

Groton Daily Independent

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Tuesday, Sept. 6

Senior Menu: Ham and Bean soup, egg salad sandwich, tomato spoon salad, fruit..

School Menu: Breakfast: French Toast; Lunch: Meatballs, mashed potatoes.

Groton UMC: 10:00am Bible Study

St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1:00 pm

4 p.m.: Cross Country at Britton

4 p.m.: Combined JH FB hosts Webster

5:15 p.m.: JV Football game hosts Webster

Volleyball hosts Webster (8th grade at 6 p.m. followed by 7th grade in gym; Arena games have C match at 5 p.m. followed by JV and varsity)

7 p.m.: City Council Meeting

The Pantry open at the Groton Community Center, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Wednesday, Sept. 7

Senior Menu: Roast pork, mashed potatoes and gravy, parsley buttered carrots, apple sauce, whole wheat bread.

School Menu: Breakfast: Eggs, Omelets; Lunch: Chicken strips, sweet potato fries.

Emmanuel: 5 pm Sarah Circle

St. John's Lutheran: Bible Study. 2:45--3:30 pm; Confirmation, 3:45 pm



"People appreciate and never forget that helping hand especially when times are tough."

CATHERINE PULSIFER

Thursday, Sept. 8

Senior Menu: Ranch chicken bread, boiled potato, squash, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Menu: Breakfast: Muffins; Lunch: Hot dogs, baked beans.

10 a.m.: Golf Meet at Olive Grove Golf Course

Volleyball hosts Roncalli (8th grade at 6 p.m. followed by 7th grade in gym; games in Arena are C match at 5 p.m. followed by JV and Varsity)

Friday, Sept. 9

Senior Menu: Hamburger and cabbage dish, mixed vegetables, pears, muffin.

School Menu: Breakfast: Eggs and sausage; Lunch: Mac and Cheese, peas.

3/4 and 5/6 games at Clark prior to varsity game (around 5 p.m.)

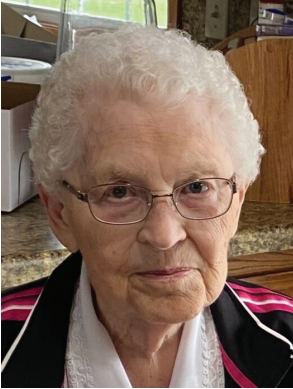
7 p.m.: Football vs. Clark/Willow Lake at Clark

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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The Life of Beulah Hoops



Memorial services for Beulah Hoops, 92, of Groton will be 2:00 p.m., Sunday, September 11th at Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton. Pastor Jeremy Yeadon will officiate. A time of fellowship will follow before inurnment in Union Cemetery.

Beulah passed away Monday, August 22, 2022 at Prairie Heights Healthcare in Aberdeen.

Beulah Mae was born on May 11, 1930 in Groton to William and Grace (Smith) Meyers. She was the last remaining sibling of their 10 children. Beulah graduated in 1948 and was united in marriage her prom date, Clifford Hoops on June 2, 1949. Together they were blessed with 3 children: Gary, Douglas and Debra.

Beulah worked at Funk's Hardware after graduation, Sippel's Super Value, Jerry's Red Owl and Ken's Fairway. She told the story many times about how she had to memorize the ad items for the week and put the price in by hand.

Beulah was a member of the Groton Camper's Club, St. John's Lutheran Church, TOPS in Aberdeen and a lifetime member of the Groton American Legion Auxiliary. She and Cliff wintered in Mesa, Arizona for 23 years.

Celebrating her life are her children, Gary (Glenda) Hoops of Oregon, Douglas Hoops of Oregon, Debra McKiver of Groton, grandchildren: Christopher Hoops, Heidi Hoops, Arick Hoops, all of Oregon, Nicholas (Stephanie) Olson of Aberdeen, Justin Olson of Groton, great-grandchildren, Eva, Kennedy, Cooper, Brittany and Hayden, great-great grandchildren, Greyson, Jovie and several stepchildren and step great-grandchildren.

Preceding her in death were her parents, her husband, Clifford, 5 sisters, 4 brothers, sons-in-law, Roy Olson and Jake McKiver.

Death Notice: Barbara Morris

Barbara Morris, 76, of Aberdeen and formerly of Britton passed away September 5, 2022 at Avera St. Lukes Hospital, Aberdeen. Services are pending with Paetznick-Garness Funeral Chapel, Groton.

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Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

September 6, 2022 – 7:00pm
City Hall – 120 N Main Street

(IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CALL IN TO THIS MEETING, PLEASE MAKE PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS TO DO SO BY CALLING CITY HALL 605-397-8422)

1. Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
2. Library Board Update
3. Groton Chamber Update
4. Airport Discussion/Update – Darrell Hillestad
5. Minutes
6. Bills
7. Department Reports
8. Move Water Fountain from Thrift Store to Library
9. Authorization to Execute Funding Agreement for Airport Grant – Windsock Reimbursement
10. Approval of Special Event Alcoholic Beverage License – Adult Painting Class at Wage Memorial Library on October 13th, 2022 – 7:00 PM to 9:30 PM
11. Second Reading of Ordinance #761 – Water Rates
12. GHS Intern(s) at City Hall and Wage Memorial Library – September through December 2022
13. 2022 Overhead School – Marshall, MN – September 13-16 – Landon Johnson
14. Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
15. Adjustment of 2022 Council Committee Representatives
16. Hiring of Groton PD Officer & Establishment of Wage
17. Adjournment

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Weekly Vikings Recap

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

It's Packers week!! Normally, that's enough to get the juices flowing for yet another border battle against the Vikings. This season has a different feel - the Vikings have a new coaching and front office staff, the Packers seem to be more confident in their defense than in their offense despite the reigning MVP returning, and it's the very first game of the season.

With that there are a ton of unknowns.

Will the Vikings be more offensive minded now that Kevin O'Connell is at the helm instead of Mike Zimmer?

Will the Vikings defense return to prominence after a couple of seasons of struggling to stop anyone?

Will Aaron Rodgers turn average wide receivers into pro bowlers now that his main target of the past five seasons, Davante Adams, has departed for the Raiders?

The Skol flag will be waving, and US Bank Stadium will be rockin'.

Before the game on September 11th, the Vikings had to cut their roster down to 53 players.

There were some surprises and some obvious moves.

The biggest surprise was defensive tackle Armon Watts. Watts appeared to be a possible starter on the defensive line, but the new 3-4 defense made him expendable.

The other surprise cut was Ihmir Smith-Marsette. It appeared they had settled on him being the fourth wide receiver and punt returner but that all changed when the opportunity arose to trade for Eagles wide receiver, Jalen Reagor. Reagor was drafted just one spot ahead of Justin Jefferson in 2020, and maybe a change of scenery will prove that pick was not a mistake. The Vikings didn't have to give up much for Reagor (just two later round draft picks) and are hoping this trade will have similar results to a low cost Eagles acquisition from many years ago in a guy named Cris Carter.

On the more obvious side of the cuts were quarterbacks Sean Mannion and Kellen Mond. With the trade for Nick Mullins, their time in a Viking uniform was over. Mullins has more experience, having started seventeen games for the Niners just a few seasons ago. Many fans thought Mond would be given an opportunity to win the backup job, but he never convinced the team he was ready. Mike Zimmer was questioned last season for not allowing Mond to play late in the season when there was no chance to make the playoffs, and it now appears he was correct in his assessment.

Overall, the Vikings retained all of their drafts from 2022 but ironically, retained only one player from the 2021 draft. That player is the defensive lineman from Pittsburgh, Jaylon Twyman, and they placed him on the practice squad.

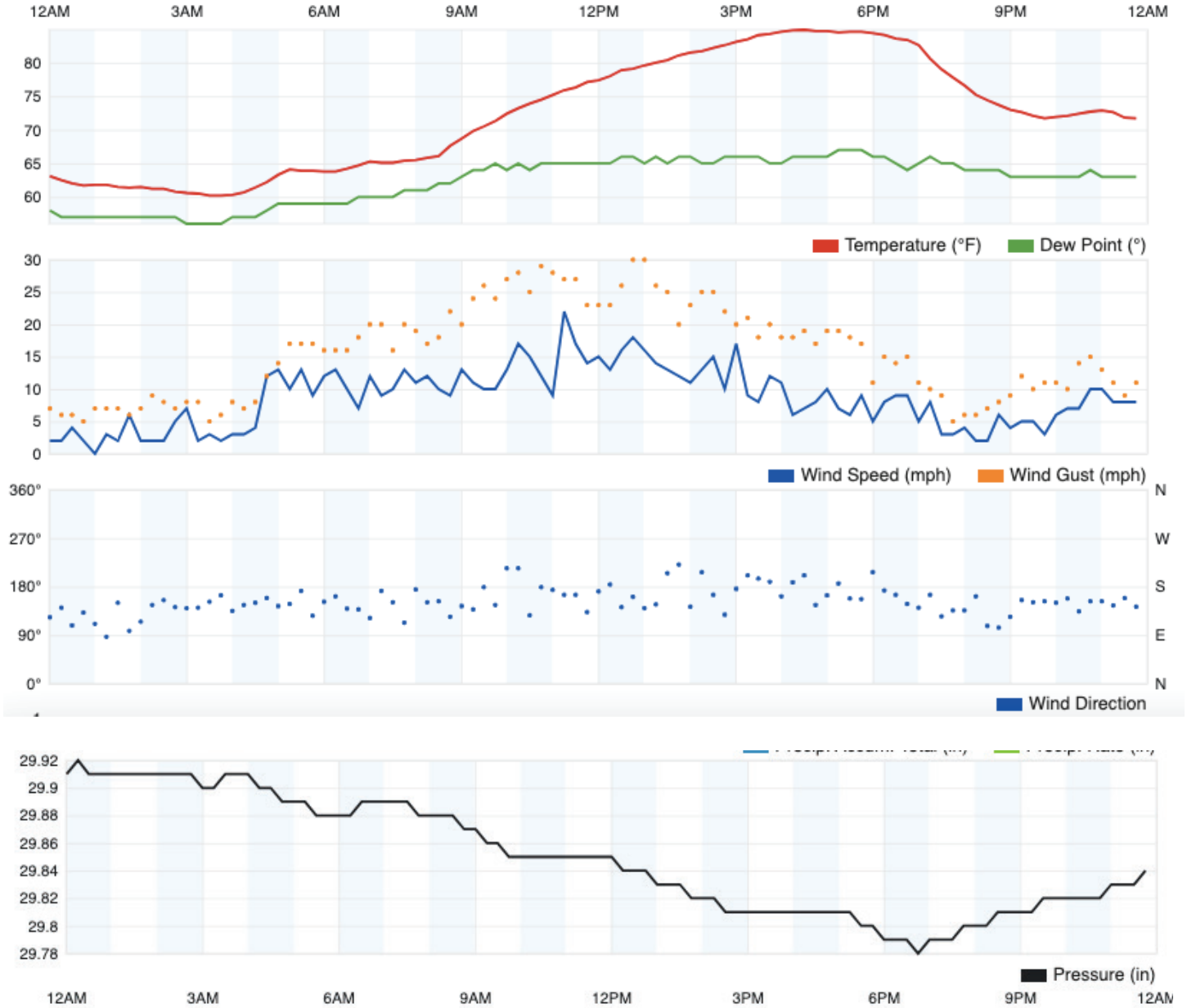
From the class of 2022, the Vikings will have two rookie starters. Ed Ingram from LSU will step in at right guard, making the Vikings' offensive line one of the youngest in the league. On special teams, the Vikings have opted to go with a rookie punter from Tulane in Ryan Wright. Most of the chatter around Wright has been his size (6'3", 245lbs), as he looks more like a tight end than your typical NFL punter.

The best part about the NFL is that with all of the roster changes from year to year, your favorite team always appears to have a chance to make a playoff run. There are high hopes for the Vikings this season especially with a weak NFC North division and overall weak NFC. It can't get much better than kicking off the season versus the Green Bay Packers. We are expecting it to be loud and very purple on Su

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Areas Fog
then Sunny

High: 89 °F

Tonight



Mostly Clear

Low: 60 °F

Wednesday



Hot

High: 90 °F

Wednesday
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 69 °F

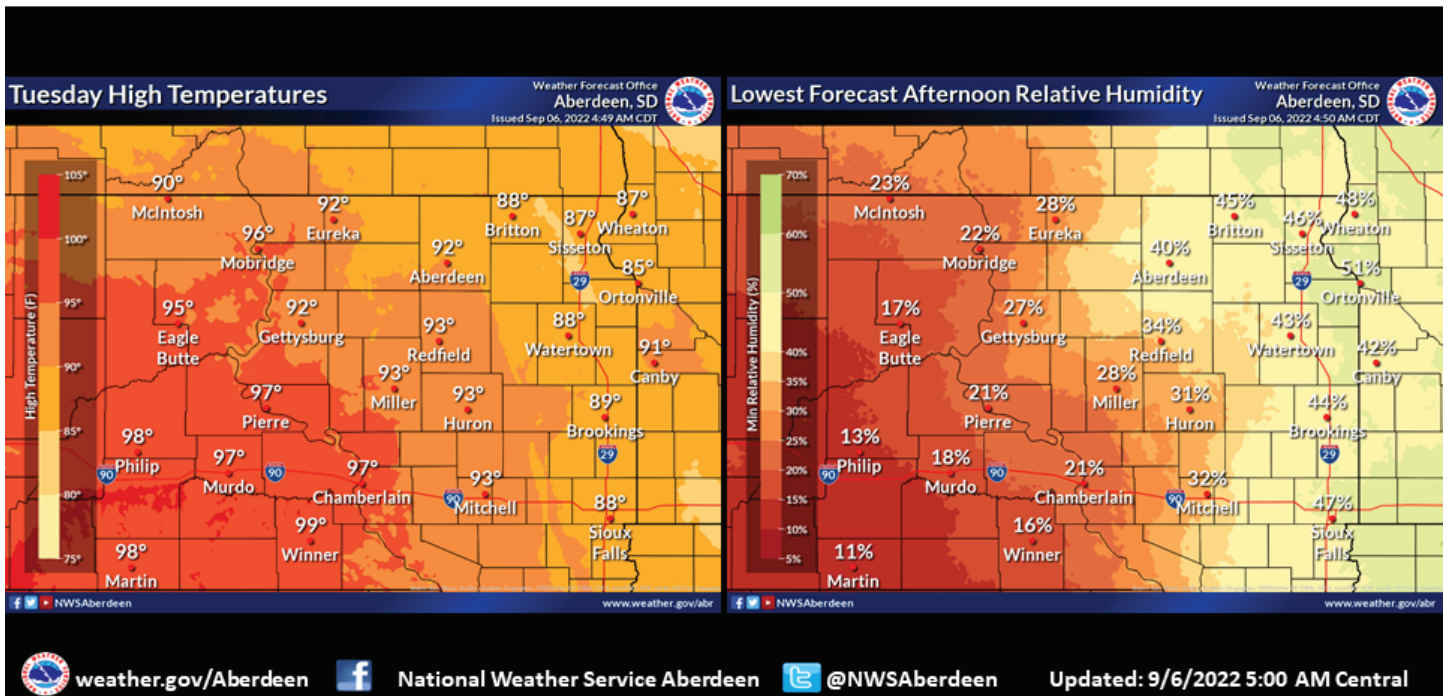
Thursday



Hot

High: 92 °F

Still Hot and Dry



Hot and dry conditions will continue across much of the area today. Highs will range from near 85 to just under 100 degrees this afternoon, with afternoon relative humidity bottoming out in the 15 to 25 percent range throughout and west of the Missouri River valley.

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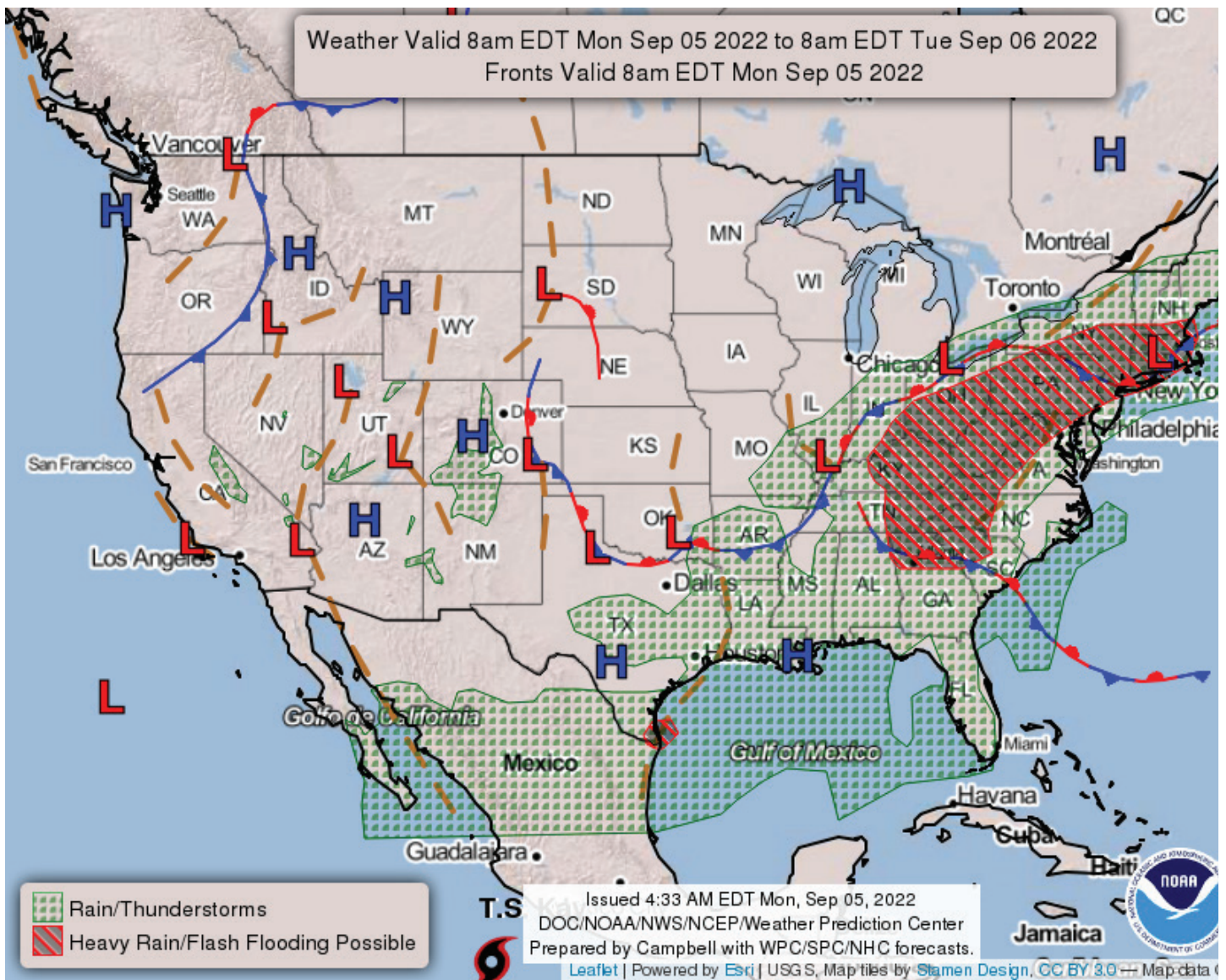
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 85 °F at 4:10 PM
Low Temp: 60 °F at 3:39 AM
Wind: 30 mph at 11:06 AM
Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 13 hours, 03 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 103 in 1970
Record Low: 32 in 1956
Average High: 79°F
Average Low: 51°F
Average Precip in Sept.: 0.41
Precip to date in Sept.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 16.75
Precip Year to Date: 15.96
Sunset Tonight: 8:02:29 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:00:03 AM



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Today in Weather History

September 6, 2000: Eight miles southwest of Miller, ninety mph winds destroyed three barns and a small garage along with severely damaging a creeper feeder and an enclosed trailer. Another building was moved from its foundation and damaged. An empty school bus was rolled several times before it came to rest atop a fence. Also, a window was broken out of the house.

