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Groton Community Calendar

Monday, Nov. 7

Senior Menu: Hot turkey combo, mashed potatoes and gravy, 7 layer salad, blueberry crisp.

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.

School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, tri taters

Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

The Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 8

Senior Menu: Hearty vegetable beef soup, chicken salad sandwich, mandarin oranges, oatmeal raisin cookie.

School Breakfast: French toast.

School Lunch: Meatballs, mashed potatoes.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Church Council, 7 p.m.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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



To know even one
life has breathed
easier because
you have lived.
This is to have
succeeded.

-Ralph Waldo Emerson

UMC: Bible Study, 10 a.m.
SoDak16 Volleyball at James Valley Christian:
Groton Area vs. Miller, 5:30 p.m.

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)

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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Groton Community November Calendar

Monday, Nov. 7

Senior Menu: Hot turkey combo, mashed potatoes and gravy, 7 layer salad, blueberry crisp.

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.

School Lunch: Chicken nuggets, tri taters

Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

The Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 8

Senior Menu: Hearty vegetable beef soup, chicken salad sandwich, mandarin oranges, oatmeal raisin cookie.

School Breakfast: French toast.

School Lunch: Meatballs, mashed potatoes.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Church Council, 7 p.m.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

UMC: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

SoDak16 Volleyball at James Valley Christian: Groton Area vs. Miller, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 9

Senior Menu: Meatloaf, baked potato with sour cream, creamed peas, fruited Jell-O, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg Omelets.

School Lunch: Chicken noodle soup.

Groton CM&A: Kids' Club, Youth Group and Adult Bible Study begins at 7 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 6 p.m.; League, 6:30 p.m.

UMC: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 4 p.m.; UMYF Bible Study, 7 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Bible Study, 2:45 p.m.; Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.; Youth Meeting, 6 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 10

Senior Menu: Chicken tetrazzini, mixed vegetables, honey fruit salad, vanilla pudding, whole wheat potatoes.

School Breakfast: Muffins.

School Lunch: Hamburgers, waffle fries.

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

Junior High Girls Basketball at Webster, 7th grade at 4 p.m. followed by 8th grade.

Friday, Nov. 11 - VETERAN'S DAY

Senior Menu: Goulash, green beans, baked apples, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Eggs and sausage.

School Lunch: Pizza, green beans.

Veteran's Day Program, 2 p.m., GHS Arena

Saturday, Nov. 12

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession: 3:45-4:15 p.m.; SEAS Mass: 4:30 p.m.

Combined JH GBB game at Aberdeen Christian, 10 a.m.

Sunday, Nov. 13

Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:45 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship/Congregational Meeting, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 7 p.m.

UMC: Conde Worship, 8:30 a.m.; coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday school and Christmas Program Practice, 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.; Fall Dinner, 11:30 a.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m., SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.


St. John's worship, 9 a.m.; Zion Lutheran worship, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

Snow Queen Contest, 7 p.m.

GROTON
VET CLINIC
1503 N Broadway, Groton, 605/397-8145



Aberdeen
225-6772
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Redfield
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Webster
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**JOHN DEERE**

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TREE TRIMMING & REMOVAL
STUMP GRINDING
STORM DAMAGE CLEANUP
605/228-3861

www.aberdeentreeservice.com



Monday, Nov. 14

Senior Menu: Honey glazed chicken breast, parsley buttered potatoes, beets, fruit, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Mini waffles.

School Lunch: Taco salads.

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

Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

The Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 15

Senior Menu: Baked fish, au gratin potatoes, 3 bean salad, peach cobbler, cookie, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Breakfast sandwich

School Lunch: BBB Pulled Pork, nachos.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

UMC: Bible Study, 10 a.m.; Conde Ad Council

Picture re-take day, 7:50 a.m. to 9 a.m.

FCCLA Blood Drive, 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 a.m., GHS Arena Lobby.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 16

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

School Breakfast: Eggs and breakfast potatoes.

School Lunch: Chicken strips, fries.

Groton CM&A: Kids' Club, Youth Group and Adult Bible Study begins at 7 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 6 p.m.

UMC: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 4 p.m.; UMYF/FCCLA Food Drive, 6 p.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Bible Study, 2:45 p.m.; Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.

Thursday, Nov. 17

Senior Menu: Taco salad, Mexican rice, seasonal fresh fruit, breadstick.

School Breakfast: Stuffed bagels.

School Lunch: Hot dogs, chips.

Emmanuel Lutheran: WELCA "Praise & Thanksgiving" - Program: Sarah, Hostess: Nigeria.

UMC: Bible Study with Ashley, 6:30 p.m.; Newsletter items due.

State A Volleyball Tourney in Sioux Falls

Friday, Nov. 18

Senior Menu: Chili, corn bread, coleslaw, lime pear Jell-O.

School Breakfast: Biscuit and Jelly

School Lunch: Mac and cheese, peas.

State A Volleyball Tourney in Sioux Falls

JH GBB hosts Milbank (7th at 4 p.m. followed by 8th grade game)

Saturday, Nov. 19

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship at Rosewood Court, 10 a.m.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession: 3:45-4:15 p.m.; SEAS Mass: 4:30 p.m.

State A Volleyball Tourney in Sioux Falls

Groton Legion Turkey Party, 6:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 20

Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:45 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion (League Pie Auction following worship), 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 7 p.m.

UMC: Conde Worship, 8:30 a.m.; coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.; Sunday school and Christmas Program Practice, 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m., SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

St. John's worship with communion, 9 a.m.; Zion Lutheran worship with communion, 11 a.m.; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.

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Monday, Nov. 21

Senior Menu: Baked chicken, rice pilaf, cauliflower and pea salad, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg bake.

School Lunch: Oriental chicken stir fry, rice.

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

Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

The Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

St. John's Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.

JH GBB at Langford (7th at 4 p.m. followed by 8th grade game)

Tuesday, Nov. 22

Senior Menu: Potato soup, ham salad sandwich, tomato spoon salad, pineapple tidbits.

School Breakfast: Egg Omelets.

School Lunch: Corn dogs, baked beans.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

The Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

UMC: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

St. John's Quilting, 9 a.m.

Wednesday, Nov. 23

Senior Menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, beets, peaches, dinner roll.

Groton CM&A: Kids' Club, Youth Group and Adult Bible Study begins at 7 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran: No confirmation; League, 6:30 p.m.

UMC: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 4 p.m.

St. John's Thanksgiving Eve Service, 7 p.m.

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving break

Thursday, Nov. 24

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving break

Community Thanksgiving Dinner, 11:30 a.m., Groton Community Center

Friday, Nov. 25

NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving break

Saturday, Nov. 26

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession: 3:45-4:15 p.m.; SEAS Mass: 4:30 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 27

Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:45 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.; Sunday School, 10:15 a.m.; Choir, 7 p.m.

UMC: UM Student Day; Conde Worship, 8:30 a.m.; coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m., SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

St. John's worship, 9 a.m.; Zion Lutheran worship, 11 a.m.

Monday, Nov. 28

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, buttermilk biscuit, peas, Mandarin oranges, cookie.

School Breakfast: Breakfast pizza.

School Lunch: Pepperoni pizza, corn.

Noon: Senior Citizens Meet at the Groton Community Center with potluck dinner.

Emmanuel Lutheran Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

The Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 29

Senior Menu: Beef tips in gravy with noodles, lettuce salad with dressing, peaches, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: French toast.

School Lunch: Tacos, refried beans.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

James Valley Telco Open House in Groton, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

UMC: Bible Study, 10 a.m.; Conde Advent Bible Study.

JH GBB hosts Redfield (7th at 6:15 p.m. followed by 8th grade game)

Wednesday, Nov. 30

Senior Menu: Baked pork chop, au gratin potatoes, carrots, apple sauce, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg omelets.

School Lunch: Garlic cheese, bread, cooked carrots.

Groton CM&A: Kids' Club, Youth Group and Adult Bible Study begins at 7 pm

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 6 p.m.

UMC: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Confirmation, 4 p.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Bible Study, 2:45 p.m.; Confirmation, 3:45 p.m.; Advent Service, 7 p.m.

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Groton Area School First Quarter Honor Roll

Seniors

4.0 GPA: Ethan Clark, Carter Barse, Jackson Dinger, Jacob Lewandowski, Andrew Marzahn, Shaylee Peterson, Cadance Tullis, Cole Simon, Kaleb Antonsen, Caleb Hanten, Elliana Weismantel, Cole Bisbee, Brooke Gengerke, Aspen Johnson

3.99-3.50: Ashtyn Bahr, Shallyn Foertsch, Gracie Traphagen, Cade Larson, Tate Larson, Sierra Ehresmann, Brenna Carda, Nathalia Garcia, Kamryn Fliehs, Porter Johnson Hollie Frost

3.49-3.00: Michael Aalseth, Ava Kramer, KayLynn Overacker, Ethan Gengerke, Tyson Parrow, Dylan Anderson

Juniors

4.0 GPA: Claire Heinrich, Lydia Meier, Hannah Monson, Emily Clark, Kyleigh Englund, Ashlyn Sperry, Holden Sippel, Anna Fjeldheim

3.99-3.50: Bradin Althoff, Abigail Jensen, Camryn Kurtz, Sara Menzia, Colby Dunker, Lexi Osterman, Lane Tietz, Dillon Abeln, Anna Bisbee, Jaycie Lier, Emma Schinkel, Logan Ringgenberg, Sydney Leicht, Cadence Feist, Faith Fliehs, Bryson Wambach, Celia Moreno Mananes, Karsyn Jangula

3.49-3.00: Jackson Garstecki, Shea Jandel, Kate Profeta, Jacob Zak, Carly Guthmiller

Sophomores

4.0 GPA: Gretchen Dinger, Elizabeth Fliehs, Payton Mitchell, Diego Eduardo Nava Remigio, Faith Traphagen, Axel Warrington

3.99-3.50: Brooklyn Hansen, Kayla Lehr, Blake Pauli, Emma Kutter, Karrah-Jo Johnson, Laila Roberts, Kennedy Hansen, Carter Simon, Logan Pearson, Emily Overacker, Turner Thompson, Rebecca Poor, Aiden Heathcote, Kaden Kampa, Quintyn Bedford, Jeslyn Kosel

3.49-3.00: Kellen Antonsen, Ashley Johnson, Korbin Kucker, Corbin Weismantel, Kianna Sander, Brevin Fliehs, Riley Carman, Easten Ekern, Drew Thurston, Savannah Bible, Abby Yeadon, Emma Bahr

Freshmen

4.0 GPA: Carly Gilbert, Jerica Locke, Jaedyn Penning, Nathan Unzen, Logan Warrington, Talli Wright

3.99-3.50: De Eh Tha Say, Mia Crank, Lucas Carda, Natalia Warrington, Ryder Johnson, Gage Sippel, Rylee Dunker, Paisley Mitchell, Benjamin Hoeft, Keegen Tracy, London Bahr, Raelee Lilly, Aiden Meyers, Karter Moody, Olivia Stiegelmeier, Karsten Fliehs, Cali Toffison, Jarrett Erdmann

3.49-3.00: Breslyn Jeschke, Lincoln Krause, Hannah Sandness, Cambria Bonn, Kolton Dockter, Jayden Schwan, Drake Peterson, Keegan Harry, Bradyn Wienk

Eighth Grade

4.0 GPA: Teagan Hanten, Ashlynn Warrington

3.99-3.50: Kira Clocksene, Carlee Johnson, Emerlee Jones, Brody Lord, Halee Harder, Liby Althoff, Gavin Kroll, Colt Williamson, Walker Zoellner, Avery Crank, Aiden Strom, McKenna Tietz, Taryn Traphagen

3.49-3.00: Blake Lord, Claire Schuelke, Kella Tracy, Zander Harry, Addison Hoffman Wipf, Leah Jones, Hailey Pauli, Hayden Zoellner, Brenna Imrie, Maggie Cleveland, Jackson Hopfinger

Seventh Grade

4.0 GPA: Elizabeth Cole, Jace Johnson, Makenna Krause, Thomas Schuster

3.99-3.50: Sydney Locke, Layne Johnson, Easton Weber, JoHanne Beauchamp, Taryn Thompson, Wyatt Wambach, Mya Feser, Addison Hoeft, Ethan Kroll, Eyleigh Kroll, Rylie Rose, Chesney Weber, Dee Eh June Say, Thomas Aalseth, John Bisbee, Ryelle Gilbert, Brysen Sandness, Journey Zieroth

3.49-3.00: Ryder Schelle, Karson Zak, Rylen Ekern, Owen Sperry, Alex Abeln, Aimee Heilman

Sixth Grade

4.0 GPA: Wesley Borg, Novalea Warrington

3.99-3.50: Brooklyn Spainer, Neely Althoff, Abby Fjeldheim, Tevan Hanson, Madison Herrick, Zachary Fliehs, Kolton Antonsen, Arianna Dinger, Lincoln Shilhanek, Aspen Beto, Samuel Crank, Asher Johnson, Aurora Washenberger, Alexis Williamson, Kaedynce Bonn, Logan Olson

3.49-3.00: Tenley Frost, Jose Fernando Nava Remigio, Skylor Bedford, Adeline Kotzer, Wesley Morehouse, May Dallaire



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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Pictured in back, left to right, are Rebecca Poor (Flute), Jeslyn Kosel (Flute), Jackson Dinger (French Horn), Gretchen Dinger (Flute), Ellie Weismantel (Percussion), Carter Barse (Alto Sax), Ethan Clark (Euphonium); in front, left to right, are Instructor Desiree Yeigh, Natalia Warrington (Clarinet), Jacob Lewandowski (Percussion), Jayden Schwan (Trumpet), Ashtyn Bahr (Percussion), Cadance Tullis (Percussion), and Emily Clark (Percussion). (Courtesy Photo)

NSU Holds Annual Instrument Day

Every year Northern State University holds an event called "Instrument Day." Schools all over South Dakota are invited to bring their band students and participate. There is a rotation every year between being apart of a large group band or a section ensemble. This year, there were 3 different ensembles; woodwinds, brass, and percussion. Each ensemble was directed by a NSU Music Professor. At the end of the day, each ensemble performed a concert that was open to the public. The students also got to enjoy a concert that was put on by the NSU Music Professors and Students.

Groton Robotic Teams Travel to Mitchell

Groton Robotics traveled down to Mitchell on Saturday, Nov. 6th competing against 23 other teams from 8 towns: Mitchell (5), Harrisburg (4), Groton (3), Menno (2), Sioux Falls (2), Jefferson (1), Brandon (1), Box Elder (5). Groton Teams included: G-Force 9050A (6th grade-Peyton Schuring, Grant Cleveland, Conner Kroll, Lincoln Shilhanek, Logan Olson), Gear Heads 9050B (Seniors-Jack Dinger, Ethan Clark), Gladiators 9050F (Garrett Schultz, De Eh Tha Say, not pictured Bradyn Wienk). Galaxy 9050E (Corbin Weismantel, Logan Clocksene, not pictured- Kianna Sanders, Axel Warrington, Bradon Barrera)

The competition started off with 33 qualifying matches, each team competing 6 times. At the end of the 33 qualifying matches Gear Heads-9050B ranked 13th, Galaxy-9050E 14th, Gladiators-9050F ranked 17th, G-force-9050A ranked 20th.

Groton Robotics changed things up a bit this year by putting all incoming 6th graders on their own team and owning the G-Force 9050A name. In the past 6th graders shadowed and just assisted other teams with clean up. It was decided to let them all dive in this year to start building and competing! Mitchell was their first tournament, competing against ro-



Gear Heads 9050B-Ethan Clark and Jack Dinger paired up with Galaxy 9050E-Corbin Weismantel and Logan Clocksene waiting for a match to start. (Photo courtesy of robotic parents)

botists that have been building and driving for 5-6 years, since there is no specific middle school or high school category. They built a 'push bot', in the robotics world this is a robot that primarily focuses on defense and, as it is commonly said in the robotics world, "get in the way and make things difficult for your competition". That's exactly what they did! They also focused on de-scoring their opponent by pushing yellow disks out of their corner and pushing disks into their own corner for additional points as each one is worth a point. Great job to G-Force also know as 9050A out on the field! (see picture)

Gear Heads-9050B added an expansion cord on to their robot this week to be used in the final 10 second ENDGAME. What is the ENDGAME?

Vex Robotics definition Endgame Covering: 'As the clock winds down, it's time for the Endgame. At the end of the Match, Alliances will receive a 3



New 6th grade team G-Force 9050A (l-r)-Peyton Schurring, Grant Cleveland, Conner Kroll, Lincoln Shilhanek, Logan Olson. (Photo courtesy of robotic parents)

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point bonus for each tile their Robots are Covering. So, during the last 10 seconds of the Match, there are no horizontal expansion limits.' Imagine casting out your fishing pole like as far out as you can get it! Now imagine lines being shot off robots to cover as many tiles as necessary!

Gear Heads worked on their robot between the Box Elder tournament last week and Mitchell to add the expansion feature, but working the way it should is NEVER a guarantee! They successfully made it to the semi-finals, pairing with Galaxy 9050E, but when they attempted to shoot out their expansion cord in the last 10 seconds it failed to shoot out, costing them the advancement to the finals. Galaxy 9050E had some problems with their robot in beginning and unable to get it moving during a match, but as the day progressed, they were able to OWN ROLLERS and play some good defense. Gladiators 9050F had their 'disk shooter' on but not quite enough power to get the disk high enough. They worked on defense or 'just getting in the way of the opponent to stop them from scoring'!

Vex Robotics Definition-Owned Rollers: 'In addition to Discs, Robots can also spin the four Rollers mounted to the field perimeter. If the area inside of a Roller's pointers only shows one color, that is considered "Owned" by that Alliance. Each Owned Roller is worth 10 points.'

Tournament champions were from Harrisburg and Jefferson. Congratulations to all the robotists who participated! Groton Robotists will be headed down to Harrisburg on Saturday, November 16th for the Sioux Metro Qualifier! For more information check out the vex VRC robotics website, download the VEX via app and follow Groton Tiger Robotics on facebook. Thanks to all who support Groton Robotics!

Submitted by Groton Robotics



Gladiators 9050F (l-r)-De Eh Tha Say, Garrett Schultz, Braydon Wienk, Lincoln Shilhanek, Conner Kroll and Logan Olson paired up for a match. (Photo courtesy of robotic parents)

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Weekly Vikings Recap

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

I do not know how they did it, but somehow the Vikings pulled out a win today against the Washington Commanders despite everything stacked against them. The Vikings now move to 7-1 on the season and have an incredible 4.5-game lead in the NFC North. For the first time in the Kirk Cousins era in Minnesota, the Vikings are fully in the driver's seat for the division title.

Sunday's game against the Commanders was truly a rollercoaster of emotions. After receiving the opening kickoff, the Vikings put together maybe their most impressive opening drive of the season. Besides the first play of the drive resulting in a 2-yard loss on a Dalvin Cook handoff, the Vikings went down the field without another negative play. They converted multiple third downs, one of which was to newly acquired tight end, TJ Hockenson, for a 19-yard gain. The Vikings capped the drive off with an impressive touchdown catch to Justin Jefferson in the back of the endzone. For how great he has been all year, it might come as a shock to many that that was Justin Jefferson's first touchdown since the Green Bay game in week 1.

The rest of the half lacked any excitement as both teams punted repeatedly. Taylor Heinicke, who is listed as standing 6'1" but is more like 5'11", got his passes batted down three times in the first half by the Vikings' defense. However, Kirk Cousins and the Vikings' offense could never capitalize as their drives continued to stall repeatedly. Finally, on the last drive of the half for the Vikings, the offense started to get something going on offense. However, as the Vikings approached the red zone, Kirk Cousins made an aggressive throw to a covered Justin Jefferson in the right corner of the endzone, which resulted in a tipped ball and interception by the Commanders. The Vikings would head into halftime with only a 7-3 lead over the Commanders.

The second half was a much more exciting half of football. On just the second play of the first half, Taylor Heinicke threw an awful deep ball into the Vikings' triple coverage. As the ball was coming down, Vikings' safety Cam Bynum looked like he was going to make an easy interception. However, the referees decided to take things into their own hands as one of them ran right into Bynum, causing him to stumble, thus allowing Commanders' wide receiver Curtis Samuel to make a great catch and stumble in the endzone for a touchdown. The play completely flipped the momentum in Washington's favor. If the Vikings did not pull off the victory today, this article would have had a much different tone regarding the referee's performance this Sunday.

As the Vikings' offense continued to stall, the Vikings found themselves down 17-7 heading into the 4th quarter. However, unlike prior Vikings' seasons, this team just never seems to quit. After a Vikings' field goal, the Vikings cut the Commanders' lead to just one score. Four plays later, Taylor Heinicke, who had surprisingly played the game mistake-free to that point, overthrew one of his tight ends right into the hands of Harrison Smith for an interception. Smith, who has an interception in each of his last three games, was able to return it down to the Commanders' 12-yard line.

In just three minutes of game time, the Vikings went from dead in the water to having the ball in the red zone with a chance to tie the game with a touchdown. On second down, Dalvin Cook ran a wheel route toward the back of the endzone and Kirk Cousins found him for a touchdown thanks to a perfect pass. After all the craziness of the game, the Vikings were surprisingly tied 17-17 with the Commanders.

The Vikings quickly got the ball back thanks to a forced three-and-out by the Vikings' defense. Wisely, the Vikings would use 15 plays to milk the clock and kick a field goal to win 20-17.

Next week, the Vikings head to Buffalo to face a 6-2 Bills team that is the best in the league.

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That's Life by Tony Bender **Lesson learned on and off the gridiron**

I made it through another football season uninjured although this year it feels like I had more close calls as I snapped photos on the sidelines for the South Border Mustangs. I'm not as nimble with one wobbly wheel, a still-healing hip that has enough metal in it that I've become intimately acquainted with TSA. After seeing players get uncomfortably large in my viewfinder once too often I told one coach, and I was only half-kidding, that I was pretty sure I needed a sideline blocker.

It was a Hunter S. Thompsonesque season. Fear and Envy on the Border. Fear for the logical reason outlined above, envy because covering a great team reminded me of my own ignominious football career. But it's all about building character, isn't it?

After following the crowd—lesson learned, don't follow the herd over the cliff—that decided not to play our sophomore year, I was named the starting center my junior year much to the chagrin of the seniors who wanted an all-senior line; they moaned, and here comes the next instructional life experience: my coach caved. I had a great boss once that said something that was hard to hear but better prepared me for life. "People are gonna disappoint you, Tony."

Our team was so loaded it didn't matter a lick. That was before there was a playoff system but I'm convinced we were the best team in the state. I spent the season taking out my frustration on my replacement. I'd run 30 yards to pop him in practice. I probably disappointed him.

Resentment didn't really take hold until the next season when I blew out a knee early in the season against a team we were blowing out. Isn't that the way it goes? But, after a week or two on the sidelines, I came back, one leg noticeably swollen, to play against Bristol and their feared middle linebacker who, to hear Coach tell it, was part-Sasquatch, and that if One-Legged Tony didn't handle him we had no chance.

I could only fire out one step, so I did what I could, which is to cheat. I held him. Grabbed his jersey with one hand, pulled him close so the refs couldn't see, and occasionally bounced him off his head. By the second quarter he was flustered and screaming at the ref, "He's holding me!"

"Aww, he's a (effeminate insult) ref," I sniffed, and went low the next time. On one play, our running back, Woof Dog, who ran like he was pulling a three-bottom plow, came back to the huddle incensed, "Bender, that was your man!"

"Bull----!" I snapped. "I was holding him!" And that cracked up the huddle. That's what makes it a great game, the camaraderie. The laughs. Anyway, I won the battle but the Frederick Vikings lost the game.

I provided another moment of unintentional comic relief pre-injury when we were hosting our rivals, the Hecla Rockets, and a receiver was running sideline to sideline trying to get past our defensive backs, giving me a long run at him for a blindside hit, intent on popping the ball loose.

It was an epic collision and we both stayed down, me with the wind knocked out of me. My buddy Witt jerked me up. "Great hit, Bender!" I immediately folded, and Coach came running.

He loosened my pants, which is what represented medical attention in those days, leaned over and said, "Did you get it in the cookies?" I groaned an affirmative. Much hilarity. As I lay there, they led the wobbly receiver off the field, still holding the ball.

So, what lessons did I take from all this? First, in life, you have to be demonstratively better than the competition. People say that "Life's not fair," but I don't believe that. Life's inherently fair with lessons along the way if you're paying attention.

The most valuable lesson came two decades later at an all-school reunion. I'd been called to announce an old-timers basketball game. After carrying my resentment so long, I dreaded seeing my old coach, but he greeted me warmly with a huge grin, kind words, and a firm handshake, and that was it. He'd always been a great guy. And we're all human.

I forgave him in that instant, and it felt good. I've been quicker to forgive ever since. It's hard for me to hold a grudge. So, I've become a terrible German, a disappointment to my lineage. A small price to pay, I think.

Prostate Cancer: Know Your Options

Over my 30 year career as a cancer physician I have witnessed firsthand the tremendous progress in treating cancer patients. There continues to be controversy in the screening and treatment of prostate cancer (PC) for which I am grateful to have the opportunity to share more information with you.

PC screening consists of obtaining a PSA and rectal exam, followed by a biopsy if indicated. In 2012, the United States Preventive Task Force (USPSTF) recommended against PC screening. Studies following their recommendations demonstrated a substantial decline in both PC screening and diagnosis of early stage PC, and a subsequent increase in the rates of more aggressive PC. In 2017 the USPSTF reversed their prior recommendation, listing PSA as a reasonable screening test in men ages 55- 69.

For men with early stage PC, active surveillance is recommended that includes obtaining a PSA every 6 months and a repeat prostate biopsy 1-2 years later. For patients who require treatment surgery and radiation are equivalent options. Many patients in the US and in SD only hear about these options from the urologist who performed the biopsy. There are advantages and disadvantages for both approaches.

Patients deserve to hear about both treatments before making a decision that impacts their life. One of the most effective radiation options for earlier stages of PC is prostate brachytherapy (BT) or "seed implants" for appropriate patients. This is a one hour outpatient procedure that yields some of the highest cure rates. Multiple studies have demonstrated quality of life and patient satisfaction favors BT and is the most cost-effective treatment.

A significant area of controversy is the management of aggressive PC as we are now seeing more of these patients due to the previous lack of screening. A misconception in the medical community is that these patients should all be surgically treated. While surgery is an appropriate option, many patients still require 6 weeks of radiation to eliminate cancer left behind with higher rates of incontinence and impotency. Another proven treatment option is daily external beam radiation followed by BT that produces some of the highest cure rates. The recurrence rates are lowest with this approach compared to surgery.

Unfortunately, many patients in the US do not have access to prostate BT, especially in rural areas. The only radiation option for them is 8 weeks of daily radiation which can be a dilemma with the travel required. Prostate BT was previously performed at cancer centers in SD, but is now only available in Rapid City.

Selective prostate screening and treatment reduces PC death rates. Proper patient selection is critical when deciding on treatment. Thoroughly informed patients who consent to treatment are less likely to regret their medical decisions.

Patients deserve to know their options.

Daniel G Petereit, MD, FABS, FASTRO is a Radiation Oncologist at the Monument Health Cancer Care Institute in Rapid City, SD. Dr. Petereit and colleagues discuss the above in more details in a forthcoming publication that will appear in South Dakota Medicine: Evidence Based Strategies in the Management of Localized Prostate Cancer and the Role of Brachytherapy. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show based on science, built on trust for 21 seasons, streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



Based on Science, Built on Trust



Daniel G Petereit, MD, FABS, FASTRO



Commentary by Seth Tupper

The key words and missing definition in the Noem airplane controversy

When authorities announced the conclusion of a recent investigation into Gov. Kristi Noem's use of a state airplane, their news release included a potentially key phrase.

