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### **Groton Community Calendar**Monday, April 10

City Hall Closed

Senior Menu: Hamburger cabbage roll hot dish, corn, pears, muffins.

School Breakfast: Cereal.

School Lunch: Chicken and dumpling soup. Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: PEO meeting (outside group), 7 p.m.

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

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

#### Tuesday, April 11

Groton Career Development Event City Council Meeting, 7 p.m., City Hall

Senior Menu: Pork cutlet, creamy noodles, mixed vegetables, blushing pears, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: French toast.

School Lunch: Lasagna hot dish, corn.

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

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Council, 7 p.m. United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

CANCELLED: Groton Area Track Meet, 11 a.m.

#### Wednesday, April 12

Chamber Meeting, noon, at City Hall

Senior Menu: Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy, broccoli, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.

School Breakfast: Egg omelets.

School Lunch: Nachos.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Confirmation, 6 p.m. St. John's Lutheran: Bible Study, 2:45 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Book Study with Lindsey Tietz, 4 p.m.; Confirmation, 4 p.m.

**OPEN:** Recycling Trailer in Groton

Groton Daily Independent
PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445
Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460
The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.
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### Weekly Vikings Recap - Trading up in the draft By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

It was another quiet week for the Minnesota Vikings as the team prepares for the NFL draft in a few weeks. Therefore, let's continue looking at the possible moves the Vikings may make in the draft. This week we will look at whether the Vikings should trade up in the draft, specifically for a quarterback.

Currently, the Vikings are slated to pick 23rd in the first round in this year's draft, which is not a prime spot to be in for a team looking to draft a franchise quarterback. Throughout the last five years, the NFL's outlook on drafting quarterbacks has completely changed. In the early 2000s teams like the Baltimore Ravens and Tampa Bay Buccaneers were able to win Super Bowls with below-average quarterbacks. With the change in rules, it is now rare to see a team win a Super Bowl without having a top-tier quarterback. Because of this evolution of the superstar quarterback, more quarterbacks are getting taken in the top half of the first round of the draft. For example, in both the 2018 and 2021 NFL drafts, five quarterbacks were taken in the first 15 picks in each draft.

In this year's draft, there are currently four quarterbacks who are being labeled as potential franchise quarterbacks. Ohio State's CJ Stroud and Alabama's Bryce Young already seem to be locked in to go in the first and second pick of the draft. That leaves Kentucky's Will Levis and Florida's Anthony Richardson, two quarterbacks who have unbelievable arm strength and size but come with major questions about their accuracy and ability to read defenses.

If the Vikings were to acquire either Richardson or Levis, they would likely need to trade up to around the top ten picks as neither quarterback will likely be available by the time the Vikings pick at 23. The question then becomes how much the Vikings will need to give up in draft capital to move up that high in the first round.

Since 2017, there have been a few instances of teams trading up from the 20s to take a quarterback in the early part of the draft. In the 2017 draft, the Kansas City Chiefs traded up from 27 to take Patrick Mahomes 10th overall and the Houston Texans traded up from 25 to take Deshaun Watson 12th overall. And in the 2021 draft, the Chicago Bears traded up from 20 to take Justin Fields 11th overall. In all three of these trades, the teams gave up multiple picks, including their first-round pick in the following year's

draft to move up. The Vikings would likely have to do the same.

The issue with trading up for the Vikings is that they might not have enough draft capital left if they were to do so. Currently, the Vikings are only have five picks in this year's draft, and a trade-up in the first round would reduce that number even more. It would be an extremely risky move for the Vikings' general manager, Kwesi Adofo-Mensah. Not only would the Vikings be going "allin" on whatever quarterback they traded up for, but Adofo-Mensah would possibly be putting his job on the line. However, with how important it is to draft a superstar quarterback in the current NFL, it might be the type of risky move the Vikings need to make to compete for Super Bowls in the future.



Effective the week of April 10th, to help preserve our streets, Groton residents are asked to bring their garbage to the following locations until further notice:

- → Railroad Avenue, Main Street, Sixth Street, & Highway 37
- → Residents of the Broadway Mobile Home Park need to take their garbage to Highway 37.
- → Residents north of 13th Avenue (Olson and Jacobson Development) need to bring their garbage to the Bus Barns.

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#### "I Can See Clearly Now"

Johnny Nash may have started his song with "I can see clearly now, the rain has gone," but what about someone with cataracts. They cannot easily see "all the obstacles in their way", and there are not "dark clouds that make you blind" like in the song, but cataracts do cause vision clouding.

Prairie Doc.



Based on Science, Built on Trust

Jill Kruse, DO

Cataracts is the name given to the clouding of the lenses in the eyes. These lenses allow light to pass through the

eye to the retina, where the signal is sent to the brain so we can perceive the world around us. Common symptoms of cataracts include blurred, clouded, or dimmed vision. They can also make it more difficult to see at night or cause "halos" around lights.

While anyone can develop cataracts, it is most common as people age, with over 50% of people over the age of 80 having cataracts. However, there are some infants who are born with cataracts due to genetic issues, trauma or infection prior to birth. Most commonly cataracts develop due to age related changes as the proteins and fibers that create the lenses of the eye break down or clump together causing clouding of the lenses.

Because cataracts typically develop slowly over time, the effects may not be obvious until the progression is advanced. While it is common for cataracts to affect both eyes, often one eye progresses faster or is worse than the other. Cataracts can also affect different areas of the eyes. The area affected will result in different problems with vision. Cataracts affecting the center of the lenses may cause issues with reading or yellowing of vision. While cataracts at the edges of the lenses causes issues with judging distance, difficulty differentiating colors, and can cause double vision in the affected eye. The last type of cataracts is when the back of the lenses are affected reducing vision in bright light and making reading difficult. This type also tends to be faster growing than other types of cataracts.

Factors that can increase the risk of developing cataracts include modifiable and unmodifiable things. Factors that you can change include excessive exposure to bright sunlight, excessive alcohol use, smoking, obesity, and prolonged use of corticosteroid medications. While age is the only truly unmodifiable factor; diabetes, previous eye injuries or surgeries, and high blood pressure can be controlled.

The most common treatment for cataracts is surgery. This surgery involves removing the clouded lens and replacing it with a clear, artificial lens. Once placed, these lenses are permanently left in the eye. This is generally an outpatient surgery, meaning you do not need to spend the night in the hospital. The procedure is relatively quick with low risk of complications. Most people heal within a few weeks. Afterwards you can enjoy "that rainbow that you've been praying for" and enjoy every "bright, bright, sunshiny day!"

Jill Kruse, D.O. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices as a hospitalist in Brookings, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairiedoc.org and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show providing health information based on science, built on trust, broadcast on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

### Groton Daily Robotics

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### **Groton Robotic seniors travel down to national tournament in Council Bluffs, Iowa**

Gear Head (9050B)-Seniors Jackson Dinger and Ethan Clark, with support builder Garrett Schultz traveled to Council Bluffs, Iowa to compete in the Create US Open Friday, March 31st and Saturday, April 1st. They competed with 31 teams from all over the United States. The Create US Open game is different than what they had been playing all year, using the same game elements and field but different scoring rules. The team had two weeks to learn a new set of rules, modify/rebuild and reprogram their existing robot to fit the criteria of the new game. Gear Heads participated in this event last year and decided to take on the challenge again. The decision was made by Jack and Ethan to invite Garrett Schultz to help out with building. Out of 31 teams Gear Heads was ranked 11th going in the tournament finishing 4th.

This concludes the 2022-2023 Robotic season for the teams. The new game will be released in a few weeks, teams will regroup and start building for next years game starting this summer.

On a personal note, I will be passing on the robotic jump drive and handing over my files to Melissa Schultz our new 'Robotic Mom' and all tasks assigned! It has been an incredible journey, many laughs and memories on our tournament adventures across the state. A wonderful group of parents and phenomenal kids!

Thank you to the Groton Community for supporting these kids! Laura Clark-Groton Robotics Board Member



Gear Heads (I-r) Support builder-Garrett Schultz. Seniors- Ethan Clark and Jackson Dinger. (submitted by Robotic Parents)



Ethan and Garrett getting 9050B ready for a match. (submitted by Robotic Parents)

### Groton Daily Robotics

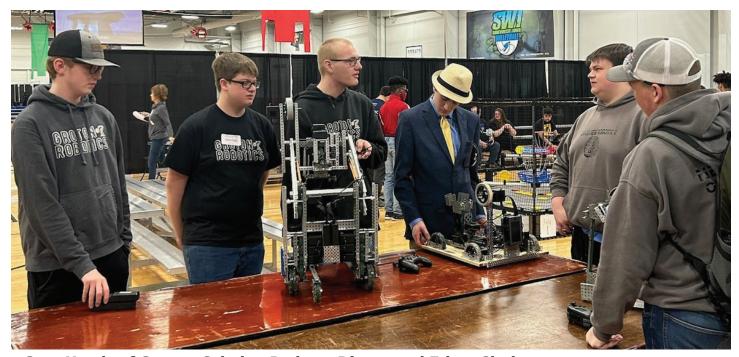
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**Seniors-Ethan Clark and Jackson Dinger.** (Courtesy Weston Dinger)



Ethan and Jackson waiting for points to be tallied after a match. (submitted by Robotic Parents)



Gear Heads of Garrett Schultz, Jackson Dinger and Ethan Clark. (submitted by Robotic Parents)

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# GDILIVE.COM

#### **GROTON AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT #06-6**

School Board Meeting April 10, 2023 – 7:00 PM – GHS Library Conference Room

1. Call to Order with members present. Approve agenda as proposed or amended.

#### POTENTIAL CONFLICTS DISCLOSURE PURSUANT SDCL 23-3 CONSENT AGENDA:

- 1. Approval of March 2023 District bills for payment.
- 2. Approval of minutes of March 13, 2023 and March 27, 2023 school board meetings.

#### **OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

- 1. Open Forum for Public Participation...in accordance with Board Policy & Guidelines.
- 2. Approval of March 2023 Financial Report, Agency Accounts, and Investments.
- 3. Approval of March 2023 School Lunch Report.
- 4. Approval of March 2023 School Transportation Report.
- 5. Administrative Reports: (a) Superintendent's Report; (b) Principal's Reports; (c) Business Manager Report

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Approve District Membership Agreement for North Central Special Education Cooperative.
- 2. Consider Resolution Approving Amendment to ASBSD Protective Trust Joint Powers Agreement and ByLaws.
  - 3. Consider ASBSD Protective Trust Worker's Compensation Renewal Motion.
  - 4. Executive session pursuant SDCL 1-25-2(1) personnel and SDCL 1-25-2(4) negotiations.

#### **ADJOURN**

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# **EARTHTALK**

Dear EarthTalk: What is "red tide" and is it caused by pollution or human activity?

-- Tamara G., Los Angeles, CA

Red tide is a phenomenon that occurs when algae in the ocean reproduce rapidly and create a large concentration of red pigments in the water, giving it a reddish-brown hue. These algae, also known as harmful algal blooms (HABs), can produce toxins that are harmful to marine life, including fish, shellfish, and mammals like dolphins and whales. Red tides can also pose a threat to human health if people consume contaminated seafood or come into contact with the water.



Red tide may be a naturally occurring phenomenon, but it is likely exacerbated by all the pollution and fertilizer flowing off our land. Credit:

Han Lei Photo, FlickrCC.

According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), red tides are a natural occurrence that happens in coastal waters all over the world. They can be caused by a variety of factors, including changes in water temperature, salinity and nutrient levels. However, some human activities, such as pollution and nutrient runoff from fertilizers, can exacerbate the growth of harmful algae and contribute to the frequency and severity of red tide events.

One of the primary nutrients that can contribute to red tide is nitrogen, which is commonly found in fertilizers and sewage. As Dr. David Anderson, a researcher at the University of Wisconsin-Madison who studies harmful algal blooms, explains, "when excess nutrients, especially nitrogen, are added to coastal waters from sources like sewage treatment plants and agricultural runoff, they can trigger explosive growth of certain algae species that produce toxins."

In addition to nutrient pollution, other human activities can contribute to the spread of harmful algal blooms. For example, boats and ships can carry invasive species of algae and other marine organisms from one area to another, which can disrupt the balance of the local ecosystem and create conditions that are favorable for red tides to occur. According to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, human activities that can increase the likelihood and severity of red tide include nutrient pollution, shoreline development that alters water flow, and the release of exotic species.

While red tide is a natural phenomenon, it is clear that human activities can contribute to its frequency and severity. To mitigate the impact of harmful algal blooms on marine life and human health, it is important to reduce nutrient pollution and other forms of environmental degradation that can contribute to the growth of harmful algae. As Dr. Anderson notes, "reducing nutrient pollution is key to mitigating the impact of harmful algal blooms, and we need to do more to address this problem."

If you come into contact with red tide contaminated water, you could develop skin irritation on affected body parts and/or a cough/congestion due to breathing in contaminated fumes. Experts recommend washing off with soap and warm water and heading inside to an air-conditioned space. And if you eat shellfish affected by red tide's "brevotoxins" you could come down with Neurotoxic Shellfish Poisoning which can lead to gastrointestinal problems and a reversal of hot and cold sensitivity—if you are worried about something you ate and encounter any of these symptoms, seek medical help ASAP.

<sup>•</sup> EarthTalk® is produced by Roddy Scheer & Doug Moss for the 501(c)3 nonprofit EarthTalk. See more at https://emagazine.com. To donate, visit https://earthtalk.org. Send questions to: question@earthtalk.org.

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### SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

https://southdakotasearchlight.com

# Congressional Roundup: Johnson bill supports hospitals serving low-income patients

Rounds reintroduces legislation on wetlands and mental health BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - APRIL 9, 2023 7:00 AM

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the latest installment in a series of periodic updates on the activities of South Dakota's congressional delegation.

Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-South Dakota, introduced a bill last week that would prevent discrimination against health care providers or pharmacies that participate in a federal discount drug-pricing program.

The 340B program allows certain health care facilities, such as hospitals that serve low-income patients, to purchase prescription drugs at a discounted price. Johnson's bill would prohibit insurance companies and pharmacy benefit managers from discriminating against 340B participants, ensuring they are not excluded from insurance networks or penalized because they participate in the program.

"340B is an essential program for rural and low-income hospitals and patients," Johnson said



U.S. Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-South Dakota, attends a February 2023 congressional committee hearing in Washington, D.C. (Rep.

Dusty Johnson/Twitter)

in a news release. "South Dakotans rely on this program to access affordable drugs and medicines they need."

#### Wetlands and 'bureaucratic overreach'

Sen. Mike Rounds, R-South Dakota, reintroduced the NRCS Wetland Compliance and Appeals Reform Act, a bill that addresses the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) within the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The act aims to protect farmers, ranchers and landowners from what Rounds called the "bureaucratic overreach of the NRCS" and empower producers to continue managing their land as they see fit.

"South Dakota's farmers, ranchers and landowners know their land better than anyone else," Rounds

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said in a news release.

The bill has been endorsed by the American Farm Bureau Federation and South Dakota Farmers Union. Conservation groups dislike a number of provisions, including one to prohibit farmers and the government from entering into permanent easement agreements, and another placing the burden of proof on the NRCS to prove a landowner has improperly drained a wetland, rather than placing the burden on the landowner to prove innocence.

#### Rural mental health

Rounds also reintroduced legislation that seeks to expand mental health and substance abuse services to rural areas and the farming, forestry and fishing industries.

The Home-Based Telemental Health Care Act of 2023 would create a grant program to help health providers offer telemental health services to people who may not have easy access to health care facilities. The legislation would authorize up to \$10 million in grants for each fiscal year through 2027.

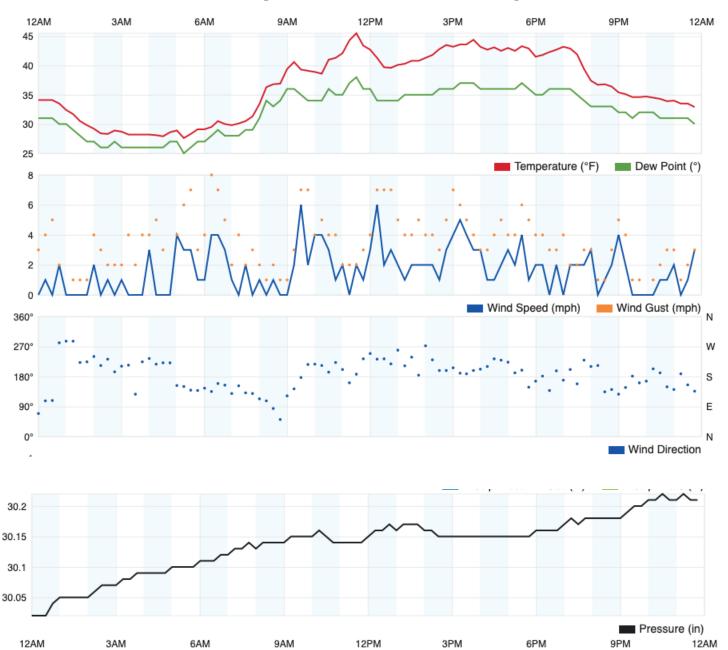
"Not only does this save time and resources, it provides an important mental health service for our farmers and ranchers, who for years have suffered economically due to challenging weather, trade disputes and price disparities," Rounds said in a news release.

The state's three major health care organizations and multiple agricultural organizations said the act would help South Dakotans in rural areas receive quality care from the comfort of their homes, saving time and resources.

Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked for five years as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

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#### **Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs**



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Today Tonight Tuesday Tuesday Wednesday Wednesday Thursday Night Patchy Fog Partly Cloudy Mostly Sunny Mostly Clear Sunny Chance Rain Chance Rain then Sunny then Patchy then Sunny and Breezy and Breezy Fog and Breezy High: 48 °F Low: 32 °F High: 57 °F Low: 38 °F High: 54 °F Low: 34 °F High: 46 °F



A mild to warm stretch of weather is anticipated across central and northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota through midweek. Temperatures will be the warmest in snow-free areas and coolest across locales that still have snow cover. Warm temps combined with gusty winds will elevate fire weather conditions on Tuesday in snow-free areas of south central South Dakota. The continued snow melt across northeast South Dakota and west central Minnesota will continue to lead to heightened concerns for river flooding in the Big Sioux and James River Valleys.

