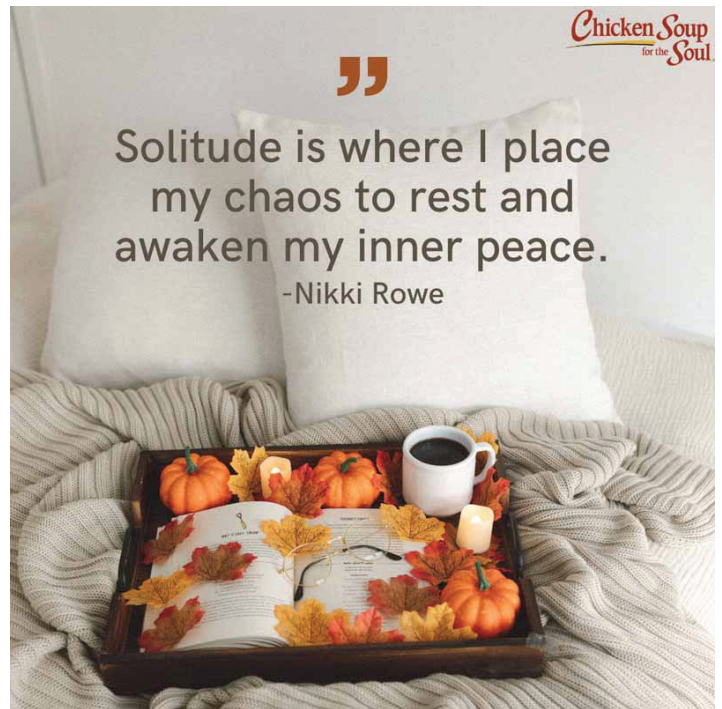


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Groton Community Calendar

Thursday, Nov. 3

Region 1A Volleyball: 6 p.m.: Groton Area at Roncalli

School Breakfast: Oatmeal.

School Lunch: Chicken sandwich, fries.

Senior Menu: Tuna noodle casserole, peas and carrots, swedish apple pie square, whole wheat bread.

2 p.m.: Emmanuel Lutheran Nigeria Circle

6:30 p.m.: UMC Bible Study with Ashley

Friday, Nov. 4

School Breakfast: Cereal

School Lunch: Pizza crunchers, green beans.

Senior Menu: Sloppy joe on wheat bun, oven roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables, fruit sauce.

SATURDAY CLEANER NEEDED IN FERNEY, SD, 830 am to 130 pm, \$16 an hour. Must be dependable and be willing to work around customers coming into the family owned business. Please call Stephanie at 605-381-1758. (1102.1109)

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.

© 2022 Groton Daily Independent

Good Luck Lady Tiger Volleyball Team on Thursday from these GDILIVE.COM Sponsors!

BAHR SPRAY FOAM

BARY KEITH AT HARR MOTORS

BIERMAN FARM SERVICE

BK CUSTOM T'S & MORE

BLOCKER CONSTRUCTION

DACOTAH BANK

DAN RICHARDT - GROTON FORD

GROTON CHAMBER COMMERCE

GROTON CHIROPRACTIC CLINIC

GROTON LEGION

HEAVY HITTER DETAILING WITH CYRUS DEHOET

HEFTY SEED

JOHN SIEH AGENCY

KARMA SALON

RUTGEAR605

LORI'S PHARMACY

MILBRANDT ENTERPRISES INC

SD ARMY NATIONAL GUARD WITH BRENT WIENK

THUNDER SEED - JOHN WHEETING

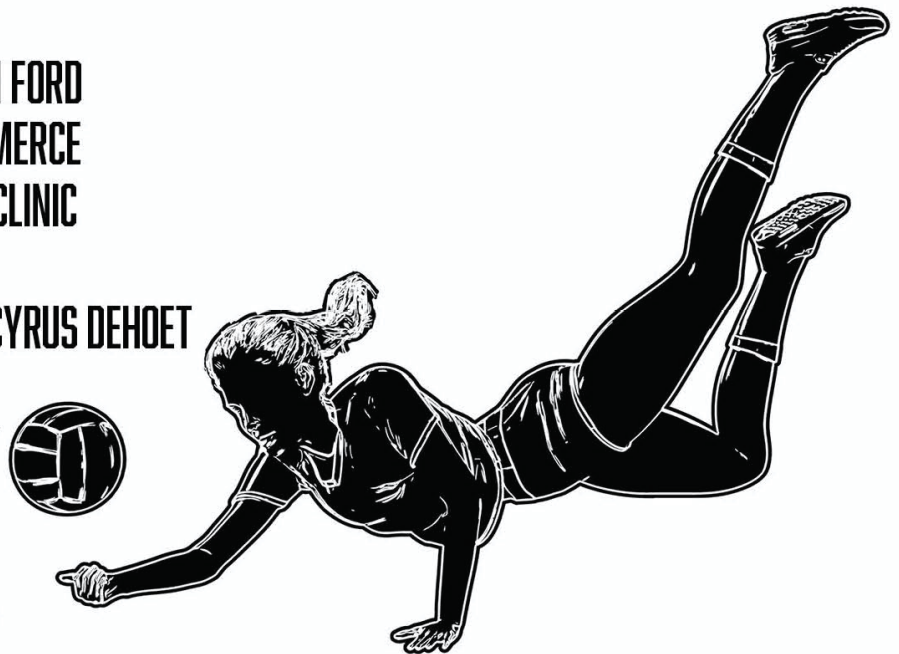
WEISMANTEL INSURANCE AGENCY

WATCH THE MATCH ON THURSDAY, 6 P.M.,

FOR **FREE** ON GDILIVE.COM

GROTON VS. RONCALLI

REGION 1A MATCH



Listen to the awesome play-by-play commentary with Justin Hanson and Ryan Tracy!

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Groton Chamber of Commerce

November 2, 2022

12pm City Hall

- Individuals present: Christine Hilton, Katelyn Nehlich, Hope Block, Kellie Locke, Carol Kutter, April Abeln, Doug Heinrich, and Bruce Babcock
- Dues mailing materials were distributed for members to get ready to mail while meeting items were discussed.
- Minutes from the previous meeting were approved on a motion by Block and seconded by Locke. All members present voted aye.
- Treasurer's report was given. Dacotah Bank checking account balance is \$25,113.75. \$1,008.40 is in the Bucks account. Report was approved by Block and seconded by Heinrich. All members present voted aye. It was mentioned a Facebook post about Chamber Bucks should be posted.
- Motion by Abeln and seconded by Locke to order more \$10 Chamber Bucks. All members present voted aye. (after meeting a box of \$10 Bucks was located, so order was not placed.)
- Motion by Abeln and seconded by Block to do a \$100 Facebook boost on the post regarding shirt orders and shirt giveaway. All members present voted aye. Abeln will email better order form images and will ask Kay to post link to order form on the Chamber website. Shirt orders are open now until November 23rd with 5 shirt winners being announced on that date as well.
- Motion by Abeln and seconded by Block to order 50 of the rawhide leatherette tumblers from Rustic Cuts as long as the 15% discount is given. All members present voted aye.
- Geffdog Rack Cards were discussed. Abeln will email changes and have an updated proof available at the next meeting.
- Motion by Abeln and seconded by Block to publish a half page ad in both the Aberdeen Magazine and SD Magazine for July/August, September/October, November/December issues for 2023. All members present voted aye.
- Dues notices were mailed today and window clings were presented. Nehlich will mail clings to paid 2023 members.
- Ashley Smith has resigned from the Chamber due to work commitments. A new Vice President and Email Coordinator along with Advertising Coordinator will be elected at the January meeting along with other board positions.
- Motion by Block and seconded by Abeln to donate a Chamber tumbler and \$25 in Chamber bucks to the FEZtival of Trees event put on at the Yelduz Shrine Center. All members present voted aye. The City of Groton will be sponsoring the Christmas tree and decorations. Other businesses are encouraged to donate gifts to be placed under the tree. Tree and gifts will be raffled as a fundraiser for the Yelduz Shrine.
- It was decided not to decorate a Christmas tree at Wage Memorial Library.
- Motion by Abeln and seconded by Hilton to gift the Wage Memorial Library \$50 in Chamber Bucks to be given away to the People's Choice Christmas tree winner at their Tour of Homes event. All members present voted aye.
- Motion by Block and seconded by Heinrich to gift \$50 in Chamber Bucks to Next Level Nutrition to be given away the final day of their 12 Days of Christmas Giveaway. All members present voted aye.
- Motion by Abeln and seconded by Babcock to donate \$100 to the Groton Snow Queen. All members present voted aye.
- Motion by Abeln and seconded by Block to donate \$100 in Chamber Bucks to the Community Thanksgiving hosted by Tom & Barb Paepke at the Community Center on Thanksgiving Day. All members present voted aye. It was suggested we schedule a picture opportunity for such donation.
- Electronic sign ad spots were sold in 2015 with leases lasting 10 years. It was decided to leave Wells Fargo ad spot until lease is done since they are still in business elsewhere.
- Smith Autobody would like to wait until they have their signage installed to have their new business welcome.

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- Motion by Abeln and seconded by Heinrich to donate \$100 to the Shop for a Cop event organized by Dakota Broadcasting. All members present voted aye. All Fraternal Order of Police members, including Groton Police Department, Aberdeen Fire & Rescue, and SD Game, Fish & Parks employees are encouraged to participate. Families are chosen by the Salvation Army.

- Block will contact businesses that have not paid dues prior to our electronic sign drawing to encourage them to be members.

- Next meeting:

- o December 7th at City Hall 12-1pm with Ken's catered lunch of Chicken, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Corn, and Biscuits. An RSVP email will be sent out and Chamber members will be encouraged to attend as well.

- Upcoming events

- o 11/06/2022 SEAS Catholic Church Soup Supper 5:30-7:30pm
- o 11/10-12/2022 Lori's Pharmacy Holiday Open House
- o 11/10-12/2022 Beauty Brew Boutique Holiday Open House
- o 11/11-13/2022 Front Porch 605 Christmas at the Barn 10am-5pm each day o 11/13/2022 Groton Area Snow Queen
- o 11/19/2022 Legion Post #39 Turkey Party 6:30pm
- o 11/24/2022 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm
- o 12/03/2022 Holiday Tour of Homes & Silent Auction at Olive Grove Golf Course 4-7pm o 12/10/2022 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9am-12pm
- o 01/29/2023 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed at the Community Center 10am-1pm
- o 01/29/2023 85th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm



2023 DOG LICENSES due by Dec. 30, 2022

Fines start January 1, 2023

Spayed/Neutered dogs are \$5 per dog, otherwise \$10 per dog

Proof of rabies shot information is **REQUIRED!!**

Email proof to city.kellie@nvc.net,

fax to (605) 397-4498 or bring a copy to City Hall!!

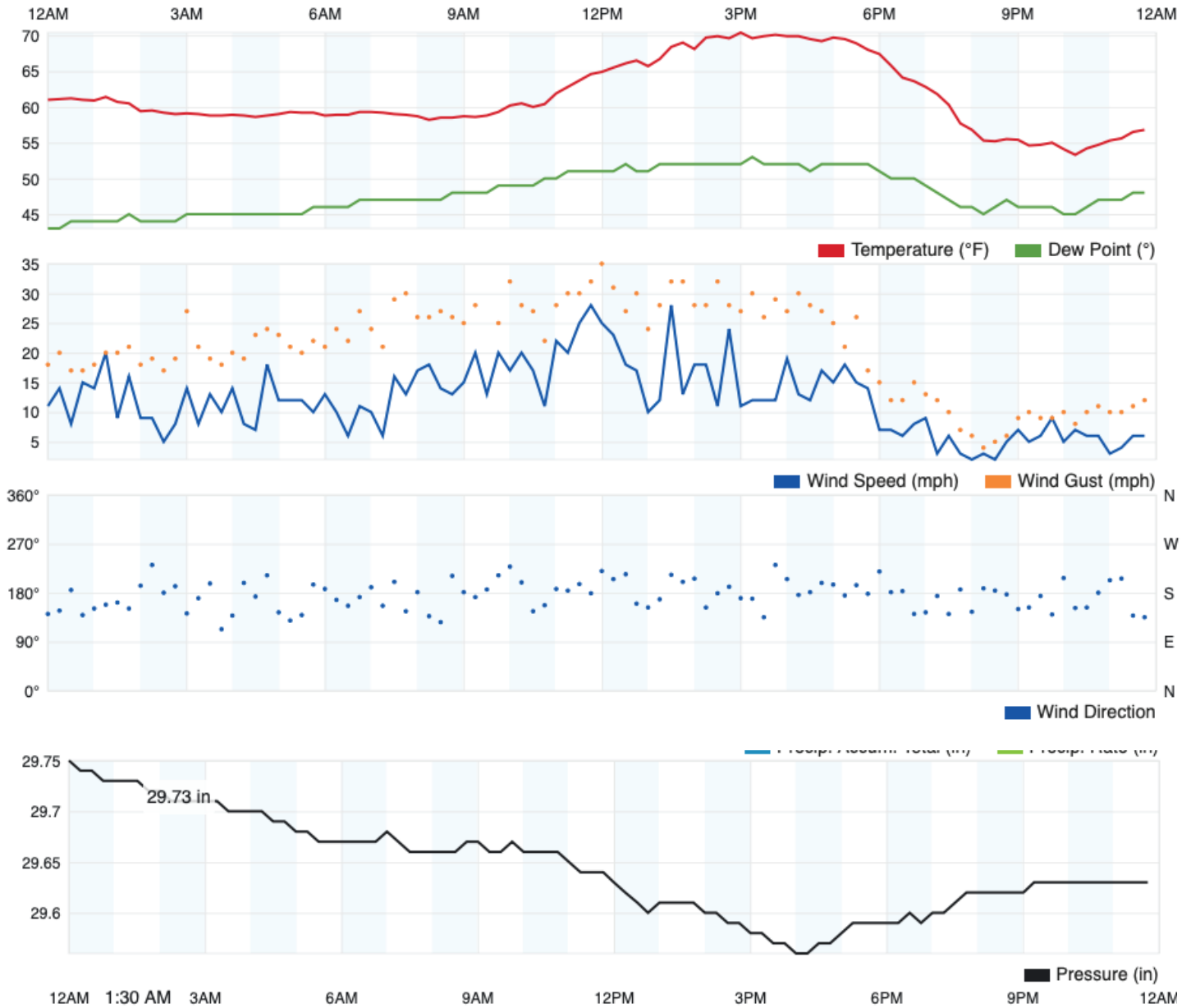
Please contact City Hall as soon as possible if you no longer have a dog(s) that were previously licensed!

Questions call (605) 397-8422

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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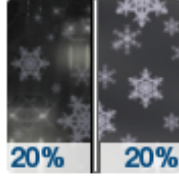
Today



Mostly Sunny
then Slight
Chance Rain
and Breezy

High: 51 °F

Tonight



Slight Chance
Rain/Snow and
Blustery then
Slight Chance
Snow

Low: 29 °F

Friday



Gradual
Clearing

High: 43 °F

Friday
Night



Mostly Clear

Low: 21 °F

Saturday



Sunny

High: 51 °F

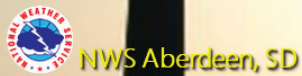
Maximum Wind Gust Forecast

	11/3 Thu													
	9am	10am	11am	12pm	1pm	2pm	3pm	4pm	5pm	6pm	7pm	8pm	9pm	
Aberdeen	29	32	31	31	30	31	31	31	30	30	30	29	29	
Britton	23	28	28	28	29	30	30	30	30	28	29	28	29	
Eagle Butte	38	40	39	38	37	36	36	35	32	31	32	31	29	
Eureka	31	33	35	36	36	36	35	32	31	29	29	26	25	
Gettysburg	37	39	39	40	40	38	37	35	32	31	31	30	29	
Kennebec	30	32	33	35	36	36	36	33	32	32	31	31	30	
McIntosh	37	39	39	39	39	38	37	36	33	31	29	25	24	
Milbank	15	17	20	21	23	24	25	25	25	25	26	28	29	
Miller	28	30	30	31	31	31	31	30	30	28	30	28	26	
Mobridge	32	33	35	36	35	35	33	32	31	29	29	28	25	
Murdo	37	38	38	38	37	36	35	33	32	30	32	33	33	
Pierre	31	32	33	33	33	33	32	30	30	28	30	30	29	
Redfield	28	31	31	31	32	31	31	31	30	29	30	29	28	
Sisseton	20	22	23	24	25	25	26	26	26	26	26	28	28	
Watertown	16	18	20	23	24	25	26	26	26	25	26	25	25	
Webster	22	25	28	28	30	30	31	31	30	29	30	29	30	
Wheaton	16	18	20	21	21	23	23	23	24	23	24	25	28	

OUTLOOK

Thurs	Fri	Sat
H: 40 to 55	H: 42 to 46	H: 50 to 59
	L: 20 to 31	L: 18 to 23

Windy
Light
Rain/Snow



Cooler air has arrived. We will see some light amounts of moisture today/tonight with windy conditions as well.

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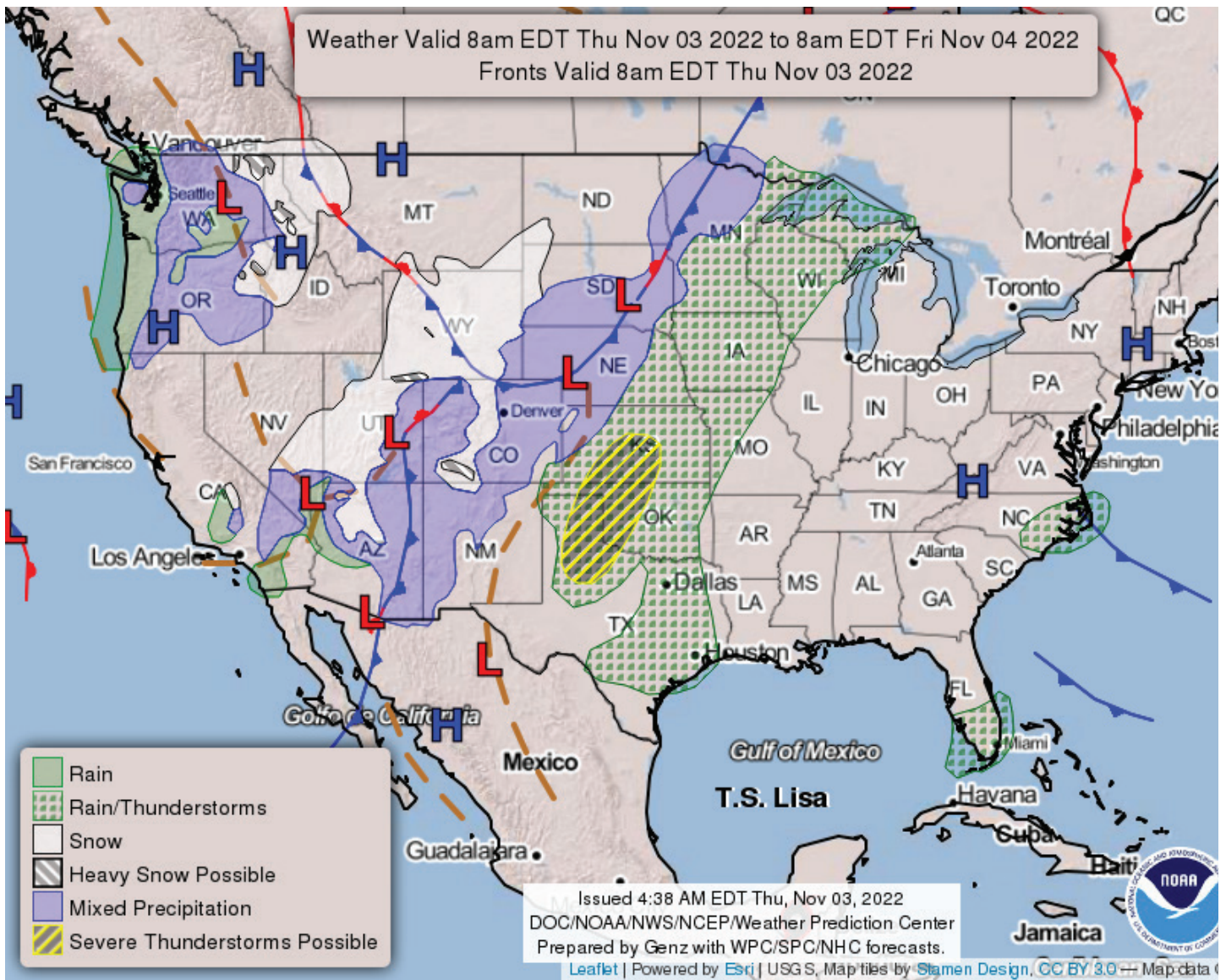
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 70 °F at 3:38 PM
Low Temp: 53 °F at 10:07 PM
Wind: 36 mph at 11:48 AM
Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 10 hours, 5 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 76 in 2020
Record Low: 1 in 1991
Average High: 49°F
Average Low: 25°F
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.10
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 20.57
Precip Year to Date: 16.50
Sunset Tonight: 6:18:30 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 8:14:47 AM



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Today in Weather History

November 3rd, 2003: Heavy snow fell across the area, including 6 to 9 inches across Big Stone County in Minnesota, with nine inches in Ortonville. Heavy snow of up to eight inches fell across Grant County in South Dakota. Six inches fell at Big Stone City, and 8 inches fell at Milbank. Heavy snow also fell from the early morning to around noon across parts of central South Dakota. Six inches of snow fell at Kennebec, Fort Thompson, Gann Valley, and Miller.

1890 - The temperature at Los Angeles, CA, reached 96 degrees, a November record for 76 years. (David Ludlum)

1927: Historic flooding occurred across Vermont from November 2nd through the 4th. The flood washed out 1285 bridges, miles of roads and railways, and several homes and buildings. Eighty-four people were killed from the flooding, including Lt. Governor S. Hollister Jackson.

1927 - Somerset VT was deluged with 8.77 inches of rain to establish a 24 hour record for the state. (3rd-4th) (The Weather Channel)

1961 - A rare November thunderstorm produced snow at Casper, WY. (3rd-4th) (The Weather Channel)

1966: An early season snowfall, which started on the 2nd, whitened the ground from Alabama to Michigan. Mobile, Alabama, had their earliest snowflakes on record. Louisville, Kentucky measured 13.1 inches, Nashville; Tennessee reported 7.2 inches, and Huntsville, Alabama, had 4 inches of snow.

1987 - Twenty-one cities, mostly in the Ohio Valley, reported record high temperatures for the date. The afternoon high of 80 degrees at Columbus OH was their warmest reading of record for so late in the season. Showers and thundershowers associated with a tropical depression south of Florida produced 4.28 inches of rain at Clewiston in 24 hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A sharp cold front brought about an abrupt end to Indian Summer in the north central U.S. Up to a foot of snow blanketed Yellowstone Park WY, and winds in the mountains near the Washoe Valley of southeastern Wyoming gusted to 78 mph. Unseasonably warm weather continued in the south central U.S. Del Rio TX tied Laredo TX and McAllen TX for honors as the hot spot in the nation with a record warm afternoon high of 91 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Cold weather prevailed in the central U.S. Six cities in Texas, Minnesota, and Michigan, reported record low temperatures for the date. The low of 7 above zero at Marquette MI was their coldest reading of record for so early in the season. (The National Weather Summary)

2001: Hurricane Michelle reached peak intensity on this day as a Category 4 storm. Michelle made landfall on November 4-5, between Playa Larga and Playa Giron, Cuba, as a Category 4 hurricane, the strongest to strike the country since 1952's Hurricane Fox. The storm caused an estimated \$2 billion US dollars in damage to Cuba.

2002: A Magnitude 7.9 earthquake struck central Alaska. The quake is the 9th largest to be recorded in the US.

2007: Dense fog in the early morning hours resulted in a 100 vehicle pile-up just north of Fowler, CA on I-99. Two people were killed, and 41 others were injured. The thick seasonal fog is known as "Tule fog" and typically occurs in Central California in late fall and winter.

2011: Floodwaters by Tropical Depression Keila's heavy rainfall were responsible for several deaths in Oman.

2013: The town of Arnhem in the Netherlands was hit with several tornadoes.

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

IT ALL BELONGS TO GOD

Our Psalmist had a great way of looking at things. "There is the sea vast and spacious," he observed. Perhaps he was sitting on a beach looking beyond the rolling waves as they crashed on the shore one after another. Maybe he was on a hillside far removed from the water - yet thinking about its various contents and the ships that floated quietly above its depths.

But he also "saw" beneath the water and beyond their endless waves. He was aware that it was "teeming with creatures beyond number - living things both large and small. There the ships go to and fro, and the leviathan, which you formed to frolic there."

The sea - though "vast and spacious" - was not an end in itself. It contained all sizes and shapes of creatures that he could not see nor was able to count. They enjoyed "frolicking" - or playing in a part of His creation that He made just for them.

There also were ships that went "to and fro" that carried people and cargo to distant lands that he could not see. The ocean was not an end in itself, either. With all of its majesty and might and endless movement, it also has its place in God's creation.

Nothing in God's creation is an end in itself. "For all things," Paul said, "were created by Him and for Him." We can look anywhere and everywhere and whatever our eyes see has God's trademark on it. Everything is signed with His name, for His honor, His glory, for His plan and for His purpose. Especially us. What more can we do for Him?