1667: The "dreadful hurricane of 1667" is considered one of the most severe hurricanes ever to strike Virginia. On the first, this same storm was reported in the Lesser Antilles. The hurricane devastated St. Christopher as no other storm had done before. The "great storm" went on to strike the northern Outer Banks of North Carolina and southeastern Virginia. Area crops (including corn and tobacco) were beaten into the ground.]

1776: Called the Pointe-à-Pitre hurricane, this storm is one of the deadliest Atlantic hurricanes on record. While the intensity and complete track are unknown, this storm struck Guadeloupe on this day, killing 6,000.

1881: Forest fires in "The Thumb" of Michigan and Ontario resulted in "Yellow Day" over the New England states. Twenty villages and over a million acres burned in Michigan. The smoke from these fires caused the sky to appear yellow over several New England cities. Twilight appeared at noon on this day.

1929 - Iowa's earliest snow of record occurred as a few flakes were noted at 9 AM at Alton. (The Weather Channel)

1933: The remnant low of the Treasure Coast Hurricane dumped 10.33" of rain in Charleston, which is the second-highest 24-hour rainfall total on record for the downtown station. The storm produced wind gusts of 51 mph and also spawned a tornado near the city.

1987 - Thunderstorms produced more than seven inches of rain in Georgia. Four persons drowned, and two others suffered injury, as three couples attempted to cross Mills Stone Creek at Echols Mill in their automobile. Smoke from forest fires in California and Oregon spread across Utah into western Colorado. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Unseasonably cool weather prevailed across the north central and northeastern U.S. Thirty cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Saint Joseph MO with a reading of 38 degrees. A low of 44 degrees at Indianapolis IN was their coolest reading of record for so early in the season. The mercury dipped to 31 degrees at Hibbing MN and Philips WI. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - An early afternoon thunderstorm produced wind gusts to 104 mph at Winterhaven, FL, flipping over four airplanes, and damaging five others. The high winds also damaged a hangar and three other buildings. A cold front produced strong winds and blowing dust in the Northern High Plains, with gusts to 54 mph reported at Buffalo SD. Powerful Hurricane Gabrielle and strong easterly winds combined to create waves up to ten feet high along the southern half of the Atlantic coast. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2003: Hurricane Isabel was first named on September 6th, 2003. It would reach Category 5 status and eventually make landfall in North Carolina as a Category 2

2017: Category 5 Hurricane Irma affected the US Virgin Island and Puerto Rico. Maximum sustained winds were at 180 mph when the storm hit St. Thomas & St. John. Catastrophic damage was reported over the US Virgin Island & significant damage over Puerto Rico, especially over Culebra.



A Hole in the Wall

Scripture: Proverbs 25:16–28 (NIV)

If you find honey, eat just enough— too much of it, and you will vomit.

17 Seldom set foot in your neighbor's house— too much of you, and they will hate you.

18 Like a club or a sword or a sharp arrow is one who gives false testimony against a neighbor.

19 Like a broken tooth or a lame foot is reliance on the unfaithful in a time of trouble.

20 Like one who takes away a garment on a cold day, or like vinegar poured on a wound, is one who sings songs to a heavy heart.

21 If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink.

22 In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the Lord will reward you.

23 Like a north wind that brings unexpected rain is a sly tongue—which provokes a horrified look.

24 Better to live on a corner of the roof than share a house with a quarrelsome wife.

25 Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land.

26 Like a muddied spring or a polluted well are the righteous who give way to the wicked.

27 It is not good to eat too much honey, nor is it honorable to search out matters that are too deep.

28 Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control..

Insight By: J.R. Hudberg

In the Bible, what's the difference between a proverb and a promise? A promise is a statement that's true all the time. In contrast, the proverbs found in the book of Proverbs are sayings that are generally true and are derived from observing life. Proverbs contain wisdom obtained from living among broken and sinful people, whereas a promise comes from an eternal and unchanging God. We can depend on God to fulfill His promises, while proverbs can be true depending on how people respond to a situation..

Comment By: Elisa Morgan

Something was eating my flowers. The day before, blooms proudly lifted their heads. Now they were headless stems. I prowled the perimeter of my yard and discovered a rabbit-sized hole in my wooden fence. Bunnies are cute, but the pesky animals can mow down a garden of flowers in minutes.

I wonder, might there be "intruders" shearing off the blooms of God's character in my life? Proverbs 25:28 says, "Like a city whose walls are broken through is a person who lacks self-control." In ancient days, the wall of the city protected it against invasion from enemies. Even a small opening in a wall meant that the entire city lay open to attack.

So many of the proverbs are about self-control. "If you find honey, eat just enough," wrote the wise man (25:16). Self-control is a fruit of the Spirit that guards us, protecting us from losing ground to impatience, bitterness, greed, and other pests that can intrude and destroy God's harvest in our lives (see Galatians 5:22–23). Self-control is a healthy-mindedness that watches for the holes in the walls of our lives and keeps them patched.

When I inspect the perimeter of my life, I can at times see vulnerable holes. A spot where I give in to temptation over and over. An area of impatience. Oh, how I need the healthy-minded self-control of God in my life to guard me from such intruders!

Reflect and Prayer: What holes do you see in the wall of your heart? How might God's fruit of self-control help guard your life from such an intruder?

Dear God, please grow the fruit of self-control in my life that I might be protected from intruders.

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2022-23 Community Events

- 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
07/24/2022: 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
No Date Set: 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)
09/11/2022: 6th Annual Doggie Day at the Swimming Pool 3-5pm
09/11/2022: Couples Sunflower Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 10 a.m.
09/02-04: 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
12/10/2022: Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9am-12pm
01/29/2023 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed, 10am-1pm, Community Center
01/29/2023 85th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
04/01/2023 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)
04/22/2023 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
04/23/2023 Princess Prom 4:30-8pm (Sunday after GHS Prom)
05/06/2023 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)
05/29/2023 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
07/04/2023 Firecracker Couples Tourney at Olive Grove Golf Course 9am Registration, 10am Start (4th of July)
07/09/2023 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)
09/09/2023 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
10/31/2023 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm (working day on or closest to Halloween)
10/31/2023 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
11/23/2023 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm (Thanksgiving)

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News from the Associated Press

SD Lottery

By The Associated Press undefined

PIERRE, S.D. (AP) _ These South Dakota lotteries were drawn Monday:

Lotto America

02-30-36-39-46, Star Ball: 7, ASB: 2

(two, thirty, thirty-six, thirty-nine, forty-six; Star Ball: seven; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$21,610,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: 191,000,000

Powerball

04-07-32-55-64, Powerball: 25, Power Play: 2

(four, seven, thirty-two, fifty-five, sixty-four; Powerball: twenty-five; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$170,000,000

Russia sanctions 25 more Americans, including Penn, Stiller

Russia imposed personal sanctions Monday on 25 Americans, including actors Sean Penn and Ben Stiller, in response to U.S. sanctions against Russians stemming from the conflict in Ukraine.

U.S. Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo was on the new sanctions list, as were several American senators: Mark Kelly and Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, Kevin Cramer of North Dakota, Mike Rounds of South Dakota, Rick Scott of Florida, and Pat Toomey of Pennsylvania.

Russia's Foreign Ministry said the group, which also included business leaders, academics and government officials, would be banned permanently from entering Russia.

Previous rounds of Russian sanctions against Americans have included President Joe Biden and members of his family, as well as lawmakers and business leaders. The U.S. has sanctioned numerous Russians, including government officials and business people.

Penn and Stiller have been outspoken critics of Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Penn is an activist involved in relief work, among other causes. Stiller is a goodwill ambassador for the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Liz Truss to meet queen to be appointed UK prime minister

By DANICA KIRKA and JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Liz Truss was set to become Britain's next prime minister on Tuesday after arriving at Queen Elizabeth II's Balmoral estate in Scotland, shortly after Boris Johnson met the monarch to formally offer his resignation.

The queen will ask Truss, the Conservative Party leader, during their audience to become Britain's new leader as the country faces an acute cost-of-living crisis.

Truss, 47, takes office a day after the ruling party's 172,000 members elected her as their leader, putting her in line to be named prime minister in Tuesday's carefully choreographed ceremony at the queen's summer residence.

Truss is expected to make her first speech Tuesday afternoon as leader of a nation of 67 million people anxious about soaring energy bills and a looming winter of recession and labor unrest. Those problems have festered for the past two months, because Johnson had no authority to make major policy decisions after announcing his plan to step down in early July.

This is the first time in the queen's 70-year reign that the handover of power is taking place at Balmoral, rather than Buckingham Palace in London. The ceremony was moved to Scotland to provide certainty

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about the schedule because the 96-year-old queen has experienced problems getting around that have forced palace officials to make decisions about her travel on a day-to-day basis.

Speaking outside his Downing Street office before heading to Scotland, Johnson said his three-year tenure had left Britain with the economic strength to help people weather the energy crisis. He signed off with his typically colorful language.

"I am like one of those booster rockets that has fulfilled its function," Johnson said. "I will now be gently re-entering the atmosphere and splashing down invisibly in some remote and obscure corner of the Pacific."

Johnson, 58, became prime minister three years ago after his predecessor, Theresa May, failed to deliver Britain's departure from the European Union. Johnson later won an 80-seat majority in Parliament with the promise to "get Brexit done."

But he was forced out of office by a series of scandals that culminated in the resignation of dozens of Cabinet secretaries and lower-level officials in early July. He alluded to that downfall in his leaving remarks, saying he was handing over the baton to Truss in "what has unexpectedly become a relay race."

While many observers expect Johnson to attempt a political comeback, he offered Truss his backing and compared himself to Cincinnatus, the Roman dictator who relinquished power and returned to his farm to live in peace.

"Like Cincinnatus, I am returning to my plow," he said. "And I will be offering this government nothing but the most fervent support."

Speaking to Conservative party members on Monday, Truss promised to "deliver" on the economy, the energy crisis and the overstretched health care system, though she offered few specifics on her policies. On Sunday, Truss promised to unveil her plans for tackling the cost-of-living crisis within a week.

Bronwen Maddox, director of the international affairs think tank Chatham House, said Truss will have to say "an awful lot more" to reach the wider electorate.

"Everything, every road, comes back to cost of living at this point," Maddox said. "And if she delivers, to use her word on that, then you might see the mood getting much more positive."

Many people in Britain are still learning about the person who will soon be their leader.

Unlike Johnson, who made himself a media celebrity long before he became prime minister, Truss rose quietly through the Conservative ranks before she was named foreign secretary, one of the top Cabinet posts, just a year ago.

Truss is under pressure to spell out how she plans to help people and businesses struggling to pay energy bills that are due to rise next month to 3,500 pounds (\$4,000) for the average household — triple the cost of a year ago.

During the leadership campaign, she promised help for people struggling to pay their bills, but declined to say what form the support would take.

The price spike, driven by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the aftershocks of COVID-19 and Brexit, has propelled U.K. inflation above 10% for the first time in four decades. The Bank of England forecasts it will hit 13.3% in October, and that the U.K. will tip into recession by the end of the year.

Train drivers, port staff, garbage collectors, postal workers and lawyers have all staged strikes to demand that pay increases keep pace with inflation, and millions more, from teachers to nurses, could walk out in the next few months.

Truss, a low-tax, small-government conservative, says her priority is cutting taxes and slashing regulations to fuel economic growth. Critics say that will further fuel inflation while failing to address the cost-of-living crisis. The uncertainty has rattled money markets, driving the pound as low as \$1.15, its weakest performance against the dollar since the 1980s.

The first task for Truss will be to appoint a Cabinet to tackle the government's mountain of challenges.

Kwasi Kwarteng, who was business secretary in Johnson's government, is favorite to be named to the key job of Treasury chief. Like Truss, Kwarteng is a free-marketeer in the mold of 1980s Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. But the scale of the economic crisis may mean he and Truss have to quash their small-state instincts and spend billions to help people pay their bills.

Writing in the Financial Times on Monday, Kwarteng said a Truss government would "take immediate ac-

tion ... to get families and businesses through this winter and the next." He, too, did not supply any details.

In theory, Truss has time to make her mark: She doesn't have to call a national election until 2024. But opinion polls already give the main opposition Labour Party a steady lead, and the worse the economy gets, the more pressure will grow.

Truss and her new Cabinet also face multiple foreign policy crises, including the war in Ukraine and frosty post-Brexit relations with the European Union.

As foreign secretary Truss was a firm supporter of Ukraine's resistance to Russian invasion, and as prime minister she will continue the U.K.'s civilian and military support for Kyiv. She has said her first phone call with a world leader will be to President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

She has also pledged to boost U.K. defense spending from just over 2% to 3% of gross domestic product — another expensive promise.

She's likely to have much cooler conversations with EU leaders, who have been annoyed by Truss's uncompromising stance as foreign secretary in talks over trade rules for Northern Ireland, an unresolved Brexit issue that has soured relations between London and Brussels. With the U.K. threatening to breach the legally binding divorce treaty, and the EU launching legal action in return, the dispute could escalate into a trade war between the U.K. and the 27-nation bloc.

Irish Foreign Minister Simon Coveney expressed hope that, once in power, Truss will adopt a more moderate approach.

"A lot of the key decision makers are trying to reach out and give a signal to Liz Truss that if she decides to change course to a more positive one in terms of trying to find a sensible compromise with the EU, that we can find a way forward on this issue," he said.

Typhoon batters S. Korea, preparations minimize casualties

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The most powerful typhoon to hit South Korea in years on Tuesday dumped a meter (3 feet) of rain, destroyed roads and fell power lines, but the death toll of three could have been higher if not for proactive evacuations and closures of schools, officials said.

There was also greater public awareness about the storm and its risks. Typhoon Hinnamnor made impact just weeks after heavy rains around the capital Seoul caused flooding that killed at least 14 people.

Government officials had put the nation on high alert for days as Hinnamnor approached, warning of potentially historic destruction and putting in motion life-saving measures.

After grazing the resort island of Jeju and hitting the mainland near the port city of Busan, Hinnamnor weakened as it blew into waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

South Korea's weather agency said Hinnamnor was over the open sea 280 kilometers (173 miles) northeast of Ulleung island with winds weakened to 115 kilometers (71 miles) per hour on Tuesday afternoon. It was expected to be downgraded to a tropical cyclone by night as it moves northeast between Russia and the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido, the agency said.

However, the damage was still severe in the southern city of Pohang, where two people were found dead and at least seven others were missing after the storm submerged roads and buildings, triggered landslides and flooded a shopping mall.

Cars with smashed windows and trunks open lay scattered on roads like garbage. An entire two-story pool villa was uprooted from the ground and swept away in flash floods. Troops were deployed to assist with rescue and restoration efforts, moving in armored vehicles rolling through streets that turned into chocolate-colored rivers.

Firefighters navigated flooded neighborhoods in rubber boots, rescuing people and their pets. Merchants scrambled to salvage furniture and other belongings at the famous Guryongpo outdoor market, where workers deployed excavators to clear huge piles of debris.

The rain and flooding eroded the foundations of bridges and motorways, which were often broken in chunks or blocked by fallen trees and electricity poles. Factory buildings were tilted, while a shipping con-

tainer blew away and landed above cars in a parking lot.

"I woke up at 5 a.m. at because of the explosive rain, and I got really concerned because the water rose right up to my doorway," Kim Seong-chang, a Pohang resident, said in an interview with JTBC. "The water was still thigh-high at 7 a.m. and those who parked their cars in the streets were in panic because their vehicles were submerged ... Other residents were bucketing out water from their homes."

The storm dumped more than 105 centimeters (41 inches) of rain in central Jeju since Sunday, where winds peaked at 155 kph (96 mph). Southern and eastern mainland regions also had damage — knocked off signboards and roofing, toppled trees, traffic signs and destroyed roads.

