, don't do anything that will make you go to a hospital for treatment unnecessarily," said Samath Dharmaratne, president of the Sri Lanka Medical Association. "That is how I can explain it; this is a serious situation."

Dr. Charles Nugawela, who heads a kidney hospital in Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo, said his hospital has kept running thanks to the largesse of donors but has resorted to providing medicine only to patients whose illness has advanced to the stage where they need dialysis.

Nugawela worries the hospital might have to put off all but the most urgent surgeries because of a shortage of suture materials.

The Sri Lanka College of Oncologists gave a list of drugs to the Health Ministry that "are very essential, that all hospitals have to have all the time so that we could provide cancer treatment without any interruption," said Dr. Nadarajah Jeyakumaran, who heads the college.

But the government is having a hard time providing them, he said.

And it's not just medicine. Patients having chemotherapy are susceptible to infections and can't eat normally but hospitals don't have enough food supplements, Jeyakumaran said.

The situation threatens to bring on a health emergency at a time when the country is still recovering from the coronavirus pandemic.

Hospitals lack drugs for rabies, epilepsy and sexually transmitted diseases. Labs don't have enough of the reagents needed to run full blood count tests. Items like suture material, cotton socks for surgery,

supplies for blood transfusions, even cotton wool and gauze are running short.

"If you are handling animals, be careful. If you get bitten and you need surgery and you get rabies, we don't have adequate antiserum and rabies vaccines," said Dr. Surantha Perera, vice president of the Sri Lanka Medical Association.

The association is trying to help patients by seeking donations through personal contacts and from Sri Lankans living overseas, Perera said.

Dhamaratne, the association president, said if things don't improve doctors may be forced to choose which patients get treatment.

It's a reversal of decades of improvements thanks to a universal health care system that has raised many measures of health to the levels of much wealthier nations.

Sri Lanka's infant mortality rate, at just under 7 per 1,000 live births, is not far from the U.S., with 5 per 1,000 live births, or Japan's 1.6. Its maternal mortality rate of near 30 per 100,000 compares well with most developing countries. The U.S. rate is 19, while Japan's is 5.

Life expectancy had risen to nearly 75 years by 2016 from under 72 years in 2000.

The country has managed to eliminate malaria, polio, leprosy, the tropical parasitic disease filariasis commonly known as elephantiasis, and most other vaccine-preventable diseases.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has appealed for help, and the U.S., Japan, India and other countries have pledged funds and other humanitarian support. That aid and more from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other agencies will ensure medical supplies until the end of next year, Wickremesinghe recently told lawmakers.

But in the hospital wards and operating rooms, the situation seems much less reassuring and it threatens to erode public trust in the health system, Dhamaratne said.

"Compared to COVID, as a health emergency today's situation is far, far worse," he said.

Twitter sues to force Musk to complete his \$44B acquisition

By MATT O'BRIEN Associated Press

Twitter sued Tesla CEO Elon Musk on Tuesday, trying to force him to complete his \$44 billion takeover of the social media company by accusing him of "outlandish" and "bad faith" actions that have caused the platform irreparable harm and "wreaked havoc" on its stock price.

Back in April, Musk pledged to pay \$54.20 a share for Twitter, which agreed to those terms after reversing its initial opposition to the deal. But the two sides have been bracing for a legal fight since the billionaire said Friday that he was backing away from his agreement to buy the company.

Twitter's lawsuit opens with a sharply-worded accusation: "Musk refuses to honor his obligations to Twitter and its stockholders because the deal he signed no longer serves his personal interests."

"Having mounted a public spectacle to put Twitter in play, and having proposed and then signed a seller-friendly merger agreement, Musk apparently believes that he — unlike every other party subject to Delaware contract law — is free to change his mind, trash the company, disrupt its operations, destroy stockholder value, and walk away," the suit stated.

Twitter filed its lawsuit in the Delaware Court of Chancery, which frequently handles business disputes among the many corporations, including Twitter, that are incorporated there.

As part of the April deal, Musk and Twitter had agreed to pay each other a \$1 billion breakup fee if either was responsible for the deal falling through. The company could have pushed Musk to pay the hefty fee but is going farther than that, trying to force him to complete the full \$44 billion purchase approved by the company's board.

"Oh the irony lol," Musk tweeted after Twitter filed the lawsuit, without explanation.

The arguments and evidence laid out by Twitter are compelling and likely to get a receptive ear in the Delaware court, which doesn't look kindly on sophisticated buyers with highly-paid legal advisers backing off of deals, said Brian Quinn, a law professor at Boston College.

"They make a very strong argument that this is just buyer's remorse," Quinn said. "You have to eat your

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mistakes in the Delaware Chancery Court. That's going to work very favorably for Twitter."

Musk alleged Friday that Twitter has failed to provide enough information about the number of fake accounts on its service. Twitter said last month that it was making available to Musk a "fire hose" of raw data on hundreds of millions of daily tweets.

The company has said for years in regulatory filings that it believes about 5% of the accounts on the platform are fake. Musk is also alleging that Twitter broke the acquisition agreement when it fired two top managers and laid off a third of its talent-acquisition team.

Twitter's suit repeatedly emphasizes Musk's contemplation of starting a Twitter competitor -- an alternative option he sometimes aired publicly and sometimes privately to Twitter's executives and board members. While the company has said it cooperated in providing the data he requested on fake "spam bot" accounts, the lawsuit suggests Twitter was concerned that disclosing too much "highly sensitive information" could expose the company to competitive harm if shared.

The biggest surprise for Quinn was how much evidence Twitter has -- for instance, communications with Musk about whether to retain or lay off employees, as well as the billionaire's own public tweets -- to reject his arguments for backing out.

"They are marshaling many of Musk's own tweets to hoist him on his own petard," he said.

In a joint press release announcing the acquisition deal, Musk pledged to "unlock" the social media company's potential by loosening restrictions on speech and rooting out fake accounts. Among his most attention-grabbing promises was to let former President Donald Trump back onto the platform. Musk argued that Twitter's ban of Trump following the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol was "morally bad" and "foolish in the extreme."

But his confidence didn't last long. Tesla's stock — Musk's primary source of wealth — plummeted amid a broader stock market selloff in May, and Musk soon seemed less enthusiastic about owning Twitter.

"For Musk, the best case is he pays the \$1 billion breakup fee but that appears very unlikely," said Wedbush Securities analyst Daniel Ives. "The irony is that Twitter as a fiduciary is clearly looking to enforce a deal that Musk doesn't want to get done. It's like buying a house you don't want."

Twitter's suit calls Musk's tactics "a model of hypocrisy," noting that he had emphasized plans to take Twitter private in order to rid it of spam accounts. Once the market declined, Twitter said, "Musk shifted his narrative, suddenly demanding 'verification' that spam was not a serious problem on Twitter's platform, and claiming a burning need to conduct 'diligence' he had expressly forsworn."

Similarly, the company charges that Musk operated in bad faith, accusing him of requesting company information in order to accuse Twitter of providing "misrepresentations" about its business to regulators and investors.

Musk "has been acting against this deal since the market started turning, and has breached the merger agreement repeatedly in the process," the suit charged. "He has purported to put the deal on 'hold' pending satisfaction of imaginary conditions, breached his financing efforts obligations in the process, violated his obligations to treat requests for consent reasonably and to provide information about financing status, violated his non-disparagement obligation, misused confidential information, and otherwise failed to employ required efforts to consummate the acquisition."

AP Exclusive: Venezuela jails 3 Americans amid US outreach

By JOSHUA GOODMAN Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Three Americans were quietly jailed in Venezuela earlier this year for allegedly trying to enter the country illegally and now face long prison sentences in the politically turbulent nation.

Two of the men — a lawyer from California and a computer programmer from Texas — were arrested in late March, just days after President Nicolás Maduro's socialist government freed two other Americans.

Venezuelan security forces arrested lawyer Eyvin Hernandez, 44, and computer programmer Jerrel Kenemore, 52, in separate incidents in the western state of Tachira, according to a person familiar with investigations into the arrests. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity be-

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cause they weren't authorized to discuss the cases publicly.

Hernandez is from Los Angeles; Kenemore is from the Dallas area, but had lived in Colombia since 2019.

A third American was arrested in January, also for allegedly entering the country illegally along its lengthy border with Colombia. AP is withholding his name at the request of his family, which fears retaliation.

At least eight more Americans — including five oil executives and three veterans — remain imprisoned in Venezuela, and U.S. officials insist they are being used as political bargaining chips.

The latest arrests come amid efforts by the Biden administration to unwind the Trump-era policy of punishing Maduro for what they consider his trampling on Venezuela's democracy. Instead, Biden officials are trying to lure him back into negotiations with the U.S.-backed opposition to pave the way for free and fair elections.

As part of that still-early outreach, the U.S. has dangled the possibility of easing sanctions on the OPEC nation — a move that, over time, could also help lower oil prices, which spiked following Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

The release of two Americans on March 8 was celebrated in Washington, giving a boost to the Biden administration's outreach to Maduro. It's not clear what impact, if any, the jailing of three more Americans will have on relations with Maduro, a close ally of Russia whom the U.S. has sanctioned and indicted on narcotics charges.

The State Department confirmed the three arrests and a spokesperson said officials are advocating for the immediate release of all wrongfully detained Americans in Venezuela.

Beyond any political fallout, the arrests point to what U.S. officials consider an alarming trend: the arrest of unsuspecting Americans along the Colombia-Venezuela border, a lawless area dominated by criminal gangs and leftist rebels. Americans trying to enter Venezuela without a visa are especially vulnerable.

Despite Maduro's often fiery rhetoric against the U.S. "empire," there's no indication he is targeting Americans for arrest.

But with the South American country torn apart after years of political unrest, hyperinflation and devastating food shortages, Maduro's grip on his poorly paid security forces is constrained. That's created an opening for criminal elements and hardliners looking to spoil Maduro's talks with the U.S.

"There's a lot of different centers of power in Venezuela and not all of them are aligned with Maduro or share his goal of seeing talks with the U.S. advance," said Phil Gunson, a Caracas-based analyst for the International Crisis Group.

In one arrest report seen by the AP, Venezuelan military counterintelligence agents justified their actions by citing the U.S.'s "constant threats, economic blockade, and breaking of diplomatic relations."

Some top Venezuelan officials also justify the arrest of Americans. In a June 13 press conference announcing the arrest of another, unnamed American, Socialist party leader Diosdado Cabello said: "They have their plans against our country."