Prayer: Lord, we are the "crown" of Your creation. Please help us realize how precious we are to You. We pray that we will do all that we can in Your name for You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: There is the sea vast and spacious teeming with creatures beyond number, living things both large and small. There the ships go to and fro, and the leviathan, which you formed to frolic there. Psalm 104:25-26



We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God's grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God's Word and we pray this good "seed" finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him

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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
11/13/2022: Snow Queen Contest
11/19/2022: 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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The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

Subscription Form

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Password _____

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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 Wednesday:

Dakota Cash

14-20-24-32-34

(fourteen, twenty, twenty-four, thirty-two, thirty-four)

Estimated jackpot: \$141,000

Lotto America

12-19-37-50-52, Star Ball: 9, ASB: 2

(twelve, nineteen, thirty-seven, fifty, fifty-two; Star Ball: nine; ASB: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$29,530,000

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: 119,000,000

Powerball

02-11-22-35-60, Powerball: 23, Power Play: 2

(two, eleven, twenty-two, thirty-five, sixty; Powerball: twenty-three; Power Play: two)

Estimated jackpot: \$1,500,000,000

Editorial Roundup: South Dakota

By The Associated Press undefined

Yankton Press & Dakotan. November 1, 2022.

Editorial: Food Tax Repeal And The Possible Details

Monday's District 18 legislative forum in Yankton touched on several points, but one issue presents an unusual set of challenges.

That would be the repeal of South Dakota's food tax, which was the first question posed to the four House and two Senate candidates during the Interchange/Yankton Thrive forum.

It's unusual because the matter has been debated for several years and briefly made a significant breakthrough in last winter's legislative session when it surprisingly passed the House. The repeal has been championed by Democrats for years, but it always ran into a wall of Republican opposition. But that wall vanished in the House and the measure was passed, sending the bill to which it was attached back to the Senate for reconciliation. However, Senate Republicans refused to even set up a committee to consider the measure, which killed the bill without so much as a debate.

But this fall, Gov. Kristi Noem, in the midst of a reelection fight against Democratic State Rep. Jamie Smith, announced she would support a food tax repeal, which would result in a tax cut of approximately \$100 million. Smith has been a longtime proponent of the repeal.

However, as was pointed out in Monday's forum, there are details regarding the repeal, such as which foods would and wouldn't have the tax repealed. There is also a big question of how the state would make up the \$100 million loss in revenue.

The conversation among candidates about an issue that, it seems at the moment, both sides agree upon (to varying degrees) revealed interesting nuances and a lot of uncertainty.

As we've noted here before, South Dakota is one of just a handful of states that still taxes food, which is a regressive tax that hits the poorest residents the hardest.

The concerns about how South Dakota might make up for the shortfall are important, for it can have ripple effects on several other areas of the budget.

What's missing are the details, which also includes the benefits, or stimulus, of what such a tax cut can have on state revenues. It stands to reason that the money not spent on food will likely be spent on other

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things, which would also generate sales tax revenue.

And there are questions on implementation, such as what types of food would have the tax repealed and what foods may not. Perhaps even a question of whether a repeal should be phased in over two or three years needs to be considered.

We've also mentioned previously that the repeal of the food tax appears closer to reality than ever before in this state. Monday's candidate discussion made it clear that the final steps toward that end are tricky and consequential, and they must be weighed carefully.

END

South Dakota's Noem shores up support with Youngkin, Gabbard

By STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

SIOUX FALLS, S.D. (AP) — Republican Gov. Kristi Noem was looking to shore up support for her South Dakota reelection bid Wednesday through a series of rallies with Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin and former Rep. Tulsi Gabbard.

Noem has risen to national prominence within the GOP during her term as the state's first female governor but has shown some signs of political vulnerability, even in reliably red South Dakota. The Republican governor has outspent her Democratic opponent, state lawmaker Jamie Smith, in the midterm election by nearly 6-to-1.

Noem crisscrossed between the state's largest cities for three rallies Wednesday. Smith, meanwhile, embarked on an RV tour that will circle the state.

Noem has focused on ensuring her base turns out on Election Day. She called the race "close" at the rally with Youngkin.

The rally drew a few hundred people to a Sioux Falls convention hall who laughed along as Noem gifted a cowboy hat to Youngkin. The Virginia governor in turn launched basketballs into the crowd.

Noem's choice of campaign surrogates — Youngkin, who won election in a trending-blue Virginia last year, and Gabbard, who recently left the Democratic Party — suggested she was trying to appeal to moderate voters. Noem doesn't plan to attend a Thursday rally with former President Donald Trump just over the Iowa border in Sioux City, she said.

Noem allied herself closely with Trump early on during the COVID-19 pandemic and derided mandating business closures or masks. The position garnered her national attention in the GOP, and she has staked out right-wing positions on abortion and education.

Noem claimed Smith had "attacked me every day for not shutting down the state and letting businesses stay open."

Noem has tried to tie Smith to President Joe Biden, who she says is "too extreme" for South Dakota — a state where voter rolls have almost twice as many Republicans as Democrats.

Smith has run as a moderate with a record of working with Republicans in the state House of Representatives, where he led a caucus of just eight Democratic members.

He cast Noem's rallies as a sign she was "worried" and another example of her "nationalizing" the race. He has accused Noem of being more focused on national ambitions than her job at home.

"We continue to do what we've done all along and that's focus on South Dakota," he told The Associated Press.

Noem has generated speculation she could mount a 2024 White House bid, though she says she plans to serve four more years as governor if reelected.

Youngkin, meanwhile, has become a frequent presence at Republican campaigns nationwide and is seen as another rising figure in the GOP.

"What we did last year in Virginia was take a state that everybody thought was blue and bring people together around common-sense solutions to these kitchen table issues," he said, pointing to inflation, education and crime.

Gabbard sought the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination but defected from the Party this year. She

has campaigned for Republican candidates in a number of swing states, including South Carolina, Arizona, Michigan and Nevada, during the midterm election.

Medical marijuana firms lead donors for legal weed campaigns

By DAVID A. LIEB and KAVISH HARJAI Associated Press

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — The call went out from leaders in the medical marijuana industry: Money was needed for a Missouri ballot initiative to legalize recreational cannabis for adults. Their colleagues responded.

Marijuana farms, manufacturers and retailers provided millions of dollars that footed a petition drive to put the proposal on the November ballot and promote it to voters. The deep-pocketed outpouring highlighted the depth of the emerging industry's roots in the traditionally conservative state, as well as its tremendous potential for growth.

All told, marijuana legalization campaigns have raised about \$23 million in five states — Arkansas, Maryland, Missouri, North Dakota and South Dakota. The vast majority of that has been in Arkansas and Missouri, where more than 85% of contributions have come from donors associated with companies holding medical marijuana licenses, according to an Associated Press analysis of the most recent campaign finance reports.

The biggest donor is Good Day Farm, which describes itself as the "largest licensed medical cannabis producer in the South" with facilities in Arkansas, Missouri and Louisiana. It gave a combined \$3.5 million to legalization campaigns in Arkansas and Missouri. And when the Missouri campaign needed help gathering petition signatures, Good Day Farm paid an additional \$1 million directly to the firm circulating the petitions.

"It's kind of the cost of doing business, I guess," said Alex Gray, chief strategy officer at Good Day Farm. "This is something that is a positive for the industry, but it's also a positive for the state."

Licensed medical marijuana businesses affiliated with Greenlight have given a total of about \$1 million to legalization campaigns in Arkansas, Missouri and South Dakota, according to the AP's analysis.

If the ballot measures pass, Greenlight CEO John Mueller said he expects to "easily double" a workforce of about 370 people at Greenlight-affiliated cultivation farms and dispensaries in Arkansas, Missouri, South Dakota and West Virginia.

"Obviously, your consumer base goes up when you go to adult use," said Mueller, a self-described activist who encouraged industry colleagues to contribute to the legalization campaigns.

Provisions in the proposed constitutional amendments in Arkansas and Missouri would give established medical marijuana licensees a leg up in the new recreational marketplace. But Mueller said the measures don't merely enrich the industry.

"It's more jobs, more tax revenue — get it off the black market," he said.

Marijuana legalization efforts elsewhere have not eliminated illegal dealers. California voters approved recreational marijuana use in 2016 following a \$36 million campaign for it, and the first retail stores opened in 2018. Yet a vast illegal market remains — more than double the legal sales, by some estimates.

Medical marijuana was authorized voters in 2016 in Arkansas and North Dakota, in 2018 in Missouri and in 2020 in South Dakota. Like elsewhere, it took a while to get the programs up and running. But in less than two years since Missouri's stores opened, medical marijuana dispensaries have reported about \$500 million in sales.

The Arkansas campaign to legalize recreational marijuana for adults has raised over \$13 million, including more than \$8 million in October alone, while the Missouri effort has raised more than \$7 million. Campaigns in other states have raised less than \$1 million each. Maryland's initiative has been particularly low-profile, raising a little over \$300,000 amid presumed broad public support.

In Arkansas and Missouri, resistance has come from an unusual alliance of public safety groups, social conservatives opposed to legalization and some marijuana advocates who believe the ballot initiatives are still too restrictive.

The Arkansas opposition is the best funded among the states. Uline CEO Richard Uihlein and Mountaire

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Corp. CEO Ronald Cameron each contributed \$1 million to the Safe and Secure Communities campaign committee. Its ads have asserted that legalizing marijuana for adults will cause a spike in traffic fatalities and illegal use by youths, among other things.

Other critics contend the Arkansas measure is structured to benefit only a limited number of dispensaries, noting it lacks provisions allowing adults to grow marijuana at home or expunging past convictions.

"This amendment is not a start," said Melissa Fults, executive director of Arkansans for Cannabis Reform. "It is a brick wall."

Missouri's legalization measure — which does expunge many past marijuana arrests and convictions — has drawn opposition from Pro-Choice Missouri. The abortion rights group said it backs cannabis legalization and expungement as "an issue of reproductive justice" but believes the measure doesn't do enough to address the historic harms from the "racist criminalization of cannabis."

A total of 19 states have legalized recreational marijuana for adults since voters in Colorado and Washington state first approved ballot measures in 2012. Those early efforts were heavily funded by wealthy individuals, such as former Progressive Insurance CEO Peter Lewis. Tech billionaire Sean Parker, the first president of Facebook, ranked among the top donors to California's legalization campaign.

But philanthropic funding for legalization campaigns has fallen as the marijuana industry has risen.

"The philanthropists who really got this movement off the ground" are either are "ready to move on to other issues or they don't think it's their place to support this movement, given that the industry is now mature and many of these businesses are making a lot of money," said Matthew Schweich, deputy director of the Marijuana Policy Project, a nonprofit advocacy group based in Washington, D.C.

Schweich moved to South Dakota to run this year's legalization campaign. The Marijuana Policy Project also is providing staff support for the North Dakota campaign. But it isn't as deeply involved Arkansas and Missouri, where there are greater industry resources.

New Approach, another D.C.-based drug policy group, has directed more money to psychedelic mushrooms than to marijuana this year. It's poured \$4.2 million into a campaign to make Colorado the second state, after Oregon, to allow adults 21 and older to use hallucinogenic chemicals found in some mushrooms.

Meanwhile, New Approach has contributed a total of around \$700,000 to marijuana legalization campaigns in Missouri, North Dakota and South Dakota. As the medical marijuana industry has grown, the organization has refined its targets.

"Our focus in recent years has been on initiatives in traditionally red states, in part because that is what we see as the most effective way to continue to move toward broader acceptance of cannabis policy reform," said New Approach Chief of Staff Taylor West.

Ukraine: Russian shelling damaged nuclear plant power lines

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's nuclear state operator said Thursday that Russia has shelled and damaged power lines connecting Europe's largest nuclear power plant to the Ukrainian grid, leaving the plant reliant on diesel generators again.

The generators have enough fuel to maintain the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant in southeastern Ukraine for just 15 days, Energoatom said in a post on its Telegram channel.

"The countdown has begun," Energoatom said, noting it had limited possibilities to "maintain the ZNPP in a safe mode," raising fears of a potential nuclear disaster.

With its six reactors inoperative, the plant relies on outside electricity to cool its spent fuel. Russia and Ukraine have traded blame for months amid the war for shelling at and around the plant that the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog has warned could cause a radiation emergency.

The nuclear power plant lies within part of the Zaporizhzhia region that has been occupied by Russian forces since the early days of the war, which began when Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24.

Although Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree transferring the plant to Russian ownership, Ukrainian workers continue to run the plant. Energoatom has repeatedly called for the withdrawal of Rus-

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sian forces from the plant and the creation of a demilitarized zone around it.

Energoatom said Thursday that Russia had shelled two power lines that were connecting the plant to the Ukrainian grid overnight, and accused it of being "an attempt to reconnect the nuclear plant to the Russian power system." The operator said the Russian side would try to repair the power lines in order to connect the plant to the Russian grid and therefore supply power to occupied Crimea and the parts of the eastern Ukrainian region of Donbas also currently controlled by Russia.

Across the Dnipro River from the power plant, the city of Nikopol was also shelled, damaging residential buildings, a gas station and several private enterprises, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy's office said Thursday.

Other Ukrainian cities were also hit, with Russia using drones, missiles and heavy artillery that left six civilians dead and 16 others wounded, according to the president's office. Energy and water infrastructure facilities were hit in Zelenskyy's native city of Kryvyi Rih, leaving several districts without electricity or water in the city that had a prewar population of 635,000 people, local Gov. Oleksandr Vilkul said.

Further east in the Donetsk region, battles continued for the towns of Bakhmut and Avdiivka, where authorities said the population was living without electricity or heat and were under constant shelling. Over the past day, six cities and villages in the region were attacked by heavy artillery, while in the northeast, Ukraine's second-largest city of Kharkiv was hit by three missiles, officials said.

Separately, seven ships carrying 290,000 tons of agricultural products set sail from Ukrainian seaports heading to Asia and Europe, a day after Russia agreed to rejoin a wartime agreement allowing Ukrainian grain and other commodities to be shipped to world markets.

In announcing Russia was rejoining the pact, Putin said Moscow had received assurances that Ukraine wouldn't use the humanitarian corridors to attack Russian forces. He warned that Russia reserves the right to withdraw again if Kyiv breaks its word.

Russia had suspended its participation in the grain deal over the weekend, citing an alleged drone attack against its Black Sea fleet in Crimea. Ukraine didn't claim responsibility for an attack and Zelenskyy said Wednesday that Moscow's return to the agreement showed "Russian blackmail did not lead to anything."

In Moscow, the Russian Foreign Ministry summoned U.K. Ambassador Deborah Bronnert on Thursday, saying she was called in connection with the alleged participation of British instructors in the Oct. 29 attack by drones on Black Sea fleet facilities in Sevastopol in Crimea. Bronnert made no comment upon leaving the ministry after a meeting that lasted about a half-hour.

The ships that set sail Thursday included one carrying 29,000 tons of sunflower seeds bound for Oman, and one carrying 67,000 tons of corn heading to China, according to the Ministry of Infrastructure.

Since the deal was reached in August, 430 ships have exported 10 million tons of Ukrainian agricultural products to countries in Africa, Asia and Europe. The infrastructure ministry said that export volumes in October "could have been 30-40% higher if Russia had not artificially blocked inspections in the Bosphorus."

Bono opens book tour before adoring fans at Beacon Theatre

By HILLEL ITALIE AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Bono opened his book tour Wednesday night in what he called a "transgressive" mood, a little bit guilty for appearing on stage with three musicians who were not his fellow members of U2 and otherwise singing, joking and shouting out his life story to thousands of adoring fans at Manhattan's Beacon Theatre.

He even performed one song in Italian, a flawlessly operatic take of "Torna a Surriento."

"This is all a little surreal," he noted at one point. "But it seems to be going well."

The 62-year-old singer, songwriter and humanitarian described himself as an eternal boy (born Paul David Hewson) with his fists "in the air," a "grandstanding" rock star and a baritone trying to be a tenor. He is now a published and best-selling author, his "Surrender: 40 Songs, One Story" out this week and already in the top 10 on Amazon.com.

Through "Sunday Bloody Sunday," "Where the Streets Have No Name" and other U2 classics, he traces

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his biography from his stifling childhood home in Dublin and the grief over the early death of his mother Iris Hewson to the formation of the band that made him a global celebrity and his enduring marriage to Alison Stewart.

Former President Bill Clinton, Tom Hanks and U2 guitarist The Edge were among his famous admirers in the audience, which often stood and cheered and sang along. For the 90-minute plus "Stories of Surrender" show, billed as "an evening of words, music, and some mischief," Bono wore a plain black blazer, matching pants and added color with his orange-tinted glasses. He opened with an account from his book of his heart surgery in 2016, but otherwise pranced and leapt like a man who had never seen the inside of a hospital and belted out songs written decades ago without any sense he had forgotten what inspired them.

Ticket prices for the sold out show reached rock star levels as some web sites offered scalped seats for \$2,000 and higher. Compared to a U2 show, the setting was relatively intimate — handwritten illustrations on screens hanging toward the back of the stage and a few tables and chairs that Bono used as props to climb on or to simulate conversations. With warm and comic mimicry, he recalled phone calls with Luciano Pavarotti and his pleas of "Bono, Bono, Bono" as the opera star recruited him to perform at a benefit show in Modena, Italy, and once turned up at U2's studio on short notice — with a film crew.

Bono also re-enacted his many tense bar room meetings with his father, who seemed to regard his son's career as some kind of failed business venture. Brendan Robert Hewson's rough facade did collapse once, unexpectedly — when he met Princess Diana, an encounter Bono described as like watching centuries of Irish loathing of the royals "gone in eight seconds."

"One princess, and we're even," Bono added.

He spoke often of loss, of his mother when he was a teenager and of his father in 2001. But he also described his life as a story of presence, whether of his religious faith, his wife and children, or of his bandmates. After what he called the characteristic Irish response to a child's outsized ambitions — to pretend they don't exist — he called himself "blessed," and added that "what was silence has been filled, mostly, with music."

Powerball prize up to \$1.5 billion, 3rd-largest ever in US

By SCOTT McFETRIDGE Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The bad news is that no one won Wednesday night's huge \$1.2 billion Powerball jackpot.

The good news is that means the prize has grown even larger to \$1.5 billion ahead of the next drawing Saturday night. That is the third-largest lottery prize in U.S. history.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night were: 2, 11, 22, 35, 60 and the red powerball 23.

No one has won the top Powerball prize since Aug. 3, making for 39 consecutive drawings without anyone matching all six numbers.

What's behind three months of lottery futility? It's simple math. The odds of winning the jackpot are an abysmal 1 in 292.2 million.

It is because of those long odds that the grand prize has grown so large.

The new \$1.5 billion prize is actually for winners who opt for an annuity, paid out annually over 29 years. Nearly all winners choose cash, which for Saturday's drawing would be \$745.9 million.

Powerball is played in 45 states, as well as Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

S. Koreans ashamed over safety failures in Halloween tragedy

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — When Kim Kap Soo watched live broadcasts of the harrowing Halloween party crush that killed more than 150 people in Seoul last weekend, there was shock and sadness — but also the embarrassed realization that this wasn't the first time he'd seen South Korea suffer a devastating disaster as a result of official incompetence and safety failures.

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"My heart is aching very much. We are among the world's 10 largest economies, and I totally don't understand how this can happen in our nation," said Kim, 73, a retired environmental engineering researcher. "Our public insensitivity to safety is too severe. We should always be careful about everything, but we don't do so, and I think that's the biggest problem."

The crowd crush Saturday in Itaewon, a popular nightlife district, has caused an outpouring of public sympathy toward the dead, mostly in their 20s and 30s, and demands for accountability for the tragedy. But many also share a strong feeling of embarrassment and anger that their country, a cultural and economic powerhouse that has risen from war, poverty and dictatorships, still ignores safety and regulatory issues.

Similar crowd crushes have happened in other developed countries in recent years, but the death counts there were much smaller than in Itaewon, where 156 people died and 187 were injured.

There are growing questions here about why South Korea hasn't learned its lessons since the 2014 sinking of the ferry Sewol, which killed 304 people — mostly teenagers on a school trip. That disaster also prompted national soul-searching on the country's failure to enforce safety and regulatory rules.

"When it comes to public safety, I think we aren't an advanced nation at all, though we might have grown economically," said Park You Nam, 60, who runs a jewelry shop in Seoul. "I feel really sorry and guilty for those young victims because we all failed to protect them."

From K-pop superstars BTS and Netflix's megahit drama "Squid Game" to Samsung-made smartphones and Hyundai cars, South Korea's recent cultural and economic achievements have been remarkable. But there's a dark side to its breakneck rise from the extreme poverty of the 1950 and 60s: Critics say basic safety practices, social safety nets and minority voices have been largely overlooked.

Not much has changed since the ferry sinking, these critics say, citing a series of smaller deadly incidents such as fires and boat accidents.

On Tuesday, President Yoon Suk Yeol acknowledged that South Korea lacks studies on crowd management and ordered officials to formulate effective crowd control methods based on high-tech resources such as drones. Police also said they don't have guidelines to deal with crowd surges at events that have no official organizers, like the Halloween festivities in Itaewon.

Park Sangin, a professor at Seoul National University, said the Itaewon crush showed that South Koreans haven't done much to improve systems and policies to prevent similar man-made disasters like the ferry sinking. He said South Koreans have focused instead on finding, criticizing and punishing anyone responsible each time an incident occurs.

"For a country that has experienced many safety-related incidents, there should have been diverse studies and countermeasures to prevent their recurrences and that's the responsibility of government officials and politicians," Park said. "But they haven't done so, and I think it's more important to criticize them to get things changed."

What exactly caused Saturday's crush is still under investigation. But it happened when more than 100,000 partiers clad in Halloween costumes and others packed Itaewon's alleys. Police dispatched only 137 officers to the neighborhood, mostly with a mission to deal with possible crimes such as narcotics use, not crowd control. Police also acknowledged Tuesday they had received about a dozen emergency calls from citizens about the impending crowd surge but didn't handle them effectively.

The disaster has left many South Koreans with feelings of trauma.

Witnesses said that people fell on each other like dominos, screamed, suffered severe breathing difficulties and lost consciousness while crammed into a sloped, narrow alley. TV footage showed people frantically giving CPR to victims lying motionless near a row of dead bodies covered by blue blankets.

"When I first saw such things on TV, I thought they were happening in a foreign country, not here," said Kim Suk Hee, 40, a real estate agent. "I was so stunned to learn that it was Itaewon, because I had actually planned to go there with my family for Halloween the next day. I still have trauma over what happened."

Jang Seung-Jin, a professor at Seoul's Kookmin University, said the Itaewon crush proved again that South Korea still has a long way to go to become an advanced country in all aspects. He said what's important now is how the country will handle the aftermath.

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Since the disaster, some top officials have been severely criticized over comments that were seen as trying to avoid government responsibility for the crush or even joking about it.

A public survey taken after the disaster shows President Yoon's approval rating is about 30%, a very low rate given he took office only six months ago.

His future popularity could depend on how he handles the Itaewon tragedy, said Choi Jin, director of the Seoul-based Institute of Presidential Leadership.

At a Seoul mourning center, Vietnam war veteran Park Young-kee, 82, laid white flowers and bowed to the memory of the dead, including a distant relative who was a high school student.

"This kind of disaster didn't happen when I was young. I can't describe how I feel," Park said. "This occurred because we are not an advanced country. If we are really an advanced country, could it have happened?"

Pope presses Muslim dialogue in first papal visit to Bahrain

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope Francis is bringing his message of dialogue with the Muslim world to the kingdom of Bahrain, where the Sunni-led government is hosting an interfaith conference on East-West coexistence even as it stands accused of discriminating against the country's Shiite majority.

Human rights groups and relatives of Shiite activists on death row have urged Francis to use his visit, which begins Thursday, to call for an end to the death penalty and political repression in Bahrain. But it's not clear if Francis will publicly embarrass his hosts during his four-day visit, the first of any pontiff to the island nation in the Persian Gulf.

The 85-year-old pope, who has been using a wheelchair for several months because of strained knee ligaments, said Thursday he was in "a lot of pain" as he headed to Bahrain, and for the first time greeted journalists travelling with him while seated rather than walking through the aisle.

Francis has long touted dialogue as an instrument of peace and believes a show of interfaith harmony is needed, especially now given Russia's war in Ukraine and regional conflicts, such as in Yemen. On the eve of the trip, Francis asked for prayers so that the trip will promote "the cause of brotherhood and of peace, of which our times are in extreme and urgent need."

The visit is Francis' second to a Gulf Arab country, following his 2019 landmark trip to Abu Dhabi, where he signed a document promoting Catholic-Muslim fraternity with a leading Sunni cleric, Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb. Al-Tayeb is the grand imam of Al-Azhar, the seat of Sunni learning in Cairo. Francis followed that with a 2021 visit to Iraq, where he was received by Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, one of the world's pre-eminent Shiite clerics.

Francis will meet again this week in Bahrain with al-Tayeb, as well as other prominent figures in the interfaith field who are expected to attend the conference, which is similar to one hosted last month by Kazakhstan that Francis and al-Tayeb also attended. Members of the regional Muslim Council of Elders, the spiritual leader of the world's Orthodox Christians, Patriarch Bartholomew, a representative from the Russian Orthodox Church and rabbis from the United States are all expected, according to the Bahrain program.

The trip will also allow Francis to minister to Bahrain's Catholic community, which numbers around 80,000 in a country of around 1.5 million. Most are workers hailing from the Philippines and India, though trip organizers expect pilgrims from Saudi Arabia and other neighboring countries will attend Francis' big Mass at the national stadium on Saturday.

Bahrain is home to the Gulf's first Catholic Church, the Sacred Heart parish, which opened in 1939, as well as its biggest one, Our Lady of Arabia Cathedral. The church, with a capacity of 2,300, opened last year in the desert town of Awali on land gifted to the church by King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa. In fact, the king presented Francis with a model of the church when he visited the Vatican in 2014 and extended the first invitation to visit.

Francis will visit both churches during his visit and is likely to thank the king for the tolerance the government has long shown Christians living in the country, particularly when compared to neighboring Saudi

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Arabia, where Christians cannot openly practice their faith.

"Religious liberty inside Bahrain is perhaps the best in the Arab world," said Bishop Paul Hinder, the apostolic administrator for Bahrain and other Gulf Arab countries. "Even if everything isn't ideal, there can be conversions (to Christianity), which aren't at least officially punished like in other countries."