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#### Yesterday's Groton Weather High Temp: 46 °F at 11:24 AM

High Temp: 46 °F at 11:24 AM Low Temp: 28 °F at 5:09 AM Wind: 10 mph at 5:02 AM

**Precip:** : 0.00

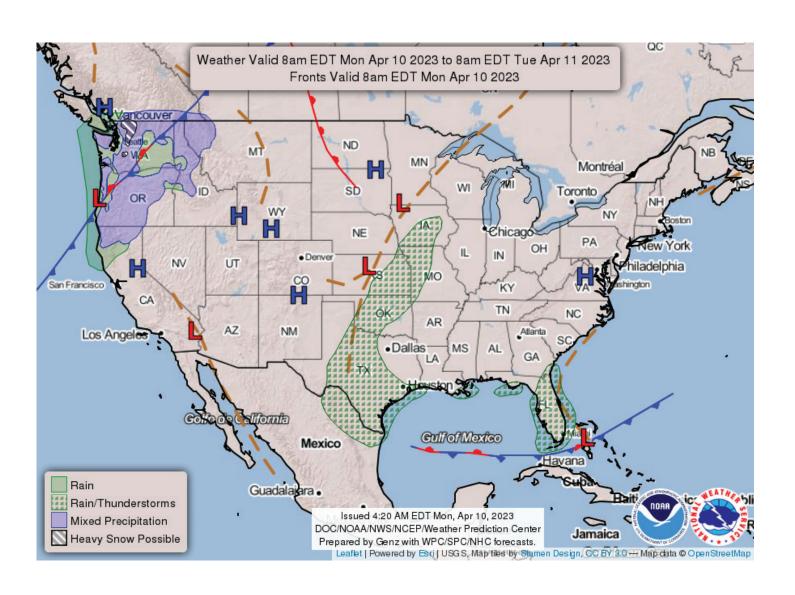
Day length: 13 hours, 18 minutes

#### **Today's Info** Record High: 88 in 1977

Record High: 88 in 1977 Record Low: 16 in 1997 Average High: 55

Average Low: 29

Average Precip in April.: 0.46 Precip to date in April.: 0.48 Average Precip to date: 2.52 Precip Year to Date: 4.41 Sunset Tonight: 8:13:11 PM Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:52:23 AM



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#### **Today in Weather History**

April 10, 1965: Severe Thunderstorms in the afternoon and early evening resulted in severe hail reports throughout much of Clark County. Hail up to 2.00 inches in diameter was recorded 30 miles northeast of Huron around 2:40 PM. About 6:30 PM, hail 0.75 inches in diameter fell near Garden City on a flock of wild geese in flight, killing 25 of them.

April 10, 1969: The Elm River in Westport was the highest of all time at 22.11 feet, which is 8.11 feet above flood stage.

April 10, 2005: Thunderstorm winds caused widespread damage in Menno, in Hutchinson County. Numerous trees including several large trees were uprooted. Numerous homes were damaged, some directly by the wind and others by trees and other debris. Garages were especially hard hit, including at least one garage which was destroyed. A grain elevator was damaged, with a catwalk and conveyor being blown over. A historical post office addition to a log building was destroyed, doors and part of the roof of a flour mill were blown down, and doors were blown off several other buildings. Many homes and other buildings had windows broken and siding damaged. A few small storage buildings were destroyed, and others were damaged or blown over. Several farms were heavily damaged, with machine sheds, at least, one hog barn, and several other small structures destroyed. Several vehicles were damaged, including one pickup which was pushed partly onto the porch of a house. Power lines and poles were blown down, resulting in a power outage in Menno.

April 10, 2013: A large slow-moving upper-level low-pressure area moving across the region brought several rounds of heavy snow to much of central and northeast South Dakota. Snowfall amounts from 6 to as much as 22 inches occurred over the several day periods. Travel became difficult if not impossible with some roads closed for a time. Interstate-90 closed on the evening of the 9th. Many schools were also closed across the region. Additionally, a 66-year-old suffered a heart attack and passed away while shoveling the snow in front of his house in Aberdeen.

1894 - A heavy late season snow blanketed parts of the northeastern U.S. Heavier snowfall totals included 31.5 inches at Salem Corners PA, 30 inches at LeRoy NY, 26 inches at York PA, 14 inches at Waterbury CT, and 9 inches at Providence RI. (The Weather Channel)

1935: Severe dust storms across Iowa and Kansas closed schools and highways. Dodge City, Kansas experienced its worst dust storm of record, with dense dust reported from the morning of the 9th until after sunset on the 11th. The sky was almost as dark as night at times during the daylight hours. The thick dust suspended traffic on highways and railroads and also suspended most business in town.

1979: This day was known as "Terrible Tuesday" to the residents of Wichita Falls, Texas as a tornado rated F4 on the Fujita scale ripped through the city. A massive F4 tornado smashed into Wichita Falls killing 43 persons and causing 300 million dollars in damage. Another tornado struck Vernon, Texas killing eleven persons.

1987 - Blustery northwest winds prevailed across the Northern Plains Region. Winds in Wyoming gusted to 65 mph. Temperatures in North Dakota were only in the 20s and 30s, following afternoon highs in the 70s the previous day. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the western U.S. Eleven cities reported new record high temperatures for the date, including Bakersfield CA with a reading of 95 degrees, their warmest for so early in the season. Pocatello ID warmed from a record low of 19 above to an afternoon high of 63 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Strong northerly winds, gusting to 53 mph at Albuquerque, NM, ushered cold arctic air into the south central U.S. The temperature at Albuquerque plunged from 82 degrees to 29 degrees overnight. Thirty-three cities in the central U.S. reported record low temperatures for the date, including Goodland KS with a reading of 4 degrees above zero. (The National Weather Summary)

2005 - Heavy snow affected the Colorado Rockies during April 10-11, as up to 30 inches of snow affected the mountains around Denver. In the Denver metro area, 10-15 inches of snow accumulated.

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#### THE MOST OF THE MOMENT

A soldier who served in Vietnam was assigned the duty to meet a senator at the airport near his command. It was his responsibility to see that he was taken safely to the office of the commanding general.

As they walked to the car, the soldier stopped to help an elderly woman who was having difficulty carrying her luggage. After a few more steps, he picked up some items that had fallen from the arms of a mother who was having a problem with her child. Then he picked up a child that had tripped and fallen down.

Impressed, the senator asked, "Who taught you to be so kind and gentle and helpful?"

Quickly, and without hesitation, the soldier replied, "During my tour of duty in Vietnam, Sir, it was my duty to clear the fields of mines. I never knew if my next step would be my last. So, I learned then and there to get everything I could out of every moment I had."

Twice the Apostle Paul said in his writings, "Make the most of every opportunity." He challenged the early Christians to be alert and aware of the people God brought into their lives. He wanted to impress them with the fact that whatever time we have to present His plan of salvation to others is limited and that opportunities to witness once gone will never return.

We too are obligated to accept this challenge. When time is gone, it is gone forever!

Prayer: Help us, Father, to realize the shortness of life, the length of eternity, and our responsibility to be faithful witnesses. Empower us to share! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. Ephesians 5:16



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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#### **2023 Community Events**

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)

01/31/2023-02/03/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Drop Off 6-9pm, Community Center

02/04/2023-02/05/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Sale 1-5pm, Community Center

02/25/2023 Littles and Me, Art Making 10-11:30am, Wage Memorial Library

03/25/2023 Spring Vendor Fair, 10am-3pm, Community Center

04/01/2023 Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39 6-11:30pm

04/06/2023 Groton Career Development Event

04/08/2023 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)

06/16/2023 SDSU Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament

07/04/2023 Couples Firecracker Golf Tournament

07/09/2023 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)

07/26/2023 GGA Burger Fundraiser Lunch at Olive Grove Golf Course

08/04/2023 Wine on Nine 6pm

08/11/2023 GHS Basketball Golf Tournament

09/09/2023 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)

09/10/2023 Couples Sunflower Golf Tournament

10/14/2023 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm

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)

12/02/2023 Tour of Homes & Holiday Party

12/09/2023 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9-11am

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9	Subscript	ion For	m

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#### **WINNING NUMBERS**

#### **MEGA MILLIONS**

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.07.23



MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 49 DRAW: Mins 15 Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

#### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

04.08.23



All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

16 Hrs 49 Mins 15 NEXT DRAW: Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

#### **LUCKY FOR LIFE**

WINNING NUMBERS:

04.09.23











TOP PRIZE:

16 Hrs 19 Mins 15 NEXT DRAW: Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

#### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.08.23













NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

NEXT 2 Days 16 Hrs 49 Mins 14 Secs DRAW:

PREVIOUS RESULTS

#### **POWERBALL**

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS: 04.08.23













TOP PRIZE:

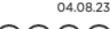
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16 Hrs 48 Mins 14 DRAW: Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

#### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:











Power Play: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

i 192.000.000

NEXT 16 Hrs 48 Mins 15 DRAW: Secs

PREVIOUS RESULTS

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### News from the App Associated Press

#### Lebanon still proxy battleground, 50 years after Israel raid

By BASSEM MROUE Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — It was a cold night 50 years ago when an Israeli commando team led by a man disguised as a woman infiltrated a posh Beirut neighborhood and shot and killed three top officials from the Palestine Liberation Organization in their apartments.

The anniversary is little noted, but the April 10, 1973 operation has a relevance that continues today.

The raid was one of the first times that Lebanon became the arena where Israel and its opponents would settle their accounts. Fifty years later, it remains so, as highlighted by last week's exchange of rocket fire and airstrikes across the border between Israel and Palestinian militant groups in Lebanon.

The boldness of the assassinations — by an Israeli team slipping in and out of Beirut with little resistance — stunned the Lebanese. At the time, two years before civil war erupted, their country was mainly known as a tourist attraction where visitors came to party, visit archaeological sites, ski on snow-capped mountains or sunbathe on sandy beaches. It signaled a new era that has lasted to this day, one in which regional powers have repeatedly intervened in Lebanon.

The raid was led by Ehud Barak, who later became Israel's top army commander and then, in 1999, prime minister. Its targets were Kamal Adwan, in charge of PLO operations in the Israeli-occupied West Bank; Mohammed Youssef Najjar, a member of the PLO's executive committee; and Kamal Nasser, a PLO spokesman and a charismatic writer and poet.

On the night of April 9, 1973, Adwan's wife Maha Jayousi was suffering from a toothache and went to bed in the room of their young children. Adwan usually worked late and had a planned meeting with some PLO officials that night, said Jayousi, describing that night to The Associated Press. She spoke from Jordan, where she has lived since the raid.

Around 1 a.m. she was woken up by a strong sound and the shattering of the window above her bed. Adwan rushed into the bedroom carrying a gun and told her to stay in the room. Seconds later, shots rang out and Adwan fell dead in the corridor between the bedrooms. Two armed men came into the bedroom and shined a torch on Jayousi and the children.

One of them said into his radio in Hebrew, "Mission accomplished. His wife and children are here, should we kill them too?" The reply came back, "If they don't resist, don't kill them," recalled Jayousi, who had studied Hebrew at Cairo University.

When the Israelis left, she rushed the children into a bathroom to hide, then looked around her home. The main entrance was broken wide open and riddled with bullet holes, and there were bloodstains on the stairs. She didn't know at first that the team had also killed Nasser, who lived one floor above them.

Jayousi went to her balcony and shouted to Najjar, who lived in the building across the alley — not realizing that Najjar and his wife had also been killed. Jayousi said that weeks before the raid, she had noticed unknown people coming to their building's parking area and that people across the street were taking pictures of their building. She said Adwan was concerned and told her he would ask for protection to be boosted.

The raid, known as Operation Spring of Youth, killed the three PLO officials as well as several Lebanese policemen and guards who responded to the assault. Two Israeli commandos on a separate team died after being wounded in a gunfight as they attacked another target in Beirut.

The operation was part of a string of Israeli assassinations of Palestinian figures in retaliation for the killings of 11 Israeli coaches and athletes at the 1972 Munich Olympics during a hostage-taking by the Palestinian group Black September. Adwan's son, Rami, later said his father had nothing to do with the attack in Munich.

Years later, Barak described the operation, saying that he and two other commandos were dressed as women with wigs and makeup so the team would attract less attention than a group of men walking

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along a Beirut street at night.

The Israelis landed on Beirut's coast in boats and were met by Mossad agents, posing as tourists, who drove them to the neighborhood of Verdun.

There, three squads slipped into the two buildings and blew open the apartment doors, while Barak and a back-up team stood outside. They killed a guard who approached them and opened fire at a Lebanese police vehicle that responded to the shootings, Barak said in a television interview years later.

Barak said after eight minutes, the three squads returned, drove back to the shore and headed out to sea on the boats. The team made off with documents that led to arrests of PLO operatives in the West Bank.

Days after the killings, over 100,000 people took part in the funeral of the three leaders, who were buried at the "Martyrs Cemetery" where scores of Palestinian officials and fighters were laid to rest over the years.

The raid stoked already enflamed divisions among Lebanese between supporters and opponents of the PLO and other Palestinian factions. The Palestinian groups had adopted Lebanon as their base in 1970, relocating there after being expelled from Jordan and three years after Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem. From Lebanon, they were staging attacks inside Israel.

The ensuing political crisis led to the resignation of Lebanon's then-Prime Minister Saeb Salam's government. Less than a month later, clashes erupted between the Lebanese army and Palestinian guerillas. Those divisions were one factor that pushed Lebanon into its 1975-1990 civil war — during which Israel invaded and occupied part of the country until withdrawing in 2000.

Since the end of the civil war, the Iranian-backed Shiite militant group Hezbollah stepped in as Israel's main adversary in Lebanon. A 2006 war between Israel and Hezbollah wreaked heavy destruction in Lebanon, especially in the south.

Palestinian factions also still have a presence. Israel blamed the Palestinian militant group Hamas for a volley of rockets into its territory last week — apparently a response to Israeli police raids on the Al-Aqsa Mosque, a major shrine built on a hilltop revered by Muslims and Jews.

After Israel's retaliation with airstrikes in Lebanon on Friday, some of the same Lebanese politicians who were bitter enemies of Palestinian fighters in the past denounced Hamas.

Samir Geagea, whose Christian Lebanese Forces often battled Palestinian fighters in the civil war, demanded the government ensure peace at the border. He also urged against leaving "strategic decision-making to the Iran-led alliance," a reference to Hezbollah and Hamas. Fouad Abu Nader, another former Lebanese Forces commander, called for the arrest of the Hamas leader.

The wars and conflicts of the past 50 years have overshadowed memories of the 1973 raid, but it still stands out as a stunning moment.

Lebanese writer Ziad Kaj lived nearby in Verdun and was 9 years old when the raid took place. He said he remembers the shock as shooting rang out and electricity was cut. Many of the people in his building took shelter in his family's apartment on the ground floor.

"It was a horrible sleepless night that still echoes in my head," Kaj said.

#### Baltimore mayor calls for 'youth curfew' after 2 teens shot

BALTIMORE (AP) — The mayor of Baltimore called for a summer curfew after two teenagers were shot while police were attempting to break up a large crowd of minors.

A 14-year-old and a 16-year-old were shot and wounded as police attempted to break up fights among a crowd of more than 200 teenagers gathered at the city's Inner Harbor area around 9 p.m. Sunday, WBAL-TV reported.

One of the victims was in critical condition and the other was stable, WBAL reported.

Two suspects were arrested, police said, including one with a loaded gun who matched a description of the shooter and another who was found with a loaded gun in a police garage, WBAL reported.

Following the shooting, Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott announced his intention to implement a 9 p.m. curfew for anyone 14 years and younger and 10 p.m. for those younger than 17 during the forthcoming summer months, WJZ-TV reported.

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"I want everyone to hear me and hear me clearly," Scott said. "We are going back to the old days. We will be enforcing a youth curfew as we move into the latter spring and summer months."

Scott has seen young children away from their homes at night too often, he said.

"It's not just about making sure we are getting them off the street, but making sure that we are supporting them and figuring out what's going on with them and their families," Scott said. "It is not normal for person to be that far away from their home and no one knows where they are or cares for them."

#### Palestinian teen killed in army raid as settlers hold march

By ILAN BEN ZION Associated Press

JÉRUSALEM (AP) — The Palestinian Health Ministry said a 15-year-old boy was killed by Israeli fire during an army raid in the occupied West Bank on Monday. The shooting came as thousands of Israelis led by at least seven Cabinet ministers marched to an evacuated settlement in the territory.

The march was a defiant signal that Israel's most right-wing government in history is determined to accelerate settlement building on occupied lands despite international opposition. It also poses a new test for Israel's security forces after days of unrest fueled by tensions over a contested Jerusalem holy site.

Israeli police and army forces were being deployed to the northern West Bank — the scene of frequent tensions in recent months — to secure the march, which comes after days of fighting in Jerusalem and along Israel's northern and southern fronts.

The demonstration added to the already combustible atmosphere in Jerusalem and the occupied West Bank that has accompanied the overlapping of major Jewish and Muslim holy days. Tensions between Israelis and Palestinians have reached a fever pitch in recent weeks surrounding the Jerusalem shrine.

The Israeli army said its troops were operating in the Aqabat Jabar refugee camp next to Jericho in the West Bank. The Palestinian Health Ministry said 15-year-old Mohammed Balhan was killed by army fire.

The army did not immediately respond to request for comment about the incident.

The march to Eviatar, an unauthorized settlement outpost in the northern West Bank that was evacuated by the previous Israeli government in 2021, was being led by hard-line ultranationalist Jewish settlers. Organizers are calling for the settlement's reestablishment and legalization.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu heads the most religious and ultranationalist government in Israel's history. Several members of his Cabinet, including Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich and National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir — both West Bank settlers — and at least 20 members of Knesset were expected to take part in the march.