Hernandez, who was arrested March 31, was supposed to appear in court on Monday but the hearing was postponed.

Hernandez migrated to Los Angeles as a toddler with his parents, who were fleeing civil war in El Salvador. After graduating from the University of California Los Angeles law school, he turned down lucrative jobs to instead work as a public defender representing indigent and sometimes homeless defendants, a sign of his charitable spirit, friends and relatives said.

Like Maduro, Hernandez loves salsa music and has a history of labor activism. An avid traveler, Hernandez was taking a short break from work when he traveled to Colombia, where he's been several times before, his brother said. Right before he was due home, he accompanied a Venezuelan friend to the border. His family said it was never his intention to go to Venezuela, nor would he knowingly break the law.

Hernandez's friend is also being held and faces the additional charge of migrant smuggling, according to the person familiar with investigation.

"My entire family deeply misses my brother," Henry Martinez, who also lives in Los Angeles, said in a statement. "He has worked his entire career serving marginalized people and he is truly the best of us. We hope and pray that Eyvin can return home very soon from this mistaken arrest."

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Two weeks before Hernandez's arrest, Kenemore was taken into custody in similarly murky circumstances. According to Kenemore's family, he had been living in Colombia for over a year with a Venezuelan woman he met online when both were getting over divorces. The two shared a small apartment where Kenemore was working remotely for a client in the U.S., but had decided to relocate to Venezuela, where his girlfriend had a home.

Kenemore's family said he was detained by migration officials upon entering Venezuela, according to a GoFundMe page they set up to pay for his defense. They posted on the crowdfunding platform what they said was the last photo of him before his arrest, near a Colombian border checkpoint on the Simon Bolivar international bridge.

Prosecutors allege that Kenemore, his girlfriend and three others entered the country on a nearby dirt trail, one of hundreds of irregular crossings used daily by Venezuelans shuttling between the countries for groceries, medical appointments and to visit family. They said he was carrying three laptops and was accompanied by a captain in the Venezuelan navy, something that also raised suspicions.

Like Hernandez, Kenemore was charged with criminal association and conspiracy — crimes punishable with up to 16 years in jail. His girlfriend is also being held.

"Jerrel is a good American, Christian man," Jeana Kenemore Tillery, his sister, said in a phone interview. "All he wanted to do was be with the woman he loved. His sisters, children and grandson miss him very much and we just want him home."

In April, the State Department warned about threats to Americans along the Colombia-Venezuela border. It recommended Americans avoid all travel to Venezuela, and never enter without a visa, which is nearly impossible to obtain since the U.S. broke diplomatic relations with Maduro in 2019.

According to Venezuelan law, foreigners found in the country without a visa are to be immediately deported.

But for reasons that are unclear, all three men arrested earlier this year were transferred hundreds of miles away to the capital, Caracas, to a maximum security prison housing many of Maduro's opponents.

Americans jailed in Venezuela are at a disadvantage when it comes to seeking help from their government. The U.S. closed its hilltop Embassy in Caracas in 2019, after recognizing opposition lawmaker Juan Guaidó as the nation's legitimate leader.

The United Nations has long complained about the lack of independence for Venezuelan judges as well as the facility where the Americans are being held.

"It's not a legal system one wants to get trapped in," said Gunson of the International Crisis Group.

Preventative fires credited with saving Yosemite sequoias

YOSEMITE NATIONAL PARK, Calif. (AP) — A famed grove of giant sequoias in Yosemite National Park survived its first wildfire in more than a century, thanks to efforts to regularly burn the undergrowth beneath the towering trees, a forest ecologist who toured the site said Tuesday.

Small, intentionally lit fires over the past 50 years essentially stopped the fire in its tracks when it hit the Mariposa Grove and allowed firefighters to stand their ground and prevent flames from doing more than charring the thick bark on the world's largest trees, Garrett Dickman said.

"We've been preparing for the Washburn Fire for decades," said Dickman, who works for the park. "It really just died as soon as it hit the grove."

The fire that started Thursday near the grove had burned 5 square miles (13 square kilometers) Tuesday, but was 22% contained and moving away from the largest grove of sequoias in the park. Based on prevailing winds, it was unlikely to return to the grove.

The blaze started near a trail. Authorities said it wasn't from lightning and wouldn't comment on whether it was sparked accidentally, intentionally or through negligence.

Hundreds of visitors and residents were evacuated from the nearby community of Wawona on Friday and the grove and southern entrance of the park were closed. The rest of Yosemite remained open, though it has been blanketed in heavy smoke at times.

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Some of the sequoias were charred by flames that reached 70 feet up their trunks, but Dickman said he surveyed the grove and did not think any of the trees would die. The Galen Clark tree, a large tree at the top of the grove named for the park's first guardian, was one of the few named trees that burned.

"It got a little bit of heat," Dickman said. "But from the pictures I've seen it, too, is gonna survive."

The sequoias are adapted to fire — and rely on it to survive. But more than a century of aggressive fire suppression has left forests choked with dense vegetation and downed timber that has provided fuel for massive wildfires that have grown more intense during an ongoing drought and exacerbated by climate change.

So-called prescribed burns — most recently conducted in the grove in 2018 — mimic low intensity that help sequoias by clearing out downed branches, flammable needles and smaller trees that could compete with them for light and water. The heat from fires also helps cones open up to spread their seeds.

While intentional burns have been conducted in sequoias since the 1960s, they are increasingly being seen as a necessity to save the massive trees. Once thought to be almost fire-proof, up to 20% of all giant sequoias — native only in the Sierra Nevada range — have been killed in the past five years during intense wildfires.

Fighting fire with fire, however, is a risky endeavor and has occasionally gotten out of control.

In New Mexico, firefighters were working Tuesday to restore mountainsides turned to ash by the largest wildfire in the state's recorded history that broke out in early April when prescribed burns by the U.S. Forest Service escaped containment following missteps and miscalculations.

The Santa Fe County Commission in an afternoon meeting blasted federal officials and unanimously passed a resolution calling on the Forest Service to conduct a more comprehensive environmental review as it looks to reduce the threat of wildfire in the mountains that border the capital city.

The Mariposa Grove, home to over 500 mature giants, and Yosemite Valley were protected by President Abraham Lincoln in 1864 — almost a decade before Yellowstone became the first national park in 1872 and decades before Yosemite was added to the system in 1890.

Dickman said the grove had not seen a wildfire in over 100 years. Several large blazes have come close in the past decade but they stopped before reaching the grove.

The current fire remains small by those standards and has not been driven by wind. But it is burning in forest littered with dense stands of trees killed by bark beetles and drought, as well timber blown down in a powerful windstorm last year that also toppled more than two dozen sequoias.

The previous prescribed burns in the grove gave firefighters a chance to set up sprinklers to protect trees that have lived longer than 3,000 years and grow above 300 feet (90 meters) in height.

So far in 2022, over 35,000 wildfires have burned nearly 4.7 million acres (1.9 million hectares) in the U.S., according to the National Interagency Fire Center, well above average for both wildfires and acres burned.

In Utah, smoke and ash emanating from a growing wildfire in rural Tooele County blew into Salt Lake City on Saturday. By Monday night, the Jacob City Fire had grown to 6.4 square miles (16.6 square kilometers), with 19% containment, officials said.

Elsewhere in Utah, firefighters contending with heavy winds battled the 15.9 square-mile (41-square-kilometer) Halfway Hill Fire in Filmore. Law enforcement on Saturday arrested four men who investigators said abandoned a campfire that ignited the blaze.

State judge blocks Louisiana from enforcing abortion ban

By KEVIN MCGILL Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Louisiana authorities have once again been blocked from enforcing a near total ban on abortion, this time under a judge's order released Tuesday by a state court in the capital.

Judge Donald Johnson's order halts enforcement temporarily while lawyers for a north Louisiana clinic and other supporters of abortion rights pursue a lawsuit challenging the legislation. Johnson set a hearing for next Monday.

State Attorney General Jeff Landry criticized the ruling in a series of posts on Twitter.

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"To have the judiciary create a legal circus is disappointing," Landry wrote in one post.

"The rule of law must be followed, and I will not rest until it is. Unfortunately, we will have to wait a little bit longer for that to happen," he added.

Kathaleen Pittman, director of the north Louisiana clinic that was the lead plaintiff in the lawsuit, expressed relief in a phone interview. Pittman said the Hope Medical Group for Women clinic in Shreveport is ready to resume counseling and abortions. Louisiana's two other clinics are in the capital, Baton Rouge, and New Orleans.

"We look forward to arguing for a preliminary injunction before Judge Johnson next Monday and, in the meantime, we take solace in the fact that crucial healthcare for women has been restored in the state of Louisiana," Joanna Wright, an attorney for the clinic, said in an email.

The suit originated in New Orleans, where a judge issued a temporary order blocking enforcement on June 27, just three days after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned its 1973 ruling establishing nationwide abortion rights.

But a second New Orleans judge sent the case to Baton Rouge on Friday, saying state law required that it be heard in the capital. Judge Ethel Julien then said that because the case was no longer going to be heard in her court, she did not have the authority to extend the temporary restraining order blocking the law's enforcement.

Prior to Johnson's ruling, which was dated Monday, July 11, attorneys for Landry had argued in a filing in Baton Rouge that the temporary restraining order could not be renewed once it expired.

Louisiana's law includes "trigger language" that made it effective when the Supreme Court reversed abortion rights.

The lawsuit's plaintiffs don't deny that the state can now ban abortion as a result of the Supreme Court ruling, but they say current state law is unconstitutionally vague. They contend that Louisiana now has multiple, conflicting trigger mechanisms in the law. They also argue that the state law is unclear on whether it bans an abortion prior to a fertilized egg implanting in the uterus.

And while the law provides an exception for "medically futile" pregnancies in cases of fetuses with fatal abnormalities, the plaintiffs note it gives no definition of the term and that state health officials haven't yet provided a list of conditions that would qualify. The suit claims the state law is unclear on when the ban takes effect and on medical exceptions to it.

Lawyer: Officials to pursue murder charges for Alex Murdaugh

By JAMES POLLARD and MEG KINNARD Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — A lawyer for disgraced South Carolina attorney Alex Murdaugh said Tuesday that investigators have indicated they intend to pursue murder charges against him for the deaths of his wife and son, who were fatally shot outside their home more than a year ago.

Lawyer Jim Griffin said in a statement that the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division told Murdaugh family members they plan to seek indictments from a grand jury later this week.