In Pohang, a woman in her 70s died after being swept away in flash floods, while another woman in her 60s was found dead in a submerged basement parking lot where searches were ongoing for seven people. Rescue workers had failed to respond to another man who called for help before he went missing, presumably swept by flash floods.

In the neighboring city of Gyeongju, a woman in her 80s died after her home was buried in a landslide. In Ulsan, another southern city, a 25-year-old man was unaccounted after falling into a rain-swollen stream, according to the Ministry of the Interior and Safety.

Also in Pohang, firefighters extinguished flames that damaged at least three facilities at a major steel plant operated by POSCO. A presidential official, who spoke on condition of anonymity during a background briefing, said officials were investigating the cause of the fires.

Local fire officials said the flames destroyed a building housing electricity equipment and damaged a separate office building and a cokes factory before being put out.

The Safety Ministry said about 3,200 among 4,500 people who had been forced to evacuate returned home Tuesday afternoon. More than 80 homes, buildings and factories were flooded or destroyed, and hundreds of roads, bridges and facilities were damaged.

More than 600 schools were closed or converted to online classes. Workers had managed to restore electricity to 78,890 of the 89,180 households that lost power.

In North Korea, state media reported "all-out efforts" to minimize damage from flooding and landslides. The Korean Central News Agency reported leader Kim Jong Un during government meetings had issued unspecified "detailed tasks" to improve the country's disaster response capacity but it didn't elaborate on the plans.

North Korea sustained serious damage from heavy rains and floods in 2020 that destroyed buildings, roads and crops, shocking the country's already-crippled economy.

Fears grow for Ukraine nuke plant ahead of inspector report

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Fears grew Tuesday for Europe's largest nuclear power plant as shelling around it continued, a day after the facility was again knocked off Ukraine's electricity grid and put in the precarious position of relying on its own power to run safety systems.

Repeated warnings from world leaders that fighting around the Zaporizhzhia plant has put it in an untenable situation that could lead to a nuclear catastrophe have done little to stem the hostilities. Russian-installed officials accused the Ukrainian forces of shelling the city where the plant is located on Tuesday, hours after the Ukrainians said Kremlin forces attacked a city across the river.

Both sides have traded such accusations since Russian troops seized the plant early in the war. With the danger rising, an International Atomic Energy Agency team finally traveled to the plant last week, and inspectors are expected to report what they found to the U.N. Security Council later in the day.

Two inspectors remain at the plant, which is run by Ukrainians workers, and Ukrainian presidential adviser Mykhailo Podolyak applauded that decision.

"There are Russian troops now who don't understand what's happening, don't assess the risks correctly," Podolyak said. "There is a number of our workers there, who need some kind of protection, people from the international community standing by their side and telling (Russian troops): 'Don't touch these people,

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let them work.”

But that appears to have done little to lessen the risks. On Monday, the IAEA said Ukrainian authorities reported that the plant’s last transmission line was disconnected to allow workers to put out a fire caused by shelling.

“The line itself is not damaged, and it will be reconnected once the fire is extinguished,” the IAEA said.

In the meantime, the plant’s only remaining operational reactor would “generate the power the plant needs for its safety and other functions,” the agency said.

Mycle Schneider, an independent analyst in Canada on nuclear energy, said that means the plant was likely functioning in “island mode,” producing electricity just for its own operations.

“Island mode is a very shaky, unstable, and unreliable way to provide continuous power supply to a nuclear plant,” Schneider said.

It was just the latest incident that fueled fears of a potential nuclear disaster in a country still haunted by the world’s worst nuclear accident at Chernobyl. Experts say the reactors at Zaporizhzhia are designed to withstand natural disasters and even aircraft crashes, but the unpredictable fighting around the plant had repeatedly threatened to disrupt critical cooling systems, raising the risk of a meltdown.

Russian-installed officials in the Zaporizhzhia region on Tuesday accused the Ukrainian forces of shelling Enerhodar, the city where the plant is located, and damaging a power line close to the plant.

Russian state news agency RIA Novosti reported, citing its correspondent on the ground, that the power was off in Enerhodar on Tuesday and sounds of explosions could be heard.

Meanwhile, Ukraine’s presidential office said that Russian forces shelled residential buildings in Nikopol, a city across the Dnieper river from the Zaporizhzhia plant. Two people were wounded and a school, a kindergarten and some 30 buildings were damaged, the office said.

Russian shelling elsewhere killed at least three civilians, the statement said.

In the southern Kherson region, occupied by the Russians since early on in the war, the Ukrainian army continued its counteroffensive, destroying Russia’s logistical centers. A pontoon bridge was blown up overnight and a command center was hit, as well as two checkpoints.

In the eastern city of Sloviansk, workers with the Ukrainian Red Cross Society swept up debris Monday from a second rocket attack on its premises in a week. Nobody was hurt in either attack, said Taras Logginov, head of the agency’s rapid response unit. He blamed Russian forces and called the attacks war crimes.

In a row of apartment buildings across the road, the few residents who haven’t evacuated sawed sheets of plywood to board up their shattered windows.

Henadii Sydorenko sat on the porch of his apartment building for a break. He said he’s not sure whether to stay or leave, torn between his responsibility of taking care of three apartments whose owners have already evacuated and the increasing fear of the now frequent shelling.

“It’s frightening,” the 57-year-old said of the shelling. “I’m losing my mind, little by little.”

China’s Chengdu enforces strict lockdown despite earthquake

BEIJING (AP) — Authorities in southwestern China’s Chengdu have maintained strict COVID-19 lockdown measures on the city’s population of 21 million despite a major earthquake that killed at least 65 people in outlying areas.

Footage circulating online Tuesday showed workers wearing top-to-bottom protective gear preventing residents of apartment buildings from exiting through locked lobby doors following Monday’s 6.8 magnitude quake centered in the surrounding province of Sichuan.

Buildings in Chengdu and other parts of western China were shaken by the quake. No damage was reported in the city. The quake struck a mountainous area in Luding county, which sits on the edge of the Tibetan Plateau roughly 200 kilometers (125 miles) from Chengdu, where tectonic plates grind up against each other.

Despite only recording a handful of cases, Chengdu’s lockdown is the most severe since China’s largest city of Shanghai was placed in isolation over the summer, prompting rare protests in person and online.

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China's authoritarian Communist political system demands strict adherence to measures dictated by the central leadership overwhelmingly dominated by party leader Xi Jinping.

Local leaders, including Sichuan's recently appointed provincial party secretary, are often parachuted in from Beijing with little knowledge of local conditions and a firm mandate to carry out Xi's dictates.

The ruthless and often chaotic enforcement of the Shanghai lockdown led to widespread complaints over shortages of food, medication and access to health care. In a sign of how little has changed, at least one district in Chengdu has banned even the ordering of takeout meals and coffee, according to a notice posted on the internet.

China has stuck to its hard-line "zero-COVID" policy of compulsory testing, lockdowns, quarantines and masking despite advice from the World Health Organization and moves by most other countries to open up again since the virus was first detected in the central Chinese city of Wuhan in late 2019.

China on Tuesday reported 1,499 new cases of local infection, most of them asymptomatic. Sichuan accounted for 138 of that total figure.

The quake knocked out power and damaged buildings in the historic mountain town of Moxi in the Tibetan autonomous prefecture of Garze, where 37 people were killed. Tents were erected for more than 50,000 people being moved from homes made unsafe by the quake, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

State broadcaster CCTV showed rescue crews pulling a woman who appeared uninjured from a collapsed home in Moxi, where many of the buildings are constructed from wood and brick. Around 150 people were reported with varying degrees of injuries.

Another 28 people were killed in neighboring Shimian county on the outskirts of the city of Ya'an. State media reported 248 people injured, mainly in Moxi, and another 16 people missing.

Three of the dead were workers at the Hailuoguo Scenic Area, a glacier and forest nature reserve.

Along with the deaths, authorities reported landslides that damaged homes, caused power interruptions and stranded people behind a newly created lake. One landslide blocked a rural highway, leaving it strewn with boulders.

The earthquake and lockdown follow a heat wave and drought that led to water shortages and power cuts due to Sichuan's reliance on hydropower.

China's deadliest earthquake in recent years was a 7.9 magnitude quake in 2008 that killed nearly 90,000 people in Sichuan. The temblor devastated towns, schools and rural communities outside Chengdu, leading to a years-long effort to rebuild with more resistant materials.

EXPLAINER: Why Truss is off to Scotland to become UK leader

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Liz Truss, a onetime accountant who has served in Parliament for the past 12 years, will become Britain's prime minister on Tuesday when Queen Elizabeth II formally asks her to form a government.

The ceremony, which will take place at a royal residence in Scotland, follows a bruising two-month contest to succeed Boris Johnson, who will formally offer his resignation to the queen shortly before Truss arrives to take up the mantle.

The handover of power is governed by rules and traditions built up over the centuries, as the U.K. evolved from an absolute monarchy to a modern parliamentary democracy where the sovereign plays an important but largely ceremonial role as head of state.

Here is a brief description of Tuesday's events and how Britain arrived at this point.

HOW DID LIZ TRUSS BECOME PRIME MINISTER?

Boris Johnson announced his intention to step down as prime minister and leader of the ruling Conservative Party on July 7, after dozens of Cabinet ministers and lower-level officials resigned following months of scandal and growing concern that he could no longer deliver election victories.

Because Johnson's government didn't lose a vote of confidence, the Conservatives still command a majority in the House of Commons and so a general election wasn't required to select a new prime minister.

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Instead, it was up to the Conservatives to pick a new leader who would automatically become prime minister as the leader of the majority party.

Truss and former Treasury chief Rishi Sunak squared off in the internal contest to become Conservative Party leader, holding campaign events around the country as they vied for support among 172,000 dues-paying party members. Truss was announced as the winner of that contest on Monday after she received 57% of the vote.

WHY IS THE QUEEN INVOLVED?

As head of state, the queen still formally appoints the prime minister, though the decision is now based on constitutional conventions. When one party holds a majority in the House of Commons, as is the current situation, the prime minister is always the leader of that party.

But the queen maintains a special relationship with her prime ministers, holding regular meetings with them throughout their time in office.

While the queen is constitutionally required to remain strictly neutral on all political matters, she is entitled to be informed and consulted about government policy. And she retains the right to "advise, encourage and warn ministers," according to the official guide to the laws, rules and conventions of government.

WHY DIDN'T TRUSS IMMEDIATELY BECOME PRIME MINISTER?

First of all, because Johnson is technically still prime minister. While Johnson announced his intention to step down on July 7, prime ministers usually don't formally resign until it is clear who their successor will be.

Now that Truss has been elected Conservative Party leader, Johnson is due to resign on Tuesday.

WHY IS EVERYONE IN SCOTLAND FOR THE CEREMONY?

Normally, the new prime minister travels the short distance from the Houses of Parliament to Buckingham Palace to meet with the queen. But this year, the 96-year-old sovereign is at Balmoral, her retreat in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, for her annual vacation.

Elizabeth has had difficulties moving around of late and decisions about her schedule are being made on a daily basis depending on what she feels up to. So rather than take the chance that she wouldn't be ready to travel to London on Tuesday, planners injected a bit of certainty into the diary by asking the new leader to come to her.

WHAT WILL ACTUALLY HAPPEN ON TUESDAY?

Things kicked off at about 7:30 a.m., when Johnson appeared outside the prime minister's official Downing Street residence to deliver a farewell speech before flying to Scotland. He is scheduled to meet the queen later in the morning to formally offer his resignation.

Truss, who is expected to make the 500-mile (800-kilometer) journey on a separate plane, is due to arrive at Balmoral just after noon for a 30-minute audience with the queen where she will formally be asked to form a new government.

Truss will then return to London, where she is expected to address the nation later in the afternoon.

Uvalde school year starts amid fear and unfinished security

By PAUL J. WEBER Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A new and worrisome school year begins Tuesday in Uvalde.

There is new high fencing around the Texas community's public school campuses that still isn't finished, a heavy police patrol that many families don't trust and no classes ever again at Robb Elementary School, three months after a gunman with an AR-15-style rifle killed 19 children and two teachers inside two adjoining fourth-grade classrooms.

Ashley Morales is putting her son, Jeremiah, back in class — because she says she has no other choice as a working single mother. She will drop him off outside Uvalde Elementary on the first day. She says parents won't be allowed inside.

"I'm just nervous, scared," said Morales, whose son was a third-grader last year at Robb Elementary and lost three friends in the May 24 massacre. During a recent "Meet the Teacher" night, she felt a rush of anxiety walking down the school hall.

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"Oh my gosh, it's actually going to happen," she said. "School is going to start."

Although school already started weeks ago in many parts of Texas, officials pushed back the first day of class in Uvalde after a summer of unfathomable heartache, anger and revelations of widespread failures by law enforcement who allowed an 18-year-old gunman to fire inside the adjoining classrooms for more than 70 minutes.

Despite pushing back the start of the year, Uvalde school officials said several enhanced security measures remain incomplete, including installing additional cameras and new locks.

The Texas Department of Public Safety has committed to putting nearly three dozen state troopers on Uvalde campuses — but that is of no comfort to some families since there were more than 90 state troopers on scene during the attack.

More than 100 families in Uvalde signed up for virtual school, while others pulled their kids out of the district and enrolled them in private schools. One teacher who was shot in the abdomen and survived, Elsa Avila, will not be greetings students for the first time in 30 years because she is still recovering.

A damning report by a Texas House committee found that nearly 400 officers in all rushed to Robb Elementary after the shooting but hesitated for more than hour to confront the shooter. Body camera and surveillance footage showed heavily armed officers, some holding bulletproof shields, stacked in the hallway but not advancing to the classroom.

Steve McCraw, head of the Texas Department of Public Safety, called the response "an abject failure."

Last month, the Uvalde school board fired district police Chief Pete Arredondo, who McCraw and the House report accused of failing to take control of the scene and wasting time by looking for a key for a classroom door that was likely unlocked. The firing has not quieted demands for others to face punishment. One other officer — Uvalde Lt. Mariano Pargas, the acting police chief that day — has been placed on administrative leave.

US: Russia to buy rockets, artillery shells from North Korea

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Russian Ministry of Defense is in the process of purchasing millions of rockets and artillery shells from North Korea for its ongoing fight in Ukraine, according to a newly downgraded U.S. intelligence finding.

A U.S. official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the intelligence determination, said Monday that the fact Russia is turning to the isolated state of North Korea demonstrates that "the Russian military continues to suffer from severe supply shortages in Ukraine, due in part to export controls and sanctions."

U.S. intelligence officials believe that the Russians could look to purchase additional North Korean military equipment in the future. The intelligence finding was first reported by The New York Times.

The U.S. official did not detail how much weaponry Russia intends to purchase from North Korea.

The finding comes after the Biden administration recently confirmed that the Russian military in August took delivery of Iranian-manufactured drones for use on the battlefield in Ukraine.

The White House said last week that Russia has faced technical problems with Iranian-made drones acquired from Tehran in August for use in its war with Ukraine.

Russia picked up Mohajer-6 and Shahed-series unmanned aerial vehicles over several days last month as part what the Biden administration says is likely part of a Russian plan to acquire hundreds of Iranian UAVs for use in Ukraine.

North Korea has sought to tighten relations with Russia as much of Europe and the West has pulled away, blaming the United States for the Ukraine crisis and decrying the West's "hegemonic policy" as justifying military action by Russia in Ukraine to protect itself.

The North Koreans have hinted interest in sending construction workers to help rebuild Russian-occupied territories in the country's east.

North Korea's ambassador to Moscow recently met with envoys from two Russia-backed separatist ter-

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ritories in the Donbas region of Ukraine and expressed optimism about cooperation in the "field of labor migration," citing his country's easing pandemic border controls.

In July, North Korea became the only nation aside from Russia and Syria to recognize the independence of the territories, Donetsk and Luhansk, further aligning with Russia over the conflict in Ukraine.

The North's arms export to Russia would be a violation of U.N. resolutions that ban the country from exporting to or importing weapons from other countries. Its possible dispatch of laborers to the Russian-held territories in Ukraine would also breach a U.N. resolution that required all member states to repatriate all North Korean workers from their soil by 2019.

There have been suspicions that China and Russia haven't fully enforced U.N. sanctions on North Korea, complicating a U.S.-led attempt to deprive North Korea of its nuclear weapons.

The provocative move by North Korea comes as the Biden administration has become increasingly concerned about stepped-up activity by North Korea in pursuit of nuclear weapons.

North Korea has test-fired more than 30 ballistic missiles this year, including its first flights of intercontinental ballistic missiles since 2017, as leader Kim Jong Un pushes to advance his nuclear arsenal despite U.S.-led pressure and sanctions.

The U.S. has frequently downgraded and unveiled intelligence findings over the course of the grinding war in Ukraine to highlight plans for Russian misinformation operations or to throw attention on Moscow's difficulties in prosecuting the war. Ukraine's smaller military has put up a stiff resistance against the militarily superior Russian forces.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Kim have recently exchanged letters in which they both called for "comprehensive" and "strategic and tactical" cooperation between the countries. Moscow, for its part, has issued statements condemning the revival of large-scale military exercises between the United States and South Korea this year, which North Korea views as an invasion rehearsal.

Russia, along with China, has called for the easing of U.N. sanctions imposed on North Korea over its nuclear and missile tests. Both countries are members of the U.N. Security Council, which has approved a total of 11 rounds of sanctions on the North since 2006. In May, Russia and China vetoed a U.S.-led bid to impose new economic sanctions on North Korea over its high-profile missile tests this year.

Some experts say that Kim could likely bolster his resolve to retain his nuclear weapons because he may think the Russian attack happened because Ukraine had signed away its nuclear arsenal.