The news release said, in part, "there were no facts to support a criminal prosecution under current law."

Those last three words – "under current law" – leave some room for interpretation. It's the kind of phrasing that could be read as an invitation to change the law, so charges could be filed in the future if similar behavior occurs.

We don't know what the authorities involved in the investigation want us to make of their word choices, because they're

not talking. Hughes County State's Attorney Jessica LaMie headed up the inquiry and issued the news release, but said she's referring all questions to the Government Accountability Board and the Attorney General's Office. I've been unable to get a response from the board, and the attorney general declined to comment.

There is at least one person involved in all of this who is talking, and that's state Sen. Reynold Nesiba, D-Sioux Falls. He's a key player in the saga, in more ways than one.

Nesiba's involvement with state aircraft controversies goes back 16 years to the administration of then-Gov. Mike Rounds, who was criticized for using a state airplane to attend his son's high school basketball games. Nesiba led an effort to place a measure on the ballot to tighten restrictions on the use of state-owned aircraft, and voters approved that measure in 2006.

That's where we encounter another key phrase left open to interpretation. The current law concerning state-owned airplanes says they may be used only "in the conduct of state business." But "state business" is not defined in the law.

Nesiba is loath to admit any mistakes in the wording of the '06 ballot measure.

"The people spoke clearly. They wanted a limit on the use of state airplanes – only for state business,"



Gov. Kristi Noem showed this image of a state-owned airplane in 2021 when she proposed selling two older planes and buying a newer one as part of her annual budget proposal. (Image from Gov. Noem's FY22 Budget Slides)

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he said. "Only for the conduct of state business, with no exceptions."

It's true, the ballot measure did repeal some exceptions in the prior law. But the ballot measure did not introduce a definition of "state business" into the law, and that may have been a mistake. Any prosecutor, judge or jury confronted with allegations of a misused state aircraft would seemingly have to consider what constitutes "state business." And in the absence of a legal definition, state business would, presumably, be whatever the governor says it is.

Noem has taken essentially that position. She's under scrutiny for a number of her uses of state aircraft, including flights from Custer and back again during the weekend of her daughter's 2019 wedding at Custer State Park. Noem is also under scrutiny for using a state airplane to attend several political functions in other states.

The governor has defended all of those and her other uses of the state airplane as – you guessed it – state business. During the wedding weekend, Noem used the plane to get from Custer to official functions, including youth leadership events in Vermillion and Aberdeen where she was invited to speak. Regarding the out-of-state political functions, Noem's office has said she attended those not as a mere politician but rather as an official representative of state government.

Nesiba sent a complaint about Noem's airplane use to then-Attorney General Jason Ravensborg in 2021. Before Ravensborg was impeached and removed from office (because of a separate scandal that we don't have time for here), he sent the complaint to the Government Accountability Board. That board ultimately asked the new attorney general, Mark Vargo, to investigate. Vargo, having been appointed by Noem, recused himself and forwarded the matter to LaMie, who recently decided against filing any charges.

So now it's all come full-circle back to Nesiba. If he wins re-election against a Republican challenger on Nov. 8, will he try to address the definition of "state business" during the next legislative session beginning in January?

"If that is a problem," Nesiba said, "then we will bring a proposed statute to tighten that up."



SETH TUPPER  

Seth is editor-in-chief of South Dakota Searchlight. He was previously a supervising senior producer for South Dakota Public Broadcasting and a newspaper journalist in Rapid City and Mitchell.

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October Students of the Month

These students have been selected as "Student of the Month" for October 2022 for their grade in grades 6-12.

Groton Area School works to ensure that all levels of academic instruction also include the necessary life skills teaching, practicing, and modeling that encourages essential personal life habits that are universally understood to facilitate helping our students become good human beings and citizens.

It is learning with our heads, hearts, and hands to be caring and civil, to make healthy decisions, to effectively problem solve, to be respectful and responsible, to be good citizens, and to be empathetic and ethical individuals.

Students are selected based on individual student growth in the areas of: positive behavior, citizenship, good attendance, a thirst for knowledge, and high academic standards.



Kaleb Antosen
Senior



Dillon Abeln
Junior



Axel Warrington
Sophomore



Breslyn Jescke
Freshman



Makenna Krause
Seventh Grade



Kira Clocksene
Eighth Grade



Neely Althoff
Sixth Grade



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

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Election 2022 sees ballots hand counted, drop boxes removed, security increased

Auditors anticipate several issues to be addressed at 2023 State Legislature

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - NOVEMBER 7, 2022 4:35 AM

It's a never-ending game of Whac-A-Mole, said South Dakota Sec. of State Steve Barnett.

Citizen groups have spent the last year questioning, challenging and pressuring officials at the state and local level to change South Dakota's voter registration, absentee voting or ballot counting processes — typically based on incorrect information found on far right websites and social media channels.

The influx of challenges has left some county auditors and other government officials tired, overworked, doubting their careers and in some cases, questioning their safety.

"Someone pops up and pushes on something one week and then it's a new topic the next week and the next," Barnett said. "You prove these tabulator machines work and then the next week it's someone or something else. It can be time consuming."

While educating voters on the process is part of the auditor's job, the challenges and pressures of the 2022 cycle have influenced how auditors conduct elections, including how votes will be counted, how drop boxes are used and how election workers are trained.

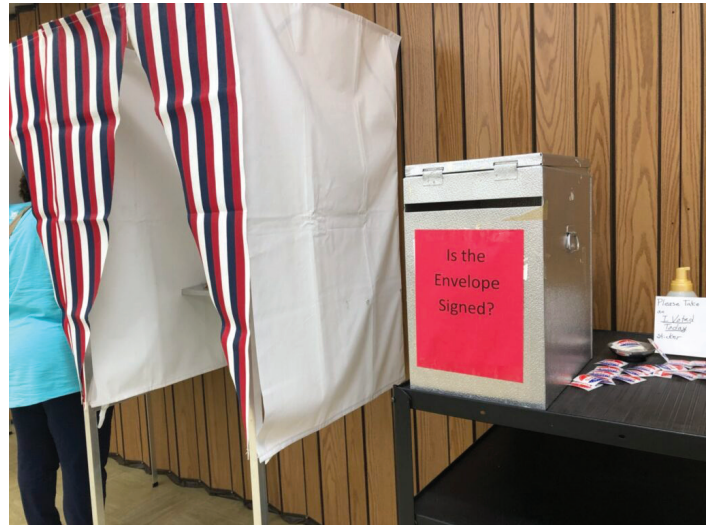
Cindy Mohler has been Pennington County Auditor since 2019, but she's worked in the office since 1999. She knows the process and believes it is a secure system, but she said it's frustrating to respond to several information requests and hear challenges to the process so frequently, including during an October Pennington County Commission meeting.

"They said it several times that they're not out to attack auditors, but when you have people coming at you with all of these challenges and information requests and questions, it kind of feels like they are," Mohler said.

Public invited to test runs, counting demonstrations

Groups that question election integrity began to pop up in South Dakota after the 2020 election, Barnett said, after then-President Donald Trump lost and claimed that the 2020 election was "stolen" from him. Trump filed more than 60 lawsuits contesting either the election or the way it was administered. None of the cases have succeeded.

County auditors in South Dakota have been mailed letters, emailed, approached in-person and called thousands of times by people in- and out-of-state who question South Dakota's voter registration and ballot counting processes.



Sealed and signed envelopes are dropped into a box at the Brown County Administration Building after registered voters fill out in-person absentee ballots. (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

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Brown County election worker Cheral Finstad helps resident Vickie Wilson request an in-person absentee ballot while other county residents fill out their ballots on Friday, Nov. 4.

4. (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

public demonstration on Nov. 3, showing that the tabulator correctly counted the ballots. No one showed up for the demonstration except for a reporter from the local ABC/NBC affiliate Dakota News Now, Kyte said.

"I'm glad it was covered by local media so they can show and let people know the test was conducted and successful," said Kyte. "The public should have some confidence that the tabulating machines are working well."

Two people in Minnehaha County sued Kyte's office on Wednesday, asking a judge to block election workers from opening absentee ballots "until such time as the voter's signed statement, signature and residence in the State of South Dakota is confirmed."

A judge has yet to rule on the request, which was filed by Minnehaha County residents Vicky Buhr and Gary Meyer.

Ballot counting during election night is also open to the public, Barnett said, to ensure transparency in the election process.

County auditors in Brown and Codington counties took their public demonstrations a step further by hand-counting ballots to prove that the tabulators are significantly faster and more accurate.

Codington Auditor Cindy Brugman's hand count didn't immediately match the tabulated count, which she attributed to multiple interruptions while hand-counting ballots, according to the Aberdeen News.

"We're trying to encourage people to come in so they see how the process works and so they can understand," said Lynn Heupel, Brown County Auditor. "We did have one individual, a resident in Brown County who questioned the process, literally come in and walk around the machine. He saw that the only thing plugged into the wall was a power cord — no modem, no computer — so now he's aware of that. I think he was kind of surprised because of everything else he'd been hearing."

Drop box legality questions force auditors to close them

Hughes County has used a drop box outside its administration building since the 2020 election.

Residents have used the box to drop off both property tax payments and absentee ballots. The drop box is monitored with a security camera, and absentee ballots go through the same verification process as they would during an in-person drop-off, said Auditor Thomas Oliva.

But after fielding several questions and threats of legal action, Oliva closed the drop box earlier this

Mohler spent half an hour recently explaining how voter registration checks and balances work to a small group, assuring that everything is done manually and not through a computer.

"Tabulators have never been an issue; there aren't modems in them and they aren't connected to the internet," Barnett said, adding that all tabulators are certified by the state and test-run before the election. "There is a small percentage of the public who want to believe the tabulators are connected to the internet and compromised, but they're not."

Demonstrations and test runs are standard ahead of each election and are open to the public. For 2022, county auditors have invited county commissioners, legislators and specific community members — especially those who've questioned how the election process works — to watch and participate in the demonstrations. Some counties saw a good turnout, with at least a handful of onlookers. Others didn't see crowds larger than previous years.

Minnehaha County Auditor Ben Kyte ran a test deck of 2,300 ballots through four tabulator machines at a

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season. That doesn't take away anyone's right to vote, he said, since they can still drop the ballot off in-person. Oliva has also offered to physically pick up ballots from homes if the voter can't make the trip.

"At that time, I was at my wit's end," Oliva said. "I would just as soon get rid of it than have people say that box is compromised. It seemed easier than to sit there and defend myself all day long over it."

The continued pressure to answer questions and fill out information requests is starting to take its toll. Some information requests have been very in depth or request information that doesn't exist. Discussions can get heated, Oliva said.

"It makes you lose sleep at night and question yourself," Oliva said. "I plan on making a career of this, but you never know as more challenges come. Like these types of things sure make getting a job in the private sector alluring."

For years, the Pennington County Auditor's Office has used a drop box in the foyer of the county administration building for absentee ballots. But as with Oliva's office, a group of people threatened to take legal action over the Rapid City box. With a week left before the election, Mohler decided to close it.

"The drop box isn't out on a corner. It's inside the foyer, in the wall of the county administration building and locked into a box that is only accessible to the auditor's office," Mohler said. "We felt that was the same as someone delivering their absentee ballot to the office."

The drop box was meant to be a convenience, letting voters avoid a wait at the auditor's office. The box also let the elderly or disabled avoid a walk all the way into the building.

"We just decided it was best to close it up and let the Legislature address it — define what constitutes an on-site and off-site drop box," Mohler said. "Is it the same as walking into our office? It just needs to be defined."

Auditors, election workers consider public safety

After years of new cycles surrounding "The Big Lie," the term attached to Trump's denial of the 2020 election results, it's no surprise that auditors would entertain questions and challenges about election security.

Election workers are also starting to question their safety.

"I don't sense that we have issues in Minnehaha County, but in those areas where incidents happen they probably didn't expect them either," Kyte said. "We're more aware of concerns and we try to prepare for those situations. Election workers are more aware, so they've asked for security measures too."

Kyte is in contact with the Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to prepare for any threats.

Additional safety and security training was given to Minnehaha County election workers, Kyte said, such as ensuring election workers know their precinct address to report to authorities if needed in an emergency.

Mohler talked with the Pennington County Sheriff's Office and the Rapid City Police Department to make law enforcement aware of pressures on auditors and county commissioners. Mohler usually requests just one officer to stand security at the courthouse on election night. This year, she's requested two.

"Just in case," she said. "I try to believe in the good in people. I don't think we're going to need it, but I also want to be prepared."

Tripp County first SD county in two decades to hand count votes

Auditor for Tripp and Todd counties Barb Desersa has run elections since 2014. She runs unopposed in 2022, so she plans to continue another four years. But she wonders if it's worth it.



Brown County Auditor Lynn Heupel poses for a photo outside the Auditor's Office in Aberdeen. (Makenzie Huber/South Dakota Searchlight)

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The Hughes County Courthouse in Pierre, SD, pictured on Nov. 2, 2022. (John Hult/South Dakota Searchlight)

Tripp County Commissioners used an election law “body” of an election to overrule the county auditor by adopting, experimenting with or abandoning the tabulator machines.

Fall River County will also hand count a portion of its ballots from two of its smallest precincts, said Sue Ganje, Fall River County Auditor, after a similar commission meeting.

The tabulator results from all precincts will still be the official count submitted to the state, however.

Ganje said she doesn't know why her pre-election demonstration and the test deck tabulator check are not enough to prove the machines are accurate.

The situation has prompted auditors and the Secretary of State's Office to think about changes to state law during the 2023 legislative session that could address operational authority at the county level.

Election questions, definitions to be addressed by 2023 Legislature

Auditors anticipate several election process questions to be addressed at the 2023 legislative session.

Mohler hopes to see a discussion that would clearly define a drop box and its legality. She also expects to see legislation to tighten definitions of residency in the state and place restrictions on how long residents must permanently live in South Dakota before they can register to vote.

County auditors and Barnett want to clarify which county officials can decide how to count ballots, since the brunt of hand-counting responsibility falls on the county auditors. Ideally, Barnett said, hand counting

“Honestly, if I had something to go back to I probably wouldn't run again,” Desersa said. “I just have a few years left until retirement, so we'll try to stick it out, but it does become challenging.”

Desersa and her staff and election volunteers will hand count an estimated 1,050 ballots on Nov. 8. The Tripp County Commission unanimously voted on Oct. 11 to hand count ballots in addition to tabulating votes. The hand counted number will be the official tally sent to the state, and Desersa said it could take days to finish.

The decision makes Tripp the first South Dakota county in two decades to hand count election ballots and submit them to the state, said Kea Warne, director of the division of elections in the Secretary of State's Office. Todd County's votes will be tabulated.

The South Dakota Canvassing Group, which bills itself as “concerned citizens working together to secure election integrity,” has sent members to speak at county commission meetings across the state since late 2021, including Minnehaha, Pennington, Lincoln, Brookings, Hanson, Fall River and Tripp counties.

on the books since 1994 that allows the “governing



Barb Desersa, Auditor for Tripp and Todd counties in south-central South Dakota, will hand count an estimated 1,050 ballots from Tripp County in the 2022 election. (John Hult/South

Dakota Searchlight)

would be taken off the table.

"The remedy for that would be to bring forth legislation to tweak that particular statute — switch it to say something like, 'county auditors shall use tabulators to count election votes,'" Barnett said.

Post-election audits are also a concern.

"I truly anticipate that this is what will be coming to us," said Ganje, the Fall River County Auditor. "I believe some type of audit is going to be initiated through the session next year."



MAKENZIE HUBER

Makenzie Huber is a lifelong South Dakotan whose work has won national and regional awards. She's spent five years as a journalist with experience reporting on workforce, development and business issues within the state.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

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Johnson: Colorado experience doesn't square with legal pot fears

BY: BRAD JOHNSON - NOVEMBER 7, 2022 4:30 AM

Marijuana legalization in Colorado has not had the negative societal effect that opponents of Initiated Measure 27 say it will have on South Dakota if voters pass it on Tuesday.

The group against marijuana legalization insinuate that out-of-state drug interests, not South Dakotans who signed petitions, are waging a campaign to endanger our children, families and communities.

Never mind that voters approved a similar measure by 54 percent in 2020 only to see it declared unconstitutional.

Certainly, there are negative societal and personal impacts to the misuse of any substance. But will legalization of marijuana make life in South Dakota worse?

By now, most everyone probably has made up their mind, but here are a few final thoughts.

One medical doctor said he dislikes marijuana, but is voting for it as a safety issue. Marijuana bought on the street today is sometimes tainted with fentanyl, a deadly drug that's become more prevalent in the United States. At least with legalized pot, he said, there is a measure of quality assurance.

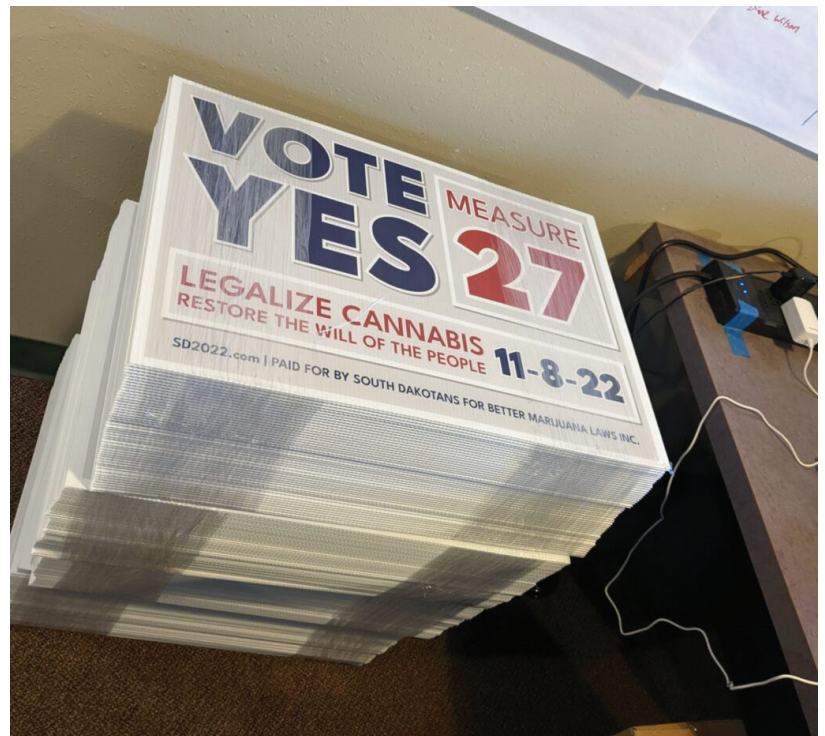
Other medical providers worry about increased medical visits, and some police are worried about more crime.

Let us look at Colorado, which in 2013 legalized the retail sale and possession of marijuana to adults over age 21. In July 2021, the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice released a report on the impacts of marijuana legalization.

Certainly, there are a lot of good reasons to keep students off of pot, as drugs and alcohol are bad for teenage brains, or any brain for that matter. But the evidence that legalization will make problems worse appears to be lacking.

– Brad Johnson

As for youth impacts, it said, the Healthy Kids Colorado Survey results "indicate no change in the past 30-day use of marijuana by middle and high school-aged youth between 2013 (19.7%) and 2019 (20.6%)."
The 2021 Healthy Kids report said that number had dropped to 13.3% overall, far below the national



Yard signs supporting Initiated Measure 27, piled up in the IM 27 campaign office in Sioux Falls on Nov. 4, 2022. IM 27 would legalize adult cannabis use in South Dakota. (John Hult/South Dakota Searchlight)

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average of 22 percent.

In South Dakota in 2019, about 16.5 percent of our high school students used marijuana in the last 30 days, according to a SD Department of Health report.

Pot legalization in Colorado caused the rate of juvenile marijuana arrests to drop from 551 per 100,000 in 2010-2011 to 426 per 100,000 in 2019-2020.

The school drug expulsion rate dropped from 65 per 100,000 registered students to 23 per 100,000 in the 2019-2020 school year.

Certainly, there are a lot of good reasons to keep students off of pot, as drugs and alcohol are bad for teenage brains, or any brain for that matter. But the evidence that legalization will make problems worse appears to be lacking.

From a criminal justice perspective, legalization caused the total number of marijuana arrests to decline by 68 percent between 2012 and 2019. Court filings declined 55 percent.

There was a 47 percent decline in misdemeanors and a 71 percent drop in petty offenses, the report said.

Traffic safety involving marijuana and alcohol is a justified concern.

Marijuana as a sole source of impairment increased 6.3% to 8.7% between 2014 and 2020 in Colorado. Marijuana combined with alcohol and other drugs increased from 5.7% of all driving under the influence charges in 2014 to 22.7% in 2020.

The number of fatal accidents that involved drivers "with cannabinoid-only or cannabinoid-in-combination positive drivers increased 140 percent from 55 in 2013 to 132 in 2019.

"However," the report said, "note that the detection of any cannabinoid in blood is not an indicator of impairment but only indicates presence in the system." Alcohol remains the biggest problem.

There are legitimate medical concerns.

Colorado saw "a significant rate increase in marijuana-related emergency department visits" but this has started to decline.

The number of calls to poison control also jumped from 41 in 2006 to 276 in 2019. Modern marijuana is much more potent than it used to be, causing some of those calls.

Surprisingly, the overall "rate of treatment admissions for those reporting marijuana as their substance of use has decreased from 222 admissions per 100,000 population in 2012 to 182 in 2019."

Marijuana usage in Colorado did jump with legalization.

In 2019 about 19 percent of adults used marijuana in the past 30 days compared to 13.4% in 2014. The 26-34-year age category used the most (29.4%) in the past 30 days.

One thing legalization did do was line the Colorado state government's pockets. Total revenue jumped from \$67 million in 2014 to \$387 million from 2,709 licensed businesses in 2020. Up to \$120 million of that went to fund the state's schools that year.



BRAD JOHNSON

Brad Johnson is a Watertown real estate appraiser and journalist whose previous career was as a Colorado newspaper reporter and editor. He has been writing regularly appearing opinion columns for at least 20 years.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

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Weed on the ballot: Voters could approve legal marijuana in 5 more states

South Dakota among states to cast ballots on recreational use

BY: JACOB FISCHLER - NOVEMBER 7, 2022 4:30 AM

Midterm voters in five states will determine if they should join the growing list of places where recreational marijuana use is allowed, even as any use of the drug is still illegal under federal law.

Referendums to legalize recreational use of marijuana are on Nov. 8 ballots in Arkansas, Maryland, Missouri, South Dakota and North Dakota. If approved, those states would join 19 other states and the District of Columbia in allowing use. The current jurisdictions account for about 44% of the United States population.

Though some Republican-trending states such as Montana and Alaska have lifted prohibitions in recent years, most that have legalized recreational use still tend to lean toward Democrats in state and national elections.

That could change this year, as four of the five states with legalization on the ballot—Arkansas, Missouri, and the Dakotas—have Republicans in control of both legislative chambers and in the governor's office.

"We've seen a growing number of states in the middle of the country re-examining their marijuana laws," said Mason Tvert, a spokesman for the Denver-based cannabis law and policy firm Vicente Sederberg. "This is really just the next step in the evolution of public attitudes toward marijuana policy."

"Generally, what we find is the more people hear about and learn about marijuana, the more likely they are to support making it legal and regulated."

Adding more states that allow for recreational use provides the possibility that members of Congress from those states will support a fledgling industry and promote federal changes, Tvert said.

Criticism of ballot measures

The initiatives are not without their critics, even on the political left. St. Louis Mayor Tishaura Jones, a Democrat, said this week she opposed Missouri's ballot measure because it would exclude Black business owners from the industry, the Missouri Independent reported.

Legalization advocates in Arkansas have also criticized that state's ballot initiative for being too strict and not including expungement of previous offenses, the Arkansas Advocate reported.

But the trend since Colorado and Washington first allowed recreational use 10 years ago has been toward further legalization.

As the industry has flourished where it is state-legal, it has developed an interest in expanding elsewhere.

"For-profit companies, they have an interest in getting in these other markets," Beau Kilmer, the co-director of the nonprofit think tank RAND Corp.'s drug policy research center, said.

As more states adopt legalization, the model could shift, Kilmer added. Colorado and Washington "definitely set a precedent" for a for-profit model, but other approaches are possible, he said.

I feel pretty darn sure now that this is such a better, in terms of almost every measure, such a better societal decision than what I grew up in, and it's going to have huge impacts.

– Sen. John Hickenlooper, Colorado

Places in Canada, for example, permit only sales through state-owned stores, which allows the government to set prices and strictly control what products and potencies are available.

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"It'll be interesting to see, especially as more conservative states start having more serious conversations about this, whether or not we see a middle option—the state store approach, for example," Kilmer said.

Legislation in some states?

As cultural acceptance of marijuana use has increased, more states may opt to address legalization through the "traditional legislative process" rather than through ballot initiatives, Kilmer said.

That could leave space for other approaches beyond the for-profit model.

Each state that passes legalization has adopted varying regulatory approaches, Tvert said. But the model popularized by Colorado and Washington is generally seen as successful.

Former critic U.S. Sen. John Hickenlooper, a Democrat who was the state's governor when the ballot measure passed, said this month his concerns never materialized.

"I feel pretty darn sure now that this is such a better, in terms of almost every measure, such a better societal decision than what I grew up in, and it's going to have huge impacts," Hickenlooper said at an event commemorating the 10th anniversary of the state's legalization.

"This model is something that has opened the door for all these other states. And I've personally gone and talked to either the general assembly or the governors in half a dozen states, and... literally, there is no attack, no anxiety that we don't have a pretty good answer for."

Social justice concerns

Last month, President Joe Biden pardoned thousands of people convicted of federal offenses and tasked his administration with considering removal of the drug's Schedule I classification that puts it in the most severe class of drugs of abuse.

Efforts in Congress to legalize marijuana under federal law have stalled in the U.S. Senate, despite broad popularity.

That has left almost half the country living with a major difference between federal and state marijuana law.

As more states move to allow it, questions of fairness for those convicted of prior offenses have proliferated.

In his statement, Biden asked governors to follow his lead and pardon low-level marijuana offenders, a call that largely went unanswered.

In Missouri, Jones' opposition stems from a provision in the measure that would allow state regulators to cap the number of licenses for manufacture and sale of recreational marijuana and give first choice to parties that are licensed to provide medical marijuana—almost all of whom are white.

Legalization push to continue

When they're put on the ballot, marijuana legalization measures typically pass, though often by relatively slim margins.

Tvert said there was "a good chance" each of the five states would pass their ballot measures on Nov. 8. No matter the results, the momentum toward more legalization will likely continue, Kilmer said.