But in the runup to his visit to Bahrain, Shiite opposition groups and human rights organizations have urged Francis to raise human rights violations against the majority Shiites by the Sunni monarchy. They urged him to call for an end to the death penalty and request to visit the country's Jau prison, where hundreds of Shiite activists have been jailed.

Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have repeatedly denounced the use of torture in prisons, as well as forced confessions and "sham trials" against dissidents.

"We are writing to appeal to you as the families of twelve death row inmates who are facing imminent execution in Bahrain," read a letter from the families to Francis released this week by the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy. "Our family members remain behind bars and at risk of execution despite the clear injustice of their convictions."

Francis has changed church teaching to declare the death penalty inadmissible in all cases. He has regularly visited prisoners during his foreign trips, though no such prison visit is planned in Bahrain.

The Vatican spokesman declined to say whether Francis would raise Bahrain's human rights record publicly or privately during his visit.

Javier, Astros pitch 2nd no-hitter in World Series history

By BEN WALKER AP Baseball Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Hammered the night before, Cristian Javier and the Houston Astros desperately needed to figure how to keep Bryce Harper and the Phillies in the ballpark.

How about a no-hitter, would that do?

Javier and Houston's bullpen combined on just the second no-hitter in World Series history, silencing a booming lineup and boisterous fans as the Astros blanked Philadelphia 5-0 Wednesday night to even the matchup at two games each.

"You get slapped in the face yesterday and you want to come back today and make a statement," closer Ryan Pressly said.

The only previous no-hitter in the World Series was a perfect game by Don Larsen of the New York Yankees against the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1956.

Javier and three relievers weren't perfect in Game 4, but they were close.

Plus, they'd done this before: Javier, the starter in a combined no-hitter against the New York Yankees in June, was pulled with a no-hitter in progress after six innings and 97 pitches this time.

Bryan Abreu, Rafael Montero and Pressly each followed with a hitless inning for the first combined no-hitter in postseason play. Astros arms totaled 14 strikeouts and three walks in ensuring this year's championship will be decided this weekend back at Minute Maid Park.

Soon after J.T. Realmuto grounded out to end it, the quartet of pitchers posed with catcher Christian Vázquez near the visiting dugout, each putting a hand on the game ball for a photo. It's a picture no one could've envisioned 24 hours earlier, when Philadelphia clubbed a Series record-tying five home runs in a 7-0 romp in Game 3.

"That's crazy, man," Vázquez said. "It was special."

The four pitchers and Vázquez also signed a ball headed to the Hall of Fame.

Javier said his parents predicted Tuesday night he was going to throw a no-hitter. The 25-year-old righty from the Dominican Republic said his father, Cecilio Javier, arrived in the United States on Tuesday, and this was the first time his dad saw him pitch.

"I just came out holding onto God, trying to be positive, trying to attack the strike zone," he said via translator. "Thanks to God I was able to accomplish that."

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In 2010, Roy Halladay pitched a no-hitter for the Phillies in the NL Division Series, also here at Citizens Bank Park. Halladay's gem came against a Cincinnati team managed by Dusty Baker, Houston's current skipper.

"Oh, yeah, I was on the other end in this ballpark. I mean, that's what's strange about life," Baker said. With Larsen and the Houston combo, those are the only three no-hitters in the postseason.

The closest the Phillies came to a hit was in the third inning, when Kyle Schwarber grounded a hard foul past first base. On fair balls, nothing.

"It's cool," Schwarber said, sarcastically. "We'll be in the history books I guess."

Game 5 is on Thursday night in Philly. Astros ace Justin Verlander will again chase that elusive first World Series win when he faces Noah Syndergaard.

They can only hope to pitch as well as Javier.

By the time Javier exited, the lone hit maker on the Philadelphia side who showed up on the scoreboard was rocker Bruce Springsteen, pictured surrounded by Phillies fans.

And a few innings later, as fans started leaving the stadium, there actually were boos for postseason star Harper and the Phillies. First lady Jill Biden, a noted Phillies fan, was among those in the crowd of 45,693 who had little to shout about.

"For me? I mean, a loss is a loss," Phillies manager Rob Thomson said. "That's the way I kind of look at it."

Alex Bregman delivered the big hit Houston hoped for, a two-run double in a five-run fifth inning, and that was plenty for the Astros.

Completely in charge, Javier struck out nine — including five straight — walked two and hardly allowed any loud contact. He tamed a club that had been 6-0 at home this postseason while hitting 17 home runs.

"New day, new opportunity," Abreu said. "What happened yesterday stays in the past. Today is a new opportunity."

Opponents hit only .170 against Javier during the regular season, the lowest mark in baseball among pitchers with at least 130 innings.

"When I first met him he told me he had a disappearing fastball and I'm like, 'There is no such thing.' But I guess so," Baker said.

Javier threw 70 fastballs and the Phillies barely touched him.

"I think it's the best fastball I've ever seen," Vázquez said.

Very still on the mound, Javier carved his own quiet spot in the middle of the Phillies' storm. Backing off onto the grass, straightening his hat, rubbing the ball, taking deep breaths, he proceeded at his own pace.

Next year, Javier won't be able to work quite this way. Major League Baseball is instituting a pitch clock — 15 seconds to throw with the bases empty, 20 with someone on — and Javier often surpassed those limits on this evening, drawing boos from a crowd eager for action.

This performance by Javier came a year after Atlanta's Ian Anderson was taken out after pitching five hitless innings against Houston in the World Series. Pressly permitted the only other Phillies runner, walking Schwarber in the ninth.

Philadelphia was no-hit by five New York Mets pitchers in April, one of several crushing losses that led to manager Joe Girardi's firing two months later.

"We came back the next day and won," said Thomson, then the bench coach. "So these guys, they got a short memory."

This was the fourth no-hitter of the season — two combos by the Astros, the team job by the Mets and the only individual effort, by Angels rookie Reid Detmers.

Maybe it was the team's switch to orange tops, or the lucky lunch Baker had at a Philly hoagie spot, but the Astros sure looked different than the previous night, when they got shut out on a feeble five singles.

Blanked for 16 innings, Bregman and the Astros chased Aaron Nola in their big fifth.

Houston's hits resonated far away, too.

Chants of "Let's go, Astros!" erupted when highlights and the score were shown at the Toyota Center as the Houston Rockets hosted the Los Angeles Clippers in an NBA game.

And there figure to be Astros cheers at NRG Stadium in Houston on Thursday night when the Texans

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take on the Philadelphia Eagles, the NFL's only unbeaten team, in a matchup that'll be played at the same time as Game 5.

It was quiet in Philly, though, as fans who came wanting to see a win were reduced to merely hoping for a hit.

HUNGRY FOR A HOAGIE

Wawa encouraged Phillies fans hungry for a Game 4 win to dig in for a bite of their sandwiches during the game. One problem, the popular Pennsylvania-based convenience store chain tweeted of the Phillies an hour before first pitch, "Each time they get a hit, take a bite of your hoagie!"

Wawa might have bit off more than it could chew with that tweet.

Twitter fans had a field day at Wawa's expense.

Famished fans tweeted photos of skeletons next to untouched sandwiches. One snapped a photo of an unwrapped hoagie resting on a pants leg. Others cracked they died of starvation. Some asked what they should do with their stale hoagies.

UP NEXT

Astros: Verlander is 0-6 with a 6.07 ERA in eight World Series starts after failing to hold a five-run lead in the opener.

Phillies: RHP Syndergaard had been set to start Game 3 before it was washed out Monday night. He'll now open a bullpen game.

Inflation puts tighter squeeze on already pricey kids sports

By EDDIE PELLIS AP National Writer

It only took a few seconds for Rachel Kennedy to grab her phone after she left the checkout line at the sporting-goods store, where she had just finished buying a new glove, pants, belt, cleats and the rest of the equipment for her son, Liam's, upcoming baseball season.

"I texted his dad and asked him, 'Did we really spend \$350 on all this last year?'" Kennedy said.

Sticker shock in youth sports is nothing new, but the onslaught of double-digit inflation across America this year has added a costly wrinkle on the path to the ballparks, swimming pools and dance studios across America. It has forced some families, like Kennedy's, to scale back the number of seasons, or leagues, or sports that their kids can play in any given year, while motivating league organizers to become more creative in devising ways to keep prices down and participation up.

Recent studies, conducted before inflation began impacting daily life across America, showed families spent around \$700 a year on kids' sports, with travel and equipment accounting for the biggest portion of the expense.

Everyone from football coaches to swim-meet coordinators are struggling to find less-expensive ways of keeping families coming through the doors. Costs of uniforms and equipment, along with facility rental, are shooting up — all products of the onslaught of supply-chain issues, hard-to-find staff, lack of coaches and rising gas and travel costs that were exacerbated, or sometimes caused, by the COVID-19 pandemic that disrupted and sometimes canceled seasons altogether. The annual inflation rate for the 12 months ending in September was 8.2%.

Kennedy, who lives in Monroe, Ohio, and describes her family as "on the lower end of middle class," opted Liam out of summer and fall ball, not so much because of the fees to join the leagues but because "those don't include all the equipment you need."

"And gas prices have gotten to the point where we don't have the bandwidth to drive one or two hours away" for the full slate of weekend games and tournaments that dot the typical youth baseball schedule each season. The Kennedys rarely stayed the night in hotels for multi-day tournaments.

A study published by The Aspen Institute that was conducted before COVID-19 said on average across all sports, parents already spent more each year on travel (\$196 per child, per sport) than any other facet of the sport: equipment, lessons, registration, etc. A number of reports say hotel prices in some cities are around 30% higher than last year, and about the same amount higher than in 2019, before the start of

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the pandemic.

At the venues, it costs more to hire umpires to call the games, groundskeepers to keep fields ready, janitors to clean indoor venues and coaches to run practices. Even sports that are traditionally on the less-expensive end of the spectrum are running into issues.

"You talk to people and you say 'What do you mean you get \$28 an hour to be a lifeguard?'" said Steve Roush, a former leader in the Olympic world who now serves as executive director of Southern California Swimming, which sanctions meets across one of America's most expensive regions. "The going rate has just gone through the roof, and that's if you can find somebody at all. And that accounts for part of the big gap" in prices for swimming meets today versus three years ago.

One Denver-area dance studio director, who did not want her name used because of the competitive nature of her business, said she started looking for new uniform suppliers as a way of keeping costs down for families. Some destinations for the two out-of-state competitions that are typical in a given season have been shifted to cities that have more — and, so, less expensive — flight options. Some of those teams only make a third trip, this one to a major competition, if it receives a "paid" invitation.

"The cost is just so much to ask them to travel a third time," the director said. "And oftentimes you don't know that you're getting that bid until February or March and you have to turn around and travel to it in April, and that turnaround just makes it very hard from an expense standpoint."

At stake is the future of a youth-sports industry that generated around \$20 billion, according to one estimate, before COVID-19 sharply curtailed spending in 2020.

Also, inflation is giving some families a chance to revisit an issue that first came up when COVID-19 more or less canceled all youth leagues for a year or more.

"There was some optimism that maybe families would be like, 'OK, let's maybe have a more balanced approach to how we're going to participate in sports,'" said Jennifer Agans, an assistant professor at Penn State who studies the impact of youth sports. "But until this economic wave, everyone was so excited to go back to normal that we forgot the lessons we learned from slowing our lives down. Maybe this gives another chance to reevaluate that."

It's a choice not everyone wants to make, but still one that is being imposed more on people in the middle and lower class. Another Aspen Institute report from before the pandemic concluded children from low-income families were half as likely to play sports as kids from upper-income families.

Kennedy said she has long been fortunate to have a supportive family — including grandparents who chip in to defray some costs of Liam's baseball. But some things had to go. A spot on a travel team can reach up to \$1,200, and that's before equipment and travel, "and we just don't have that kind of money," Kennedy said.

Still, Liam loves baseball and sitting it out altogether wasn't a real choice.

"It's the whole parental, 'I'll go hungry to make sure my kids get what they need' situation,'" Kennedy said. "So if I give up my Starbucks, or some little extras for me, then it's worth it to make sure he gets to play. But it's certainly not getting any less expensive."

UK poised to enact biggest interest rate hike in 3 decades

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — The Bank of England is expected to announce its biggest interest rate increase in three decades Thursday as it seeks to beat back stubbornly high inflation fueled by Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the disastrous economic policies of former Prime Minister Liz Truss.

Economists expect the bank to boost its key rate by at least three-quarters of a percentage point, to 3%, after consumer price inflation returned to a 40-year high in September. Plus, wholesale natural gas prices, while down from their August peak, are likely to rise again this winter, driving up energy bills and further fueling a cost-of-living crisis.

The interest rate decision is the first since Truss' government announced 45 billion pounds (\$52 billion) of unfunded tax cuts that sparked turmoil on financial markets, pushed up mortgage costs and forced

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Truss from office after just six weeks. Her successor, Rishi Sunak, has warned of spending cuts and tax increases as he seeks to undo the damage and show that Britain is committed to paying its bills.

The rate increase will likely be the Bank of England's eighth in a row and biggest since 1992. It comes after the U.S. Federal Reserve on Wednesday announced a fourth consecutive three-quarter point jump as central banks worldwide tackle inflation that is eroding living standards and slowing economic growth.

The U.K. central bank may opt to raise rates by as much as 1 percentage point to show it is serious about tackling inflation after facing criticism for being slow to react earlier this year, said Luke Bartholomew, senior economist at abrdn.

"The Bank of England will try to look through the volatility caused by the government's policy and gas price movements, and focus on underlying inflation pressure," Bartholomew said in a note to investors. "However, given the impact on household spending of such large inflationary moves, and the risk to inflation expectations, it adds a further complication to an already very difficult policy decision for the bank."

Central banks have struggled to contain inflation after initially believing that price increases were being fueled by international factors beyond their control. Their response intensified in recent months as it became clear that inflation was becoming embedded in the economy, feeding through into higher borrowing costs and demands for higher wages.

The war in Ukraine boosted food and energy prices worldwide as shipments of natural gas, grain and cooking oil were disrupted. That added to inflation that began to accelerate last year when the global economy began to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Europe has been particularly hard hit by a jump in natural gas prices as Russia responded to Western sanctions and support for Ukraine by curtailing shipments of the fuel used to heat homes, generate electricity and power industry and European nations competed for alternative supplies on global markets.

The U.K. also has struggled as wholesale gas prices increased fivefold in the 12 months through August. While prices have dropped more than 50% since the August peak, they are likely to rise again during the winter heating season, worsening inflation.

The British government sought to shield consumers with a cap on energy prices. But after the turmoil caused by Truss' economic policies, Treasury chief Jeremy Hunt limited the price cap to six months instead of two years, ending on March 31.

Meanwhile, food prices have jumped 14.6% in the year through September, led by the soaring cost of staples such as meat, bread, milk and eggs, the Office for National Statistics said. That pushed consumer price inflation back to 10.1%, the highest since early 1982 and equal to the level last reached in July.

Increases in the cost of tea bags, milk and sugar mean that even the "humble" cup of tea, which people across the country turn to when they need a break from the pressures of daily life, is getting more expensive, the British Retail Consortium said Wednesday.

"While some supply chain costs are beginning to fall, this is more than offset by the cost of energy, meaning a difficult time ahead for retailers and households alike," said Helen Dickinson, the consortium's chief executive.

Truss' failed economic plan made things worse, driving the pound to a record low against the dollar, threatening the stability of some pension funds and triggering predictions that the Bank of England would boost interest rates higher than expected. That increased mortgage costs as lenders repriced their products.

The economic turmoil is putting homeownership further out of reach for many young people, according to research released this week by Hamptons, a U.K. real estate agency.

Mortgage rates average around 6.5%, compared with 2% a year ago.

That means the average first-time homebuyer would have to make a down payment equal to 41% of the purchase price to keep their monthly repayments at the same level as a similar buyer who made a 10% down payment last year, Hamptons said.

Against this backdrop, Bank of England Gov. Andrew Bailey said last month that policymakers "will not hesitate" to raise interest rates to return inflation to the bank's 2% target.

"As things stand today, my best guess is that inflationary pressures will require a stronger response than

we perhaps thought in August," Bailey said on Oct. 15 in Washington.

North Korea keeps up its missile barrage with launch of ICBM

By KIM TONG-HYUNG and MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Alarms blared from cellphones, radios and public loudspeakers and fishermen hurried back to shore in northern Japan on Thursday after North Korea fired an intercontinental ballistic missile above its eastern waters, adding to a recent barrage of provocative weapons demonstrations that officials say may culminate with a nuclear test in coming weeks.

The ICBM test, which was followed by two short-range ballistic launches into the sea, was swiftly condemned by North Korea's neighbors and the United States, which said it is willing to take "all necessary measures" to ensure the safety of the American homeland and allies South Korea and Japan.

The Biden administration also warned of unspecified "additional costs and consequences" if North Korea goes on to detonate a nuclear test device for the first time since September 2017.

The launches are the latest in a series of North Korean weapons tests in recent months that have raised tensions in the region. They came a day after the North fired more than 20 missiles, the most it has launched in a single day ever.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected that North Korea fired an ICBM from an area near its capital, Pyongyang, at about 7:40 a.m. and then two short-range missiles an hour later from the nearby city of Kaechon that flew toward its eastern waters.

The longer-range missile appeared to be fired at a high angle, possibly to avoid entering the territory of neighbors, reaching a maximum altitude of 1,920 kilometers (1,193 miles) and traveling around 760 kilometers (472 miles), according to South Korea's military.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the launch was successful.

Japan's military announced similar flight details. It also said it lost track of one of the North Korean weapons, apparently the ICBM, after it "disappeared" in skies above waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan. South Korea said the short-range missiles traveled about 330 kilometers (91 miles), falling closer to North Korea's eastern coast.

Choi Yong Soo, a South Korean navy captain who handles public affairs for Seoul's Defense Ministry, didn't answer directly when asked about the possibility of the ICBM launch being a failure, saying that it is still being analyzed.

Citing anonymous military sources, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported that the missile possibly failed to maintain a normal flight following a stage separation.

The Japanese government initially feared North Korea fired a missile over its northern territory but later adjusted its assessment. Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said the alerts were based on a trajectory analysis that indicated a flyover.

The office of Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida broadcast the "J-Alert" warnings through television, radio, mobile phones and public loudspeakers to residents of the northern prefectures of Miyagi, Yamagata and Niigata, instructing them to go inside strong buildings or underground.

There have been no reports of damage or injuries in the regions where the alerts were issued. Bullet train services in some areas were temporarily suspended following the missile alert before resuming shortly.

North Korean missile activity is a particular concern in Niigata, which is home to seven reactors at the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power plant. Those reactors are currently offline and Japanese authorities say no abnormalities have been detected.

On Sado island, just off Niigata's northern coast, fishermen rushed back from sea at the sound of sirens blaring from community speaker systems. One fisherman told NTV television he no longer feels safe going out to sea.

"We really have to be careful," he said.

North Korea last flew a missile over Japan in October in what it described as a test of a new intermediate-range ballistic missile, which experts say potentially would be capable of reaching Guam, a major U.S.

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military hub in the Pacific.

Kishida condemned North Korea's latest launches and said officials were analyzing the details of the weapons. The office of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said his national security director, Kim Sung-han, discussed the launches during an emergency security meeting at which members talked about plans to strength the country's defense in conjunction with its alliance with the United States.

The office said South Korea will continue combined military exercises with the United States in response to North Korea's intensified testing activity, which it said would only deepen the North's international isolation and unleash further economic shock to its people.

Adrienne Watson, a spokesperson for the U.S. National Security Council, issued a statement saying the United States strongly condemns North Korea's ICBM test and that President Joe Biden and his national security team are assessing the situation in close coordination with allies and partners.

"This launch, in addition to the launch of multiple other ballistic missiles this week, is a flagrant violation of multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions and needlessly raises tensions and risks destabilizing the security situation in the region," Watson said.

She said the United States will take all necessary measures to ensure the security of America and its allies South Korea and Japan.

One of the more than 20 missiles North Korea shot on Wednesday flew in the direction of a populated South Korean island and landed near the rivals' tense sea border, triggering air raid sirens and forcing residents on Ulleung island to evacuate. South Korea quickly responded by launching its own missiles in the same border area.

Those launches came hours after North Korea threatened to use nuclear weapons to get the U.S. and South Korea to "pay the most horrible price in history" in protest of ongoing South Korean-U.S. military drills that it views as a rehearsal for a potential invasion.

Following North Korea's additional launches on Thursday, the South Korean and U.S. air forces agreed to extend an ongoing combined aerial drill to step up their defense posture in the face of North Korea's increased weapons testing and growing nuclear threat.

U.S. and South Korean forces have deployed more than 200 warplanes, including advanced F-35 fighter jets, for the "Vigilant Storm" exercises that were initially scheduled through Friday. South Korea's air force didn't immediately say how long the training will continue, noting that the allies are still discussing details.

North Korea has been ramping up its weapons demonstrations to a record pace this year. It has fired dozens of missiles, including previous ICBM launches in March and May, as it exploits the distraction created by Russia's war in Ukraine and a pause in diplomacy to push forward arms development and dial up pressure on the United States and its Asian allies.

North Korea has punctuated its tests with an escalatory nuclear doctrine that authorizes preemptive nuclear attacks over a variety of loosely defined crisis situations. U.S. and South Korean officials say North Korea may up the ante in the coming weeks with a nuclear test, which would be its seventh overall.

Experts say such tests could bring North Korea a step closer to its goal of building a full-fledged arsenal threatening regional U.S. allies and the American mainland.

"Should it go forward with a seventh nuclear test there would be additional costs and consequences," State Department spokesperson Ned Price said Tuesday, noting that the test would be a "dangerous, reckless, destabilizing act."

Experts say North Korea is escalating a brinkmanship aimed at forcing the United States to accept it as a nuclear power and negotiating economic and security concessions from a position of strength. Nuclear disarmament talks between Washington and Pyongyang have been stalled since 2019 because of disagreements over an easing of crippling U.S.-led sanctions against North Korea in exchange for its denuclearization steps.

As Israel's far right parties celebrate, Palestinians shrug

By ISABEL DEBRE Associated Press

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RAMALLAH, West Bank (AP) — The apparent comeback of former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and the dramatic rise of his far-right and ultra-Orthodox allies in Israel's general election this week have prompted little more than shrugs from many Palestinians.

"It's all the same to me," Said Issawi, a vendor hawking nectarines in the main al-Manara Square of Ramallah, said of Netanyahu replacing centrist Yair Lapid and poised to head the most right-wing government in Israel's history.

Over the past month, Issawi had struggled to get to work in Ramallah from his home in the city of Nablus after the Israeli army blocked several roads in response to a wave of violence in the northern West Bank. "I'm just trying to eat and work and bring something back to my kids," he said.

Some view the likely victory for Netanyahu and his openly anti-Palestinian allies, including ultranationalist lawmaker Itamar Ben-Gvir who wants to end Palestinian autonomy in parts of the occupied West Bank, as a new blow to the Palestinian national project.

The sharp rightward shift of Israel's political establishment pushes long-dormant peace negotiations even further out of reach and deepens the challenges facing 87-year-old President Mahmoud Abbas, whose autocratic Palestinian Authority already seemed to many Palestinians as little more than an arm of the Israeli security forces.

"If you want to use the metaphor of a 'nail in the coffin of the Palestinian Authority,' that was done earlier," said Ghassan Khatib, a former Palestinian peace negotiator and Cabinet minister. "This election is another step in that same direction."

During his 12 years in power, before being voted out in 2021, Netanyahu showed scant interest in engaging with the Palestinians. Under his leadership, Israel vastly expanded its population of West Bank settlers — now some 500,000 — and retroactively legalized settler outposts built on private Palestinian land. The measures have entrenched Israel's occupation, now in its 56th year since Israel captured the territory during the 1967 Mideast war.

Palestinians see successive Israeli governments as seeking to solidify a bleak status quo in the West Bank: Palestinian enclaves divided by growing Israeli settlements and surrounded by Israeli forces.

"We had no illusion that this next government would be a partner for peace," said Ahmad Majdalani, a minister in the Palestinian Authority. "It's the opposite, we see a campaign of incitement that began more than 15 years ago as Israel drifted toward extremism."

The Gaza Strip's militant Hamas rulers said the election outcome would "not change the nature of the conflict."

But for the first time, surging support for Israel's far right has made the Jewish supremacist party of Ben-Gvir the third-largest in the Israeli parliament.

Ben-Gvir and his allies hope to grant immunity to Israeli soldiers who shoot at Palestinians, deport rival lawmakers and impose the death penalty on Palestinians convicted of attacks on Jews. Ben-Gvir is the disciple of a racist rabbi, Meir Kahane, who was banned from parliament and whose Kach party was branded a terrorist group by the United States before he was assassinated in New York in 1990.

On the campaign trail, Ben-Gvir grabbed headlines for his anti-Palestinian speeches and stunts — recently brandishing a shotgun and encouraging police to open fire on Palestinian stone-throwers in a tense Jerusalem neighborhood.

Some Palestinians have found reason for optimism. After Tuesday's elections, they say, Israel will no longer present to the world the telegenic face of Lapid. A win for extremism in Israel, some say, could bolster the moral case for efforts to isolate Israel, vindicating activism outside the moribund peace process.

"It will lead to some international pressure," said Mahmoud Nawajaa, an activist with the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement, or BDS, which calls for an economic boycott of Israel as happened to apartheid-era South Africa in the 1980s.

"Netanyahu is more honest and clear about his intentions to expand settlements. The others didn't say it, even if it was happening," Nawajaa added.

Lapid and his predecessor, Naftali Bennett, a former settler leader who rebranded himself as a national

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unifier, had presided over a wobbly coalition of right-wing, centrist and dovish left-wing parties, including the first Arab party to ever join a government.