"We won't have any comment until charges are actually brought against Alex," Griffin said.

Officials with both state police and the attorney general's office would not comment on whether authorities were pursuing the indictments, which were first reported by news and opinion website FITSNews.

Murdaugh already faces dozens of criminal charges that have piled up in the months since his wife Maggie, 52, and their 22-year-old son, Paul, were killed. But until now he has not been charged in connection with their deaths; he's repeatedly denied any role in those killings.

The deaths led to at least a half-dozen investigations into Murdaugh and his finances resulting in charges that he stole \$8.5 million from people who hired him and that he lied to police in saying he was shot by a stranger on a roadside when — officials say — he really asked a friend to kill him so his surviving son could collect a \$10 million life insurance policy.

Maggie and Paul Murdaugh were shot several times between 9 and 9:30 p.m. the night of June 7, 2021, outside their home on the family's land near Islandton, authorities said. Their bodies were found near dog

kennels, according to Colleton County Coroner Richard Harvey.

At the time, authorities reported that Alex Murdaugh discovered the bodies and called 911. His family told "Good Morning America" that Murdaugh had been visiting his father in the hospital and checking on his mother when the killings happened.

The South Carolina Supreme Court also disbarred Murdaugh on Tuesday, confirming the inevitable after Murdaugh's attorneys declined to contest arguments at a June disbarment hearing. In the order, the state Supreme Court noted its decision "in no way" affects ongoing investigations.

From 'Lasso' to Lizzo, Emmy nominees react with joy

By The Associated Press undefined

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nicholas Braun of "Succession" was pacing on the street around Soho in Manhattan, unable to stop moving and feeling "a little manic." "Squid Game" creator Hwang Dong-hyuk was hunkering down at an island retreat to write season 2, but took a break for a bottle of Champagne. Jane Lynch was about to get sushi before performing on Broadway in a few hours. Connie Britton was getting her hair colored. They and many others expressed joy after being nominated for Emmys. Some reactions:

"Oh my God, it's the job of a lifetime, the people that I get to work with. You're just around so much talent, and we've really got a family thing going. Just so many special actors who know their characters like the back of their hands. When I'm in a scene, I'm also a fan and I'm like, 'Oh my God, they're killing it right now!' So it's really the greatest gig, and I'm so happy for everybody else getting their props." — Nicholas Braun of "Succession," nominated for best supporting actor in a drama, one of a leading 25 nominations for the series.

"I have already drunk a bottle of Champagne ... I am in a grueling process of writing Season 2. These nominations add to the pressure but as much as the pressure increases, I would say that my motivation also increases, because I want to deliver on the expectations." — "Squid Game" creator Hwang Dong-hyuk, speaking from Jeju island in South Korea, where he is writing the next season, after his show became the first non-English language series to vie for television's top honor. It earned a best drama nomination and 13 other bids.

"We are a nauseatingly happy bunch! Because there is nobody, including Jason (Sudeikis), that thinks they're more important in any scene than anyone else. And it has to come from him. He shines the light so universally away from himself. ... It's really, really healthy and supportive. And honestly, if you could have seen our WhatsApp group over the last two hours, it honestly is nauseating. We dig each other, we dig each other to death. And I will struggle to leave this group of players. I really will." — Hannah Waddingham on her "Ted Lasso" ensemble. Waddingham was nominated again for the award she won last year, best supporting actress in a comedy.

"My family sacrificed a lot for me to pursue my dreams. There's always that fear in the back of your mind: 'Did they sacrifice and give up too much? Am I ever going to achieve this dream that everyone has for me and I have?' This makes me feel like this and everything was worth it." — Sydney Sweeney, nominated for best supporting actress in a drama series for "Euphoria."

"We came out of 'Breaking Bad' being a great show. It's one of the best ever on TV. You always want to try to do right by that show — do right by your legacy. It feels like we're continuing to fulfill the hope that people had for us to keep that level of excellence. I'm following (Bryan) Cranston and these great actors who set a really high water mark." — Bob Odenkirk, nominated for best actor in a drama for "Better Call Saul."

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"I like to find the humor in everything, and I feel like (in) the best drama, you have to kind of have the counterbalance of humor in order to really point out the drama. But it was so fun to kind of go at it from the opposite direction. ... For me, it was about, okay, I have to find the gravitas and I have to find the groundedness and the reality. It was really fun and wonderful to be able to do that with such a wonderful group of actors who were just all so excellent." — Connie Britton of "The White Lotus," nominated for best supporting actress, limited series or TV movie.

"Holy fxxxing xxxx, this is fxxxing insane! For this to happen once is magic, but twice is a miracle. ... I don't know what to say. I'm really trying to learn to swear less. Golly gee. Is that better? Ah, who the fxxx am I kidding, thank you to the Academy." — Brett Goldstein of "Ted Lasso" in an email message after being nominated for best supporting actor in a comedy for the second successive year.

"It's a pretty happy day! And I'm going to have some sushi and that's going to make it a GREAT day. ... It was just such a joy to work with Steve (Martin). We were like twins. ... It's crazy. I mean, I certainly didn't expect this (nomination.) It's just the coolest thing. — Jane Lynch from "Only Murders in the Building," nominated for guest actress in a comedy series.

"You never know if people are going to watch what you make so the entire experience of making a movie or show exists in its own creative and crazy bubble. 'The Dropout' was the most intense and surprisingly fun time, and for it to be appreciated in this way sweetens the whole experience for me. — Amanda Seyfried of "The Dropout," nominated for best actress in a limited series or TV movie, in a statement.

"Like most character actors, I always think my last job will be my last ever acting job. Getting this very sweet nomination just makes me feel like at least I could be going out on a positive note if I never get an acting job. At least I'm not leaving the business with people being like 'We hate you.'" — Comedian Martha Kelly, nominated for guest actress in a drama for her appearance in "Euphoria."

"I came at this with so much passion and the desire to reveal myself and challenge behavior in how women are treated. I greatly admire and desperately wanted to do justice for Pamela Anderson. I had no choice but to work harder than ever. I gave everything into it." — Lily James, nominated for best actress in a limited series or TV movie for "Pam & Tommy."

"Nicole Kidman is going to be there. Nicole Kidman might be there. And I'm going to see Nicole Kidman at the Emmys. What am I going to do when I meet Nicole? I don't know. But please leave a comment (with) what I should do when I meet Nicole Kidman, because that's what the Emmys means to me ... I've kind of been in shock for the last couple of hours. I've been in shock." — Lizzo, nominated for "Lizzo's Watch Out for the Big Grrrls" in the outstanding competition show category, on Instagram Live.

Ann Shulgin, pioneer of psychedelics in therapy, dies at 91

By OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Ann Shulgin, who together with her late husband Alexander Shulgin pioneered the use of psychedelic drugs in psychotherapy and co-wrote two seminal books on the subject, has died at the age of 91.

Shulgin had been in ill health because of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, her daughter, Wendy Tucker, said. She died Saturday at "the farm," a sprawling San Francisco Bay Area residence she shared with her chemist husband until his death in 2014, surrounded by loved ones, Tucker said.

Shulgin had a deep understanding of Jungian psychoanalysis and collaborated with her husband, who in the 1970s rediscovered the MDMA compound, better known as ecstasy, and introduced it as a possible mental health treatment. The couple tested the substances on themselves and a small group of friends.

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"He was the scientist, and I was the psychologist," Shulgin said of their partnership in a 2014 interview with The Associated Press. "He was a genius."

Born in New Zealand to an American diplomat and New Zealand mother, Shulgin grew up in different parts of the world. The family settled in San Francisco after her father's retirement. A professionally trained artist, Shulgin drew and painted all her life and worked as a medical transcriber.

In 1978, she met Alexander Shulgin, who created more than 200 chemical compounds for use in psychotherapy.

The couple's home, where Alexander Shulgin also had his lab, in Lafayette, California, about 22 miles (35 kilometers) east of San Francisco, for decades was a gathering place for students, teachers and those working with psychedelics.

Though she was not a professionally trained psychotherapist, "she was always the one who people talk to and you always felt like you could open up to her. She called herself a lay therapist," Tucker said.

The couple took copious notes of their experiences and of what they observed in others and co-wrote two books. PiHKAL: A Chemical Love Story, which was published in 1991, and TiHKAL: The Continuation, published in 1997.

In PiHKAL, Shulgin wrote about her first experience with psychedelics when she was in her 20s.

"I saw something forming in the air, slightly above the level of my head. I thought that it was perhaps a few feet from me, then I realized I couldn't actually locate it in space at all. It was a moving spiral opening, up there in the cool air, and I knew it was a doorway to the other side of existence, that I could step through it if I wished to be finished with this particular life I was living, and that there was nothing threatening or menacing about it; in fact, it was completely friendly. I also knew that I had no intention of stepping through it because there was still a great deal I wanted to do in my life, and I intended to live long enough to get it all done. The lovely spiral door didn't beckon; it was just matter-of-factly there," she wrote.

Publishers were afraid to print their first book about MDMA so the couple, who were against ecstasy being used outside of therapy, self-published it because they wanted to share their experiences and knowledge with the world, Tucker said.

"They were the ones pushing to do all the PTSD work with veterans with MDMA because they saw people who had severe trauma could really break through. They were so brave to publish their work because that really opened the door and paved the way to all that is happening now," Tucker said.

In the U.S., several states have approved studying the potential medical use of psychedelics, which are still illegal under federal law. A string of cities have also decriminalized so-called magic mushrooms, and an explosion of investment money is flowing into the arena.

Experts say the research is promising for treating conditions ranging from PTSD to smoking addiction, but caution that some serious risks remain, especially for those with certain mental health conditions.

"We lost years and years of research ability because of the attitude and fears around psychedelics. But we wouldn't be where we are if it wasn't for Ann and Sasha," she added.

Shulgin is survived by four children, eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. A memorial is being planned for later in the year.

White House urges caution on COVID variants, pushes boosters

By ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Biden administration is calling on people to exercise renewed caution about COVID-19, emphasizing the importance of getting booster shots for those who are eligible and wearing masks indoors as two new highly transmissible variants are spreading rapidly across the country.

The new variants, labeled BA.4 and BA.5, are offshoots of the omicron strain that has been responsible for nearly all of the virus spread in the U.S. and are even more contagious than their predecessors. White House doctors stressed the importance of getting booster doses, even if you have recently been infected.