Visits to Eviatar were officially banned by the military since its evacuation, but that prohibition has been loosely enforced in recent months. Israeli army spokesman Lt. Col. Richard Hecht said the military approved Monday's march, saying it would be "highly monitored and highly protected."

Ohad Tal, a lawmaker with the Religious Zionist party, said that "there was no reason in the world to cancel the march."

"We need to send a message — the message that we don't intend to concede and we are here to stay," he told Army Radio.

Tensions between Israel and the Palestinians have soared following last week's police raid on Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque compound during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

The hilltop shrine is the emotional ground zero of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. For Jews, it is known as the Temple Mount, their faith's holiest site and the place where two temples stood in antiquity. For Muslims, it is known as the Noble Sanctuary, home of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third holiest site in Islam.

Dozens of Jewish visitors entered the site on Monday escorted by Israeli police for a second consecutive day. These tours by religious and nationalist Jews have increased in size and frequency in recent years, raising fears by Palestinians that Israel may partition the site. Israel insists it has no intention of changing the longstanding arrangement that permits Jewish visits, but not worship, at the Muslim-administered shrine.

Last week, Palestinians barricaded themselves inside Al-Aqsa with stones and firecrackers, demanding the right to pray there overnight, something Israel has in the past only allowed during the last 10 days of

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Ramadan. Police removed them by force, detaining hundreds and leaving dozens injured.

The violence at the shrine was followed by rocket fire by Palestinian militants from the Gaza Strip, southern Lebanon, and Syria starting Wednesday, and Israeli airstrikes targeting those areas. Recent days have also seen Palestinian attacks that killed two Israelis and an Italian tourist.

Palestinian attacks have killed at least 19 people in Israel since the start of the year, including one soldier. At least 92 Palestinians and have been killed by Israeli fire so far this year, at least half of them affiliated with militant groups, according to a tally by The Associated Press.

Israel captured the West Bank, along with the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem, in the 1967 Mideast war. It has built dozens of settlements in the territory that are now home to more than 500,000 Jewish settlers.

Most of the international community considers Israel's West Bank settlements illegal and an obstacle to peace with the Palestinians. The Palestinians seek the West Bank, along with Gaza and east Jerusalem for their future independent state.

Netanyahu's government has made settlement expansion a top priority.

#### In Ukrainian village, a family lives under cloud of shelling

By VASILISA STEPANENKO Associated Press

BOHOYAVLENKA, Ukraine (AP) — In a small village in eastern Ukraine the sounds of war echo in the distance while 10-year old Khrystyna Ksenofontova plays. She pets the neighborhood cats, paints and, like everyone else here, hopes the fighting will end soon.

The small village of Bohoyavlenka, in Donetsk province, lies 20 kilometers (13 miles) from the active front line. Khrystyna's days are spent scrounging the bits of childhood she still can. Her family refuses to evacuate and lives under a cloud of constant shelling. She wears headphones to block out the booms of the explosions.

"(I feel) fear, trembling," she says. The explosions resound at night most of the time, she says, brushing aside her sandy blond hair. But sometimes they come in the morning, too.

Her mother, Yulia, and grandmother chose not to leave the village, which had a pre-war population of 1,400, after her father died from a brain injury suffered in an attack that destroyed one of their homes. They prefer to bear the brunt of the war in their hometown rather than be displaced and penniless, Yulia says.

It's a common story along the dozens of towns and villages that span the 1,000-kilometer (more than 600-mile) front line in eastern Ukraine. Despite the severity of the fighting, many families have refused to leave their homes, rejecting evacuation attempts and choosing to risk their lives under bombardment. Aid groups concentrate on delivering food and supplying heating to these areas, where supplies are difficult to access.

The majority of those who stay are the elderly, many of whom rarely ventured outside their homes before the war. It is increasingly rare to find families with young children choosing to live so close to combat lines. But Khrystyna still finds moments of delight amid the devastation.

In the basement, a litter of kittens was recently born. Picking up two, she smiles as their newborn eyes struggle to adjust to the light. She dreams of being a veterinarian.

All her friends have gone. The child finds ways to occupy her time by studying — when the power is on she studies online — and taking care of the cats.

Her grandmother — the mother of Khrystyna's dead father — weeps, praying for normalcy to return to

Yulia strategizes ways to gather food to last the week. Sometimes the family travels to a nearby town where the supermarkets are still open. The shops, hospitals and schools in their village closed several months ago.

Like many residents in the area, her husband was a coal miner. Before the war he worked in the nearby hilltop town of Vuhledar, which has been the site of fierce fighting for months with Ukrainian forces still holding the town.

Yulia fears a much anticipated Russian counteroffensive expected in the spring will finally push them to

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leave. But where? She doesn't know. She wishes she could see her mother in Russian-occupied Crimea, but that is impossible now.

"Everyone is worried about it (the potential counteroffensive)," she said. "Who knows, anything could happen."

While she speaks, a distant boom thunders. She brushes it off. "It's normal."

#### Nashville council to vote on restoring ousted state lawmaker

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Nashville officials are poised to vote Monday to reinstate one of the two Black Democratic lawmakers expelled by Republican colleagues for their gun control protest on the Tennessee House floor after a deadly school shooting — essentially, sending him back after a long weekend.

Nashville's metro council has called the meeting to address the vacancy left by the expulsion on Thursday of former Rep. Justin Jones. Many councilmembers have publicly commented that they want to send Jones back to the statehouse. The vote will happen as state lawmakers hold their first floor sessions since last week's expulsion votes.

Expelled Memphis Rep. Justin Pearson, meanwhile, could be reappointed at a Wednesday meeting of the Shelby County Commission.

Special elections for the seats, which have not yet been set, will take place in the coming months. Jones and Pearson have said they want to be reappointed and plan to run in a special election.

At the Statehouse, meanwhile, it's unclear how House Republicans would respond to seeing the lawmakers they kicked out sent right back. House Speaker Cameron Sexton has said lawmakers will go through the process if or when they are reappointed.

The expulsions have made Tennessee a new front in the battle for the future of American democracy, while propelling the ousted lawmakers into the national spotlight. Jones and Pearson have quickly drawn prominent supporters. President Joe Biden spoke with them and Vice President Kamala Harris visited them in Nashville.

A third Democrat targeted for expulsion, Rep. Gloria Johnson of Knoxville, has also garnered national attention. Johnson, who is white, was spared expulsion by a one-vote margin. Republican lawmakers justified splitting their votes by saying Johnson had less of a role in the protest — she didn't speak into the megaphone, for example.

The protesting lawmakers had called on Republicans to pass some sort of gun control legislation in the aftermath of the Nashville school shooting that killed six people, including three young children and three adults working at the school. The shooter was killed by police.

Johnson has also suggested race was likely a factor on why Jones and Pearson were ousted but not her, telling reporters it "might have to do with the color of our skin."

GOP leaders have said the actions — used only a handful times since the Civil War — had nothing to do with race, and instead were necessary to avoid setting a precedent that lawmakers' disruptions of House proceedings through protest would be tolerated.

#### France: 2 bodies found after Marseille building collapse

PARIS (AP) — Two bodies were found overnight in the rubble following an explosion that collapsed a building in the southern French city of Marseille, as rescuers continued searching for at least six people who are unaccounted-for, authorities said Monday.

Firefighters noted "the particular difficulties of intervention" and said in a statement the judicial authority will proceed to identify the victims.

Marseille mayor Benoit Payan tweeted Monday that "the pain and sorrow are great." He expressed his thoughts for the families of the victims and "those who are suffering."

"Rescue and search operations are continuing, without respite," he said.

Payan told French media that more than 100 firefighters on site were searching for at least six people

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believed to have been trapped in the five-story residential building. "There is still hope" to find survivors, he said.

The burning debris was too hot for dogs in the firefighters' canine team to work until Sunday afternoon, and smoke still bothered them, Laurens said.

An investigation has been opened for involuntary injury, at least initially sidestepping possible criminal intentions. A gas explosion was among the avenues of investigation, the prosecutor added.

The collapse occurred shortly before 1 a.m. on Sunday, in an old quarter in the center of Marseille, France's second-largest city, less than a kilometer (a half-mile) from its iconic old port. About 200 people have been evacuated from their homes in the area.

In 2018, two buildings in the center of Marseille collapsed, killing eight people. Those buildings were poorly maintained — not the case with the building that collapsed Sunday, the interior minister said.

#### China military displays force toward Taiwan after Tsai trip

By HUIZHONG WU Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — China's military sent several dozen warplanes and warships toward Taiwan in a large-scale exercise that simulated sealing off the island in response to its president's trip to the U.S.

The Chinese military earlier had announced three-day "combat readiness patrols" which it called Joint Sword, as a warning to Taiwan, a self-ruled island which China claims as its own. Beijing says contact between foreign officials and the island's democratic government encourages Taiwanese who want formal independence, a step China's ruling Communist Party says would lead to war.

The sides split in 1949 after a civil war, and the ruling party says the island is obliged to rejoin the mainland, by force if necessary. Military analysts suggest that in the event of a war, China may block sea and air traffic around Taiwan, preventing the United States, Japan or other nations from intervening or sending supplies to help the island defend itself.

China's latest military actions follow President Tsai Ing-wen's delicate diplomatic mission to shore up Taiwan's dwindling alliances in Central America and boost its U.S. support, a trip capped with a sensitive meeting with U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy in California. A U.S. congressional delegation also met with Tsai over the weekend in Taiwan after she returned.

China responded to the McCarthy meeting by imposing a travel ban and financial sanctions against those associated with Tsai's U.S. trip and with increased military activity through the weekend.

On Monday morning, the Chinese People's Liberation Army said its Shandong aircraft carrier for the first time was taking part in the exercises encircling Taiwan. It showed a video of a fighter jet taking off the deck of the ship, according to a post from the PLA's Eastern Command on Weibo, the social media platform.

State broadcaster CCTV, citing the PLA, said the exercises are "simulating the joint sealing off" of Taiwan as well as "waves of simulated strikes" at important targets on the island.

Between 6 a.m. Sunday and 6 a.m. Monday, a total of 70 planes were detected and half crossed the median of the Taiwan Strait, an unofficial boundary once tacitly accepted by both sides, according to Taiwan's Ministry of National Defense. Among the planes that crossed the median were 8 J-16 fighter jets, 4 J-1 fighters, 8 Su-30 fighters and reconnaissance planes.

Later Monday morning, Taiwan's defense ministry reported another 59 flights by bombers, as well as multiple fighter jets.

That followed a full day between Friday and Saturday, where eight warships and 71 planes were detected near Taiwan, according to the island's Defense Ministry. The ministry said in a statement it was approaching the situation from the perspective of "not escalating conflict, and not causing disputes."

Taiwan said it monitored the Chinese moves through its land-based missile systems, as well as on its own navy vessels.

China's military harassment of Taiwan has intensified in recent years with planes or ships sent toward the island on a near-daily basis, with the numbers rising in reaction to sensitive activities.

In addition to combat readiness patrols, China's PLA would hold "live fire training" in Luoyuan Bay in

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China's Fujian province opposite Taiwan, the local Maritime Authority announced over the weekend.

Meanwhile, to the south in the South China Sea, the U.S. 7th Fleet said its missile destroyer USS Milius sailed by Mischief Reef in a freedom of navigation operation. China had built an artificial island on the sea feature to stake its claim to the disputed territory.

China said the U.S. "illegally trespassed" into waters near the reef without the permission of the Chinese government, according to a statement from the Chinese military's southern command.

One of the U.S. representatives who attended the meeting with Tsai last week said Saturday the U.S. must take seriously the threat China posed to Taiwan. Republican Mike Gallagher, chairman of the U.S. House Select Committee on China, told The Associated Press that he plans to lead his committee in working to shore up the island government's defenses, encouraging Congress to expedite military aid to Taiwan.

#### Guilty or not? Jury to hear claims in Idaho slain kids' case

By REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — The investigation started roughly 29 months ago with two missing children. It soon grew to encompass five states, four suspected murders and claims of unusual, doomsday-focused religious beliefs involving "dark spirits" and "zombies."

On Monday morning, an Idaho jury will begin the difficult task of deciding the veracity of those claims and others in the triple murder trial of Lori Vallow Daybell.

Prosecutors charged Vallow Daybell and her husband, Chad Daybell, with multiple counts of conspiracy, murder and grand theft in connection with the deaths of Vallow Daybell's two youngest children: 7-year-old Joshua "JJ" Vallow and big sister Tylee Ryan, who was last seen a few days before her 17th birthday in 2019. Prosecutors also have charged the couple in connection with the October 2019 death of Chad Daybell's late wife, Tammy Daybell.

The investigation garnered worldwide attention and was closely followed in the rural eastern Idaho community where the bodies of the children were found buried in Chad Daybell's yard. As a result, Seventh District Judge Steven Boyce moved the trial more than 200 miles (320 kilometers) east to the city of Boise.

Both defendants have pleaded not guilty, but only Vallow Daybell's trial begins Monday. The cases have been separated, and Chad Daybell's trial is still months away. Vallow Daybell faces up to life in prison if convicted.

Eighteen-hundred people were called as potential jurors, and the pool whittled down to 10 men and eight women last week.

All 16 will hear the case, but only 12 will actually take part in deliberations to decide Vallow Daybell's guilt or innocence. The other six are alternates and will be released from service before deliberations begin. Jurors will not be notified they are an alternate until it is time for deliberations in order to ensure they all stay engaged throughout the trial.

The trial is expected to take up to 10 weeks.

Prosecutors say the Daybells espoused strange doomsday-focused beliefs to further their alleged plan to kill the kids and Tammy Daybell to collect life insurance money and the children's social security and survivor benefits.

Police documents detailed interviews with friends and family members who said the couple led a group that believed they could drive out evil spirits by praying and that they sought revelations from "beyond the spiritual veil." Vallow Daybell's close friend Melanie Gibb told investigators that the couple believed people became "zombies" when they were possessed by evil spirits.

The group would spend time praying to get rid of the zombies and believed, if they were successful, the possessed person would physically die — freeing their trapped soul from "limbo." Vallow Daybell called JJ and Tylee "zombies" several times before they died, Gibb told investigators.

Idaho law enforcement officers started investigating the couple in November 2019 after extended family members reported the children were missing. During that period, police say the couple lied about the children's whereabouts. The children's bodies were found buried on Chad Daybell's property in rural Idaho.

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The couple married two weeks after Chad Daybell's previous wife died unexpectedly. Tammy Daybell's death was initially reported as resulting from natural causes, but investigators had her body exhumed after suspicions grew when Chad Daybell quickly remarried.

#### As India's population soars above all, fewer women have jobs

By KRUTIKA PATHI Associated Press

MUMBAI, India (AP) — Sheela Singh cried the day she handed in her resignation.

For 16 years, she had been a social worker in Mumbai, India's frenetic financial capital, and she loved the work. But her family kept telling her she needed to stay at home to take care of her two children. She resisted the pressure for years, but when she found out her daughter was skipping school when she was at work, it felt like she didn't have a choice.

"Everyone used to tell me my kids were neglected ... it made me feel really bad," Singh, 39, said.

When she resigned in 2020, Singh was earning more money than her husband, an auto-rickshaw driver whose earnings fluctuated day to day. But nobody suggested he quit.

"His friends used to taunt him that he was living off my salary," Singh said. "I thought that clearly there was no value in me working so what's the use?"

India is on the cusp of surpassing China to become the world's most populous country, and its economy is among the fastest-growing in the world. But the number of Indian women in the workforce, already among the 20 lowest in the world, has been shrinking for years.

It's not only a problem for women like Singh, but a growing challenge for India's own economic ambitions if its estimated 670 million women are left behind as its population expands. The hope is that India's fast-growing working-age population will propel its growth for years to come. Yet experts worry this could just as easily become a demographic liability if India fails to ensure its rising population, especially its women, are employed.

Without Singh's income, her family can no longer afford to live in Mumbai, one of Asia's most expensive cities, and she's now preparing to move back to her village to save money. "But there are no jobs there," she sighed.

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story is part of an ongoing series exploring what it means for the 1.4 billion inhabitants of India to live in what will be the world's most populated country.

The women's employment rate peaked at 35% in 2004 and fell to around 25% in 2022, according to calculations based off official data, said Rosa Abraham, an economist at Azim Premji University. But official figures count as employed people who report as little as one hour of work outside the home in the previous week.

A national jobs crisis is one reason for the gap, experts say, but entrenched cultural beliefs that see women as the primary caregivers and stigmatize them working outside the home, as in Singh's case, is another.

The Center for Monitoring the Indian Economy (CMIE), which uses a more restrictive definition of employment, found that only 10% of working age Indian women in 2022 were either employed or looking for jobs. This means there are only 39 million women employed in the workforce compared to 361 million men.

Just a few decades ago, things seemed to be on a different track.

When Singh became a social worker in 2004, India was still riding high from historic reforms in the 1990s. New industries and new opportunities were born seemingly overnight, sparking millions to leave their villages and move to cities like Mumbai in search of better jobs.

It felt life-changing. "I didn't have a college degree, so I never thought it would be possible for someone like me to get a job in an office," she said.

Even then, leaving home to work was an uphill fight for many women. Sunita Sutar, who was in school in 2004, said that women in her village of Shirsawadi in Maharashtra state were usually married off at 18, beginning lives that revolved around their husbands' homes. Neighbors mocked her parents for investing in her education, saying it wouldn't matter after marriage.

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Sutar bucked the trend. In 2013, she became the first person in her village of nearly 2,000 people to earn an engineering degree.

"I knew that if I studied, only then would I become something -- otherwise, I'd be like the rest, married off and stuck in the village," Sutar said.

Today, she lives and works in Mumbai as an auditor for the Indian Defense Department, a government job coveted by many Indians for its security, prestige and benefits.

In one way, she was part of a trend: Indian women have gained better access to education since her youth, and are now nearly at parity with men. But for most women, education hasn't led to jobs. Even as more women have begun graduating from school, joblessness has swelled.