Foreign leaders who shunned the divisive Netanyahu embraced what appeared to be a less ideological government. Bennett became the first Israeli leader to visit the United Arab Emirates after the countries normalized ties — an honor repeatedly denied to Netanyahu. President Joe Biden, who had a rocky relationship with Netanyahu, basked in Lapid's warm welcome during his visit to Israel last summer.

But even as Lapid voiced support for the two-state solution during his address to the U.N. General Assembly in September, Palestinians saw no sign he could turn words into action. They watched Israel approve thousands of new settler homes on lands they want for a future state.

Israeli military raids in the West Bank have also surged after a series of Palestinian attacks in the spring killed 19 people in Israel. More than 130 Palestinians have been killed, making 2022 the deadliest since the U.N. started tracking fatalities in 2005. The Israeli army says most of the Palestinians killed have been militants. But stone-throwing youths protesting the incursions and others not involved in confrontations have also been killed.

Even as final ballots were still being counted from the election, violence flared up with two Palestinians killed on Thursday. Israeli police killed a Palestinian in a West Bank raid, and a Palestinian who stabbed an Israeli police officer in east Jerusalem was shot and killed.

"In terms of violence, the Lapid government has outdone itself," said Nour Odeh, a Palestinian political analyst and former PA spokeswoman. "As far as new settlements and de facto annexation, Lapid is Netanyahu."

Many young Palestinians have given up on the two-state solution and grown disillusioned with the aging Palestinian leadership, which they see as a vehicle for corruption and collaboration with Israel. Hamas and Fatah, the Palestinian party that controls the West Bank, have remained bitterly divided for 15 years.

A mere 37% of Palestinians support the two-state solution, according to the most recent report from Palestinian pollster Khalil Shikaki. In Israel the figures are roughly the same — 32% of Jewish Israelis support the idea, according to the Israel Democracy Institute.

"There is no horizon for a political track with the Israelis," Odeh said. "We need to look inward ... to re-legitimize our institutions through elections, and stand together on a united political platform."

But on the crowded, chaotic streets of Ramallah on Wednesday, there was only misery and anger over the daily humiliations of the occupation.

"I hate this place," said Lynn Anwar Hafi, a 19-year-old majoring in literature at a local university. "It's like the occupation lives inside me. I can't think what I want to. I can't go where I want to. I won't be free until I leave."

Russians try to subdue Ukrainian towns by seizing mayors

By YURAS KARMANAU Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Not long after Russian tanks rolled into Ukraine, soldiers broke down the office door of Melitopol Mayor Ivan Fedorov. They put a bag over his head, bundled him into a car and drove him around the southern city for hours, threatening to kill him.

Fedorov, 34, is one of over 50 local leaders who have been held in Russian captivity since the war began on Feb. 24 in an attempt to subdue cities and towns coming under Moscow's control. Like many others, he said he was pressured to collaborate with the invaders.

"The bullying and threats did not stop for a minute. They tried to force me to continue leading the city under the Russian flag, but I refused," Fedorov told The Associated Press by phone last month in Kyiv. "They didn't beat me, but day and night, wild screams from the next cell would tell me what was waiting for me."

As Russians seized parts of eastern and southern Ukraine, civilian administrators and others, including nuclear power plant workers, say they have been abducted, threatened or beaten to force their cooperation — something that legal and human rights experts say may constitute a war crime.

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Ukrainian and Western historians say the tactic is used when invading forces are unable to subjugate the population.

This year, as Russian forces sought to tighten their hold on Melitopol, hundreds of residents took to the streets to demand Fedorov's release. After six days in detention and an intervention from President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, he was exchanged for nine Russian prisoners of war and expelled from the occupied city. A pro-Kremlin figure was installed.

"The Russians cannot govern the captured cities. They have neither the personnel nor the experience," Fedorov said. They want to force public officials to work for them because they realize that someone has to "clean the streets and fix up the destroyed houses."

The Association of Ukrainian Cities (AUC), a group of local leaders from across Ukraine, said that of the more than 50 abducted officials, including 34 mayors, at least 10 remain captive.

Russian officials haven't commented on the allegations. Moscow-backed authorities in eastern Ukraine even launched a criminal investigation into Fedorov on charges of involvement in terrorist activities.

"Kidnapping the heads of villages, towns and cities, especially in wartime, endangers all residents of a community, because all critical management, provision of basic amenities and important decisions on which the fate of thousands of residents depends are entrusted to the community's head," said Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko, head of the AUC.

In the southern city of Kherson, one of the first seized by Russia and a key target of an unfolding counteroffensive, Mayor Ihor Kolykhaiev tried to stand his ground. He said in April that he would refuse to cooperate with its new, Kremlin-backed overseer.

Kirill Stremousov, deputy head of the Russian-installed regional administration, repeatedly denounced Kolykhaiev as a "Nazi," echoing the false Kremlin narrative that its attack on Ukraine was an attempt to "de-Nazify" the country.

Kolykhaiev continued to supervise Kherson's public utilities until his arrest on June 28. His whereabouts remain unknown.

According to the U.N. Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, 407 forced disappearances and arbitrary arrests of civilians were recorded in areas seized by Russia in the first six months of the war. Most were civil servants, local councilors, civil society activists and journalists.

Yulia Gorbunova, a senior researcher at Human Rights Watch, said the abuse "violates international law and may constitute a war crime," adding that Russian forces' actions appeared to be aimed at "obtaining information and instilling fear."

The U.N. human rights office has warned repeatedly that arbitrary detentions and forced disappearances are among possible war crimes committed in Ukraine.

Several mayors have been killed, shocking Ukrainian society. Following the discovery of mass burials in areas recaptured by Kyiv, Ukrainian and foreign investigators continue to uncover details of extrajudicial killings of mayors.

The body of Olga Sukhenko, who headed the village of Motyzhyn, near Kyiv, was found in a mass grave next to those of her husband and son after Russian forces retreated. The village, with a prewar population of about 1,000, is a short drive from Bucha, which saw hundreds of civilians killed under Russian occupation.

Residents said Sukhenko had refused to cooperate with the Russians. When her body was unearthed on the outskirts of Motyzhyn, her hands were found tied behind her back.

Mayor Yuriy Prylypko of nearby Hostomel was gunned down in March while handing out food and medicine. The prosecutor general's office later said his body was found rigged with explosives.

Ukraine's government has tried to swap captive officials for Russian POWs, but officials complain that Moscow sometimes demands Kyiv release hundreds for each Ukrainian in a position of authority, prolonging negotiations.

"It's such a difficult job that any superfluous word can get in the way of our exchange," said Dmytro Lubinets, Ukraine's human rights commissioner. "We know the places where prisoners are kept, as well as the appalling conditions in which they are kept."

There has been no news about the fate of Ivan Samoydyuk, the deputy mayor of Enerhodar, site of the

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Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant. Samoydyuk, abducted in March, has repeatedly been considered for a prisoner swap, but his name was struck off the list each time, Mayor Dmytro Orlov told the AP.

The 58-year-old deputy mayor was seriously ill when seized, Orlov said, and "we don't even know if he's alive." At best, Samoydyuk is sitting in a basement somewhere "and his life depends on the whim of people with guns," he added.

More than 1,000 Enerhodar residents, including dozens of workers at Zaporizhzhia, Europe's largest nuclear plant, were detained by the Russians at one time or another.

"The vast majority of those who came out of the Russian cellars speak of brutal beatings and electric shocks," he said.

Gorbunova, the HRW senior researcher, said torture "is prohibited under all circumstances under international law, and, when connected to an armed conflict, constitutes a war crime and may also constitute a crime against humanity."

Each week brings reports of abductions of officials, engineers, doctors and teachers who won't cooperate with the Russians.

Viktor Marunyak, head of the village of Stara Zburivka in the southern Kherson region, is famous for appearing in Roman Bondarchuk's 2015 documentary "Ukrainian Sheriffs," an Academy Award contender. The film explores the separatist conflict in eastern Ukraine that began in 2014. While the film didn't win an Oscar, it cemented Marunyak's salt-of-the-earth reputation.

After Russian troops seized Stara Zburivka in spring, Marunyak held pro-Ukrainian rallies and hid some activists in his home. He was eventually taken prisoner.

"At first, they put (electrical) wires on my thumbs. Then it seemed not enough for them, and they put them on my big toes. And they poured water on my head so it would flow down my back," he told the AP. "Honestly, I was so beaten up that I didn't have any impressions from the electric current."

After 23 days, Marunyak was "released to die," he said. Hospitalized for 10 days with pneumonia and nine broken ribs, he finally left for territory controlled by Kyiv.

History professor Hubertus Jahn of Cambridge University said that from the time of Peter the Great onward, the tactic by imperialist Russia of co-opting locals targeted elites and nobility, with resistance often bringing Siberian exile.

During World War II, he said, "German SS units operated in a similar way," by targeting local administrators in order to pressure residents into submission. Jahn called it an obvious strategy "if you don't have the strength to subordinate a region outright."

Historian Ivan Patryliuk of Kyiv's Taras Shevchenko National University said municipal authorities in Soviet Ukraine often fled before Nazi occupation forces arrived, which "helped avoid mass executions of officials."

"The kind of torture and humiliation (of) city leaders that the Russians are now perpetrating ... is one of the darkest and most shameful pages of the current war," Patryliuk said.

After six years, UN climate summit returns to Africa

By WANJOHI KABUKURU Associated Press

MOMBASA, Kenya (AP) — The U.N. climate summit is back in Africa after six years and four consecutive Europe-based conferences.

The 27th annual Conference of the Parties of the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change — better known as COP27 — will be held in the resort city of Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt and begins next week. It's been branded as the "African COP", with officials and activists hoping the conference's location will mean the continent's interests are better represented in climate negotiations.

Hosts Egypt say the meeting represents a unique opportunity for Africa to align climate change goals with the continent's other aims, like improving living standards and making countries more resilient to weather extremes. Organizers expect over 40,000 participants, the highest number ever for a climate summit on the continent.

Ever since the conference's first iteration in Berlin in 1995, the U.N. climate summit continues to rotate

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annually among the five U.N. classified regions: Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, central and eastern Europe, and western Europe. It's the fifth time that an African nation has held the U.N. climate summit, with Morocco, South Africa and Kenya all serving as former hosts.

The first African summit, held in Marrakech in 2001, passed landmark accords on climate funding and made other key decisions on land use and forestry. The following three meetings on the continent had some success on issues like adapting to climate change, technology and sowing the seeds for the Paris Agreement in 2015 years earlier. Marrakech is also the last African city to host the event, having hosted a second COP in 2016, that aimed to implement some of the Paris goals.

The Paris Agreement, considered a major success of the U.N. climate summits, saw nations agree to limit warming to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit), with an aim of curbing it to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

And although experts don't expect agreement between countries to reach the same scale as Paris, hopes on the continent are high for the upcoming conference.

Mithika Mwenda, who heads the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, told The Associated Press that the summit "presents a unique opportunity to place Africa at the center of global climate negotiations" and hoped the conference "truly delivers for the African people."

Mwenda said that the "special needs and circumstances" of the continent need to be considered as it attempts to both increase access to electricity for millions of people while addressing climate change and limiting the use of fossil fuels.

He added negotiations must prioritize how vulnerable countries will adapt to climate change, address compensation from high-polluting countries to poorer ones, known as "loss and damage", and seek avenues for financing for both a move to cleaner energy and building resilience to climate change. Many developing countries look to the U.S. and much of Europe, who have contributed the largest share of emissions over time, to pay for damage caused by climate change.

So far, pledges by rich countries on climate finance, such as the \$100 billion-a-year promise to help poorer nations meet their climate goals, have not been met. The Egyptian organizers said the summit should focus on how countries can implement pledges made in previous years.

"Africa's hopes for COP27 is that there has to be progress on a new goal on financing," said Jean-Paul Adam, who heads the climate change division at the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa, adding there needs to be "clarity as to what will be provided as grants and what will be provided as concessional loans and the remainder being dealt with through prudential private sector investment."

The onus is also on industrialized countries to rapidly reduce emissions so that the global climate goal of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius can be achieved, Mwenda said. African countries account for just 3% of total global greenhouse gas emissions but experts say they are highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change in large part because they lack the ability to quickly adapt to the warming climate.

The climate conference will be a real test of world leaders' commitment to addressing climate change, said Landry Ninteretse, regional director for the environmental group 350Africa.org.

"We are tired of years of empty talk and broken promises," said Ninteretse. "We are now demanding nothing else but robust funding mechanisms that address loss and damage in a fair, accessible and transparent way."

Ninteretse agreed that "the biggest emitters must commit to rapidly cut emissions" and "help the nations most vulnerable to climate change" by financing climate initiatives.

Past COPs have seen disagreements and hardline positions emerge as national interests clash, a concern for those hoping tangible results will come out of the negotiations.

"The discussions tend to be protracted, uncompromising and acrimonious at times," said Mwenda, a veteran of the climate negotiations circuit. "But in 2015, the world ratified the Paris Agreement, which was a major milestone."

But the success of the COP in Paris was the exception, rather than the rule, experts say, with a lot of work still to do to address climate change.

"Negotiations have lasted three decades but the impacts of the climate crisis, manifested by floods, droughts, among other extremes, persist," Mwenda said.

Ukraine war: boost or setback for climate efforts?

By FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

BERLIN (AP) — Luetzerath may be 1,000 miles from Ukraine, but it is an indirect victim of Russia's invasion and some fear so is Earth's climate.

The ancient hamlet in western Germany will soon be demolished along with a wind park to expand a nearby coal mine, despite protests from environmentalists who fear millions more tons of heat-trapping carbon dioxide will be released into the atmosphere.

Their concerns were echoed recently by Antonio Guterres, the United Nations Secretary-General, who warned that "the horrors of the war in Ukraine should not put climate action on the back burner."

"Doubling down on fossil fuels is not the answer," he wrote on Twitter. "The only path to energy security, stable power prices and a livable planet lies in accelerating the renewable energy transition."

But Germany's center-left government says the war in Ukraine means tough decisions need to be made on energy security and insists the nation's climate goals will be kept.

Luetzerath's days may be numbered, but the planet will be saved, officials argue.

Similar scenes are playing out across the world as countries try to fend off a feared energy crunch without betraying their long-term commitments to cut greenhouse gas emissions.

The question of whether the conflict in Ukraine will hasten or hinder the shift from fossil fuels to clean energy needed to keep global temperatures from reaching dangerous heights looms large ahead of next week's U.N. climate conference.

In Germany, Europe's biggest economy, officials point to new programs they say will massively increase sun and wind power generation. An even bigger plan by the European Union to wean itself off Russian gas could further boost the bloc's already-ambitious emissions reduction targets this decade, said Rachel Simon, a policy expert at campaign group CAN Europe.

In the United States, President Joe Biden's Inflation Reduction Act has earmarked \$375 billion for climate incentives that would slash the cost of installing renewable energy and shrink U.S. carbon emissions by as much as two-fifths until 2030.

Climate hawks say that won't be enough.

While greenhouse gas emissions are rising more slowly than before, recent reports show the trend remains upward when it needs to point sharply down. Rising fossil fuel subsidies to cushion the impact of high energy prices and efforts to tap new sources of gas, oil and coal will further drive up emissions, at least in the short term.

This means the amount of carbon dioxide that can still be released into the atmosphere before the world hits the limit of 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) warming — agreed in the 2015 Paris climate accord — is being used up rapidly, expert say.

"It's incredibly risky because not only does it reduce even further the carbon budget, it sends exactly the wrong signals" said Johan Rockstrom, head of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research near Berlin.

Meanwhile, climate impacts already being felt worldwide — from fierce storms in the U.S. to extreme heat in Europe and worsening droughts in Africa — are hitting the poor hardest. Devastating floods in Pakistan have fueled calls for developing nations to receive climate compensation from big polluters.

Laden with debt and surging inflation, many vulnerable nations now find themselves struggling to pay for energy, let alone adapt to the effects of a warmer world, even as rich countries splurge on imports and new fossil fuel projects.

Experts say this could inflame tensions in Sharm el-Sheikh, undermining trust during the two-week U.N. talks that rely on consensus by all countries for any formal decision.

Russia could add further fuel to the fire. The world's biggest exporter of natural gas is at loggerheads

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with the West since its invasion of Ukraine, while China, the biggest-emitting country, insists it also has a right to burn more coal.

Even if negotiations by the Red Sea produce little progress, experts are hopeful the war in Ukraine has jolted complacent governments into speeding up the transition from fossil fuels to clean power.

The war is "the perfect storm" for an accelerated path toward clean energy, said Rockstrom.

Laurie Bristow, Britain's former ambassador to Moscow, said the measures now being taken by countries such as Germany were encouraging because they end not just the decades-long reliance on Russian gas but commit to a much larger energy transition.

"It's the recognition that things could not go on as they were before," he said. "And there are very big, very serious policy decisions in there."

That's little consolation to Elizabeth Wathuti, a Kenyan environmentalist, who visited Germany's Garzweiler coal mine near Luetzerath with other activists last month.

"I've been very overwhelmed to see what is happening right behind me," she said during the visit.

Wathuti said she couldn't understand how Germany could justify burning more coal when the impacts of climate change are already becoming apparent.

"For my community and for my country, this is a life and death situation," she told The Associated Press. "We cannot afford to continue investing in fossil fuels at the expense of people's lives and livelihoods who have even done the least to cause this crisis."

"If anything, it's only going to cause more devastation and more losses, more damages to my community," she said.

EXPLAINER: Traveling to, around Qatar during FIFA World Cup

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Some 1.2 million people are expected to pour into Qatar during the upcoming 2022 FIFA World Cup that begins this month.

With fans coming from all over the world, reaching Qatar on the Arabian Peninsula, as well as getting around once there, remains a concern. Estimates suggest that as many as half a million people may be in the country each day during the height of the competition.

However, fans have a variety of transportation options to choose from ahead of the tournament.

Here's a look at how to get there, where to go and how to move around.

FLYING TO QATAR

Qatar has become a hub for East-West travel, thanks to its long-haul carrier Qatar Airways. Already, the airline is offering tailored flight, hotel and ticket options for its customers. Dubai in the United Arab Emirates is gearing up to have its low-cost carrier FlyDubai run as many as 30 trips a day into Doha to allow spectators to watch a match and then shuttle back to hotels in the emirate. Those flying in will land at Doha's Hamad International Airport, a massive airport that Qatar built for \$15 billion and opened in 2014. The airport has plans to expand further in 2022 to handle 58 million passengers a year. Passengers will clear immigration and customs checks before heading out into the city. Note that during the tournament, Qatar won't be issuing normal visas and those coming for the matches must have a Qatari-issued Hayya Card. The card verifies you have housing for the time you're in the country or will travel in just for the match you're watching. The Hayya Card also is required for entry into stadiums. Also keep in mind that Qatar has only one land border, with Saudi Arabia, if you're thinking about driving.

CORONAVIRUS CONSIDERATIONS

Qatar has had strict rules regarding travel and the coronavirus since the pandemic began, but they were loosened as of Nov. 1. Qatar has dropped a requirement for PCR testing prior to your trip to the country, and said it's no longer required to download its Ehteraz contact-tracing app.

HOW TO GET AROUND QATAR

As you walk out of the airport, you have several options on how to get around. Qatar's state-owned Mowasalat transportation company offers taxi cabs at curbside. Major ride-hailing apps like Uber also work

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in Qatar. Mowasalat runs a bus service at the airport, too. Doha also has a recently built metro service, which will take you from the airport to most areas in the capital. The metro also connects to a tram now running in Lusail. You can rent a car at the airport, though officials are urging those coming to the tournament to take mass transit. On match day, public transport will be free to those holding tickets. Keep in mind that Qatar's riyal currency trades at \$1 to 3.64 riyals. There are 100 dirhams in each riyal.

WHAT TO SEE WHILE IN QATAR

Outside of the tournament, Doha has several cultural sites to visit. Qatar's Museum of Islamic Art offers both interesting views inside its galleries and a view outside of the city's skyline. Nearby is Doha's Souq Waqif, which has traditional storefronts and gifts for sale — including even a falcon section. The National Museum of Qatar, designed by French architect Jean Nouvel, is a take on the desert rose. Qatar's National Library also is renowned for its design. Doha's Mall of Qatar has some 500,000 square meters (5.3 million square feet) for shopping. There are also beachfront resorts and tour companies offer trips into Qatar's desert expanses as well.

World Series: Verlander seeks first Fall Classic win

By The Associated Press undefined

Justin Verlander has a very tough act to follow.

Not only will he again be seeking his first World Series win Thursday night, he'll take the mound against the Philadelphia Phillies after four Houston Astros teammates combined on the Fall Classic's second no-hitter.

"He's one of the best," Phillies slugger Bryce Harper said after Houston's 5-0 victory Wednesday tied the Series at two games apiece. "Just got to go out there and have the best at-bats we can and do what we can to get some runs up there."

Verlander failed to hold a five-run lead in the opener, a 6-5, 10-inning loss for the Astros that left him 0-6 with a 6.07 ERA in eight World Series starts. The 39-year-old ace, expected to win his third Cy Young Award in a few weeks, has the highest ERA of any pitcher to throw at least 30 innings in the Fall Classic.

"I'm not going to sit here and dwell too much and be like, 'Oh, I just got hit all over the yard,'" he said. "I think you try to keep a positive mindset and say, 'Well, had a couple things gone my way, maybe things would have been very different.' So hopefully things will go my way next time."

Before starter Cristian Javier and three Houston relievers combined to blank the Phillies on Wednesday night, the only no-hitter in the World Series was a perfect game by Don Larsen of the New York Yankees against the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1956.

SERIES SCHEDULE (All times ET)

Game 5: Thursday in Philadelphia, 8:03 p.m., FOX

Game 6: Saturday in Houston, 8:03 p.m., FOX

Game 7 (if necessary): Sunday in Houston, 8:03 p.m., FOX

THIS BUD'S FOR YOU. AND YOU. YOU, TOO.

Losing a World Series game on a no-hitter could drive almost any Phillies fan to drink.

It helps when there's an open bar.

The wife of Philadelphia Phillies first baseman Rhys Hoskins turned section 104 of Citizens Bank Park into the hop corner when she bought around 100 beers for fans before Game 4.

Jayne Hoskins started putting beers on her tab earlier in the playoffs and got Phillies fans primed for another free round when she tweeted her location at the ballpark.

Wearing a red Phillies blazer with "Hoskins" printed on the back, Jayme had fans chanting her name Wednesday night as she sidled up to the closest bar to right field on the concourse before Game 4.

"If you know anything about baseball and it's quirks then you know where beers are about to be," she tweeted.

Rhys Hoskins was on board with his wife playing baseball bartender.

"Whatever it takes right now, really," he said before Game 4. "She's having a lot of fun with it. Obviously, the fans are enjoying it, too."

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Good news for Phillies fans suffering from a no-hitter hangover.

She'll be back for Game 5.

YOU DOUBLE DIPPED!

Philly and Houston sports fans have double the reason for sports excitement on Thursday. The undefeated Eagles play the Texans and the Phillies and Astros are set for Game 5.

Thanks to a Game 3 rainout, both leagues have games on the same night and the same time, causing some headaches — though it's more sports heaven in Philly — for fans who would rather not divide their fandom.

The Texans know their audience is thirsty for baseball and plan to rotate the Astros score on the side panels of the video boards throughout the game. More than 50% of the televisions around the stadium that would normally show other NFL games will instead show Game 5.

Normally, the team features an NFL scoreboard during the games, but on Thursday, the Texans will drop in on the big screen to provide the World Series score and big-play updates.

PHILLY 'PEN FINALLY LEAKS

After a sturdy start to this World Series, the Phillies' bullpen finally cracked in Game 4.

José Alvarado replaced starter Aaron Nola with the bases loaded and nobody out in the fifth inning. The hard-throwing lefty drilled Yordan Alvarez with his first pitch, forcing in the initial run of the game. Alex Bregman laced a two-run double on an 0-2 delivery, Kyle Tucker lofted a sacrifice fly and Yuli Gurriel made it 5-0 with an RBI single past a drawn-in infield.

"That's a tough situation to bring him in, but we were just trying to keep the damage to a minimum, I guess," Phillies manager Rob Thomson said. "It just kind of got away from us."

Philadelphia relievers had fired 12 2/3 shutout innings to begin the World Series, the longest scoreless streak for a bullpen in a Fall Classic since Toronto in 1992.

Alvarado finished the fifth, throwing 22 pitches, and the next four relievers out of Philadelphia's bullpen each tossed a scoreless inning.

With right-hander Noah Syndergaard scheduled to start Game 5 on Thursday night, the Phillies will likely need another strong effort from the 'pen. Syndergaard has pitched three times this postseason, totaling just five innings. His most recent full-fledged start was Oct. 1.

Analysis: North Korea fired dozens of missiles. What now?

By FOSTER KLUG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — For days North Korean officials have raged over U.S.-South Korean military drills, promising a violent response. That response came this week, when the North fired nearly 30 missiles in the span of two days, including a short-range weapon that splashed down near the South Korean sea border and an intercontinental ballistic missile that forced Japan to issue an evacuation alert and halt trains.

It was a significant escalation in a year that has already seen the most North Korean missile test launches ever, and it raises an important question: How much further will they go?

North Korea's playbook has traditionally been to continually ratchet up provocations until it gets U.S. attention — and can then negotiate for sanctions relief or other concessions from what it sees as a position of power.

The bar for getting attention these days may be higher, with the United States focused on upcoming elections and Russia and the West consumed by the war in Ukraine. That could mean the North has to do more to get the reaction it wants — but it also increases the possibility that Pyongyang could end up pushing South Korea too far. Already there is growing discussion in Seoul about creating an indigenous nuclear program.

North Korea observers have long sketched out the various levels Pyongyang uses to express its anger. At the bottom of the list is fiery rhetoric in state-controlled media. That may then progress into shorter-range missile launches of the type seen Wednesday.