"Currently, many Americans are under-vaccinated, meaning they are not up to date on their COVID-19 vaccines," said Dr. Rochelle Walensky, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "Staying up to date on your COVID-19 vaccines provides the best protection against severe outcomes."

Walensky said the U.S. has seen a doubling in the number of hospitalizations due to COVID-19 since April, reflecting the spread of the new subvariants, though deaths remain steady around 300 per day.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the nation's top infectious disease expert, said while the new variants are concerning, with boosters, indoor masking and treatments the country has the tools to keep them from being disruptive.

"We should not let it disrupt our lives," he said, "but we cannot deny that it is a reality that we need to deal with."

He added that even if someone recently had COVID-19, they should get a booster.

"Immunity wanes, so it is critical to stay up to date with COVID 19 vaccines," he said.

All Americans age 5 and over should get a booster five months after their initial primary series, according to the CDC, and those age 50 and over — or those who are immunocompromised — should get a second booster four months after their first. According to CDC, tens of millions of eligible Americans haven't received their first booster, and of those over 50 who got their first booster, only 28% have received their second.

"If you're over 50 and you haven't gotten the shot this year, you should go get a shot," said White House COVID-19 coordinator Dr. Ashish Jha. "It's going to save your life."

Jha and Fauci said the U.S. is regularly discussing expanding eligibility for a second booster shot to all adults, but that no decision has been made yet.

"It's a regulatory decision on the part of the FDA," Fauci said.

Jha said people who are eligible for a booster but haven't received one shouldn't wait for forthcoming vaccines targeted at the omicron strain in addition to the original form of the coronavirus. The U.S. has ordered 105 million of those updated shots, which studies show provide better protection against omicron variants, but they won't be available until the fall.

"Let me be clear, if you get vaccinated today, you're not going to be ineligible to get the variants specific vaccine, as we get into the later part of fall and winter," Jha said. "So, this is not a tradeoff, we've got plenty. It's a great way to protect yourself."

Added Fauci, "The threat to you is now."

Walensky noted that CDC data shows that about a third of Americans are living in areas the agency classifies as experiencing a high level of COVID spread, where the agency recommends people wear masks in public indoor spaces. Another 41% live in the CDC's "medium" level, where it recommends that people consider their own individual risk and consider masking.

Detroit cash bail reforms to strike at racial inequality

By AARON MORRISON Associated Press

Michigan's largest district court and bail reform advocates agreed Tuesday to settle a federal class-action lawsuit over cash bail practices, which activists say routinely and unconstitutionally jail poor and working class defendants despite evidence of their inability to pay.

Both sides say the reforms strike at racial inequality in the criminal legal system. On any given day in Wayne County, which includes Detroit, the nation's Blackest city, nearly three-quarters of those jailed are Black, a proportion much higher than their share of the population.

The agreement requires the court to reform bail practices, including limiting its ability to impose unaffordable bail on defendants. Advocates say it could be a model for court systems nationwide, where race and wealth are significant factors in the administration of justice.

Detroit's 36th District Court, the American Civil Liberties Union and The Bail Project, a nonprofit that pays bail for people in need, said the status quo wreaks unnecessary havoc on defendants' jobs, homes and families.

"This is a historic agreement that we believe can and should be a template for how courts around the country can adapt their bail practices to what is lawful, constitutional and sensible," said Phil Mayor, senior

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staff attorney for the Michigan ACLU.

Chief Judge William McConico of the 36th District Court said settling the class-action lawsuit, filed in 2019 just before he became the chief, presented an opportunity to show that law enforcement and activists can work together to change the criminal legal system.

"Other African American cities will be able to point to what one of the largest district courts in the country is doing to address this issue," said McConico, who is Black. "That's why it is so important that this is starting in a major Black city, that it is not being rolled out in a suburban city or a small court."

The reforms, shared with The Associated Press exclusively ahead of Tuesday's announcement, do not bar judges from imposing cash bail, especially if defendants are deemed a flight risk or a danger to the public. However, all Detroit judges and magistrates must say on the record how imposing bail would protect the community or prevent a failure to appear. Judges must also make an on-the-record determination as to how much a defendant can afford to pay.

The parties also agreed that any defendant who is at 200% of the federal poverty level or less is to be assumed unable to post cash bond. According to the 2022 federal guidelines, 200% of the poverty level is annual earnings of roughly \$27,000 for an individual and \$55,000 for a family of four.

"This should largely eliminate the practice of imposing what may seem to some like small amounts of cash bail, which effectively serve as a jail sentence for somebody who hasn't yet been convicted of a crime," Mayor said.

The sides also agreed to new rules stipulating when and what triggers a bail redetermination hearing, if a defendant's bail has been set but goes unpaid. The hearing would allow for a bail amount to be reduced or withdrawn altogether if it is later deemed unaffordable.

The reforms in Detroit come as some states and local jurisdictions across the U.S. have either rolled back or are considering rollbacks of bail reforms in response to a pandemic-era increase in crime. From San Francisco to New York City and cities in between, rhetoric around the uptick in violence and nuisance crimes has slowed political momentum despite bipartisan agreement that mass incarceration is expensive and has no proven positive effect on public safety.

"We are still moving forward in a very thoughtful way, to say that the presumption of innocence matters, that mass incarceration of pretrial people needs to be reversed, and that racial disparities at the pretrial stage need to be addressed in a very real way," said Twyla Carter, The Bail Project's outgoing national legal and policy director.

The ACLU, the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, The Bail Project and the law firm Covington & Burling LLP sued the chief judge, court magistrates and the Wayne County sheriff in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan in 2019, on behalf of seven Black plaintiffs. The plaintiffs alleged the only reason they remained in jail was because they couldn't afford bail.

At the time of her incarceration in April 2019, one plaintiff, Starmanie Jackson, an impoverished single mother of 2- and 4-year-old children, had her bail set at \$700 over outstanding traffic tickets and a charge alleging domestic violence. Because she could not afford to pay, Jackson, who had never been arrested before, was separated from her children for the first time in their lives.

"I was devastated," said Jackson, 27. "It was nerve wracking, scary and disappointing, because we depend on our justice system to keep us safe and on track."

She said her family couldn't locate her for two days, as jail officials struggled to confirm where she was being held. As a result of her incarceration, Jackson, a certified nurse's assistant, said she lost a new nursing home job when she didn't show up for her first shift and was evicted from her apartment after she used her rent money to help pay her bond. The domestic violence charge was ultimately dropped and Jackson never served another day in jail.

The settlement makes for a happy ending to what ended up being a nightmare, said Jackson, now a mother of four children.

"I'm ecstatic because I'm able to help people to overcome some of the difficulties in our justice system, which is already jacked up," she said.

As part of the settlement, Jackson and the other plaintiffs will split a payment of \$14,000. Lawyers for

the plaintiffs said the amount was agreed to with the knowledge that the court would also spend money to track bail and pretrial detention. The court did not admit wrongdoing as part of the settlement.

According to a 2020 report of the Michigan Joint Task Force on Jail and Pretrial Incarceration, between 2016 and 2018, Black men made up 29% of the jail admissions in the counties the task force sampled, even though they were just 6% of the resident population in those counties. Between 2018 and 2019 in Wayne County, Black people represented 70% of those detained in the local jail on any given day, even though they were only 39% of the resident population.

Nationwide, recent studies show Black defendants make up a majority of people in pretrial detention. However, the jail incarceration rate for Black people had been on the decline between 2008 and 2019, according to the latest federal data.

Former U.S. Attorney Gen. Eric Holder, who is senior counsel at Covington & Burling, commended the Detroit district court for reaching the agreement on reforms. "This is how our criminal justice system should work," he said. "It can, and should be, a model for other jurisdictions across the country."

Ezekiel Edwards, vice president of pretrial criminal justice at Arnold Ventures, a philanthropic organization supporting research and policy work on justice issues, said bail systems in the U.S. have become more reform-minded over the last decade. But the policy landscape is still a patchwork, he said.

"Cash bail is still used in most jurisdictions around the country and without the necessary regulations or limitations," Edwards said.

As for achieving racial justice in Detroit, McConico said there will be a racially diverse bar association and a majority Black bench of judges and magistrates working together under the new administrative policies to ensure they have a chance of succeeding.

"It won't just be symbolic," the chief judge said. "There will be African Americans making a change on the criminal justice system that disproportionately impacts African Americans."

Baby stars, dancing galaxies: NASA shows new cosmic views

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

GREENBELT, Md. (AP) — A sparkling landscape of baby stars. A foamy blue and orange view of a dying star. Five galaxies in a cosmic dance. The splendors of the universe glowed in a new batch of images released Tuesday from NASA's powerful new telescope.

The unveiling from the \$10 billion James Webb Space Telescope began Monday at the White House with a sneak peek of the first shot — a jumble of distant galaxies that went deeper into the cosmos than humanity has ever seen.

Tuesday's releases showed parts of the universe seen by other telescopes. But Webb's sheer power, distant location from Earth and use of the infrared light spectrum showed them in a new light that scientists said was almost as much art as science.

"It's the beauty but also the story," NASA senior Webb scientist John Mather, a Nobel laureate, said after the reveal. "It's the story of where did we come from."

And, he said, the more he looked at the images, the more he became convinced that life exists elsewhere in those thousands of stars and hundreds of galaxies.

With Webb, scientist hope to glimpse light from the first stars and galaxies that formed 13.7 billion years ago, just 100 million years from the universe-creating Big Bang. The telescope also will scan the atmospheres of alien worlds for possible signs of life.

"Every image is a new discovery and each will give humanity a view of the humanity that we've never seen before," NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said Tuesday, rhapsodizing over images showing "the formation of stars, devouring black holes."

Webb's use of the infrared light spectrum allows the telescope to see through the cosmic dust and see faraway light from the corners of the universe, scientists said.

"We've really changed the understanding of our universe," said European Space Agency director general Josef Aschbacher.

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The European and Canadian space agencies joined NASA in building the telescope, which was launched in December after years of delays and cost overruns. Webb is considered the successor to the highly successful, but aging Hubble Space Telescope.

Some of Hubble's most stunning images have been shots of the Carina nebula, one of the bright stellar nurseries in the sky, about 7,600 light-years away. Webb project scientist Klaus Pontoppidan decided to focus one of Webb's early gazes on that location because he knew it would be the frameable beauty shot. The result was an image of a colorful landscape of bubbles and cavities where stars were being born.