Relations between Moscow and Pyongyang go back to the 1948 foundation of North Korea, as Soviet officials installed young, ambitious nationalist Kim Il Sung, the late grandfather of Kim Jong Un, as the country's first ruler. Since then, Soviet aid shipment had been crucial in keeping North Korea's economy afloat for decades before the disintegration of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s.

Moscow had since established formal diplomatic relations with Seoul as part of its hopes to draw South Korean investment and allowed its Soviet-era military alliance with North Korea to expire. But after his election in 2000, Putin actively sought to restore his country's ties with North Korea in what was seen as an effort to regain its traditional domains of influence and secure more allies to better deal with the United States.

Black woman who integrated Southern school writes kid's book

By JAY REEVES Associated Press

Ruby Bridges was a 6-year-old first-grader when she walked past jeering crowds of white people to become one of the first Black students at racially segregated schools in New Orleans more than six decades ago. Now, with teaching about race in America more complicated than it's ever been, she's authored a picture book about her experience for the youngest of readers.

Bridges, along with three other Black students at a different school, were the first to integrate what had been all-white schools in New Orleans in 1960.

"I Am Ruby Bridges," featuring illustrations by Nikkolos Smith, goes on sale Tuesday. Published by Or-

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chard Books, an imprint of Scholastic Inc., it's aimed at readers as young as 4.

Complete with a glossary that includes the words "Supreme Court" and "law," the book is an uplifting story about opportunities and kids being able to make a difference, Bridges said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"It's a true reflection of what happened through my own eyes," she said.

But books by or about Bridges have been challenged by conservatives in several school districts amid complaints over race-related teaching. Bridges said she hopes the new book winds up in elementary school libraries.

"I've been very, very fortunate because of the way I tell my story that my babies come in all shapes and colors, and my books are bestsellers, and maybe banned in schools," she said. "But I think parents really want to get past our racial differences. They're going to seek out those books."

Bridges was born in 1954, the same year the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation of public schools was unconstitutional. Southern school districts, including New Orleans, continued resisting integration for years.

But on Nov. 14, 1960, Bridges — carrying a plaid book satchel and wearing a white sweater — was escorted by four federal marshals past a taunting white crowd into segregated William Frantz Elementary School. The scene was made famous in the Norman Rockwell painting "The Problem We All Live With," which hung in the White House near the Oval Office during the tenure of former President Barack Obama.

The book's theme plays off the author's name: "Ruby" is a precious stone, and "Bridges" are meant to bring people together. Told with a touch of humor from the vantage point of a first-grader, the book captures the wonder of Bridges' experience — rather than just the scariness of that raucous first day at the school.

"It really looks like Mardi Gras to me, but they aren't throwing any beads. What's Mardi Gras without beads?" Bridges writes.

The only parade that day was out of the school. White parents immediately began withdrawing their children, so Bridges spent the entire year by herself with white teacher Barbara Henry, who is still alive and a "very best friend," Bridges said. Henry's acceptance and kindness during a fraught time taught her an important lesson, she said.

"That shaped me into a person that is not prejudiced at all. And I feel like that little girl is still inside of me, and that's it's my calling to make sure kids understand that you can't look at someone and judge them," Bridges said.

Elsewhere in New Orleans on the same day Bridges went to school, Gail Etienne, Leona Tate and Tessie Prevost entered the previously all-white McDonogh No. 19 elementary school. Last year, New Orleans held a weekend of events to remember Bridges and other women.

Bridges, a Mississippi native, still lives in metro New Orleans and has authored or co-authored five books. Two years she published "This Is Your Time," which is intended for older children than her new book.

Search ends for 9 missing in Northwest floatplane crash

By MARTHA BELLISLE and MANUEL VALDES Associated Press

WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash. (AP) — The U.S. Coast Guard has suspended the search for nine people missing after a floatplane crashed in the waters of Puget Sound northwest of Seattle.

A nearby resident said they heard what sounded like a thunderclap at the time of the crash Sunday.

Just after noon on Monday, the Coast Guard said it was halting the search for survivors after "saturating an area" of more than 2,100 square nautical miles (nearly 2,800 square miles or 7,250 square kilometers).

"All next of kin have been notified of this decision," the Coast Guard said on Twitter. "Our hearts go out to the families, loved ones and friends of those who remain missing and the deceased."

The body of a 10th person, an unidentified female, was recovered by a good Samaritan on Sunday after the crash was reported at 3:11 p.m., Scott Giard, director of the U.S. Coast Guard's search and rescue for the Pacific Northwest, said at a new conference.

The identities of the victims were expected to be released Tuesday.

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The Northwest Seaplanes flight left Friday Harbor, a popular tourist destination in the San Juan Islands, and was headed to Renton Municipal Airport, the company's base, said Coast Guard spokesperson William Colclough.

The plane went down in Mutiny Bay off Whidbey Island, roughly 30 miles (50 kilometers) northwest of downtown Seattle and about halfway between Friday Harbor and Renton, a suburb south of Seattle.

Whidbey Island resident Jeff Brewny and his wife were walking their dog Sunday when they heard a loud boom.

"First thought was thunder. It was that loud," he said. "There was no flash like you get with lightning. So, you know, I thought it was a boat exploded. It was that devastating. My dog went crazy."

The Coast Guard learned through the seaplane company's owner that two Friday Harbor seaplanes took off Sunday afternoon and the owner was aboard one of the flights, Giard said. The owner told authorities he saw the other plane divert slightly off course and he tried to make radio contact but was unable to.

"Shortly after that, he noticed on his flight tracker that the flight had stopped tracking and notified authorities," Giard said.

Officials received reports that "the aircraft dropped suddenly at a fair amount of speed and hit the water," Giard said. "We don't have any video or pictures of the incident as of this moment."

There was no distress call or distress beacon from the crashing plane, he said. The aircraft has an electronic locating transmitter onboard, but they have not received any transmission.

"That is very typical in times where there is either a hard landing or a crash of an aircraft," he said.

The cause of the crash is unknown, authorities said.

The National Transportation Safety Board said Monday they're sending a team of seven to investigate the crash of the DHC-3 Turbine Otter.

Coast Guard searchers found "minimal debris," Giard said. By Monday afternoon, they had only found three to four long and narrow pieces of aluminum, very few personal items, a seat and some small pieces of foam.

Without a clear picture of the actual crash, and not knowing whether it exploded on impact or immediately sank to the sea floor, 150 to 200 feet (45-60 meters) below, it's difficult to know what happened to the plane, he said.

Northwest Seaplanes is a family owned business founded by Clyde Carlson, according to the company's website.

The company's business office next to the seaplane dock at the Renton Municipal Airport remained closed behind fencing Monday. The only visible activity was two people hugging near the front door.

A woman who answered the phone early Monday said they're waiting to learn more and are devastated by the crash.

"It's a small crew. Everyone's close," said the woman, who would only give her first name, Michelle. She declined to say more.

The company posted a message on Facebook late Monday saying they were heartbroken.

"We don't know any details yet regarding the cause of the accident," the post said. "We are working with the FAA, NTSB and Coastguard. We have been in communication with the families. We are praying for the families involved, including our pilot and his family."

Floatplanes, which have pontoons allowing them to land on water, are a common sight around Puget Sound, an inlet of the Pacific Ocean. There are multiple, daily flights between the Seattle area and the San Juan Islands.

In July 2020, a De Havilland Beaver operated by Brooke's Seaplanes was on a scenic flight in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, with five passengers and a pilot when it collided with a Cessna 206. Eight people were killed.

In 2019, a midair crash in Alaska between two sightseeing planes killed six people. The Ketchikan-based floatplanes were carrying passengers from the same cruise ship, the Royal Princess, and were returning from tours of Misty Fjords National Monument.

Massachusetts GOP voters size up Trump loyalist for governor

By STEVE LeBLANC Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Massachusetts Republicans are weighing which candidate has the best chance of keeping the governor's office in GOP hands as they vote in Tuesday's primary: a former state lawmaker endorsed by Donald Trump or a political newcomer who's cast himself as the more moderate choice.

Geoff Diehl and Chris Doughty are vying for the chance to replace incumbent Republican Gov. Charlie Baker, who's opted not to seek a third term.

Democrats have a simpler decision. Attorney General Maura Healey — she would become the first woman and first openly gay candidate elected governor if she wins — is facing no challengers after the only other Democrat on the ballot dropped out of the running.

Republican voters in the state will become just the latest to decide whether the party will further embrace Trumpism or is ready to move back toward the center. In recent primaries in other blue states like Maryland and Connecticut, GOP voters have nominated Trump loyalists, hurting the party's chances of winning against a Democrat in the November general election.

Diehl, the favorite among state Republican Party delegates in Massachusetts, has ties to Trump stretching to 2016, when he served as co-chair for Trump's presidential campaign in the state. Trump lost Massachusetts by almost 30 percentage points in his two presidential campaigns. Diehl has also opposed COVID-19 protocols and hailed the Supreme Court ruling overturning *Roe v. Wade*.

Doughty, a businessman, said he supported some of Trump's initiatives but wants to focus on challenges facing Massachusetts, which he said is increasingly unaffordable.

Diehl has come to embrace Trump's false claims that he lost the 2020 election. Diehl said last year that he didn't think it was a "stolen election" but later said the election was rigged, despite dozens of courts, local officials and Trump's own attorney general saying the vote was legitimate. Doughty, meanwhile, has said he believes President Joe Biden was legitimately elected.

The challenge for both is that support of Trump may play well among the party's conservative wing but could be a political albatross in a state where registered Republicans make up less than 10% of the electorate compared to about 31% for Democrats and about 57% for independents.

Diehl faced a similar struggle when he challenged Democratic U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren in 2018. He won a three-way Republican primary only to capture just over a third of the vote in the general election.

Doughty said he would work to lower taxes and has said that although he considers himself "pro-life," he accepts the state Supreme Court decision recognizing a right to abortion in Massachusetts.

Doughty has reported raising nearly \$2.3 million for his campaign, most of it coming out of his own pocket, compared with Diehl, who has raised about \$582,000. Healey has the largest campaign bank account — about \$3.4 million.

Massachusetts has a history of electing fiscally conservative, socially moderate Republican governors — including former Govs. William Weld and Mitt Romney — to provide a check on overwhelming Democratic legislative majorities. Baker, another Republican in that mold, has remained popular in the state.

The election also features several statewide contested Democratic primaries, including for attorney general and secretary of the commonwealth.

Two Democrats are jockeying for the top law enforcement office: former Boston City Councilor Andrea Campbell and workers' rights attorney Shannon Liss-Riordan. A week before the election, a third candidate, former assistant attorney general Quentin Palfrey, announced he was suspending his campaign and endorsed Campbell; he will remain on the ballot.

Campbell would be the first Black woman to hold the office in Massachusetts if elected.

The winner will face Republican Jay McMahan, a trial attorney who previously ran against Healey and lost.

Incumbent Democratic Secretary of the Commonwealth William Galvin is vying for an eighth term in office. He's fielding a challenge from fellow Democrat Tanisha Sullivan, president of the Boston branch of the NAACP. Sullivan would be the first Black person to serve in that post in the state.

The winner will face Republican Rayla Campbell in November. Campbell is also Black.

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There are also contested races in the Democratic primary for auditor and for the Democratic and Republican races for lieutenant governor.

None of the state's nine incumbent Democratic U.S. House members is facing primary challengers. There are two contested Republican primaries in the 8th and 9th congressional districts.

A new state law makes "no excuse" mail-in ballots and early voting permanent fixtures in Massachusetts elections. Many of the voting options included in the new law were implemented during the height of the coronavirus pandemic and proved popular.

Liz Truss set to become new UK Conservative prime minister

By SYLVIA HUI and DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Liz Truss has been elected as the Conservative Party's new leader, the party announced Monday, and she will take office Tuesday as Britain's new prime minister to steer the country through an acute cost-of-living crisis.

The 47-year-old Truss, who is currently foreign secretary, beat former Treasury chief Rishi Sunak after a leadership contest in which only about 170,000 dues-paying members of the Conservative Party were allowed to vote. Truss received 81,326 votes, compared with Sunak's 60,399.

She faces immediate pressure to deliver on her promises to tackle the cost-of-living crisis walloping the U.K. and an economy heading into a potentially lengthy recession.

Queen Elizabeth II is scheduled to formally appoint Truss as Britain's prime minister on Tuesday. The ceremony will take place at the queen's Balmoral estate in Scotland, where the monarch is spending her summer, rather than Buckingham Palace in London.

The two-month leadership contest left Britain with a power vacuum at a time of growing discontent amid spiraling energy and food costs. Prime Minister Boris Johnson has made no major policy decisions since he announced he was stepping down on July 7, and officials insisted that measures to address the energy cost crisis would be deferred until his successor is in place.

Meanwhile tens of thousands of workers have gone on strike to demand better pay to keep up with relentlessly rising costs. Inflation is above 10% for the first time since the 1980s, and the Bank of England has forecast that will reach a 42-year high of 13.3% in October. That's largely driven by soaring energy bills, which will jump 80% for the average household starting next month.

"I will deliver a bold plan to cut taxes and grow our economy. I will deliver on the energy crisis, dealing with people's energy bills, but also dealing with the long term issues we have on energy supply," Truss told party members after she was elected.

"I know that our beliefs resonate with the British people: Our beliefs in freedom, in the ability to control your own life, in low taxes, in personal responsibility," she added. "I know that's why people voted for us in such numbers in 2019 and as your party leader I intend to deliver what we promised those voters right across our great country."

Truss has won the support of many Conservatives with her zeal in rolling back state intervention and slashing taxes. Both she and her rival Sunak have spoken of their admiration for Margaret Thatcher, who was prime minister from 1979 to 1990, and her free-market, small-government economics.

But it's not clear how Truss's right-wing brand of conservatism, which played so well with party members — who represent far less than 1% of the U.K.'s adult population — will go down with the wider British public, especially those most in need of government relief to afford essentials like heating their homes this winter.

Truss has promised to act "immediately" to tackle soaring energy bills, but declined to give any details so far.

"The Conservative Party members wanted that message of tax cutting. The country, I would guess, less so," said Bronwen Maddox, director of London's Chatham House think tank.

"At the moment you've got people deeply rattled, many very, very afraid going into a year where all they can see are rising costs," Maddox added. "Until she's got an answer on that, she doesn't have a claim to

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the popularity of the country, I think.”

While the economy is certain to dominate the first months of the new premier’s term, Truss will also have to steer the U.K. on the international stage in the face of Russia’s war in Ukraine, an increasingly assertive China and ongoing tensions with the European Union over the aftermath of Brexit — especially in Northern Ireland.

Australia, New Zealand and Japan issued congratulations to Truss early Tuesday and looked forward to strengthening their ties with the U.K. under her government. “She has been a staunch supporter of the UK’s ‘tilt’ to the Indo-Pacific and played a central role in advancing our historic Free Trade Agreement,” New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said.

Truss will be the U.K.’s fourth Conservative prime minister in six years, entering Downing Street following Johnson, Theresa May and David Cameron.

Johnson was forced to resign after a series of ethics scandals that peaked in July, when dozens of cabinet ministers and lower-level officials quit in protest over his handling of allegations of sexual misconduct by a senior member of his government.

Both Truss and Sunak were key players within Johnson’s Cabinet, though Sunak resigned in the last days of Johnson’s time in office.

A Truss government may not sit well with many because it reminds voters too much of Johnson’s misdeeds, said Steven Fielding, a professor of political history at Nottingham University.

“She’s basically been elected as Boris Johnson 2.0 by Conservative members — she’s made it very clear that she is a loyal Boris Johnson supporter,” he said. “I think she’s going to find it very difficult to disentangle herself from the whole Johnson shadow.”

Truss and Sunak were the final two candidates whittled from an initial field of 11 leadership hopefuls.

Under Britain’s parliamentary system of government, the center-right Conservative Party was allowed to hold an internal election to select a new party leader and prime minister without going to the wider electorate. A new general election isn’t required until December 2024.

Canadian police: 1 suspect in stabbings has been found dead

By ROB GILLIES and ROBERT BUMSTED Associated Press

WELDON, Saskatchewan (AP) — One of the suspects in the stabbing deaths of 10 people in the Canadian province of Saskatchewan has been found dead, and his injuries are not self inflicted, police said Monday as they continued the search for a second suspect.

Regina Police Chief Evan Bray said Damien Sanderson, 31, was found dead near the stabbing sites and they believe his brother, Myles Sanderson, 30, is injured, on the run and likely in the provincial capital of Regina. It was the first time police have identified the two as brothers.

“His body was located outdoors in a heavily grassed area in proximity to a house that was being examined. We can confirm he has visible injuries. These injuries are not believed to be self inflicted at this point,” said RCMP Commanding Officer Assistant Commissioner Rhonda Blackmore, adding they were not sure of the exact cause of death yet.

Asked if Myles Sanderson was responsible for his brother’s death, Blackmore said police are investigating that possibility, but “we can’t say that definitively at this point in time.”

The discovery of the body came on the second day of a massive manhunt for the pair, who are suspected of carrying out a series of stabbings in an Indigenous community and a nearby town, which also left 18 people injured. It was one of the deadliest attacks in the nation’s history.

Authorities have said some of the victims were targeted and others appeared to have been chosen at random on the James Smith Cree Nation and in the town of Weldon in Saskatchewan. They have given no motive for the crimes— but senior Indigenous leaders suggested drugs were somehow involved.

James Smith Cree Nation resident Darryl Burns and his brother, Ivor Wayne Burns, said their sister, Gloria Lydia Burns, was a first responder who was killed while trying responding to a call. Burns said his 62-year-old sister was on a crisis response team.

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"She went on a call to a house and she got caught up in the violence," he said. "She was there to help. She was a hero."

He blamed drugs and pointed to the colonization of Indigenous people for the rampant drug and alcohol use on reserves.

"We had a murder suicide here three years ago. My granddaughter and her boyfriend. Last year we had a double homicide. Now this year we have 10 more that have passed away and all because of drugs and alcohol," Darryl Burns said.