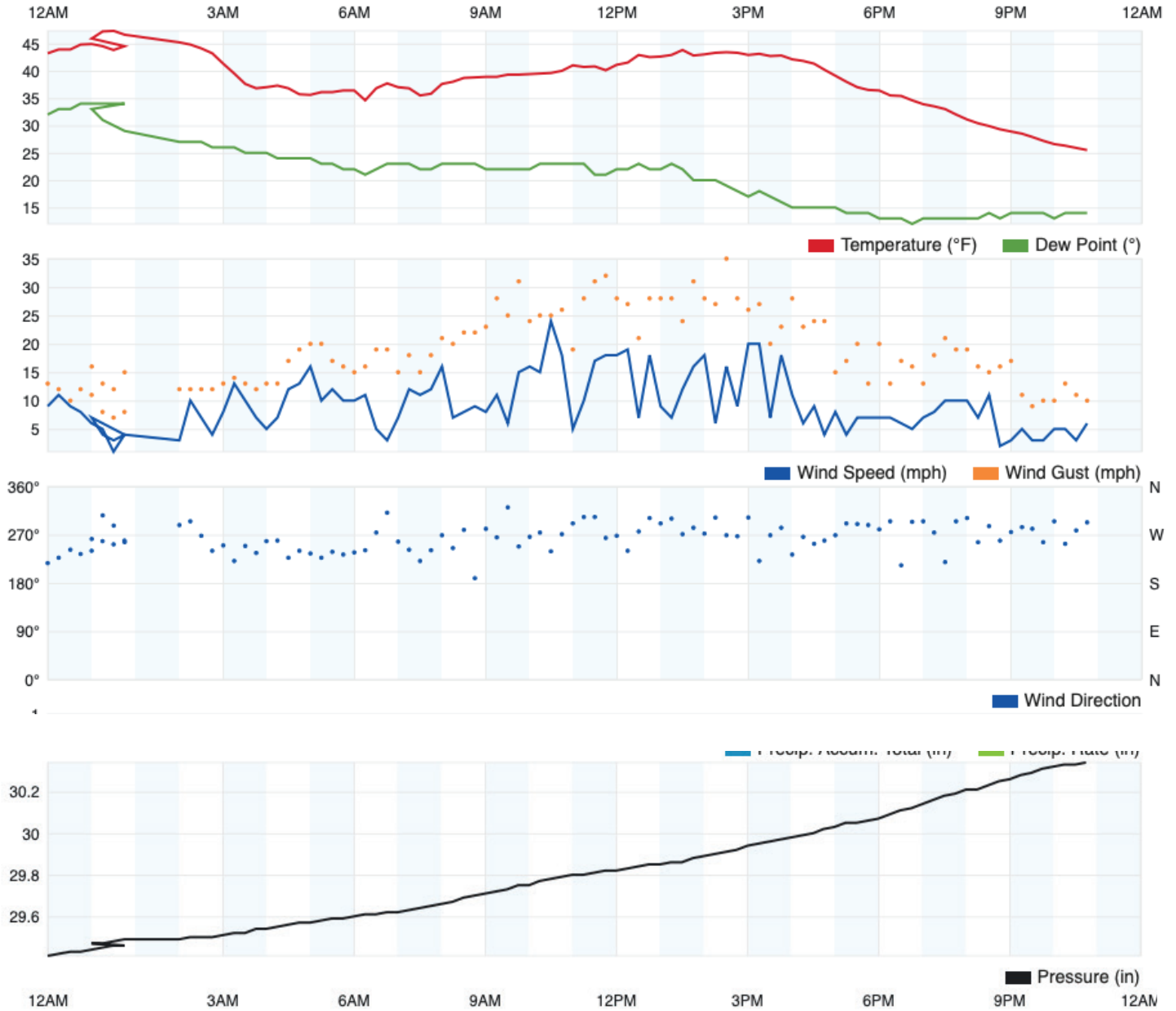
JACOB FISCHLER  

Jacob covers federal policy as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Based in Oregon, he focuses on Western issues. His coverage areas include climate, energy development, public lands and infrastructure.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today



Slight Chance Snow

Tonight



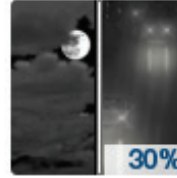
Partly Cloudy and Breezy

Tuesday



Increasing Clouds and Breezy

Tuesday Night



Mostly Cloudy then Chance Rain

Wednesday



Chance Rain

High: 38 °F

Low: 34 °F

High: 55 °F

Low: 32 °F

High: 41 °F



Windy, Fire Danger Again Today

Today

- Light snow north central SD this morning
- East-southeasterly winds increase through the afternoon, especially across central SD
- **Red Flag Warning** across south central SD, high to very high grassland fire danger across the area

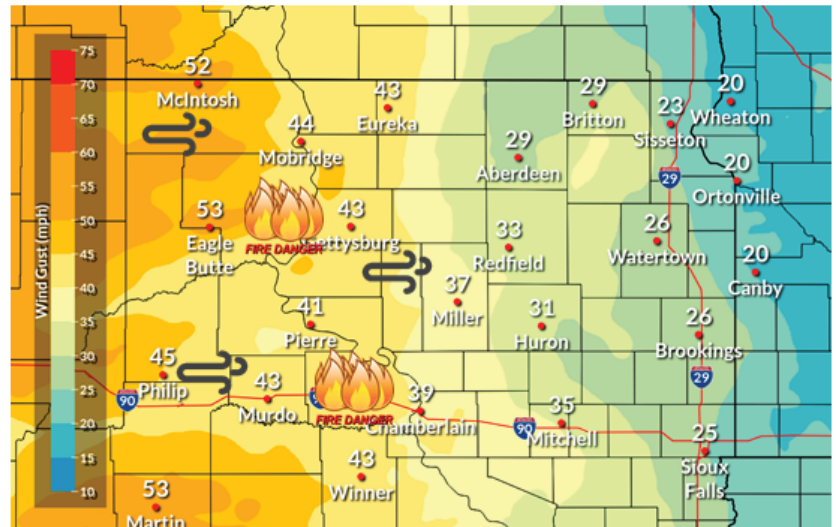
Impacts

- Fires have the potential to ignite from sparks, cigarettes, embers, etc.
- Any fires that ignite may spread quickly

Tonight

- Winds remain breezy out of the south with gusts around 30 mph.

Peak wind gusts Monday, Nov 7th, 2022



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE ABERDEEN, SD
UPDATED: 11/7/2022 4:58 AM CENTRAL



Incoming low pressure will lead to increasing winds today, out of the southeast, particularly across central South Dakota. When combined with continued dry air and fuels, fire danger will be high to very high. While breezy conditions persist on Tuesday, increased moisture will help to limit the fire threat. Visit www.weather.gov/abr for the latest details.

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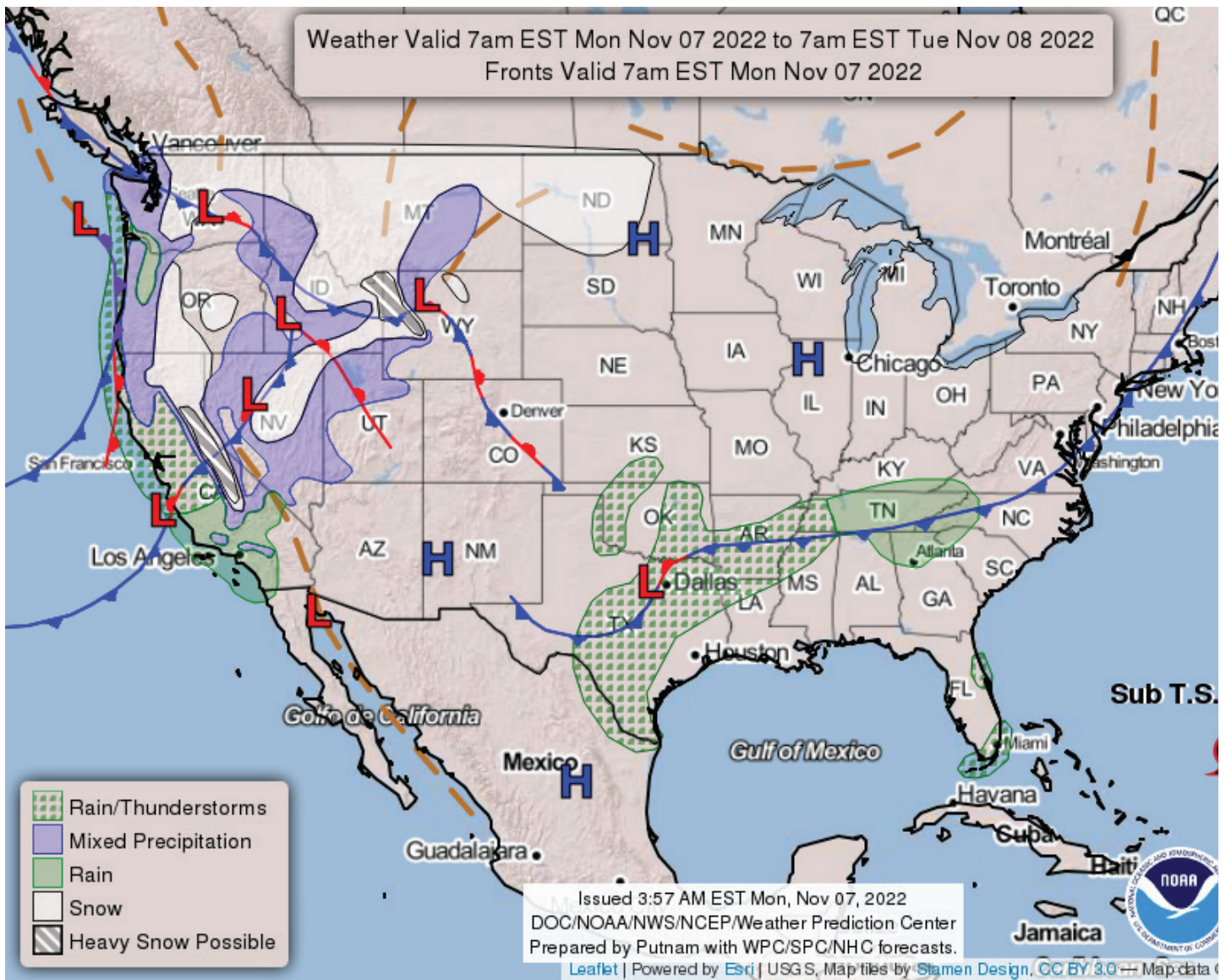
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 47.3 °F at 1:30 AM
Low Temp: 25.5 °F at 10:45 PM
Wind: 35 mph at 2:30 PM
Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 9 hours, 54 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 75 in 1909
Record Low: -9 in 1991
Average High: 47°F
Average Low: 23°F
Average Precip in Nov.: 0.23
Precip to date in Nov.: 0.00
Average Precip to date: 20.70
Precip Year to Date: 16.50
Sunset Tonight: 5:13:11 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 7:20:22 AM



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Today in Weather History

November 7th, 1986: A major winter storm dumped 10 to 25 inches of snow over most of North Dakota. The snow combined with winds of 30 to 50 mph and gusts to 70 mph, creating blizzard conditions. Snow began over southern and eastern North Dakota on the morning of the 7th, and by late afternoon, had spread over the entire state. The snowfall was heavy at times and continued through the night of the 7th. In the southeast quarter, the snow alternated with rain, freezing rain, and sleet. By daybreak on the 8th, snow and blowing snow was occurring statewide. By late morning, the storm had intensified into a blizzard over almost all of North Dakota. The blizzard ended over extreme western North Dakota by late afternoon of the 8th and over the rest of the state that night. The most substantial snowfall occurred over south-central and east-central North Dakota. The highest wind gusts of the storm happened in the north-central and northeast sections of the state. Several wind gusts to 58 mph were recorded at Grand Forks, and a gust to 55 mph occurred at the Minot Air Force Base. Wind chills dipped to 40 below over some parts of the state. The storm happened on the opening day of deer hunting season and forced many hunters to cancel their trips.

November 7th, 2000: A storm system brought 4 to 10 inches of snow and northwest winds of 30 to 50 mph, with higher gusts to create blizzard conditions to South Dakota. Numerous schools and other events were canceled due to the blizzard conditions. In addition, several accidents occurred due to the slick roads and low visibilities. Some storm total snowfall amounts include; 9.5 inches in Selby; 8 inches in Glenham and 12SSW of Harrold; 7.3 inches near Onaka; 7 inches at Faulkton; and 6 inches in Miller.

1940: The Tacoma Narrows Bridge opened on July 1st, 1940, spanned the Puget Sound from Gig Harbor to Tacoma. At the time of the opening, the bridge was the third-longest suspension bridge in the world, covering nearly 6,000 feet. Before the bridge opened, high winds would cause the bridge to move vertically, giving the nickname Galloping Gertie. On this day in 1940, winds of 40 mph caused the bridge to collapse because of the physical phenomenon known as aeroelastic flutter.

1951: At 7 AM, a blinding flash, a massive ball of fire, and a terrific roar occurred over parts of Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas, caused by a disintegrating meteor. Windows were broken in and near Hinton, Oklahoma, by the concussion.

1957: A historic tornado outbreak impacted southeast Texas and southwestern Louisiana. Ten people were killed.

1986 - An early season blizzard struck the Northern Plains Region. North Dakota took the brunt of the storm with wind gusts to 70 mph, and snowfall totals ranged up to 25 inches at Devils Lake. (Storm Data)

1987 - Heavy snow fell across parts of eastern New York State overnight, with twelve inches reported at the town of Piseco, located in the Mohawk Valley. A storm in the southwestern U.S. left nine inches of snow at the Winter Park ski resort in Colorado. Smoke from forest fires reduced visibilities to less than a mile at some locations from North Carolina to Ohio and Pennsylvania. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Unseasonably warm weather continued across the state of Texas. Seven cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Waco and Del Rio with readings of 92 degrees. McAllen was the hot spot in the nation with a high of 96 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

2001: Typhoon Lingling struck the southern Philippines, killing 171 people with 118 missing in Camiguin. The typhoon then struck Vietnam 5 days later, killing an additional 18 people.

2011: A powerful storm system moving through the southern Great Plains produced tornadoes, large hail, damaging winds, and flooding across parts of Oklahoma and western north Texas on November 7-8, 2011. The system initially produced numerous thunderstorms, heavy rainfall, and flash flooding over portions of south-central Oklahoma during the late evening of November 6th and early morning of November 7th. Rainfall totals of 5-9 inches were reported across Jefferson, Carter, and Murray counties.

2012: A Nor'Easter brought several inches of snow to the Northeast. Snowfall amounts of 2 to 6 inches were typical with locally higher amounts.

2013: Super Typhoon Haiyan made history as one of the largest and strongest typhoons ever recorded.

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

COWS, CUDS, AND MEDITATION

Have you ever watched a cow, lying beneath a tree, quietly looking through its leaves at the puffy clouds that are passing across the soft blue sky? They seem to be concentrating on something far beyond themselves, yet important to them. Their stillness reflects a sense of peace and confidence that "all is well in my world and there's nothing for me to worry about." All the while they are chewing on "cuds" - round balls of grass that they bring up from their stomachs and chew some 30,000 times each day to get all of the nourishment out of them.

Could that not be a picture of meditation for the Christian to adopt? A time when we quietly "chew" on a piece of Scripture that God brings to our minds from His Word that we have hidden in our hearts.

Imagine how our lives would be different if we sat quietly and brought a verse of Scripture from His Word into our minds and then looked to Him to give us all the nourishment that it contains. Imagine the changes that would take place in our lives if we would invest even a small amount of time "chewing" on a verse or two from His Word each day asking Him to "nourish our lives" with its meaning. Imagine the peace and comfort that could be ours if we simply asked His Spirit to use His Word to calm our fears, lift our depression, eliminate our doubts, change our attitudes, and convict us of our sins.

If we can imagine it, we can do it! God troubles our hearts and minds to get our attention. Then we must submit to His Spirit to work in us as we meditate on Him.

Prayer: Lord, speak to our hearts and change our lives as we willingly ask Your Spirit to guide and guard us. Please do in us what we cannot do in ourselves. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: May all my thoughts be pleasing to him, for I rejoice in the LORD. Psalm 104:34



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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News from the Associated Press

Native child welfare law faces major Supreme Court challenge

By FELICIA FONSECA and MARK SHERMAN Associated Press

FLAGSTAFF, Ariz. (AP) — The U.S. Supreme Court is set to hear arguments Wednesday on the most significant challenge to a law that gives preference to Native American families in foster care and adoption proceedings of Native children.

The outcome could undercut the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act, which was enacted in response to the alarming rate at which Native American and Alaska Native children were taken from their homes by public and private agencies. Tribes also fear more widespread impacts in the ability to govern themselves if the justices rule against them.

The law requires states to notify tribes and seek placement with the child's extended family, members of the child's tribe or other Native American families. It's long been championed by tribal leaders as a means of preserving their families, traditions and cultures.

Three white families, Texas and a small number of other states claim the law is based on race and is unconstitutional under the equal protection clause. They also contend it puts the interests of tribes ahead of children. Lower courts have been split on the case.

"This is an all-out nuclear war attack on ICWA," said Mary Kathryn Nagle, a Cherokee attorney for the National Indigenous Women's Resource Center who filed a brief in support of the law. "We have not seen that before. That's either ironic or interesting, because the law has been on the books for 44 years, and this is the first time the constitutionality of the law has been challenged. This is unprecedented."

More than three-quarters of the 574 federally recognized tribes in the country have asked the high court to uphold the law in full, along with tribal organizations. They fear widespread impacts if the court attempts to dismantle the tribes' status as political sovereigns.

Nearly two dozen state attorneys general across the political spectrum filed a brief in support of the law. Some of those states have codified the federal law into their own state laws.

"We disagree on many things," the brief reads. "But we all agree that ICWA is a critical — and constitutionally valid — framework for managing state-tribal relations, protecting the rights of Indian children, and preventing the unwarranted displacement of Indian children from their families and communities."

Texas, Louisiana, Indiana and seven individuals have sued over the provisions of the law, though not all are involved in the case before the high court. The lead plaintiffs in the Supreme Court case — Chad and Jennifer Brackeen of Fort Worth, Texas — said the law doesn't have the best interest of children at heart.

"It's important for people to understand that this is not just a law," Jennifer Brackeen, an anesthesiologist, said in an interview with The Associated Press.

She and her husband, Chad, adopted a Native American child after a prolonged legal fight with the Navajo Nation, one of the two largest Native American tribes, based in the U.S. Southwest. They are trying to adopt the boy's half-sister, now 4, who has lived with them since infancy. The Navajo Nation has opposed that adoption.

A major problem with the law, Chad Brackeen said, is its lack of flexibility.

"We feel primary consideration is that all children, regardless of race, should be placed in loving forever homes," Jennifer Brackeen said.

A federal district court in Texas initially sided with the group of plaintiffs in 2018 and struck down much of the Indian Child Welfare Act, ruling it was race-based and unconstitutional.

But in 2019, a three-judge federal appeals court panel voted 2-1 to reverse the district court and uphold the law. The full court then agreed to hear the case and struck down some of the provisions, including preferences for placing Native children with Native adoptive families and in Native foster homes. It also said Congress overstepped its authority by imposing its will on state officials in adoption matters.

But it upheld the determination that the law is based on the political relationship between the tribes and

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the U.S. government, not race.

The high court has twice taken up cases on the Indian Child Welfare Act before, in 1989 and in 2013, that have stirred immense emotion.

All of the children who have been involved in the current case at one point are enrolled or could be enrolled as Navajo, Cherokee, White Earth Band of Ojibwe and Ysleta del Sur Pueblo. Some of the adoptions have been finalized while some are still being challenged. How those are affected by the Supreme Court case could depend on how the high court rules.

Before the Indian Child Welfare Act was enacted, between 25% and 35% of Native American children were being taken from their homes and placed with adoptive families, in foster care or in institutions. Most were placed with white families or in boarding schools in attempts to assimilate them.

"They would just swoop in and take our kids," said Michelle Beaudin, a council member of the Lac Courte Oreilles Tribe in Wisconsin. "And they didn't know their culture, they were just brought into another world. There was no justification for them to come into our communities."

Kate Ford, who represents intervening tribes in the case, said Native American children remain disproportionately represented in the system, but the actual figures vary dramatically by state.

"It's better than when ICWA was passed, but we still have work to do," she said in a recent call with reporters.

Beaudin, who was a foster care parent for more than 10 years, adopted her now 22-year-old daughter. She saw great value in ensuring that her daughter stayed connected to both her Ojibwe and Ho-Chunk heritage by passing down traditional skirts and participating in cultural ceremonies.

"That really helped her be confident in who she is and where she came from," Beaudin said. "She had those pieces of her. If you don't know where you came from and who your people are and what your culture is about, you don't have a sense of belonging anywhere."

____ Fonseca covers Indigenous communities on the AP's Race and Ethnicity team. Follow Fonseca on Twitter: @FonsecaAP. Sherman reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Sophie Austin in Sacramento, California, contributed to this report. Sophie Austin is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues. Follow Austin on Twitter: @sophieadanna

Massachusetts museum returns sacred items to Sioux tribes

BARRE, Mass. (AP) — About 150 artifacts considered sacred by the Lakota Sioux peoples are being returned to them after being stored at a small Massachusetts museum for more than a century.

Members of the Oglala Sioux and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribes traveled from South Dakota to take custody of the weapons, pipes, moccasins and clothing, including several items thought to have a direct link to the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre in South Dakota.

They had been held by the Founders Museum in Barre, Massachusetts, about 74 miles west of Boston. A public ceremony was held Saturday inside the gym at a nearby elementary school that included prayers by the Lakota representatives. The artifacts will be officially handed over during a private ceremony.

"Ever since that Wounded Knee massacre happened, genocides have been instilled in our blood," said Surrounded Bear, 20, who traveled to Barre from the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, according to The Boston Globe. "And for us to bring back these artifacts, that's a step towards healing. That's a step in the right direction."

The ceremony marked the culmination of repatriation efforts that had been decades in the making.

"It was always important to me to give them back," said Ann Meilus, president of the board at the Founders Museum. "I think the museum will be remembered for being on the right side of history for returning these items."

The items being returned are just a tiny fraction of an estimated 870,000 Native American artifacts — including nearly 110,000 human remains — in the possession of the nation's most prestigious colleges,

museums and even the federal government. They're supposed to be returned to the tribes under the 1990 Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Museum officials have said that as a private institution that does not receive federal funding, the institution is not subject to NAGPRA, but returning items in its collection that belong to Indigenous tribes is the right thing to do.

More than 200 men, women, children and elderly people were killed in the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. Congress issued a formal apology to the Sioux Nation a century later for one of the nation's worst massacres of Native Americans.

The Barre museum acquired its Indigenous collection from Frank Root, a traveling shoe salesman who collected the items on his journeys during the 19th century, and once had a road show that rivaled P.T. Barnum's extravaganzas, according to museum officials.

Wendell Yellow Bull, a descendant of Wounded Knee victim Joseph Horn Cloud, has said the items will be stored at Oglala Lakota College until tribal leaders decide what to do with them.

The items being returned to the Sioux people have all been authenticated by multiple experts, including tribal experts. The museum also has other Indigenous items not believed to have originated with the Sioux.

Apple says iPhone supplies hurt by anti-virus curbs in China

BEIJING (AP) — Apple Inc. is warning customers they'll have to wait longer to get its latest iPhone models after anti-virus restrictions were imposed on a contractor's factory in central China.

The company announcement Sunday gave no details but said the factory operated by Foxconn in the central city of Zhengzhou is "operating at significantly reduced capacity."

"We now expect lower iPhone 14 Pro and iPhone 14 Pro Max shipments than we previously anticipated," the company said. "Customers will experience longer wait times to receive their new products."

Foxconn Technology Group said earlier it imposed anti-virus measures on the factory in Zhengzhou following virus outbreaks. Apple and Foxconn previously hadn't responded to questions about how iPhone production might be affected.

Last week, access to the industrial zone where the factory is located was suspended for one week following a surge in infections in Zhengzhou and the departure of workers from the factory.

The lockdown is expected to cause further disruptions to the plant, which in recent weeks has seen a spate of coronavirus infections and an exodus of workers, some of whom fled the factory on foot.

Foxconn said in a statement that it is revising its outlook for this quarter downward due to the lockdown.

"Foxconn is now working with the government in a concerted effort to stamp out the pandemic and resume production to its full capacity as quickly as possible," the company said Monday.

It also said that the provincial government has said it will "fully support" Foxconn in managing the plant's pandemic prevention and operation situation.

In a post on the Zhengzhou plant's WeChat social media account Sunday, the company said a "closed loop" system would restrict its employees' travel between their dormitories and the factory area to manage risks of COVID-19 transmission.

The last quarter of the year is typically a busy season for companies like Foxconn as they ramp up production ahead of the end of year holiday rush.

"We are working closely with our supplier to return to normal production levels while ensuring the health and safety of every worker," Apple said.

Live updates | Climate Summit

By The Associated Press undefined

The Latest on COP27, this year's annual UN summit on climate change.

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt —

The head of the United Nations warned Monday that the world is on a "highway to climate hell with our foot on the accelerator" unless drastic action is taken to curb global warming.

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U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres told world leaders gathered for this year's climate summit in Egypt said humanity must "cooperate or perish," saying rich industrial nations must lead the way.

But Guterres said emerging economies must also do their bit to bend the global emissions curve, calling out the world's two biggest emitters, the United States and China, have a particular responsibility.

The U.N. urged countries to forge a "climate solidarity pact" that includes giving poor countries sufficient financial support to cope with the effects of global warming, and reiterated his call for a tax on the windfall profits of fossil fuel companies.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi warned that "the planet has become a world of suffering" in his opening remarks to leaders at the summit.

"Climate change will never stop without our intervention ... Our time here is limited and we must use every second that we have," he said. El-Sisi also called for an end to the Russia-Ukraine war.

KEY DEVELOPMENTS:

- World leaders gather to talk climate amid many distractions
- Loss and damage: Fight over human harm, huge climate costs
- Amnesty: Egypt has days to save jailed activist's life

____ SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt — Ghana's President Nana Akufo-Addo called for wealthy nations who are more responsible for climate change to pay and compensate African nations that are among the hardest hit by the impacts of climate change.

"The damage is obvious," he told The Associated Press on Monday. "Those who are responsible should be very, very much aware of the need to compensate others."

He said his government needs around \$561 billion to implement the country's transition plan to clean energy, and at the same time avoid job losses in the oil and gas sector.

____ GENEVA — The World Trade Organization chief is acknowledging that trade contributes to carbon emissions but says a new WTO report estimates that lifting tariffs and other barriers to trade in environmentally friendly energy products could both boost exports and reduce emissions.

WTO Director-General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala says the Geneva-based trade body's latest World Trade Report, whose release was timed for Monday's opening of the U.N. climate conference, found that trade has helped prices of solar electricity to plunge 97 percent since 1990.

However, trade, like most economic activities, emits greenhouse gases — and CO2 emissions linked to international goods and services exports accounted for 30% of global carbon emissions as of 2018, the report said.

The WTO chief acknowledged the perception that trade contributes to global emissions.

"That's exactly what we want to tackle here: That trade is seen as contributing to the carbon emissions. And this is true," she told reporters at the conference in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt. "But on the other hand, you couldn't solve the climate crisis without trade. And that's the part of the equation that has not been looked at."

____ SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt — More than 100 world leaders are preparing to discuss a worsening problem that scientists' call Earth's biggest challenge — greenhouse gas emissions, which leads to global warming. However, observers say it will be hard to make progress given all the other things happening in the world. Dozens of heads of states or governments Monday take the stage in the first day of "high-level" international climate talks in Egypt with more to come in following days. Much of the focus will be on national leaders telling their stories of being devastated by climate disasters.

What to watch in the high-stakes 2022 midterm elections

By STEVE PEOPLES AP National Political Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — After months of primaries, campaign events and fundraising pleas, the midterm

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elections that will determine the balance of power in Washington and state capitals are finally here.

Republicans are predicting a massive red wave as anxious Democrats defend their narrow majorities in Congress while struggling to overcome pervasive concerns about the economy, crime and President Joe Biden's leadership. Democrats are hoping that a backlash against the Supreme Court's reversal of *Roe v. Wade* will save them.

The political environment has led to an unusually large playing field as emboldened Republicans press into Democratic strongholds like New York, California, New Mexico and Washington state. Still, the marquee races are taking place in swing states like Arizona, Georgia, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, all of which could help determine the outcome of the 2024 presidential contest.

Because of close contests and extended vote counting, it could take days or weeks before the final outcome is known in several key races.

What we're watching on Election Day:

RED WAVE RISING?

All signs point to Republicans making significant gains on Tuesday. But whether it's a red ripple or a tsunami remains to be seen.

Voters are overwhelmingly pessimistic about the direction of the country as inflation surges and political divisions explode. And history suggests that voters will take out their frustrations on the party in power.