"The working age population continues to grow but employment hasn't kept up, which means the proportion of people with jobs will only decline," said Mahesh Vyas, director at CMIE, adding there's been a severe slowdown in good quality jobs in the last decade. "This also keeps women out of the workforce as they or their families may see more benefit in taking care of the home or children, instead of toiling in low-paid work."

And even when jobs are available, social pressures can keep women away.

In her home village in Uttar Pradesh state, Chauhan hardly ever saw women working outside the home. But when she came to Mumbai in 2006, she saw women swarm public spaces, Chauhan said, serving food in cafes, cutting hair or painting nails in salons, selling tickets for the local trains, or boarding the trains themselves, crammed into packed compartments as they rushed to work. It was motivating to see what was possible, she said.

"When I started working and leaving the house, my family used to say I must be working as a prostitute," said Lalmani Chauhan, a social worker.

One reason she was able to hold onto her job was because it became a lifeline when an accident left her husband bedridden and unable to work, Chauhan said.

Abraham said there is growing recognition among policymakers that the retreat of women from the workforce is a huge problem, but it has not been met with direct fixes like more childcare facilities or transportation safety.

When more women participate in the labor market, she added, they contribute to the economy and their family's income, but they also are empowered to make decisions. Children who grow up in a household where both parents work, especially girls, are more likely to be employed later.

The number of working-age Indian women who don't have jobs is staggering — almost twice the entire number of people in the United States. Experts say this gap could be a huge opportunity if India can find a way to plug it. A 2018 McKinsey report estimated that India could add \$552 billion to its GDP by increasing its female workforce participation rate by 10 percent.

Even as she prepares to leave her one-bedroom home, tucked deep inside a narrow lane in a Mumbai slum, Singh is determined to return to the city in the near future. She hopes to find a way to work again, saying she will take whatever job she can find.

"I never had to ask anyone for a single rupee (before)," Singh said, adding she feels shame every time she's forced to ask her husband.

"I felt independent before. See, I lost a part of myself when I quit my job," she said. "I want that feeling back."

#### King's coronation: 3 crowns, 2 carriages and a shorter route

By BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — King Charles III plans to take a shortcut and smoother ride to Westminster Abbey for his coronation, trimming the procession route his mother took in 1953 as he aims for a more modest event that will include some modern touches, Buckingham Palace said Sunday.

The lower-key ceremony May 6 will still be steeped in ancient traditions and adorned with royal regalia

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from the Crown Jewels, but will also feature its own bespoke emoji, reflecting the first British crowning of the social media era. Queen Elizabeth II's was the first coronation televised 70 years ago.

In one break with tradition, Charles and Camilla, the queen consort, will roll out of Buckingham Palace in the horse-drawn gilded black Diamond Jubilee State Coach built for Elizabeth's 60th anniversary. It has heat, air conditioning, power windows and a suspension system that will provide a comfier ride than his mother's accommodations for her enthronement.

The 1.3-mile (2-kilometer) route is a bit shorter than the one Elizabeth took to the royal church. The procession will go through Admiralty Arch; past Trafalgar Square and a statue of Charles I, the monarch beheaded in 1649; and by the houses of Parliament before arriving for the 11 a.m. religious service.

While Charles wants to show the monarchy is still relevant in modern, multi-cultural Britain, he has said he plans to slim down the institution. The coronation is expected to reflect that with a shorter, less extravagant ceremony than the three-hour service that installed Elizabeth II.

Still, much of the priceless coronation regalia used for centuries will be part of crowning both Charles and Camilla, including five symbolic swords, two scepters and the Sovereign's Ring of sapphire with a ruby cross set in diamonds.

Camilla, who will wear Queen Mary's Crown, will hold a controversial scepter made of ivory. Britain has a near-total ban on dealing elephant ivory products and Prince William, heir to the throne, has campaigned against illegal animal part trafficking.

During the solemn ceremony conducted by Justin Welby, archbishop of Canterbury, Charles will be crowned the king with the St. Edward's Crown, the centerpiece of the Crown Jewels viewed by millions of people every year at the Tower of London.

The crown, which is the inspiration for the coronation emoji, features a 4.9-pound (2.2-kilogram) solid gold frame set with rubies, amethysts, sapphires, garnets, topazes and tourmalines and has a purple velvet cap and ermine band. It was worn by Elizabeth during her coronation and has been refitted for her son.

At the end of the ceremony, Charles will switch to the lighter Imperial State Crown for the procession back to the palace.

Unlike the 5-mile (8-kilometer) route Elizabeth and her husband Prince Philip took around London in 1953, Charles and Camilla will return the way they came, but in a 260-year-old carriage used in every coronation since William IV's in 1831.

The Gold State Coach, which weighs 8,800 pounds (4,000 kilograms), and is pulled by eight horses, is known for its notoriously rough ride.

Elizabeth described it as "horrible," Queen Victoria complained of its "distressing oscillation," and William IV — known as the Sailor King — said it was like "being aboard a ship tossing in a rough sea."

"When you're following it, you can hear it creaking so it sounds like an old galleon going along," said Martin Oates, who helped restore it and walks behind as the brake man. "It's not quite a washing machine, but where other vehicles just go from back to front, this is moving from side to side."

The gilded coach is so heavy, it can only move at walking pace. That should provide more time for people along the route to see the newly crowned king and queen.

Military troops on parade will salute the king and queen at Buckingham Palace gardens, followed by three cheers from service members.

#### Trump's response to criminal charges revives election lies

By MICHELLE L. PRICE and NICHOLAS RICCARDI Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Legally, the most important words former President Donald Trump said after he was charged with 34 felonies by the Manhattan District Attorney last week were "not guilty." But, politically, the most significant may be "election interference."

Trump's repetition of those words, which have been taken up by other top Republicans, show how he is trying to turn his historic position as the first former president charged with crimes to his advantage. It's another example of what's been a consistent refrain throughout his political career — claiming without

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evidence that an election is being rigged against him.

After his initial court appearance in the New York case, the first of several in which he is in legal jeopardy, Trump ticked through the varied investigations he was facing and branded them as "massive" attempts to interfere with the 2024 election.

"Our justice system has become lawless," Trump said as he appeared before supporters as his Florida home, Mar-a-Lago. "They're using it now, in addition to everything else, to win elections."

Trump has made some version of those claims in at least 20 social media posts since March 3, the bulk of which occurred in the last two weeks, accelerating when a Manhattan grand jury appeared to be wrapping up its work and preparing to indict the former president. Trump declared his latest bid for the White House shortly after the November midterms, in what some in his orbit saw as an effort to head off the various probes swirling around him.

Alleging an election is being stolen from him is a routine Trump tactic, despite no evidence to back up his assertions. When competing for the GOP presidential nomination in 2016, Trump claimed his loss in the Iowa caucuses was due to fraud. When he won the White House that November but lost the popular vote, Trump claimed the only reason for falling short in the latter category was because undocumented immigrants voted. A task force he formed to find voter fraud disbanded without finding any evidence to back up his claim.

In 2020, Trump began arguing the election would be fraudulent months before voting started. He attacked efforts to loosen restrictions on mail voting during the coronavirus pandemic, and expanded those allegations after losing the election to claim he'd actually won it. Those lies led to the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the U.S. Capitol.

Federal and state election officials and Trump's own attorney general have said there is no credible evidence the 2020 election was tainted. The former president's allegations of fraud were also roundly rejected by courts, including by judges Trump appointed.

Trump is behaving like a politician in the legal crosshairs, said Steven Levitsky, a Harvard political scientist. "He's certainly not the first politician to be prosecuted — sometimes fairly, sometimes not — to play the political victim card," Levitsky said.

Levitsky, who cowrote the book "How Democracies Die," said that several former presidents of other countries, when prosecuted, have claimed it was a plot to foil their future elections. Most recently, that was the complaint of Brazil's former president Luis Inácio Lula Da Silva after he was jailed before the 2018 election. Silva was freed by his country's supreme court and won back the presidency in October.

What's notable in Trump's case, however, is that his own party is echoing the stolen election claims ahead of the next campaign. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy last month said he was directing his party's committee chairs to "investigate if federal funds are being used to subvert our democracy by interfering in elections with politically motivated prosecutions."

"That a whole party is carrying this line is somewhat unusual," Levitsky said.

Last week's charges in New York court stemmed from Trump's reimbursements to his lawyer at the time, Michael Cohen, of hush money paid in the waning days of the 2016 presidential election to porn actress Stormy Daniels, who alleged they had an affair. Even some critics of Trump have seen the charges as a stretch of New York laws.

The heart of the Manhattan case is prosecutors' claim that Trump falsified business records at his company to make the payoff in order to keep a potentially damaging story quiet while he was campaigning — an illegal attempt by Trump, they argued, to try to influence the election.

The former president also faces legal jeopardy from other investigations, two of which are related to his attempts to try to interfere with the 2020 election.

Prosecutors in Fulton County, Georgia, are probing Trump's January 2021 call to the state's top elections officer asking him to "find" enough votes to declare Trump the winner there. The U.S. Justice Department also has launched a federal special counsel probe into Trump's attempts to try to overturn his loss in the 2020 presidential election.

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Trump is also enmeshed in a federal special counsel investigation of his handling of classified documents found at his Florida estate.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, when asked at a news conference on Tuesday whether the timing of the case was political, responded by saying: "I bring cases when they're ready."

Bragg's office declined to comment on Trump's statements about "election interference," as did the Department of Justice.

Critics warn that Trump is, once again, sewing suspicions of fraud that could damage democracy. "We've seen this film before," Joanna Lydgate, chief executive officer of States United Action, which tracks politicians who embrace Trump's election lies, said in a statement. "We know this is dangerous because we all saw what happened on January 6th."

Trump has routinely waved off such warnings, and has seamlessly integrated his current legal jeopardy into the false allegations he's made for three years about Democratic Party wrongdoing leading to his ouster.

In his first campaign rally, in Waco, Texas, days before the Manhattan indictment, Trump railed against all the investigations and said that his opponents were using the probes "because it's harder for them to stuff the ballot boxes, of which they stuffed plenty."

"The new weapon being used by out-of-control unhinged Democrats to cheat on election is criminally investigating a candidate," he said.

Trump and other Republicans have sometimes contradicted themselves, decrying the investigations as an attempt to tarnish Trump while also predicting they'll aid his bid for the White House.

"I think you'll see his poll numbers go up," Rep. Elise Stefanik, R-N.Y., one of the president's most vocal backers in the House, predicated at a GOP conference last month. "He's never been in a stronger position." She condemned the charges last week as "unprecedented election interference."

Aaron Scherb, senior director of legislative affairs for Common Cause, which has long been critical of Trump's allegations of election rigging, noted that all the investigations of the former president began well before he started running for president again.

"Nobody is above the law, including former presidents, and running for president cannot and must not serve as a shield for wrongful conduct," Scherb said.

\_\_\_ Riccardi reported from Denver. Associated Press writer Farnoush Amiri in Washington contributed to this report.

#### Proud Boys leaders' Jan. 6 sedition trial inches to a close

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN, ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press WASHINGTON (AP) — After almost three months of testimony, dozens of witnesses and countless legal fights, a jury will soon decide whether the onetime leader of the Proud Boys extremist group is guilty in one of the most serious cases brought in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol.

Closing arguments could be as early as this week before jurors decide whether to convict Proud Boys national chairman Enrique Tarrio and four lieutenants of seditious conspiracy for what prosecutors say was a plot to forcibly stop the transfer of presidential power from Republican Donald Trump to Democrat Joe Biden after the 2020 election.

In a trial that has lasted over twice as long as expected, little new information has emerged about the Jan. 6 attack that halted Congress' certification of Biden's victory or the far-right extremist group's role in the Capitol riot. But a guilty verdict against Tarrio, who wasn't even in Washington, D.C., when the riot erupted, would affirm that those accused of planning and inciting the violence could be held responsible even if they didn't join in it.

The case is nearing a close as a new problem may be on the horizon for the Proud Boys, a neofacist group known for brawling and street fights with left-wing activists and disrupting storytelling sessions by drag performers and other LGBTQ events around the country.

The group, Tarrio and two others on trial are also facing a separate, multimillion-dollar lawsuit. A judge is poised to decide how much they should have to pay a historic Black church in Washington for Proud

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Boys destroying a Black Lives Matter sign during a weekend of pro-Trump rallies in December 2020 that erupted into violence. Metropolitan African Methodist Episcopal Church is seeking up to \$22 million in punitive damages, saying it was part of an effort to intimidate those who fight for racial justice.

Tarrio wasn't in Washington on Jan. 6 because he had been arrested two days earlier for his role in burning another Black Lives Matter banner torn down from a different Washington church, Asbury United Methodist. Tarrio was ordered to stay out of the city after his arrest.

The seditious conspiracy case in Washington's federal court, which began with opening statements in January, has been slowed by bickering between the judge and defense attorneys, repeated requests for a mistrial, lengthy cross-examinations of witnesses and other legal maneuvers that often kept jurors waiting in the wings instead of hearing courtroom testimony.

On trial with Tarrio are Proud Boys chapter leaders Ethan Nordean, of Auburn, Washington; and Zachary Rehl, of Philadelphia; self-described Proud Boys organizer Joseph Biggs, of Ormond Beach, Florida; and Dominic Pezzola, a Proud Boys member from Rochester, New York.

It is unclear if any of them will testify before the defense rests and jurors hear attorneys' closing arguments.

The backbone of the government's case is a trove of messages that Proud Boys leaders privately exchanged on the Telegram platform before, during and after the Capitol riot. Their online rhetoric became increasingly angry with each failure by Trump's lawyers to challenge election results in court.

"If Biden steals this election, (the Proud Boys) will be political prisoners," Tarrio posted in Nov. 16, 2020. "We won't go quietly ... I promise."

As the mob attacked Capitol, Tarrio posted on social media, "Don't (expletive) leave."

When a Proud Boys member asked, "Are we a militia yet?" Tarrio responded with one word — "Yep" — in a voice note.

"Make no mistake," Tarrio wrote. "We did this."

Defense attorneys have argued that there is no evidence of a plan for the Proud Boys to attack the Capitol on Jan. 6.

They have stressed that Proud Boys had FBI informants in their ranks who didn't raise any red flags about the group before Jan. 6. In an effort to show jurors that Tarrio was trying to avoid violence, they also showed how Tarrio frequently communicated with an officer assigned to monitor extremist groups' activity in Washington and advised the officer of the group's plans in the weeks before Jan. 6.

Several Oath Keepers leaders and members who previously stood trial on seditious conspiracy charges similarly argued that the riot was a spontaneous outpouring of election-fueled rage, not the result of a premediated plan. While prosecutors said the Capitol attack was only a means to an end in the Oath Keepers' larger plot to stop the transfer of power, defense attorneys repeatedly raised the lack of evidence that the Oath Keepers had an explicit plan to storm the Capitol.

In the end, prosecutors managed to secure seditious conspiracy convictions at trials against Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes and five other members, but three others were acquitted of the charge. Those others, however, were convicted of other serious felonies. Sentencings for Rhodes and other Oath Keepers are scheduled for next month.

In the Oath Keepers case, prosecutors could point to a cache of guns stashed at a Virginia hotel as evidence they planned to use force to stop the transfer of power, a key element of the crime.

Among the Proud Boys defendants, only Pezzola is accused of engaging in violence or destruction after being filmed smashing in a Capitol window with a riot shield.

The prosecutors in the Proud Boys case have instead argued that Tarrio and the others handpicked and mobilized a loyal group of foot soldiers — or "tools" — to supply the force necessary to carry out their plot.

Defense attorneys say that's an unusual, flawed legal concept, and their messages were taken out of context. They've also painted Tarrio in particular as a scapegoat for the riot and an easier person to blame than Trump, whose spoke to a crowd of supporters just before they marched on the Capitol. Pezzola's lawyers even tried to subpoena Trump, but the effort seemed to go nowhere.

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Even without his testimony, Trump could factor into the jury's verdict. Jurors saw a video of the 2020 presidential debate at which Trump told the Proud Boys to "stand back and stand by," a moment that led to an explosion of attention and membership requests.

"These men did not stand back. They did not stand by. Instead, they mobilized," Assistant U.S. Attorney Jason McCullough told jurors.

Key prosecution witnesses included two former Proud Boys members who cooperated with the government in hopes of getting lighter sentences. One of them, Matthew Greene, testified that Proud Boys members were expecting a "civil war" after the 2020 election. The other, Jeremy Bertino, testified that the Proud Boys saw themselves as "the tip of the spear."

Bertino is the only Proud Boy who has pleaded guilty to a seditious conspiracy charge. Both said they didn't know of a specific plan to storm the Capitol, though Bertino said they wanted to keep Biden from taking office. Greene said group leaders celebrated the attack on Jan. 6 but didn't explicitly encourage members to use force.

The trial was briefly disrupted when prosecutors told defense attorneys that a woman expected to testify for Tarrio's defense had secretly worked as an FBI informant after the Jan. 6 attack. Defense attorneys were alarmed because the woman had been in touch with the defense team, but prosecutors said the informant was never told to gather information about the defendants or their lawyers. Tarrio's lawyers ultimately decided not to call her as a witness.

In the civil case brought by the Metropolitan AME, the judge is expected on Tuesday to hear final arguments from the church. The case is against the Proud Boys as an entity as well as Tarrio, Biggs, Nordean, Bertino and another member. The judge has already said they will be liable by default because the group failed to respond to the lawsuit or participate in the case. The only question remains is how much, if anything, they will have to pay.

Richer reported from Boston.

Follow the AP's coverage of the Capitol riot at https://apnews.com/hub/capitol-siege.

#### Bruins break NHL single-season wins record by beating Flyers

By STEPHEN WHYNO AP Hockey Writer

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — David Pastrnak posed with the puck he used to score his 60th goal of the season in front of the whiteboard in the locker room that had "63 WINS" written in blue marker.