"This is art," Pontoppidan said. "I really wanted to have that landscape. It has that contrast. We have the blue. We have golden. There's dark. There's bright. There's just a sharp image."

On tap for release Thursday: A close-up of Jupiter that shows one of its faint rings and a few of its moons, he said.

Also among the new shots:

— Southern Ring nebula, which is sometimes called "eight-burst." Images show a dying star with a foamy edge of escaping gas. It's about 2,500 light-years away. A light-year is 5.8 trillion miles. "This is the end for this star, but the beginning for other stars," Pontoppidan said. As it dies, it throws off parts that seed the galaxy with elements used for new stars, he said.

-- Stephan's Quintet, five galaxies in a cosmic dance that was first seen 225 years ago in the constellation Pegasus. It includes a black hole that scientists said showed material "swallowed by this sort of cosmic monster." Webb "has just given us a new, unprecedented 290 million-year-old view of what this Quintet is up to," Cornell University astronomer Lisa Kaltenegger, who wasn't part of the Webb team, said in an email.

— A giant planet called WASP-96b. It's about the size of Saturn and is 1,150 light-years away. A gas planet, it's not a candidate for life elsewhere but a key target for astronomers. Instead of an image, the telescope used its infrared detectors to look at the chemical composition of the planet's atmosphere. It showed water vapor in the super-hot planet's atmosphere and even found the chemical spectrum of neon, showing clouds where astronomers thought there were none.

The images were released one-by-one at an event at NASA's Goddard Space Center that included cheerleaders with pompoms the color of the telescope's golden mirrors.

"It moves you. This is so so beautiful," Thomas Zurbuchen, chief of NASA's science missions, said after the event. "Nature is beautiful. To me this is about beauty."

The world's biggest and most powerful space telescope rocketed away last December from French Guiana in South America. It reached its lookout point 1 million miles (1.6 million kilometers) from Earth in January. Then the lengthy process began to align the mirrors, get the infrared detectors cold enough to operate and calibrate the science instruments, all protected by a sunshade the size of a tennis court.

'Succession' tops Emmy nominations, 'Squid Game' also scores

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "Succession" received a leading 25 Emmy nominations Tuesday, but the satirical drama about the rich and ruthless has a landmark rival in "Squid Game," the first non-English language series to vie for television's top honor.

Netflix's "Squid Game," a South Korea-set drama in which the poor are fodder for brutal games, earned a best drama nomination and 13 other bids for September's Emmy Awards. HBO's "Succession" captured the best drama trophy and six other awards when it last vied for Emmys, in 2020.

Series creator Hwang Dong-hyuk said he appreciated that "Squid Game" was chosen as the "first milestone" for a Hollywood and U.S. change of attitude.

"Instead of just exporting the content around the world, it is now shifting to become a participant in the global content realm to facilitate exchanges of cultures around the world," he told The Associated Press through a translator.

"Ted Lasso" was the top comedy series nominee with 20 bids and has the chance to earn its second

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consecutive best comedy trophy, as academy voters proved undeterred by its sophomore season turn to the emotional dark side.

Other top nominees included the tropical resort-set anthology dramedy "The White Lotus," which also received 20 nominations; the comedies "Hacks" and "Only Murders in the Building" with 17 bids each, and teenage dysfunction drama "Euphoria." Its star, Zendaya, was crowned best actress in 2020 and is nominated again.

Departing series that might have expected salutes were instead snubbed, including the beloved family drama "This Is Us," which received one bid, for original music and lyrics. An equally beloved family comedy, "black-ish," earned costume and hairstyling nominations. "Ozark," which wrapped its run last season, fared better, with 13 bids including best drama series.

The final season for "Insecure" earned a lead comedy actress bid for its creator-star Issa Rae, while the return of "Atlanta" brought its creator and lead Donald Glover a shot at a best actor trophy to bookend his 2017 award.

The crowd-pleasing and acclaimed "Abbott Elementary" made a splashy debut in its first year, earning seven nominations including a best comedy nod and a lead acting bid for its creator, Quinta Brunson. The recognition for the ABC show was a rare bright spot for broadcast networks, which were otherwise shut out of the comedy and drama series races.

The other nominees for best comedy series are "Barry"; "Curb Your Enthusiasm"; "Hacks"; "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel"; "Only Murders in the Building"; "Ted Lasso" and "What We Do in the Shadows."

Best drama series nominees include "Better Call Saul"; "Euphoria"; "Severance"; "Stranger Things" and "Yellowjackets."

The modern vampire comedy "What We Do in the Shadows" and "Yellowjackets," a combined thriller and coming-of-age saga that's created major buzz, showed that Emmy voters have both a sense of humor and adventure. Controversy apparently left them unfazed: "Dave Chappelle: The Closer," which drew criticism for its transgender mockery, picked up a pre-recorded variety special nomination.

"Only Murders in the Building," a cheery crime romp headed by the charmingly unlikely trio of Selena Gomez, Steve Martin and Martin Short, earned best comedy actor bids for its veteran stars but left Gomez off the acting list.

Netflix's global sensation "Squid Game" followed in the footsteps of 2020 Oscar darling "Parasite," also made in South Korea. But "Pachinko," a sweeping and much-lauded South Korean family drama failed to garner any Emmy nods.

Emmy rules allow for a non-English language show with a U.S. production partner to compete, but it took the rise of streaming services to make it happen. The Emmys were once dominated by broadcast and later cable shows made primarily for North America, but streamers target that market and a wide swath of others — and are finding that shows made in Asia, Europe and elsewhere can carry worldwide.

The longstanding lack of shows with any dialogue other than English is demonstrated by NBC's 1980 miniseries "Shōgun," based on the James Clavell novel about early 17th-century Japan. The bilingual production by a U.S. studio was groundbreaking but not a trend-setter when it won the best limited series Emmy and acting nods.

"Squid Game" boosted rare Asian representation with its five acting nominations, including a lead actor bid for Lee Jung-jae and supporting actress nod for Jung Ho-yeon. The show already had proved a groundbreaker at this year's Screen Actors Guild, where Lee and Jung received the first guild acting trophies for a non-English language show.

The series was such "a phenomenon that it would have been really odd if it hadn't done well" with Emmy voters, said Eric Deggans, television critic for National Public Radio. The impressive number of acting nods it received indicates the academy "valued the performances they were delivering as well as the impact of the entire show."

Other performers of Asian descent received nominations, including Sandra Oh for "Killing Eve" and Bowen Yang for "Saturday Night Live." But there were opportunities missed for Black actors, including the

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stars of "black-ish," and for series recognition of Black-led shows "Atlanta" and "Insecure," said Deggans. Voters also missed the chance to salute the well-reviewed Native American comedy "Reservation Dogs" and another series with Native characters and culture, "Rutherford Falls," and there's scant Latino representation in the nominations.

The other nominees for best comedy series actress besides Brunson and Rae are Rachel Brosnahan, "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel"; Kaley Cuoco, "The Flight Attendant"; Elle Fanning, "The Great," and last year's winner, Jean Smart for "Hacks."

Other nominees for actor in a comedy series include: Bill Hader, "Barry"; Nicholas Hoult, "The Great"; Jason Sudeikis, "Ted Lasso"; Steve Martin, "Only Murders in the Building"; Martin Short, "Only Murders in the Building."

For drama series actor, the field also includes Jason Bateman, "Ozark"; Brian Cox, "Succession"; Bob Odenkirk, "Better Call Saul"; Adam Scott, "Severance" and Jeremy Strong, "Succession."

The other best drama series actress nominees are Jodie Comer, "Killing Eve"; Laura Linney, "Ozark"; Melanie Lynskey, "Yellowjackets" and Reese Witherspoon, "The Morning Show."

The limited series nominees are: "Dopesick"; "The Dropout"; "Inventing Anna"; "The White Lotus"; "Pam & Tommy."

The nominees for variety talk series are: "The Daily Show with Trevor Noah"; "Jimmy Kimmel Live"; "Last Week Tonight with John Oliver"; "Late Night with Seth Meyers" and "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert."

The Emmy ceremony is set for Sept. 12 and will air on NBC and stream on Peacock, with a host yet to be announced.

Rich nations caused climate harm to poorer ones, study says

By SETH BORENSTEIN and DREW COSTLEY The Associated Press

For decades, environmental activists along with some government officials and scientists have argued that rich countries should pay the most to address climate change, and even pay poor countries reparations, because industrialized nations have historically emitted the most greenhouse gases.

A new study by two Dartmouth scientists aims to calculate just how much economic impact larger emitters have caused other nations. Published Tuesday in the journal Climatic Change, the study says the figures could be used in courtrooms and in international climate negotiations about payments from rich nations that burn more coal, oil and gas, to poor countries damaged by emissions.

For example, the data shows that the top carbon emitter over time, the United States, has caused more than \$1.9 trillion in climate damage to other countries from 1990 to 2014, including \$310 billion in damage to Brazil, \$257 billion in damage to India, \$124 billion to Indonesia, \$104 billion to Venezuela and \$74 billion to Nigeria. But at the same time, the United States' own carbon pollution has benefited the U.S. by more than \$183 billion.

"Do all countries look to the United States for restitution? Maybe," said study co-author Justin Mankin, a Dartmouth College climate scientist. "The U.S. has caused a huge amount of economic harm by its emissions, and that's something that we have the data to show."

Developing nations have convinced rich nations to promise to financially help them reduce carbon emissions for the future, but haven't been able to get restitution for damage already caused, a term called "loss and damage" in global climate talks. In those negotiations, the biggest carbon emitters, like the United States and China have had a "veil of deniability" that their actions caused specific damages, said study lead author Christopher Callahan, a climate impacts researcher at Dartmouth. This lifts that veil, he said.

"Scientific studies such as this groundbreaking piece show that high emitters no longer have a leg to stand on in avoiding their obligations to address loss and damage," said Bahamian climate scientist Adelle Thomas of Climate Analytics, who wasn't part of the study. She said recent studies "increasingly and overwhelmingly show that loss and damage is already crippling developing countries.

While carbon emissions have been tracked for decades on the national levels and damages have been

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calculated, Callahan and Mankin said this is the first study to connect all the dots from the countries producing the emissions to countries affected by it. The studies also tallies benefits, which are mainly seen in northern countries like Canada and Russia, and rich nations like the U.S. and Germany.

"It's the countries that have emitted the least that are also the ones that tend to be harmed by increases in global warming. So that double inequity to me is kind of a central finding that I want to emphasize," Callahan said.