The party that occupies the White House has suffered significant losses in nearly every president's first midterm election for more than a century. Exceptions were in 1934 during the Great Depression; in 1998 during the effort to impeach Bill Clinton; and in 2002 after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Democrats were initially hopeful that the Supreme Court's decision to eliminate abortion rights might be enough to disrupt historical trends — or at least limit their losses — but party leaders have turned increasingly concerned as Election Day approached.

Operatives in both parties expect the GOP to win the House majority, which would require a net gain of five seats. But with a big wave, the GOP could win 25 new seats or more. Sensing opportunity, Republican groups invested millions of dollars in Democratic-leaning districts in California, New York, Illinois and Pennsylvania in the election's final days.

The fight for the Senate majority is more competitive. If Republicans pick up even one seat, they would control the Senate's upper chamber.

Democrats are fighting to protect vulnerable incumbents in Arizona, Georgia, Nevada and New Hampshire, while Republicans believe they're within striking distance in Colorado and Washington state. The GOP chances are hampered somewhat by flawed candidates in Arizona, Georgia and New Hampshire, who have been boosted by former President Donald Trump.

Pennsylvania represents the Democrats' best opportunity to flip a Republican-held seat, while GOP-held seats in North Carolina and Wisconsin also remain close.

At the same time, races for governor and statewide officers like secretary of state loom larger than normal. The political environment is giving Republicans confidence in gubernatorial races in blue states like Oregon and New Mexico.

Should a massive red wave materialize, Democrats may struggle everywhere.

THE ROE EFFECT

After the Supreme Court eliminated *Roe v. Wade* in June, Republicans, including Trump, worried aloud that the decision might trigger a backlash against GOP candidates who oppose abortion rights. And there have been signs in recent months that voters — suburban women and younger voters, in particular — were energized and ready to vote for Democrats on Nov. 8.

But more than four months after the ruling, the abortion effect may be fading.

Democratic candidates have shifted their message away from abortion in recent weeks, at least somewhat, in favor of the economy, Social Security and Medicare. And some elected officials, including Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, an independent, warned that Democrats have relied too much on abortion rights as a galvanizing issue.

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The issue is especially critical in the push for suburban women, a group that swung against Trump's GOP in 2020 and seemed to swing back after Trump left office when the GOP shifted its focus to pandemic restrictions and the economy.

DO LATINO VOTERS DRIFT FURTHER RIGHT?

Democrats sought to improve their outreach to Latinos after underperforming with the group in 2020. But there are reasons to believe that Democrats may do even worse this year among the key voting bloc, long a pillar of the party's coalition.

Both parties have been especially focused on the Rio Grande Valley in south Texas, made up of heavily Latino communities where the Biden administration's struggle to address problems along the U.S.-Mexico border is a central issue. The GOP believes it will win as many as three House seats in the former Democratic stronghold.

The GOP is also bullish about its standing in Florida's Miami-Dade County, home to 1.5 million Latinos of voting age and a Democratic stronghold for the past 20 years. The GOP made significant gains there in the last presidential election.

Should Democrats lose Miami-Dade, it would virtually eliminate their path to victory in statewide contests, including presidential elections.

The Latino vote will be consequential in other states but none more so than in Arizona and Nevada, where Democrat Catherine Cortez Masto, the nation's first Latina senator, is locked in a close race.

HOW DO TRUMP'S CANDIDATES PERFORM?

Trump remains a dominant force in the Republican Party, but Tuesday's contests will test his strength among the broader electorate.

He is not on the ballot, of course, but dozens of Trump-endorsed candidates are. They include several controversial picks who beat out alternatives backed by the party's establishment.

Should Trump's higher-profile endorsees struggle, it would raise questions about his political strength as he weighs a 2024 presidential run that could be launched shortly after the midterms.

In Pennsylvania, Trump loyalist Doug Mastriano, the Republican candidate for governor, has struggled in the polls against Democrat Josh Shapiro. Trump's pick for the Senate, Dr. Mehmet Oz, is locked in a close race with Democrat John Fetterman. In Arizona, gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake and Senate contender Blake Masters, who both promoted Trump's lies of a stolen 2020 election, are in position to win.

Other Trump loyalists to watch: Ohio Senate candidate JD Vance, North Carolina Senate contender Ted Budd, Michigan gubernatorial candidate Tudor Dixon and New York gubernatorial hopeful Lee Zeldin.

THE 2024 IMPACT

In ways big and small, the 2022 midterms will help shape the 2024 election.

A bad night for Democrats could undermine Biden's rationale for a second term. And Trump would almost certainly seize on sweeping Republican victories as evidence of his political strength ahead of a third prospective White House bid.

Good-government advocates are particularly worried about dozens of election deniers running for state office across several presidential battlegrounds.

In Nevada, Republican Jim Marchant is running to become the secretary of state, the state's chief elections official. Marchant is head of the America First Secretary of State Coalition, a collection of Trump loyalists who falsely say the 2020 election was plagued by voter fraud.

It's the same in Arizona and Michigan, where fellow coalition members Mark Finchem and Kristina Karamo are running for secretary of state. And in Pennsylvania, Republican gubernatorial candidate Doug Mastriano, another vocal election denier, would have the authority, if he wins, to appoint his own chief elections official.

Election administration aside, other statewide candidates could use a strong showing on Tuesday to position themselves for the 2024 ticket.

Lake, Arizona's Republican candidate for governor, is already thought to be a potential Trump running mate. And in Florida, Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is running for reelection Tuesday, is also considering a 2024 presidential bid, whether Trump runs or not.

WHAT WILL WE KNOW BEFORE WE GO TO BED?

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It's possible — maybe even likely — that the outcome in several key contests may take days or even weeks to be finalized.

The reasons are many.

In Georgia, a candidate must earn at least 50% of the vote to win outright. Otherwise, the election goes to a Dec. 6 runoff. Strategists on both sides believe the state's Senate race, in particular, may do just that.

In other states, the process of counting votes can be long and complicated, especially as voting by mail becomes more popular.

Under Arizona law, for example, all ballots must be returned by 7 p.m. on Election Day, but officials have 20 days to finalize their counts. In Nevada, counties have four days to count late-arriving mail ballots and give voters two more days to fix mail ballots that arrive in envelopes with errors or missing information.

In some swing states, including Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, officials are not allowed to begin validating mail ballots until Election Day. Nineteen states provide a grace period to receive mail ballots as long as they were sent by Election Day. Such ballots in California can be received up to seven days later.

This could take a while.

World leaders gather to talk climate amid many distractions

By SETH BORENSTEIN Associated Press

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP) — More than 100 world leaders are about to discuss a worsening problem that scientists' call Earth's biggest challenge, yet observers say it will be hard to make progress given all that is happening in the world.

Nearly 50 heads of states or governments on Monday will take the stage in the first day of "high-level" international climate talks in Egypt with more to come in the following days. Much of the focus will be on national leaders telling their stories of being devastated by climate disasters, culminating on Tuesday with a speech by Pakistan Prime Minister Muhammad Sharif, whose country's summer flood caused at least \$40 billion in damage and displaced millions of people.

But it may not quite have the drama or headlines that past such meetings have had.

Why? Because of bad timing and who isn't showing up, is coming late or are dithering about it.

Most of the leaders are meeting Monday and Tuesday, just as the United States has a potentially policy-shifting midterm election. Then the leaders of the world's 20 wealthiest nations will have their powerful-only club confab in Bali in Indonesia days later. Add to that, "there are big climate summits and little climate summits and this was never expected to be a big one," said Climate Advisers CEO Nigel Purvis, a former U.S. negotiator.

Leaders of two of the three biggest carbon polluting nations — China and India — appear to be skipping the climate talks, although underlings are here negotiating. The leader of the other top polluting country — U.S. President Joe Biden — is coming days later than most of the other presidents and prime ministers on his way to Bali.

United Kingdom Prime Minister Rishi Sunak was initially going to avoid the negotiations, but public pressure and predecessor Boris Johnson's plans to come changed his mind. New King Charles III, a longtime environment advocate, won't attend because of his new role. And Russia's leader Vladimir Putin, whose invasion of Ukraine created energy chaos that reverberates in the world of climate negotiations, won't be here.

"We always want more" leaders, United Nations climate chief Simon Stiell said in a Sunday news conference. "But I believe there is sufficient (leadership) right now for us to have a very productive outcome."

In addition to speeches given by the leaders, the negotiations include "innovative" roundtable discussions that "we are confident, will generate some very powerful insights," Stiell said.

The leaders showing up in droves are from the host continent Africa.

"The historical polluters who caused climate change are not showing up," said Mohammed Adow of Power Shift Africa. "Africa is the least responsible, the most vulnerable to the issue of climate change and it is a continent that is stepping up and providing leadership."

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"The South is actually stepping up," Adow told The Associated Press. "The North that historically caused the problem is failing."

Monday will be heavily dominated by leaders of nations victimized by climate change — not those that have created the problem of heat-trapping gases warming up the atmosphere from the burning of fossil fuel. It will be mostly African nations and small island nations and other vulnerable nations that will be telling their stories.

And they are dramatic ones, droughts in Africa and floods in Pakistan, in places that could least afford it. For the first time in 30 years of climate negotiations, the summit "should focus its attention on the severe climate impacts we're already seeing," said World Resources International's David Waskow.

"We can't discount an entire continent that has over a billion people living here and has some of the most severe impacts," Waskow said. "It's pretty clear that Africa will be at risk in a very severe way."

Host leader, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, and United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will kick off the leaders' speeches. Guterres keeps ratcheting up his rhetoric about how little time is left with each public talk.

Leaders come "to share the progress they've made at home and to accelerate action," Purvis said. In this case, with the passage of the first major climate legislation and \$375 billion in spending, Biden has a lot to share, he said.

While it's impressive that so many leaders are coming to the summit, "my expectations for ambitious climate targets in these two days are very low," said NewClimate Institute' scientist Niklas Hohne. That's because of Putin's invasion of Ukraine which caused energy and food crises that took away from climate action, he said.

Russian authorities: Power back on in occupied Kherson

By ANDREW MELDRUM Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian-appointed authorities say they are working to partially restore power in the occupied Ukrainian city of Kherson following what they have called a Ukrainian terrorist attack on power lines.

The southern city in the region that Moscow illegally annexed in September was cut off from power and water supplies on Sunday following damage to three power lines.

Kirill Stremousov, deputy head of the pro-Kremlin administration of the partially occupied Kherson region, said Monday that "power and connectivity is being partially restored" in Kherson city. The alleged attack occurred on the Berislav-Kakhovka power line, and Russian state media reported on Sunday that the Kakhovka hydroelectric power station had also been damaged by Ukrainian strikes.

Ukrainian officials have not responded to the allegations.

Stremousov has repeatedly called for civilians to evacuate from Kherson — which lies on the western bank of the Dnieper River — to Russian-controlled territory on the eastern bank in anticipation of a major Ukrainian counteroffensive to retake the strategic port city.

Last month, Ukraine's Southern Operational Command reported that occupying Russian forces in the Kherson region had been purposefully shutting off electricity and water and depriving the population of internet access in order to force them to evacuate.

Tens of thousands of civilians have already left the regional capital after being ordered to evacuate the area in October in the face of the Ukrainian counteroffensive which has retaken numerous settlements in the region.

Yet on Monday, the region's Russian-installed administration announced it was halting "the movement of civilian vehicles across the Dnieper by water and pontoon ferry," citing "increased military danger" and threats to civilians.

Meanwhile, in another annexed region, Donetsk, Russian-installed officials accused Ukrainian forces of shelling the regional capital, also called Donetsk, with HIMARS rocket launchers early on Monday.

The city's Kremlin-backed mayor, Alexei Kulemzin, said a fire broke out in an administrative building of

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the Donetsk Railways, but that the blaze had been contained and there were no casualties. Ukrainian authorities have not commented on the incident. The city of Donetsk has been controlled by Russian-backed separatists since 2014.

In territory held by Ukraine, Russia has been repeatedly targeting power infrastructure. Ukraine's state-owned electricity grid operator Ukrenergo on Monday announced power outages in the capital Kyiv and the surrounding region, as well as in the Chernihiv, Cherkasy, Sumy, Kharkiv, Poltava and Zhytomyr regions.

The deputy head of Ukraine's presidential office, Kyrylo Tymoshenko, said that Russian strikes in the Zaporizhzhia region targeted civilian objects including as a cultural center, farmers' warehouses and private residences. The official noted that the Zaporizhzhia region — also illegally annexed by Russia in September but not fully controlled by Russian forces — was shelled 52 times over the past 24 hours, and one person was killed.

Biden slams GOP while Trump urges voters to reject Democrats

By WILL WEISSERT, ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

YONKERS, N.Y. (AP) — President Joe Biden pilloried Republicans up and down ballots across the nation as election deniers who reveled in political violence, while his predecessor, Donald Trump, urged voters to oppose “growing left-wing tyranny” on the final Sunday before midterm elections that could reshape Washington's balance of power.

Wrapping up a five-state, four-day campaign swing with an evening rally at Sarah Lawrence College in Yonkers, New York, Biden championed Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul. She's locked in a tight race with Rep. Lee Zeldin, who is looking to become the state's first GOP governor since George Pataki left office in 2006.

The president said hundreds of Republican candidates for state, federal and local office are “election deniers, who say that I did not win the election, even though hundreds of attempts to challenge that have all failed, even in Republican courts.”

Biden said that for the deniers, “There are only two outcomes for any election: either they win or they were cheated.”

Biden said Republicans were willing to condone last year's insurrection at the U.S. Capitol and that, after the recent attack on Paul Pelosi, husband of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, some in that party made “light of it” or were “making excuses.”

“There's never been a time in my career where we've glorified violence based on a political preference,” the president said.

More than 41 million people have voted early in Tuesday's races, which will decide control of Congress and key governorships — the first national election since a mob overran the Capitol. Earlier Sunday, as Trump addressed supporters in Miami, a reference to the House speaker prompted chants of “Lock her up!” — a stark reminder of just how far apart each side is.

Trump is hoping that a strong GOP showing on Election Day will generate momentum for the 2024 run that he is expected to launch this month.

“I will probably have to do it again, but stay tuned,” Trump said, teasing an event he has with Republican Senate candidate in Ohio, JD Vance, for Monday. “We have a big, big rally. Stay tuned for tomorrow night.”

Trump also told the crowd that “every free and loving American needs to understand that the time to stand up to this growing left-wing tyranny is right now,” while calling on his supporters to reject the “radical left-wing maniacs” and adding that Hispanics would show up strong for GOP candidates.

Sen. Marco Rubio joined Trump at the rally as he seeks reelection. Not attending the Miami event was Florida's Republican governor, Ron DeSantis, who is running for reelection against Democrat Charlie Crist and is widely considered Trump's most formidable challenger if he also were to get into the White House race.

Instead, DeSantis held his own, separate events Sunday in another part of the state where he stuck to the centerpieces of his reelection campaign, including railing against COVID-19 vaccine mandates and

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"wokeness" in schools and other parts of society. The governor's counter political programming avoided antagonizing Trump — meaning it didn't deliver the dueling 2024 events that could be in his and Trump's near future.

Trump said Sunday that Florida would "reelect Ron DeSantis as your governor." But he was more confrontational during a Pennsylvania rally on Saturday night, referring to Florida's governor as "Ron DeSantimonious."

It's a rivalry that's been simmering for more than a year as DeSantis has taken increasingly bold steps to boost his national profile and build a deep fundraising network.

Trump remains the most popular figure in the Republican Party. Still, many of his supporters are eager for the prospect that DeSantis might run, seeing him as a natural successor to Trump, without the former president's considerable political negatives.

For national Democrats, meanwhile, the focus is on the fate of their narrow control of the House and Senate, which could evaporate after Tuesday.

New York Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, head of the Democrats' House campaign arm, is in a tough contest for his seat. But he insisted Sunday that Democrats are "going to do better than people think on Tuesday," adding that his party is "not perfect" but "we are responsible adults who believe in this democracy."

"I think this race is razor-close and I think everybody who cares about the extremism in this 'MAGA' movement — the racism, the antisemitism, the violence — needs to get out and vote and that's not just Democrats, it's independents and fair-minded Republicans," Maloney told NBC's "Meet the Press," referring to former President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan.

Voters may rebuke the party controlling the White House and Congress amid surging inflation, concerns about crime and pessimism about the direction of the country. History suggests the party in power will suffer significant losses in the midterms.

On a weekend that also featured Democratic rallies by former Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, first lady Jill Biden attended church services while campaigning in Houston on Sunday. Like her husband and his presidential predecessors, she argued that democracy itself was on the ballot.

"So much is at stake in this election," she said. "We must speak up on justice and democracy."

Traveling in Chicago Vice President Kamala Harris struck a similar tone, saying, "These attacks on our democracy will not only directly impact the people around our country, but arguably around the world."

Trump has long falsely claimed he lost the 2020 election only because Democrats cheated and has even begun raising the possibility of election fraud this year. Federal intelligence agencies are warning of the possibility of political violence from far-right extremists.

Ronna McDaniel, the Republican National Committee chairwoman, said Democrats were "inflation deniers," trying to deflect the other side's branding of her party as anti-democracy for rejecting the results of 2020's free and fair presidential election simply because Trump lost it.

"If we win back the House and the Senate, it's the American people saying to Joe Biden, we want you to work on behalf of us and we want you to work across the aisle to solve the problems that we are dealing with," McDaniel told CNN's "State of the Union."

Lee Saunders, president of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, the nation's largest union of public employees, has been traveling the country rallying for Democrats. He said, "It's going to be hard, it's going to be tough, but we aren't giving up hope."

"Clearly people are concerned about the economy," Saunders said. But he added that voters also are "concerned about the freedoms being taken away from them, whether you're talking about voting rights or whether you're talking about a women's right to choose."

Musk threatens to boot Twitter account impersonators

By FRANK BAJAK Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Elon Musk tweeted Sunday that Twitter will permanently suspend any account on the social media platform that impersonates another.

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The platform's new owner issued the warning after some celebrities changed their Twitter display names — not their account names — and tweeted as 'Elon Musk' in reaction to the billionaire's decision to offer verified accounts to all comers for \$8 month as he simultaneously laid off a big chunk of the workforce.

"Going forward, any Twitter handles engaging in impersonation without clearly specifying "parody" will be permanently suspended," Musk wrote. While Twitter previously issued warnings before suspensions, now that it is rolling out "widespread verification, there will be no warning."

In fact, "any name change at all" would compel the temporary loss of a verified checkmark, the world's richest man said.

Comedian Kathy Griffin had her account suspended Sunday after she switched her screen name to Musk. She told a Bloomberg reporter that she had also used his profile photo.

"I guess not ALL the content moderators were let go? Lol," Griffin joked afterward on Mastodon, an alternative social media platform where she set up an account last week.

Actor Valerie Bertinelli had similarly appropriated Musk's screen name — posting a series of tweets in support of Democratic candidates on Saturday before switching back to her true name. "Okey-dokey. I've had fun and I think I made my point," she tweeted afterwards.

Before the stunt, Bertinelli noted the original purpose of the blue verification checkmark. It was granted free of charge to people whose identity Twitter employees had confirmed; with journalists accounting for a big portion of recipients. "It simply meant your identity was verified. Scammers would have a harder time impersonating you," Bertinelli noted.

"That no longer applies. Good luck out there!" she added.

The \$8 verified accounts are Musk's way of democratizing the service, he claims. On Saturday, a Twitter update for iOS devices listed on Apple's app store said users who "sign up now" for the new "Twitter Blue with verification" can get the blue check next to their names "just like the celebrities, companies and politicians you already follow."

It said the service would first be available in the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand and the U.K. However, it was not available Sunday and there was no indication when it would go live. A Twitter employ, Esther Crawford, told The Associated Press it is coming "soon but it hasn't launched yet."

Twitter did not respond on Sunday to an email seeking comment on the verified accounts issue and Griffin's suspension.

Musk later tweeted, "Twitter needs to become by far the most accurate source of information about the world. That's our mission."

If the company were to strip current verified users of blue checks — something that hasn't happened — that could exacerbate disinformation on the platform during Tuesday's midterm elections.

Like Griffin, some Twitter users have already begun migrating from the platform — Counter Social is another popular alternative — following layoffs that began Friday that reportedly affected about half of Twitter's 7,500-employee workforce. They fear a breakdown of moderation and verification could create a disinformation free-for-all on what has been the internet's main conduit for reliable communications from public agencies and other institutions.

Many companies have paused advertising on the platform out of concern it could become more unruly under Musk.

Yoel Roth, Twitter's head of safety and integrity, sought to assuage such concerns in a tweet Friday. He said the company's front-line content moderation staff was the group least affected by the job cuts.

Musk tweeted late Friday that there was no choice but to cut jobs "when the company is losing over \$4M/day." He did not provide details on the daily losses at Twitter and said employees who lost their jobs were offered three months' pay as severance.

Kyiv region still struggles 6 months after Russian retreat

By SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

MOSCHUN, Ukraine (AP) — Standing amid the wreckage of his home, Vadym Zherdetsky shows photos

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on his phone of how it once looked: handsome rooms, a hand-carved wooden bed and a chest of drawers he intended to leave to his grandchildren.

When Russia invaded Ukraine in February, two missiles struck the house in the tiny village of Moschun on the outskirts of the capital, ripping off the roof and nearly killing four family members. The town was recaptured from Russian forces in April, but Zherdetsky's house, like many others in the Kyiv region, remains in ruins.

"Everything changed. Our lives changed," the 51-year-old said, wiping away tears. "Thank God it was only property, and we are alive and healthy. ... I don't know where our kids and grandkids will live. I don't know anything."

More than six months after Russian forces retreated from the towns around Kyiv, residents of those communities are still struggling to rebuild their lives. An estimated 1 million people — half the number who fled the region — have returned, according to local authorities. But many no longer have jobs, cannot afford to fix their houses and say they need more assistance.

Nearly \$350 billion is needed for reconstruction across the war-ravaged country, and that amount is expected to grow, according to a report issued in September by Ukraine's government, the European Commission and the World Bank.

Burdened with the fighting and frequent Russian attacks on the country's power system, the Ukrainian government strains to carry out the most urgent repairs to civilian residences. This month it plans to send 1,000 crews to do as much work as possible before winter, including fixing 117 high-rise buildings in the Kyiv region, the area's military administration said.

People submit photos of their destroyed homes to a government app to receive compensation. However, large-scale reconstruction — such as the \$300,000 that Zherdetsky estimates is needed to repair his house — has yet to begin.

Moschun, with a population of about 1,000, was hit hard at the start of the war. Approximately 37 people were killed and 160 homes destroyed, residents say. The town was occupied by Russian troops for nearly six weeks.

Walking through the debris, Zherdetsky nostalgically points to the carefully constructed archways he designed to allow two of his grandchildren to ride through on their scooters at the same time, he said.

He and his wife have moved to a cramped space above a convenience store they own on the edge of town. He's now earning about 10 times less than he did before Russia's invasion because prices have spiked and people don't have money to spend, he said. The drop in income has prevented him from buying building materials and warm clothes ahead of winter, he said.

Reconstruction is challenging, especially since 60% of the country's budget is allocated for the war, Oleksiy Kuleba, head of the Kyiv region military administration, told The Associated Press.

"The Kyiv region is bombarded with missiles and drones ... We understand that everything is not happening as quickly as we would like, but 28,000 objects were damaged in the region. We will rebuild them all," said Kuleba, who said housing is a priority.

Moscow is targeting Ukraine's energy infrastructure to drive the nation into the cold of the impending winter. Since early October, it has destroyed approximately 40% of the country's energy system, forcing Ukraine to impose rolling blackouts while racing to stabilize the grid.

The strikes drew a warning from the mayor of Kyiv, who said that residents should be prepared for the worst this winter, including the threat of having no electricity, water or heat.

Worried that the energy system will not hold, the government is urging Ukrainians who fled the country not to return until after winter, said Iryna Vereshchuk, the minister for the reintegration of the Russian-occupied territories.

Analysts warn that displaced people should be cautious about going back to areas around Kyiv that have been regained by Ukraine because some are not yet fully secure, especially with Russia's military buildup in neighboring Belarus, which poses a risk of a renewed invasion from the north.

In the quest for assistance, Ukraine "still struggles to mobilize donors for rapid rebuilding and necessary

security measures," said Orysia Lutsevych, head of the Ukraine forum at Chatham House, a London-based think tank.

Some aid groups are trying to help those who have returned. The International Committee of the Red Cross gave two generators to help Moschun cope with power cuts, as well as insulation to help prepare buildings for the fast-approaching cold, said Achille Despres, committee spokesman in Ukraine. In July, other organizations provided some 60 prefabricated houses for those without shelter.

Yet Moschun locals worry that even with heaters, those temporary houses won't be warm enough come winter. Many say they feel abandoned.

"It's like a dead city," said Nataliya Perekhrestenko, the deputy administrator of Moschun. "We feel like no one cares about us."

JGR co-owner Coy Gibbs, 49, dies hours after son wins title

By JENNA FRYER AP Auto Racing Writer

AVONDALE, Ariz. (AP) — Coy Gibbs, the vice chairman of Joe Gibbs Racing for his NFL and NASCAR Hall of Fame father, died Sunday morning just hours after his son won the Xfinity Series championship. He was 49.

"It is with great sorrow that Joe Gibbs Racing confirms that Coy Gibbs (co-owner) went to be with the Lord in his sleep last night. The family appreciates all the thoughts and prayers and asks for privacy at this time," the team said in a statement released shortly before the start of the NASCAR season finale.

Joe Gibbs has lost both of his sons. J.D. Gibbs died in 2019 of degenerative neurological disease, and was also 49 at the time of his death. Coy Gibbs succeeded his older brother as vice chairman of the family-run NASCAR organization.

"We are heartbroken by the tragic loss of Coy Gibbs. On behalf of the France Family and all of NASCAR, I extend my deepest condolences to Joe, Pat, Heather, the Gibbs family and everyone at Joe Gibbs Racing on the loss of Coy, a true friend and racer," said NASCAR Chairman and CEO Jim France.

NASCAR held a moment of silence for Coy Gibbs before the start of the Cup championship Sunday at Phoenix Raceway, where JGR's Christopher Bell was racing for the title. Kyle Busch, in his final race after 15 years with the team, was crying on pit road before the start of the race.

"Today we will do what we don't want to do, but we will unite as a family and race for the name on our chest," JGR driver Denny Hamlin tweeted.

Ty Gibbs had been scheduled to drive the No. 23 for 23XI Racing but was replaced by Daniel Hemric for what 23XI called "a family emergency." Jackson Gibbs, son of the late J.D. Gibbs, was on Bell's pit crew Sunday and worked the race.

Coy Gibbs had just closed a tumultuous week with his 20-year-old son, who won the Xfinity title on Saturday and is soon expected to be named Kyle Busch's replacement at JGR.

But Ty Gibbs has been criticized this year for aggressive driving and last week wrecked teammate Brandon Jones out of the lead at Martinsville Speedway on the final lap. Jones needed to win the race to make the Xfinity championship and JGR and Toyota would have had two cars in the finale had Gibbs just stayed in second.

"Racing is a family and the relationships within the entire garage go so much deeper than on-track competition. Today, we lost a dear part of our family. The loss of Coy Gibbs is devastating to everyone at Toyota and TRD," said David Wilson, president of Toyota Racing Development.

On Saturday, shortly before Ty Gibbs won his title, Hamlin said it had been a difficult week at JGR. He had tweeted after Ty Gibbs crashed Jones "I miss J.D." and explained he was referring to the atmosphere at JGR established by J.D. Gibbs, which he called a "tight family unit."