It's not the Boston Bruins' biggest goal, but they now own the NHL single-season wins record thanks to their best player putting on a show.

Pastrnak recorded a hat trick to reach 60 for the first time in his career, leading the Bruins to their 63rd victory of the season, 5-3 at the Philadelphia Flyers on Sunday night. The win snapped a tie with the 1995-96 Detroit Red Wings and 2018-19 Tampa Bay Lightning.

"It's been a lot of fun, I'm not going to lie," Pastrnak said after his fourth four-point game this season. "It's been enjoyable, especially the group we have here. We obviously knew the stakes, and it's definitely special to hit it in a game like this. Made history today in the biggest league in hockey."

Hats rained down from the many Bruins fans in attendance after Pastrnak scored his third of the game early in the third period. The crowd chanted "We want the Cup!" in the final minutes, then showered players with cheers at the final horn.

"It's hard to win in this league and there's a reason why this record is at 62 because not many teams can get there, so it's a special honor," said goaltender Jeremy Swayman, who made 34 saves. "These guys in this room are more than deserving."

The Bruins have won six in a row and reached 131 points, one back of the record held by the 1976-77 Montreal Canadiens that has stood for nearly five decades, and with two games left against opponents well out of the playoff race. The Canadiens 46 years ago played in an era without overtime when games

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ended in a tie, and the Red Wings set the initial wins record before the shootout that has given the Boston four more.

When the playoffs begin in a little more than a week, the Bruins will have home-ice advantage throughout in pursuit of the franchise's first Stanley Cup championship since 2011.

Boston's top two centers Patrice Bergeron and David Krejci were out, along with No. 1 defenseman Charlie McAvoy, forward Taylor Hall, key trade deadline pickup Dmitry Orlov and All-Star goaltender Linus Ullmark.

Even with a lineup chock full of players from the AHL's Providence Bruins, Boston relied on a familiar recipe to set the wins record. Beyond Pastrnak's goals, Charlie Coyle and Pavel Zacha scored, Jeremy Swayman made 34 saves and the Bruins extended their streak of consecutive penalties killed to 38.

"They had some people out, but still that's a really good hockey team," Flyers coach John Tortorella said. The Bruins also kept up what first-year coach Jim Montgomery called their "signature calling" of closing out games. After allowing a goal to Owen Tippett midway through the third period, the Bruins locked things down as they have so many times before, improving to 46-1-2 when leading at the second intermission.

Pastrnak joined MVP favorite Connor McDavid as a 60-goal scorer, making this the first season with two players reaching that mark since Mario Lemieux and Jaromir Jagr in 1995-96. The Czech winger had 48 games when the pandemic ended the 2019-20 season, so that gave him the belief he could put together a season like this.

"I know what kind of player I am in this league right now," Pastrnak said. "I knew I could do it. That helps with your mindset."

Wade Allison and Joel Farabee also scored for the Flyers, who lost their seventh in a row late in another lost season. Felix Sandstrom made a few big stops among his 29 saves, but that wasn't enough to slow down the Bruins in their pursuit of a spot in the record books.

**UP NEXT** 

Bruins: Host Washington on Tuesday night. Flyers: Host Columbus on Tuesday night.

Follow AP Hockey Writer Stephen Whyno on Twitter at https://twitter.com/SWhyno

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#### Jon Rahm rallies to win the Masters as Spanish stars align

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Jon Rahm kept hearing how he was destined to win this Masters because so many Spanish stars were aligned in his favor.

Sunday was the birthdate of Seve Ballesteros, his idol and inspiration for playing. This year was the 40-year anniversary of the second Masters title Ballesteros won. If that wasn't enough, caddie Adam Hayes was assigned white coveralls with No. 49 — April 9.

"I was told a lot of things about why this could be the year," Rahm said, looking smart as ever in his new green jacket. "And I just didn't want to buy into it too much."

His golf was far more valuable than any historical coincidence.

Rahm turned the longest day into his sweetest victory Sunday. The 30-hole marathon finish started with him trailing by four and ended with a walk up to the 18th green that nearly reduced him to tears, and gave him another major that affirmed him as No. 1 in the world.

He closed with a 3-under 69 to pull away from mistake-prone Brooks Koepka. He won by four shots over Koepka and 52-year-old Phil Mickelson, who matched the low score of the tournament with a 65 and became the oldest runner-up in Masters history.

"We all dream of things like this as players, and you try to visualize what it's going to be like and what it's going to feel like," Rahm said. "Never thought I was going to cry by winning a golf tournament, but I got very close on that 18th hole.

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"And a lot of it because of what it means to me, and to Spanish golf," he said. "It's Spain's 10th major, fourth player to win the Masters. It's pretty incredible."

It was Mickelson who declared Rahm would be among golf's biggest stars even before the Spaniard turned pro in 2016. Rahm now has a green jacket to go along with his U.S. Open title he won in 2021 at Torrey Pines.

"It was obvious to me at a very young age that he was one of the best players in the world even while he was in college," said Mickelson, whose younger brother was Rahm's college coach at Arizona State. "To see him on this stage is not surprising for anybody."

Rahm made up two shots on Koepka over the final 12 holes of the rain-delayed third round and started the final round two shots behind. He seized on Koepka's collapse and then surged so far ahead that Mickelson's amazing closing round — it matched the three-time Masters champion's best final round ever at Augusta National — was never going to be enough.

The finish was vintage Rahm. He pulled his drive into the pine trees and it ricocheted out, short of where the fairway starts. No problem. He hit 4-iron toward the green and lofted a pitch to 3 feet to end his round with only one bogey.

"An unusual par, very much a Seve par, a testament to him, and I know he was pulling for me today," said Rahm, who finished at 12-under 276. "And it was a great Sunday."

Rahm embraced his wife and two children, and as he walked toward the scoring room, there was twotime Masters champion José María Olazábal in his green jacket for the strongest hug of all and a few words that included Ballesteros.

"He said he hopes it's the first of many more," Rahm said in Butler Cabin. "We both mentioned something about Seve, and if he had given us 10 more seconds, I think we would have both ended up crying." Sergio Garcia was the low amateur in 1999 when Olazábal won his second green jacket, and then Garcia won in 2017, the year Rahm made his Masters debut.

Stars aligned, and Rahm played some world-class golf. And to think he began the tournament with a four-putt double bogey on the opening hole.

Rahm won for the fourth time this year — just as Scottie Scheffler did a year ago when he won the Masters — and reclaimed the No. 1 world ranking from Scheffler.

This Masters had a little bit of everything — hot and humid at the start, a cold front with wind that toppled three trees on Friday, putting surfaces saturated from rain on Saturday and a marathon finish Sunday as Rahm and Koepka went 30 holes.

Koepka had one miscue after another, losing the lead for the first time since Thursday afternoon when he chipped 20 feet past the hole from behind the par-3 sixth and made his second bogey. More would follow.

"Just some days you have it, some days you don't, and today wasn't one of those," Koepka said. "But I feel good, and I expect to be there the other three (majors)."

Koepka went 22 consecutive holes Sunday without a birdie — from the par-5 eighth hole in the morning of the third round until the par-5 13th in final round. By then, he was three shots behind and Rahm all but sealed it with his next shot.

He hit a low cut with an 8-iron from 141 yards around a tree from right of the 14th fairway, and it caught a slope on the green at just the right spot to feed down to 3 feet for birdie. When Koepka three-putted for bogey, it was a matter of finishing.

The leaderboard was littered with major champions and a tinge of Saudi-funded LIV Golf. Mickelson and Koepka both are part of the rival circuit. Former Masters champion Patrick Reed, another player who defected to LIV, closed with a 68 and tied for fourth with Jordan Spieth (66) and Russell Henley.

Tiger Woods wasn't around for the finish. He withdrew Sunday morning before the third round resumed, saying plantar fasciitis in his foot was aggravating him. Woods also withdrew after three rounds of the PGA Championship last year in similarly cold, windy conditions at Southern Hills in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Mickelson barely contends over 54 holes in the 48-man LIV Golf league. And then he played like the six-time major champion who two years ago became the oldest major champion at age 50 when he won

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the PGA Championship.

He stuffed his tee shot on the par-3 sixth, birdied the seventh and then finished in style. His approach to the 17th came within inches of going in for an eagle, and he pumped his fist when his 12-foot birdie putt on the 18th dropped for a 65.

It matched his lowest score ever at Augusta National — he shot 65 in the opening round in the 1996 Masters and was at his Sunday best.

"Unfortunately it wasn't enough, but it was really a lot of fun for me to play at this level again, and it's encouraging for me going forward the rest of the year," Mickelson said.

Rahm called it an incredible day, especially with his father coming over from Spain. He concluded his remarks at the trophy presentation on the 18th green by saying, "Happy Easter. And rest in peace, Seve."

He then made the sign of the cross, kissed his finger and pointed to the sky, the clearest it had been all week.

AP golf: https://apnews.com/hub/golf and https://twitter.com/AP\_Sports

#### The field is set: Warriors, Clippers are in the playoffs

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

Golden State is in the playoffs. LeBron James is heading to the play-in tournament. And the Minnesota Timberwolves lost Rudy Gobert to a fight with a teammate, then won a battle to improve their playoff hopes.

The final day of the NBA season was predictably wild — with tons of unpredictable elements as well. It took until the 1,230th and last game of the year went final, but the Western Conference playoff and play-in bracket are finally set, highlighted by the Los Angeles Clippers and defending champion Golden

State Warriors getting a few days off knowing that they're officially in the postseason.

The Clippers beat Phoenix to clinch the No. 5 seed — and a first-round matchup with Phoenix. Golden State had its highest-scoring game in almost 33 years on its way to routing Portland 157-101 and clinching the No. 6 seed, giving the Warriors an automatic berth in the playoffs and a first-round matchup with Sacramento.

Golden State led by as many as 59 in that game, the largest lead by any team all season.

"We're playing Sacramento, obviously. They're a great team, they've had an amazing season and it's going to take everything to beat them four times — especially starting on the road," Warriors guard Stephen Curry said. "But we love the opportunity in front of us."

James and the No. 7 — for now — Los Angeles Lakers will get two chances to get into the playoffs, starting with Tuesday's play-in game against No. 8 Minnesota. If the Lakers lose that game, they'll get another chance Friday against the winner of Wednesday's game between No. 9 New Orleans and No. 10 Oklahoma City.

"For us, it's just good that we don't have to travel," James said after the Lakers ended their regular season with a home win over Utah. "We've traveled a lot lately. It's good that we get to stay here, but we shouldn't get comfortable. We have to stay on edge."

The Lakers-Timberwolves winner gets No. 2 Memphis in Round 1; the winner of Friday's West play-in game will start the playoffs next Sunday at No. 1 Denver.

No team in the West has had a better record since the All-Star break than the Lakers, who went 16-7 down the stretch — even with James sidelined for about half of that run by injury.

Minnesota locked up the No. 8 seed (and two chances at the playoffs) by holding off New Orleans 113-108. It was the last game to finish in the league this season, though for Gobert, it ended early. He threw a punch at Kyle Anderson — his teammate — after heated words during a first-half time-out, didn't return to the game, and Minnesota also lost Jaden McDaniels to a right hand injury after he appeared to punch a wall.

"We made the decision to send Rudy Gobert home after the incident in the second quarter," Timberwolves President Tim Connelly said in a postgame statement. "His behavior on the bench was unacceptable and

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we will continue handling the situation internally."

There appeared to be progress on that front quickly, with Wolves veteran Mike Conley suggesting that the team is ready to move forward.

"We're going to need all of us," Conley said.

Gobert chimed in Sunday night as well, tweeting: "Emotions got the best of me today. I should not have reacted the way i did regardless of what was said. I wanna apologize to the fans, the organisation and particularly to Kyle, who is someone that i truly love and respect as a teammate."

If the Timberwolves lost that game, they would have been the No. 9 seed out West. There were 16 possible ways the 5-6-7-8-9 seeds on the West bracket could have gone on Sunday — and the Pelicans had a shot to finish as high as No. 5. Instead, they settled for No. 9.

The Eastern Conference postseason matchups were all set before Sunday. No. 7 Miami plays No. 8 Atlanta on Tuesday, and No. 9 Toronto plays No. 10 Chicago on Wednesday. The Heat-Hawks winner advances to play No. 2 Boston in Round 1; the Raptors-Bulls winner will play the Heat-Hawks loser on Friday for the chance to play No. 1 Milwaukee in the opening round.

No. 3 Philadelphia will play No. 6 Brooklyn, and No. 4 Cleveland will meet No. 5 New York.

FIRST ROUND OPENERS

The Brooklyn-Philadelphia series starts Saturday at 1 p.m. Eastern. The rest of Saturday's schedule has the Heat-Hawks winner visiting Boston, then New York at Cleveland and finally Golden State visiting Sacramento.

The Clippers-Suns series starts next Sunday, as will the matchups featuring Denver, Milwaukee and Memphis.

AP NBA: https://apnews.com/hub/NBA and https://twitter.com/AP\_Sports

#### **Expelled Tennessee lawmakers both seeking seats again**

By JONATHAN MATTISE Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP) — Two former Black Democratic lawmakers who were expelled by Republican colleagues in Tennessee say they want to be reappointed, then elected back to their seats, following their ouster for a protest on the House floor urging passage of gun-control measures in the wake of a deadly school shooting.

Nashville's metro council is likely to reappoint Justin Jones to the seat during a specially called Monday meeting. Mickell Lowery, the chairman of the Shelby County Commission, said in a statement Sunday that the panel will consider at a meeting Wednesday whether to reappoint Justin Pearson, who is from Memphis, to his seat.

Lowery said he understands the need to respond to those who "transgressed the rules" of the state House of Representatives.

"However, I believe the expulsion of State Representative Justin Pearson was conducted in a hasty manner without consideration of other corrective action methods. I also believe that the ramifications for our great State are still yet to be seen," he said.

Both former lawmakers told NBC's Meet the Press on Sunday that they want to return to their positions as lawmakers. Special elections for the seats, which have yet to be set, will follow in the coming months.

The expulsions have made Tennessee a new front in the battle for the future of American democracy. The former lawmakers have quickly drawn prominent supporters. President Joe Biden spoke with them and Vice President Kamala Harris visited them in Nashville.

"You know, we will continue to fight for our constituents," Jones said. "And one thing I just want to say ... is that this attack against us is hurting all people in our state. You know, even though it is disproportionately impacting Black and Brown communities, this is hurting poor white people. Their attack on democracy hurts all of us."

In separate votes on Thursday, the GOP supermajority expelled Jones and Pearson, a move leaving about

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140,000 voters in primarily Black districts in Nashville and Memphis with no representation in the House. Pearson and Jones were expelled in retaliation for their role in the protest the week before, which unfolded in the aftermath of a school shooting in Nashville that killed six people, including three young students and three adults working at the school. The shooter was killed by police.

A third Democrat, Rep. Gloria Johnson of Knoxville, was spared expulsion by a one-vote margin. Johnson is white, spurring outcry at the differing outcomes for the two young, Black lawmakers. Republican lawmakers who split their votes have cited Johnson's points on the floor that her role in the protest was lesser — she didn't speak into the megaphone, for example.

Johnson has also suggested race was likely a factor on why Jones and Pearson were ousted but not her, telling reporters it "might have to do with the color of our skin."

Republican House Speaker Cameron Sexton said that's a "false narrative."

"It's unfortunate, she's trying to put political racism in this, which there was nothing on this," Sexton told Fox News on Friday.

GOP leaders said the expulsion actions — used only a handful times since the Civil War — were necessary to avoid setting a precedent that lawmakers' disruptions of House proceedings through protest would be tolerated.

Pearson said the statehouse has been a "toxic work environment." He noted the scrutiny he received for wearing a black dashiki — a tunic-like garment that originated in west Africa — for session, rather than a suit and tie.

"It's about us not belonging in the institution because they are afraid of the changes that are happening in our society, and the voices that are being elevated," Pearson said on Meet the Press.

#### 8 people missing in fiery collapse of Marseille building

By ELAINE GANLEY and BISHR EL TOUNI Associated Press

MARSEILLE, France (AP) — Eight people remained missing after the building they lived in exploded and collapsed early Sunday near the port of Marseille, leaving mounds of burning debris hampering rescue operations, officials said.

More than 100 firefighters worked against a ticking clock to extinguish flames deep within the rubble of the five-story building, but more than 17 hours later "the situation is not yet stabilized," Marseille Prosecutor Dominique Laurens said at an evening news conference.

Earlier in the day, officials had thought that between four and 10 people may have been trapped. Laurens said police have yet to confirm the apparent disappearance of a ninth person who lived in a next-door building. Five people suffered minor injuries from the collapse, which occurred shortly before 1 a.m.

Marseille Mayor Benoit Payan said two buildings that share walls with the one that collapsed were partially brought down before one later caved in, another complication in the search and rescue operation. The buildings were among evacuated structures.

Drones and probes have been used to examine the scene for signs of life. The burning debris was too hot for dogs in the firefighters' canine team to work until Sunday afternoon, though smoke still bothered them, the prosecutor said.

"We cannot intervene in a very classic way," Interior Minister Gerald Darmanin said during a morning visit to the site. He said the fire was burning a few meters under the mounds of debris and that both water and foam represent a danger to victims' survival.

An investigation has been opened for involuntary injury, at least initially sidestepping possible criminal intentions. A gas explosion was among the tracks to check, said Laurens, the prosecutor. But the start of the probe also was limited by the heat of the blaze.

"The flames weren't pink. They were blue," Payan said.

Firefighters, with the help of urban rescue experts, worked through the night and all day Sunday in a slow race against time. The delicate operation aimed to keep firefighters safe, prevent further harm to people potentially trapped in the rubble and not compromise vulnerable buildings nearby, already partially

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collapsed. Some 30 buildings in the area were evacuated, Darmanin said.

Lauren, the prosecutor, said that firefighters "are really in a complicated situation, dangerous for them." Work is progressing but with safety precautions, she said.