Ivor Wayne Burns also blamed drugs for his sister's death and said the suspect brothers should not be hated.

"We have to forgive them boys," he said. "When you are doing hard drugs, when you are doing coke, and when you are doing heroin and crystal meth and those things, you are incapable of feeling. You stab somebody and you think it's funny. You stab them again and you laugh."

While authorities believe Myles is in Regina, about 335 kilometers (210 miles) south of where the stabbings happened, they have issued alerts in Canada's three vast prairie provinces — which also include Manitoba and Alberta — and contacted U.S. border officials.

With one suspect still at large, fear still gripped communities in the rural, working class area of Saskatchewan surrounded by farmland that were terrorized by the crimes. One witness who said he lost family members described seeing people with bloody wounds scattered throughout the Indigenous reserve.

"No one in this town is ever going to sleep again. They're going to be terrified to open their door," said Ruby Works, who also lost someone close to her and is a resident of Weldon, which has a population of about 200 and is home to many retirees.

As the Labor Day holiday weekend drew to a close Monday, police urged Saskatchewan residents who were returning from trips away to look for suspicious activity around their homes before entering.

Arrest warrants have been issued for the pair of suspects and both men faced at least one count each of murder and attempted murder. More charges were expected.

Police have given few details about the men. Last May, Saskatchewan Crime Stoppers issued a wanted list that included Myles Sanderson, writing that he was "unlawfully at large."

While the manhunt continued, police also issued a provincewide alert for suspects in a shooting on the Witchehan Lake First Nation. Officials said the shooting was not believed to be connected to the stabbings, but such alerts are unusual and the fact that a second occurred while authorities were already scouring the Saskatchewan for the stabbing suspects was notable.

The stabbing attack was among the deadliest mass killings in Canada, where such crimes are less common than in the United States. The deadliest gun rampage in Canadian history happened in 2020, when a man disguised as a police officer shot people in their homes and set fires across the province of Nova Scotia, killing 22 people. In 2019, a man used a van to kill 10 pedestrians in Toronto.

Deadly mass stabbings are rarer than mass shootings, but have happened around the world. In 2014, 29 people were slashed and stabbed to death at a train station in China's southwestern city of Kunming. In 2016, a mass stabbing at a facility for the mentally disabled in Sagami-hara, Japan, left 19 people dead. A year later, three men killed eight people in a vehicle and stabbing attack at London Bridge.

Police in Saskatchewan got their first call about a stabbing at 5:40 a.m. on Sunday, and within minutes heard about several more. In all, dead or wounded people were found at 13 different locations on the sparsely populated reserve and in the town, Blackmore said. James Smith Cree Nation is about 30 kilometers (20 miles) from Weldon.

On Monday, Blackmore said police were still determining the motive, but on Sunday the chief of the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous Nations echoes suggestions the stabbings could be drug-related.

"This is the destruction we face when harmful illegal drugs invade our communities, and we demand all authorities to take direction from the chiefs and councils and their membership to create safer and healthier communities for our people," said Chief Bobby Cameron.

Blackmore said the criminal record of Myles Sanderson dates back years and includes violence.

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The elected leaders of the three communities that make up the James Smith Cree Nation declared a local state of emergency.

Chakastaypasin Chief Calvin Sanderson — who apparently is not related to the suspects — said everyone has been affected by the tragic events.

"They were our relatives, friends," Sanderson said of the victims. "It's pretty horrific."

Among the 10 killed was Lana Head, who is the former partner of Michael Brett Burns and the mother of their two daughters.

"It's sick how jail time, drugs and alcohol can destroy many lives," Burns told the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network. "I'm hurt for all this loss."

Burns later posted on Facebook that there were dead and wounded people everywhere on the reserve, making it look like "a war zone."

"The look in their eyes couldn't express the pain and suffering for all those who were assaulted," he posted.

Weldon residents have identified one of the dead as Wes Petterson, a retired widower who made he coffee every morning at the senior center. He loved gardening, picking berries, canning, and making jam and cakes, recalled William Works, 47, and his mother, Sharon Works, 64.

"He would give you the shirt off his back if he could," William Works said, describing his neighbor as a "gentle old fellow" and "community first."

Sharon Works was baffled: "I don't understand why they would target someone like him anyway, because he was just a poor, helpless little man, 100 pounds soaking wet. And he could hardly breathe because he had asthma and emphysema and everybody cared about him because that's the way he was. He cared about everybody else. And they cared about him."

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said the flag above Canada's parliament building in Ottawa would be flown at half-staff to honor the victims.

"Saskatchewanians and Canadians will do what we always do in times of difficulty and anguish, we will be there for each other," Trudeau said.

Judge grants Trump bid for special master in document search

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — In a legal victory for former President Donald Trump, a federal judge on Monday granted his request for a special master to review documents seized by the FBI from his Florida home and temporarily halted the Justice Department's use of the records for investigative purposes.

The decision by U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon authorizes an outside legal expert to review the records taken during the Aug. 8 search and to weed out from the rest of the investigation any that might be protected by claims of attorney-client privilege or executive privilege. Some of those records may ultimately be returned to Trump, but the judge put off a ruling on that question.

The order came despite the strenuous objections of the Justice Department, which said a special master was not necessary in part because officials had already completed their review of potentially privileged documents. The department said Monday that it was reviewing the decision but did not indicate if and when it might appeal.

The order almost certainly slows the pace of the department's investigation into the presence of top-secret information at Mar-a-Lago, particularly given the judge's directive that the Justice Department may not for the moment use any of the seized materials as part of its investigation into the storage of government secrets at the Florida property. The injunction is in place until the yet-to-be-named special master completes his or her work, or until "further court order."

"The Court is mindful that restraints on criminal prosecutions are disfavored, but finds that these unprecedented circumstances call for a brief pause to allow for neutral, third-party review to ensure a just process with adequate safeguards," Cannon, a Trump appointee, wrote in her 24-page order.

Even so, it is not clear that the decision will present a long-term impediment to the investigation's prog-

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ress or significantly affect investigative decisions or the ultimate outcome of the probe. And a separate assessment by the U.S. intelligence community of the risk posed by the apparent mishandling of classified records will continue under the judge's order.

"While this is a victory for the former President, it is by no means an overwhelming win for him," David Weinstein, a Florida criminal defense lawyer and former Justice Department prosecutor, said in an email. "While it is a setback for the government, it is also not a devastating loss for them."

He noted, for instance, that the judge did not immediately order the seized documents returned to Trump or suppress any of the evidence.

Justice Department spokesman Anthony Coley said Monday that "the United States is examining the opinion and will consider appropriate next steps in the ongoing litigation." A lawyer for Trump did not respond to a request for comment.

The department and Trump's lawyers are to submit by Friday a list of proposed special master candidates.

FBI agents in August seized roughly 11,000 documents and 1,800 other items from Mar-a-Lago as part of a criminal investigation into the retention of national defense information there, as well as into efforts to obstruct the probe. About 100 of the documents contained classification markings.

Trump's lawyers had argued that a special master, usually an outside lawyer or former judge, was necessary to ensure an independent review of records taken during the search and so that any personal information or documents could be filtered out and returned to Trump.

In this case, the seized records "include medical documents, correspondence related to taxes, and accounting information," the judge's order said.

Cannon said it was too soon to know whether Trump will be entitled to the return of any of the records, but "for now, the circumstances surrounding the seizure in this case and the associated need for adequate procedural safeguards are sufficiently compelling to at least get Plaintiff past the courthouse doors."

She also said she found persuasive his lawyers' arguments that he faced potentially "irreparable injury" by being denied access to records that might be of significant personal interest to him. She said the investigative process had, so far, been "closed off" to him.

"As a function of Plaintiff's former position as President of the United States, the stigma associated with the subject seizure is in a league of its own," Cannon wrote. "A future indictment, based to any degree on property that ought to be returned, would result in reputational harm of a decidedly different order of magnitude."

The Justice Department had argued against the appointment, saying it was unnecessary because it had already reviewed potentially privileged documents and identified a limited subset that could be covered by attorney-client privilege.

The department had been using a separate "privilege review team" for that work, but Cannon cited at least two instances in which members of the investigative team were "exposed" to potentially privileged material, something she said raised questions about the adequacy of the process.

The department had also said Trump was not entitled to the return of any of the presidential records that were taken since he is no longer president and the documents therefore do not belong to him. And personal items that were recovered were commingled with classified information, giving them potential evidentiary value, the department said.

Though prosecutors had argued that Trump, as a former president, had no legal basis to assert executive privilege over the documents, the judge said he was entitled to raise it as a concern and permitted the special master to look for records that might be covered by that privilege.

"The major sticking point, I think, is that the executive privilege documents were included" in the judge's decision, said Florida criminal defense lawyer Richard Serafini, a former Justice Department prosecutor.

Cannon, who was nominated by Trump in 2020, had signaled last month that she was inclined to appoint a special master and did so again during arguments last week, asking at one point, "Ultimately, what is the harm in the appointment of a special master to sort through these issues without creating undue delay?"

16 Uvalde fourth graders waited an hour with wounded teacher

By ACACIA CORONADO Associated Press

UVALDE, Texas (AP) — Elsa Avila slid to her phone, terrified as she held the bleeding side of her abdomen and tried to stay calm for her students. In a text to her family that she meant to send to fellow Uvalde teachers, she wrote: "I'm shot."

For the first time in 30 years, Avila will not be going back to school as classes resume Tuesday in the small, southwest Texas city. The start of school will look different for her, as for other survivors of the May 24 shooting at Robb Elementary School in which 21 people died, with an emphasis on healing, both physically and mentally. Some have opted for virtual education, others for private school. Many will return to Uvalde school district campuses, though Robb Elementary itself will never reopen.

"I'm trying to make sense of everything," Avila said in an August interview, "but it is never going to make sense."

A scar down her torso brings her to tears as a permanent reminder of the horror she endured with her 16 students as they waited in their classroom for an hour for help while a gunman slaughtered 19 children and two teachers in two adjoining classrooms nearby.

Minutes before she felt the sharp pain of the bullet piercing her intestine and colon, Avila was motioning students away from the walls and windows and closer to her. A student lined up by the door for recess had just told her something was going on outside: People were running — and screaming. As she slammed the classroom door so the lock would catch, her students took their well-practiced lockdown positions.

Moments later, a gunman stormed into their fourth-grade wing and began spraying bullets before ultimately making his way into rooms 111 and 112.

In room 109, Avila repeatedly texted for help, according to messages reviewed by The Associated Press. First at 11:35 a.m. in the text to her family that she says was meant for the teacher group chat. Then at 11:38 in a message to the school's vice principal. At 11:45, she responded to a text from the school's counselor asking if her classroom was on lockdown with: "I'm shot, send help." And when the principal assured her that help was on the way, she replied simply: "Help."

"Yes they are coming," the principal wrote back at 11:48 a.m.

It's unclear whether her messages were relayed to police. District officials did not respond to requests for comment on actions taken to communicate with law enforcement on May 24, and an attorney for then-Principal Mandy Gutierrez was not available for comment.

According to a legislative committee's report that described a botched police response, nearly 400 local, state and federal officers stood in the hallway of the fourth-grade wing or outside the building for 77 minutes before some finally entered the adjoining classrooms and killed the gunman. Lawmakers also found a relaxed approach to lockdowns — which happened often — and security concerns, including issues with door locks. State and federal investigations into the shooting are ongoing.

The district is working to complete new security measures, and the school board in August fired the district's police chief, Pete Arredondo. Residents say it remains unclear how — or even if — trust between the community and officials can be rebuilt, even as some call for more accountability, better police training and stricter gun safety laws.

Avila recalls hearing the ominous bursts of rapid fire, then silence, then the voices of officers in the hallway yelling, "Crossfire!" and later more officers standing nearby.

"But still nobody came to help us," she said.

As Avila lay motionless, unable to speak loud enough to be heard, some of her students nudged and shook her. She wished for the strength to tell them she was still alive.

A light flashed into their window, but nobody identified themselves. Scared it might be the gunman, the students moved away.

"The little girls closest to me kept patting me and telling me, 'It's going to be OK miss. We love you miss,'" Avila said.

Finally, at 12:33 p.m. a window in her classroom broke. Officers arrived to evacuate her students — the

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last to be let out in the area, according to Avila.

With her remaining strength, Avila pulled herself up and helped usher students onto chairs and tables and through the window. Then, clutching her side, she told an officer she was too weak to jump herself. He came through the window to pull her out.

"I never saw my kids again. I know they climbed out the window and I could just hear them telling them, 'Run, run, run!'" Avila said.

She remembers being taken to the airport, where a helicopter flew her to a San Antonio hospital. She was in and out of care until June 18.

Avila later learned that a student in her class was wounded by shrapnel to the nose and mouth but had since been released from medical care. She said other students helped their injured classmates until officers arrived.

"I am very proud of them because they were able to stay calm for a whole hour that we were in there terrified," Avila said.

As her students prepare to return to school for the first time since that traumatic day, Avila is on the way to recovery, walking up to eight minutes at a time on the treadmill in physical therapy and going to counseling. She looks forward to teaching again someday.

Outside of a shuttered Robb Elementary, a memorial for the people killed overflows at the entrance gate. Teachers from across Texas stopped by this summer to pay their respects and reflect on what they would do in the same situation.

"If I survive, I have to make sure they survive first," said Olga Oglin, an educator of 23 years from Dallas, her voice breaking.

"Whatever happens to a student at our school, it just happens to one of my kids," Oglin said, adding that as the person to greet parents, students and staff at the door in the mornings, she likely would be the first person shot.

Ofelia Loyola, who teaches elementary school in San Antonio, visited with her husband, middle school teacher Raul Loyola. She was baffled at the delayed response from law enforcement, as seen on security and police video.

"They are all kids. It doesn't matter how old they are, you protect them," she said.

Last week, Avila and several of her students met for the end-of-year party they were unable to have in May. They played in the pool at a country club and she gave them each a bracelet with a little cross to remind them that "God was with us that day and they are not alone," she said.

"We always talked about being kind, being respectful, taking care of each other — and they were able to do that on that day," Avila said.

"They took care of each other. They took care of me."

CVS to buy home health-care provider Signify for \$8 billion

DALLAS (AP) — Drugstore operator CVS Health Corp. said Monday that it will buy home-health provider Signify Health for \$8 billion.

CVS said Signify has more than 10,000 employees including physicians and nurses, a presence in every state, and offers technology platforms.

"This acquisition will enhance our connection to consumers in the home and enables providers to better address patient needs as we execute our vision to redefine the health care experience," CVS CEO Karen Lynch said in a statement announcing the deal.

The acquisition would continue CVS' effort to grow from its pharmacy-chain roots to other sectors of the health industry. In 2018, the Woonsocket, Rhode Island, company purchased health insurer Aetna for \$69 billion.

CVS will pay \$30.50 per share in cash for Signify. According to a CVS presentation, the deal has a stock value of \$7.6 billion, with the total transaction rising to about \$8 billion with debt, equity appreciation rights and other items are included.

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CVS will also scoop up Caravan Health, which Signify agreed to buy earlier this year. Caravan works with accountable-care organizations, which are groups of hospitals, doctors and other providers who serve Medicare patients.

The deal is subject to regulatory approval and a vote of Signify shareholders. CVS said private equity funds affiliated with New Mountain Capital, which owns about 60% of Signify stock, have agreed to vote their shares for the deal.

The companies said they expect the deal to close in the first half of next year.

CVS said executives would discuss the transaction in a call with analysts on Tuesday.

Biden blasts 'extreme' GOP in Labor Day swing-state trips

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden excoriated "MAGA Republicans" and the extreme right on Monday, pitching personal Labor Day appeals to swing-state union members who he hopes will turn out in force for his party in November.

"The middle class built America," Biden told a workers' gathering at park grounds in Milwaukee. "Everybody knows that. But unions built the middle class."

Later Monday, he flew to West Mifflin, outside Pittsburgh — returning to Pennsylvania for the third time in less than a week and just two days after his predecessor, Donald Trump, staged his own rally in the state.

The unofficial start of fall, Labor Day also traditionally starts a political busy season where campaigns scramble to excite voters for Election Day on Nov. 8. That's when control of the House and Senate, as well some of the country's top governorships, will be decided.

Trump spoke Saturday night in Wilkes-Barre, near Scranton, where Biden was born. The president made his own Wilkes-Barre trip last week to discuss increasing funding for police, to decry GOP criticism of the FBI after the raid on Trump's Florida estate and to argue that new, bipartisan gun measures can help reduce violent crime.

Two days after that, Biden went to Independence Hall in Philadelphia for a prime-time address denouncing the "extremism" of Trump's fiercest supporters.

Trump has endorsed candidates in key races around the country and Biden is warning that some Republicans now believe so strongly in Trumpism that they are willing to undermine core American values to promote it. The president said Thursday that "blind loyalty to a single leader, and a willingness to engage in political violence, is fatal to democracy."

Trump responded during his Saturday rally that Biden is "an enemy of the state." Republican National Committee Chair Ronna McDaniel tweeted Monday that Biden "is the most anti-worker president in modern history," noting that high inflation had taken a bite out of American wages, income and savings.

During his address in Milwaukee, Biden said "Not every Republican is a MAGA Republican" but singled out those who have taken Trump's "Make America Great Again" campaign cry to dangerous or hateful lengths. He highlighted episodes like last year's mob attack on the U.S. Capitol.

He said that many in the GOP are "full of anger, violence, hate, division."

"But together we can, and we must, choose a different path forward," Biden said. "A future of unity and hope. We're going to choose to build a better America."

The crowd jeered loudly as the president repeatedly chided Republican Sen. Ron Johnson of Wisconsin for voting against a Democratic-backed measure meant to lower prescription drug prices. The president also suggested Johnson and other congressional Republicans were willing to undermine Social Security.