"We really have to treat (teammates) like they're our brother and our family, and I think at times at JGR, we probably work with each other the least amount of any other team, and that's just the facts," he said. "I'm not saying it's anyone's fault currently, but J.D. was just different because he really wrapped his arms around everyone. I told Coy, 'J.D. was my dad.' He was really my dad as soon as I came into the series,

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so when you lose that, it changes the culture a little bit, and we just have to get it back.”

Joe Gibbs and Coy Gibbs spent the days after Martinsville defending their young driver, who was resoundingly booed at both Martinsville and Phoenix after his back-to-back victories. Ty Gibbs made his own humbling apology tour before holding off Noah Gragson for the championship.

“Prayers to the Gibbs family,” tweeted Gragson, who had open animosity toward Ty Gibbs most of the Xfinity season before congratulating him following Saturday’s title.

Coy Gibbs played linebacker at Stanford from 1991-94 and served as an offensive quality control assistant during his father’s second stint as the Washington NFL coach. Gibbs had a short racing career, including two years in the then-NASCAR Busch Series and three in NASCAR’s Trucks Series before helping his father launch Joe Gibbs Racing Motocross in 2007.

Coy Gibbs was born in Fayetteville, Arkansas, and lived in Cornelius, North Carolina, with his wife Heather and four children.

Loss and damage: Fight over human harm, huge climate costs

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP) — It was a total loss — the type that is usually glossed over in big impersonal statistics like \$40 billion in damage from this summer’s Pakistan floods that put one-third of the nation underwater.

“We lost everything, our home and our possessions,” said Taj Mai, a mother of seven who is four months pregnant and in a flood relief camp in Pakistan’s Punjab province. “At least in a camp our children will get food and milk.”

This is the human side of a contentious issue that will likely dominate climate negotiations in Egypt this month. It’s about big bucks, justice, blame and taking responsibility. Extreme weather is worsening as the world warms, with a study calculating that human-caused climate change increased Pakistan’s flood-causing rain by up to 50%.

While Pakistan was flooding, six energy companies — ExxonMobil, Chevron, Shell, BP, Saudi Aramco and Total Energies — made \$97.49 billion in profits from July to September. Poorer nations, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, Europe’s leaders and U.S. President Joe Biden are calling for fossil fuel firms to pay a windfall profits tax. Many want some of that money, along with additional aid from rich nations that spewed the lion’s share of heat-trapping gases, to be used to pay countries victimized by past pollution, like Pakistan.

The issue of polluters paying for their climate messes is called loss and damage in international climate negotiations. It is all about reparations.

“Loss and damage is going to be the priority and the defining factor of whether or not COP27 succeeds,” said Kenyan climate activist Elizabeth Wathuti, referring to the climate talks in Egypt. United Nations top officials say they are looking for “something meaningful in loss and damage” and were “certainly encouraged” by negotiations Friday, Saturday and Sunday that put the issue on the meeting agenda.

Money for loss and damage is different from two other financial aid systems already in place to help poorer nations develop carbon-free energy and adapt to future warming.

Since 2009, the rich nations of the world have promised to spend \$100 billion in climate aid for poor nations, with most of it going toward helping wean them off coal, oil and natural gas and build greener energy systems. Officials now want as much as half of that to go to building up systems to help adapt to future climate disasters.

Neither financial pledge has been fulfilled yet, but both don’t address the issue of paying for current and past climate disasters, such as heat waves in India, floods in Pakistan and droughts in Africa.

“Our current levels of global warming at 1.1 degrees Celsius (2 degrees Fahrenheit) have already caused dangerous and widespread losses and damages to nature and to billions of people,” said Climate Analytics scientist Adelle Thomas of the Bahamas.

“Losses and damages are unavoidable and unequally distributed” with poorer nations, the elderly, the

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poor and vulnerable hit harder, she said.

After years of not wanting to talk about reparations in climate talks, U.S. and European officials say they are willing to have loss and damage discussions. But the U.S. — the No. 1 historic carbon polluter — won't agree to anything that sounds like liability, special envoy John Kerry said.

U.S. emissions that created warmer temperatures caused at least \$32 billion in damage to Pakistan's gross domestic product between 1990 and 2014, according to calculations by Dartmouth climate researchers Christopher Callahan and Justin Mankin based on past emissions. And that's only based on temperature-oriented damage, not rainfall.

"Loss and damage is a way of both recognizing past harm and compensating for that past harm," Mankin said. "These harms are scientifically identifiable. And now it's up to the politics to either defend that harm or remunerate for that harm."

The United States in 16 days puts more carbon dioxide into the air from burning fossil fuel than Pakistan does in a year, according to figures by the Global Carbon Project.

American Gas Association CEO Karen Harbert said Americans won't go for such payments to faraway nations and that's not the way to think of the issue.

"It's not just Pakistan. Let's talk about Puerto Rico. Let's talk about Louisiana. Other things that are happening here at home that we also need to pay attention to and help our fellow Americans," Harbert said in an interview with The Associated Press.

"If there was an opportunity to talk to people in Pakistan, I'd say ... the solution is first of all, you have the opportunity with natural gas to have a much cleaner electric system than you have today," she said.

But for Aaisa Bibi, a pregnant mother of four from Punjab province, cheaper cleaner energy doesn't mean much when her family has no place to live except a refugee camp.

"With less than 1% of the global emissions, Pakistan is certainly not a part of the problem of climate change," said Shabnam Baloch, the International Red Cross Pakistan director, adding that people like Bibi are just trying to survive floods, heat waves, droughts, low crop yields, water shortages and inflation.

In semi-arid Makueni County in Kenya, where a devastating drought has stretched more than three years, 47-year old goat and sheep farmer John Gichuki said: "It is traumatizing to watch your livestock die of thirst and hunger."

Gichuki's maize and legumes crops have failed four consecutive seasons. "The farm is solely on the mercies of climate," he said.

In India, it's record heat connected to climate change that caused deaths and ruined crops. Elsewhere it's devastation from tropical cyclones that are wetter and stronger because of the burning of fossil fuels.

This global issue has a parallel inside the United States in at times contentious discussions about paying for damages caused by slavery.

"In many ways we're talking about reparations," said University of Maryland environmental health and justice professor Sacoby Wilson. "It's an appropriate term to use" he said, because the rich northern countries got the benefits of fossil fuels, while the poorer global south gets the damage in floods, droughts, climate refugees and hunger.

The government of Barbados has suggested changes in how the multinational development banks loan to poorer nations to take into account climate vulnerability and disasters. Pakistan and others have called for debt relief.

It's "about putting ourselves in everybody else's shoes," said Avinash Persaud, special envoy to Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley.

Persaud suggests a long-term levy on high oil, coal and natural gas prices, but one done in reverse. At current high energy prices there would be no tax, so no increase in inflation. But once fossil fuel prices decline 10%, 1% of the price drop would go to a fund to pay victims of climate loss and damage, without adding to the cost of living.

United Nations' chief Guterres, who has called movement on loss and damage a "litmus test" for success for the Egypt climate conference, has named two high-level national officials to try to hammer out

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a deal: Germany's climate envoy and former Greenpeace chief Jennifer Morgan and Chile's environment minister, Maisa Rojas.

"The fact that it has been adopted as an agenda item demonstrates progress and parties taking a mature and constructive attitude towards this," U.N. Climate Secretary Simon Stiell said in a Sunday news conference. "This is a difficult subject area. It's been floating for thirty plus years. So that the fact that it is there as a substantive agenda item, I believe it bodes well."

"What will be most telling is how those discussions progress in the substantive discussion over the next couple of weeks," Stiell said.

In Pakistan's Sindh province, Hindu culture fights the odds

By RIAZAT BUTT Associated Press

SUKKUR, Pakistan (AP) — On the sandy banks of the Indus River, which flows top to toe through Pakistan and into its southern Sindh province, Hindus waited for brightly colored boats to ferry them to a peaceful island that has housed a temple for almost 200 years.

Cheers rang out across the water as the marble and sandalwood Sadhu Bela temple complex heaved into view. "Long live Sadhu Bela!" the boat's passengers cried.

The temple attracts tens of thousands of Hindus from within Muslim-majority Pakistan every year for festivals and rituals, including the recent celebrations of Diwali, an important Hindu holiday.

The island was gifted to the Hindu community by wealthy Muslim landlords in Sindh two centuries ago. It would have been an unthinkable act in modern-day Pakistan, where Hindus are often marginalized, persecuted, and even killed.

Around 4 million Hindus live in Pakistan, or about 1.9% of the country's population, and 1.4 million are in Sindh.

There is no ban on Hindu worship in Pakistan, but Hindus say openly practicing the faith is not a matter of routine. Decades of political hostility between majority-Hindu India and predominantly Muslim Pakistan present a challenge for the minority community, as many in Pakistan equate Hindus with India. The reverse exists in India where Muslims complain of discrimination.

But the landscape of Pakistan, and Sindh in particular, retains their imprint. It has temples, although their numbers have plummeted. There are Hindu-run businesses as well as education and healthcare institutions, many established before the country was created in 1947. They are part of Pakistan's heritage, even as Hindus are forced into the shadows.

As Sadhu Bela came alive with the delight of devotees exploring the courtyards and gardens, Dewan Chand Chawla, a local politician and general secretary of the Pakistan Hindu Temple Management Committee, spoke proudly of the temple's origins and features. The shrine, which celebrates its bicentennial in 2023, was built by craftsmen from the Indian city of Jodhpur and reflects the architectural style of the Taj Mahal.

"A large part of the Hindu population migrated to India after Pakistan came into being, but those who stayed here are happy and prosperous," Chawla said, keen to stress the harmonious relationship between the Muslim majority and Hindu minority. "I am thankful to the Muslim community of Pakistan, which fully supports us on all occasions. We follow the law and we are supported by the government."

His assertion about a happy and prosperous Hindu community is not the majority view, however. Rights groups have long alleged that Pakistan is not doing enough to protect Hindus' freedom of religion and belief. They cite temple desecrations, attacks on businesses, homes, and individuals and the abduction, forced conversion, and forced marriage of young Hindu women.

Chawla is not the only politician to emphasize an image of religious coexistence in Pakistan. "Most of the Hindu population of the country live in Sindh province satisfactorily, peacefully and without any fear or threat," said Waqar Mahdi, a senior advisor to Sindh's chief minister.

Mahdi said provincial officials have prioritized protecting the rights of minorities like Hindus and Christians. But Zahida Rehman Jatt, a University of Sindh lecturer in anthropology and social sciences, said there

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has been a surge in discrimination and marginalization of Hindus because of rising extremism and fundamentalism in the country. This intolerance risks undermining Pakistan's ties to its Hindu heritage, she said.

"It's sad because their (Hindus') contribution is huge to Pakistan," she said. "Most Pakistanis are not aware of the importance of Hindu heritage or the contribution that Hindus — and Sikhs — made for the betterment of Pakistani society."

Some Hindu-founded institutions had their names changed after Pakistan was created, she said, citing Hyderabad's Kundan Mal Girls' School as an example. It was founded in 1914 by Hindu philanthropist Saith Kundan Mal, but is now known as Jamia Arabia Girls School. Such changes are one reason why Pakistanis don't know about the contribution of minority faiths, she said.

Other institutions still bear the names of their Hindu benefactors, including a red brick college and two hospitals in the city Shikarpur, around 35 kilometers (22 miles) from Sukkur.

On the first night of Diwali, one of the most important festivals in Hinduism, clay lamps subtly illuminated doorways and windowsills in Shikarpur. But there were no elaborate light displays or street festivities, and traditional Diwali firecracker fun took place away from the public gaze.

The city of about 200,000 people has a rich Hindu history and traditions, now gradually fading.

One of the keepers of that history can be found in a vast courtyard off a side road. On a recent day in late October, sweet shop owner Dewan Narain Das, 67, enjoyed the cool air. Vats of food bubbled away, children ran and played outdoors, and people gathered to exchange Diwali gifts and good wishes on the holy occasion.

His family has owned a business in Shikarpur since the late 19th century. It started as a soft drink store and, after partition, became a sweet shop. It is famous in the city for falooda, an ice-cream-based dessert with noodles. Das is so well-known in the city that it is easy to find him just by asking for "Dewan Sahib, who owns the falooda shop."

"People who have lived here for a long time say that the taste they enjoyed 20 years ago is still there in our products," said Das.

He said Shikarpur once had a sizable Hindu community and scores of temples, a number that has since dwindled. "Rich people used to organize picnics at the Indus River," he said. "They used to live here, but their businesses spread to Singapore, Hong Kong, and Mumbai."

Many Hindus left after partition, and their properties were taken over by a government trust. Today, Pakistan has a population of some 225 million people.

Jatt, the scholar, said that the properties were allotted to refugees coming into newly created Pakistan from India. Most of the tenants paid minimal rent and were often unable to take care of the properties. "They (the residents) are very poor and these properties are grand, previously owned by wealthy Hindus," Jatt said.

After partition, politicians trying to forge a Pakistani narrative emphasized the Muslim heritage, downplaying the contributions of other communities, Jatt said.

"I don't think we will see this kind of legacy or contribution again from Hindus, the opportunities are on the decline," she said. "There may be individual cases of philanthropy, but the scale of building and philanthropy will decrease."

North Korea: Missile tests were practice to attack South, US

BY HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea's military said Monday its recent barrage of missile tests were practices to "mercilessly" strike key South Korean and U.S. targets such as air bases and operation command systems with a variety of missiles that likely included nuclear-capable weapons.

The North's announcement underscored leader Kim Jong Un's determination not to back down in the face of his rivals' push to expand their military exercises. But some experts say Kim also used their drills as an excuse to modernize his nuclear arsenal and increase his leverage in future dealings with Washington and Seoul.

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North Korea fired dozens of missiles and flew warplanes toward the sea last week — triggering evacuation alerts in some South Korean and Japanese areas — in protest of massive U.S.-South Korean air force drills that the North views as an invasion rehearsal.

U.S. and South Korean officials responded they would further enhance their joint training events and warned the North that the use of nuclear weapons would result in the end of Kim's regime.

"The recent corresponding military operations by the Korean People's Army are a clear answer of (North Korea) that the more persistently the enemies' provocative military moves continue, the more thoroughly and mercilessly the KPA will counter them," the General Staff of North Korea's military said in a statement carried by state media.

It said the weapons tests involved ballistic missiles loaded with dispersion warheads and underground infiltration warheads meant to launch strikes on enemy air bases; ground-to-air missiles designed to "annihilate" enemy aircraft at different altitudes and distances; and strategic cruise missiles that fell in international waters about 80 kilometers (50 miles) off South Korea's southeastern coastal city of Ulsan.

The North's military said it also carried out an important test of a ballistic missile with a special functional warhead missioned with "paralyzing the operation command system of the enemy." This could mean a simulation of electromagnetic pulse attacks, but some observers doubt whether North Korea has mastered key technologies to obtain such an attack capability.

The North's military statement didn't explicitly mention a reported launch Thursday of an intercontinental ballistic missile aimed at hitting the U.S. mainland, though its main newspaper published a photo of an ICBM-like missile as one of the weapons mobilized during last week's testing activities.

Some experts say many other North Korean missiles launched last week were short-range nuclear-capable weapons that place key military targets in South Korea, including U.S. military bases there, within striking range.

Later Monday, South Korea's military disputed some of the North's accounts of its missile tests. Spokesperson Kim Jun-rak said South Korea didn't detect the North's cruise missile launches and that it's also notable that North Korea didn't mention what Seoul assessed as an abnormal flight by an ICBM.

This year's "Vigilant Storm" air force drills between the United States and South Korea were the largest-ever for the annual fall maneuvers. The drills involved 240 warplanes including advanced F-35 fighter jets from both countries. The allies were initially supposed to run the drills for five days ending on Friday, but extended the training by another day in reaction to the North's missile tests.

On Saturday, the final day of the air force exercises, the United States flew two B-1B supersonic bombers over South Korea in a display of strength against North Korea, the aircraft's first such flyover since December 2017.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the participation of the B-1Bs in the joint drills demonstrated the allies' readiness to sternly respond to North Korean provocations and the U.S. commitment to defend its ally with the full range of its military capabilities, including nuclear.

After their annual meeting Thursday in Washington, U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin and South Korean Defense Minister Lee Jong-Sup issued a joint statement strongly condemning the North's recent launches and carrying Austin's warning that any nuclear attacks against the United States or its allies and partners "is unacceptable and will result in the end of the Kim regime." South Korea's military has previously warned the North that using its nuclear weapons would put it on a "path of self-destruction."

Both defense chiefs also agreed on the need to enhance combined exercises and training events to strengthen readiness against North Korean nuclear and missile threats.

Even before the "Vigilant Storm" drills, North Korea test-launched a slew of missiles in what it called simulated nuclear attacks on U.S. and South Korean targets in protests of its rivals' other sets of military exercises that involved a U.S. aircraft for the first time in five years. In September, North Korea also adopted a new law authorizing the preemptive use of its nuclear weapons in a broad range of situations.

South Korean and U.S. officials have steadfastly maintained their drills are defensive in nature and that they have no intentions of invading the North.

U.S. and South Korean militaries have been expanding their regular military drills since the May inaugu-

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ration of conservative South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, who has promised to take a tougher stance on North Korean provocations. Some of the allies' drills had been previously downsized or canceled to support now-stalled diplomacy on North Korea's nuclear program or to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic.

For months, South Korean and U.S. officials have said North Korea has completed preparations to conduct its first nuclear test in five years. On Monday, South Korean Unification Minister Kwon Youngse told lawmakers that North Korea could carry out the nuclear test at any time but there were still no signs that such a test explosion was imminent.

'The Crown' returns to blur the line between royals, fiction

By LYNN ELBER AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — When "The Crown" returns Wednesday after a two-year absence, the splintering marriage of Charles and Diana and more woes for Queen Elizabeth II are in the drama's elegant but intrusive spotlight.

There's swirling off-stage drama as well for the Netflix series that began with Elizabeth's marriage in the late 1940s and, in its fifth season, takes on the British royal family's turbulent 1990s. The queen famously labeled one stretch her "annus horribilis" — Latin for "horrible year."

The safe distance of history is gone in the 10 new episodes set within recent memory for many and whose stories, sight unseen, have been denounced. The death of Queen Elizabeth, 96, in September adds an uneasy dimension: We speculate freely about the famous before and after they're gone, but is more owed a country's beloved and longest-serving monarch?

Among the prominent critics is Judi Dench, an Oscar-winner for her role as Elizabeth I in "Shakespeare in Love." In a letter to The Times of London, the actor blasted elements of the drama as "cruelly unjust to the individuals and damaging to the institution they represent."

She called for each episode to carry a disclaimer labeling it as fiction. It's a demand that Netflix has heard before and continues to resist, framing the series as drama inspired by historical events. Series creator Peter Morgan was unavailable for comment, Netflix said.

Dench is not amused by the streaming service's intransigence.

"The time has come for Netflix to reconsider — for the sake of a family and a nation so recently bereaved, as a mark of respect to a sovereign who served her people so dutifully for 70 years," she wrote.

Her plea followed a rebuke of the series from former Prime Minister John Major, shown in the new season being lobbied by Prince Charles — now King Charles III — to help maneuver the queen's abdication. A spokesman for Major labeled the scene as false and malicious.

Cast members including Jonathan Pryce, who plays Elizabeth's stalwart husband Prince Philip, beg to differ with the series' detractors.

"The queen is in no danger from 'The Crown,'" Pryce told The Associated Press. He said critics are lambasting the new season despite ignorance of it, reminding him of what the British once termed "the Mary Whitehouse effect."

Whitehouse had "a huge following and she criticized programs she'd never seen," he said. "I think a lot of the protests this time, people haven't seen this series. They don't know how these issues are treated. I have to say they're treated with a great deal of integrity and a great deal of sensitivity."

Imelda Staunton, stepping in as the latest actor to play Elizabeth, defended the series, its award-winning creator and its viewers.

"I think it's underestimating the audience," Staunton told AP. "There have been four seasons where people know it's been written by Peter Morgan and his team of writers."

Morgan, writer of the movie "The Queen" and play "The Audience," both starring the Oscar- and Tony-winning Helen Mirren as Elizabeth II, has made royals a specialty. The recent criticism may suggest his winter of discontent is ahead, but Morgan has it easier than another writer who feasted on the British monarchs as material: William Shakespeare, who dramatized the reigns of seven kings.

All were in the past, with Shakespeare treading lightly around the rulers of his time, Elizabeth I and

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James I.

"We all imagine it being sort of sweetness and light, and we've all seen 'Shakespeare in Love' and everyone's sitting around drinking. Actually, it was like Stalinist Russia in many ways," Shakespearean expert Andrew Dickson said of the rigidly controlled society in which the bard worked circa 1585 to 1613.

Plays were approved by the master of the revels, a sort of civil servant with the power of censorship, said Dickson, author of "Worlds Elsewhere: Journeys Around Shakespeare's Globe" and "The Globe Guide to Shakespeare." Authors could and were imprisoned, or worse, for transgressions, he said.

"His very few representations of royals recent to his time were pretty flattering, and early audiences even called them patriotic," said Harvard teacher-scholar Jeffrey R. Wilson, author of "Shakespeare and Trump" and "Richard III's Bodies." Theater in general was viewed as illusory and deceptive, he said.

"He told this politicized version that was flattering to the powers that were in his time," Wilson said. It became the "dominant framework for telling English royal history all the way through the 18th and 19th centuries. It's now called the 'Tudor myth,'" he said, a reference to the House of Tudor that ruled for more than a century.

It's problematic if people similarly begin recounting the Netflix show's "fictionalized version of history as fact," he said.

Lesley Manville, who plays the queen's sibling Princess Margaret this season, said she defers to those in charge of "The Crown" on whether a disclaimer is or isn't warranted.

"For my part, I can only be crystal clear that what I'm doing is a drama," Manville said. "We've never supported it to be anything other than a drama about a real family, a very world famous family."

Staunton said she's grateful that the season addresses a period that was "quite tumultuous, and therefore that creates quite a good drama." She traced the recent protests about the series directly to the queen's death.

"There's no doubt that if we were releasing the series two years ago there wouldn't be this amount of sensitivity, which again is absolutely understandable," Staunton said. She found herself deeply affected by the queen's death, which she learned of after a day of taping on the show's sixth season.

"Why am I feeling so distraught?" she recalled asking herself. "But of course I'd been living with her for two and a half years" of preparation and production.

For Pryce, working on the series has provided a better understanding of the royal family.

"They've always been a part of society and it looks like they're going to continue for some time," he said. "I'm looking forward to King Charles' reign, and seeing what he can do to change things."

Biden slams GOP while Trump urges voters to reject Democrats

By WILL WEISSERT, ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON and AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

YONKERS, N.Y. (AP) — President Joe Biden pilloried Republicans up and down ballots across the nation as election deniers who reveled in political violence, while his predecessor, Donald Trump, urged voters to oppose "growing left-wing tyranny" on the final Sunday before midterm elections that could reshape Washington's balance of power.

Wrapping up a five-state, four-day campaign swing with an evening rally at Sarah Lawrence College in Yonkers, New York, Biden championed Democratic Gov. Kathy Hochul. She's locked in a tight race with Rep. Lee Zeldin, who is looking to become the state's first GOP governor since George Pataki left office in 2006.

The president said hundreds of Republican candidates for state, federal and local office are "election deniers, who say that I did not win the election, even though hundreds of attempts to challenge that have all failed, even in Republican courts."

Biden said that for the deniers, "There are only two outcomes for any election: either they win or they were cheated."

Biden said Republicans were willing to condone last year's insurrection at the U.S. Capitol and that, after the recent attack on Paul Pelosi, husband of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, some in that party made "light of it" or were "making excuses."

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"There's never been a time in my career where we've glorified violence based on a political preference," the president said.

More than 41 million people have voted early in Tuesday's races, which will decide control of Congress and key governorships — the first national election since a mob overran the Capitol. Earlier Sunday, as Trump addressed supporters in Miami, a reference to the House speaker prompted chants of "Lock her up!" — a stark reminder of just how far apart each side is.

Trump is hoping that a strong GOP showing on Election Day will generate momentum for the 2024 run that he is expected to launch this month.

"I will probably have to do it again, but stay tuned," Trump said, teasing an event he has with Republican Senate candidate in Ohio, JD Vance, for Monday. "We have a big, big rally. Stay tuned for tomorrow night."

Trump also told the crowd that "every free and loving American needs to understand that the time to stand up to this growing left-wing tyranny is right now," while calling on his supporters to reject the "radical left-wing maniacs" and adding that Hispanics would show up strong for GOP candidates.

Sen. Marco Rubio joined Trump at the rally as he seeks reelection. Not attending the Miami event was Florida's Republican governor, Ron DeSantis, who is running for reelection against Democrat Charlie Crist and is widely considered Trump's most formidable challenger if he also were to get into the White House race.

Instead, DeSantis held his own, separate events Sunday in another part of the state where he stuck to the centerpieces of his reelection campaign, including railing against COVID-19 vaccine mandates and "wokeness" in schools and other parts of society. The governor's counter political programing avoided antagonizing Trump — meaning it didn't deliver the dueling 2024 events that could be in his and Trump's near future.

Trump said Sunday that Florida would "reelect Ron DeSantis as your governor." But he was more confrontational during a Pennsylvania rally on Saturday night, referring to Florida's governor as "Ron DeSantimonious."

It's a rivalry that's been simmering for more than a year as DeSantis has taken increasingly bold steps to boost his national profile and build a deep fundraising network.

Trump remains the most popular figure in the Republican Party. Still, many of his supporters are eager for the prospect that DeSantis might run, seeing him as a natural successor to Trump, without the former president's considerable political negatives.

For national Democrats, meanwhile, the focus is on the fate of their narrow control of the House and Senate, which could evaporate after Tuesday.

New York Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, head of the Democrats' House campaign arm, is in a tough contest for his seat. But he insisted Sunday that Democrats are "going to do better than people think on Tuesday," adding that his party is "not perfect" but "we are responsible adults who believe in this democracy."

"I think this race is razor-close and I think everybody who cares about the extremism in this 'MAGA' movement — the racism, the antisemitism, the violence — needs to get out and vote and that's not just Democrats, it's independents and fair-minded Republicans," Maloney told NBC's "Meet the Press," referring to former President Donald Trump's "Make America Great Again" slogan.

Voters may rebuke the party controlling the White House and Congress amid surging inflation, concerns about crime and pessimism about the direction of the country. History suggests the party in power will suffer significant losses in the midterms.

On a weekend that also featured Democratic rallies by former Presidents Barack Obama and Bill Clinton, first lady Jill Biden attended church services while campaigning in Houston on Sunday. Like her husband and his presidential predecessors, she argued that democracy itself was on the ballot.

"So much is at stake in this election," she said. "We must speak up on justice and democracy."

Traveling in Chicago Vice President Kamala Harris struck a similar tone, saying, "These attacks on our democracy will not only directly impact the people around our country, but arguably around the world."

Trump has long falsely claimed he lost the 2020 election only because Democrats cheated and has even begun raising the possibility of election fraud this year. Federal intelligence agencies are warning of the

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possibility of political violence from far-right extremists.

Ronna McDaniel, the Republican National Committee chairwoman, said Democrats were "inflation deniers," trying to deflect the other side's branding of her party as anti-democracy for rejecting the results of 2020's free and fair presidential election simply because Trump lost it.

"If we win back the House and the Senate, it's the American people saying to Joe Biden, we want you to work on behalf of us and we want you to work across the aisle to solve the problems that we are dealing with," McDaniel told CNN's "State of the Union."

Lee Saunders, president of the American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, the nation's largest union of public employees, has been traveling the country rallying for Democrats. He said, "It's going to be hard, it's going to be tough, but we aren't giving up hope."

"Clearly people are concerned about the economy," Saunders said. But he added that voters also are "concerned about the freedoms being taken away from them, whether you're talking about voting rights or whether your talking about a women's right to choose."