"We heard an explosion ... a very strong explosion which made us jump, and that's it," said Marie Ciret, who was among those evacuated. "We looked outside the window at what was happening. We saw smoke, stones, and people running."

The building that collapsed is located on a narrow street less than a kilometer (a half-mile) from Marseille's iconic old port, adding to an array of difficulties for firefighters and rescue workers. The prosecutor said the building and those next door "are not at all substandard buildings."

Robots were reportedly being deployed. A crane was brought in to clear rubble and firefighters were at one point seen in TV video hosing parts of the debris from a window in a nearby apartment as plumes of smoke rose skyward.

"We're trying to drown the fire while preserving the lives of eventual victims under the rubble," Lionel Mathieu, commander of the Marseille fire brigade, said during a televised briefing.

"Firefighters are gauging minute by minute the best way to put out the fire," Payan, the mayor, said.

"We must prepare ourselves to have victims," he said grimly.

The collapsed building is located in an old quarter in the center of France's second-largest city. The noise from the explosion resounded in other neighborhoods. Nearby streets were blocked off.

French President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne both tweeted their thoughts for people affected and thanks to the firefighters.

In 2018, two buildings in the center of Marseille collapsed, killing eight people. Those buildings were poorly maintained — not the case with the building that collapsed Sunday after an explosion, the interior minister said.

Elaine Ganley reported from Paris.

### Pope at Easter: Pray for Ukrainian, Russian people, refugees

By FRANCES D'EMILIO Associated Press

VATICAN CITY (AP) — In an Easter message highlighting hope, Pope Francis on Sunday invoked prayers for both the Ukrainian and Russian people, praised nations which welcome refugees and called on Israelis and Palestinians wracked by the latest surge in deadly violence to forge a "climate of trust."

Francis, along with dozens of prelates and tens of thousands of faithful, celebrated Easter Mass in a flower-adorned St. Peter's Square, affirming the Christian belief that Jesus rose from the dead days after his crucifixion.

The 86-year-old pontiff topped the celebration with a traditional speech about troubled places in the world. Encouraging "trust among individuals, peoples and nations," Francis said Easter's joy "illumines the darkness and gloom in which, all too often, our world finds itself enveloped."

The pope's Easter message is known by its Latin name, "Urbi et Orbi," which means "to the city and the world."

Since Russia invaded neighboring Ukraine in February 2022, Francis has repeatedly called for the fighting to end and sought prayers for the "martyred" Ukrainian people.

Ukrainian diplomats have complained that he hasn't come down hard enough in his statements on Russia and particularly Russian President Vladimir Putin as the Vatican tries to avoid alienating Moscow.

"Help the beloved Ukrainian people on their journey towards peace, and shed the light of Easter upon the people of Russia," Francis implored God in his Easter speech, which he delivered while sitting in a chair on the central balcony of St. Peter's Basilica facing the square. "Comfort the wounded and all those who have lost loved ones because of the war, and grant that prisoners may return safe and sound to their families."

He urged the international community to work to end the war in Ukraine and "all conflict and bloodshed in the world, beginning with Syria, which still awaits peace."

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Francis also prayed for those who lost loved ones in an earthquake that struck Syria and Turkey two months ago, claiming tens of thousands of lives.

With a renewal in deadly violence affecting both Israelis and Palestinians in recent days, Francis called for a "resumption of dialogue, in a climate of trust and reciprocal respect, between Israelis and Palestinians, so that peace may reign in the Holy City and in the entire region," a reference to Jerusalem.

But Francis also noted progress on some fronts.

"Let us rejoice at the concrete signs of hope that reach us from so many countries, beginning with those that offers assistance and welcome to all fleeing war and poverty," he said, without naming any particular nations.

How to care for asylum-seekers, migrants and refugees, and whether to allow them entrance, is a raging political and social debate in much of Europe, as well in the United States and elsewhere.

Francis also prayed that national leaders "ensure that no man or woman may encounter discrimination" and that there would be "full respect for human rights and democracy."

With migrants risking their lives in smugglers' unseaworthy boats in hopes of reaching Europe, the pope lamented that Tunisia's people, particularly the young, struggle with social and economic hardship.

In the last two weeks, dozens have died or were left missing after attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea from Tunisia.

The pope included Lebanon and two African countries he visited this year - South Sudan and Congo - among the nations in need of ending divisions and building reconciliation.

Speaking about Haiti, he appealed to "political actors and the international community to seek a definitive solution to the many problems that afflict that sorely tried people."

The bloody conflicts cited by Francis contrasted with a riot of bright colors lent by orange-red tulips, yellow sprays of forsythia and daffodils, hyacinths and other colorful seasonal flowers that decorated St. Peter's Square. The blooms were trucked in trucks from the Netherlands.

By the end of the pope's appearance, some 100,00 people had flocked to the square in time for the pontiff's speech, according to the Vatican's crowd count.

A canopy on the edge of steps on the square sheltered the pontiff, who was back in the public eye for the Mass 12 hours after a 2.25-hour long Easter vigil ceremony in St. Peter's Basilica the night before.

Francis was hospitalized March 29-April 1 for treatment of bronchitis. Still recovering, he skipped the traditional Good Friday procession at Rome's Colosseum due to unseasonably cold nighttime temperatures.

Near the end of the more than two-hour-long Easter Sunday appearance, Francis seemed to run out of steam. His voice grew hoarse and he interrupted his speech at one point to cough.

He nonetheless made several laps through the square in the popembile after the Mass, waving and smiling at cheering well-wishers.

#### DeSantis to make 1st public appearance in South Carolina

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis is set to make his first public appearance in South Carolina, a state where votes will be critical if he launches an expected 2024 presidential bid.

State Sen. Josh Kimbrell told The Associated Press on Sunday that he would host DeSantis for an event on April 19 in Spartanburg, in South Carolina's heavily Republican Upstate.

DeSantis' first public visit to South Carolina, home of the leadoff presidential primary in the South, comes amid a brisk travel schedule during which the governor has taken his "Florida Blueprint" tour to Pennsylvania, New York and Michigan in recent weeks.

With an anticipated presidential bid in the offing, the travel has opened up an avenue for DeSantis to lay out some of his policy achievements in Florida, setting up possible contrasts with potential GOP rivals, including former President Donald Trump.

On Sunday, Kimbrell told the AP that he had been hoping to bring DeSantis to South Carolina for months now, arguing that politically savvy Republicans in the early voting state are accustomed to having multiple

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chances to get to know presidential candidates, in person.

"I've told everybody associated with his team, 'You've got to get here early and often," said Kimbrell, who has already joined efforts with a political action committee urging DeSantis to get into the race. "I've tried to make it clear to them that, if you want to win, you've got to get here early." South Carolina for months has been hosting GOP candidates, including Trump, former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley and former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson. There have also been trips from many of those anticipated to join the field, including former Vice President Mike Pence. Later this week, after a swing through Iowa and New Hampshire, Sen. Tim Scott returns home to South Carolina for a summit with donors, as he mulls a bid of his own.

While this would be DeSantis' first public South Carolina event, he was in the state last year for a gubernatorial fundraiser. The event near Charleston was attended by some of Trump's top donors in the state.

To Kimbrell, who said he agrees with Trump on policy but not "on the way he approached things personally," DeSantis is well-positioned to be a better alternative to Trump, but needs to start spending more time in South Carolina.

"I believe that Ron DeSantis is as popular among my base as Trump is," Kimbrell said, of his heavily GOP district. "But you can't just mail it in. He's going to have to press the flesh, roll his sleeves up, and get really serious."

Meg Kinnard can be reached at http://twitter.com/MegKinnardAP

#### Masters Live Updates | Rahm wins first Masters championship

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Live updates from Sunday's third and fourth round of the Masters (all times local): 7:25 p.m.

Jon Rahm shot 69 to capture his first Masters championship by four strokes over LIV golfers Brooks Koepka and Phil Mickelson, becoming the fourth player from Spain to win a green jacket.

Rahm finished at 12-under 276, pulling away from Koepka, who entered the final round with a two-stroke lead but struggled all day with his accuracy and shot 75.

Mickelson turned back the clock again, matching his best round ever at the Masters with a 65. The 52-year-old Mickelson had eight birdies as the sun replaced two days of steady rains on Sunday.

Jordan Spieth made a late push with nine birdies in the final round and was 7 under,

It's Rahm's fourth win of the season, and his second major championship after winning the U.S. Open in 2021.

Rahm surged into the lead on the par-3 sixth hole after Koepka made bogey, and he didn't let up from there. As Koepka continued to struggle, Rahm built a four-shot lead after birdies at No. 13 and 14 and cruised to the win.

Rahm becomes the first Spaniard since Sergio Garcia to win the Masters in 2017. Seve Ballesteros and Jose Maria Olazabal, also from Spain, both won twice at Augusta National.

5:30 p.m.

Phil Mickelson has turned back the clock at Augusta National.

The 52-year-old Mickelson shot a 7-under 65 in the closing round of the Masters, sinking a 15-foot birdie putt at the final hole to give himself a shot at a fourth green jacket.

Lefty walked to the clubhouse with an 8-under 280 and trailing leader Jon Rahm by only two strokes. Brooks Koepka is also at 8 under.

Rahm and Koepka still have eight holes to play.

Mickelson can only sit back and watch, having matched his best round ever at the Masters and a score that might be good enough if the final group falters.

He already is the oldest major champion in golf history, winning the 2021 PGA Championship. Since then, he's struggled with his game and become the face of the upstart LIV Golf tour, a role that has brought

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such controversy he skipped last year's Masters.

5:15 p.m.

Jon Rahm is making the turn in the final round of the Masters with a two-shot lead over Brooks Koepka and Jordan Spieth.

Koepka began a long day at Augusta National with a two-stroke edge, but he's now gone 19 holes without making a birdie.

Rahm made a brilliant pitch with his third shot at the par-5 eighth, leaving him with a tap-in birdie. Koepka could do no better than a par after yanking his tee shot into the trees.

Both players in the final group made a bogey at the ninth hole, dropping Rahm to 10 under and Koepka to 8 under.

Koepka hasn't made a birdie since the eighth hole of the third round, which he played early this morning. Spieth is at 8 under as he plays his 72nd hole, having made nine birdies in a brilliant round that brought him into contention,

Fifty-two-year-old Phil Mickelson also ias in the mix at 7 under, putting him among seven players within four shots of the lead.

.4:15 p.m.

Spain's Jon Rahm has taken a one-shot lead at the Masters after yet another Brooks Koepka miscue. Koepka bogeyed the par-3 sixth hole, allowing Rahm to take sole possession of the lead at 10 under. Koepka has now gone 4-over par over the last 16 holes while failing to make a birdie during that span. Koepka is 2 over over for the first six holes of the final round with bogeys on both of the par 3s.

Rahm is a three-time winner this year on the PGA Tour and is looking for his first Masters title.

Jordan Spieth has vaulted into a tie for third place at 6 under with seven birdies through 14 holes in the final round.

3:50 p.m.

Spain's Jon Rahm has pulled into a tie with Brooks Koepka for the lead at the Masters with both players now at 10 under, setting up a potentially exciting finish to the weather-delayed tournament.

Rahm, who has a PGA tour-best three wins this season, began the final round two shots behind Koepka but drained a birdie putt on the par-4 third hole and then picked up another stroke when Koepka missed his par putt on the par-3 fourth.

Koepka has won four major tournaments in his career, but never the Masters.

Both players have 14 holes left to play.

Norway's Viktor Hovland remains in contention two shot back at 8 under.

2:40 p.m.

Now the real action begins.

The final pairing has teed off at Augusta National with leader Brooks Koepka and Jon Rahm both vying for their first Masters championship. Koepka, a two-time winner of both the U.S. Open and PGA Championship, is at 11 under for the tournament, two strokes ahead of Spain's Rahm.

Viktor Hovland from Norway entered the final round three shots back of Koepka. He is playing alongside Patrick Cantlay in the group ahead of Koepka and Rahm.

After two days of rain, the sun has emerged and the course is playing easier despite gusts of wind.

Several players from the earlier groups are posting good numbers, including Sahith Theegala, who is 3 under for the round through eight holes, but still eights shots back of Koepka. Cameron Young is 3 under on the round through five holes. \_\_\_\_

12:45 p.m.

The final round of the Masters is underway, with twosomes going off both the first and 10th tees to ensure the weather-plagued tournament finishes on schedule.

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Brooks Koepka is 11 under and maintaining a two-shot lead over Jon Rahm. Both players finished up the third round with matching 1-over 73s.

Koepka, a four-time major champion who now plays on the upstart LIV Golf tour, will tee off with the Spaniard in the final group at 2:33 p.m.

Norway's Viktor Hovland is three shots back, while Patrick Cantlay will be looking to make up a fourstroke deficit.

It looks like there will be a first-time Masters champion. The only former winner in the top eight is Japan's Hideki Matsuyama, who is six shots off the lead.

There is no threat of rain, which forced suspensions the last two days. In fact, the sun has come out at Augusta National.

But the wind is whipping and the temperature has yet to reach 60 degrees.

11:55 a.m.

Brooks Koepka is 18 holes away from winning his fifth major championship and striking a blow for LIV Golf. The 32-year-old Koepka holds a two-stroke lead over Spain's Jon Rahm entering the final round of the weather-delayed Masters. Koepka shot 73 for the third round and is a 11 under for the tournament. Rahm also posted a 73 for the round that started on Saturday prior to being suspended because of weather.

The weather has improved with no rain in the forecast.

Norway's Viktor Hovland made five straight birdies on the back nine to fight his way back into contention at 8 under, three shots back

Patrick Cantley is in fourth place at 6 under, one shot better than 2021 Masters champion Hideki Matsuyama and Russell Henley.

Ámateur Sam Bennett, who shot back-to-back 68s to open the tournament, has fallen off the pace after a 76 in the third round leaving him tied for seventh place with Collin Marikawa at 4 under.

Five-time Masters champion Tiger Woods withdrew from the tournament before play resumed Sunday due to injury.

The fourth round begins at 12:30 p.m. with players going off holes No. 1 and 10 in twosomes. Koepka and Rahm will play together in the final pairing. \_\_\_\_

11·05 a m

Norway's Viktor Hovland has climbed back into contention at the Masters following a birdie binge.

The world's No. 9 player was able to string together five straight birdies on the back nine to climb to 8 under for the tournament, just four shots back of leader Brooks Koepka with two holes left to play in his third round.

Hovland became just the third player since the end of World War II to birdie holes 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 in the same round at the Masters, according to the Elias Sports Bureau. The others are Tommy Nakajima in 1983 and Paul Casey in 2018. The streak ended when he made par on 16.

Hovland shared the first-round lead with Koepka and Jon Rahm after shooting 65 on Thursday but a 73 in the second round.

10:45 a.m.

Scottie Scheffler's bid to repeat at the Masters is in serious jepardy.

The world's No. 1 player finished his third round with a 71, leaving him tied for 18th place and 10 shots behind leader Brooks Koepka. The largest final round comeback at the Masters belongs to Jack Burke Jr., who battled back from eight strokes to beat amateur Ken Venturi in 1956.

Scheffler dominated the 2022 Masters, winning by three strokes over Rory McIlroy despite a four-putt for double-bogey at the final hole. He was looking to become the first repeat Masters champion since Tiger Woods accomplished the feat in 2001 and 2002. Scheffler was the betting favorite coming into the tournament.

9:25 a.m. It didn't take long for things to get interesting at the Masters.

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Jon Rahm is applying some early pressure on leader Brooks Koepka and trails by just two shots with 10 holes completed in the third round.

Koepka led by four strokes when play resumed Sunday morning with both players starting on the No. 7 green following the suspension of play Saturday due to heavy rains. Koepka misfired on his par putt while Rahm rolled in his birdie, representing a two-shot swing in a matter of minutes.

Koepka, who plays on the LIV tour, is at 13 under.

Patrick Cantley is in third place at 7 under, while amateur Sam Bennett is in fourth place at 6 under.

8:30 a.m.

Get set for a long day at Augusta National.

Players are back on the course at the weather-plagued Masters for the completion of the third round, with Brooks Koepka holding a four-stroke lead over Jon Rahm.

The tournament was suspended both Friday and Saturday because of inclement conditions, leading to a condensed schedule for the final day.

One player who won't face the grueling day is Tiger Woods. He withdrew Sunday morning, noting on Twitter that he had reaggravated his plantar fasciitis.

After the third round is completed, the players will be re-grouped into pairings and sent off at 12:30 p.m. from both the first and 10th tees. That should provide enough time for the usual finish early Sunday evening.

It's been 40 years since the Masters ended on a Monday.

Koepka's fitness could be a factor since he'll have to play 30 holes on Sunday. He's still got 12 more holes left in the third round before he returns for the final round.

Play will go on without five-time champion Tiger Woods, who withdrew Sunday morning due to injury.

7:45 a.m.

Five-time champion Tiger Woods has withdrawn from the Masters due to injury.

Woods was in last place among the golfers who had made the cut at 9 over when play was suspended Saturday. He was injured in a car accident in 2021 that nearly cost him his leg, and he spent part of this week in obvious pain limping around the course at Augusta National. Still, he made the cut for the 23rd straight time, tying a tournament record.

When Woods returned to the course Saturday afternoon to begin his weather-delayed third round, he struggled mightily and was 6 over through seven holes when play was suspended again. He did not return to finish the round Sunday.

It's the first time that Woods has not completed 72 holes at Augusta National as a professional. He withdrew prior to the final round of the PGA Championship last year amid similarly cold, wet conditions at Southern Hills in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Brooks Koepka is the leader with playing resuming at 8:30 a.m. He is 13 under with 12 holes to play in his third round.

AP golf: https://apnews.com/hub/golf and https://twitter.com/AP\_Sports

#### Texan declared innocent in slaying now arrested in another

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston man declared innocent in 2021 after being convicted in a fatal stabbing and serving seven years in prison has been charged with murder in the shooting a fellow motorist, police said. Lydell Grant, 46, is accused of killing Edwin Arevalo, 33, following a minor traffic collision Thursday night, Houston police said. Police said Grant got out of his vehicle, shot Arevalo and then fled.