After that would come longer-range tests, including ICBMs, like the one fired from the capital area of Pyongyang on Thursday, or intermediate-range missiles like the ones that the North has sent hurtling over

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the Japanese archipelago in the past, deep into the Pacific. At the top of the list is a test detonation of one of their nuclear devices.

Each new level cranks up already soaring tensions on the Korean Peninsula, where hundreds of thousands of troops from both sides and the United States square off along the world's most heavily armed border.

And while bloodshed these days is fairly rare (2010, by contrast, saw 50 South Koreans killed in attacks), this many troops operating with these types of powerful weapons in a relatively confined geographic area increases the chances that a miscalculation could lead to a clash.

One of the 23 missiles fired Wednesday landed close enough to a South Korean island for air raid sirens to sound and residents there to evacuate to underground shelters. Another landed 26 kilometers (16 miles) from the Koreas' shared border.

Anxiety was already running high because hours earlier North Korea threatened to use nuclear weapons so that the United States and South Korea would "pay the most horrible price in history."

Initially assessing that the ICBM fired on Thursday would fly above its northern territory, Japan issued alerts to residents in the prefectures of Miyagi, Yamagata and Niigata, instructing them to go inside firm buildings or underground. The country's military later said it lost track of the missile above waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan and that there were no flyovers.

For months, South Korean and U.S. officials have been expecting North Korea to test a nuclear bomb. It would be the seventh such test, and be met with a push at the United Nations for even stronger sanctions. Whether Russia and China, nations that have traditionally protected the North, will allow further U.N. punishment is unclear.

It's important to note that each North Korean weapons test — whether of the shortest range missile or a nuclear bomb — inches Pyongyang's scientists closer to their ultimate goal of a fully functional nuclear arsenal capable of targeting every city on the U.S. mainland.

A recent analysis based on satellite imagery showed that the North has made dramatic progress on new construction at its Sohae Satellite Launching Station.

In addition to expanding its ability to send up satellite launch vehicles, the station could "support technology development also useable by North Korea's emerging intercontinental ballistic missile programs," wrote Joseph S. Bermudez Jr., Victor Cha and Jennifer Jun, of the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank in Washington.

The latest launches follow a string of North Korean tests of nuclear-capable missiles. And a new North Korean law authorizes the preemptive use of nuclear weapons in a broad range of situations, though there's widespread doubt the North would use those bombs first in the face of U.S. and South Korean forces.

North Korea says it is responding to U.S.-South Korean military drills that it views as a rehearsal for an invasion.

But Pyongyang is also well aware of what's happening in the world — especially as it relates to its rivals. U.S. President Joe Biden is preparing to travel to Asia for a series of summits, and is facing crucial midterm elections this month.

A lot is vying for Biden's attention, but Pyongyang has also previously timed its weapons tests around American elections, presumably in the hopes of pushing itself higher on presidents' foreign policy to-do lists.

There's also the war in Ukraine, where Russia has suffered a series of setbacks recently. North Korea may realize that Moscow, which has been a supporter of the North and its military for decades, could benefit from the distraction the missile tests create for Washington.

And the barrage also comes as South Korea mourns the deaths of more than 150 people when a crowd of Halloween revelers surged — the country's largest disaster in years.

But another North Korean nuclear test could also be a risk for the North itself, Jeffery Robertson, an associate professor of diplomatic studies at Yonsei University, wrote recently.

"Over the last thirty years, a rough balance has been established between South Korea's vastly superior conventional capacity (and its alliance with the U.S.) and North Korea's nascent nuclear weapons capacity," he said.

But should South Korea pursue its own independent nuclear weapons capacity, "this balance ceases to

exist.”

Don't expect that to stop North Korea in the short term, though, as Pyongyang looks to use its full array of weapons to get what it wants.

Army probes whether troops wrongly targeted in bonus scandal

By LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Years after about 1,900 National Guard and Reserve soldiers were swept up in a recruiting bonus scandal, U.S. Army investigators are reviewing the cases and correcting records because some individuals were wrongly blamed and punished, The Associated Press has learned.

According to officials with knowledge of the review, the Army's Criminal Investigation Division will review all 1,900 cases by the end of this year to identify and begin to fix the mistakes. They said agents during the initial investigation may have misunderstood facts or failed to follow proper procedures and erroneously added soldiers' names to an FBI crime database and Pentagon records.

Officials said that at the time, CID agents were grappling with a massive probe involving 100,000 people and hundreds of thousands of dollars in potentially fraudulent bonus payments.

Officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details not yet made public, said CID has found that individuals may have been wrongly listed in the FBI database in more than half of the cases that have been reviewed so far. It's not clear exactly how many that is.

“Simply put, proper procedures were not always followed,” CID Director Greg Ford said in a statement provided to the AP. “We acknowledge those mistakes and are taking action to correct these records.” He said he ordered the full review after CID received requests from some individuals to review the files.

The new investigation comes as National Guard Bureau leaders are pushing to launch another recruiting bonus program, in an attempt to boost lagging enlistment numbers. And they want to ensure that any new program doesn't have similar fraud and abuse problems.

Guard leaders have talked about providing incentive pay to recruiters and Guard troops who bring in new recruits. The Army Guard missed its recruiting goal for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, and more soldiers were leaving each month than the number enlisting.

“By putting the right checks and balances in place, we could really help make every single guardsman a recruiter by paying them a bonus for anybody that they bring into the organization that's able to complete their military training,” Gen. Dan Hokanson, chief of the National Guard Bureau, told reporters in September. He said procedures needed to be fixed so that fraud didn't happen again.

The Army began an audit of the recruiting program in 2011, amid complaints that Guard and Reserve soldiers and recruiters were fraudulently collecting bonuses during the peak years of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars in order to fill the ranks. In the program, which was run by contractors, soldiers were offered \$2,000 if they referred someone to recruiters who ended up actually enlisting.

Audits found overpayments, fraud by recruiters and others and poor oversight. The program was canceled in 2012, and Army CID was called in to investigate the cases.

Between 2012 and 2016, CID opened about 900 cases. Altogether, officials said, about 286 soldiers received some type of administrative punishment or action from their military commanders, and more than 130 were prosecuted in civilian courts. Soldiers repaid more than \$478,000 to the U.S. Treasury, and paid nearly \$60,000 in fines, officials said this week.

The repayments, however, triggered a backlash from Congress, as soldiers complained that they were being wrongfully targeted. In 2016, Defense Secretary Ash Carter ordered the Pentagon to suspend the effort to recoup the enlistment bonuses, which in some cases totaled more than \$25,000. Officials argued at the time that many soldiers getting the bonuses weren't aware the payments were improper or not authorized.

Overall, officials said 1,900 names were added to an FBI criminal database, and hundreds more were listed on an internal Defense Department database as someone who was the subject of a criminal investigation. Such listings can hurt a soldier's career, affect promotions or — in the case of the FBI data — prevent

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someone from getting a job or a gun permit.

Soldiers can request a review of their case, and already dozens have done so. The CID review will determine if soldiers' names should be removed from either database, officials said, and the individuals will be notified of the results.

Officials said that each case is different, and it's not clear how many — if any — could receive any compensation, back pay or other retroactive benefits. The entire process could take until spring 2024.

Hokanson said the previous bonus program worked in that it brought in thousands of recruits, and could work again if properly done. And he said Guard leaders around the country would like to try something like it again. No final decision on launching a new bonus program has been made, according to the Guard.

North Korea keeps up its missile barrage with launch of ICBM

By KIM TONG-HYUNG and MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea added to its barrage of recent weapons tests on Thursday, firing at least three missiles including an intercontinental ballistic missile that forced the Japanese government to issue evacuation alerts and temporarily halt trains.

The launches are the latest in a series of North Korean weapons tests in recent months that have raised tensions in the region. They came a day after Pyongyang fired more than 20 missiles, the most it has fired in a single day ever.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said it detected the North firing an ICBM from an area near its capital Pyongyang around 7:40 a.m. and then firing two short-range missiles an hour later from the nearby city of Kacheon that flew toward its eastern waters.

The longer-range missile appeared to be fired on a high angle, possibly to avoid entering the territory of neighbors, reaching a maximum altitude of 1,920 kilometers (1,193 miles) and traveling around 760 kilometers (472 miles), according to South Korea's military.

It wasn't immediately clear whether the launch was successful.

Japan's Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada announced similar flight details but said that his military lost track of the weapon after it "disappeared" in skies above waters between the Korean Peninsula and Japan.

Choi Yong Soo, a South Korean Navy captain who handles public affairs for Seoul's Defense Ministry, didn't answer directly when asked whether the military believes the launch might have failed with the missile exploding in midair, saying that the test was still being analyzed.

Citing anonymous military sources, South Korea's Yonhap news agency reported that the missile possibly failed to maintain normal flight following a stage separation.

The Japanese government initially feared the ICBM would fly over its northern territory but later adjusted its assessment. Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Hirokazu Matsuno said the alerts were based on a trajectory analysis that indicated a flyover.

The office of Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida broadcast alerts through television, radio, mobile phones and public loudspeakers to residents in the northern prefectures of Miyagi, Yamagata and Niigata, instructing them to go inside firm buildings or underground.

There have been no reports of damage or injuries from areas where the alerts were issued. Bullet train services in those regions were temporarily suspended following the missile alert before resuming shortly. Kishida condemned the North's launches and said officials were analyzing the details of the weapons.

The office of South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol said his national security director Kim Sung-han discussed the launches during an emergency security meeting where members talked about plans to strength the country's defense in conjunction with its alliance with the United States.

The office said South Korea will maintain its combined military exercises with the United States in response to North Korea's intensifying testing activity, which it said would only deepen the North's international isolation and unleash further economic shock on its people.

Adrienne Watson, a spokesperson for the U.S. National Security Council, issued a statement saying the United States strongly condemns the North's ICBM test and that President Joe Biden and his national

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security team are assessing the situation in close coordination with allies and partners.

"This launch, in addition to the launch of multiple other ballistic missiles this week, is a flagrant violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions and needlessly raises tensions and risks destabilizing the security situation in the region," Watson said.

She said the United States will take all necessary measures to ensure the security of the American homeland and allies South Korea and Japan.

One of the more than 20 missiles North Korea shot on Wednesday flew in the direction of a populated South Korean island and landed near the rivals' tense sea border, triggering air raid sirens and forcing residents on Ulleung island to evacuate. South Korea quickly responded by launching its own missiles in the same border area.

Those launches came hours after North Korea threatened to use nuclear weapons to get the U.S. and South Korea to "pay the most horrible price in history" in protest of ongoing South Korean-U.S. military drills that it views as a rehearsal for a potential invasion.

North Korea has been ramping up its weapons demonstrations to a record pace this year. It has fired dozens of missiles, including its first demonstration of intercontinental ballistic missiles since 2017, as it exploits the distraction created by Russia's war in Ukraine and a pause in diplomacy to push forward arms development and dial up pressure on the United States and its Asian allies.

The North has punctuated its tests with an escalatory nuclear doctrine that authorizes preemptive nuclear attacks over a variety of loosely defined crisis situations. U.S. and South Korean officials say North Korea may up the ante in the coming weeks with its first detonation of a nuclear test device since September 2017.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken held a telephone call with South Korean Foreign Minister Park Jin over Wednesday's missile launches, including the one that "recklessly and dangerously" landed near the South Korean coastline, and stressed the "ironclad" U.S. commitment to the security of its ally, according to their offices.

State Department spokesperson Ned Price also addressed concerns about possible North Korean preparations for another nuclear test, which would be its seventh overall. Experts say such tests could possibly bring North Korea a step closer to its goal of building a full-fledged arsenal threatening regional U.S. allies and the American mainland.

"Should it go forward with a seventh nuclear test there would be additional costs and consequences," Price said, noting that the test would be a "dangerous, reckless, destabilizing act."

North Korea last flew a missile over Japan in October in what it described as a test of a new intermediate range ballistic missile, which experts say potentially would be capable of reaching Guam, a major U.S. military hub in the Pacific. That launch forced the Japanese government to issue evacuation alerts and pause train services.

Experts say North Korea is escalating a brinkmanship aimed at forcing the United States to accept the idea of the North as a nuclear power and negotiating economic and security concessions from a position of strength.

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

The North has so far ignored the Biden administration's calls for open-ended talks, insisting that Washington should first discard its "hostile" policy, a term North Korea mainly uses to describe sanctions and combined U.S.-South Korea military exercises.

White House National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby on Wednesday underscored that the Biden administration has repeatedly sought to reach out to North Korean officials through diplomatic channels and has made clear "we're willing to sit down with North Korea without precondition to discuss the denuclearization of the peninsula."

Going to win \$1.2B Powerball prize? Consider not taking cash

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By SCOTT McFETRIDGE Associated Press
DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Think you're a sure bet for Wednesday night's estimated \$1.2 billion Powerball jackpot?

If so, you need to decide whether to take cash, which would actually pay out \$596.7 million, or choose the \$1.2 billion annuity option that is twice as large but is paid out over 29 years.

The numbers drawn Wednesday night were: 2, 11, 22, 35, 60 and the red powerball 23. It was not yet known if anyone had won.

Winners of giant jackpots nearly always take the cash, and financial advisers say that might be a mistake. Nicholas Bunio, a certified financial planner from Downingtown, Pennsylvania, said even with his expertise, he would take an annuity because it would so dramatically reduce his risk of making poor investment decisions.

"It allows you to make a mistake here and there," Bunio said. "People don't understand there is a potential for loss. They only focus on the potential for gain."

The gulf between the cash and annuity options has become larger because inflation has prompted a rise in interest rates, which in turn results in potentially larger investment gains. With annuities, the jackpot cash is essentially invested and then paid out to winners over three decades.

Under the annuity plan, winners will receive an immediate payment and then 29 annual payments that rise by 5% each year until finally reaching the \$1.2 billion total.

Lottery winners who take cash either don't want to wait for their winnings or they figure they can invest the money and end up with more money than an annuity would offer. It's what the biggest winners nearly always do, including the buyers of a Mega Millions ticket in Illinois in July who received a lump sum payment of \$780.5 million after winning a \$1.337 billion prize.

As Jeremy Keil, a financial adviser from New Berlin, Wisconsin, put it, "There is no bad choice."

Keil said Powerball's annuity assumes a 4.3% investment gain of the jackpot's cash prize.

"If you think you can beat the 4.3%, you should take the cash," Keil said. "If you don't, take the annuity."

While purchasing five Powerball tickets at a Speedway gas station in Minneapolis, 58-year-old Teri Thomas said she'd rather take the cash prize because she doesn't think she'll live long enough to collect an annuity over 29 years.

"And I'd rather get all my good deeds done right away and feel good about the giving," Thomas said, adding she would donate to groups that do medical research for children as well as help veterans, homeless people and animals.

Charles Williams of Chicago, who buys a Powerball ticket each week and always plays the same numbers, was adamant that he'd take the cash option.

"I want all the money. I want the cash out and then I'm going to spend it how I want it because ain't nothing guaranteed in life," Williams said.

Of course, it's good to keep in mind that your chance of winning the jackpot is incredibly small, at 1 in 292.2 million. That's why no one has won Powerball's top prize since Aug. 3 — resulting in 38 consecutive draws without a jackpot winner.

All that losing has let the Powerball jackpot grow to be the fourth-largest in U.S. history. If no one wins Wednesday night, the jackpot could become the largest ever, topping a \$1.586 billion Powerball prize won by three ticket holders in 2016.

Officials urge anyone lucky enough to win a Powerball jackpot to consult a financial adviser -- while keeping that valuable ticket safe -- before showing up at a lottery office for an oversized check.

Matt Chancey, an investment adviser in Tampa, Florida, said that certainly makes sense. But Chancey also urged winners to understand that if advisers earn a percentage from the investment of all that money, they have a financial stake in how the money is paid out and should be clear about any potential conflict.

"If you go to a financial person and say you want to invest \$1 billion, the financial person will say take the \$600 million and we'll pay taxes on it, you'll have \$300 million left over and I'll invest it for you," Chancey said. "That investment adviser will get fees off managing that money."

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Chancey said talented investors probably could make more money than paid through an annuity but there is risk and advisers need to be open about their potential gain depending on the jackpot winners' choices. Powerball is played in 45 states, as well as Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

CBS, Moonves must pay \$30.5 million for insider trading

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN and STEFANIE DAZIO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — CBS and its former president, Leslie Moonves, will pay \$30.5 million as part of an agreement with the New York attorney general's office, which says the network's executives conspired with a Los Angeles police captain to conceal sexual assault allegations against Moonves.

Under the deal announced Wednesday by Attorney General Letitia James, the broadcast giant is required to pay \$22 million to shareholders and another \$6 million for sexual harassment and assault programs. Moonves will have to pay \$2.5 million, all of which will benefit stockholders who the attorney general said were initially kept in the dark about the allegations.

At least one of those executives — one of the few privy to an internal investigation — sold millions of dollars of stock before the allegations against Moonves became public, which the attorney general's office said amounted to insider trading.

"As a publicly traded company, CBS failed its most basic duty to be honest and transparent with the public and investors. After trying to bury the truth to protect their fortunes, today CBS and Leslie Moonves are paying millions of dollars for their wrongdoing," James said in a statement, calling attempts to mislead investors "reprehensible."

A spokesperson for Paramount Global, which owns CBS, said it was "pleased to resolve this matter ... without any admission of liability or wrongdoing," adding that the "matter involved alleged misconduct by CBS's former CEO, who was terminated for cause in 2018, and does not relate in any way to the current company."

In October 2017, the #MeToo movement began to pick up steam as media mogul Harvey Weinstein and others in the entertainment industry were accused of sexual abuse. The following month Los Angeles police received a complaint against Moonves, who less than three weeks later called the movement "a watershed moment" during a Variety magazine summit.

Moonves resigned from CBS on Sept. 9, 2018.

In a document outlining the findings of its investigation, the attorney general's office detailed an alleged scheme by a unnamed Los Angeles police captain to try to cover up the allegations against Moonves.

The Los Angeles Police Department later identified the captain as Cory Palka, who retired last year in the rank of commander after 34 years in the department. He had served as the commanding officer of the Hollywood Division for more than three years. He did not respond to multiple requests for comment Thursday.

Palka's LinkedIn profile says he was "Incident Commander to the Academy Awards & numerous high profile events related to the entertainment industry." Photos of Palka show the then-captain hobnobbing with stars at Hollywood Walk of Fame ceremonies and on red carpets. He was honored in 2019 as one of the Hollywood Chamber Community Foundation's "Heroes of Hollywood."

In November 2017, a woman told police that she had been sexually assaulted by Moonves in the 1980s, before he was employed by CBS in 1995, according to the attorney general's report. She also said she was subjected to sexual misconduct and retaliation in the workplace.

Several hours after she made her police report — which was marked "confidential" in three places — the captain tipped off CBS, it said, adding that the captain then met personally with Moonves and another CBS executive. The captain, it said, instructed the police officers investigating the complaint to "admonish" the woman not to go to the media with her allegations. He also put them in touch with the lead investigating officer.

When the allegations ultimately became public anyway and Moonves resigned, the captain sent a note to a CBS contact saying, "We worked so hard to try to avoid this day."

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The document also said he wrote a separate note to Moonves saying, "I'm deeply sorry that this has happened. I will always stand with, by and pledge my allegiance to you."

The attorney general's office said it uncovered text messages between the police captain, CBS executives and Moonves that showed efforts to prevent the complaint from becoming public.

The captain first made CBS officials aware of the sexual misconduct allegation by calling the network's senior vice president of talent relations and special events, who was identified by the court document as Ian Metrose.

Metrose had previously hired the captain as one of Moonves' security aides at the Grammy Awards from 2008 to 2014, the document states.

"I know we haven't talked in a while. I am a captain at LAPD Hollywood," the police captain told Metrose in a voicemail message, according to the attorney general's office. "Somebody walked in the station about a couple hours ago and made allegations against your boss regarding a sexual assault. It's confidential, as you know, but call me, and I can give you some of the details and let you know what the allegation is before it goes to the media or gets out."

An email sent to Metrose was not immediately returned Wednesday. And an attorney representing CBS and Moonves did not immediately return a request for comment.

The LAPD said Wednesday it was conducting an investigation into the conduct of the captain and was cooperating with New York officials.

"What is most appalling is the alleged breach of trust of a victim of sexual assault, who is among the most vulnerable, by a member of the LAPD. This erodes the public trust and is not reflective of our values as an organization," Chief Michel Moore said.

Palka's LinkedIn profile says he commanded the agency's Hollywood Division from February 2016 to August 2019.

Video footage of Palka went viral during the racial injustice protests in Los Angeles in the aftermath of George Floyd's death when he took a knee with protesters on Hollywood's Sunset Boulevard.

Moonves' resignation came amid complaints from multiple women about alleged sexual misconduct. Some accusers claimed that Moonves had forced them to perform oral sex. The New Yorker had reported at the time that at least one of the women, a television executive, had filed a criminal complaint with Los Angeles police.

Moonves acknowledged having relations with three of the women, but said they were consensual. He denied attacking anyone, saying in a statement at the time that "Untrue allegations from decades ago are now being made against me."

The Los Angeles County district attorney declined to file criminal charges against Moonves in 2018.

CBS is also required under the deal with the attorney general's office to reform its human resources practices around sexual harassment.

The NY attorney general's office identified CBS's senior executive vice president and chief communication officer, Gil Schwartz, as the executive who sold nearly \$8.9 million dollars in stocks. Schwartz has since died.

'Manifest' takes off on Netflix for fourth and final season

By ALICIA RANCILIO Associated Press

When NBC canceled the sci-fi family drama "Manifest" last year after three seasons, fans were devastated: The central mystery about a commercial plane that disappeared for more than five years — only to land with crew and passengers that hadn't aged a day — was nowhere near solved.

The cancellation following several cliffhangers also left the cast, led by Josh Dallas and Melissa Roxburgh, bereft. The actors and crew had grown close and were invested in the story, in addition to being reliant on a steady job.

Enter Netflix, where the first half of a 20-episode final season is set to start streaming Nov. 4. Dallas said the opportunity to give the fans an ending to the story is nothing short of a blessing.

"It would have been cruel to leave these characters hanging the way they were at the end of season

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three and cruel for the fans of the show” the actor who plays Ben Stone, the unofficial leader of his fellow passengers, said. “It’s enormously satisfying to be able to complete their journeys.”

Right around the same time as the cancellation, the first two seasons began streaming on Netflix. It quickly rose to the top of its most watched list — and stayed there.

“We were all kind of watching with one eye open to see like how long it would last,” said Roxburgh, who plays Michaela Stone, a former cop who was a passenger on that mysterious plane ride along with her brother, Ben, and nephew.

The newfound popularity on the streaming service was bittersweet, as Netflix initially showed no inclination to save it despite the audience it found on the platform.

Cast member Matt Long was resigned to the familiarity of that “devastating” feeling — his critically acclaimed series “Jack & Bobby” was canceled by the WB after just one season in 2005.

“I also didn’t know how things work,” Long said of that first job. “When it was canceled it was like the rug was pulled out from under me.”

But creator and showrunner Jeff Rake kept pushing and tweeting, keeping hope alive with the help of high-profile fans like Stephen King who did the same. It eventually paid off: Around two months after its cancellation, the show’s revival took flight with Netflix.

One big change this season is that the character of Cal, Ben’s son, has been recast with Ty Duran. At the end of the third season, Cal suddenly — and, as is par for the course with the show, mysteriously — aged the five-and-a-half years he missed while on the plane.

Duran says he used Jack Messina, who played “little Cal,” as a guide to keep the character’s essence and “steal ... all the good choices he was making and try to make that as seamless a transition as possible.”

Roxburgh said the departure of “little Cal” was a shock to the cast.

“To be quite honest, we were like, ‘We don’t want this.’ And then when Ty entered the scene, he embodies Jack Messina’s energy and Cal so completely but in a more grown-up manner,” Roxburgh said. “Off-screen he brings so much humor and so much levity to work. Ty really blended so easily into into what we had.”

The cast and crew recently wrapped filming the season, this time saying farewell to each other for good. Despite the show’s end, though, Dallas says the bonds established will remain.

“We’ve all become such a family in so many ways,” he said. “I mean, Melissa, not only are we great, great friends, best friends, but we really are like sister and brother. Even though we’re always going to be in contact, I will always think back and be grateful for this time.”

The cast says filming the series’ end was fascinating because of all the loose ends along the way that were suddenly tied up.

“We actually started filming the final episode before we got the script,” said Roxburgh. “It was interesting because you’re acting things you have no idea about. We were all a little lost. But then when we finally sat down and read that final episode, it’s just so rich.”

For a show with myriad twist and turns, the final season will have answers.

“There are so many surprising and unbelievable things that happened along the way,” Dallas said. “But by the time we get there, you think, ‘This makes sense.’”

2 alleged ‘boogaloo’ members arrested in Michigan and Ohio

By COREY WILLIAMS and ANDREW WELSH-HUGGINS Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — The FBI has arrested two alleged members of the far-right anti-government group the Boogaloo Boys, with authorities increasingly concerned about the potential for violence in the leadup to next week’s midterm elections.

Timothy Teagan appeared Wednesday in federal court in Detroit on charges of being a drug user in possession of firearms and ammunition, and giving a false statement in connection with the acquisition of a firearm, according to an unsealed federal complaint.

Meanwhile, the FBI said in a criminal complaint filed Monday that there was enough evidence to charge Aron McKillips, of Sandusky, Ohio, with illegal possession of a machine gun and the interstate communica-

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tion of threats. It says McKillips is a member of the Boogaloo Boys and is believed to be in a paramilitary group called the Sons of Liberty.

The timing of the law enforcement action is notable in part because it comes just days before the mid-term elections. After the FBI searched his home last month, Teagan told documentarian Ford Fischer that federal agents questioned him specifically about potential violence being planned ahead of the election.