Bucs' Tom Brady goes over 100,000 yards passing for career

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Tom Brady became the first player in NFL history to throw for more than 100,000 yards, surpassing the milestone on a 15-yard completion to Leonard Fournette during the fourth quarter of Sunday's game between the Tampa Bay Buccaneers and Los Angeles Rams.

The league's career passing leader entered the matchup of the past two Super Bowl champions needing 164 yards to reach a plateau the 45-year-old quarterback concedes no one would have imagined possible for him to achieve when he entered the NFL as a sixth-round draft pick in 2000.

Brady, who has won seven Super Bowls and owns nearly every meaningful league passing record, went over 100,000 yards in his 374th career game, including the playoffs.

"For me, it's a credit to all the guys that I've played with, who have blocked for me, have caught passes. ... I can't do (anything) in this league without guys doing what they're amazing at, too," Brady said last Thursday.

"They're great achievements," he added. "But as much as people want to say: 'Oh, this is what Tom Brady did.' In my mind, this is what myself and all these other people that have contributed to my life have done as well."

Chebet and Lokedi of Kenya win NYC Marathon races in debuts

By DOUG FEINBERG AP Sports Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Kenyans Evans Chebet and Sharon Lokedi made huge splashes in their New York City Marathon debuts on Sunday.

Chebet won the men's race and Lokedi the women's race in her first-ever marathon on an unseasonably warm day, with temperatures in the 70s making it one of the hottest in race history since the marathon was moved to November in 1986.

Chebet finished in 2 hours, 8 minutes and 41 seconds, which was 13 seconds ahead of second-place finisher Shura Kitata of Ethiopia.

There was a scary moment in the men's race when Daniel Do Nascimento, who had been leading the entire way, collapsed 21 miles in. Race officials said later that he was OK.

The Brazilian ran the first half of the race in a blistering 1:01.22, which put him 2 minutes ahead of the course record pace. He had been leading by nearly 2 minutes for the first 15 miles before he started to slow down a bit.

Do Nascimento went down right before heading back into Manhattan and was quickly attended to by medical professionals. A few miles earlier, he had taken a quick 20-second bathroom break and also had stopped to walk briefly a few minutes before he collapsed.

Chebet saw Do Nascimento on the ground and said he "felt bad for him, but had to continue to race."

"He knew that it was hot and humid and (Do Nascimento) was going at a high pace," Chebet said through

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a translator. "He has a lot of experience and he knew he was going to surpass him."

Chebet, 33, pulled away from the pack when chasing Do Nascimento as they headed over the bridge into Manhattan for the first time. After Do Nascimento's collapse, Chebet took the lead and wasn't threatened the rest of the way.

Chebet won the Boston Marathon earlier this year.

"Boston was actually harder and it prepared him for the win for New York," the translator said for Chebet. "He's very thankful."

The victory continued a drought for American men in the race : No runner from the U.S. has won since 2009. The Americans' top hope, Galen Rupp, was in the chase pack before withdrawing from the race right before the 19-mile mark.

It was Lokedi's first-ever marathon and she finished in 2:23.23 — just ahead of Lonah Chemtai Salpeter of Israel.

"I'm just so happy that I just won, you know?!" said Lokedi, laughing. "I'm really excited, just so happy that I did it here. The people out there, the course was amazing, the cheers, everything. I'm just thankful."

The 28-year-old was in a tight race before she pulled ahead of Chemtai Salpeter in the final two miles to win by seven seconds and finish about 50 seconds off the course record.

"I didn't expect to win, I expected to run well," Lokedi said. "It was a good outcome and I'm really excited."

An hour earlier, the men's and women's wheelchair races ended with course records being broken.

Marcel Hug of Switzerland was victorious in the men's wheelchair race for the fifth time, tying Kurt Fearnley for most-ever victories in that event. Hug finished the 26.2-mile course that goes through all five boroughs of New York in 1:25.26 to break the previous mark of 1:29.22 set by Fearnley of Australia in 2006.

"The conditions were great for us. A tail wind the first half. It was very good conditions. I think that's the reason," Hug said of the record time. "I didn't know the time. My goal was to go as fast as possible and didn't focus on the time."

Hug, who also won the race last year, earned \$50,000 in bonus money for besting the course record. He crossed the finish line more than 2 minutes ahead of second-place finisher Daniel Romanchuk of Illinois.

The 36-year-old Hug, nicknamed the "The Silver Bullet," has been on quite a streak, winning four gold medals at the Tokyo Paralympics last year as well as the Tokyo, Berlin, London and Chicago Marathons in 2022.

Susannah Scaroni also broke the course record in the women's wheelchair race, finishing in 1:42.43. That was 21 seconds better than the old mark, which was held by Tatyana McFadden.

Scaroni, a 31-year-old from Illinois, pulled away from the field early and also earned the bonus for topping the course record. Scaroni won the Chicago Marathon last month and was victorious for the first time in New York after finishing third in 2019.

The warm weather wasn't ideal for the 50,000 runners who started the 51st edition of the marathon, which was back to full capacity for the first time since the pandemic. Race organizers said that there were nine misting stations on the 26.2 mile race course and there was plenty of water available along the way as well as bananas and energy gels.

There were a bunch of celebrities who ran the race, including Ashton Kutcher and Chelsea Clinton, who completed it for a second straight year. Both were running for charity.

Samantha Judge, the wife of New York Yankees' home run champion Aaron Judge, also ran the marathon. The baseball free agent presented her with her medal when she finished along with Yankees outfielder/designated hitter Giancarlo Stanton.

Wilson, Jets' defense stun Allen, Bills in 20-17 victory

By DENNIS WASZAK Jr. AP Pro Football Writer

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — The sky was falling for the New York Jets against the Buffalo Bills.

They were losing a close game to their AFC East rivals in the second half — and an overhead video camera malfunctioned, disrupting a promising drive and appearing to be a poorly timed omen.

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Then, the Jets pulled off a picture-perfect comeback.

"We're too young to flinch," coach Robert Saleh said after New York's stunning 20-17 victory Sunday.

The defense shut down Josh Allen, Zach Wilson threw a touchdown pass and Greg Zuerlein kicked a go-ahead 28-yard field goal with 1:43 remaining to send the Jets (6-3) into their bye-week break a half-game behind the division-leading Bills (6-2).

"I know a lot of people are going to be surprised, right?" Saleh said. "I don't think there's a person surprised in the locker room."

With the game tied at 17, the Jets got the ball at their own 4 and 7:53 left — and they hit the ground running.

After marching downfield to the Bills 18 on eight straight running plays while draining the clock against a weary Buffalo defense, Wilson connected with Denzel Mims for 12 yards on third-and-5. But the drive stalled when Wilson was sacked by Damar Hamlin on third down and the Jets settled for Zuerlein's field goal.

Allen got the ball back, but couldn't manage much.

A holding call on Dion Dawkins wiped out a long pass to Stefon Diggs. Two plays later, Bryce Huff had a strip-sack of Allen that Buffalo recovered at its 14.

After an incompletion to Diggs, Allen launched a deep desperation pass to Gabe Davis — but rookie Sauce Gardner knocked the ball away and sealed the unlikely victory for the Jets. It also ended the Bills' four-game winning streak.

"We expected to win this game," Wilson said.

Wilson finished 18 of 25 for 154 yards and a TD pass to James Robinson, who scored for the first time since being acquired last week from Jacksonville. Michael Carter had a 6-yard touchdown run.

But the defense did its job against Allen, intercepting him twice and sacking him five times. Allen was 18 of 34 for 205 yards — held without a TD pass for the first time since Week 17 of last season against Atlanta — and the INTs by Gardner and Jordan Whitehead.

Allen ran for 86 yards and two touchdowns, but the Bills fell to 0-2 against division opponents.

"It's tough to win in this league when you're playing a good team and your quarterback plays like (crap)," Allen said. "Made some bad decisions tonight. Really cost our team."

Allen was seen flexing his right hand after the strip-sack.

"There's some slight pain," he said. "I'll get through it."

Things took a strange turn when Wilson and the Jets' offense were marching downfield on their opening drive of the second half. A SkyCam camera whirled out of control and delayed the play on the field for 12 minutes until a camera operator was able to corral it.

"It only happens to the Jets," a smiling Saleh said.

Added Wilson: "I've never seen that before."

The teams resumed play, but the Jets were immediately called for a false start penalty. Three plays later, Wilson was sacked by Von Miller and his fumble recovered by A.J. Epenesa to give Buffalo the ball.

The sack gave Miller 122 1/2 for his career, surpassing Simeon Rice (122) for 20th place on the NFL's list.

But then New York's defense stiffened, with Quinnen Williams sacking Allen and Gardner coming up with an interception to give the Jets the ball at the Bills 19. Wilson's 7-yard pass to Robinson put the Jets ahead 17-14 with 4:03 left in the third quarter.

Tyler Bass' 51-yard field goal tied it for Buffalo with 13:33 remaining.

"We had opportunities overall and we shot ourselves in the foot," Bills coach Sean McDermott said. "Give credit where credit is due. They made more plays than we did. In some ways, we beat ourselves."

After Allen was intercepted by Whitehead on the Bills' third play from scrimmage, Buffalo converted three third-down plays on its next drive, including an 11-yard run by Allen that was initially ruled a touchdown before video review showed he was short of the goal line. On the next play, the Bills quarterback pushed forward to give Buffalo a 7-0 lead.

Allen's second touchdown run came with 6:30 left in the first half on a 36-yard scamper — the longest TD run of his career.

Carter's 6-yard run up the middle to cut New York's deficit to 14-10 late in the second quarter.

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The Bills had a chance to add to their lead, but Bass' 55-yard attempt was wide right as time expired in the half.

INJURIES

Bills: Edge rusher Greg Rousseau left in the first half with an ankle injury. ... CB Kaiir Elam injured an ankle in the third quarter. ... CB Tre'Davious White was activated from injured reserve this week and didn't appear on Buffalo's injury report, but was inactive. ... LB Matt Milano (oblique) sat out after being questionable.

Jets: DT Sheldon Rankins injured his left elbow in the first quarter and didn't return.

UP NEXT

Bills: Return home to take on the Minnesota Vikings next Sunday.

Jets: Head into their bye-week break before a rematch with the AFC East rival Patriots in New England on Nov. 20.

Last total lunar eclipse for three years arrives Tuesday

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Better catch the moon's disappearing act Tuesday — there won't be another like it for three years.

The total lunar eclipse will be visible throughout North America in the predawn hours — the farther west, the better — and across Asia, Australia and the rest of the Pacific after sunset. As an extra treat, Uranus will be visible just a finger's width above the moon, resembling a bright star.

Totality will last nearly 1 1/2 hours — from 5:16 a.m. to 6:41 a.m. EST — as Earth passes directly between the moon and sun.

Known as a blood moon, it will appear a reddish-orange from the light of Earth's sunsets and sunrises. At the peak of the eclipse, the moon will be 242,740 miles (390,653 kilometers) away, according to NASA scientists. Binoculars and telescopes will enhance viewing, provided the skies are clear.

South America will get a glimpse of Tuesday's lunar eclipse, weather permitting. Striking out altogether, Africa, the Middle East and most of Europe will have to wait until 2025.

Among those providing a livestream of Tuesday's lunar extravaganza: Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles and the Italian-based Virtual Telescope Project.

It's the second total lunar eclipse this year; the first was in May. The next one won't be until 2025. Plenty of partial lunar eclipses will be available in the meantime.

Cesspool or civility? Elon Musk's Twitter at a crossroads

By BARBARA ORTUTAY AP Technology Writer

The discourse was never all that civil on Twitter. The loudest voices have often drowned out softer, more nuanced takes. After all, it's much easier to rage-tweet at a perceived enemy than to seek common ground, whether the argument is about transgender kids or baseball.

In the chaos that has enveloped Twitter the platform — and Twitter the company — since Elon Musk took over, it has become clear this isn't changing anytime soon. In fact, it's likely to get much worse before it gets better — if it gets better at all.

Musk, with his band of tech industry loyalists, arrived at Twitter just over a week ago ready to tear down the blue bird's nest and rebuild it in his vision with breakneck speed. He quickly fired top executives and the board of directors, installed himself as the company's sole director (for now) and declared himself "Chief Twit," then "Twitter Complaint Hotline Operator" on his bio.

On Friday, he began mass layoffs at the San Francisco-based company, letting go about half of its workers via email to return it to staffing levels not seen since 2014.

All the while, he's continued to tweet a mix of crude memes, half-jokes, SpaceX rocket launches and maybe-maybe not plans for Twitter that he seems to be workshopping on the site in real time. After floating the idea of charging users \$20 a month for the "blue check" and some extra features, for instance, he appeared to quickly scale it back in a Twitter exchange with author Stephen King, who posted, "If that

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gets instituted, I'm gone like Enron."

"We need to pay the bills somehow! Twitter cannot rely entirely on advertisers. How about \$8?" Musk replied. On Saturday, the company announced a subscription service for \$7.99 monthly that allows anyone on Twitter to pay a fee for the check mark "just like the celebrities, companies and politicians you already follow" as well as some premium features — not yet available — like getting their tweets boosted above those coming from accounts without the blue check. It's not clear when the fee-based verification tag will become available. It replaces what had been considered a safety feature designed to discourage counterfeit accounts.

The billionaire Tesla CEO has repeatedly engaged with right-wing figures appealing for looser restrictions on hate and misinformation. He received congratulations from Dimitry Medvedev, Russian President Vladimir Putin's top associate, and tweeted — then deleted — a baseless conspiracy theory about House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband, who was attacked in his home.

More than three dozen advocacy organizations wrote an open letter to Twitter's top 20 advertisers, calling on them to commit to halting advertising on the platform if Twitter under Musk undermines "brand safety" and guts content moderation.

"Not only are extremists celebrating Musk's takeover of Twitter, they are seeing it as a new opportunity to post the most abusive, harassing, and racist language and imagery. This includes clear threats of violence against people with whom they disagree," the letter said.

One of Musk's first moves was to fire the woman in charge of trust and safety at the platform, Vijaya Gadde. But he has kept on Yoel Roth, Twitter's head of safety and integrity, and has taken steps to reassure users and advertisers that the site won't turn into a "free-for-all hellscape" that some fear it might.

On Friday, he tweeted that "Twitter's strong commitment to content moderation remains absolutely unchanged. In fact, we have actually seen hateful speech at times this week decline (asterisk)below(asterisk) our prior norms, contrary to what you may read in the press." A growing number of advertisers are nevertheless pausing spending on Twitter while they reassess how Musk's changes might increase objectionable material on the platform.

Musk also met with some civil rights leaders "about how Twitter will continue to combat hate & harassment & enforce its election integrity policies," according to a tweet he sent Nov. 1.

But representatives of the LGBTQ community were notably absent from the meeting, even though its members are far more likely to be victims of violent crime than those outside of such communities. Twitter did not respond to a message for comment on whether Musk plans to meet with LGBTQ groups.

The mercurial billionaire has said he won't make major decisions about content or restoring banned accounts — such as that of former President Donald Trump — before setting up a "content moderation council" with diverse viewpoints. The council, he later added, will include "the civil rights community and groups who face hate-fueled violence." But experts have pointed out that Twitter already has a trust and safety advisory council to address moderation questions.

"Truly I can't imagine how it would differ," said Danielle Citron, a University of Virginia law professor who sits on the council and has been working with Twitter since its infancy in 2009 to tackle online harms, such as threats and stalking. "Our council has the full spectrum of views on free speech."

Some amount of chaos is expected after a corporate takeover, as are layoffs and firings. But Musk's murky plans for Twitter — especially its content moderation, misinformation and hate speech policies — are raising alarms about where one of the world's most high-profile information ecosystems is headed. All that seems certain is that for now, at least, as Elon Musk goes, so goes Twitter.

"I hope that responsibility and maturity will win the day," said Eddie Perez, a former Twitter civic integrity team leader who left the company before Musk took over. "It's one thing to be a billionaire troll on Twitter and to try to get laughs with memes and to yuk it up. You are now the owner of Twitter and there's a new level of responsibility."

For now, though, the memes appear to be winning. This concerns experts like Perez, who worry Musk is moving too fast without listening to people who have been working to improve civility on the platform

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and instead using his own insular experience as one of the platform's most popular users with millions of fawning fans who hail his every move.

"You have a single billionaire that is controlling something as influential as a social media platform like Twitter. And you have entire nation states (whose) political goals are inimical to our own, and they are trying to create chaos and they are directly courting favor" with Musk, Perez said.

"There's just no world in which all of that is normal," he added. "That should absolutely concern us."

Twitter didn't start out as a cesspool. And even now there are pockets of funny, weird, nerdy subgroups on the platform that remain somewhat insulated from the messy and confrontational place it can appear to be if one follows too many hotheaded agitators. But as with Facebook, Twitter's rise also coincided with growing polarization and a measurable decline in online civility in the United States and beyond.

"The big understanding that occurred between 2008 and 2012 is that the way to get traction, the way to get attention on any social media, Twitter included, was to use incendiary language — to challenge the basic humanity of the opposition," said Lee Rainie, director of internet and technology research at the Pew Research Center.

Things continued to devolve as the 2016 U.S. presidential election approached and passed, and the new president cemented his reputation as one of Twitter's most incendiary users. After it was revealed that Russia used social media platforms to try to influence elections in the U.S. and other countries, the platforms themselves became central figures in the political debate.

"Do they have too much power? Do their content moderation policies privilege one side or another?" Rainie said. "The companies themselves found themselves in the thick of the most intense arguments in the culture. And so that's the environment that Elon Musk is entering now."

And beyond the bluster and the outsized personality, Musk's own description of his new job — "Twitter Complaint Hotline Operator" — may turn out to be his biggest challenge yet.

Ship refuses to leave Italy port until all migrants are off

By COLLEEN BARRY and SALVATORE CAVALLI Associated Press

CATANIA, Sicily (AP) — The captain of a charity-run migrant rescue ship refused Italian orders to leave a Sicilian port Sunday after authorities refused to let 35 of the migrants on his ship disembark — part of directives by Italy's new far-right-led government targeting foreign-flagged rescue ships.

Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni's two-week-old government is refusing safe port to four ships operating in the central Mediterranean that have rescued migrants at sea in distress, some as many as 16 days ago, and is allowing only those identified as vulnerable to disembark.

On Sunday, Italy ordered the Humanity 1 to vacate the port of Catania after disembarking 144 rescued migrants, including with children, more than 100 unaccompanied minors and people with medical emergencies.

But its captain refused to comply "until all survivors rescued from distress at sea have been disembarked," said SOS Humanity, the German charity that operates the ship. The vessel remained moored at the port with 35 migrants on board.

Later Sunday, a second charity ship arrived in Catania, and the vetting process was being repeated with the 572 migrants aboard the Geo Barents ship operated by Doctors Without Borders. The selection was completed by late evening, with 357 allowed off but 215 people blocked on board.

Families were the first to leave the ship. One man cradling a baby expressed his gratitude, saying "Thank you, Geo Barents, thank you," as he left. Another man in a wheelchair was carried down by Red Cross workers.

Yet two other boats run by non-governmental organizations remained stuck at sea with no port willing to accept the people they rescued.

Humanitarian groups, human rights activists and two Italian lawmakers who traveled to Sicily protested the selection process as illegal and inhumane. Italy's new Interior Minister Matteo Piantedosi is targeting non-governmental organizations, which Italy has long accused of encouraging people trafficking in the

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central Mediterranean Sea. The groups deny the claim.

"Free all the people, free them," Italian lawmaker Aboubakar Soumahoro said in an emotional appeal directed at Meloni from the Humanity 1 rescue ship.

The passengers have faced "trauma, they have faced everything that we can define as prolonged suffering," said Soumahoro, who spent the night on the ship.

Later at the port, he accused Meloni of playing politics at the expense of "newborns, of women, of people who have suffered traumas of all kinds," including torture in Libyan prisons.

He said neither translators nor psychologists were on hand during Italy's selection process and many of the migrants were from Gambia, unable to speak French, English or Italian.

"Their fault is to speak another language. Their fault is to have another color," Soumahoro said, accusing the Italian government of using the migrants to distract from other issues, including high energy prices.

Aboard the Humanity 1, doctors in Italy identified people needing urgent medical care after the ship's doctor refused to make a selection, said SOS Humanity spokesman Wasil Schauseil. Thirty-six people were declared non-vulnerable and were not permitted to disembark, prompting one to collapse and be taken away by an ambulance.

"You can imagine the condition of the people. It is very devastating," he said.

Both SOS Humanity and Doctors Without Borders issued statements declaring that all of their passengers were vulnerable after being rescued at sea, and deserving of a safe port under international law. SOS Humanity said it plans to file a civil case in Catania to ensure that all 35 survivors on board have access to formal asylum procedures on land.

Doctors Without Borders emphasized that "a rescue operation is considered complete only when all of the survivors have been disembarked in a safe place."

Two other charity ships carrying rescued migrants remained stuck at sea, with people sleeping on floors and decks and spreading respiratory infections and scabies as food and medical supplies drew low.

The German-run Rise Above, carrying 93 rescued at sea, sought a more protected position in the waters east of Sicily due to the weather, but spokeswoman Hermine Poschmann said Sunday that the crew had not received any communications from Italian authorities.

Poschmann described cramped conditions on the relatively small 25-meter (82-foot) ship.

The Ocean Viking, operated by the European charity SOS Mediteranee, with 234 migrants on board, remained in international waters, south of the Strait of Messina, and got no instructions to proceed to an Italian port, a spokesman said Sunday. Its first rescue was 16 days ago.

"Agitation is evident among the survivors," a charity worker named Morgane told The Associated Press on Sunday. Cases of seasickness were soaring after high waves tossed the ship through the night.

"Today, the weather considerably deteriorated, bringing strong winds, rough seas and rain on deck. ... these extreme conditions added suffering," she said.

The confrontational stance taken by Meloni's government is reminiscent of the standoffs orchestrated by Matteo Salvini, now Meloni's infrastructure minister in charge of ports, during his brief 2018-2019 stint as interior minister. Italy's new government is insisting the countries whose flags the charity-run ships fly must take in the migrants.

In a Facebook video, Salvini repeated his allegations that the presence of the humanitarian boats encourages smugglers.

Nongovernmental organizations reject that claim, saying they are obligated by the law of the sea to rescue people in distress and that coastal nations are obligated to provide a safe port as soon as feasible.

Amnesty International called Italy's stance "disgraceful."

"Italy legitimately expects other EU member states to share responsibility for people seeking asylum, but this does not justify imposing measures that only increase the suffering of already traumatized people," the group said.

Warnock, Walker get personal in Georgia's closing arguments

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By BILL BARROW and JEFF AMY Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — After spending months arguing that Republican Senate candidate Herschel Walker is “not ready” for high elected office, Sen. Raphael Warnock of Georgia is intensifying his critique ahead of Election Day to say the celebrity athlete is fundamentally unfit for Capitol Hill.

From a rally with former President Barack Obama to a statewide bus tour that runs through the eve of Election Day on Tuesday, Warnock has hammered Walker as a “pathological liar” who has exaggerated his business, academic, professional and philanthropic achievements and been accused of violence against his family members and of paying for girlfriends’ abortions despite his public opposition to the procedure.

“This is a man who lies about the most basic facts of his life,” Warnock said on a stage he shared with Obama. “And now he wants the rest of us ... to somehow imagine now that he’s a United States senator. ... Herschel Walker is not ready. He’s not ready. Not only is he not ready. He’s not fit.”

Walker, who denies he’s ever paid for any abortions, is sticking to an argument he’s made for months: that Warnock is a rubber stamp for President Joe Biden and a Democratic congressional majority that Walker blames for inflation, rising crime and a continued flow of immigrants across the U.S. border with Mexico.

“He talked about I’m not ready. No, you’re not ready,” Walker answered Thursday in suburban Atlanta. “Because you either voted with Joe Biden 96% of the time, or you had no clue what you were doing. You pick which one you want — no clue of what you’re doing or you voted with him 96% of the time which is headed in the wrong direction.”

Those competing closing arguments reflect the increasingly personal nature of the Georgia contest and the wider national battle for control of Congress. Warnock and most Senate Democrats have steered clear of Biden and the national party brand amid generationally high inflation, urging voters instead to consider their choices between individual candidates. Republicans, in turn, have sought to nationalize Tuesday’s midterm elections as a referendum on Biden and his policies.

The Georgia matchup could help determine which party controls the Senate for the final two years of Biden’s term. The chamber is now divided 50-50, with Vice President Kamala Harris giving Democrats the tie-breaking vote.

Through the summer and early fall, Warnock, 53, typically avoided directly attacking Walker, 60. Instead, he suggested the celebrity athlete was simply not prepared for the Senate. Warnock spent more time touting his Senate record, especially infrastructure and economic development measures he worked on with Republicans, along with Democratic measures to cap insulin and other drug costs for older Americans who use Medicare.

But Warnock has stepped up his attacks since two women came forward in October to accuse Walker of encouraging and paying for their abortions when they dated the former professional football star. Walker, who supports a national ban on abortion, has called the allegations “foolishness.”

The senator’s shifts have come alongside polls suggesting a close finish, with the possibility of a runoff; Georgia law requires a majority to win statewide office, and a third-party candidate in the Senate contest could keep Warnock and Walker below that threshold.

“This man says that he is in law enforcement. He’s not. In the FBI. He wasn’t,” Warnock told supporters last week during his bus tour, referring to some of Walker’s inaccurate claims. “He said that he graduated from the University of Georgia. He did not. He said he was valedictorian (of his high school class). He wasn’t. ... He said he had 800 employees. He only had eight.”

In DeKalb County outside Atlanta, Warnock mocked Walker for carrying an honorary badge, apparently given to him by a Georgia sheriff, as proof of his claims to have worked for years in law enforcement. “He wears his lies quite literally as a badge of honor,” Warnock told voters.

Warnock continued to take an aggressive tack Sunday in his hometown of Savannah, and he has Monday stops planned for Macon and Columbus, hitting Georgia’s largest metro areas beyond Atlanta. Asked why he’d waited so late to attack Walker directly, Warnock said it was in part because the second Walker accuser said in an interview that she “felt threatened” by Walker, who has admitted some violent tendencies in his past but said they were the result of mental illness that he now has under control.

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Walker rejected Warnock's criticism in a speech Thursday in Smyrna, north of Atlanta. He portrayed himself as the more honest candidate and said his debate with Warnock proved he's up to the job.

"I took that man to school, I was the adult in that room," said Walker, who will close his campaign Monday in the GOP-leaning suburbs of Atlanta.

"He's been talking about me. He even brought in a former president to talk about me," Walker said, referring to Obama's Oct. 28 visit.

Walker said Warnock, who is the pastor of Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta, shouldn't claim to have a Christian ethic while implying Walker doesn't have one.

"He said I'm the liar. I said 'No, Senator, you're the liar,'" said Walker, who makes faith a major part of his pitch. "You went to Washington saying you're going to represent Georgia and you decided to represent Joe Biden."

Walker also rejected Biden's Wednesday speech warning of threats to democracy. "Him being in Washington is the biggest threat to democracy," Walker said of Biden. "The biggest threat to democracy is with Sen. Warnock being in Washington representing the great people of Georgia. He's a big threat."

Walker did not take questions from reporters and has not held an open press availability since the second abortion allegation, another point that Warnock sought to capitalize on ahead of Tuesday.

"There's nothing stopping him from standing in front of a microphone like I'm standing right now," Warnock told reporters. "The people of Georgia deserve to know what kind of man, what kind of person is he?"

More than 2.5 million Georgia voters cast advanced ballots, about 20% more than the number who voted early for the 2018 midterms.