Grant was the taken into custody Friday after a warrant was issued for his arrest, police said. He remained jailed Sunday on \$1 million bond. The attorney for Grant listed in court records in this case could not immediately be reached on Sunday.

In 2012, Grant was convicted of killing 28-year-old Aaron Scheerhoorn, who was stabbed outside a

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Houston bar in 2010. Six eyewitnesses to the stabbing had testified against Grant at trial.

But Grant was was declared innocent in May 2021 by the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals after a new analysis of DNA found on the victim's fingernails pointed to Grant's innocence. He had served seven years of a life sentence when he was freed on bond in 2019 to await the appeals court's decision.

In 2019, police arrested Jermarico Carter for Scheerhoorn's killing. Carter, who was tracked down in Atlanta, confessed to the killing. He pleaded guilty to murder in 2022 and was sent to prison.

The Innocence Project of Texas, which had worked to get Grant exonerated, said in a statement that it couldn't comment on the specifics of the incident on Thursday, which the group noted is an ongoing investigation. The group said its "thoughts and and sympathies go out to the victim's family."

### Home-based workers became younger, more diverse in pandemic

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

People working from home became younger, more diverse, better educated and more likely to move during the worst part of the COVID-19 pandemic, according to survey data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

In many respects, the demographic makeup of people working from home from 2019 to 2021 became more like workers who were commuting, while the share of the U.S. labor force working from home went from 5.7% in 2019 to 17.9% in 2021, as restrictions were implemented to help slow the spread of the virus, according to a report released last week based on American Community Survey data.

"The increase in homebased workers corresponded with a decline in drivers, carpoolers, transit riders, and most other types of commuters," the report said.

The share of people working from home between ages 25 and 34 jumped from 16% to 23% from 2019 to 2021. The share of home-based workers who are Black went from 7.8% to 9.5%, and it went from 5.7% to 9.6% for Asian workers. It remained flat for Hispanic workers, the report said.

The share of home-based workers with a college degree also jumped from just over half to more than two-thirds, and people working from home were more likely to have moved in the past year than commuters.

The two industry groups that saw the greatest jumps in people working from home were in information, where it went from 10.4% to 42%, and finance, insurance and real estate, going from 10.8% to 38.4%. Professional and administrative services, also went from 12.6% to 36.5%.

The smallest gains were in agriculture and mining; entertainment and food services; and armed forces. While every income level saw jumps in people working from home, those in the highest income bracket were most likely to work from home. While it doubled from 2019 to 2021 for workers in the lowest income bracket, it tripled for those in the highest, the report said.

Home-based work also varied by region. By 2021, it was more prevalent in the West and Northeast, making up about a fifth of the workforce, compared to 16.2% in the South and 15.8% in the Midwest. The variation may have been caused by the availability of Internet access, the cluster of information technology jobs on the coasts and the way people commute, whether by car or public transportation, the report said.

The tech-heavy San Francisco and San Jose metro areas had more than a third of their labor force working from home in 2021 — the largest share among metros with more than 1 million residents.

Since most pandemic restrictions have been lifted since the 2021 survey was taken, it is unknown at this point if the growth in work-from-home is permanent.

"If only temporarily, the COVID-19 pandemic generated a massive shift in the way people in the United States related to their workplace location," the report said. "With the centrality of work and commuting in American life, the widespread adoption of home-based work was a defining feature of the pandemic era."

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### As streamers cut costs, TV shows — and residuals — vanish

By R.J. RICO Associated Press

Actor Diana-Maria Riva is all too familiar with one of her shows being canceled. For a performer, it's a painful, unfortunate part of show business. But this was different.

In December, Riva was floored when she found out that "Gordita Chronicles," her recently canceled family comedy, would be removed from HBO Max's vast streaming library — one of dozens of shows that HBO last year effectively wiped from existence for U.S. viewers. Among others: "Westworld," "The Time Traveler's Wife," "Minx," "Mrs. Fletcher" and numerous animated and reality series.

For Riva, the developments were crushing. Over 10 episodes, the critically lauded series followed a plussized 12-year-old named Cucu as she and her Dominican family adapt to life in 1980s Miami.

"It was as if somebody had broken up with you and then came back to remind you a couple of weeks later that we've broken up," says Riva, who played Cucu's mother. "It was already heartbreaking. But then it's an added punch to just say, 'Now we're going to wipe the evidence of you ever having been here.""

As streamers face mounting pressure to save money, several have followed HBO's lead. Erasing original shows from their libraries can help streamers get tax write-downs and, to a smaller extent, save on residual payments. But it brings criticism that they are sidelining already marginalized voices and shortchanging creatives out of already slimmer residual paychecks. These issues have increased tension between executives and writers amid union contract negotiations that started late last month and could lead to a significant work stoppage this spring.

Streaming companies offer this defense: They never promised that shows would live forever. In a hypercompetitive, changing market, they say, each streamer is trying to balance ample offerings with sheer survival.

#### STREAMERS TIGHTEN THEIR BELTS

Amid the downturn in the tech and media industries, streamers are being pushed to cut spending and turn a profit rather than "chasing growth at all costs," media analyst Dan Rayburn says.

"These companies have had to change the way they're spending on content because Wall Street says you've got to get to profitability much faster," Rayburn says. He cites how Disney's stock nosedived in November after the company revealed that its direct-to-consumer unit, which includes Disney+, Hulu and ESPN+, lost nearly \$1.5 billion in one quarter.

HBO's 2022 purges — which occurred as its parent company, Warner Bros., merged with Discovery, enabling a slew of tax write-off possibilities — were the most notable example. But its rivals quickly followed suit. In January, Starz erased a handful of shows including "Dangerous Liaisons," a costume drama that disappeared from its streaming app days after the finale aired. Some fans said they missed the last episode.

Then, a few weeks later, Showtime underwent its own culling. It eliminated the Jeff Daniels-led drama "American Rust," among others. Paramount+, with Showtime integrating into the service, did the same with some of its offerings, including Jordan Peele's revival of "The Twilight Zone."

Some of those shows have found new homes. For those that haven't, including "Gordita Chronicles," the effects of their disappearance are widespread. Potential viewers might never have a chance to discover it. Actors and writers no longer know whether their work will be seen again. And the original streamer no longer has to pay residuals.

How much money streamers save through these erasures is unclear. But Rayburn says the companies clearly concluded that the excised shows weren't bringing in enough new customers or significantly aiding retention efforts. Instead, streamers have been shopping the programming to rivals, including free, ad-supported streaming TV channels like Tubi, which recently began hosting some HBO shows, including "Westworld."

Streamers, Rayburn says, are under no obligation to host shows for years. What's more, customers have gotten used to hopping among apps to hunt down titles that bounce between them.

Casey Bloys, chair and CEO of HBO and HBO Max, said on a recent episode of "The Watch" podcast that streamers are taking a closer look at their libraries and seeing how best to profit.

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"The idea that everything a company produces will be in one spot forever and ever, for \$15 a month, for eternity, is a relatively new concept," Bloys said. "\$15 a month is going to cover everything for the rest of time? It's a nice idea, but it's not viable."

THE DECLINE OF RESIDUALS

The shifting landscape has alarmed creatives who have already seen their residuals dwindle over the years. Residuals were once a cornerstone of an actor's or writer's livelihood, with large checks consistently rolling in as series were syndicated and appeared as reruns. Now, creatives say, their residual income has plummeted as streamers have grown. As part of union-negotiated contracts, streamers still pay residuals, but those back-end payments are hardly the size that casts and crews receive from TV channels.

Per the Writers Guild of America West's contract with the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, a single rerun of an hourlong prime-time broadcast show on ABC would currently net its writer \$24,558. But if that show were on Netflix, the writer would earn — at most — \$20,018 in domestic residuals for the episode. And if the show were on a smaller streamer like HBO Max, that annual payment would max out at \$13,346. Each additional year a show is on a streamer, the residuals decrease. That, of course, assumes the show remains part of the library.

The decline of residuals is an issue that industry insiders say could come to a head as the WGA's contract expires in May, followed shortly by the expiration of the directors' and actors' guild contracts, which are both due to lapse June 30. In addition to seeking better residual rates, writers want higher minimum pay rates and better financial security in an industry that is far more likely to order a 10-episode season than the 22-episode season that was standard when broadcasters dominated the medium. The last writers' strike, a 100-day work stoppage that ended in 2008, cost the California economy an estimated \$2 billion.

"In case y'all are wondering why a WGA strike may be impending, my first residual check for the broadcast show I wrote on was \$12,000. I just got my first residual check for my streaming show... \$4," screenwriter Kyra Jones tweeted.

Even though residuals have fallen, Riva says they play a crucial role in ensuring that an actor makes enough money over a given year — currently \$26,470 — to retain insurance eligibility via the actors' guild, SAG-AFTRA.

"If you didn't get much work recently, but at least had enough residuals to get you over that minimum threshold — that means you can insure your family," Riva says.

MARGINALIZED VOICES SHELVED

In a February news release, the Writer's Guild of America West decried HBO's removal of its shows, saying it "illustrates how consolidation increases the power of gatekeepers at the expense of marginalized voices."

The guild cited HBO's decisions to pull "Gordita Chronicles" and "Tuca & Bertie," an animated series whose two leads were voiced by women of color. It also highlighted the studio's highly unusual move to ax "Batgirl" — a nearly completed movie starring Leslie Grace, an Afro-Latina actor — that HBO shelved for a tax write-off instead of releasing. In January, Warner Bros. Discovery CFO Gunnar Wiedenfels said the company is "done" pursuing those content-related write-offs.

"We can't just let shows disappear, especially shows that depict immigration and Latinx families in a positive light," said "Gordita Chronicles" showrunner Brigitte Muñoz-Liebowitz. "Our communities are humanized through comedy. And to not have the show be there as part of our media lexicon, it shows a regression to me."

In a statement, HBO Max said cancelling "Gordita Chronicles" was a "very difficult decision" it made as part of a shift away from family entertainment. The streamer also confirmed it has returned the show's rights to Sony.

While other affected shows have found new homes through licensing deals, "Gordita Chronicles" remains in limbo, all but impossible to find. For a while, some episodes were still streaming on American Airlines flights, but they, too, recently vanished from in-flight viewing options.

Both Muñoz-Liebowitz and Juan Javier Cardenas, who played Cucu's father on the show, hope Sony finds a new home for it. Cardenas says that when other shows of his were canceled, he took solace in knowing

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"the work would survive." That's not the case with "Gordita Chronicles" — at least, not now.

"To know that in the end," Cardenas says, "despite all the heart and soul we put into the show, that it won't be available for people in the future to watch and enjoy — that's a very sad thing."

#### Ukraine attacks continue amid Easter pleas for peace

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Weekend shelling by Russian forces killed at least seven civilians, Ukrainian officials reported Sunday as Pope Francis and Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby used their traditional Easter messages to highlight the war in Ukraine and other conflicts around the world.

While Russia continued to concentrate on seizing all of Ukraine's industrial east, two other provinces – Kharkiv in the northeast and Zaporizhzhia in the southeast - came under missile, rocket and artillery fire, the Ukrainian military reported. The governor of the Kherson region, Oleksandr Prokudin, said two communities there were hit by bombs from warplanes late Sunday, but he did not immediately report any casualties.

Kharkiv governor Oleh Syniehubov said two men died Sunday in shelling in Kupiansk, a city that Russia held before Ukrainian forces regained control of almost all of the province.

The city remained under attack later Sunday as Russian forces targeted residential areas with multiple rocket launchers, Syniehubov said. Elsewhere in the province, a 30-year-old man was hospitalized in serious condition after Russian shelling of the city of Chuhuiv, he said on Telegram.

Shelling also killed two people overnight, one of them a child born in 2012, in the city of Zaporizhzhia, the capital of that province, City Council Secretary Anatoliy Kurtev said.

The Zaporizhzhia region's governor, Yurii Malashko, said 18 communities in all were shelled. Three people were killed and five were wounded on Saturday, Malashko said.

Zaporizhzhia is home to Europe's largest nuclear power plant and one of four Ukrainian provinces that Russian President Vladimir Putin illegally annexed in September. Since then, Russia's military has sought to oust Ukraine's troops from those areas, especially Luhansk and Donetsk provinces, which make up the industrial region known as the Donbas.

Bakhmut, a city in Donestsk, has seen the 13-month war's longest battle. Western analysts have said Russian forces recently made it into the center of the city. Seizing Bakhmut after more than eight months would give the Kremlin a badly wanted victory and a path to push on toward bigger Ukrainian-held cities.

The Russian army is moving elite units to Bakhmut, Col. Serhiy Cherevaty, a spokesperson for Ukraine's Eastern Group of Forces, said Sunday.

Cherevaty said the Wagner Group, a private Russian military company whose fighters have spearheaded the offensive on Bakhmut, was incurring heavy losses, making it necessary to move in regular army units from the regular army, including paratroopers and motorized riflemen.

The vast majority of Ukrainians with a religious affiliation identify as Orthodox Christian, a faith that observes Easter on April 16 this year. Some Catholics celebrated Easter on Sunday, while Orthodox churches marked Palm Sunday this weekend.

While delivering his Easter address from the central balcony of the Vatican's St. Peter's Basilica, Pope Francis implored God to "help the beloved Ukrainian people on their journey towards peace, and shed the light of Easter upon the people of Russia."

"Comfort the wounded and all those who have lost loved ones because of the war, and grant that prisoners may return safe and sound to their families," Francis said.

Easter affirms the Christian belief that Jesus rose from the dead days after his crucifixion. Welby, who as archbishop of Canterbury is the ceremonial head of worldwide Anglican Communion, said the occasion provided hope that "true peace is no aimless daydream, but a reality offered because Christ was raised from the dead."

"Injustice and brutality may seem to triumph in our short lives on earth, cruel and oppressive rulers might look as though they only get stronger," he said during a sermon delivered in Canterbury, England. "Yet they will vanish. The power of the resurrection is infinitely greater than they are."

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Between Saturday and Sunday mornings, Russian forces launched 40 air strikes, four missile strikes and 58 attacks from multiple-rocket launchers on various parts of Ukraine, the General Staff of the Ukrainian armed forces reported.

According to the General Staff, Russia focused attacks on the Donetsk province communities of Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka and Marinka. Donetsk regional Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said Sunday morning that two civilians were wounded Saturday.

Officials in Kherson province, where Ukrainian forces forced a partial Russian retreat in November, said the southern region also received numerous attacks. They did not report any casualties.

The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, said late Saturday that it thinks Russia's overall offensive "is approaching culmination."

The institute cited Ivan Tymochko, the head of the Ukrainian Council of Reservists for the country's ground forces, as reporting that recent Russian attacks appeared designed to distract and disperse Ukrainian troops preparing for a potential counteroffensive.

"Tymochko stated that Russian forces are not making serious advances anywhere on the front line," the think tank said. Noting that Russia has made heavy use of artillery "offset key shortcomings in combat capability," the institute said reported ammunition shortages would "undermine the Russian military's ability to continue offsetting its other weaknesses and limitations."

Follow AP's coverage of the war in Ukraine: https://apnews.com/hub/russia-ukraine-war

### Ukrainians celebrate Palm Sunday in church marred by dispute

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Willow branches in hand, Ukrainians marked Palm Sunday in the country's most revered Orthodox site that has been at the heart of a religious dispute playing out in parallel with Russia's war on Ukraine.

Dozens of worshippers filled the grand Refectory Church of Anthony and Theodosius located inside the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra monastic complex. Many more waited outside in the sprawling courtyard and observed the service there.

The occasion marks the first significant religious service to be held in the complex following the March 29 eviction order issued by the Ukrainian government against Orthodox monks residing in the monastery over their alleged links with Russia. The monks had refused to leave the premises before the eviction deadline.

Sunday's service was peaceful with some police presence by the entrances of the complex.

The site, which is known in English as the Monastery of the Caves, contains a church, monastic and museum buildings. It's oldest parts date back to the dawn of Christianity a millennium ago.

It is owned by the Ukrainian government and the state agency overseeing the property notified the Ukrainian Orthodox Church in March that it was terminating their lease. The move comes amid a wider crackdown on the UOC over its historic ties to the Russian Orthodox Church, whose leader Patriarch Kirill has supported Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

After the service, Metropolitan Epiphanius, head of the pro-Kyiv Orthodox Church of Ukraine, blessed worshipers outside the church doors with holy water.

Worshippers welcomed the eviction order.

"I am very glad that this is finally happening, that the Kyiv-Pechersk Lavra is cleared of Moscow roots and it is renewed and comes to life," said Yulia Sencuk, speaking outside the church. "By these very events we are more likely to bring our victory closer."

Palm Sunday marks the last Sunday before Easter and signals the start of a holy week of prayer and reflections for Christians. The day celebrates Jesus Christ's entry into Jerusalem, where it is believed he was welcomed with palm fronds on the road. Orthodox churches use different reference dates to calculate when Easter occurs, which can be up to four weeks later than the holiday marked by other branches of Christianity.

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Instead of holding the symbolic palms, many held willow branches on Sunday in keeping with tradition in Ukraine.

Personnel of Ukraine's Armed Forces were present, along with civilians, to mark the occasion in the church. "It's a very important holiday for me because it's our tradition, and it's about our peace, our independence, our belief in God, in peace, in our ... victory," said Irina, a servicewoman in attendance. She spoke on the condition her last name not be disclosed, in keeping with army protocols.

### Iowa won't pay for rape victims' abortions or contraceptives

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — The Iowa Attorney General's Office has paused its practice of paying for emergency contraception — and in rare cases, abortions — for victims of sexual assault, a move that drew criticism from some victim advocates.

Federal regulations and state law require Iowa to pay many of the expenses for sexual assault victims who seek medical help, such as the costs of forensic exams and treatment for sexually transmitted infections. Under the previous attorney general, Democrat Tom Miller, Iowa's victim compensation fund also paid for Plan B, the so-called morning after pill, as well as other treatments to prevent pregnancy.