Unions endorsements helped Biden overcome disastrous early finishes in Iowa and New Hampshire to win the 2020 Democratic primary, and eventually the White House. He has since continued to praise the labor movement as president.

Mary Kay Henry, president of the 2 million-member Service Employees International Union, called Biden's championing of unions heading into the midterm elections "critical" and said workers must "mobilize in battlegrounds across the country to ensure that working people turn out."

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"We're really excited about the president speaking directly to workers about, if he had the opportunity, he'd join a union," Henry said. She added: "This president has signaled which side he's on. And he's on the side of working people. And that matters hugely."

In Pennsylvania, Biden addressed members of the United Steelworkers and noted that Trump is a "former, defeated president."

Referencing Trump's persistent, false claims of fraud in the 2020 presidential election, Biden said, "You can't love the country and say how much you love it when you only accept one of two outcomes of an election: Either you won or you were cheated."

Both of the perennial presidential battleground states Biden visited Monday may provide key measures of Democrats' strength before November. With inflation still raging and the president's approval ratings slightly better but remaining low, how much Biden can help his party in top races — and how much candidates want him to try — remains to be seen.

That was on display in Milwaukee, where Democratic Lt. Gov. Mandela Barnes is trying to unseat incumbent Johnson, but didn't appear with Biden.

In the state's other top race, Tim Michels, a construction executive endorsed by Trump, is attempting to deny Democratic Gov. Tony Evers a second term. Evers spoke at the labor event Biden addressed and briefly greeted the president backstage.

"We have a president who understands the challenges facing working families," Evers told the crowd. He said Biden "hasn't forgotten that working families matter, not just on Labor Day, but every single day of the year."

Pennsylvania voters are choosing a new governor, with state Attorney General John Shapiro facing another Trump-endorsed Republican, Doug Mastriano, and a new senator. That race is between Democratic Lt. Gov. John Fetterman and Trump-backed celebrity heart physician Mehmet Oz. Fetterman spoke with Biden before both gave speeches in West Mifflin.

The Pennsylvania and Wisconsin races could decide which party controls the Senate next year, while the winner of each governorship may influence results in 2024's presidential election. The stakes are particularly high given that some Trump-aligned candidates have spread his lies about widespread fraud that did not occur during the 2020 election. Judges, including ones appointed by Trump, dismissed dozens of lawsuits filed after that election, and Trump's own attorney general called the claims bogus.

Vice President Kamala Harris paid tribute to organized labor in at breakfast meeting with the Greater Boston Labor Council, declaring "When union wages go up, everybody's wages go up."

"When union workplaces are safer everyone is safer," Harris said. "When unions are strong, America is strong."

Full of intrigue, 'Don't Worry Darling' dazzles Venice

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

VENICE, Italy (AP) — After much anticipation, Olivia Wilde's "Don't Worry Darling" finally had its world premiere Monday night at the Venice International Film Festival.

Before the film, hundreds of screaming Harry Styles fans swarmed the edges of the red carpet trying to get a glimpse of him. His rapturous reception made the Timothée Chalamet mania seen on Friday seem modest in comparison.

Star Florence Pugh also made a movie star entrance on the Lido donning a sparkling, off-the-shoulder Valentino and, like styles, stopping to talk to fans on her way down the carpet.

By the time the premiere was over, audiences took to their feet, giving "Don't Worry Darling" a five-minute ovation, and Styles could be seen in the balcony giving his co-star Nick Kroll a big hug. Yet premiere day did little to tamp down intrigue about the film and its stars. Some even took note of who was sitting next to who in the theater.

Many keyed in on the film's press conference earlier in the day, with hopes that reports about behind-the-scenes tension with Pugh would be addressed or clarified. Wilde, before the premiere, said she didn't

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want to contribute to "the endless tabloid gossip" and "the noise."

"The internet feeds itself," Wilde said. "I don't need to contribute, I think it's significantly well-nourished."

Pugh is in the middle of production on "Dune 2," a massive blockbuster (also a Warner Bros. joint) and is expected to go straight back after her Venice obligations. Though the star of the film, she did not attend the press conference as her flight had not yet landed.

"Florence is a force and we are so grateful that she is able to make it tonight," Wilde said. "I know as a director how disruptive it is to lose an actor even for a day."

Behind-the-scenes drama rarely extends beyond internal industry gossip, but the question of exactly what happened in the making of "Don't Worry Darling" has become a source of global intrigue. Lack of clarity about everything from Shia LaBeouf's departure from the film early on, to Pugh's perceived lack of public support for the project on her social media accounts have been simmering on TikTok and twitter for some time and then furthered by a report in the Hollywood newsletter Puck, citing various anonymous studio and production sources.

Wilde, for her part, has been nothing but effusive about her lead actor. In an interview with The Associated Press she spoke at length about Pugh's extraordinary talent saying that what she did with the role was "singularly brilliant" and that the character of Alice is a "heroine for the ages."

Still, questions remain about why Pugh has not been posting much about the film on her Instagram. She didn't hype the trailer, or say anything about getting into Venice.

It is worth noting that Pugh's "Dune 2" co-star Chalamet, had a similarly brief stay in Venice for his film "Bones and All." It's likely to be the only appearance he'll make on behalf of that film, but no one wrote any headlines about Chalamet "limiting" his press engagements

Wilde herself also became a tabloid fixture after paparazzi caught on to her off screen relationship with Styles. And then there was the CinemaCon moment, in which Wilde was served custody papers by her ex, Jason Sudeikis, during a presentation about her movie on stage in front of thousands of industry professionals and theater owners.

Then in the past few weeks, all the little threads seemed to catch fire at once. Much of that was stoked by LaBeouf, who came out of the woodwork to contest a two-year-old narrative that he'd been fired from the project. Ultimately, his role went to Styles.

Wilde, in a Variety cover story, is not directly quoted saying she fired him. She did offer: "His process was not conducive to the ethos that I demand in my productions. He has a process that, in some ways, seems to require a combative energy, and I don't personally believe that is conducive to the best performances."

In response, LaBeouf sent private emails, texts and video messages to Variety to prove his case that he actually quit due to lack of rehearsal time. The video message, in which she tries to convince LaBeouf to stay on as Jack, was subsequently leaked online in which calls Pugh "Miss Flo."

The moderator of the press conference cut off a reporter attempting to ask about LaBeouf, saying that Wilde had already answered that in her comment about "tabloid gossip" and noise.

LaBeouf, who is heading to court next year on abuse allegations from his ex, FKA twigs, happens to also be in Venice this year with the film "Padre Pio."

The press conference stuck to the themes of the film, a mid-century styled psychological thriller about a picture-perfect couple Alice (Pugh) and her husband Jack (Styles) who live in an experimental community in the desert.

"We were really interested in the kind of problematic nature of nostalgia itself," Wilde said. "In this film everything is a metaphor...everything that is beautiful is also sinister. That is by design."

The film is playing out of competition at the festival in the lead up to its Sept. 23 theatrical release.

Coast Guard ends search for 9 missing in floatplane crash

By MARTHA BELLISLE and MANUEL VALDES Associated Press

WHIDBEY ISLAND, Wash. (AP) — The U.S. Coast Guard suspended the search Monday afternoon for nine people, including a child, who were missing after a floatplane crashed in the waters of Puget Sound

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northwest of Seattle.

The body of a 10th person, an unidentified female, was recovered by a good Samaritan on Sunday after the crash was reported at 3:11 p.m., Scott Giard, director of the U.S. Coast Guard's search and rescue for the Pacific Northwest, said at a new conference.

Just after noon on Monday, the Coast Guard said it was suspending the search for survivors after "saturating an area" of more than 2,100 square nautical miles (nearly 2,800 square miles or 7,250 square kilometers.

"All next of kin have been notified of this decision," the Coast Guard said on Twitter. "Our hearts go out to the families, loved ones and friends of those who remain missing and the deceased."

The Northwest Seaplanes flight left Friday Harbor, a popular tourist destination in the San Juan Islands, and was headed to Renton Municipal Airport, the company's base, said Coast Guard spokesperson William Colclough.

The plane went down in Mutiny Bay off Whidbey Island, roughly 30 miles (50 kilometers) northwest of downtown Seattle and about halfway between Friday Harbor and Renton, a suburb south of Seattle.

The Coast Guard learned through the seaplane company's owner that two Friday Harbor seaplanes took off Sunday afternoon and the owner was aboard one of the flights, Giard said. The owner told authorities he saw the other plane divert slightly off course and he tried to make radio contact but was unable to.

"Shortly after that, he noticed on his flight tracker that the flight had stopped tracking and notified authorities," Giard said.

Officials received reports that "the aircraft dropped suddenly at a fair amount of speed and hit the water," Giard said. "We don't have any video or pictures of the incident as of this moment."

There was no distress call or distress beacon from the crashing plane, he said. The aircraft has an electronic locating transmitter onboard, but they have not received any transmission, he said.

"That is very typical in times where there is either a hard landing or a crash of an aircraft," he said.

Jon Gabelein of South Whidbey Fire/EMS told KOMO witnesses on the shore reported seeing the plane "nose dive into the water."

Whidbey Island resident Jeff Brewny and his wife were walking their dog Sunday when they heard a loud boom.

"First thought was thunder. It was that loud," he said. "There was no flash like you get with lightning. So, you know, I thought it was a boat exploded. It was that devastating. My dog went crazy."

The National Transportation Safety Board said Monday that they're sending a team of seven to investigate the crash of the DHC-3 Turbine Otter.

The cause of the crash is unknown, authorities said.

Coast Guard searchers found "minimal debris," Giard said. By Monday afternoon, they had only found three to four long and narrow pieces of aluminum, very few personal items, a seat and some small pieces of foam, he said.

Without a clear picture of the actual crash, and not knowing whether it exploded on impact or immediately sank to the sea floor, 150 to 200 feet (45-60 meters) below, it's difficult to know what happened to the plane, he said.

Four Coast Guard vessels, a rescue helicopter and an aircraft had been involved in the extensive search, along with nearby rescue and law enforcement agencies.

Northwest Seaplanes is a family owned business founded by Clyde Carlson, according to the company's website. It has 24-years of "accident and incident free flying," the website said.

The company's business office next to the seaplane dock at the Renton Municipal Airport remained closed behind fencing on Monday. The only visible activity was two people hugging near the front door. The only floatplane at the dock appeared to be a small private Cessna.

A woman who answered the phone early Monday said they're waiting to learn more and are devastated by the crash.

"It's a small crew. Everyone's close," said the woman, who would only give her first name, Michelle. She declined to say more.

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The company posted a message on Facebook late Monday saying they were heartbroken.

"We don't know any details yet regarding the cause of the accident," the post said. "We are working with the FAA, NTSB and Coastguard. We have been in communication with the families. We are praying for the families involved, including our pilot and his family."

The Northwest Seaplanes website says its sister company Friday Harbor Seaplanes operates daily flights to and from their Renton base and the San Juan Islands, a scenic archipelago northwest of Seattle that draws tourists from around the world.

Floatplanes, which have pontoons allowing them to land on water, are a common sight around Puget Sound, an inlet of the Pacific Ocean. There are multiple, daily flights between the Seattle area and the San Juan Islands.

These aircraft, which also fly between Seattle and Vancouver, British Columbia, frequently travel over Seattle and land on Lake Washington and on Lake Union, not far from the city's iconic Space Needle.

The airport where the flight was headed Sunday is at the southern tip of Lake Washington, less than 5 miles (8 kilometers) from Seattle. It's located next to a Boeing plant and is best known for where new 737s first hit the sky.

In July, 2020, a De Havilland Beaver operated by Brooke's Seaplanes was on a scenic flight in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, with five passengers and a pilot when it collided with a Cessna 206. Eight people were killed.

In 2019, a midair crash in Alaska between two sightseeing planes killed six people. The Ketchikan-based floatplanes were carrying passengers from the same cruise ship, the Royal Princess, and were returning from tours of Misty Fjords National Monument.

Ukraine says nuclear plant offline after Russian shelling

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Europe's largest nuclear plant was knocked off Ukraine's electricity grid Monday, its last transmission line disconnected because of a fire caused by shelling, the facility's operator and the U.N. atomic watchdog said.

The International Atomic Energy Agency said it was informed Monday by Ukrainian authorities that the reserve line "was deliberately disconnected in order to extinguish a fire."

"The line itself is not damaged, and it will be reconnected once the fire is extinguished," the IAEA said.

In the meantime, the plant's only remaining operational reactor would "generate the power the plant needs for its safety and other functions," the agency said.

Mycle Schneider, an independent analyst in Canada on nuclear energy, said that would mean the plant was likely functioning in "island mode," producing electricity just for its own operations.

"Island mode is a very shaky, unstable, and unreliable way to provide continuous power supply to a nuclear plant," Schneider said.

The incident fueled fears of a potential nuclear disaster at Zaporizhzhia, one of the 10 biggest nuclear plants in the world. Experts say its reactors are designed to protect against natural disasters and incidents such as aircraft crashes, but leaders around the world have appealed for it to be spared in the fighting because of the risk of a catastrophe.

Russia and Ukraine accuse each other of attacking the plant, which the Kremlin's forces have held since early March. The plant's Ukrainian staff continue to operate it.

The plant's operator, Energoatom, said Monday that Russian forces have kept up "intensive shelling" around Zaporizhzhia in recent days despite the warnings. The Russian military accused Ukrainian forces of staging "provocations" there, including sending a drone, which was intercepted, and shelling the adjacent city of Enerhodar.

Ukrainian Energy Minister Herman Halushchenko said on Facebook that fighting around the power station made it impossible to repair damaged power lines, putting the world "once again on the brink of a nuclear disaster."

The developments at Zaporizhzhia came on the eve of a report to the U.N. Security Council on Tuesday by the IAEA inspectors about what they found on their visit. The IAEA still has two experts at the plant

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after a perilous inspection that required its inspectors to travel through the fighting last week.

Ukraine's presidential adviser, Mykhailo Podolyak, applauded the IAEA's decision to leave some experts at the plant.

"There are Russian troops now who don't understand what's happening, don't assess the risks correctly," Podolyak said. "There is a number of our workers there, who need some kind of protection, people from the international community standing by their side and telling (Russian troops): 'Don't touch these people, let them work.'"

Meanwhile, in some of Moscow's bluntest comments yet on the standoff between it and Western Europe over energy supplies, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov blamed Western sanctions for stoppages in Russia's supply of natural gas to Europe.

"Other reasons that would cause problems with the pumping don't exist," Peskov said.

The sanctions on Moscow and Russian oil companies have created problems with equipment maintenance, he said, a claim that has been refuted by Western governments and engineers.

German officials have said Russian complaints about technical problems are merely a political power play. Germany's Siemens Energy, which manufactured turbines the Nord Stream 1 pipeline uses, said turbine leaks can be fixed while gas continues to flow through the pipeline.

Russian energy company Gazprom announced Friday that a suspension of gas supplies heading westwards through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline would be extended indefinitely because oil leaks in turbines need fixing. That move brought a surge in European natural gas prices and walloped global stock markets.

High energy prices and possible shortages this winter in Western Europe have set alarm bells ringing among governments, notably those in the European Union. French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday called for a 10% cut in his country's energy use in coming weeks and months to avoid the risk of rationing and cuts this winter.

Elsewhere in Ukraine, the fighting raged on. The president's office said at least four civilians were killed and seven others were wounded by new Russian shelling across several regions of Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said there had been Russian shelling across much of southern and eastern Ukraine, including at Zelenodolsk, Nikopol, Chernihiv, and the Sumy and Kharkiv regions.

Russian rockets destroyed an oil depot in the Krivoy Rog region, sending up huge plumes of smoke, Ukrainian news reports said.

Amid increased Ukrainian strikes on the occupied Kherson region, Russian-installed authorities there said early Monday that for security reasons they were putting on hold their plans for a local referendum on whether the region should formally become part of Russia.

But by the afternoon, officials had a change of heart and said the ballot would go ahead as planned, though no date has been set.

In the eastern city of Sloviansk, workers with the Ukrainian Red Cross Society swept up debris Monday from a second rocket attack on its premises in a week. Nobody was hurt in either attack, said Taras Logginov, head of the agency's rapid response unit. He blamed Russian forces and called the attacks war crimes.

In a row of apartment buildings across the road, the few residents who haven't evacuated sawed sheets of plywood to board up their shattered windows.

Henadii Sydorenko sat on the porch of his apartment building for a break. He said he's not sure whether to stay or leave, torn between his responsibility of taking care of three apartments whose owners have already evacuated and the increasing fear of the now frequent shelling.

"It's frightening," the 57-year-old said of the shelling. "I'm losing my mind, little by little."

New Orleans political patriarch Moon Landrieu has died

By KEVIN MCGILL undefined

NEW ORLEANS, La. (AP) — Former New Orleans Mayor Moon Landrieu — whose early, lonely stand against segregationists in the Louisiana legislature launched a political career at the forefront of sweeping changes on race — died Monday, a family friend confirmed. He was 92.

Ryan Berni, a longtime friend of the family, confirmed that Landrieu passed away early Monday.

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"He died peacefully this morning surrounded by family," Berni told The Associated Press.

A progressive white Democrat whose demeanor could be combative at times, Landrieu came from a blue-collar Roman Catholic family, served in the Army and sat alongside the first Black students at the city's Loyola law school before winning a statehouse seat in 1960.

By then, six years had passed since the U.S. Supreme Court ordered public schools to desegregate nationwide, and Landrieu couldn't in good conscience go along when Gov. Jimmie Davis steamrolled legislation to keep students in New Orleans separated by race. They passed by lopsided margins with Landrieu, at least once, the lone "no" vote.

The white politicians who had a lock on power on Louisiana said he'd dug his political grave, but he held onto his House seat in 1963 and then won a city council seat in 1965 with strong support from Black voters, whose influence was beginning to be felt at the polls.