"They were very, very particular about questions involving anything going on with the election," he said. "They were asking if I knew of any violent plans or any violent tendencies that could come forth about the election. ... They were asking if we had any plans to go to polls armed."

Election workers have increasingly been targeted by threats and harassment since the 2020 election, and it's gotten worse in recent weeks — five people have already been charged with intimidation.

Nationally, elections officials are concerned about a flood of conspiracy theorists signing up to work as poll watchers, with some groups that have trafficked in lies about the 2020 election recruiting and training watchers.

The arrest of the suspected Boogaloo Boys members was reminiscent of a similar move by police in Washington, D.C., who arrested the leader of the Proud Boys just days before the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, as lawmakers were certifying Joe Biden's win. Members of the far-right group, along with leaders in another extremist group, the Oath Keepers, were later charged with seditious conspiracy.

The risk of fragmented far-right movements that promote civil division, anti-authority violence tend to escalate around elections, said Brian Levin, director of the Center for the Study of Hate & Extremism at California State University, San Bernardino.

"Hate crime and extremist plotting that rose in 2008, 2016 and 2018 correlated to conflictual elections, and this year election related invective appears to be rising," Levin added. "Part of the timing of various arrests could be related to the escalated risk during this time as well as the authorities hitting a threshold of evidence where they could bring charges."

McKillips' lawyer, Neil McElroy, said via email Wednesday that McKillips was taken into custody and that he has asked for McKillips to be released pending a Nov. 9 detention hearing in Toledo, Ohio.

In the criminal complaint against McKillips, the FBI alleges he made multiple online threats, including one to kill a police officer and another to kill anyone he determined to be a federal informant.

The FBI contends McKillips provided other members of the Boogaloo Boys equipment to convert rifles into machine guns, as on a trip to Lansing, Michigan, in April 2021. "I literally handed out machine guns in Michigan," McKillips said in a recording, the complaint states.

In September 2021, he said in a private chat group, "Ain't Got a federal badge off a corpse yet, so my time here ain't near done yet lol," according to the complaint.

In May of this year, McKillips and another user in the Signal messaging system threatened to kill a different Signal user in the belief the person was a federal informant who worked for the FBI or Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, the complaint says. And in July, McKillips threatened in a Signal chat group that he would "smoke a hog," meaning kill a police officer, if conditions worsened following a fatal police shooting in Akron, it says.

McKillips frequently advocated violence against police, federal agents, government buildings, big box stores like Walmart and Target, and threatened to blow up Facebook's headquarters, the criminal complaint says.

During Teagan's hearing Wednesday, a federal magistrate ordered him held pending a Friday detention hearing.

Dressed in colorful Hawaiian-style shirt — a uniform of sorts for adherents to the so-called boogaloo movement, which espouses that a second U.S. civil war is coming — Teagan told the court that he might seek to retain his own attorney.

Police in the Detroit suburb of Plymouth arrested Teagan on Oct. 25 and charged him with assault and battery in an attack on his father. FBI agents searching his room at his father's Plymouth home four days later found body armor, boogaloo movement flags and patches, and gas masks, according to the criminal complaint. They also seized a handgun from his brother's vehicle.

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According to the complaint, Teagan submitted an ATF form on July 17 for the purchase of a firearm and certified that he did not use controlled substances. But on Oct. 27, agents seized packages of what appeared to be marijuana, bongs and other drug paraphernalia from Teagan's room.

His brother, Christopher Teagan, told an FBI agent on the Joint Terrorism Task Force that he brought Timothy Teagan "a ton of weed" following his brother's release on the assault charge, the complaint states.

Teagan was among a dozen or so people who openly carried guns while demonstrating in January 2021 outside of the Michigan Capitol in Lansing. Some promoted the boogaloo movement. Teagan told reporters at the time that the demonstration's purpose was "to urge a message of peace and unity to the left and right."

Some boogaloo promoters insist they aren't genuinely advocating for violence. But the movement has been linked to a string of domestic terrorism plots.

Christopher Teagan, 24, told The Associated Press following Wednesday's hearing that his brother, through his association with the boogaloo movement, has "never been involved in anything of any type of violent nature."

"He's just been to protests," he said outside the courtroom. "I think (the FBI) will go after him unjustly or harsher because of his association with the group."

The federal government's actions could reflect different people in the boogaloo movement "getting closer to violence," said Javed Ali, an associate professor at the University of Michigan and a former senior U.S. government counterterrorism official.

"Maybe this is part of a more nationwide effort to finally start arresting and disrupting people who've moved beyond the phase of being angry," Ali said.

Such arrests can put individuals who may not have had previous serious charges into a "system of accountability," said Cliff Lampe, professor of information and a specialist in online interactions around extremist groups at the University of Michigan.

"Sometimes, law enforcement in all areas, city through federal, will bring charges in order to bring a person closer to law enforcement to observe them," Lampe said.

Timothy Teagan's arrest came just days after three members of a paramilitary group were convicted of supplying "material support" for a terrorist act over a plot to kidnap Michigan's Democratic governor, Gretchen Whitmer. Prosecutors argued the defendants supported the boogaloo movement.

In August, Steven Carrillo, an Air Force sergeant who officials say is associated with the boogaloo movement, was sentenced to life in prison without the possibility of parole in the killing of a Northern California sheriff's sergeant. In June, Carrillo was sentenced to 41 years in prison for killing a federal security agent in Oakland.

Biden implores voters to save democracy from lies, violence

By ZEKE MILLER and COLLEEN LONG Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Warning that democracy itself is in peril, President Joe Biden called on Americans Wednesday night to use their ballots in next week's midterm elections to stand up against lies, violence and dangerous "ultra MAGA" election disruptors who are trying to "succeed where they failed" in subverting the 2020 elections.

This is no time to stand aside, he declared. "Silence is complicity."

After weeks of reassuring talk about America's economy and inflation, Biden turned to a darker, more urgent message, declaring in the final days of midterm election voting that the nation's system of governance is under threat from former President Donald Trump's election-denying lies and the violence Biden said they inspire.

The president singled out "ultra MAGA" Republicans — a reference to Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan — calling them a minority but "driving force" of the Republican Party.

Pointing in particular to last Friday's attack on House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband, Biden said that Trump's false claims about a stolen election have "fueled the dangerous rise of political violence and voter

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intimidation over the past two years.”

“There’s an alarming rise in the number of people in this country condoning political violence or simply remaining silent,” Biden added. “In our bones we know democracy is at risk, but we also know this: It’s in our power to preserve our democracy.”

The president’s speech — focused squarely on the rite of voting and the counting of that vote — amounted to a plea for Americans to step back from the inflamed rhetoric that has heightened fears of political violence and challenges to the integrity of the elections. Biden was straddling two roles, speaking as both a president defending the pillars of democracy and a Democrat trying to boost his party’s prospects against Republicans.

He called out the hundreds of candidates who have denied the 2020 election result and now refuse to commit to accepting the results of the upcoming midterms.

“This driving force is trying to succeed where they failed in 2020 to suppress the rights of voters and subvert the electoral system itself,” Biden said.

“That is the path to chaos in America. It’s unprecedented. It’s unlawful. And it is un-American.”

The speech came days after a man seeking to kidnap House Speaker Pelosi severely injured her husband, Paul Pelosi, in their San Francisco home in the worst recent example of the political violence that burst forth with the Jan. 6, 2021 insurrection at the Capitol and has continued with alarming, though less-spectacular incidents.

Election workers nationwide have questioned whether to go back to work following increased intimidation and harassment ahead of Election Day. At least five people have been charged with federal crimes for harassing workers as early voting has gotten underway.

Reports of people watching ballot boxes in Arizona, sometimes armed or wearing ballistic vests, have raised serious concerns about voter intimidation. Election officials nationwide are bracing for confrontations at polling sites. A flood of conspiracy theorists have signed up to work as partisan poll watchers.

Emphasizing that it is the first federal election since the Capitol riot and Trump’s attempts to overturn the 2020 presidential election, Biden called on voters to reject candidates who have denied the results of the vote, which even Trump’s own administration declared to be free of any widespread fraud or interference.

Biden asked voters to “think long and hard about the moment we are in.”

“In a typical year, we are not often faced with the question of whether the vote we cast will preserve democracy or put it at risk,” he said. “But we are this year.”

“I hope you’ll make the future of our democracy an important part of your decision to vote and how you vote,” Biden added, asking Americans to consider whether the candidates they are supporting would respect the will of the people and accept the outcome of their election.

“The answer to that question is vital and in my opinion it should be decisive,” he said.

Biden also aimed to get ahead of conspiracy theories about the ongoing vote, saying Americans were voting early, by mail and by absentee ballot and it would take time to tally them “in a legal and orderly manner.” Major changes in voting in 2020 because of the pandemic prompted more early voting and mail-in voting and saw record turnout. It took five days before the results of the 2020 presidential election were final.

“It is important for citizens to be patient,” Biden said.

Some Republicans sharply criticized Biden’s remarks. House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, who stands to be speaker of the House if the GOP retakes control of the chamber, tweeted, “President Biden is trying to divide and deflect at a time when America needs to unite—because he can’t talk about his policies that have driven up the cost of living. The American people aren’t buying it.”

Biden delivered his remarks from Washington’s Union Station, blocks from the U.S. Capitol, just six days before polls close on Nov. 8 and as more than 27 million Americans have already cast their ballots.

Before the speech, U.S. Capitol Police Chief Tom Manger said he’s reviewed the attack on Pelosi’s husband and believes today’s political climate calls for more resources and better security for members of Congress after a massive increase in threats to lawmakers following the Capitol riot. He also made a rare

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call to stop the rancorous conspiracy talk that has swirled around the attack.

"Our brave men and women are working around the clock to meet this urgent mission during this divisive time," he said in a statement. "In the meantime, a significant change that will have an immediate impact will be for people across our country to lower the temperature on political rhetoric before it's too late."

Biden last delivered a prime-time speech on what he called the "continued battle for the soul of the nation" on Sept. 1 outside Independence Hall in Philadelphia, in which he condemned the "MAGA forces" of Trump and his adherents as a threat to America's system of government.

The new remarks come as hundreds of candidates who have falsely denied the legitimacy of the 2020 presidential election are on ballots across the country, with many poised to be elected to critical roles overseeing elections.

In contrast to the September remarks, which drew criticism from some corners for being paid for by taxpayers, Biden's Wednesday night speech was hosted by the Democratic National Committee.

Many Americans remain pessimistic about the state of U.S. democracy. An October poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that just 9% of adults think democracy is working "extremely" or "very well," while 52% say it's not working well.

TV audience for World Series Game 3 on Fox down 2.7%

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Philadelphia Phillies' 7-0 win over Houston in Game 3 of the World Series was seen by 11,162,000 viewers on Fox, down 2.7% from last year's third game.

Atlanta's 2-0 victory over the Astros last season was seen by 11,469,000. That game was on a Friday night, while this year's Game 3 was on a Tuesday.

This year's audience was up 34% from the 8,339,000 for the Los Angeles Dodgers' 6-2 win over Tampa Bay in 2020, the lowest-rated World Series.

Including Fox Deportes and Fox's streaming platforms, this year's Game 3 was viewed by 11,373,000. The game, which began at 8:05 p.m. EDT and ended at 11:13 p.m., drew a 29.1 rating and 56 share in Philadelphia and a 21.9/47 in Houston.

Game 3 was postponed by rain on Monday night.

The first three games this year averaged 11,179,000 viewers on Fox, up 2% from the three-game average of 10,964,000 last year and an increase of 25% from the three-game average of 8,977,000 in 2020.

The rating is the percentage of television households tuned in to a broadcast. The share is the percentage viewing a telecast among those households with TVs on at the time.

Biden, the optimist, wrestles with US democracy concerns

By COLLEEN LONG and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — It was his last stop of the day on a West Coast swing, a backyard fundraiser at a TV producer's home in Los Angeles, and President Joe Biden was telling the crowd how tough the past few years have been.

He ticked off challenges: Technology that's made it easier to corrupt the truth. Russia and China's efforts to upset the world order, surging inflation at home. The lingering pandemic. The after-effects of the Capitol riot. Election deniers and their impact on the upcoming nationwide voting.

Still, for all of that, Biden insisted, the nation's best days lie ahead.

The upbeat heart of the president's message is the same wherever he goes. In Detroit or Los Angeles. Syracuse, New York, or Hagerstown, Maryland. To throngs in an auditorium or a few dozen in a weathered union hall, the Democratic president declares he's never felt more hopeful.

"I truly believe we're just getting started," he told a crowd in Florida on Tuesday. "I've never been more optimistic about America's future than I am today."

Yet this refrain of Biden's presidency — this promise that things will get better — is butting up against his own dire political projections: A Congress potentially controlled by what he's labeled "ultra-MAGA" Republicans as he faces midterm elections that will define, and quite possibly stifle, the next two years

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of his term.

Biden always leans heavily on the positive. But he has to do so when many voters are feeling the pain of higher prices and harbor deep concerns about the fragility of democracy itself.

He delivered his second speech on threats to the nation's system of government in as many months Wednesday night, warning Americans of hundreds of candidates on the ballot who support false claims of the 2020 election, and how those lies have fueled political violence that led to the attack on the husband of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi last week. Biden outlined in grave terms the threat to democracy, and called for an end to the violence.

Still, he had hope.

"You have the power, it's your choice, it's your decision," he told voters. "There's nothing beyond our capacity if we do it together. The fate of the nation, the fate of the soul of America, lies where it always does: with the people"

Presidents "almost have to will themselves into a sense of optimism. If they can't project hope that we can surmount our difficulties, then they're sunk and we are, too," said Jeff Shesol, a former speechwriter for President Bill Clinton who now runs a speechwriting and strategy firm in Washington.

And it's anything but clear that Biden's optimistic vision is breaking through. Just 25% of Americans said the country is headed in the right direction in an October AP-NORC survey.

Throughout history, leaders have tried to strike the right balance — leveling with people about the challenges at hand but also giving them cause to hope.

President Barack Obama tried during the 2010 midterm campaign when he was hopeful about the nascent economic recovery but mindful that so many voters were still hurting. His party saw a "shellacking" in the House.

Now, less than a week before Election Day, the nation is in an unprecedented, newly uncertain time, marked by the punishing pandemic, economic fears and a mounting wave of hate crimes and political violence. Growing numbers question whether democracy can survive -- and whether their leaders can meet the moment.

That's a difficult line for any president to walk — too much Pollyanna talk can sound simply delusional.

"If you get carried away with it, as a politician or a president, you risk becoming detached from people's actual experience," Shesol said.

Biden's upbeat message is ridiculed by Republicans, whose midterm pitch is tied to a picture of a nation beset by rising crime and inflation. Even a basic metric like last week's report that the economy grew again after two quarters of contraction was subject to alternate interpretations: Biden said it was evidence the country's recovery was continuing to "power forward;" Republican Rep. Kevin Brady dismissed it as fleeting "ghost growth."

"Joe Biden is completely detached from reality," Republican National Committee Chairwoman Ronna McDaniel said last month. "Americans are living paycheck to paycheck, they can't afford rising gas and grocery prices, and real wages are down."

Those who know Biden best insist he's a realist: It's not that he believes things are great all the time; it's that he think there's always room — and a path — to get better.

Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., said Biden knows when to hold out hope and when to walk away. He gave the example of Biden's billion-dollar infrastructure plan. The deal fell apart in spectacularly public fashion a few times, but Biden wouldn't relent until it passed with bipartisan support. On other pieces of legislation, he has cut loose when it was clear he couldn't strike a deal.

"It's a terribly difficult balance, but I think he strikes it as well as anyone can," Casey said.

The president's outlook is shaped in part by personal tragedy: His first wife and young daughter died in a car crash in 1972 that also injured his two sons. Later, son Beau died of cancer at 46. There's nothing anyone can say to him that's worse than what he's already experienced, friends and staff often say.

Add to that his long experience in government and "he's not hit with surprises," said Ted Kaufman, Biden's longtime friend and a former Delaware senator. "He has the kind of force of his own personality, but it's leavened by the facts on the ground."

Despite Biden's efforts to convince the nation of its best self, doubts course through the electorate,

particularly about the future of U.S. democracy.

Only about half of Americans have high confidence that votes in next week's midterm elections will be counted accurately, according to AP-NORC polling. Just 9% of adults think democracy is working "extremely" or "very well," while 52% say it's not working well.

Support of false election claims runs deep among Republicans running for office. Nearly 1 in 3 of those seeking election to posts that play a role in overseeing, certifying or defending elections have supported overturning the results of the 2020 presidential race, according to an Associated Press review.

White House senior adviser Mike Donilon says Biden has "never underestimated the moment we're in. But I think he has always believed that the overwhelming percentage of the country still holds what he believes to be the core values that have always defined America."

The president, Donilon added, knows there's push-pull between the country at its best and worst.

He added: "Part of moving the country forward to a better place is recognizing the reality you're facing, making the case of what should be rejected, what the country can rally around, and creating a picture of where the country can be."

UN Security Council denies Russia call for bio weapons probe

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The U.N. Security Council on Wednesday overwhelmingly rejected Russia's attempt to establish a commission to investigate its unfounded claims that Ukraine and the United States are carrying out "military biological" activities that violate the convention prohibiting the use of biological weapons.

Russia only got support from China in the vote on its resolution, with the U.S., Britain and France voting "no" and the 10 other council nations abstaining. The resolution was not approved because it failed to get the minimum nine "yes" votes required for adoption.

The 2-3-10 vote reflected the council's continuing opposition and skepticism about Russia's actions since its Feb. 24 invasion of Ukraine. The council has been paralyzed from taking any action against Russia's military offensive because of Russia's veto power.

Russia circulated the draft resolution and a 310-page document to council members last week alleging that military biological activity is taking place at biological laboratories in Ukraine with support from the U.S. Defense Department.

Russia's deputy ambassador Dmitry Polyansky said after the vote that his government was "extremely disappointed" that the council did not respond positively to its request to establish a commission. Its proposed resolution called for the Security Council's 15 members to carry out the investigation of Russia's complaint, as allowed under Article VI of the biological weapons convention, and present a report with recommendations to the council by Nov. 30.

Polyansky claimed "Western countries demonstrated in every way that the law does not apply to them" and "are ready to trample any norm, to flout any rule," accusing them of a "colonial mentality."

U.S. Ambassador Linda Thomas-Greenfield countered that the United States voted against the resolution "because it is based on disinformation, dishonesty, bad faith, and a total lack of respect for this body."

Before the vote, Russia's Polyansky called the resolution "a considerable milestone" that would show whether the Security Council was prepared to act in line with international law giving state parties to the biological weapons convention the right to seek an investigation at the Security Council.

"It is a milestone for Russia's deception and lies," Thomas-Greenfield shot back. "And the world sees it."

At a meeting in September of the 197 state parties to the biological weapons convention, she said, "Russia failed to provide any credible evidence to support these false allegations" and an overwhelming number of countries that spoke "considered that the issues raised by Russia were unsubstantiated and had been conclusively addressed."

But Thomas-Greenfield said that wasn't enough for Russia and "it inappropriately raised the same false claims here, abusing its position and abusing us."

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Mexico's deputy ambassador Juan Manuel Gomez Robledo, whose country abstained, said Russia didn't provide evidence to activate an investigation. He said it was not "realistic" to set up a commission to report in 28 days — and a commission could not be independent and objective if Russia as a council member was included so it would have to be excluded "since it is one of the parties involved in the armed conflict."

Russia's initial allegation of secret American biological warfare labs in Ukraine in March has been disputed by independent scientists, Ukrainian leaders and officials at the White House and Pentagon. An Associated Press investigation in March found the claim was taking root online, uniting COVID-19 conspiracy theorists, QAnon adherents and some supporters of former President Donald Trump.

Ukraine does have a network of biological labs that have gotten funding and research support from the U.S. They are owned and operated by Ukraine and are part of an initiative called the Biological Threat Reduction Program that aims to reduce the likelihood of deadly outbreaks, whether natural or manmade. The U.S. efforts date back to work in the 1990s to dismantle the former Soviet Union's program for weapons of mass destruction.

Russia called a Security Council meeting on its claims last Thursday, which the United States and its Western allies vehemently dismissed.

Thomas-Greenfield, the U.S. ambassador, called the meeting "a colossal waste of time" and said the claims are part of a Moscow "disinformation campaign" that is attempting "to distract from the atrocities Russian forces are carrying out in Ukraine and a desperate tactic to justify an unjustifiable war."

"Ukraine does not have a biological weapons program," she said. "The United States does not have a biological weapons program. There are no Ukrainian biological weapons laboratories supported by the United States."

Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia accused the U.S. of conducting work in Ukraine with deadly pathogens — including cholera, plague, anthrax and influenza — that couldn't be justified under the guise of public health. He said documents and evidence recovered by Russian authorities suggested a military application.

Nebenzia told the Security Council that the Russian military during its time in Ukraine had recovered drones capable of spraying bioagents as well as documents that he said related to research on the possibility of spreading pathogens through bats and migrating birds.

Thomas-Greenfield countered that Russia's claims are "absurd for many reasons, including because such species, even if they could be weaponized, would pose as much a threat to the European continent and to Ukraine itself as they would to any other country."

Russia's Polyansky told the council Wednesday that regardless of the vote, "the questions to the United States and Ukraine is something that we do retain and the evidence accompanying our complaint still requires clarifications."

He said Russia will continue to make efforts to establish the facts through the biological weapons convention and any violators will still have to be held accountable by the international community.

Powell: Rate hikes may slow, but inflation fight hardly over

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell sought Wednesday to strike a delicate balance at a moment when high inflation is bedeviling the nation's economy and commanding a central role in the midterm elections.

Powell suggested that the Fed may decide in coming months to slow its aggressive interest rate increases. Yet he also made clear that the Fed isn't even close to declaring victory in its fight to curb an inflation rate that is near four-decade highs and has shown few signs of ebbing.

When the Fed ended its latest policy meeting Wednesday, it announced that it was pumping up its benchmark rate by a substantial three-quarters of a point for a fourth straight time. Its key rate now stands in a range of 3.75% to 4%, the highest in 15 years.

It was the central bank's sixth rate hike this year — a streak that has made mortgages and other con-

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sumer and business loans increasingly expensive and heightened the risk of a recession.

The statement the Fed issued suggested that it would begin to take a more deliberate approach to rate hikes, likely leading to smaller increases in borrowing costs. In doing so, it would consider that rate hikes take time to feed into the economy and achieve their goal of slowing inflation.

The financial markets initially cheered the notion that the Fed might soon decide to slow its hikes, with stock and bond prices surging higher.

Yet as his news conference got under way, Powell struck a harder line. He stressed that the Fed's policymakers have seen little progress in their efforts to control inflation and would likely have to send rates even higher than they thought they would at their last meeting in September.

"We still have some ways to go," he said. "Incoming data since our last meeting suggests" that the officials might have to raise rates higher than the 4.6% they forecast in September.

The Fed chair pointedly emphasized that it would be "very premature" to even think about halting the rate hikes. Inflation pressures, he said, remain far too high.

The abrupt shift in tone gave the financial markets whiplash. Stocks sharply reversed their gains and tumbled into the close of trading. The Dow Jones Industrial Average ended the day down over 500 points, or about 1.5%.

"I think he accomplished his goal" of striking hawkish and dovish notes, said Vince Reinhart, chief economist at Dreyfus and Mellon. ("Hawks" generally prefer higher rates to fight inflation, while "doves" often lean more toward lower rates to support hiring.) "That's why the market was so confused."

The Fed's meeting occurred as financial markets and many economists have grown nervous that Powell will end up leading the central bank to raise borrowing costs higher than needed to tame inflation and will cause a painful recession in the process.

Powell implicitly addressed those fears at his news conference. He kept the door open to downshifting to a half-point hike when the Fed next meets in December. The central bank could then step down even further to a quarter-point increase — a more typically sized rate hike — early next year.

"At some point," he said, "it will become appropriate to slow the pace of increases. So that time is coming, and it may come as soon as the next meeting or the one after that. No decision has been made."

At the same time, Powell noted that the job market remains strong, which means many businesses must raise pay to keep workers — raises that are often passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices.

This week, the government reported that companies posted more job openings in September than in August. There are now 1.9 available jobs for each unemployed worker, an unusually large supply, which also fuels bigger pay increases and adds to inflationary pressures.

Overall, Powell said the Fed has made little progress against inflation so far.

"We think we have a ways to go, we have some ground to cover with interest rates," he continued, "before we get to that level of interest rates that we think is sufficiently restrictive."

The persistence of inflated prices and higher borrowing costs is pressuring American households and has undercut the ability of Democrats to campaign on the health of the job market as they try to keep control of Congress. Republican candidates have hammered Democrats on the punishing impact of inflation in the run-up to the midterm elections that will end Tuesday.

"Chair Powell stuck to this two-pronged message: We're not done yet, due to high inflation and a strong commitment to bring it down," Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets Economics, wrote in a note. "But we may not need to keep cranking rates aggressively, due to an economy that has slowed significantly from last year and long-term inflation expectations that are still 'well anchored.'"

Typically, the Fed raises rates in quarter-point increments. But after having miscalculated in downplaying inflation last year as likely transitory, Powell has led the Fed to raise rates aggressively to try to slow borrowing and spending and ease price pressures.

The average rate on a 30-year fixed mortgage, just 3.14% a year ago, surpassed 7% last week, mortgage buyer Freddie Mac reported. Sales of existing homes have dropped for eight straight months.

Still, the policymakers may feel they can soon slow the pace of their rate hikes because some early signs suggest that inflation could start declining in 2023. Consumer spending, squeezed by high prices and

costlier loans, is barely growing. Supply chain snarls are easing, which means fewer shortages of goods and parts. Wage growth is plateauing, which, if followed by declines, would reduce inflationary pressures.

Outside the United States, many other major central banks are also rapidly raising rates to try to cool inflation levels that are even higher than in the U.S.