To do the study, first Callahan looked at how much carbon each nation emitted and what it means for global temperatures, using large climate models and simulating a world with that country's carbon emissions, a version of the scientifically accepted attribution technique used for extreme weather events. He then connected that to economic studies that looked at the relationship between temperature rise and damage in each country.

"We can actually fingerprint U.S. culpability on Angola's economic outcomes," Mankin said.

After the U.S. the countries that caused most damage since 1990 — a date researchers chose because that's when they say a scientific consensus formed and nations no longer had an excuse to say they didn't know about global warming — are China (\$1.8 trillion), Russia (\$986 billion), India (\$809 billion) and Brazil (\$528 billion), study authors figured. Just the United States and China together caused about one-third of the world's climate damage.

The five nations that were hit the most in overall dollars were Brazil, India, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Indonesia, but that's because they had the biggest economies of nations in the most vulnerable hot zone. But the countries that took the biggest hit based on GDP are the UAE, Mauritania, Saudi Arabia, Oman and Mali, Callahan said. Brazil and India are also among the countries that produce the most emissions and damage and haven't filed lawsuits to try to get repaid for climate damages.

The question of fairness over which countries make sacrifices and how to prepare for and repair climate impacts as the global community tries to slow warming has become more significant in recent international climate talks. Some nations, local communities and climate activists have called for the largest historical carbon emitters to pay "climate reparations" for the damage their economic gain has caused countries and communities that have already been negatively affected by systems of oppression, like colonialism and slavery. This study adds momentum to this idea, some in the climate in the community told The Associated Press.

"In this sense, the study reinforces arguments regarding loss and damage that are gaining traction" in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Nikki Reisch, director of the climate and energy program for the Center for International Environmental Law, told the AP.

There has been push back at the international level from high-emissions countries about paying for loss and damages who worry that poor countries are not going to use climate finance as intended.

Still, Mankin said he hopes the study empowers "the powerless and in the face of global climate change." But others in the climate community who have read the study said that more than information is needed to ensure that those most affected by climate change are compensated for their losses. The information and data in the study are valuable, they said, but it will take pressuring those responsible for shaping climate policy to actually get the richer nations to pay for the damage they've caused poorer nations.

Basav Sen, climate justice project director for the Institute for Policy Studies, a progressive think tanks, saw the study and said "demonstrating the link of causation is very helpful."

But, he added, "it is only one piece in the popular pressure campaign needed to translate this information into actual financial flows from wealthier, higher-emitting countries to compensate lower-income countries experiencing more adverse climate impacts."

Pentagon: US kills IS group leader in Syria in drone strike

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon said Tuesday that it killed a leader of the Islamic State group in Syria in a drone strike.

U.S. Central Command said in a news release that Maher al-Agal was killed Tuesday and an unidentified

senior official in the Islamic State group was seriously injured. The Pentagon said there were no civilian casualties, though it wasn't possible to immediately confirm that information.

The U.S. carried out the strike outside Jindaris, a town in northwest Syria close to the Turkish border.

The attack "takes a key terrorist off the field and significantly degrades the ability of (IS) to plan, resource, and conduct their operations in the region," said President Joe Biden in a statement. "And, like the U.S. operation in February that eliminated (IS's) overall leader, it sends a powerful message to all terrorists who threaten our homeland and our interests around the world."

The Islamic State group at the height of its power controlled more than 40,000 square miles (103,600 square kilometers) stretching from Syria to Iraq and ruled more than 8 million people. While the group's territorial state collapsed in 2019, its leaders have turned to guerilla tactics and have been able to "efficiently restructure themselves organizationally," according to the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a nonpartisan think tank.

The strike on al-Agal comes months after the head of the group, Abu Ibrahim al-Hashimi al-Qurayshi, killed himself during a raid on his hideout by American special forces. The U.S. said Al-Qurayshi blew himself up along with members of his family.

According to a war monitor, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, al-Agal was a former prominent commander of the Islamic State group during its control of Raqqa and had since moved farther north to Afrin in 2020 under Turkish-backed factions. He was most recently a commander in a Turkish-backed faction called Jaysh Al-Sharqiyyah.

U.S.-led coalition forces have also targeted al-Qaeda-linked militants in Syria over the years. Last month, a U.S. drone strike killed a senior leader of the Horas al-Din group, Abu Hamzah al Yemeni.

CENTCOM has said that violent extremist organizations "continue to present a threat to America and our allies, and ... al-Qaeda-affiliated groups have used the rebel-held enclave in northwestern Syria as a safe haven."

Pig organ transplants inch closer with testing in the dead

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

New York researchers transplanted pig hearts into two brain-dead people over the last month, the latest in a string of developments in the long quest to one day save human lives with animal organs.

The experiments announced Tuesday come after a historic but failed attempt earlier this year to use a pig's heart to save a dying Maryland man — sort of a rehearsal before scientists try again in the living.

Among the lessons: Practice with the deceased is important.

"We learned so much from the first one that the second one is much better," said Dr. Nader Moazami, who led the operations at NYU Langone Health. "You stand there in awe" when the pig heart starts to beat in a human body.

This time around, Moazami's team mimicked how heart transplants routinely are done. Once last month and once last week, researchers traveled to a facility housing genetically modified pigs, removed the needed hearts, put them on ice and flew them hundreds of miles back to New York.

They used special new methods to check for any worrisome animal viruses before sewing the heart into the chest of each deceased recipient — a Vietnam veteran from Pennsylvania with a long history of heart disease and a New York woman who'd benefited from a transplant earlier in life.

Then came three days of more intense testing than living patients could tolerate — including frequent biopsies of the organ — before doctors disconnected life support.

Already the Food and Drug Administration is considering whether to allow a small number of Americans who need a new organ to volunteer for rigorous studies of either pig hearts or kidneys. NYU Langone is among three transplant centers planning trials — and has a meeting planned with the FDA in August to discuss requirements.

Testing in the deceased could help fine-tune how the first trials in the living are designed, said Dr. David Klassen of the United Network for Organ Sharing, which oversees the nation's transplant system.

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"They serve as an important sort of stepping stone," said Klassen, who wonders if researchers next might consider tracking the organs for a week or so in a donated body rather than just three days.

One of the deceased recipients, Lawrence Kelly, had suffered heart disease for most of his life and "he would be so happy to know how much his contribution to this research will help people like him" in the future, his longtime partner Alice Michael told reporters Tuesday.

Animal-to-human transplants, what scientists call xenotransplantation, have been tried for decades without success, as people's immune systems almost instantly attacked the foreign tissue. Now, pigs are being genetically modified so their organs are more human-like — increasing hope that they might one day help fill a shortage of donated organs. More than 100,000 people are on the national waiting list for a transplant, most of them kidney patients, and thousands die every year before their turn comes.

The most ambitious attempt so far came in January, when doctors at the University of Maryland Medical Center transplanted a pig heart into a dying 57-year-old. David Bennett survived for two months, evidence that xenotransplantation was at least possible. But initial testing missed that the organ harbored an animal virus. What caused Bennett's new heart to fail and whether that virus played any role still isn't known, the Maryland researchers recently reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Months earlier, the NYU team and researchers at the University of Alabama at Birmingham separately were testing pig kidney transplants in the deceased, people who'd donated their bodies for science.

NYU's recent heart experiments will add to the evidence as the FDA decides whether to allow formal studies in living patients.

But NYU Langone's Dr. Robert Montgomery, a kidney transplant surgeon who received his own heart transplant, said continuing careful experiments in the deceased is critical to figuring out the best methods "in a setting where a person's life isn't at stake."

"This is not a one-and-done situation. This is going to be years of learning what's important and what's not important for this to work," said Montgomery, who has a list of almost 50 people who've called desperate to volunteer for a pig kidney transplant.

The FDA hasn't signaled how soon it might decide whether to allow such studies. At a recent two-day public meeting, the agency's scientific advisers said it was time to try despite a long list of questions. They include how best to modify the pigs, as several biotech companies — including Revivicor, which supplied the NYU organs — are pursuing different options.

It's not even clear which organ to attempt first in a clinical trial. If a pig kidney fails, the patient can always survive on dialysis. Yet some of the FDA's advisers said starting with the heart might be better. Experiments with pig kidneys in deceased humans showed the organs produced urine. But still unknown is whether pig kidneys do another important job — processing medications — the same way human kidneys do.

UK Olympic great Mo Farah says he was trafficked as a child

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Olympic great Mo Farah -- the winner of four gold medals and one of Britain's greatest and best-loved athletes -- has been carrying a secret burden all these years: He was illegally brought to the U.K. as a youth and forced to care for other children before he escaped a life of servitude through running.

In a new documentary, Farah says his real name is Hussein Abdi Kahin and that he was from taken from the East African nation of Djibouti when he was about 8 or 9. He says a woman he didn't know brought him to Britain using fake travel documents that included his picture alongside the name Mohammed Farah.

The revelations come as Britain struggles to deal with a surge of people fleeing conflict and hunger in Africa, the Middle East and Asia on flimsy boats organized by human traffickers who assist the desperate to cross the English Channel. Criminal gangs are also smuggling people into the country and forcing them into sex work, criminal activities and unpaid labor.

In the documentary, produced by the BBC and Red Bull Studios, Farah said he thought he was going to Europe to live with relatives and had piece of paper with the contact details.

"The lady took it off me and right in front of me ripped them up and put it in the bin," Farah said in the

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film, to be broadcast Wednesday. "And at that moment I knew I was in trouble."

The woman took him to an apartment in west London where he was forced to care for her children, Farah said. He wasn't allowed to go to school until he was 12.

"I wasn't treated as part of the family," Farah said. "If I wanted food in my mouth, my job was to look after those kids — shower them, cook for them, clean for them."

Farah was granted U.K. citizenship in 2000 and represented Britain at three straight Summer Olympics starting in 2008. He captured hearts in Britain and elsewhere with the look of joy and astonishment after his triumph in the 5,000 meters at the 2012 London Games after earlier winning the 10,000-meter title. He won the same races at the 2016 Games in Rio de Janeiro.

He was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II in 2017.

Farah previously said he had moved to Britain with his parents as a refugee from Somalia. But in the documentary, he says his parents never were in the U.K. His father was killed by gunfire during unrest in Somalia when Farah was 4, according to the film. His mother and two brothers live on the family farm in Somaliland, a breakaway region of Somalia that is not internationally recognized.