To win his first mayoral term, Landrieu assembled a coalition of white liberals and African Americans and campaigned to bring Black people into important positions in government.

Integrating City Hall had its costs: In a 2018 memoir, Mitch Landrieu wrote that death threats were phoned into his family home and his school. Moon Landrieu discussed the blowback over race in a 1977 speech to the National League of Cities convention.

"If you embark on a campaign to end racial discrimination in your hometown, you will need nerves of steel, a will of iron, skin like leather and testicles of brass to withstand the slings and arrows," he said. "I have myself these past eight years been known in some quarters as 'Moon the Coon,' an epithet that has caused me some pain at times, but that is also a badge of honor that bears testimony to what we try to do."

His mayoral legacy also includes his support for the state's construction of the Louisiana Superdome, which finally opened in 1975. It's a beloved fixture of the city landscape now, but cost overruns and a contract scandal caused headaches for its supporters, including Landrieu.

"There has been an unbelievable emphasis on the few things that have been wrong with it and total neglect of the many, many things that are right with it," he said several years later.

As Black voters gained influence, the coalition that elected Landrieu to the maximum two terms helped make Ernest "Dutch" Morial the city's first Black mayor, in 1978.

Landrieu then became President Jimmy Carter's secretary of housing and urban development, an agency whose programs came under attack when President Ronald Reagan took office on a platform to reduce the federal government's size and power.

Landrieu criticized Reagan for "gutting" public aid programs, and briefly considered a presidential bid of his own. But he never sought national office. Instead, he became a judge -- "I really wanted to get out of my kids' way," he said -- serving on Louisiana's 4th Circuit Court of Appeal from 1992 to 2000.

Several of Landrieu's nine children continue his legacy in law and politics: Mitch, also a two-term New Orleans mayor, is now President Joe Biden's infrastructure coordinator; Mary, who served three terms as a U.S. senator, is now a policy adviser with a Washington law firm. Madeleine became dean of the law school at Loyola University New Orleans, and Maurice is a federal prosecutor.

Born Maurice E. Landrieu on July 23, 1930, he was called Moon, a family nickname, throughout his life and eventually made that his legal first name. He served three years in the Army before opening a small, walk-up law office with law school classmate Pascal Calogero, later the chief justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Landrieu credited his wife, Verna, with nudging him into politics, and his Black classmates, including Norman Francis, who would become Xavier University's dean and president, for opening his eyes.

"It wasn't just a question of racial justice, but from a practical standpoint, I recognized -- as a politician, as a legislator and councilman -- that we were wasting so much talent, wasting so much energy, by precluding Blacks from participation in all matters," he recalled in a 2020 interview with the New Orleans weekly newspaper Gambit.

"And I was determined, as I became mayor, to revitalize this city and to bring about racial integration, so that the city could enjoy the full benefit of white and Black participants."

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Gov. John Bel Edwards called Landrieu a man of "bold vision."

"Moon Landrieu was a courageous and defining voice for Louisiana and his beloved hometown of New Orleans," Edwards said in a statement. "In addition to his many contributions to our state and nation, he leaves behind the most enduring legacy of all – a family that continues his fight for equality."

OPEC+ makes small trim to world oil supplies as prices fall

By DAVID McHUGH AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — OPEC and allied oil-producing countries, including Russia, made a small trim in their supplies to the global economy Monday, underlining their unhappiness as recession fears help drive down crude prices — along with the cost of gasoline, to drivers' delight.

The decision for October rolls back a mostly symbolic increase of 100,000 barrels per day in September. It follows a statement last month from Saudi Arabia's energy minister that the OPEC+ coalition could reduce output at any time.

Oil producers such as Saudi Arabia have resisted calls from U.S. President Joe Biden to pump more oil to lower gasoline prices and the burden on consumers. OPEC+ has stuck with only cautious increases to make up for deep cuts made during the COVID-19 pandemic, which were finally restored in August.

Since then, growing worries about slumping future demand have helped send oil prices down from June peaks of over \$120 per barrel, cutting into the windfall for OPEC+ countries' coffers but proving a blessing for drivers in the U.S. as pump prices have eased.

The supply cut for October is only a small fraction of the 43.8 million barrels per day under OPEC+ production goals, but wrong-footed several analysts' predictions of no change in output. Oil prices jumped after the announcement.

U.S. crude rose 3.3%, to \$89.79 per barrel, while international benchmark Brent was up 3.7%, to \$96.50, after the decision.

The amount of oil per day "may seem negligible, but the message from today's cut is clear: OPEC+ thinks they've fallen enough," Columbia University energy policy expert Jason Bordoff tweeted.

Oil prices have gyrated in recent months: Recession fears have pushed them down, while worries of a loss of Russian oil because of sanctions over its invasion of Ukraine pushed them up.

Recently, recession fears have taken the upper hand. Economists in Europe are penciling in a recession at the end of this year due to skyrocketing inflation fed by energy costs, while China's severe restrictions aimed at halting the spread of the coronavirus have sapped growth in that major world economy.

Those falling oil prices have been a boon to U.S. drivers, sending gasoline prices down to \$3.82 per gallon from record highs of over \$5 in June and offering a potential boost to Biden as his Democratic Party heads into midterm elections.

"The President has been clear that energy supply should meet demand to support economic growth and lower prices for American consumers and consumers around the world," White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said. "President Biden is determined to continue to take every step necessary to shore up energy supplies and lower energy prices."

In June, fears that U.S. and European sanctions would take Russian oil off the market helped push Brent to over \$123. Prices have fallen sharply in recent weeks as it became clear that Russia is still managing to sell significant amounts of oil in Asia, albeit at sharply discounted prices.

But concerns about the loss of Russian supply are still out there because European sanctions aimed at blocking most Russian oil imports won't take effect until the end of the year.

Other factors are lurking that could influence the price of oil. For one, the Group of Seven wealthy democracies plan to impose a price cap on Russian oil aimed at battling high energy prices and reducing oil profits that Russia can use for its war in Ukraine.

That's if the cap works as intended. Russia could refuse to supply oil to countries and companies observing the cap, which would take barrels off the market. The price cap has not been set, and its influence on the global price remains unclear.

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Meanwhile, a deal between Western countries and Iran to limit Tehran's nuclear program could ease sanctions and see more than 1 million barrels per day of Iranian oil return to the market in coming months. However, tensions between the U.S. and Iran appear to have risen in recent days: Iran seized two U.S. naval drones in the Red Sea, and U.S., Kuwaiti and Saudi warplanes flew over the Middle East on Sunday in a show of force.

OPEC+ countries' energy ministers said their September increase of 100,000 barrels a day was only for that month and that the group could meet again at any time to address market developments.

New this week: John Legend, 'Serpent Queen' and 'Pinocchio'

By The Associated Press undefined

Here's a collection curated by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists of what's arriving on TV, streaming services and music platforms this week.

MOVIES

— A race between two "Pinocchio" films begins with Robert Zemeckis' adaptation ahead of Guillermo del Toro's by a nose. On Thursday, Zemeckis' animated fantasy of the classic Italian fable will premiere on Disney+. Next month, Del Toro's stop-motion "Pinocchio" will debut at the London Film Festival and eventually land on Netflix on Dec. 9. For now, we have Zemeckis' take on the old tale with Tom Hanks as the voice of Geppetto and Cynthia Erivo as the Blue Fairy.

— A trio of the summer's biggest box-office hits are landing on streaming platforms. On Thursday, Taika Waititi's whimsically deconstructive "Thor: Love and Thunder" arrives on Disney+. The 29th film in the Marvel cinematic universe, and possibly the Marvel movie most distinctively the work of its filmmaker, "Love and Thunder" follows-up Waititi's "Thor: Ragnarok." In his review the AP's Mark Kennedy wrote: "If you thought that was bananas filmmaking, its sequel is the whole fruit basket."

— "Jurassic World: Dominion" (Peacock) and "Elvis" (HBO Max) are also streaming. Colin Trevorrow's "Dominion," which has nearly grossed \$1 billion at the box office, is available in both its theatrical cut and an extended edition with 14 more minutes and an alternative ending. In her review, AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr praised some of its sequences but called the sixth film in the franchise "a chaotic mishmash on an epic scale." Baz Luhrmann's carnivalesque Elvis Presley biopic, starring breakthrough actor Austin Butler and Tom Hanks, also doesn't skimp on scale. In her review, Bahr called it "gloriously messy — a maximalist opera of contradictions, styles, truths, myths, memories and headlines."

— AP Film Writer Jake Coyle

MUSIC

— John Legend isn't taking the easy route with his eighth studio album. "Legend" is a massive 24-song double album with the new EGOT honoree collaborating with Rick Ross, Jazmine Sullivan, Jada Kingdom, Rapsody, Ledisi, Jhene Aiko, Ty Dolla \$ign and more. Initial singles on the Friday release point to a light, dance beat: The super-sexy, sticky "Honey" with Muni Long, the funky "Dope" with rapper JID and the retro, roller disco jam "All She Wanna Do" featuring Saweetie, with one of the cutest videos ever as the two performers surprise auditioning dancers.

— Now for something a little different: Kane Brown's third studio album, "Different Man," is out Friday. It will feature 17 songs, including singles "Like I Love Country Music," "Whiskey Sour," "One Mississippi," "Leave You Alone" and "Grand," an expertly crafted hip-hop-country melding with happy lyrics: "Remember when I couldn't stand it?/Now I got the posture." Look for two duets — "Different Man," with Blake Shelton and Brown's wife, Katelyn, on "Thank God." "Different Man" represents the first time Brown co-produced one of his albums.

— With "Nut," KT Tunstall finishes a trilogy of albums she began recording and releasing in 2016 with "Kin" and then "Wax." The trio explore the three existential parts of ourselves, first the spirit, then the body and now with "Nut," the mind. One of the singles from the new album, "I Am The Pilot," is a terrific synth-driven tune that nicely represents what she wanted to do with a mind-orientated album: lean into rhythm. The Scottish Tunstall burst onto the music scene in 2004 with her multi-platinum debut, "Eye to

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the Telescope," which spawned the global hits "Black Horse and the Cherry Tree" and "Suddenly I See."

— Ozzy Osbourne has tapped some of the best guitarists on the planet for his latest solo album, "Patient Number 9" — guys like Eric Clapton, Jeff Beck, Mike McCready, Zakk Wylde and former Black Sabbath band member Tony Iommi. Beck lends his axe skills for the rocking title track, in which Ozzy sings: "If there's a God, why'd he let the Devil do his work on me?/If there's a God, what am I doing here?" Others aboard for this Ozzfest are Red Hot Chili Pepper drummer Chad Smith, Metallica's Rob Trujillo, Guns N' Roses bassist Duff McKagan and Foo Fighters' late drummer Taylor Hawkins.

— AP Entertainment Writer Mark Kennedy

TELEVISION

— Adventure athletes are the stars of "Edge of the Unknown with Jimmy Chin," debuting Monday, on the National Geographic channel (on Disney+ starting Wednesday, Sept. 7.) The 10-part series details the risks, rewards and mindset of such athlete, kicking off with back-to-back episodes on rock climber Alex Honnold of "Free Solo" documentary fame and big mountain skier Angel Collinson. Filmmaker Jimmy Chin, a pro climber and skier who's featured in an episode, is executive producer with E. Chai Vasarhelyi. They directed the Oscar-winning "Free Solo."

— Catherine de Medici, the Italian-born, 16th-century French queen with a fierce reputation, owns the spotlight in Starz' edgy "The Serpent Queen." Samantha Morton ("The Walking Dead") stars as the adult Catherine, with Liv Hill seen in flashbacks as the teenager destined to become the wife of one French king and the influence-wielding mother of three others. Colm Meaney, Kiruna Stamell and Rupert Everett are part of the ensemble cast of the eight-part series debuting Sunday, Sept. 11, on Starz's streaming platforms (and on the Starz channel).

— Susan Sarandon and Trace Adkins play country music royalty in Fox's new drama "Monarch," but their dynasty is in danger of toppling. Anna Friel, Joshua Sasse and Beth Ditto co-star as the couple's offspring, with an impressive back-up chorus dropping in: Shania Twain, Martina McBride, Little Big Town and Tanya Tucker are among the guest stars on the series debuting Sunday after Fox's NFL telecast. "Monarch" settles into its regular 8 p.m. EDT Tuesday slot beginning Sept. 20.

Red wave crashing? GOP momentum slips as fall sprint begins

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Politics Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The possibility of a great red wave still looms.

But as the 2022 midterm elections enter their final two-month sprint, leading Republicans concede that their party's advantage may be slipping even as Democrats confront their president's weak standing, deep voter pessimism and the weight of history this fall.

The political landscape, while still in flux, follows a string of President Joe Biden's legislative victories on climate, health care and gun violence, just as Donald Trump's hand-picked candidates in electoral battlegrounds like Arizona, Georgia, Ohio and Pennsylvania struggle to broaden their appeal. But nothing has undermined the GOP's momentum more than the Supreme Court's stunning decision in June to end abortion protections, which triggered a swift backlash even in the reddest of red states.

"This midterm looks and feels significantly different than it did six months ago," said veteran Republican pollster Neil Newhouse. The abortion ruling "has energized some segments, especially the Democratic constituency, and it has thrown a wrench, at least to some extent, into the hopes of winning a ton of seats."

History suggests Republicans should dominate the November elections.

In the modern era, the party that holds the White House has lost congressional seats in virtually every first-term president's first midterm election. Ronald Reagan lost 26 House seats, Bill Clinton lost 52, Barack Obama 63 and Trump 40. Only George W. Bush's Republican Party enjoyed a modest eight-seat gain in his first midterm, coming after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Nine weeks before Election Day, leading operatives in both parties expect Republicans to pick up roughly 10 to 20 House seats, which would give the GOP a narrow majority in the chamber in November and break up Democrats' control of the federal government. But many Republicans are losing confidence in

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the high-stakes fight for the Senate majority and key governorships across the nation.

In Pennsylvania, Democratic gubernatorial candidate Josh Shapiro argues that his focus on public safety, education, the economy and freedom is driving his momentum but concedes that his opponent is also a major factor.

"Folks trust me to get it done," Shapiro, the state attorney general, told The Associated Press. "And in fairness, in part, it's because I'm running against the guy who's by far the most extreme and dangerous candidate in the nation."

In one of the nation's most important swing states, Republicans nominated Doug Mastriano as their nominee for governor, even after learning about his leading role in Trump's push to overturn the 2020 election.

The state senator and retired military officer helped organize the state's effort to submit fake presidential electors beholden to Trump and was seen outside the Capitol as pro-Trump demonstrators attacked police on Jan. 6, 2021. He has also alienated moderate voters and even some Republicans with divisive positions on several issues, including abortion, which he opposes in all circumstances.

Mastriano's campaign didn't respond to an interview request for this story.

Shapiro will launch his first TV ad of the fall campaign on Tuesday, casting Mastriano's fierce opposition to abortion rights and gay marriage as a threat to Pennsylvania's economy. The ad is the first spot in a \$16.9 million television advertising investment the campaign reserved for the nine weeks leading up to Election Day.

Republican National Committee Chair Ronna McDaniel acknowledged that the GOP must sharpen its message on abortion given the Democrats' apparent momentum.

"We can't allow them to control the narrative," McDaniel said in an interview.

She emphasized Republican leaders' record of supporting exceptions for abortion in cases of rape, incest and the life of the mother, sidestepping questions about candidates like Mastriano, Georgia Senate nominee Herschel Walker and Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, who oppose such exceptions.

"I'm not going to speak about every candidate and where they're at," McDaniel said. "But the past four Republican presidents since Roe believe in the exception, and that is where I think a lot of the American people are, according to polling. But they also believe in limitations, and Democrats have shown no inclination to have any limitation."

On the Republican Party's broader midterm outlook, McDaniel said top races were always likely to tighten, despite the conventional wisdom that a massive red wave was building.

"Many of these states are battleground states," she said. "It's going to be tight."

On paper, Republicans continue to enjoy tremendous advantages.

Beyond the weight of history, Democrats are saddled with Biden's low favorability ratings as roughly 7 in 10 voters believe the country is headed in the wrong direction. Democratic strategists acknowledge serious political headwinds as inflation and pessimism surge, but they note gas prices have ticked down, pandemic worries have waned and Biden has won major legislative victories on several key issues.

"Republicans haven't taken advantage of the bad political environment. And they punted on having any agenda or getting anything done," said Biden pollster John Anzalone, who was far less confident about the midterm outlook at the beginning of the summer.

"Historically, this should be a 30- or 40-seat win by Republicans," he added. "The entire Republican Party has been one big mistake for the past four or five months."

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell has blamed GOP "candidate quality" for why his party was more likely to win the House than the Senate.

Florida Sen. Rick Scott, who leads the Senate GOP campaign arm, sees it differently.

"He and I clearly have a disagreement on this. I think we've got great candidates," Scott told the AP, citing opportunities to challenge Democrats in blue states like Colorado and Washington state. "I think we're doing fine."

Scott did acknowledge some uncertainty involving Trump's role in the coming weeks.

The former president helped his loyalists, most of whom embraced his conspiracy theories about the

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2020 election, win primary elections across the country throughout the spring and summer. But it's unclear how Trump will help them, if at all, as the election moves into the fall.

"He's got a choice about what he wants to do. He clearly has some candidates that he wanted to get through the primaries and they did," Scott said. "He'll make his own decision on what he wants to do."

At the same time, a disproportionate number of women are registering to vote. And if recent voting patterns hold, that's good news for Democrats.

In at least seven states, women made up a higher share of newly registered voters following the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, according to an AP analysis of voter data from L2, a nonpartisan data provider.

In the five weeks after the court eliminated the constitutional right to abortion, women made up 64% of new Kansas registrations. Then, on Aug. 2, Kansas voters overwhelmingly rejected a ballot measure that would have let state lawmakers impose new restrictions on abortions.

Trump-backed Republicans who oppose abortion rights are fighting for momentum in several swing states.