Last week, the European Central Bank announced its second consecutive jumbo rate hike, increasing rates at the fastest pace in the euro currency's history to try to curb inflation that soared to a record 10.7% last month.

Likewise, the Bank of England is expected to raise rates Thursday to try to ease consumer prices, which have risen at their fastest pace in 40 years, to 10.1% in September. Even as they raise rates to combat inflation, both Europe and the U.K. appear to be sliding toward recession.

Witness: Oath Keepers head tried to reach Trump after Jan. 6

By LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Days after the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection, Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes tried to get a message to then-President Donald Trump that urged him to fight to stay in power and "save the republic," according to trial testimony on Wednesday.

Rhodes said in his message — given to an intermediary — that the Oath Keepers would support the Republican president if he invoked the Insurrection Act and called them up as a militia.

The message never made it to Trump. The intermediary — a Texas software developer and military veteran who testified he had an indirect way to reach the president — was taken aback by it and went to the FBI instead.

"That's asking for civil war on American ground ... that means blood is going to be shed on streets where your family is," Jason Alpers told jurors. He decided not to pass along Rhodes' words. "It would have wrapped me into agreeing with that ideology in some way, which I did not."

Jurors also heard a recording Alpers made of his meeting with Rhodes in a parking lot, where the Oath Keepers leaders said "we should have brought rifles," in reference to the Capitol riot. The group did have a large stash of weapons in a hotel room in nearby Virginia, but didn't use them that day. FBI agents also traced more than \$17,000 in firearm parts, magazines, ammunition and other items Rhodes purchased after the insurrection.

Alpers testified as prosecutors began to wrap up their case against Rhodes and four associates in the most serious case stemming from the Jan. 6 attack to go to trial yet. Prosecutors sought to show that Rhodes continued plotting to stop the transfer of presidential power even after the Capitol riot, which delayed the certification of Democrat Joe Biden's electoral victory.

Alpers' connection to Trump is unclear, and he didn't elaborate on how he could have gotten the message to him. Alpers went to the FBI a few months later with the recording of his mid-January 2021 meeting with Rhodes.

The two men had a mutual acquaintance and Alpers agreed to meet the antigovernment group leader to potentially pass along a message to Trump. He met Rhodes with a group of supporters in a parking lot of an electronics store in the Dallas area.

Alpers recorded the meeting with a thumb-drive recording device to protect himself and ensure he had an accurate depiction of the message, he said. After chatting with Alpers, Rhodes wrote down a message on Alpers' phone for the president.

In it, Rhodes implored Trump to invoke the Insurrection Act and promised that the Oath Keepers would support him if he did.

"You must use the Insurrection Act and use the power of presidency to stop him. All us veterans will support you," Rhodes wrote. If Trump didn't act, Rhodes warned that Trump and his children would "die in prison." In the meeting, Rhodes also vented his frustration with the president to his new acquaintance.

"If he's not going to do the right thing and he's just gonna let himself be removed illegally then we should have brought rifles," Rhodes said, according to the recording of meeting. "We should have fixed it

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right then and there. I'd hang (expletive) Pelosi from the lamppost," Rhodes said, referring to Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Rhodes and his co-defendants are the first among hundreds of people arrested in the Capitol riot to stand trial on seditious conspiracy, a rare Civil War-era charge that calls for up to 20 years behind bars. The stakes are high for the Justice Department, which last secured such a conviction at trial nearly 30 years ago, and intends to try two more groups on the charge later this year.

Rhodes' lawyers have said their client didn't commit seditious conspiracy because he believed Trump was going to invoke the Insurrection Act and call up the Oath Keepers as a militia to put down what Rhodes saw as a coup by Democrats.

The Insurrection Act gives presidents broad authority to call up the military and decide what shape that force will take. Trump floated invoking it at other times in his presidency but never did. Rhodes' lawyers have argued their client was merely lobbying a president to utilize a law.

While questioning Alpers on the stand, defense attorneys sought to portray the message as another bombastic way to call on an elected official to invoke a law. Alpers also acknowledged that he didn't turn over the recording to the FBI immediately, saying he initially didn't want to get involved.

On trial with Rhodes, of Granbury, Texas, are Kelly Meggs, leader of the Florida chapter of the Oath Keepers; Kenneth Harrelson, another Florida Oath Keeper; Thomas Caldwell, a retired U.S. Navy intelligence officer from Virginia, and Jessica Watkins, who led an Ohio militia group.

Russia rejoins deal on wartime Ukrainian grain exports

By ANDREW MELDRUM and SUZAN FRASER Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia agreed Wednesday to rejoin a wartime agreement that allows Ukrainian grain and other commodities to be shipped to world markets. The U.N.'s refugee chief, meanwhile, put the number of Ukrainians driven from their homes since the Russian invasion eight months ago at around 14 million.

It is "the fastest, largest displacement witnessed in decades," said Filippo Grandi, who heads the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

In announcing that Russia would rejoin the grain pact, President Vladimir Putin said Moscow had received assurances that Ukraine would not use the humanitarian corridors to attack Russian forces. He warned that Russia reserves the right to withdraw again if Kyiv breaks its word.

Putin praised Turkey's mediation efforts to get the deal back on track, as well as Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's "neutrality in the conflict as a whole" and his efforts at "ensuring the interest of the poorest countries."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he also thanked Erdogan on Wednesday, "for his active participation in maintaining the grain agreement, and his unwavering support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine."

Russia had suspended its participation in the grain deal over the weekend, citing an alleged drone attack against its Black Sea fleet in Crimea.

Ukraine did not claim responsibility for an attack, and Zelenskyy said Wednesday that Moscow's return to the agreement showed "Russian blackmail did not lead to anything."

Erdogan said shipments would resume Wednesday, prioritizing those to African nations, including Somalia, Djibouti and Sudan. That's in line with Russia's concerns that much of the exported grain had ended up in richer nations, since Moscow and Kyiv made separate agreements with Turkey and the U.N. in July.

U.N. humanitarian chief Martin Griffiths said Monday that 23% of the cargo exported from Ukraine under the grain deal went to lower- or lower-middle-income countries, which also received 49% of all wheat shipments.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres hailed Russia's announcement, and a spokesman said Guterres "remains committed to removing the remaining obstacles to the exports of Russian food and fertilizer."

Ukraine and Russia are major global exporters of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other food to devel-

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oping countries. A loss of those supplies before the grain deal had pushed up global food prices, led to soaring energy costs, and helped throw tens of millions into poverty.

The July agreement brought down global food prices about 15% from their peak in March, according to the U.N. After the announcement Wednesday that Russia would rejoin the deal, wheat futures prices erased increases seen Monday, dropping more than 6% in Chicago.

Meanwhile, in Kyiv, the local power-grid operator said electricity had been restored after a wave of Russian drone and artillery strikes had targeted energy infrastructure. About 300,000 households reportedly got their power back, but local authorities called for controlled blackouts to reduce strain on the system.

Grandi, the U.N. refugee official, noted that Ukrainians are about to face "one of the world's harshest winters in extremely difficult circumstances."

He said those include the continuing destruction of civilian infrastructure, which is "quickly making the humanitarian response look like a drop in the ocean of needs."

Grandi said the 14 million Ukrainian refugees had increased the overall number of displaced people worldwide to more than 103 million.

Power outages also were reported in the southern cities of Nikopol and Chervonohryhorivka after "a large-scale drone attack," Dnipropetrovsk Gov. Valentyn Reznichenko said. The two cities lie across the Dnieper River from the huge Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant.

Russia and Ukraine have traded blame for months for shelling at and around the plant that the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog warned could cause a radiation emergency. In a development easing some fears, Ukraine's state nuclear company Energoatom, said the plant has been reconnected to the country's power grid after shelling forced it to rely on generators to cool spent nuclear fuel.

The plant is held by Russian forces, but Ukrainian staff continues to run it.

The company also said Russian soldiers have cordoned off the plant's spent nuclear-fuel storage facility and began unspecified construction there. "They don't let anyone in, they don't report anything," the company said.

Russian shelling continued in southern and eastern Ukraine, causing at least four civilian deaths between Tuesday and Wednesday, according to Zelenskyy's office.

"The epicenter of the fighting" was around the city of Bakhmut, neighboring Soledar and the wider Donetsk region, Ukraine's Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Malya told Ukrainian TV. She said Ukrainian defenders around Bakhmut were facing a "very difficult" task.

"But the main thing is that Ukraine will not give up a single inch of land," she said.

In southern Ukraine, Russian-installed authorities in the occupied Kherson region announced they were temporarily halting traffic across the wide Dnieper River, citing "increased military danger" as Kyiv's forces edged closer to the region's capital, the city of Kherson.

The move would also prevent civilians from crossing back into Ukrainian-held territory.

The Moscow-backed authorities have said they are relocating tens of thousands of civilians further into Russian-held territory in anticipation of the Ukrainian counterattack.

The province was overrun by Russian forces early in the war, and both sides have been girding for a major battle over it.

In another development, Belarus and Russia began preparations for large-scale joint military exercises. Belarusian Defense Minister Viktor Khrenin didn't specify the dates for the exercises, dubbed Union Shield-2023, or the number of troops that would take part.

Russia has previously used Belarus, an economically dependent ally, as a springboard to send troops and missiles into Ukraine. Kyiv fears that the Belarusian army will be directly drawn into the war, striking from the north where the countries share a 1,080-kilometer (671-mile) border.

On a visit to Kyiv on Wednesday, Spain's Foreign Minister José Albares pledged a new military aid package to help Ukraine's air defenses. Cambodia, meanwhile, agreed to send deminers to help train Ukrainians in clearing land mines.

Trump lawyers who fought election results saw Thomas as key

By ERIC TUCKER and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawyers who aided former President Donald Trump's efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election regarded an appeal to Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas as "key" to their chances of success, according to emails provided to congressional investigators and made public Wednesday.

The email exchange from December 31, 2020 shows the lawyers discussing ways to delay the certification of results in Georgia, a closely contested state won by Democrat Joe Biden. One lawyer, Kenneth Chesebro, suggested that an appeal to Thomas, as the justice who handles emergency appeals from Georgia, could "end up being the key here."

"We want to frame things so that Thomas could be the one to issue some sort of stay or other circuit justice opinion saying Georgia is in legitimate doubt," Chesebro wrote. "Realistically, our only chance to get a favorable judicial opinion by Jan. 6, which might hold up the Georgia count in Congress, is from Thomas."

Another lawyer, John Eastman, responded that he was in agreement, saying that if Thomas were to act, "that may be enough to kick the Georgia Legislature into gear because I've been getting a lot of calls from them indicating they're leaning that way."

In the end, the Supreme Court wound up rejecting multiple Republican requests to intervene in the election and undo the results.

The emails were disclosed to congressional investigators as part of a long-running lawsuit involving Eastman, a conservative lawyer and an architect of Trump's last-ditch efforts to stay in office, and the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Eastman, a former law clerk for Thomas, has been trying to withhold documents from the committee on the basis of attorney-client privilege claims. The committee has argued that there is a legal exception allowing the disclosure of communications regarding ongoing or future crimes. U.S. District Court Judge David Carter, who is overseeing the case, has mostly agreed, ordering the release of hundreds of emails to the House committee since the spring.

The emails were published by Politico. Their authenticity was confirmed by a person familiar with the matter who was not authorized to discuss the it by name and spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity.

Chesebro did not immediately return a text message seeking comment. A lawyer for Eastman also did not immediately return a call seeking comment.

Thomas's wife, Virginia, was interviewed by the panel in September, when she stood by the false claim that the 2020 election was fraudulent.

Last June, Eastman posted on his blog a Dec. 4, 2020, email from Virginia Thomas in which she asked him for a status update for a group she described as "grassroots state leaders."

"OMG, Mrs. Thomas asked me to give an update about election litigation to her group. Stop the Presses!" the headline on the blog post reads.

Eastman also said he never discussed with either Thomas "any matters pending or likely to come before the Court."

Ethiopian govt, Tigray agree to end fighting after 2 years

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME and CARA ANNA Associated Press

PRETORIA, South Africa (AP) — Ethiopia's warring sides agreed Wednesday to a permanent cessation of hostilities in a conflict believed to have killed hundreds of thousands, but enormous challenges lie ahead, including getting all parties to lay down arms or withdraw.

The war in Africa's second-most populous country, which marks two years on Friday, has seen abuses documented on both sides, with millions of people displaced and many near famine.

"The level of destruction is immense," said the lead negotiator for Ethiopia's government, Redwan Hussein. Lead Tigray negotiator Getachew Reda expressed a similar sentiment and noted that "painful

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concessions" had been made. Exhausted Ethiopians, urged by the parties to "stop voices of division and hate," watched them shake hands.

A draft text of the agreement, shared with The Associated Press by a diplomat, says Tigray forces will be disarmed, starting with "light weapons" within 30 days of Wednesday's signing, and Ethiopian federal security forces will take full control of "all federal facilities, installations, and major infrastructure such as airports and highways within the Tigray region." The final, detailed agreement was not made public, but the brief joint statement notes "a detailed program of disarmament" and "restoration of constitutional order" in Tigray.

Ethiopia's government will continue restoring basic services to the Tigray region, where communications, transport and banking links for more than 5 million people have been severed since fighting began. The parties also commit to unfettered humanitarian access.

"The devil will be in the implementation," said former Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta, who helped facilitate the talks. An African Union panel with representatives from both sides and Africa experts will monitor the process.

It was not immediately clear when independent journalists and human rights researchers would be allowed into Tigray.

Major questions remain. Neighboring Eritrea, which has fought alongside Ethiopia, was not part of the peace talks. It's not clear to what extent its deeply repressive government, which has long considered Tigray authorities a threat, will respect the agreement. The draft says the Ethiopian and Tigray sides agree to stop "collusion with any external force hostile to either party." Eritrea's information minister didn't reply to questions.

Eritrean forces have been blamed for some of the conflict's worst abuses, including gang rapes, and witnesses have described killings and lootings by Eritrean forces even during the peace talks. On Wednesday, a humanitarian source said several women in the town of Adwa reported being raped by Eritrean soldiers, and some were badly wounded. The source, like many on the situation inside Tigray, spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation.

Forces from Ethiopia's neighboring Amhara region also have been fighting Tigray forces, but Amhara representatives also were not part of the talks. "Amharas cannot be expected to abide by any outcome of a negotiations process from which they think they are excluded," said Tewodrose Tirfe, chairman of the Amhara Association of America.

But observers long strained by the conflict welcomed the agreement. "This is very much a welcome first step," said the United Nations secretary-general's spokesman, Stephane Dujarric. U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield told reporters she was delighted because "what it means is that lives will be saved."

Another critical question is how soon aid can return to Tigray. Doctors have described running out of basic medicines like vaccines, insulin and therapeutic food while people die of easily preventable diseases and starvation. U.N. human rights investigators have said the Ethiopian government was using "starvation of civilians" as a weapon of war.

"We're back to 18th-century surgery," a surgeon at the region's flagship hospital, Fasika Amdeslasie, told health experts at an online event Wednesday. "It's like an open-air prison."

A humanitarian source said their organization could resume operations almost immediately if unfettered aid access to Tigray is granted.

"It entirely depends on what the government agrees to. ... If they genuinely give us access, we can start moving very quickly, in hours, not weeks," said the source, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly.

The conflict began in November 2020, less than a year after Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for making peace with Eritrea, which borders the Tigray region. Abiy's government has since declared the Tigray authorities, who ruled Ethiopia for nearly three decades before Abiy took office, a terrorist organization. The Ethiopian government will facilitate the lifting of that designation, the draft agreement says.

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The brutal fighting, which also spilled into the Amhara and Afar regions as Tigray forces pressed toward the capital last year, was renewed in August in Tigray after months of lull that allowed thousands of trucks of aid into the region. According to minutes of a Tigray Emergency Coordination Center meeting on Oct. 21, seen by the AP, health workers reported 101 civilians killed by drone strikes and airstrikes, and 265 injured, between Sept. 27 and Oct. 10 alone.

"The agreement signed today in South Africa is monumental in moving Ethiopia forward on the path of the reforms we embarked upon four and half years ago," Abiy said in a statement after the agreement. "Our commitment to peace remains steadfast."

But he made clear he saw the agreement as a win for his government. In a speech hours before Wednesday's announcement, the prime minister said: "We need to replicate the victory we got on the battlefield in peace efforts, too."

Search for solutions drives race to save Utah salt flats

By SAM METZ and BRADY McCOMBS Associated Press

WENDOVER, Utah (AP) — In the Utah desert, a treeless expanse of pristine white salt crystals has long lured daredevil speed racers, filmmakers and social media-obsessed tourists. It's so flat that on certain days, visitors swear they can see the curvature of the earth.

The glistening white terrain of the Bonneville Salt Flats, a remnant of a prehistoric lakebed that is one of the American West's many other-worldly landscapes, serves as a racetrack for land speed world records and backdrop for movies like "Independence Day" and "The World's Fastest Indian."

But it's growing thinner and thinner as those who cherish it clamor for changes to save it.

Research has time and again shown that the briny water in the aquifer below the flats is depleting faster than nature can replenish it. As nearby groundwater replaces the mineral-rich brine, evaporation yields less salt than historic cycles of flooding and evaporation left on the landscape.

It's thinned by roughly one-third in the last 60 years. The overall footprint has shrunk to about half of its peak size in 1994. The crust keeps tires cool at high speeds and provides an ideal surface for racing — unless seasonal flooding fails to recede or leaves behind an unstable layer of salt. Racers struggle to find a track long enough to reach record speeds with only 8 miles of track compared 13 miles (20 kilometers) several decades ago.

Scientists largely agree that years of aquifer overdraws by nearby potash mining have driven the problem, yet insist that there's no hard evidence that simply paying the mining company to return water to the area will solve it amid detrimental human activity like extracting minerals or driving racecars.

Potash is potassium-based salt primarily used throughout the world as a fertilizer for crops such as corn, soy, rice and wheat. It's extracted in more than a dozen countries throughout the world, mainly from prehistoric lakebeds like Bonneville's.

It's mined from other iconic salt flats, including in Chile, where the thickness is not shrinking in a similar manner.

In Utah, after three decades of studies examining the salt flats, nothing has slowed the deterioration. But officials are funding a new study as they try to find a solution. Researchers are seeking to pinpoint why the salt is fading and what can be done to stop it. Under a \$1 million research project spearheaded by the Utah Geological Survey, scientists are gathering data to understand the effects climate change, racing, repaving the salt and operating the mine on leased federal land have on preserving the Salt Flats.

The salt is thinning as climate change drags the West into its third decade of drought, yet it's unclear how that affects the seasonal flood patterns the landscape relies on to maintain its size and footprint.

Frustration is boiling over for Dennis Sullivan, a car-builder and racer who set a land speed record in his 1927 Model T street roadster. His organization, the Salt Flats Racing Association, is convinced the potash mining company that extracts minerals from the flats is the primary reason that the aquifer is being depleted. But rather than point fingers that direction, he and other racers blame the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, which oversees the area and is required by federal law to balance multiple uses and

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preserve it now and into the future.

To save the landscape, Sullivan says, the U.S. government needs to find \$50 million over 10 years to pay Intrepid Potash, the mining company, to pour briny water it's drawn from the land back on to the flats. He bristles at seeing more time and money spent on research when to him the solution is clear.

"In the world I came from, you study something, you figure out what changes you need to make, you make the changes and then you go back and study it again to see if your changes had an effect on it," said Sullivan. "It's ludicrous to just keep studying it until you do something."

The fragile landscape has become less reliable for racers, who had to cancel "Speed Week" events scheduled for this fall after the salt flats flooded and left them without enough space to drive on.

Though racers insist the answer is obvious, scientists contend that there's no hard evidence that simply returning briny water will reverse the effects of extraction and maintain the salt flats.

Sullivan doesn't blame Intrepid Potash; it has a leasing agreement with the federal government. He says land managers haven't invested in preserving the landscape or replenishing the salt taken off of it.

Intrepid Potash did not respond to questions from The Associated Press.

Jeremiah Bernau, a geologist working on the study with the Utah Geological Survey, said the mining company has already been pouring salt and it's unclear if that's the answer.

A 2016 study found that the areas most susceptible to thinning were places where races are organized. In simple terms, it changes how water can flow through the crust, Bernau said.

"Every use is going to have some sort of impact upon it. It's just trying to rank those, understand how much that impact is and what we can do to mitigate or understand it," Bernau said on a recent tour of the area, where reporters accompanied him as he measured the thickness of the salt and depth of the aquifer.

"My work is trying to understand how is that working and what are the actions that we can do in terms of helping to preserve this landscape," he said.

Backers of the study currently underway hope, if successful, the federal government will consider returning more salt in order to preempt conflict and allow the racers and miners to continue as they have been.

If the study shows salt laydown is effective, Utah state geologist Bill Keach said he expects racers will use the information to push for federal funding to keep up the project.

In 2019, when Utah lawmakers greenlit the initiative, they allocated \$5 million, on the condition that the federal government would also provide funding, to return the briny water needed to preserve the salt crust.

Rep. Steve Handy, a Republican who spearheaded the effort, said the racers' lobbyists initially suggested the federal government would meet Utah's investment with an additional \$45 million, giving the program the \$50 million that Sullivan and other racers say is needed to maintain the status quo.

U.S. Rep Chris Stewart, who represents the area, assured Handy his office was working to secure the funds. Without hard evidence the salt laydown would restore the crust, the \$45 million hasn't materialized but Stewart said in a statement that he "remains absolutely committed to finding science-based solutions" to save the crust.

Utah clawed back the majority of the funding after it got no matching federal funds.

"They're doing what they can with \$1 million, which has not spread nearly far enough," Handy said, noting that it was ultimately the job of the federal government, not Utah, to manage the land.

But while solutions and the extent to which different parties are responsible is debatable, nobody disagrees that the landscape is a jewel worth preserving. Kneeling down, the crust of fused crystals looks like popcorn. From afar, the surface is moon-like, and draws hundreds of visitors daily, some coming in brightly colored dresses at sunset in search of the perfect picture.

"The fact that you can go out here and see this vast, white expanse with such a beautiful texture on the crust. It unleashes something, maybe more primal in yourself," Bernau said, looking off into the distance.

As Israel's Netanyahu nears victory, trouble may lie ahead

By JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — After four inconclusive elections, it looks like the fifth time finally worked for Benjamin Netanyahu.

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Israel's longtime former prime minister and current opposition leader appears to have engineered a surprising victory in the country's fifth national vote since 2019, thanks to help from an extremist far-right party. This alliance could have profound implications, though – potentially ending his legal troubles at home while antagonizing friends abroad.

With nearly 90% of the ballots counted Wednesday, all signs pointed to a victory by Netanyahu and his religious and nationalist allies. The count, including 450,000 absentee ballots, was expected to be completed Thursday.

Tuesday's election, like the previous four, was seen largely as a referendum on Netanyahu's fitness to rule while facing corruption charges. And once again, opinion polls had been forecasting a continuation of the deadlock that has paralyzed the political system for the past 3½ years.

But Netanyahu, Israel's longest-serving prime minister who has gained a reputation as a political mastermind during a total of 15 years in office, appears to have outsmarted his opponents with a disciplined campaign.

Israeli media portrayed Netanyahu as the winner on Wednesday, though he had yet to declare victory and his main rival, acting Prime Minister Yair Lapid, did not concede as vote counting continued.

Israelis vote for parties, not individual candidates, and coalition-building is needed to secure a governing majority in parliament.

According to official results from Israel's Central Election Committee, the popular vote was almost evenly divided between parties loyal to Netanyahu and those who backed Lapid.

But Netanyahu, who has been opposition leader for a year and a half, worked diligently to shore up his bloc of allies with a series of cooperation deals and mergers to ensure that no votes were lost. His ultra-Orthodox religious allies, who joined him in the opposition, worked hard to ensure heavy turnout.

Politicians on Israel's left, in contrast, were riven by infighting, leaving one or two small parties below the threshold required to enter parliament. That means that all of their votes are lost. As a result, Netanyahu is expected to control as many as 65 seats in the 120-seat parliament.

"Netanyahu took charge of his bloc and designed a political architecture that had no leakages, that ensured that 100% of the vote contributed to victory, where the other camp was to some extent in disarray," said Yohanan Plesner, president of the Israel Democracy Institute, a Jerusalem think tank.

Netanyahu also tapped into the rising popularity of Religious Zionism, an extremist right-wing party whose leaders are openly anti-Arab and oppose LGBTQ rights.

Once seen as a fringe phenomenon, the party emerged as the third-largest in parliament, thanks in large part to the popularity of lawmaker Itamar Ben-Gvir.

This alliance could turn out to be a mixed blessing for Netanyahu.

If he succeeds in putting together a governing coalition in the coming weeks, Religious Zionism members, along with members of Netanyahu's own Likud party, have made no secret they will seek radical reforms in the country's legal system to benefit Netanyahu.

Simcha Rothman, a member of Religious Zionism, said the country's attorney general should worry about her job. Others seek control over judicial appointments and want to pass legislation that would allow parliament to overturn unfavorable court decisions.

Ben-Gvir has said he would even press for legislation that would grant immunity and dismiss the charges against Netanyahu, who is accused of fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes in a series of scandals.

"If the right-wing bloc keeps its advantage in the final tally, Netanyahu will be able to form his dream government," wrote Matti Tuchfeld, a commentator in the conservative Israel Hayom newspaper. "Most importantly perhaps: none of the lawmakers ... will oppose any steps to change the justice system, including steps relating to Netanyahu's trial."

While this could benefit Netanyahu at home, it could also cause some serious troubles for him on the international stage.

Ben-Gvir is a disciple of the racist rabbi, Meir Kahane, whose views against Arabs were considered so repugnant he was banned from the Knesset in the 1980s and whose Kach party was branded a terrorist group by the U.S. Kahane was assassinated by an Arab assailant in the U.S. in 1990.