Kyiv prepares for a winter with no heat, water or power

By SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The mayor of Kyiv, Ukraine's capital, is warning residents that they must prepare for the worst this winter if Russia keeps striking the country's energy infrastructure — and that means having no electricity, water or heat in the freezing cold cannot be ruled out.

"We are doing everything to avoid this. But let's be frank, our enemies are doing everything for the city to be without heat, without electricity, without water supply, in general, so we all die. And the future of the country and the future of each of us depends on how prepared we are for different situations," Mayor Vitali Klitschko told state media.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in his nightly video address to the nation Sunday that about 4.5 million people were without electricity. He called on Ukrainians to endure the hardships and "we must get through this winter and be even stronger in the spring than now."

Russia has focused on striking Ukraine's energy infrastructure over the last month, causing power shortages and rolling outages across the country. Kyiv was having hourly rotating blackouts Sunday in parts of the city and the surrounding region.

Rolling blackouts also were planned in the Chernihiv, Cherkasy, Zhytomyr, Sumy, Kharkiv and Poltava regions, Ukraine's state-owned energy operator, Ukrenergo, said.

Kyiv plans to deploy about 1,000 heating points, but it's unclear if that would be enough for a city of 3 million people.

As Russia intensifies its attacks on the capital, Ukrainian forces are pushing forward in the south. Residents of Ukraine's Russian-occupied city of Kherson received warning messages on their phones urging them to evacuate as soon as possible, Ukraine's military said Sunday. Russian soldiers warned civilians that Ukraine's army was preparing for a massive attack and told people to leave for the city's right bank immediately.

Russian forces are preparing for a Ukrainian counteroffensive to seize back the southern city of Kherson, which was captured during the early days of the invasion. In September, Russia illegally annexed Kherson as well as three other regions and subsequently declared martial law in the four provinces.

The Kremlin-installed administration in Kherson already has moved tens of thousands of civilians out of

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the city.

Russia has been “occupying and evacuating” Kherson simultaneously, trying to convince Ukrainians that they’re leaving when in fact they’re digging in, Nataliya Humenyuk, a spokeswoman for Ukraine’s Southern Forces, told state television.

“There are defense units that have dug in there quite powerfully, a certain amount of equipment has been left, firing positions have been set up,” she said.

Russian forces are also digging in in a fiercely contested region in the east, worsening the already tough conditions for residents and the defending Ukrainian army following Moscow’s illegal annexation and declaration of martial law in Donetsk province.

The attacks have almost completely destroyed the power plants that serve the city of Bakhmut and the nearby town of Soledar, said Pavlo Kyrylenko, the region’s Ukrainian governor, said. Shelling killed one civilian and wounded three, he reported late Saturday.

“The destruction is daily, if not hourly,” Kyrylenko told state television.

Moscow-backed separatists have controlled part of Donetsk for nearly eight years before Russia invaded Ukraine in late February. Protecting the separatists’ self-proclaimed republic there was one of Russian President Vladimir Putin’s justifications for the invasion, and his troops have spent months trying to capture the entire province.

Between Saturday and Sunday, Russia’s launched four missiles and 19 airstrikes hitting more than 35 villages in nine regions, from Chernihiv and Kharkiv in the northeast to Kherson and Mykolaiv in the south, according to Zelenskyy’s office. The strikes killed two people and wounded six.

In the Donetsk city of Bakhmut, 15,000 remaining residents were living under daily shelling and without water or power, according to local media. The city has been under attack for months, but the bombardment picked up after Russian forces experienced setbacks during Ukrainian counteroffensives in the Kharkiv and Kherson regions.

The front line is now on Bakhmut’s outskirts, where mercenaries from the Wagner Group, a shadowy Russian military company, are reported to be leading the charge.

Yevgeny Prigozhin, founder of the group who has typically remained under the radar, is taking a more visible role in the war. In a statement Sunday he announced the funding and creation of “militia training centers” in Russia’s Belgorod and Kursk regions in the southwest, saying that locals were best placed to “fight against sabotage” on Russian soil. The training centers are in addition to a military technology center the group said it was opening in St. Petersburg.

In Kharkiv, officials were working to identify bodies found in mass graves after the Russians withdrew, Dmytro Chubenko, a spokesperson for the regional prosecutor’s office, told local media.

DNA samples have been collected from 450 bodies discovered in a mass grave in the city of Izium, but the samples need to be matched with relatives and so far only 80 people have participated, he said.

In one sliver of good news, the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant was reconnected to Ukraine’s power grid, local media reported Sunday. Europe’s largest nuclear plant needs electricity to maintain vital cooling systems, but it had been running on emergency diesel generators since Russian shelling severed its outside connections.

AP Top 25: Georgia has No. 1 on lock, 'Bama drops to No. 10

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

Georgia tightened its hold on No. 1 in The Associated Press college football poll Sunday, with TCU climbing up to No. 4 and Alabama dropping all the way to No. 10.

The Bulldogs had their strongest support of the season after manhandling Tennessee in a 1-2 matchup on Saturday. Georgia received 62 of 63 first-place votes from the media panel in the AP Top 25 presented by Regions Bank.

No. 2 Ohio State got the other first-place vote. Michigan moved up a spot to No. 3 and TCU jumped three spots to its highest ranking since late in the 2017 season.

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No. 5 Tennessee fell three spots after losing on the road to the defending national champions. For the first time in the College Football Playoff era, Alabama and Clemson lost on the same day and both tumbled in the rankings. The Crimson Tide (7-2) fell to LSU by a point in overtime to end up at No. 10 — their worst ranking since 2015.

LSU jumped eight spots to No. 7, the Tigers' best ranking since they started No. 6 in 2020. That was when they stumbled out of the gate a season after winning the national title.

Oregon reached a season-high No. 6 and Pac-12 rivals No. 8 Southern California and No. 9 UCLA finished out the top 10.

Clemson fell seven spots to a season-low No. 12 after losing to Notre Dame. Last year, the Tigers fell all the way out of the Top 25 for the first time since 2011.

POLL POINTS

Alabama held on to its top-10 ranking and its streak of weeks ranked in the top 10. The Crimson Tide has a streak of 120 straight polls ranked no worse than 10. That is the second longest such streak in the history of AP poll, behind Miami (1985-93).

IN

— No. 18 Texas has yo-yoed back into the rankings this week and still has a chance to win the Big 12.
— No. 20 Notre Dame went from preseason No. 5 to unranked by Week Three. After taking a circuitous road, the Fighting Irish are back to being ranked.

— No. 24 Washington had a moment in September, then stumbled on the road. The Huskies are real tough at home and that's been good enough.

— No. 25 Florida State was ranked for a week in October before a three-game losing streak. The Seminoles might stick around this time.

OUT

— Atlantic Coast Conference rivals Syracuse and Wake Forest departed the rankings after absorbing second straight losses. The Demon Deacons are unranked for the first time this season.

— Oklahoma State is also out of the Top 25 for the first time this season.

— Oregon State had a one-week stay after breaking a nine-season Top 25 drought.

CONFERENCE CALL

SEC — 5 (Nos. 1, 5, 7, 10, 11).

Pac-12 — 5 (Nos. 6, 8, 9, 13, 24).

ACC — 4 (Nos. 12, 15, 17, 25).

Big Ten — 4 (Nos. 2, 3, 14, 21).

Big 12 — 3 (Nos. 4, 18, 23).

American — 2 (Nos. 16, 22).

Independents — 2 (Nos. 19, 20).

RANKED vs. RANKED

No. 10 Alabama at No. 11 Mississippi.

No. 24 Washington at No. 6 Oregon.

No. 4 TCU at No. 18 Texas.

No. 22 UCF at No. 16 Tulane.

___ Follow Ralph D. Russo at <https://twitter.com/ralphDrussoAP> and listen at <http://www.appodcasts.com>

Nick Carter remembers his 'baby brother' Aaron Carter

NEW YORK (AP) — The day after 34-year-old singer Aaron Carter was found dead at his home in Southern California, Nick Carter, the Backstreet Boys member, remembered his younger brother, saying that despite "a complicated relationship," his love for him "never ever faded."

In a posting Sunday on Instagram with photos of the two through the years, Nick Carter said his heart was broken after the death of the youngest of five Carter siblings, whom he called his "baby brother."

"My heart has been broken today," wrote Carter. "Even though my brother and I have had a complicated

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relationship, my love for him has never ever faded. I have always held onto the hope that he would somehow, someday want to walk a healthy path and eventually find the help that he so desperately needed."

Deputies responded around 11 a.m. Saturday following reports of a medical emergency at Carter's home in Lancaster, California. Authorities said a house sitter found a man in the bathtub in the home and resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful.

Carter had struggled with substance abuse and mental health. In 2017, he attended rehab and was arrested on suspicion of driving under the influence and marijuana charges. In 2019, Carter said on an episode of the talk show "The Doctors" that he was taking medication for acute anxiety, manic depression and multiple personality disorder. That same year, Nick and Angel, Aaron's twin sister, said they filed a restraining order against Aaron.

In September, Carter said he went into rehab for the fifth time in the hopes of regaining custody of his young son, Prince, with his fiancé Melanie Martin. At the time, Prince was under the court-ordered care of Martin's mother.

"Sometimes we want to blame someone or something for a loss. But the truth is that addiction and mental illness is the real villain here," Nick Carter wrote in the post. "I will miss my brother more than anyone will ever know. I love you Chizz, now you get a chance to finally have some peace you could never find here on earth. God, Please take care of my baby brother."

In 2012, their sister, Leslie Carter, died after falling in the shower in 2012 at the age of 25. Authorities said she had suffered an overdose from prescription medication. Carter once said he felt his family partly blamed him for her death.

Carter, a singer, rapper and actor, opened for the Backstreet Boys tour in 1997, the same year his gold-selling debut self-titled album was released. He reached triple-platinum status with his sophomore album, 2000's "Aaron's Party (Come Get It)," which produced hit singles including the title song and "I Want Candy."

Carter's acting credits included the television show "Lizzie McGuire" and an appearance on "Dancing With the Stars." He starred alongside his brother, Nick, and their siblings B.J., Leslie and Angel Carter on the E! unscripted series "House of Carters" in 2006.

Hilary Duff, who starred in "Lizzie McGuire," recalled Carter as having an "effervescent" charm, and said her "teenage self" loved him deeply. "I'm deeply sorry that life was so hard for you and that you had to struggle in-front of the whole world," she wrote on Instagram.

Angel Carter, his twin sister, also responded on social media. "My funny, sweet Aaron, I have so many memories of you and I, and I promise to cherish them," she wrote on Instagram. "I know you're at peace now. I will carry you with me until the day I die and get to see you again."

'Black Adam' tops box office again on quiet weekend

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — On a quiet weekend in movie theaters before the upcoming release of "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever," Warner Bros.' "Black Adam" topped the box office for the third straight weekend with \$18.5 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday.

"Black Adam," Dwayne Johnson's bid to launch a new DC Films superpower, has surpassed \$300 million globally in three weeks of release, including a domestic tally of \$137.4 million. That puts the \$195 million-budgeted film — the third film this year to lead the box office three consecutive weeks — on a trajectory to likely surpass the \$366 million that "Shazam!" grossed in 2019, but less certain to notch a profit in its theatrical run.

When Walt Disney Co.'s "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever" lands in theaters Thursday, it's expected to score one of the biggest opening weekends of the year. Ryan Coogler's original debuted with more than \$200 million in U.S. and Canadian theaters in 2018, and forecasts suggest it could open with around \$175 million.

With "Wakanda Forever" looming, only one new film opened in wide release: "One Piece Film: Red," distributed by Sony Picture's anime division, Crunchyroll. The Japanese anime sequel, part of the "One

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Piece" franchise, debuted in second place with \$9.5 million. While not as robust as the openings of Crunchyroll's "Dragon Ball Super: Super Hero, which garnered, \$21.1 million in August, or Funimation's "Jujutsu Kaisen 0: The Movie," which earned \$18 million in March, "Red" again showed that anime is proving an uncommonly dependable draw in North American theaters. The 15th film in the franchise but the first to be released widely in the U.S., "Red" attracted an especially young audience, with about 75% of ticket buyers between ages 18-34.

Third place went to "Ticket to Paradise," the George Clooney and Julia Roberts romantic comedy. The Universal Pictures release collected \$8.5 million in its third weekend, bringing the \$60 million-budgeted rom-com's cumulative total to \$46.7 million domestically and \$137.2 million worldwide. For a genre that's struggled in theaters in recent years, "Ticket to Paradise" is showing staying power, especially as the favored choice for older audiences.

Even with Halloween coming and going, Paramount Pictures' "Smile" also continued to hold well in theaters. In its sixth week of release, the horror flick added another \$4 million to bring it to \$99.1 million overall.

Some of the year's top Oscar contenders have struggled to make much of an impact in wide release. James Gray's "Armageddon Time," a coming-of-age tale set in 1980s New York, expanded to 1,006 theaters in its second week, grossing \$810,000 for Focus Features. Focus' "Tár," starring Cate Blanchett as a renowned conductor, took in \$670,000 in 1,090 theaters for a five-week total of \$3.7 million. MGM's "Till," about Mamie Till-Mobley's pursuit of justice for her 14-year-old son, Emmett Till, added \$1.9 million in 2,316 theaters for a four-week gross of \$6.6 million.

Best of the bunch so far has been Searchlight Pictures' "The Banshees of Inisherin," starring Colin Farrell and Brendan Gleeson as rowing Irish friends. It took in \$3 million in 895 locations in its third weekend of release, bringing its global total to \$10.2 million.

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

1. "Black Adam," \$18.5 million.
2. "One Piece Film: Red," \$9.5 million.
3. "Ticket to Paradise," \$8.5 million.
4. "Smile," \$4 million.
5. "Prey for the Devil," \$3.9 million.
6. "Lyle, Lyle, Crocodile," \$3.4 million.
7. "The Banshees of Inisherin," \$2 million.
8. "Till," \$1.9 million.
9. "Halloween End," \$1.4 million.
10. "Terrifier 2," \$1.2 million.

West Virginia's opioid crisis transcends partisan politics

By LEAH WILLINGHAM Associated Press

CHARLESTON, W.Va. (AP) — Dr. Frank Annie sees desperation in his hospital, where 30- and 40-year-olds come in with organ failure after injecting opioids with dirty needles. Joe Solomon finds it in the faces of those who line up in the church gyms and parking lots where he passes out overdose reversal drugs. Sheena Griffith encounters it on the streets she navigates with a car packed with HIV test kits and disinfectant for sanitizing syringes.

Annie is a Republican, Solomon a Democrat and Griffith an independent. All three are running for city council in the capital city of battle-scarred West Virginia, where the devastating toll of the opioid crisis transcends party politics.

"There's so much unchecked pain, and it's exhausting," said Griffith, a recovery coach who's battled substance use herself. "If we are a God-fearing state, a God-fearing country, where is God in the city of Charleston?"

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More than a year after the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention declared Charleston the scene of the country's "most concerning HIV outbreak" due to IV drug use, the three candidates say not enough has changed. And with millions of dollars from legal settlements with opioid manufacturers and pharmacies on the way specifically for treatment and recovery, they also feel the urgency of getting things right locally, where it matters most.

But people are divided, even if not on party lines. Against CDC guidance, state and local officials voted last year to criminalize programs that give people who inject drugs clean syringes to prevent the spread of HIV and hepatitis C. A proposal for a low-barrier shelter using COVID-19 relief money that would allow residents experiencing homelessness to receive substance use disorder treatment — initially endorsed by the city's Democratic mayor — was tabled after people complained about the potential impact on nearby schools and businesses.

Charleston, which leans more liberal than the rest of West Virginia, did invest several million dollars in COVID relief funds to support a women's shelter, a program that helps people get access to permanent housing and a food truck run by a local soup kitchen, but most of the money has gone to economic development initiatives.

Annie said the city is more focused on trying to rebrand and rebuild after the decline of the coal industry and the pain of the opioid epidemic, and has yet to truly address the underlying issues, including the needs of people who have long been exploited.

"We're going through a very uncomfortable transitional era in West Virginia, basically for the soul of West Virginia," said the research scientist specializing in cardiovascular health at Charleston Area Medical Center Memorial Hospital. "This level of pain and mistrust is nothing new. The question is, what we do about it now. Do we ignore it continuously, or do we try and be proactive and trust science finally?"

Solomon, a trained social worker, co-runs the nonprofit Solutions Oriented Addiction Response. He said members of his organization felt a sense of urgency in 2020 when they began setting up tents in church parking lots and handing out sterile syringes.

Syringe access programs are CDC-recommended and scientifically proven methods to prevent disease transmission. At SOAR's health fairs — located in the part of Charleston with the highest percentage of emergency overdose calls — they conducted HIV testing and distributed naloxone, an overdose reversal drug. They also helped connect people with recovery resources.

But some people in the city were wary. They complained about needle litter, and said the program let people who use drugs keep using. They said the health fairs were introducing new challenges, such as homelessness and mental health issues, to residential neighborhoods.

Jennifer Pharr, a fellow Democrat who is running in the same race as Solomon for one of six at-large seats, said SOAR didn't spend enough time getting community buy-in and explaining what it was doing before it started handing out needles. It didn't help that the majority-white-run organization also set up health fairs in the Charleston neighborhood with the highest concentration of Black residents, said Pharr, who is Black.

Pharr, who lost her brother to an overdose, said the issue is personal to a lot of people and she understands their fear.

"You really need to go and knock on the neighbors' doors and let them know what you're doing," she said. "There's always going to be a collateral circumstance that happens from any good intention."

State lawmakers responded to the situation by passing new regulations requiring syringe providers to be licensed and needle recipients to show a state ID — something many unhoused people lack — and bring back each needle after use.

The city council followed with an ordinance making it a misdemeanor criminal offense to run an exchange program violating the restrictions, adding fines of \$500 to \$1,000 per offense.

SOAR shut down its syringe exchange; new HIV cases continued to be reported.

Traveling around the city for three days with a backpack, eating at soup kitchens and sleeping under bridges and in parking lots this past summer, Solomon interviewed residents about the changes they'd

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like to see. He said many people “just need basic dignity and basic services,” something the city has a rare opportunity to provide.

“They’ve never had more money in the history of money in this city, and you could make the case that there’s never been more stigma in the history of stigma,” said Solomon. “How bad does the pain have to get until the city says we need to have a vision for a city of mercy, for a city of solutions?”

Annie said he wishes every city official could spend time in his hospital intensive care unit.

“Sometimes it feels like they live in a very different reality than what’s really going on, or they choose not to acknowledge it,” he said.

As a Republican, he’s tried to stress the financial burden of caring for people when addiction goes undressed. From 2008 to 2015, Annie’s hospital lost over \$13 million treating patients suffering from infective endocarditis, a life-threatening heart inflammation that’s relatively rare outside IV drug users. Many of them are uninsured and have to remain in hospital beds for weeks at a time.

He wants the city and the hospital system to join forces on a harm reduction program — something hospital leadership previously expressed interest in. He said the debate on the legislation restricting syringe exchanges was rife with “misconceptions” and “antiquated notions” about harm reduction and syringe services.

He said it frustrates him when he hears people say more data is needed on HIV and other opioid-related issues in the city, since he’s been the one collecting it.

“We’ve had the data for years,” he said. “It’s just there’s no will.”

Griffith, who works at the same hospital as Annie, sees the way people live once they leave. Driving around in her Nissan Maxima, she searches for people in tent encampments, in abandoned houses, in alleyways and offers them food, blankets and support.

“Every day I go out, and I try to help save someone, say something that’s going to change their mind and save their life and make them want to be better,” she said. “And every day that I do that, I’m drowning, because it is such a repetitive thing.”

Griffith, now in recovery after years of struggling with substance use and homelessness, said she’d probably be dead if it weren’t for a program that offered clean syringes. When she lost everything, it was a worker she’d met at the syringe exchange who helped her get treatment.

She said people who try to address the problem by criminalizing addiction simply don’t understand it.

“They don’t know about sleeping on the street and wondering where you are going to eat that night,” she said. “Let people who have lived a real life, who come from the streets, try to change things. Our city is dying of drug addiction, so let people who care about what our city is dying from fix the problem.”

Will voters stick with Biden outlook or take US another way?

By ZEKE MILLER AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — With his party’s control over Congress teetering on the brink, President Joe Biden has traveled the country this fall trying to turn the midterm elections into a choice between two visions for America. On Tuesday, voters will decide whether to stick with his outlook or take the country in a different direction.

Biden is dealing with difficult challenges in elections that will set the dynamics for the rest of his first term. Presidents tend to see their party suffer major setbacks in their second year in office, and in addition, Biden is saddled with a cloudy economic picture and the limits of his own popularity.

In the campaign’s closing sprint, Biden has tried to rely on a message that promotes his accomplishments — many of which will take years to be truly felt — and warns of the consequences of a GOP takeover of Congress.

Biden has tried to project resolute optimism about holding Congress, saying Friday that he feels “really good” about keeping majorities in the House and Senate. Advisers maintain that voters still broadly support the president’s agenda, even if they are down on the overall direction of the country because of inflation, gas prices and the sour tenor of political discourse.

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A key question is whether voters will give Democrats more time to deliver on promised progress — infrastructure projects in the offing, drug prices that are promised to fall, climate change plans that are years away from being fully in place. Or will they turn elsewhere in search of more immediate solutions to top-of-mind economic concerns?

It didn't help Biden's cause that West Virginia Sen. Joe Manchin chose the weekend before the election to issue a blistering condemnation of Biden's goal to eventually rein in coal energy. Manchin's rebuke was a last-minute embarrassment that risked hurting critical Democratic campaigns in neighboring Pennsylvania.

Biden's advisers insist the current political environment is far different from 2010, when Democratic candidates were hamstrung by the unpopularity of the Affordable Care Act, the Obama-era health law, and went on to lose 63 House seats and six Senate seats.

"Whether you're in Arizona or you're in Nevada, or you're in Pennsylvania, all have Democratic elected officials that are communicating to their constituents, are talking about the things that they got done for the American people that are built on President Biden's vision and what he's accomplished," White House deputy chief of staff Jen O'Malley Dillon said at a forum hosted by Axios last week. "And that is a significant difference from other midterm seasons."

In a sign of how Biden hopes his agenda may play out in time, that health law survived dozens of GOP-led repeal attempts and is now broadly popular with voters.

Cedric Richmond, the former Louisiana congressman and Biden senior aide who is now a top adviser to the Democratic National Committee, said it was important for Biden in the campaign's closing days to reinforce to voters his accomplishments.

"One of the things I think that's most important is that he continue to remind people of all the things that he's doing to keep this country going in the right direction," Richmond said. "We know there are challenges out there, but we're meeting them and we're not dividing the country."

Even as Biden says he's trying to bring the country together, he's also warning about what would happen if Republicans win control of Capitol Hill.

"If we lose the House and Senate, it's going to be a horrible two years," he said Friday at a fundraiser outside Chicago.

He argues that Republicans want to cut Social Security and Medicare, reverse Democrats' cost-lowering efforts for prescription drugs and impose a national abortion ban. "The good news is I'll have a veto pen," Biden said.

White House officials say that even if Biden hasn't personally been on the ground in some of the most contested states, he's helped set up Democrats there for success by delivering a message that echoes around the country, no matter where he's campaigning.

Advisers say Biden bears no ill will toward embattled Democratic candidates in Arizona, Nevada, New Hampshire, Ohio and Georgia who have tried to keep him at arm's length. After 50 years in public life, they say, Biden recognizes that it's often advantageous for the lawmakers to carve out their own identities distinct from the leader of their party.

Instead, Biden has turned out for lower-key, but equally competitive House races, where aides and candidates welcome the president's ability to drive local news coverage.

For Biden, that's meant more than two dozen political events to boost Democratic candidates since August, along with many ostensibly official events, such as the groundbreaking on a new technology manufacturing facility or a speech to promote plans to cut the price of insulin for older adults, that draw contrast with Republicans.

In fact, first lady Jill Biden has proved to be even more in demand than Biden in some places. She campaigned Saturday in Arizona with Sen. Mark Kelly and earlier in New Hampshire with Sen. Maggie Hassan, both in tight reelection races.

Over the summer, Democrats seized on the Supreme Court's overturning of *Roe v. Wade* in hopes of motivating women and the party's core supporters. In recent weeks he has stressed his condemnation of "mega MAGA" Republicans — short for the 2016 Trump campaign slogan, "Make America Great Again."

He also has broadened efforts to contrast his agenda with the GOP's to encompass what he views as Republican threats to democracy. That was the thrust of a speech Wednesday near the Capitol where he

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warned that some in the Republican Party were inciting political violence.

Republicans, in the closing days, have zeroed in on people's economic concerns.

"Biden's agenda has wreaked havoc on families trying to get by," Ronna McDaniel, the Republican National Committee chairwoman, said Friday. "Lower real wages, higher taxes, and out-of-control inflation have made it tougher for Americans to get ahead. In a few short days, voters will send a clear message that they have had enough of Democrats' radical agenda."

Some Democrats, already looking to cast blame ahead of the election, have been critical of Biden's messaging, arguing he should have focused more intently on reassuring Americans about soaring prices.

"I hope there's some people at the White House watching," Faiz Shakir, an adviser to Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., told MSNBC on Wednesday hours before Biden's speech. "I'd hope that they're rewriting it and focusing on cost of living."

Biden allies reject the argument, saying voters care about more than just one issue. They say abortion and the prospect of election-denying candidates help open the door to some GOP-leaning voters to go with Democrats.

Richmond, the former Biden adviser, said the president does talk about the economy and what he is doing to tackle inflation. "If a candidate can't articulate that ... that's on them."

Iowa teen who killed rapist escapes from probation center

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Iowa authorities say an 18-year-old sex trafficking victim who pleaded guilty to killing a man she said raped her escaped from a women's center where she was serving her probation sentence.

Pieper Lewis was seen walking out of the building at the Fresh Start Women's Center in Des Moines shortly after 6:15 a.m. Friday, and at some point that day her GPS monitor was cut off, according to a probation violation report.

A warrant was issued for Lewis' arrest and the probation report asked for her deferred judgment to be revoked and have her original sentence imposed, KCCI reported. She could face up to 20 years in prison.

Prosecutors had called the probation sentence she was given in September merciful for a teen who endured horrible abuse, although some questioned the \$150,000 restitution she was ordered to pay. A GoFundMe campaign raised over \$560,000 to cover the restitution and pay for her other needs.

Polk County Judge David Porter told Lewis that her probation sentence "was the second chance you asked for. You don't get a third," the Des Moines Register reported.

If Lewis had successfully completed five years of closely supervised probation her prison sentence would have been expunged.

Lewis pleaded guilty last year to involuntary manslaughter and willful injury in the June 2020 killing of 37-year-old Zachary Brooks, a married father of two. Lewis was 15 when she stabbed Brooks more than 30 times in a Des Moines apartment.

Lewis has said that she was trafficked against her will to Brooks for sex multiple times and stabbed him in a fit of rage. Police and prosecutors did not dispute that Lewis was sexually assaulted and trafficked.

The Associated Press does not typically name victims of sexual assault, but Lewis agreed to have her name used previously in stories about her case.

AP Top 25 Takeaways: Georgia now college football's standard

By RALPH D. RUSSO AP College Football Writer

Georgia has aspired to be Alabama.

Not just a national champion. The Bulldogs did that last year, going through the Crimson Tide to snap a 41-year title drought.

Georgia wants to set the standard in college football, the program that contends for national titles every season and wins them routinely.

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The old cliché goes: They don't rebuild they reload. Alabama has taken that to unprecedented levels over 15 years under Nick Saban, winning six national titles.

There is a long way for Georgia to go to match those accomplishments, but Kirby Smart's top-ranked Bulldogs have never looked more like peak Alabama than against No. 2 Tennessee on Saturday.

Georgia dominated the biggest game of the season, easily dispatching the team that just three weeks ago knocked off the Crimson Tide.