A leading Republican Senate super PAC recently canceled television ad reservations in Arizona, where Blake Masters is running, while committing \$28 million to help Trump loyalist JD Vance in Ohio, a state Trump carried by 8 points in the last election. In Pennsylvania, there are concerns that Mastriano is dragging down the rest of the Republican ticket, while Trump-endorsed GOP Senate nominee Mehmet Oz is struggling with residency questions. And in Georgia, Walker is facing difficult questions about his past and his opposition to abortion in all cases.

Rep. Tom Emmer, the Minnesota Republican who leads the House GOP campaign arm, warned his party against taking anything for granted.

He noted that most of the seats Republicans are targeting this fall are set in districts Biden carried, a contrast from past elections where Republicans found success in GOP-leaning districts.

"Don't be measuring the drapes," Emmer told the AP in a message to Republican colleagues. "This isn't the typical midterm that we're talking about."

As Africa's climate warms, rich countries pledge more funds

By WANJOHI KABUKURU Associated Press

MOMBASA, Kenya (AP) — Rich countries said they will spend about \$25 billion by 2025 to boost Africa's efforts to adapt to climate change as the continent continues to struggle with drought, cyclones and extreme heat, according to officials at a summit in Rotterdam in the Netherlands on Monday.

The amount promised by the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program — a joint initiative between various nations and organizations — is billed as the largest ever adaptation effort globally. Half of the amount is pledged by the African Development Bank with representatives from Denmark, the United Kingdom, France, the Netherlands, the International Monetary Fund and others also offering their support for the initiative.

The continent emits just 3% to 4% of emissions despite being home to nearly 17% of the world's population but experts say it is particularly vulnerable to climate change as it is less able to adapt. African nations hope to use the funds to improve their resilience to extreme weather events, such as droughts or floods, increase tree cover and protect biodiversity, as well as expand their renewable energy capacity.

The summit comes just weeks after the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development found that rich countries had failed to deliver on their 2009 promise to spend \$100 billion a year to aid developing countries to adapt to a warming climate. The organization said \$83.3 billion was given to poorer nations in 2020, the highest ever sum, but still short of the original amount.

If the funds promised at the Rotterdam summit are delivered, the decades-old goal will finally be achieved but African nations warn this will not be enough.

"Africa does not have the resources to tackle climate change," Akinwumi Adesina, president of the African Development Bank, told the summit. "The continent only receives 3% of the total climate financing."

Africa will need between \$1.3 and \$1.6 trillion this decade to implement its commitments to the Paris climate agreement, an annual cost between \$140 and \$300 billion, Adesina said. He added that the costs of adapting to climate change are expected to increase by 2050, as the effects of global warming get

more severe.

Ghana's President Nana Akufo Addo said his country will push for the funds allocated to adapting to a warmer climate to be doubled at the forthcoming United Nations summit in Egypt in November.

After decades of developed countries falling short on their funding promises, many African nations remain skeptical that the funds will ever reach the continent.

The U.N. Climate Change High-Level Champion for Egypt, Mahmoud Mohieldin, said the existing global climate financing structure is "insufficient and ineffective," especially for Africa.

Medicaid extensions for new moms grow, may run into limits

By TOM MURPHY AP Health Writer

States around the country are making it easier for new moms to keep Medicaid in the year after childbirth, a time when depression and other health problems can develop.

But tight government budgets and the program's low reimbursement may ultimately limit this push or make it hard for women with extended coverage to find doctors.

"A lot of things have changed since the pandemic," said Venessa Aiken, a new mom in Orlando, Florida. "A lot of places no longer take Medicaid or if they do, you have to wait like two months before you can be seen."

Many women enroll in government-funded Medicaid health insurance when they become pregnant, because qualifying income levels are higher than for women who aren't pregnant. The federal government requires states to maintain that coverage for 60 days postpartum, or after the baby arrives. After that, moms in many states lose the coverage unless their income levels are extremely low.

Since the spring, 23 states and Washington, D.C., have said they will extend that coverage for a full year postpartum. Several more states are planning to do so.

These extensions will start helping people after the federal government's COVID-19 public health emergency ends because states are required to keep patients enrolled during the emergency. It currently will extend at least into early next year.

The push to extend coverage has grown to include both conservative and liberal-leaning states. It also is endorsed by President Joe Biden's administration as a way to improve equality: Postpartum mortality rates can be much higher among Black and American-Indian or Alaskan Native populations.

"There's no reason why we should stop before we have every particular mother and baby (covered)," Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra told The Associated Press. "Why wouldn't you want to provide to a new mother and new baby a full year's peace of mind?"

The state and federally funded Medicaid program covers prenatal doctor visits for moms and about 42% of births in the U.S.

Having that coverage eliminated some stress for Maureen Forman, who said she was already concerned about her pregnancy when she gave birth to her son last year.

"It was really nice not to worry," the 41-year-old Bloomington, Indiana, resident said. "I just knew it was all going to be covered. I wish other pregnant women had that same experience."

Care providers and researchers say that coverage should extend well beyond 60 days after the baby arrives.

They note that many new moms need more time to squeeze in doctor visits while they recover from childbirth and care for a newborn. Some also are juggling a return to work while doing this.

A coverage extension "matches the reality of the postpartum period," said Usha Ranji of the non-profit Kaiser Family Foundation, which researches health care issues.

Issues like postpartum depression can develop months later, and some mothers might have lingering health problems that need care. Some also may need continued substance abuse treatment.

Those who lose coverage may not be able to afford another option like private insurance.

The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimated last year that about 45% of women on Medicaid will become uninsured after the 60-day postpartum coverage period ends.

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While nearly half the states have expanded the coverage, health economist Joe Antos said he thinks others will hesitate to add the expense to their budgets.

Mississippi lawmakers scuttled a bill earlier this year that would have extended postpartum coverage partly over concerns about expanding the program.

The coverage extensions, which last five years, are backed partly by funding from the 2021 American Rescue Plan Act. States will have to pay some of the bill.

If the economy slides into a recession, "state enthusiasm for further expansions will also drop off as their own budgets tighten up," said Antos, who's with the American Enterprise Institute.

Extending the coverage does not automatically guarantee better care, because finding doctors can be difficult.

Jennie Joseph says the idea of trying to get a referral to a mental health specialist for a Medicaid patient is "laughable." The Florida midwife said patients first have to find a doctor to provide that referral and then land a therapist who accepts Medicaid, which is even harder.

Joseph is the founder of Commonsense Childbirth, a nonprofit that operates a birth center and clinic in central Florida. She said low Medicaid reimbursement rates and payment hassles are challenging for care providers. She said the government program pays her clinic less than half of what a commercial insurer would pay for a prenatal visit. Medicaid reimbursement for postpartum visits is even less, as little as \$34.

"It's all about trying to get your claim paid, and they are more readily denied than they are paid," she said. "Because of that, providers don't make postpartum appointments for these mothers."

Aiken, the Orlando newborn mom, gave birth at Joseph's center in July. She has had a hard time getting a call back from her primary care doctor's office, and she's worried about getting a referral to a specialist.

"It's pretty confusing," she said. "Who do you turn to when you don't have a (primary care physician)?"

Becerra said he knows that doctor access must be improved. But he sees the coverage extensions as a step toward making things better.

"Let's get people through the door and let's continue to work to increase the number of quality caregivers who will be there to meet those folks," he said. "But today we have hundreds of thousands of women and babies who can't even walk through the door."

'Tale of two borders': Mexicans not seen at busy crossings

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

YUMA, Ariz. (AP) — As hundreds of migrants line up along an Arizona border wall around 4 a.m., agents try to separate them into groups by nationality.

"Anyone from Russia or Bangladesh? I need somebody else from Russia here," an agent shouts and then says quietly, almost to himself, "These are Romanian."

It's a routine task for the Border Patrol in the wee hours in this flat expanse of desert where the wall ends. Migrants from at least 115 countries have been stopped here in the last year, but that may be less striking than what's missing: Mexicans are virtually absent.

Instead, families from Venezuela, Colombia, Haiti, Cuba, Brazil, India and dozens of other countries arrive in Yuma after wading through the knee-deep Colorado River. Their presence reflects how a pandemic-era rule still shapes the journeys of many migrants, even though much of the U.S. has moved on from COVID-19.

The changing demographics mark a dramatic shift away from the recent past, when migrants were predominantly from Mexico and Central America's Northern Triangle countries — Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador. That's especially clear at some of the busiest crossings, like Yuma and Eagle Pass, Texas, near where several people died in recent days while trying to cross the Rio Grande.

Mexicans still cross elsewhere but often try to elude capture because they are likely to be expelled under a pandemic rule that denies them a chance to seek asylum.

Mexicans still account for 7 of every 10 encounters in the Border Patrol's Tucson, Arizona, sector, where smugglers order them to walk at night with black-painted water jugs, camouflage backpacks and boots with carpeted soles to avoid leaving tracks in the sand, said John Modlin, the sector chief.

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"Incredibly different tale of two borders, even though they're within the same state," Modlin said.

Migrants who are not from Mexico and the Northern Triangle accounted for 41% of stops on the border from October through July, up from only 12% three years earlier, according to government data.

In Yuma, they wear sandals and carry shopping bags stuffed with belongings over their shoulders. Some carry toddlers. The migrants typically walk a short distance through tribal lands and surrender to agents, expecting to be released to pursue their immigration cases.

Meanwhile, Mexicans made up 35% of all border encounters from October through July, higher than three years ago but well below the 85% reported in 2011 and the 95% at the turn of the century.

In theory, the rule that denies migrants the right to seek asylum on grounds of preventing spread of COVID-19 applies to all nationalities. But in practice, Title 42 is enforced largely for migrants who are accepted by Mexico, which agreed to take in people expelled from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, as well as its own citizens.

It is difficult for the U.S. to send others to their home countries due to costs, strained diplomatic relations and other considerations.

"The challenge is what Mexico can accept," Modlin said. "That's always going to be a limiting factor."

In Yuma, Title 42 has become almost nonexistent, with the pandemic rule being applied in only 192 of 24,424 stops in July — less than 1%. In Tucson, it was used in 71% of stops. A court order has kept Title 42 in place indefinitely.

It is unclear why routes are so divergent. U.S. officials believe inhospitable mountains and canyons near Tucson favor people trying to escape detection, while the ease of crossing in places like Yuma makes those paths better suited for families seeking to surrender.

"What we know with absolute certainty is that the smuggling organizations control the flow," Modlin said. "They decide who goes where and when they go to the point. It's almost like air traffic control of moving people around."

In Yuma, groups of up to about two dozen migrants are dropped off by bus or car on a deserted Mexican highway and then begin arriving shortly after midnight at the edge of the imposing wall built during Donald Trump's presidency.

If English and Spanish fail, agents use Google Translate to question them under generator-powered lights, take photos and load them onto buses.

Migrants arrive over several hours on different paths, sparking concern among agents that smugglers may be trying to confuse them to sneak some through undetected.

One recent morning, six Russians said they flew from Istanbul to Tijuana, Mexico, with a stop in Cancun, and hired a driver to take them four hours to the deserted highway where they crossed.

A 26-year-old man who flew from his home in Peru to Tijuana said the most difficult part of the journey was the anxiety about whether he'd make it to his destination in New Jersey.

Nelson Munera, 40, said he, his wife and their 17-year-old son got off a bus on the highway and crossed to Yuma because fellow Colombians had taken the same route.

Lazaro Lopez, who came with his 9-year-old son from Cuba by flying to Nicaragua and crossing Mexico over land, chose Yuma because that's where his smuggler guided him.

"An opportunity presented itself," said Lopez, 48.

The Border Patrol drops off hundreds of migrants each day at the Regional Center for Border Health, a clinic near Yuma that charters six buses daily to Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport. Migrants are released on humanitarian parole or with a notice to appear in immigration court.

The clinic began the airport shuttles for migrants in February 2021 and recently added buses to Washington, paid for by the state of Arizona.

"We have seen families from over 140 countries," said Amanda Aguirre, the health-care provider's chief executive officer. "We haven't seen one from Mexico, not through our processing."

The shift is also evident on the Mexican side of the border.

The Don Chon migrant shelter in nearby San Luis Rio Colorado fills many of its roughly 50 beds with Central Americans who were expelled under Title 42.

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Kelvin Zambrano, 33, who arrived in a large group of Hondurans, said he fled threats of extortion and gang violence. Border Patrol agents wouldn't let him share his story, he said.

"I don't know why, but they don't want Hondurans," he said.

Today in History: September 6, McKinley fatally shot

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, Sept. 6, the 249th day of 2022. There are 116 days left in the year.

Today's Highlights in History:

On Sept. 6, 1901, President William McKinley was shot and mortally wounded by anarchist Leon Czolgosz (CHAWL'-gawsh) at the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. (McKinley died eight days later; Czolgosz was executed on Oct. 29.)

On this date:

In 1909, American explorer Robert Peary sent a telegram from Indian Harbor, Labrador, announcing that he had reached the North Pole five months earlier.

In 1943, 79 people were killed when a New York-bound Pennsylvania Railroad train derailed and crashed in Philadelphia.

In 1949, Howard Unruh, a resident of Camden, New Jersey, shot and killed 13 of his neighbors. (Found to have paranoid schizophrenia, Unruh was confined for the rest of his life; he died in a Trenton nursing home in 2009 at age 88.)

In 1972, the Summer Olympics resumed in Munich, West Germany, a day after the deadly hostage crisis that left eleven Israelis and five Arab abductors dead.

In 1975, 18-year-old tennis star Martina Navratilova of Czechoslovakia, in New York for the U.S. Open, requested political asylum in the United States.

In 1991, the Soviet Union recognized the independence of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia.

In 1997, a public funeral was held for Princess Diana at Westminster Abbey in London, six days after her death in a car crash in Paris. In Calcutta, India, weeping masses gathered to pay homage to Mother Teresa, who had died the day before at age 87.

In 2001, in a dramatic shift, the Bush administration abandoned the Clinton-era effort to break up Microsoft.

In 2002, meeting outside Washington, D.C. for only the second time since 1800, Congress convened in New York to pay homage to the victims and heroes of September 11.

In 2006, President George W. Bush acknowledged for the first time that the CIA was running secret prisons overseas and said tough interrogation had forced terrorist leaders to reveal plots to attack the United States and its allies.

In 2007, opera star Luciano Pavarotti died in Modena, Italy, at the age of 71.

In 2018, the agent for actor Burt Reynolds confirmed that Reynolds, known for his roles in "Deliverance," "The Cannonball Run" and "Smokey and the Bandit," had died at the age of 82.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama conceded only halting progress toward solving the nation's economic woes, but vowed in a Democratic National Convention finale, "Our problems can be solved, our challenges can be met." Drew Peterson, the former Illinois police officer who gained notoriety after his much-younger wife, Stacy, vanished in 2007, was convicted of murdering a previous wife, Kathleen Savio. (Peterson was later sentenced to 38 years in prison.)

Five years ago: Hurricane Irma, the most powerful hurricane ever recorded in the Atlantic, pounded Puerto Rico with heavy rain and powerful winds; authorities said more than 900,000 people were without power. A California parole panel recommended parole for Leslie Van Houten, who at 19 was the youngest of Charles Manson's murderous followers in 1969. (California Gov. Jerry Brown later blocked her release.) Pope Francis was welcomed by jubilant crowds along the road from the airport into Bogota, Colombia, where he encouraged Colombians to reconcile after five decades of armed rebellion. Two French com-

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panies among the world's biggest makers of luxury goods, including the owners of brands like Dior and Gucci, agreed to stop working with fashion models who were unhealthily thin.

One year ago: Support programs for Americans still being hit hard financially by the pandemic expired, including one that provided jobless aid to self-employed and gig workers; the Biden administration's \$300 weekly supplemental unemployment benefit also ended. The Taliban said they had seized the last Afghan province that hadn't been in their control after their blitz through the country in August. Actor Michael K. Williams, best known for his role on "The Wire," was found dead in his New York apartment; he was 54. (A medical examiner found that Williams had died of acute drug intoxication.) A lawyer for actor Jean-Paul Belmondo confirmed that the actor, star of the French New Wave film "Breathless," had died at 88.

Today's Birthdays: Comedian JoAnne Worley is 86. Country singer David Allan Coe is 83. Rock singer-musician Roger Waters (Pink Floyd) is 79. Actor Swoosie Kurtz is 78. Comedian-actor Jane Curtin is 75. Rock musician Mick Mashbir is 74. Country singer-songwriter Buddy Miller is 70. Actor James Martin Kelly is 68. Country musician Joe Smyth (Sawyer Brown) is 65. Actor-comedian Jeff Foxworthy is 64. Actor-comedian Michael Winslow is 64. Rock musician Perry Bamonte is 62. Actor Steven Eckholdt is 61. Rock musician Scott Travis (Judas Priest) is 61. Pop musician Pal Waaktaar (a-ha) is 61. Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie is 60. Television journalist Elizabeth Vargas is 60. Country singer Mark Chesnutt is 59. Actor Betsy Russell is 59. Actor Rosie Perez is 58. R&B singer Macy Gray is 55. Country songwriter Lee Thomas Miller (Songs: "The Impossible" "You're Gonna Miss This") is 54. Singer CeCe Peniston is 53. Actor Daniele Gaither is 52. Actor Dylan Bruno is 50. Actor Idris Elba is 50. Actor Justina Machado is 50. Actor Anika Noni (ah-NEE'-kuh NOH'-nee) Rose is 50. Rock singer Nina Persson (The Cardigans) is 48. Actor Justin Whalin is 48. Actor Naomie Harris is 46. Rapper Noreaga is 45. Actor Natalia Cigliuti is 44. Rapper Foxy Brown is 44. Actor Howard Charles is 39. Actor/singer Deborah Joy Winans is 39. Actor Lauren Lapkus is 37. Rock singer Max George (The Wanted) is 34.