Farah says his fortunes changed when he was finally allowed to attend school. A teacher who was interviewed for the documentary recalled a 12-year-old boy who appeared "unkempt and uncared for," was "emotionally and culturally alienated" and spoke little English.

But he began to blossom on the track and eventually told his story to a physical education instructor. The teacher contacted local officials, who arranged for a Somali family to take him in as a foster child.

"I still missed my real family, but from that moment everything got better," Farah said. "I felt like a lot of stuff was lifted off my shoulders, and I felt like me."

Farah said he had feared he would be deported if he spoke about his childhood experiences. He decided to tell his story to publicize and challenge people's perceptions of human trafficking, he said.

"I had no idea there was so many people who are going through exactly the same thing that I did," he said. "It just shows how lucky I was."

In 2020, more than 10,000 people were referred to authorities in Britain as potential victims of modern slavery, up from 2,340 in 2014, according to the Home Office, the government agency responsible for border enforcement.

Immigration authorities are also under pressure as the number of people entering the country on small boats jumped to 28,526 last year from 299 in 2018, government statistics show.

The U.K. has struck a deal with Rwanda to send some asylum seekers on a one way voyage to the East African nation, where they would be able to apply for asylum. While Prime Minister Boris Johnson says this will break the business model of the criminal gangs who charge migrants thousands of pounds to cross the Channel, immigration rights groups say it is illegal and inhumane.

But modern slavery doesn't only affect migrants. Nongovernmental organizations are at pains to insist that victims of modern slavery are forced into servitude bound by coercion and violence rather than shackles. Such organizations have often found it difficult to put a human face on the crime, fearing that exposure will inflict further trauma. That alone makes Farah's case unique.

Justine Carter of Unseen, a charity that deals with victims of modern slavery, stresses that it takes courage to overcome such conditions. Farah's revelation will let people around the world know that modern slavery can happen anywhere.

"I just have to take my hat off to somebody who has come through that trauma and has lived that experience, but has actually still succeeded in life, because I think there are far too many people that, for them the trauma is too much and unfortunately don't have the right support mechanisms in place to kind of thrive and move on with their lives," she said.

Besides raising awareness, Farah's example could encourage others to seek help.

"There is always a way out, an alternative, a channel that you can go down. And I think Mo Farah has been living, breathing proof of that," she said.

Britain's Home Office said no action would be taken against Farah — and not just because he is a prominent athlete.

Home Office guidance makes clear that the agency assumes a child is not complicit in gaining citizenship by deception, stating: "If the person was a child at the time the fraud, false representation or concealment of material fact was perpetrated, the caseworker should assume that they were not complicit in any deception by their parent or guardian."

Politicians, sports figures and celebrities rushed to offer Farah their support.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan praised his courage.

"Everything Sir Mo has survived proves he's not only one of our greatest Olympians but a truly great Briton," Khan tweeted. "@Mo Farah thank you for sharing your story & shining a spotlight on these awful crimes. We must build a future where these tragic events are never repeated."

Usain Bolt, an eight-time Olympic champion sprinter from Jamaica, posted three emojis of folded hands - sometimes referred to as "prayer hands" - on Farah's Instagram page. Andrew Butchart, Farah's teammate in 2016 and sixth-place finisher in the 5,000 meters in Rio, posted "Much love" and "very proud" along with a heart emoji.

'These people must be saved': Ukrainians train in combat aid

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ilona Khomenko was widowed nearly two months ago when her husband died in fighting in Sievierodonetsk in eastern Ukraine. Now, she's looking to make a difference on the battlefield.

Khomenko, 29, is helping to train soldiers and civilians in combat first aid to help save lives as Russia's war in Ukraine is well into its fifth month.

The training is mostly based in Ukraine's capital, Kyiv. Up to 100 people attend each day. So far, Khomenko and others have taught more than 5,000 people simple rules that can save their lives.

One of those attending the course is soldier Liudmyla Rohacheva.

"I am currently working in the rear, but there is a possibility that I will get to the front line. And I think that all soldiers should undergo such training," Rohacheva said during a break between sessions.

The attendees learn to provide sequential care under the MARCH acronym for easy recall: M for massive hemorrhage, A for airway, R for respiratory, C for circulation and H for hypothermia.

"The units we trained have wounded, but they survive. And those units that didn't undergo training have a much worse ratio of wounded and survivors," said Oleksandr Khyzhniak, the head of the training center.

The center teaches, for example, how to apply a tourniquet in 25 seconds. Such an action can save a life.

"The machines will not fight alone. We need people to manage it. And these people must be saved," Khizhnyak said.

The training mimics front-line conditions. At one location, an instructor frantically shouts into a trench: "A sniper is working in the sector. Drag them to safety! Do you want to live?"

It's a way to immerse trainees in stressful situations that shouldn't stop them from acting when needed.

Natalia Demchevska, a doctor in the emergency service in the Kyiv region, said she came to the training to learn how to provide first aid in combat conditions. She said she learned many things she didn't know before, even though she works in medicine.

The center also encourages civilians to get training.

"We live in a war. And we do not know how the circumstances will develop. When a missile comes, it doesn't choose who to hit," instructor Maksym Maksymenko said.

On May 23, Khomenko's husband, Svyatoslav Khomenko, died in fighting. Like many in Ukraine, he left his job and went to war.

Her husband used to send her photos of nature from the front line.

"He went to war because he wanted to save what he loved so much," Ilona Khomenko said.

Now, in her own way, she hopes to save what she loves too.

She said she had always wanted to go to the front to be closer to her husband. But he was against it, so she enrolled in combat medic courses. Now she's a volunteer and plans to become an instructor.

If Khomenko could go back in time, she said she would have studied medicine. She realized this while preparing the first-aid kit for her husband at the front.

Despite her grief, she is grateful to fate that she can now help save the lives of other soldiers.

"The best people of Ukraine are in the war. And I want to learn everything that will help me save them," she said.

London's Heathrow Airport caps daily passenger numbers

LONDON (AP) — London's Heathrow Airport is capping daily passenger numbers for the summer and telling airlines to stop selling tickets as it steps up efforts to quell travel chaos caused by soaring travel demand and staff shortages.

Britain's busiest airport said Tuesday that it's setting a limit of 100,000 passengers that it can handle each day through Sept. 11. The restriction is likely to result in more canceled flights even after airlines already slashed thousands of flights from their summer schedules.

U.K. aviation authorities demanded that airlines ensure they can operate without disruption over the summer, with carriers not punished for not using their valuable takeoff and landing slots. They were responding to chaotic airport scenes as passengers complained about long lineups at security, lost luggage and lengthy flight delays.

Even with that allowance, Heathrow, which had warned a day earlier that it may ask airlines to cut flights further, said it still expected more passengers than airport ground staff could handle.

"Some airlines have taken significant action, but others have not, and we believe that further action is needed now to ensure passengers have a safe and reliable journey," Heathrow CEO John Holland-Kaye said in an open letter to passengers.

Airlines are expected to operate flights over the summer with an overall daily capacity of 104,000 seats, or 4,000 more than Heathrow can handle, the airport said. Only about 1,500 of the 4,000 extra daily seats have been sold to passengers.

"So we are asking our airline partners to stop selling summer tickets to limit the impact on passengers," Holland-Kaye said.

British Airways, the airline with the biggest presence at Heathrow, has already cut 11% of its scheduled flights between April and October. It didn't respond to a request for comment Tuesday on whether it would cancel more.

Virgin Atlantic, which is also based at Heathrow, said it's "ready to deliver its full schedule this summer" but supported the airport's "proactive measures" to reduce disruption, as long they don't have an outsized impact on its home carriers.

Other European airports have imposed similar caps this summer. London's Gatwick has limited daily flight numbers, while Amsterdam's Schiphol cut its maximum daily passenger numbers by 13,500.

Booming demand for summer travel after two years of COVID-19 travel restrictions have overwhelmed European airlines and airports that had laid off tens of thousands of pilots, cabin crew, check-in staff, ground crew and baggage handlers amid the depths of the pandemic.

Heathrow has said it started a recruiting drive in November and expects security staffing to be back to pre-pandemic levels by the end of July.

"However, there are some critical functions in the airport which are still significantly under-resourced, in particular ground handlers, who are contracted by airlines to provide check-in staff, load and unload bags and turnaround aircraft," making it a "significant constraint" to overall capacity, Holland-Kaye said.

Japanese say final goodbye to assassinated former leader Abe

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese bid their final goodbye to former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Tuesday as his funeral was held at a temple days after his assassination shocked the nation.

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Abe, the country's longest-serving prime minister, remained influential even after stepping down two years ago for health reasons. He was gunned down Friday during a campaign speech in the western city of Nara.

Hundreds of people, some in formal dark suits, filled sidewalks outside Zojoji temple in downtown Tokyo to bid farewell to Abe, whose nationalistic views drove the governing party's conservative policies.

Mourners took photos and some called out "Abe san!" as a motorcade with the hearse carrying his body accompanied by his widow, Akie Abe, slowly drove by the packed crowd.

"I believe there were many things he left unfinished as a politician," public broadcaster NHK quoted Akie Abe as saying. "But he planted many seeds and I'm sure they will sprout."

Abe's long-time ally and mentor, Finance Minister Taro Aso, described him as "the most talented politician in postwar Japan who raised Japan's international profile."

About 1,000 people, including Prime Minister Fumio Kishida, governing party leaders and foreign officials, attended the funeral at the temple.

Taiwanese Vice President Lai Ching-te also attended in a private capacity, Taiwan's Central News Agency reported, prompting a formal protest from China. Beijing considers Taiwan a breakaway province and objects to any expression of its independent political identity.

The hearse traveled through Tokyo's main political district, Nagata-cho, where Abe spent more than three decades after being first elected to parliament in 1991. It then drove slowly by the governing party headquarters, where senior lawmakers in dark suits stood outside and prayed, before heading to the prime minister's office, where Abe served a total of nearly a decade.

Kishida and Cabinet members pressed their hands before their chests as they prayed and bowed toward the hearse heading to a crematorium.

On Sunday, two days after Abe's killing, his Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner won a landslide victory in elections for the upper house, the less powerful of parliament's two chambers.

That could allow Kishida to govern uninterrupted until a scheduled election in 2025. But Abe's death also opens up a period of uncertainty for his party. Experts say a power struggle within Abe's party faction is certain and could affect Kishida's grip on power.

Kishida has stressed the importance of party unity after Abe's death.