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Ben-Gvir, a lawyer who has spent his career defending Jewish extremists accused of violence against Palestinians, has turned himself into one of Israel's most popular politicians, thanks to his frequent media appearances, cheerful demeanor and orchestrated stunts.

He has branded Arab lawmakers "terrorists" and called for their deportation, and recently brandished a handgun in a tense Palestinian neighborhood of Jerusalem as he urged police to shoot Palestinian stone-throwers.

Trying to capitalize on a recent spike in West Bank violence, he and his allies hope to grant immunity to Israeli soldiers who shoot at Palestinians and want to impose the death penalty on Palestinians convicted of attacking Jews. Ben-Gvir has said he will seek the Cabinet post putting him in charge of the national police force.

During the campaign, he railed against Lapid for allowing an Arab party to be part of the outgoing government. His campaign slogan, referring to Arabs, called for showing Israel's enemies "who owns the house."

While such views have endeared him to his religious and nationalist supporters, they risk creating headaches for Netanyahu, who promotes himself as a global statesman.

U.S. President Joe Biden, who has had a hot-and-cold relationship with Netanyahu, is a supporter of Palestinian independence. He is unlikely to take kindly to the combative Ben-Gvir and his colleagues.

Likewise, American Jews, who tend to be politically liberal, could also have a hard time backing a government in which Ben-Gvir plays a prominent role.

At a meeting last week with American Jewish leaders, Israel's figurehead president, Isaac Herzog, asked the audience to "respect each other's democracies."

Jeremy Ben-Ami, president of J Street, a liberal pro-Israel group in Washington, called the results "deeply troubling."

"The likely formation of an ultra-right Netanyahu government should force a moment of serious reckoning for all Americans who care about the nature of the U.S.-Israel relationship," he said

Michael Oren, a former Israeli ambassador to the U.S., said that if Ben-Gvir is allowed to push forward with some of his proposals, such as expelling families of Palestinian attackers, it could strain ties.

"I think he's going to pose some challenges," Oren said.

CVS, Walgreens announce opioid settlements totaling \$10B

By GEOFF MULVIHILL Associated Press

The two largest U.S. pharmacy chains, CVS Health and Walgreen Co., announced agreements in principle Wednesday to pay about \$5 billion each to settle lawsuits nationwide over the toll of opioids, and a lawyer said Walmart, a third pharmacy behemoth, is in discussions for a deal.

The prospective settlements are part of a shift in the legal landscape surrounding the opioid epidemic. Instead of suspense over whether companies in the drug industry would be held to account through trials or settlements, the big question is now how their money will be used and whether it will make a difference in fighting a crisis that has only intensified.

The deals, if completed, would end thousands of lawsuits in which governments claimed pharmacies filled prescriptions they should have flagged as inappropriate. With settlements already proposed or finalized between some of the biggest drugmakers and distribution companies, the recent developments could be the among the last multibillion-dollar settlements to be announced.

They also would bring the total value of all settlements to more than \$50 billion, with most of it required to be used by state and local governments to combat opioids, which have been linked to more than 500,000 deaths in the U.S. over the last two decades.

"It's one more culprit of the overdose crisis that is having to pay their dues," said Courtney Gary-Allen, organizing director of the Maine Recovery Advocacy Project. "Average Americans have been paying it for a long time."

Gary-Allen, who is a member of a council that will help determine how Maine uses its opioid settlement funds, said more money to address the problem will help. In her state, she said, the needs include more

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beds for medical detox and for treatment.

Neither Woonsocket, Rhode Island-based CVS nor Deerfield, Illinois-based Walgreens is admitting wrongdoing.

The plans spring from mediation involving a group of state attorneys general. Before they move ahead, state and then local governments would need to sign on. So far, the detailed, formal deals have not been presented to the government entities so they can decide whether to join.

Under the tentative plans, CVS would pay \$4.9 billion to local governments and about \$130 million to Native American tribes over a decade. Walgreens would pay \$4.8 billion to governments and \$155 million to tribes over 15 years. The exact amount depends on how many governments join the deals.

Both noted they have been addressing the crisis through such measures as starting educational programs and installing safe disposal units for drugs in stores and police departments. And both said the settlements would allow them to help while staying focused on their business.

"We are pleased to resolve these longstanding claims and putting them behind us is in the best interest of all parties, as well as our customers, colleagues and shareholders," Thomas Moriarty, CVS chief policy officer and general counsel, said in a statement.

Walgreens said in a statement: "As one of the largest pharmacy chains in the nation, we remain committed to being a part of the solution, and this settlement framework will allow us to keep our focus on the health and wellbeing of our customers and patients, while making positive contributions to address the opioid crisis," Walgreens said in a statement.

Paul Geller, a lawyer for governments in the lawsuits, said talks with Walmart continue. Walmart representatives would not comment Wednesday.

"These agreements will be the first resolutions reached with pharmacy chains and will equip communities across the country with the much-needed tools to fight back against this epidemic and bring about tangible, positive change," lawyers for local governments said in a statement. "In addition to payments totaling billions of dollars, these companies have committed to making significant improvements to their dispensing practices to help reduce addiction moving forward."

If these settlements are completed, they would leave mostly smaller drug industry players as defendants in lawsuits. Just this week, a group of mostly regional pharmacy chains sent to a judge, who is overseeing federal litigation, information about claims they face, a possible precursor to scheduling trials or mediating settlements involving some of those firms.

"One by one, we are holding every player in the addiction industry accountable for the millions of lives lost or devastated by the opioid epidemic," Connecticut Attorney General William Tong said in a statement. "The companies that helped to create and fuel this crisis must commit to changing their businesses practices, and to providing the resources needed for treatment, prevention and recovery."

Most of the nation's opioid overdose deaths initially involved prescription drugs. As governments, doctors and companies took steps to make them harder to abuse and obtain, people addicted to them increasingly switched to heroin, which proved more deadly.

In recent years, opioid deaths have soared to record levels around 80,000 a year. Most of those deaths involve illicitly produced version of the powerful lab-made drug fentanyl, which is appearing throughout the U.S. supply of illegal drugs.

Only a handful of opioid settlements have had bigger dollar figures than the CVS plan. Distributors AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson this year finalized a combined settlement worth \$21 billion, and drugmaker Johnson & Johnson finalized a \$5 billion deal.

Purdue Pharma, the maker of OxyContin, and members of the Sackler family who own the company have a proposed settlement that would involve up to \$6 billion in cash, plus the value of the company, which would be turned into a new entity with its profits used to combat the epidemic. That plan has been put on hold by a court.

Women's soccer makes gains in Mideast despite conservatives

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By LEE KEATH and OMAR AKOUR Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — Sarah Asimrin still hears it from her uncles sometimes: “You’re a girl, it’s not right.” But on a recent evening, the 13-year-old Jordanian was on her club’s soccer field practicing alongside other girls and boys.

“I fell in love with the game because it’s got action. I love it a lot, more than any other sport,” said Asimrin.

Her younger sister Aya plays soccer as well and, despite the reservations of a few uncles, their family supports them. In fact, their father is a soccer coach at a private academy in the Jordanian capital, Amman.

Women’s soccer has been long neglected in the Middle East, a region that is mad for the men’s game and hosts the World Cup for the first time this month in Qatar. The women’s game has been held back by lack of financing and by conservative attitudes contending that girls aren’t made for sports or that uniforms like shorts are too revealing.

But some places show signs of momentum. The growth usually depends on active government promotion of women’s sports. Where that happens, it taps into pent-up enthusiasm among girls and women and can shift public attitudes.

Jordan has been one of the leaders, with one of the region’s most successful national teams and a network of girls’ youth and school leagues.

Others are making new pushes. Last month, the first matches of a new women’s Premier League were held in Saudi Arabia, where women have only been allowed to attend soccer games since 2017. The Saudi national women’s team played against international teams for the first time this year.

Newly launched tournaments give women’s teams opportunities for international competition and, proponents hope, will encourage the creation of more teams.

The Asian and the much smaller West Asian football associations each held their first women’s club championships in 2019. The African federation inaugurated its women’s club championship last year in Cairo, and this year’s games began this week in Morocco, with a \$400,000 prize for the winners — though that’s way below the \$2.5 million that the winning men’s club gets.

The new venues fuel the dreams of young women hoping to reach professional levels.

Masar Athamneh, a 20-year-old on the women’s team at Amman’s Orthodox Club, said she’s been playing soccer since she was 12 or 13. She used to join her brother with the boys on the pitches in her neighborhood and watched European leagues on TV. Portugal’s Cristiano Ronaldo has been her idol “because he worked hard on himself.”

She’s hoping to one day play on Jordan’s national team in international matches.

“Sometimes we face some difficulties, of course. ... Like, ‘This is a game only for boys or males’, ‘why do you wear shorts?’ ... and so on. This is a huge problem we face,” she said. “But I think with the time, it’s getting better and better.”

Jordan’s Football Association provides financial support for clubs to form women’s teams, prompting even some conservative clubs to jump in, sports analyst Owni Fraij said.

Still, money remains the biggest problem. Clubs treat women’s teams that don’t generate income “as a kind of luxury,” he said.

Qatar has lagged behind even other Gulf countries on the international level in women’s soccer. But since the tiny nation was named host of this year’s World Cup, it has been developing the game with women’s teams at many of its universities and holding soccer academies for girls.

Egypt perhaps shows the region’s starkest contrast. Its biggest men’s teams are wealthy powerhouses that win regional tournaments regularly, while women’s soccer languishes despite repeated efforts to end its neglect. A single team, Wadi Degla, wins most women’s competitions.

Egyptian women have faced public backlashes as well. In 2020, a victory by the under-20 national women’s team over Lebanon was met by a barrage of sexual harassment on social media, with obscene comments and sneers that girls shouldn’t be playing soccer.

Administrators’ response was even more disturbing. They suspended upcoming games and fired the team’s coaching staff, raising fears that the entire team would be disbanded. Players went on TV talk shows

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and spoke out on social media, and the squad survived.

Outside pressure may give Egyptian women a boost. The African Champions League will require clubs in its men's tournament to also have women's teams, which should force the hands of top Egyptian clubs.

Where politics and powerful social opposition intersect, girls' enthusiasm for the game never finds an outlet. For example, while women's soccer is relatively active among Palestinians in the West Bank, it's virtually non-existent in the Gaza Strip.

Gaza's 2.3 million residents are generally conservative. Its Islamist rulers, the militant Hamas group, grant little space for women's freedoms. The economy has also been crippled by a 15-year Israeli-Egyptian blockade, leaving little to spend on what are considered leisure activities.

One of Gaza's few female sports teams is that of the Beit Hanoun Al-Ahli Youth Club, with 20 girls playing soccer and basketball. They wear pants instead of shorts, and long-sleeve shirts. Once they reach 17, they stop playing, often to get married, team manager Maha Shabat said.

"There is no support for women's sports in the Gaza Strip ... no support to be like girls in other parts of the world," Shabat said.

Rama Ashour, a 14-year-old player on the soccer team, said she hopes to be able to keep going and even play on a national team.

"On the internet, I see many girls (elsewhere) playing normally," she said. The largest obstacle in Gaza is society and tradition, but she said she wants to "think positively about the criticism. I will take it as a motive to proceed and challenge everyone."

But others on the team are facing up to the limits. "My ambition — to be a player — is something impossible in this society," said 16-year-old Hala Qassem.

The most tragic setback came in Afghanistan, where the Taliban takeover just over a year ago crushed the nascent women's sports scene.

Hundreds of female athletes fled. Australia evacuated the women's national team, and Portugal took in the girl's youth team, while members of the youth development team were flown to Britain.

Those left behind have had their lives suffocated by Taliban bans on women's sports and on teen girls going to school and restrictions on women moving around in public.

Sabera Akberzada had been playing center on her high school's girls soccer team. Now the 17-year-old can't play or attend school. She has lost contact with most of her teammates.

"Life has become hell for us, as a woman we can't do anything by our choice," Akberzada said. She had hoped one day to make it to Afghanistan's national team. "Unfortunately, my dream remained just a dream."

A former captain of the women's national team, Khalid Popal, is now in Denmark, trying to keep the sport alive. She's working to get out members of the under-15 team still in Afghanistan.

"I feel so worried and so sorry for women, young women who wanted to be independent," she said. "I don't think women will play sports again in Afghanistan."

N Korea fires 23 missiles, prompting air raid alert in South

By HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Air raid sirens sounded on a South Korean island and residents evacuated to underground shelters after North Korea fired more than 20 missiles Wednesday, at least one of them in its direction and landing near the rivals' tense sea border. South Korea quickly responded by launching its own missiles in the same border area.

The launches came hours after North Korea threatened to use nuclear weapons to get the U.S. and South Korea to "pay the most horrible price in history" in protest of ongoing South Korean-U.S. military drills that it views as an invasion rehearsal. The White House maintained that the United States has no hostile intent toward North Korea and vowed to work with allies to curb North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

The North's barrage of missile tests also came as world attention was focused on South Korea following a weekend Halloween tragedy that saw more than 150 people killed in a crowd surge in Seoul in what was the country's largest disaster in years.

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South Korea's military said North Korea launched at least 23 missiles — 17 in the morning and six in the afternoon — off its eastern and western coasts on Wednesday. It said the weapons were all short-range ballistic missiles or suspected surface-to-air missiles. Also Wednesday, North Korea fired about 100 artillery shells into an eastern maritime buffer zone the Koreans created in 2018 to reduce tensions, according to South Korea's military.

The 23 missiles launched is a record number of daily missile tests by North Korea, some experts say.

One of the ballistic missiles was flying toward South Korea's Ulleung island before it eventually landed 167 kilometers (104 miles) northwest of the island. South Korea's military issued an air raid alert on the island, according to the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff. South Korean media published photos of island residents moving to underground shelters.

Hours later, South Korea's military said it lifted the air raid alert on the island. South Korea's transport ministry said it has closed some air routes above the country's eastern waters until Thursday morning in the wake of the North Korean launches.

That missile landed 26 kilometers (16 miles) away from the rivals' sea border. It landed in international waters off the east coast of South Korea. South Korea's military said it was the first time a North Korean missile has landed so close to the sea border since the countries' division in 1948.

"This is very unprecedented and we will never tolerate it," the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

In 2010, North Korea shelled a front-line South Korean island off the peninsula's western coast, killing four people. But the weapons used were artillery rockets, not ballistic missiles whose launches or tests are banned by multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions.

Later Wednesday, South Korean fighter jets launched three air-to-surface, precision-guided missiles near the eastern sea border to show its determination to get tough on North Korean provocations. South Korea's military said the missiles landed in international waters at the same distance of 26 kilometers (16 miles) north of the sea border as the North Korean missile fell earlier Wednesday.

It said it maintains a readiness to win "an overwhelming victory" against North Korea in potential clashes.

"North Korea firing missiles in a way that sets off air raid sirens appears intended to threaten South Koreans to pressure their government to change policy," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul. "North Korea's expanding military capabilities and tests are worrisome, but offering concessions about alliance cooperation or nuclear recognition would make matters worse."

The Joint Chiefs of Staff earlier identified three of the North Korean weapons launched as "short-range ballistic missiles" fired from the North's eastern coastal town of Wonsan, including the one that landed near the sea border.

North Korean short-range weapons are designed to strike key facilities in South Korea, including U.S. military bases there.

In an emergency meeting with top security officials, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol ordered officials to take swift unspecified steps to make North Korea face consequences for its provocation. He said he would consider the North Korean missile's landing near the border "a virtual violation of (our) territorial waters."

During the meeting, officials also lamented that the North Korean missile launches came as South Korea is in a mourning period over the crowd crush. They noted this "clearly showed the nature of the North Korean government," according to South Korea's presidential office.

Earlier Wednesday, Japanese Defense Minister Yasukazu Hamada said at least two ballistic missiles fired by North Korea showed a possibly "irregular" trajectory. This suggests the missiles were the North's highly maneuverable, nuclear-capable KN-23 missile, which was modeled on Russia's Iskander missile.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida called North Korea's continuing missile tests "absolutely impermissible."

Analyst Cheong Seong-Chang at the private Sejong Institute in South Korea said the danger of armed clashes between the Koreans off their western or eastern coasts is increasing. He said South Korea needs to make "proportional responses" to North Korean provocations, not "overwhelming responses," to prevent

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tensions from spiraling out of control and possibly leading the North to use its tactical nuclear weapons.

Animosities on the Korean Peninsula have been running high in recent months, with North Korea testing a string of nuclear-capable missiles and adopting a law authorizing the preemptive use of its nuclear weapons in a broad range of situations. Some experts still doubt North Korea would use nuclear weapons first in the face of U.S. and South Korean forces.

North Korea has argued its recent weapons tests were meant to issue a warning to Washington and Seoul over their joint military drills that it views as an invasion rehearsal, including this week's exercises.

In a statement released early Wednesday, Pak Jong Chon, a secretary of the ruling Workers' Party who is considered a close confidant of leader Kim Jong Un, called the Vigilant Storm air force drills "aggressive and provocative."

"If the U.S. and South Korea attempt to use armed forces against (North Korea) without any fear, the special means of the (North's) armed forces will carry out their strategic mission without delay," Pak said, in an apparent reference to his country's nuclear weapons.

"The U.S. and South Korea will have to face a terrible case and pay the most horrible price in history," he said.

U.S. and South Korean officials have steadfastly said their drills are defensive in nature and that they have no intentions of attacking North Korea.

"We reject the notion that they serve as any sort of provocation. We have made clear that we have no hostile intent towards (North Korea) and call on them to engage in serious and sustained diplomacy," White House National Security Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said late Tuesday.

North Korea "continues to not respond. At the same time, we will continue to work closely with our allies and partners to limit the North's ability to advance its unlawful weapons programs and threaten regional stability," Watson said.

This year's Vigilant Storm military exercises are the largest-ever for the annual fall maneuvers, the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command said. About 1,600 flights are planned involving 240 U.S. and South Korean fighter jets. The round-the-clock drills, which began Oct. 31, are to continue through Nov. 4 and include warfighting tactics both in the air and on the ground, it said.

Climate Questions: Does what I do matter?

BY DREW COSTLEY AP Science Writer

Can people's individual actions make a difference in how much carbon dioxide is emitted on an international scale? International organizations like the United Nations have called on individuals to limit their carbon footprint and live more sustainably, along with governments and corporations.

Some argue it would be more effective to focus on changing government and corporate policy to limit emissions from the energy and agriculture sectors than asking individuals to limit their carbon footprint, but experts say that while that's true, every bit of emissions reduction helps.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story is part of an ongoing series answering some of the most fundamental questions around climate change, the science behind it, the effects of a warming planet and how the world is addressing it.

"We should all be the most responsible citizens we can be in every sense of the word and contribute to a sustainable existence on this planet," said University of Pennsylvania climate scientist Michael Mann. He said that means, in part, minimizing our carbon footprints as individuals.

And that can take a lot of different forms.

The United Nations Act Now campaign for individual climate action suggests people can minimize their personal carbon footprint directly by changing their energy and transportation use and food consumption. Other, less direct methods for reducing carbon emissions include divesting from fossil fuel companies in retirement plans, protesting to support climate action and lobbying government officials to pass environ-

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mentally sustainable policies.

Kim Cobb, a Brown University climate scientist, said there are consequences to individuals having “out-sized” carbon footprints. And still there are people who engage in the environmental movement who don’t consider their personal carbon footprint.

“I think we’re living in an anti-gravity moment where people are able to say, ‘I’m not concerned about my first, personal carbon footprint. Collective action matters the most,’” she said. In the future, though, “there will be a moral and social cost to bear by those individuals.”

Still, there are some climate impacts that people aren’t individually responsible for and can’t change on their own. Over 70% of all greenhouse gas emissions produced between 1988 and 2015 came from 100 fossil fuel companies, according a 2017 report by CDP, formerly known as the Carbon Disclosure Project.

And despite the United Nations’ warnings to drastically cut greenhouse gas emissions, countries are planning on extracting double the amount of fossil fuels than what would be consistent with keeping the global temperature rise below 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit), even as they pledge to make ambitious cuts.

So, although there are things individuals can do to minimize their personal carbon footprints, Mann said, “we must not allow ... polluters to reframe the discussion so that it falls entirely upon individuals, which takes the pressure off of them.”

“We can’t pass legislation ourselves that incentivizes renewable energy or that blocks new fossil fuel infrastructure. We can’t impose regulations on industry. We can’t negotiate directly with international partners. We need our policymakers to do that,” Mann said. “Those things can only be enacted at the systematic level, and that’s why we have to keep the pressure on policymakers and on corporations and those who are in a position to make the changes that we can’t make ourselves.”

Today in History: November 3, Iran-Contra affair is revealed

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Thursday, Nov. 3, the 307th day of 2022. There are 58 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On Nov. 3, 1986, the Iran-Contra affair came to light as Ash-Shiraa, a pro-Syrian Lebanese magazine, first broke the story of U.S. arms sales to Iran.

On this date:

In 1839, the first Opium War between China and Britain broke out.

In 1908, Republican William Howard Taft was elected president, outpolling Democrat William Jennings Bryan.

In 1911, the Chevrolet Motor Car Co. was founded in Detroit by Louis Chevrolet and William C. Durant. (The company was acquired by General Motors in 1918.)

In 1961, President John F. Kennedy established the U.S. Agency for International Development.

In 1970, Salvador Allende (ah-YEN’-day) was inaugurated as president of Chile.

In 1976, the horror movie “Carrie,” adapted from the Stephen King novel and starring Sissy Spacek, was released by United Artists.

In 1979, five Communist Workers Party members were killed in a clash with heavily armed Ku Klux Klansmen and neo-Nazis during an anti-Klan protest in Greensboro, North Carolina.

In 1992, Democrat Bill Clinton was elected the 42nd president of the United States, defeating President George H.W. Bush. In Illinois, Democrat Carol Moseley-Braun became the first Black woman elected to the U.S. Senate.

In 1994, Susan Smith of Union, South Carolina, was arrested for drowning her two young sons, Michael and Alex, nine days after claiming the children had been abducted by a Black carjacker.

In 1997, the Supreme Court let stand California’s groundbreaking Proposition 209, which banned race and gender preference in hiring and school admissions.

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In 2014, 13 years after the 9/11 terrorist attack, a new 1,776-foot skyscraper at the World Trade Center site opened for business, marking an emotional milestone for both New Yorkers and the nation.

In 2020, Democrat Joe Biden won the presidency in an election that saw more than 103 million Americans vote early, many by mail, amid a coronavirus pandemic that upended a campaign marked by fear and rancor, waged against a backdrop of protests over racial injustice. As vote counting continued in battleground states, Biden's victory would not be known for more than three days; Republican President Donald Trump would refuse to concede, falsely claiming that he was a victim of widespread voter fraud. Kamala Harris made history as the first woman, Black person and person of South Asian descent to become vice president. Democrats clinched two more years of controlling the House but saw their majority shrink. Republicans emerged with a two-seat Senate majority that would be erased by Democratic wins in two runoffs in Georgia in January.

Ten years ago: The lights went back on in lower Manhattan to the relief of residents who'd been plunged into darkness for nearly five days by Superstorm Sandy, but there was deepening resentment in the city's outer boroughs and suburbs over a continued lack of power and maddening gas shortages. New York's newly relocated NBA team, the former New Jersey Nets, hosted the first regular-season game by a major sports team in Brooklyn since the Dodgers left in 1957; the Brooklyn Nets beat the Toronto Raptors 107-100.

Five years ago: Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl, who walked away from his post in Afghanistan and triggered a search that left some of his comrades severely wounded, was spared a prison sentence by a military judge in North Carolina; President Donald Trump blasted the decision as a "complete and total disgrace." Netflix said it was cutting all ties with Kevin Spacey after a series of allegations of sexual harassment and assault, and that it would not be a part of any further production of "House of Cards" that included him. A massive report from scientists inside and outside the government concluded that the evidence of global warming was stronger than ever. Republican Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky suffered five broken ribs in an attack by a longtime next-door neighbor as Paul did yard work at his home. (Rene Boucher pleaded guilty to assaulting a member of Congress and was sentenced to 30 days in prison.)

One year ago: After serving more than seven years in an Indonesian prison for killing her mother at a luxury resort on the island of Bali, Heather Mack of Chicago was indicted on murder conspiracy charges in the United States and taken into federal custody on her arrival at O'Hare International Airport. Police in western Australia used a battering ram to enter a locked house and rescue a 4-year-old girl, Cleo Smith, who'd been abducted from a camping tent more than two weeks earlier; the suspect in the kidnapping was arrested nearby. (Terence Kelly pleaded guilty to the abduction.) A government advisory committee recommended that all U.S. adults younger than 60 be vaccinated against hepatitis B. The Federal Reserve announced a plan to gradually reduce bond purchases, a first step in withdrawing emergency aid for the economy during the coronavirus pandemic.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Lois Smith is 92. Former Massachusetts Gov. Michael S. Dukakis is 89. Actor Shadoe Stevens is 76. Singer Lulu is 74. "Vogue" editor-in-chief Anna Wintour is 73. Comedian-actor Roseanne Barr is 70. Actor Kate Capshaw is 69. Comedian Dennis Miller is 69. Actor Kathy Kinney is 69. Singer Adam Ant is 68. Sports commentator and former quarterback Phil Simms is 67. Director-screenwriter Gary Ross is 66. Actor Dolph Lundgren is 65. Rock musician C.J. Pierce (Drowning Pool) is 50. Actor Francois Battiste (TV: "Ten Days in the Valley") is 46. Olympic gold medal figure skater Evgeni Plushenko is 40. Actor Julie Berman is 39. Actor Antonia Thomas (TV: "The Good Doctor") is 36. Alternative rock singer/songwriter Courtney Barnett is 35. TV personality and model Kendall Jenner (TV: "Keeping Up with the Kardashians") is 27.