As a wild day in college football played out, Alabama lost again, toppled by Brian Kelly and No. 15 LSU in a Death Valley overtime, and Clemson was dispatched from the ranks of the unbeaten in emphatic fashion at Notre Dame. It all only served to re-enforce: It's Georgia's world now.

"We're more hungry than ever," Georgia cornerback Kelee Ringo said.

The Bulldogs smothered the highest-scoring offense in the country. Hendon Hooker, Jalin Hyatt and the Volunteers were getting comparisons to LSU's 2019 team with Joe Burrow and Ja'Marr Chase since putting 52 on Alabama.

They scored one touchdown against defensive tackle Jalen Carter, cornerback Kelee Ringo and a Bulldogs' defense that replaced five NFL first-round draft picks after last season and lost its best edge rusher, Nolan Smith, to an injury last week.

Tennessee coach Josh Heupel's offense had become a marvel across college football, with receivers running wide open with stunning regularity.

The Bulldogs turned off the fireworks.

"I slept better as the week went on, because I felt good about the plan," Smart said.

Yes, there has been a drop-off with Georgia's defense. It has gone from all-time great to merely the best in the country.

Stetson Bennett, Brock Bowers, Ladd McConkey and the offense broke off big plays early to jump out to a 21-3 lead and then — much the way Alabama used to before it transformed into a quarterback and receiver factory — it bullied the Volunteers for almost three quarters.

It might be time to start taking Bennett more seriously as a Heisman contender.

The Bulldogs spend the next two weeks on the road, at Mississippi State and Kentucky. They look as if they will cruise into another SEC championship game with a playoff spot all but locked up, no matter the outcome.

It's the time of the year when big-game results have to be looked at in the context of the CFP.

Tennessee was first last week. It won't be Tuesday. Georgia will, as the committee catches up to the AP Top 25.

Victories against Alabama and LSU should keep the Vols in the conversation as other conference races are sorted out.

But Tennessee was so thoroughly manhandled, the idea that it might make the playoff over an unbeaten team from another Power Five conference can probably be put to rest.

Of course, not many of them are left.

As for Alabama, the Crimson Tide have lost twice before Thanksgiving for the first time since 2010. Forget the playoff.

Even with Bryce Young's magic, the Tide will need a small miracle just to get back to the SEC championship game now that it is essentially two games behind LSU in the West.

"Tough loss, but there's nobody that feels worse about it than our players," Saban said.

Clemson clinched its Atlantic Coast Conference division and a spot in the championship game even before it took the field Saturday night.

Then Clemson got exposed as paper Tigers by the Irish.

"They just physically kicked our butt. Period. The end," Clemson coach Dabo Swinney said.

For the third time in the CFP era, three of the top six teams lost on the same day.

Will all those losses provide a boost for unbeaten Michigan and TCU? Can Clemson recover? It has before from November losses.

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All that jockeying is for others to worry about.

Not Georgia. Ten weeks into this college football season, the Bulldogs are without peer.

OFFENSIVE EXPLOSION

Tanner Mordecai threw seven touchdown passes and led SMU to 56 points against American Athletic Conference rival Houston — and then they played the second half.

The Mustangs and Cougars set an FBS record by combining for 140 points, the most ever in a regulation game. SMU won it with 77. The previous record was 137 set when Pitt beat Syracuse 76-61 on Nov. 26, 2016.

SMU and Houston were only six points short of matching the record of 146 points set by Texas A&M and LSU when they played seven overtimes in in 2018.

Mordecai's seven touchdown passes in the first half tied an FBS record, too. He finished with nine.

"I don't know when we get to play Houston again, so we wanted to send them back with an 'L,'" SMU coach Rhett Lashlee told reporters.

The Cougars are heading to the Big 12 next season.

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Wonder if anybody from Auburn was monitoring No. 23 Liberty's victory at Arkansas to improve the Flames' record to 8-1 and gave coach Hugh Freeze his first win at an SEC stadium since he was fired by Mississippi. Auburn could use a proven winner, but can it handle the baggage? ... Oregon's Bo Nix was a triple-threat against Colorado with touchdowns rushing, receiving and passing. As playoff and Heisman contenders ahead of them stumbled, it was a good day for the Ducks. ... Mario Cristobal's first season at Miami is turning into one of the worst in school history. Florida State handed the Hurricanes their most lopsided loss in that rivalry since 1997 and Miami has now lost four straight home games for the first time since 1973. ... The weather was miserable, but No. 2 Ohio State's inability to assert itself up front against Northwestern on either side of the ball was a bit disconcerting for a team heading toward a showdown against No. 4 Michigan. The Buckeyes did set an FBS record with 70 straight games of at least 20 points scored. ... No. 7 TCU did what TCU does, falling behind Texas Tech before surging back to a win in the fourth quarter. At some point this is going to catch up to the Frogs. TCU is 9-0 as a member of the Big 12 for the first time and heading to Texas for yet another huge conference game next week. ... Wisconsin is 3-1 since Jim Leonhard took over as head coach for the fired Paul Chryst after smothering Maryland. The Badgers still have rivalry games against Nebraska, Iowa and Minnesota, but Leonhard is not your typical interim and it might be wise to make the marriage official so he can start recruiting with no doubt about his future. ... In other coaching news: It is looking bleak at USF for third-year coach Jeff Scott after the Bulls were drubbed at Temple. Scott is now 4-26. ... Texas A&M got hit with a flu bug that left it playing short-handed against Florida, and the Gators handed the Aggies their fifth straight loss. That's A&M's longest skid since 1980. ... Virginia Tech lost its sixth straight, an awful blown fourth-quarter lead to Georgia Tech. For the Hokies, it's their longest skid since 1987 ... Kansas is going bowling for the first time since 2008. The Jayhawks snapped a three-game losing streak and grabbed win No. 6 against No. 18 Oklahoma State. ... Michigan State shook after a very bad week and upset No. 14 Illinois, making the Big Ten West race wide open. The Illini are 4-2 in conference with a game to come against Michigan. Purdue, Wisconsin, Iowa and Minnesota are all 3-3.

World in crisis a grim backdrop for UN climate talks

By FRANK JORDANS and SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, Egypt (AP) — Envoys from around the globe gathered Sunday in the Egyptian sea-side resort of Sharm el-Sheikh for talks on tackling climate change amid a multitude of competing crises, including the war in Ukraine, high inflation, food shortages and an energy crunch.

Notching up a first small victory, negotiators agreed after two frantic days of preliminary talks to formally discuss the question of vulnerable nations receiving money for the loss and damage they've suffered from climate change. The issue has weighed on the talks for years, with rich nations including the United States

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pushing back against the idea of climate reparations.

"The fact that it has been adopted as an agenda item demonstrates progress and parties taking a mature and constructive attitude towards this," said the U.N.'s top climate official, Simon Stiell.

"This is a difficult subject area. It's been floating for thirty plus years," he said. "I believe it bodes well."

The decision was also welcomed by civil society groups.

"At long last, providing funding to address losses and damages from climate impacts is on the agenda of the U.N. climate negotiations," said Ani Dasgupta, president of the World Resources Institute.

But he cautioned that participants "still have a marathon ahead of us before countries iron out a formal decision on this central issue."

German climate envoy Jennifer Morgan, who led negotiations on the issue together with Chile in the run-up to the talks, said the agreement could help negotiators also make "serious progress" on the issue of reducing emissions.

The outgoing chair of the talks, British official Alok Sharma, said countries had made considerable progress at their last meeting in Glasgow in keeping alive the goal of limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 Fahrenheit) by the end of the century.

Experts say that chances of meeting that target, agreed in the 2015 Paris climate accord, is fast slipping away though. Already, temperatures around the world have increased by about 1.2 C (2.2 F) since pre-industrial times

Sharma warned that other global crises meant international efforts to curb climate change were being "buffeted by global headwinds."

"(Russian President Vladimir) Putin's brutal and illegal war in Ukraine has precipitated multiple global crisis, energy and food insecurity, inflationary pressures and spiraling debt," said Sharma. "These crises have compounded existing climate vulnerabilities and the scarring effects of the pandemic."

"As challenging as our current moment is, inaction is myopic and can only defer climate catastrophe," said Sharma. "We must find the ability to focus on more than one thing at once."

"How many more wake up calls does the world to world leaders actually need," he said, citing recent devastating floods in Pakistan and Nigeria, and historic droughts in Europe, the United States and China.

His successor, Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry, said Egypt would "spare no effort" to make the meeting in Sharm el-Sheikh a success and achieve the goals of the Paris accord.

In an opening speech, the chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Hoesung Lee, said countries have "a once in a generation opportunity to save our planet and our livelihoods."

Cutting emissions is only part of the task, however. Scientists and campaigners say the world also needs to do more to adapt to those effects of global warming that can't be avoided anymore.

The head of the U.N. migration agency urged the international community Sunday to mobilize human and financial resources to address growing climate migration.

António Vitorino told The Associated Press that millions of people across the world "are already suffering in their daily lives because of the impacts of natural disasters and climate change."

"We are running short of time to act," Vitorino said. "The international community needs to mobilize the expertise, human resources but also the financial resources to come in to support those who are already today seriously impacted by climate change."

Vitorino, IOM's director general, said the world needs to double the \$100 billion current funding for adaptation especially in regions and communities impacted by the fast-changing climate.

"If we don't focus on solutions for the future," he said. "We will leave a dramatic humanitarian crisis in the future (that) will eat millions and millions of people in the world," he said.

More than 40,000 participants have been registered for this year's talks, reflecting the sense of urgency as major weather events around the world impact many people and cost billions of dollars in repairs. Organizers say about 110 world leaders will attend, many of them speaking at a high-level event on Nov. 7-8, while U.S. President Joe Biden was expected to arrive later in the week.

But many top figures including China's President Xi Jinping and Prime Minister Narendra Modi of India

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were not planning to come, casting doubt on whether the talks in Egypt could result in any major deals to cut emissions without two of the world's biggest polluters.

Rights groups again criticized Egypt for restricting protests and stepping up surveillance during the summit, and highlighted the case of Alaa Abdel-Fattah, a prominent imprisoned pro-democracy activist. Abdel-Fattah's aunt, award-winning novelist Ahdaf Soueif, said he went into a "full hunger strike" Sunday and stopped drinking water at 10 a.m. local time.

Powerball jackpot up to record \$1.9 billion after no winner

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — A record Powerball jackpot grew to an even larger \$1.9 billion after no one won the lottery drawing on Saturday night.

The numbers for the drawing were: white balls 28, 45, 53, 56, 69 and red Powerball 20.

The next chance for someone to get lucky will be Monday night.

The new \$1.9 billion jackpot is for a winner who is paid through an annuity over 29 years. Winners of lottery jackpots usually prefer a lump sum of cash, which for Monday's drawing would be \$929.1 million.

The Powerball prize keeps getting more massive because of the inability of anyone to overcome the long odds of 1 in 292.2 million and win the jackpot. To take the top prize, players must match all five white balls and one red Powerball.

Since someone won the prize on Aug. 3, there have been 40 drawings without a winner. That matches a record for draws without a winner, along with a run of drawings last year, according to the Clive, Iowa-based Multi-State Lottery Association.

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

Banned book lesson thrusts Oklahoma teacher into campaign

By SEAN MURPHY Associated Press Writer

NORMAN, Okla. (AP) — Summer Boismier was living her childhood dream. She grew up a bookworm, became a high school English teacher, and filled both her classroom and home with her favorite literature.

She taught her students: "Stories are what is fundamental about the human experience. We all have them."

Boismier especially loves the fantasy genre, a passion sprouted from childhood favorite "Harry Potter." But even in a world of fantasy, she couldn't have dreamed that a lesson from her English class would land her in the center of a vigorous statewide political campaign and turn her into a target for candidates and voters on social media.

Over the past two years, the nine-year teaching veteran was growing alarmed with the Republican-controlled Oklahoma Legislature's increasing efforts to restrict access to books in public schools. In her classroom, she covered some bookshelves with red butcher tape and labeled them "Books the state doesn't want you to read." She gave students a QR code link to the Brooklyn Public Library, which provides access to a variety of banned books.

She hoped to spark a discussion about the legislators' book restrictions and a new law prohibiting lessons on critical race theory and other concepts about race and gender. Instead, she was summoned to a meeting with school administrators after a parent complained.

A firestorm erupted as Boismier resigned and a reporter from a local television station covered the story. The state's Republican candidate for superintendent of public schools, Ryan Walters, wrote a letter to the State Board of Education calling for Boismier's teaching license to be revoked.

"There is no place for a teacher with a liberal political agenda in the classroom," Walters wrote in the letter he then tweeted and sent to reporters, even accusing Boismier of providing access to "pornographic material." The incident gained traction on social media, and people claimed she was part of a larger movement of teachers indoctrinating students with liberal ideology.

Boismier, 34, and other teachers have found themselves at the center of a renewed conservative interest in public education as a political issue. The movement gained steam with parents opposing mask mandates and other COVID-19 measures. It has since broadened, and some supporters focus on issues

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they say clash with conservative values — such as teaching about social justice, gender, race and history. For weeks, Boismier — a book-loving English teacher without any political aspirations — was the focus of an ugly and heated statewide campaign. People on social media called for her to be prosecuted, thrown in prison or even lynched.

“It was a little bit of a firehose of bigotry,” Boismier said.

Even after she resigned, the campaign against her continued, and she left home for a short time when someone emailed a threatening note that included her address. She called her mother in tears.

“That’s hard enough to read to yourself,” Boismier said. “It’s even harder, I think, to read that to your mother. I’m not going to lie. I was scared.”

As Oklahoma struggles to hire enough qualified teachers, those already in the jobs have increasingly found themselves the target of such conservative attacks and politicians. On the campaign stump and social media, Walters has relentlessly attacked public school teachers as liberal indoctrinators. Norman, one of Oklahoma’s most liberal cities, and Tulsa Public Schools, one of its largest districts, both have been singled out by conservative politicians. Similar attacks against schools and libraries also have proliferated across the country.

“I’ve seen the propaganda Democrats want in our schools. It’s sick,” Walters said in one of many online videos he’s posted during his campaign to lead the state’s public schools system. “I’m here to fix our schools and teach leftists a lesson.”

Walters also has leaned hard into his opposition to transgender students playing sports or using bathrooms that correspond to their gender identity. He recently suggested at a GOP gathering that all history teachers in Oklahoma should undergo patriotic education training from a private, conservative Christian college in Michigan.

But it’s not clear that Walters’ message, which helped him win the Republican primary, is resonating in deep-red Oklahoma. A Democrat hasn’t been elected to statewide office since 2006. Walters, a former classroom teacher who was tapped as secretary of education by Republican Gov. Kevin Stitt, is in a tight race with Democrat Jena Nelson, a veteran English teacher and the state’s 2020 teacher of the year.

“We need a state superintendent who believes in our public schools, elevates our teachers, not threatens to defund schools or threatens teachers,” Nelson said in a recent televised debate.

Jamie Qualls, a special education teacher at Madill Public Schools, a rural district in far south Oklahoma, said she’s a Republican who plans to vote for Nelson because she dislikes Walters’ rhetoric.

“If we could indoctrinate children, we’d have them bring a pencil to class,” Qualls said. “If we had the power to brainwash kids, we’d have them do their homework.”

For Boismier, her story has a happy ending. She found comfort in the community that rallied around her amid the attacks — some even printed yard signs, buttons and T-shirts with the QR code she shared with students. One yard sign is prominently displayed in the front lawn that can be seen from the football stadium.

Now, she’s heading to New York for a job with the Brooklyn Public Library — her first move away from Oklahoma since a brief internship in Washington after college.

Despite the controversy and roller coaster of emotions she’s experienced over the last two months, she said she’d be willing to go through it all again — she’s proud she stood up for her students and now has the opportunity to reach more young people.

“My teaching certificate may very well be on the chopping block,” she said. “But I’d do it all again with zero hesitation.

“My only regret is that I didn’t do it sooner.”

At global summits, Biden aims to assert America’s leadership

By ZEKE MILLER and SEUNG MIN KIM Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden will aim to assert America’s global leadership during his upcoming trip to Southeast Asia that will be shadowed by a verdict on his presidency after Tuesday’s elections.

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The foreign policy challenges that have helped define Biden's first two years in office — Russia's invasion of Ukraine and the increasing influence of China — will be on full display at a pair of summits in the region. Biden is preparing for a potential one-on-one meeting with a newly empowered Xi Jinping, who last month won an custom-shattering third term as China's Community Party leader.

Biden will also be confronted by global economic challenges at the Group of 20 summit, an annual gathering of leaders from the world's largest economies. He also will try to assure the nearly dozen countries that are part of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations that the United States is invested in the region at a time when China is also stepping up its influence.

The ASEAN summit is in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Bali, Indonesia, is the site of the G-20 summit.

Before that, Biden will stop in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, at the U.N. climate conference, known as COP27. Unlike last year's conference in Glasgow, Scotland, the president will arrive at this year's gathering able to point to significant achievements at home, with the August signing of legislation that will deliver the biggest investment in U.S. history to battle climate change.

A look at major themes that will dominate Biden's seven-day trip. The first stop is in Egypt on Friday.

KEEPING THE PRESSURE ON RUSSIA

More than eight months into Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Biden is facing new challenges in his efforts to isolate Moscow. Elevated energy and food prices, and concerns in Europe about supplies of those vital commodities heading into the winter are testing global resolve to support Ukraine's defense and punish Russia's aggression.

At the G-20 summit, Biden will have his first opportunities to meet with two critical new partners in that effort: British Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni.

Sunak, who took office last month after the disastrously short tenure of Liz Truss, has promised to continue his conservative predecessors' steadfast support for Ukraine. He and Biden are set to strategize on new ways to bolster Ukraine's defenses for the long haul.

Meloni has pledged to continue to provide arms and aid for Ukraine, but questions remain over her far-right coalition's commitment to stand up to Russia.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has not made public whether he plans to participate in the summit. Biden has said he has no plans to meet with Putin, but left the door open to a conversation if Putin wants to discuss a deal to free Americans imprisoned in Russia.

Biden administration officials have been coordinating with global counterparts to isolate Putin if he does decide to participate either in person, or virtually. They have discussed boycotts or other displays of condemnation.

NAVIGATING THE AUTOCRATS

Biden has spoken of a global struggle between autocracies and democracies. But increasingly he is having to rely on less-democratic leaders to further U.S. interests, from Egypt's Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, who is hosting the climate conference, to Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who has resisted U.S. pleas to curtail purchases of Russian oil.

Biden used his remarks at the United Nations in September to emphasize that the U.S. was willing to work with all nations — no matter their systems of government — to effect change.

"The United Nations Charter was not only signed by democracies of the world, it was negotiated among citizens of dozens of nations with vastly different histories and ideologies, united in their commitment to work for peace," Biden said at the time.

The administration says Biden has no plans to meet with Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, after the OPEC+ cartel embarrassed Biden by cutting production months after his July meeting with the crown prince. Biden has blasted the move as indicating that Saudi Arabia was siding with Russia.

DOMESTIC POLITICS

American voters on Tuesday will deliver a verdict on Biden's governance and two years of Democratic control of Washington. It's not clear how quickly control of the House and Senate will be known after

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Election Day. The White House has persistently sought to frame the midterms as a choice between dueling visions for the nation, rather than a referendum on Biden's time in office.

Democrats are privately bracing to lose control of at least the House. A slew of Senate races that could tip power in the 50-50 chamber are considered toss-ups. Depending on the results, Biden could embark on his overseas trip significantly weakened politically.

The most acute impact abroad from Tuesday's results in the United States could be the future of assistance to Ukraine. Though backing for aid has been broadly bipartisan, conservatives have increasingly voiced skepticism about the wisdom of continued support, as has California Rep. Kevin McCarthy, the Republican leader who is poised to become House speaker should Republicans win that chamber.

Still, some observers believed the midterm outcome, no matter the judgment, would have no significant impact on Biden's maneuvering overseas.

"These issues tend to transcend politics," said Ash Jain of the Atlantic Council, pointing to congressional support for Ukraine and bolstering U.S. competition with China. "Biden's discussions with leaders on these issues will largely be unaffected by the outcome of the election."

A MEETING WITH XI?

U.S. and Chinese officials are working out the logistics of such a meeting between the two leaders, which would be the first such in person during Biden's presidency. It could come at time when Biden may have been politically punished by U.S. voters while Xi consolidated his power during the Communist Party congress that concluded last month.

If a meeting happens, there will be no shortage of topics for Biden to raise with China, which the U.S. government now says is its most potent military and economic rival.

Tensions have been rising between the two nations over Taiwan, particularly after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's visit in August to the self-governing island and Biden's repeated remarks that the U.S. would militarily defend Taiwan if attacked by China — comments his aides have repeatedly walked back.

The matter of Trump-era trade penalties on Chinese goods also remains on the table. Biden is also likely to raise the issue of human rights abuses, particularly against the Uyghurs and other mostly Muslim minorities in the Xinjiang region. China has also refrained from publicly taking Russia to task over Ukraine, although Putin said Xi privately relayed "concern and questions" about the invasion when the two met in Uzbekistan in September.

John Kirby, a spokesman for the National Security Council, stressed on Friday that the U.S. government has never asked other countries to effectively choose between it and China, acknowledging that every nation can build relationships based on its own interests.

But "it's not going to change the fact that we continue to want to make sure we're in the best position we can to compete strategically with China and to confront the threats and challenges that China very physically, very tangibly represents — particularly in the Indo-Pacific region," Kirby added.

KEEPING UP THE MOMENTUM ON CLIMATE CHANGE

At the climate conference, Biden will spotlight one of his key domestic successes — Democrats' massive health care and climate change bill known as the Inflation Reduction Act.

The U.S. commitment of some \$375 billion over a decade to fight climate change gives Biden greater leverage to press other nations to make good on their pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition the global economy toward cleaner energy sources.

Biden will be in far different position from last year's gathering, which came about during a particularly unhappy stretch in the bill's tortuous path to passage.

That summit resulted in additional global commitments to meet the temperature targets agreed to in the Paris Climate Accord, which Biden rejoined after then-President Donald Trump pulled the U.S. from the deal. But even with the new U.S. law, America and the world have a long way to go to meet emissions targets that scientists hope will contain global warming. And the political will for more investment — as the global economy faces new headwinds — is shrinking.

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"There's a real gap in public policy reality versus the ambition that was sealed at Glasgow," said Joseph Majkut, the director of the Center for Strategic and International Studies Energy Security and Climate Change Program.

Global eagerness for shifting away from fossil fuels has been tempered by the roiling of world energy markets after Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Biden is pressing oil and gas producers to boost production to meet demand and bring down prices that have funded the Kremlin's war effort.

The prospects of a significant breakthrough are even more slim as major emitters such as China and India are sending less-senior delegations. Biden administration officials have tried to lower expectations for results at the meeting and instead cast it as a return to U.S. leadership on the issue.

Today in History: November 7, Twitter was taken public

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Nov. 7, the 311th day of 2022. There are 54 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Nov. 7, 2013, shares of Twitter went on sale to the public for the first time; by the closing bell, the social network was valued at \$31 billion. (The company would go private again in October 2022 after Elon Musk purchased the social media platform for \$44 billion.)

On this date:

In 1917, Russia's Bolshevik Revolution took place as forces led by Vladimir Ilyich Lenin overthrew the provisional government of Alexander Kerensky.

In 1940, Washington state's original Tacoma Narrows Bridge, nicknamed "Galloping Gertie," collapsed into Puget Sound during a windstorm just four months after opening to traffic.

In 1944, President Franklin D. Roosevelt won an unprecedented fourth term in office, defeating Republican Thomas E. Dewey.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon was reelected in a landslide over Democrat George McGovern.

In 1973, Congress overrode President Richard Nixon's veto of the War Powers Act, which limits a chief executive's power to wage war without congressional approval.

In 1989, L. Douglas Wilder won the governor's race in Virginia, becoming the first elected Black governor in U.S. history; David N. Dinkins was elected New York City's first Black mayor.

In 1991, basketball star Magic Johnson announced that he had tested positive for HIV, and was retiring. (Johnson would go on to play again, in the NBA and the Olympics.)

In 2001, the Bush administration targeted Osama bin Laden's multi-million-dollar financial networks, closing businesses in four states, detaining U.S. suspects and urging allies to help choke off money supplies in 40 nations.

In 2011, a jury in Los Angeles convicted Michael Jackson's doctor, Conrad Murray, of involuntary manslaughter for supplying a powerful anesthetic implicated in the entertainer's 2009 death. (Murray was sentenced to four years in prison; he served two years and was released in October 2013.)

In 2015, the leaders of China and Taiwan met for the first time since the formerly bitter Cold War foes split amid civil war 66 years earlier; Chinese President Xi Jinping and Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou hailed the meeting in Singapore as a sign of a new stability in relations.

In 2018, a gunman killed 12 people at a country music bar in Thousand Oaks, California, before apparently taking his own life as officers closed in; the victims included a man who had survived the mass shooting at a country music concert in Las Vegas.

In 2020, Democrat Joe Biden clinched victory over President Donald Trump as a win in Pennsylvania pushed Biden over the threshold of 270 Electoral College votes; the victory followed more than three days of uncertainty as election officials sorted through a surge of mail-in ballots. Trump refused to concede, threatening further legal action on ballot counting. Chanting "This isn't over!" and "Stop the steal," Trump supporters protested at state capitols across the country, echoing Trump's baseless allegations that the

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Democrats won by fraud.

Ten years ago: One day after a bruising election, President Barack Obama and Republican House Speaker John Boehner (BAY'-nur) both pledged to seek a compromise to avert looming spending cuts and tax increases that threatened to plunge the economy back into recession. A 7.4-magnitude earthquake killed at least 52 people in western Guatemala.

Five years ago: Democrats Ralph Northam in Virginia and Phil Murphy in New Jersey were the winners in their states' gubernatorial elections. President Donald Trump arrived in South Korea, saying efforts to curb the North's nuclear weapons program would be "front and center" of his two-day visit. Former star baseball pitcher Roy Halladay died when the small private plane he was flying crashed into the Gulf of Mexico; the 40-year-old was an eight-time All-Star for the Blue Jays and Phillies. Twitter said it was ending its 140-character limit on tweets and allowing nearly everyone 280 characters to get their message across.

One year ago: Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi survived an attack by armed drones on his residence in Baghdad; officials said seven of his security guards were wounded. Dean Stockwell, a former child actor who gained new success in middle age in the sci-fi series "Quantum Leap," died at 85. Eighty-three-year-old M.J. "Sunny" Eberhart of Alabama strode into the record books as the oldest hiker to complete the Appalachian Trail. John Artis, who was wrongly convicted with boxer Rubin "Hurricane" Carter in a triple murder case made famous in a song by Bob Dylan and a film, died at his Virginia home at age 75.

Today's Birthdays: Former U.S. Sen. Rudy Boschwitz of Minnesota is 92. Actor Barry Newman is 84. Actor Dakin Matthews is 82. Singer Johnny Rivers is 80. Former supermodel Jean Shrimpton is 80. Singer-songwriter Joni Mitchell is 79. Former CIA Director David Petraeus is 70. Jazz singer Rene Marie is 67. Actor Christopher Knight (TV: "The Brady Bunch") is 65. Rock musician Tommy Thayer (KISS) is 62. Actor Julie Pinson is 55. Rock musician Greg Tribbett (Mudvayne) is 54. Actor Michelle Clunie is 53. Documentary filmmaker Morgan Spurlock is 52. Actor Christopher Daniel Barnes is 50. Actors Jeremy and Jason London are 50. Actor Yunjin Kim is 49. Actor Adam DeVine is 39. Rock musician Zach Myers (Shinedown) is 39. Actor Lucas Neff is 37. Rapper Tinie (TY'-nee) Tempah is 34. Rock singer Lorde is 26.