Abe's assassination has shaken Japan, one of the world's safest nations with some of the strictest gun laws.

The suspect, Tetsuya Yamagami, was arrested on the spot Friday and is being held at a local prosecutors' office for further investigation. They can detain him for up to three weeks while deciding whether to formally press charges.

Police said Yamagami cited a rumored link between Abe and an organization the suspect hated as the motive for the killing. Media reports said the organization was the Unification Church and that Yamagami disliked it because donations made by his mother to the group had bankrupted his family.

The head of the Japanese branch of the South Korean-based church, known for its anti-communist stance and mass weddings, confirmed on Monday that the mother was a member. He said Abe was not, but may have spoken at groups affiliated with the church.

Police this week inspected a building related to the church in Nara after the suspect told investigators that he had test-fired a homemade gun there the day before the assassination. They found several holes in the building believed to be bullet holes, NHK and other Japanese media reported.

On Tuesday, National Police Agency chief Itaru Nakamura said police failed to fulfil their responsibility to protect Abe. "I feel deep regret and shame," he said. He told reporters that the agency will set up a taskforce to review guarding procedures.

Abe, the son of an earlier prime minister, became Japan's youngest leader in 2006 at age 52. He left after a year in office due to health reasons but returned to power in 2012.

He vowed to revitalize the nation and lift its economy out of its deflationary doldrums with his "Abenomics" formula, which combines fiscal stimulus, monetary easing and structural reforms.

His long-cherished goals, shared by other ultraconservatives, were to revise Japan's pacifist constitution drafted by the United States after World War II and transform Japan's Self Defense Force into a full-fledged military.

Abe, who was 67, left office in 2020, citing a recurrence of the ulcerative colitis he had since he was a teenager.

UK: Monkeypox cases rise to 1,735 with most cases in London

LONDON (AP) — British health officials say there have now been 1,735 confirmed cases of monkeypox and that three-quarters of those cases are in London, according to data released on Tuesday.

In a review of the outbreak published last week, Britain's Health Security Agency said there were "no signs of a decline" in the monkeypox epidemic and that the virus "continues to be transmitted primarily in interconnected sexual networks of gay, bisexual, or men who have sex with men." The agency said 97% of cases fell in that category and that there was no evidence of sustained transmission beyond that.

Scientists warn that anyone who is in close physical contact with someone who has monkeypox or their clothing or bedsheets is at risk of infection, regardless of their sexual orientation.

British scientists estimate the outbreak is doubling in size about every two weeks and said it's likely cases are being undercounted. They said that in nearly 80% of cases, there is no information about whether or not the person had contact with a confirmed case, meaning the virus is spreading undetected.

Scientists have noted that people with unusual symptoms, including only a single lesion, have been detected in the outbreak and say there have also been reports elsewhere of people with no symptoms carrying monkeypox. About 10% of infected people in the U.K. have been hospitalized, but there have been no deaths reported.

British experts said the virus has been spreading through close or sexual contact and that there has been no evidence of airborne transmission.

The Health Security Agency said the number of cases and countries identifying monkeypox "continues to increase steeply," saying that infections beyond Africa have also been primarily seen in gay and bisexual men. It said there had been three cases of monkeypox in children, who are more likely to suffer serious disease.

Last month, the World Health Organization declined to declare monkeypox a global health emergency, but said it would revisit its decision soon. It said its evaluation of the outbreak could change if there are cases among sex workers, if the virus continues to spread rapidly or if more severe disease is seen.

People with monkeypox often experience symptoms like fever, body aches and a rash; most recover within weeks without needing medical care.

In central and west Africa, where the disease has been endemic for decades, the disease mostly affects people who come into contact with infected wild animals, like rodents or primates. There have been about 1,500 reported cases of monkeypox, including 70 deaths, in Congo, Cameroon and the Central African Republic.

According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there are more than 9,600 cases of monkeypox worldwide in nearly 60 countries, most of which had not previously reported the disease.

500-year-old icon looted from divided Cyprus repatriated

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — A 500-year-old Orthodox icon that was looted from a church in the breakaway north of ethnically divided Cyprus has been returned to the island.

The icon of the Enthroned Christ, which Cyprus' Antiquities Department dates to around the end of the 15th century to the early 16th century, was presented at a ceremony Tuesday to the head of the island's Orthodox Church, Archbishop Chrysostomos.

The icon belongs to the 12th-century Christ Antiphonitis Church, which is near the northern coastal town of Kyrenia. It was one of countless icons, frescoes, mosaics and religious artifacts stolen from churches

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that were abandoned when a 1974 Turkish invasion split the island between primarily Orthodox Greek Cypriots in the south and Muslim Turkish Cypriots in the north.

Turkey's invasion had followed a coup mounted by supporters of union with Greece.

"Efforts to repatriate stolen artifacts are continuing," said Transport Minister Yiannis Karousos, who presented the icon to the church.

The Cyprus Church traced the icon to an auction in Switzerland, and Swiss police seized it in 2014. Following a long legal process, Swiss authorities handed the icon over last week and it was flown to Cyprus.

The Cyprus Church has for decades been trying to track down numerous religious artifacts stolen from hundreds of abandoned churches and monasteries in the north and sold abroad.

The church said the returned icon would be held by the archbishopric "until it returns to its rightful place" in the Antiphonitis Church.

Today in History: July 13, George Zimmerman acquitted

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Wednesday, July 13, the 194th day of 2022. There are 171 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 13, 2013, a jury in Sanford, Florida, cleared neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman of all charges in the shooting of Trayvon Martin, the Black teenager whose killing unleashed furious debate over racial profiling, self-defense and equal justice.

On this date:

In 1863, deadly rioting against the Civil War military draft erupted in New York City. (The insurrection was put down three days later.)

In 1923, a sign consisting of 50-foot-tall letters spelling out "HOLLYWOODLAND" was dedicated in the Hollywood Hills to promote a subdivision (the last four letters were removed in 1949).

In 1960, John F. Kennedy won the Democratic presidential nomination on the first ballot at his party's convention in Los Angeles.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Thurgood Marshall to be U.S. Solicitor General; Marshall became the first Black jurist appointed to the post. (Two years later, Johnson nominated Marshall to the U.S. Supreme Court.)

In 1973, former presidential aide Alexander P. Butterfield revealed to Senate Watergate Committee staff members the existence of President Richard Nixon's secret White House taping system. (Butterfield's public revelation came three days later.)

In 1974, the Senate Watergate Committee proposed sweeping reforms in an effort to prevent another Watergate scandal.

In 1985, "Live Aid," an international rock concert in London, Philadelphia, Moscow and Sydney, took place to raise money for Africa's starving people.

In 1999, Angel Maturino Resendiz (ahn-HEHL' mah-tyoo-REE'-noh reh-SEHN'-deez), suspected of being the "Railroad Killer," surrendered in El Paso, Texas. (Resendiz was executed in 2006.)

In 2006, Israel imposed a naval blockade against Lebanon and blasted the Beirut airport and army air bases; Hezbollah fired dozens of rockets into Israel.

In 2011, California became the first state in the nation to add lessons about gays and lesbians to social studies classes in public schools under a measure signed by Gov. Jerry Brown.

In 2016, Theresa May entered No. 10 Downing Street as Britain's new prime minister following a bitter-sweet exit by David Cameron, who resigned after voters rejected his appeal to stay in the European Union.

In 2020, Washington's NFL franchise dropped the "Redskins" name and Indian head logo amid pressure from sponsors; the move followed decades of criticism that the name and logo were offensive to Native Americans. (As new names were considered, the team would be known as the Washington Football Team; the team was eventually renamed the Commanders.)

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Ten years ago: His credibility under attack, Republican presidential hopeful Mitt Romney insisted he had "no role whatsoever in the management" of Bain Capital, a private equity firm, after early 1999, and demanded that President Barack Obama apologize for campaign aides who persisted in alleging otherwise. Movie producer Richard Zanuck, 77, died in Beverly Hills, California.

Five years ago: A federal judge in Hawaii weakened President Donald Trump's travel ban by vastly expanding the list of U.S. family relationships that visitors from six Muslim-majority countries could use to get into the country. Trump defended his son's meeting with a Russian lawyer during the presidential campaign, characterizing it as standard campaign practice. China's most prominent political prisoner, Nobel Peace Prize winner and human rights campaigner Liu Xiaobo (lee-OO' show-BOH') died in prison of liver cancer at the age of 61.

One year ago: The government reported that prices paid by U.S. consumers in June had posted the sharpest 12-month spike in 13 years, as a swift rebound in spending ran up against widespread supply shortages. Los Angeles Angels pitching and hitting star Shohei Ohtani unleashed his 100 mph heat while pitching a perfect inning for the win as the American League beat the National League 5-2 for its eighth straight victory in the All-Star Game; Ohtani went 0-for-2 at the plate. "The Crown" tied with "The Mandalorian" for the most Emmy nominations, 24 each, but the Marvel universe also got bragging rights with runner-up "WandaVision"; the nominations reinforced the rapid rise of streaming, as the top-nominated scripted shows were on services that had largely emerged in the preceding two years.

Today's Birthdays: Game show announcer Johnny Gilbert (TV: "Jeopardy!") is 94. Actor Patrick Stewart is 82. Actor Harrison Ford is 80. Singer-guitarist Roger McGuinn (The Byrds) is 80. Actor-comedian Cheech Marin is 76. Actor Daphne Maxwell Reid is 74. Actor Didi Conn is 71. Actor Gil Birmingham is 69. Singer Louise Mandrell is 68. Rock musician Mark "The Animal" Mendoza (Twisted Sister) is 66. Actor-director Cameron Crowe is 65. Former tennis player Anders Jarryd is 61. Comedian Tom Kenny is 60. Country singer-songwriter Victoria Shaw is 60. Bluegrass singer Rhonda Vincent is 60. Actor Kenny Johnson is 59. Roots singer/songwriter Paul Thorn is 58. Country singer Neil Thrasher is 57. Actor Ken Jeong is 53. Singer Deborah Cox is 49. Actor Ashley Scott is 45. Rock musician Will Champion (Coldplay) is 44. Actor Fran Kranz is 41. Actor Aya Cash is 40. St. Louis Cardinals catcher Yadier Molina is 40. Actor Colton Haynes is 34. Actor Steven R. McQueen is 34. Soul singer Leon Bridges is 33. Actor Hayley Erin ("General Hospital") is 28. Actor Kyle Harrison Breitkopf is 17.