A spokeswoman for Republican Attorney General Brenna Bird, who defeated Miller's bid for an 11th term in November, told the Des Moines Register that those payments are now on hold as part of a review of victim services.

"As a part of her top-down, bottom-up audit of victim assistance, Attorney General Bird is carefully evaluating whether this is an appropriate use of public funds," Bird Press Secretary Alyssa Brouillet said in a statement. "Until that review is complete, payment of these pending claims will be delayed."

Victim advocates were caught off guard by the pause. Ruth Richardson, CEO of Planned Parenthood North Central States, said in a statement that the move was "deplorable and reprehensible."

Bird's decision comes as access to the most commonly used method of abortion in the U.S. plunged into uncertainty following conflicting court rulings on Friday over the legality of the abortion medication mifepristone. For now, the drug the Food and Drug Administration approved in 2000 appeared to remain at least immediately available in the wake of separate rulings issued in quick succession.

U.S. District Judge Matthew Kacsmaryk in Texas, an appointee of former President Donald Trump, ordered a hold on federal approval of mifepristone. But that decision came at nearly the same time that U.S. District Judge Thomas O. Rice in Washington state, an appointee of former President Barack Obama, essentially ordered the opposite.

The extraordinary timing of the competing orders revealed the high stakes surrounding the drug nearly a year after the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and curtailed access to abortion across the country. President Joe Biden said his administration would fight the Texas ruling.

In Iowa, money for the victim compensation fund comes from fines and penalties paid by convicted criminals. For sexual assault victims, state law requires that the fund pay "the cost of a medical examination of a victim for the purpose of gathering evidence and the cost of treatment of a victim for the purpose of preventing venereal disease," but makes no mention of contraception or pregnancy risk.

Sandi Tibbetts Murphy, who served as director of the victim assistance division under Miller, said the longtime policy for Iowa has been to include the cost of emergency contraception in the expenses covered by the fund. She said that in rare cases, the fund paid for abortions for rape victims.

"My concern is for the victims of sexual assault, who, with no real notice, are now finding themselves either unable to access needed treatment and services, or are now being forced to pay out of their own pocket for those services, when this was done at no fault of their own," she said.

This story was first published on April 8, 2023. It was updated on April 9, 2023 to correct that U.S. District Judge Thomas O. Rice is in Washington state, not Washington, D.C.

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### Health secretary slams abortion pill ruling as 'not America'

By HOPE YEN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's top health official said Sunday that a court ruling threatening the availability of a main drug used in medication abortion was "not America" and he did not rule out defying the judge's order if necessary.

"We want the courts to overturn this reckless decision," Xavier Becerra, President Joe Biden's health secretary, told CNN's "State of the Union." "We want, yes, that women continue to have access to a drug that's proven itself safe. Millions of women have used this drug around the world."

He stressed that for now, women do have access to the abortion medication mifepristone after a federal judge in Texas, Donald Trump-appointee Matthew Kacsmaryk, put his ruling from Friday on hold for a week so federal officials could file a challenge. The drug was approved in 2000 by the Food and Drug Administration, which is overseen by the Health and Human Services Department headed by Becerra.

"For America's sake and for women's sake, we have to prevail in this," he said.

Biden has said his administration would fight the Texas ruling. Kacsmaryk's 67-page order gave the government seven days to appeal.

"We intend to do everything to make sure it's available to them not just in a week, but moving forward, period, because mifepristone is one of the safest and most effective medicines that we have seen over the last 20 years to help women with their health care, especially abortion care," Becerra said.

Asked whether he might recommend that the FDA ignore a ban, Becerra said, "Everything is on the table." There is uncertainty about access to the most commonly used method of abortion in the United States following two separate and conflicting court rulings in Texas and Washington over the legality of mifepristone.

Kacsmaryk's decision ordering a hold on federal approval of mifepristone overruled decades of scientific approval. But a ruling at nearly the same time in Washington state from that U.S. District Judge Thomas O. Rice, a Barack Obama appointee, directed U.S. authorities not to make any changes that would restrict access to the drug in at least 17 states where Democrats sued in an effort to protect availability.

Becerra said Kacsmaryk's order could have dire ramifications for the legality of any FDA-approved drug, such as vaccines, insulin or new Alzheimer's drugs coming onto the market because it seeks to "turn upside down" the entire FDA approval process.

The former California attorney general acknowledged a "good chance" that the case will ultimately be decided by the Supreme Court, which last year overturned Roe v. Wade and curtailed access to abortion across the country.

"If a judge decides to substitute his preference, his personal opinion for that of scientists and medical professionals, what drug isn't subject to some kind of legal challenge? So we have to go to court," he said.

Alluding to Kacsmaryk, the Cabinet secretary said: "What you saw by that one judge in that one court, in that one state, that's not America. America goes by the evidence. America does what's fair. America does what is transparent and we can show that what we do is for the right reasons."

Appearing after Becerra on CNN, Rep. Tony Gonzales, R-Texas, said "it's important that we take care of women" and have "real discussions on women's health care" but "get off the abortion conversation. Women have a whole lot more other issues than just abortion. ... Let's talk about the other things that are happening in this world."

#### Tensions build around Jerusalem shrine after Syria rockets

By ILAN BEN ZION Associated Press

JÉRUSALEM (AP) — Israeli warplanes and artillery struck targets in Syria following rare rocket fire from the northeastern neighbor, as Jewish-Muslim tensions reached a peak Sunday at a volatile Jerusalem shrine with simultaneous religious rituals.

Thousands of Jewish worshippers gathered at the city's Western Wall, the holiest place where Jews can pray, for a mass priestly benediction prayer service for the Passover holiday. At the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, a walled esplanade above the Western Wall, hundreds of Palestinians performed prayers as

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part of observances during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Hundreds of Jews also visited the Al-Aqsa compound under heavy police guard Sunday, to whistles and religious chants from Palestinians protesting their presence. By sundown, the observances had passed without serious incident.

Such tours by religious and nationalist Jews have increased in size and frequency over the years, and are viewed with suspicion by many Palestinians who fear that Israel plans one day to take over the site or partition it. Israeli officials say they have no intention of changing long-standing arrangements that allow Jews to visit, but not pray in the Muslim-administered site.

However, the country is now governed by the most right-wing government in its history, with ultranationalists who seek changes in the arrangements in senior positions.

Senior right-wing politicians, along with West Bank settler leaders, announced plans for a march through the northern West Bank on Monday, setting the stage for further tensions.

Tensions have soared in the past week at the flashpoint shrine after an Israeli police raid on the mosque. On several occasions, Palestinians have barricaded themselves inside the Al-Aqsa Mosque with stones and firecrackers, demanding the right to pray there overnight, something Israel has in the past only allowed during the last 10 days of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan. Police removed them by force, detaining hundreds and leaving dozens injured.

The violence at the shrine triggered rocket fire by Palestinian militants from the Gaza Strip and southern Lebanon, starting Wednesday, and Israeli airstrikes targeted both areas.

In Lebanon, Hezbollah's media office announced that the militant group's chief, Hassan Nasrallah, received a delegation headed by Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on Sunday. The two discussed "the most important developments in occupied Palestine, the course of events at al-Aqsa Mosque, and the escalating resistance in the West Bank and Gaza, in addition to general political developments in the region, the readiness of the resistance axis and the cooperation of its parties," the statement said.

Haniyeh, who arrived in Lebanon last week shortly before rockets were launched at Israel from south Lebanon, had been scheduled to make a public appearance in Beirut on Friday. But it was canceled for security reasons following the exchange of strikes between Lebanon and Israel. No group has officially claimed responsibility for the rocket attacks, but Israel has accused Hamas of being behind them.

Late on Saturday and early Sunday, militants in Syria fired rockets in two salvos toward Israel and the Israeli-annexed Golan Heights. A Damascus-based Palestinian group loyal to the Syrian government claimed responsibility for the first round of rockets, saying it was retaliating for the Al-Aqsa raids.

In the first salvo, one rocket landed in a field in the Golan Heights. Fragments of another destroyed missile fell into Jordanian territory near the Syrian border, Jordan's military reported. In the second round, two of the rockets crossed the border into Israel, with one being intercepted and the second landing in an open area, the Israeli military said.

Israel responded with artillery fire into the area in Syria from where the rockets were fired. Later, the military said Israeli fighter jets attacked Syrian army sites, including a compound of Syria's 4th Division and radar and artillery posts.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan discussed the violence in a telephone call with Israeli counterpart Isaac Herzog late Saturday, telling Herzog that Muslims could not remain silent about the "provocations and threats" against the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and said the hostilities that have spread to Gaza and Lebanon should not be allowed to escalate further.

In addition to the cross-border fighting, three people were killed over the weekend in Palestinian attacks in Israel and the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Hundreds of people, including National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, attended the funeral for two British-Israeli sisters, Maia Dee, 20, and Rina Dee, 15, who were killed in a shooting Friday in the West Bank.

They were buried following an emotional ceremony in the Jewish settlement of Kfar Etzion in the West Bank. As the two bodies were brought into the room, one of their sisters threw herself down and hugged the covered bodies. Their mother, who was also shot in the attack, remains hospitalized in critical condition.

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"May we and no one else in the whole world ever know so much sorrow. Amen," said their father, Lee Dee.

An Italian tourist, Alessandro Parini, 35, a lawyer from Rome, had just arrived in the city a few hours earlier with some friends for a brief Easter holiday. He was killed Friday in a suspected car-ramming on Tel Aviv's beachside promenade.

Over 90 Palestinians and have been killed by Israeli fire so far this year, at least half of them affiliated with militant groups, according to a tally by The Associated Press. Palestinian attacks on Israelis have killed 19 people in that time. All but one were civilians.

Associated Press writers Suzan Frazer in Ankara, Turkey; Abby Sewell in Beirut and Frances D'Emilio in Rome contributed to this report.

### 'The Super Mario Bros. Movie' is a box office smash

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

Audiences said let's go to the movie theater for "The Super Mario Bros. Movie "this weekend. The animated offering from Universal and Illumination powered up with \$204.6 million in its first five days in 4,343 North American theaters, including \$146.4 million over the weekend, according to studio estimates on Sunday.

With an estimated \$173 million in international earnings and a global total of \$377 million, "Mario" broke records for video game adaptations (passing "Warcraft's" \$210 million) and animated films ("Frozen 2's" \$358 million).

Its global total makes it the biggest opening of 2023 and the second biggest three-day domestic animated opening (behind "Finding Dory"). It's also a record for Illumination, the animation shop behind successful franchises like "Minions," which has made over \$5 billion from its 13 films.

"This partnership between Nintendo and Illumination is just incredible and led to this extraordinary performance," said Jim Orr, Universal's president of domestic distribution.

The PG-rated "Mario" is an origin story of Brooklyn plumbers Mario, voiced by Chris Pratt, and Luigi (Charlie Day), who fall into a pipe and come out in another world full of Nintendo's most famous characters, from Bowser (Jack Black) to Princess Peach (Anya Taylor-Joy). Critics were largely mixed. "Mario" currently has a 56% on Rotten Tomatoes. But audiences were more favorable, giving it an A CinemaScore.

Orr said that theater owners were surprised by just how broad the audiences were and reported seeing some ticket buyers decked out in character costumes for the movie. According to exit polls, 59% of the audience was male and 45% were between the ages of 18 and 34.

"\$377 million worldwide is just astounding and a testament to how important outside of the home activities are for families," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "Kids and their parents collectively were able to go out, have an outside the home event for the whole family at a relatively bargain price compared to a trip or a sporting event."

Also, Dergarabedian noted, there is a long runway before "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" opens on May 5. "This was a perfect release date," Dergarabedian said.

"Mario" wasn't the only movie based on a brand that opened in theaters this week. Ben Affleck's "Air," about the origins of Nike's Air Jordan and how the corporation signed Michael Jordan, also debuted in 3,507 theaters Wednesday. The film, which marks Amazon Studios first global theatrical release, has grossed an estimated \$20.2 million since opening Wednesday in North America, with \$14.5 million coming from the weekend to give it a fourth place start.

With an R-rating, "Air," starring Matt Damon, Viola Davis and Affleck, was a bit of adult-targeted counter programming to the "Mario" juggernaut. Reviews were glowing (95% on Rotten Tomatoes) for the film which debuted as a surprise screening at the South by Southwest Film Festival last month, helping to bolster buzz. Audiences were 55% male and 39% over the age of 45.

"'Air' found its audience. It's a solid gross," Dergarabedian said. "This one is in it for the long haul."

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"Air" is the first film from Affleck and Damon's new company Artists Equity which was formed last year in partnership with RedBird Capital.

Second place went to "John Wick Chapter 4" which made \$14.6 million in its third weekend, bringing its total grosses to \$147.1 million. Close behind was "Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves" which placed third with \$14.5 million in its second weekend, while "Scream VI" rounded out the top 5 with \$3.3 million.

In limited release, Kelly Reichardt's art-centric "Showing Up," with Michelle Williams and Hong Chau, also bowed on four screens, grossing \$66,932.

"This is such an important weekend for theaters, a home stretch heading into the summer movie season, and this is a perfect scenario," Dergarabedian said. "It's game on for movie theaters when a lot of people thought it was game over."

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

- 1. "The Super Mario Bros. Movie," \$146.4 million.
- 2. "John Wick: Chapter 4," \$14.6 million.
- 3. "Dungeons & Dragons: Honor Among Thieves," \$14.5 million.
- 4. "Air," \$14.5 million.
- 5. "Scream VI," \$3.3 million.
- 6. "His Only Son," \$3.3 million.
- 7. "Creed III," \$2.8 million.
- 8. "Shazam! Fury of the Gods," \$1.6 million.
- 9. "Paint," \$750,000.
- 10. "A Thousand and One," \$600,000.

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Follow AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr on Twitter: www.twitter.com/ldbahr.

#### Cubans seek solutions and solace in Santería amid crises

Associated Press undefined

HAVANA (AP) — From a two-room concrete home on the fringes of Cuba's capital, the rumble of wooden drums spills out onto the streets.

Neighbors gather at the door and kids climb a fence to peer inside. They watch as dozens of Cubans wearing white and African beads make offerings at a bright blue altar consuming half a room, asking for luck, protection and good health.

While nearly 70% of Latin America's 670 million people consider themselves Catholic, in Cuba, Santería is the name of the game.

A fusion of African religions and Catholicism, Santería was one of the few religious practices to quietly endure through decades of prohibitions and stigma by the communist government.

Now, as that stigma gradually fades and the country enters a moment of compounding economic, political and migratory crises, the religion is growing in popularity and expanding to new demographics.

"Every day the religion grows a little more," Mandy Arrazcaeta, 30, said among the throngs of people in his home dancing and making offerings at the altar to a plastic doll depicting the Yoruba deity Yemayá. "Right now, Santería in the country is a sort of bastion."

Santería was born as a form of quiet resistance among the island's black communities. The religion dates back centuries to when Spanish colonists brought in hundreds of thousands of African slaves.

While the Spanish tried to force Catholicism on the slaves, the Africans brought their own religions, mostly from West Africa, which they would camouflage by attaching their deities — orishas — to Catholic saints. Cuba's patron saint, Our Lady of Charity, for example, blended with the golden deity, Oshun.

"It would mix and mix ... through this Catholic virgin, they would speak to their African saints," explained Roberto Zurbano, a Cuban cultural critic. "That's how the religion was able to survive."

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While there are hundreds of orishas in Santería, practitioners known as santeros usually worship only a handful, connecting with them through rituals and offerings.

On one Friday night, Arrazcaeta, family and friends splay out offerings of coconut and red Cuban pesos emblazoned with the face of Che Guevara, sacrificing two chickens over bowls filled with rocks and seashells. In exchange, they ask for good health, strength during hardship, and even luck in love.

"It's something that's very Cuban, something spontaneous that we do. Because we know the struggles we face in this country," Arrazcaeta said.

Millions worldwide are estimated to practice Santería, though definitive numbers – especially in Cuba – are hard to pin down due to the religion's informal nature. The U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom estimates 70% in Cuba practice some version of Santeria or similar African-based religions.

What is clear in the altars dotting homes across the island and the many Cubans in Havana cloaked in white – worn by santeros their first year after converting to represent rebirth – is that Santería has captured the Cuban consciousness.

Following the Cuban revolution in the 1950's, Fidel Castro dismantled religious structures and expelled the priests who criticized his government. Religion, famously described by communist philosopher Karl Marx as "the opium of the people," was strictly prohibited.

Catholicism, highly dependent on meeting in churches and on hierarchy, withered.

Meanwhile, Santería practitioners pulled from the same tools they used to survive in earlier centuries.

"People did believe, but you couldn't say anything because it was politically prohibited by Marxism. All that did was strengthen Afro-religious faiths in very closed circles," Zurbano said. "They would keep it a secret, keep their religiosity to themselves."

Zurbano's family would quietly perform rituals inside their home and divide ceremonies that once would last a week into smaller two-day chunks to avoid alerting authorities. Some adherents secretly wore religious garb under street clothes.

Katrin Hansing, an anthropologist in Cuba for City University New York, said Santería endured because of its flexibility, and because of its perceived utility in assuring good health in exchange for offerings.

In the 1990s when Cuba's main ally, the Soviet Union, collapsed and the island spiraled into economic crisis, many Cubans found solace in Santería.

The Cuban government has accepted it, but the officially authorized ceremonies remain practically deserted, as islanders prefer celebrations in more informal settings such as Arrazcaeta's home.

"It's incredibly resilient as a religious system," Hansing said. "It's so decentralized and it allows the individual believer or practitioner to make it what they need it to be."

Santería is once again seeing a surge, and expanding past historically impoverished black communities. Arrazcaeta, a white Cuban and member of the LGBTQ+ community, found refuge in the religion when he was 12. Once an Evangelical Christian, he said he felt rejected by members of that religion for being gay. "I never fit in that religion," Arrazcaeta said. "I liked that Santeria doesn't obligate anyone to fit into a model."

As a teenager, he began putting glasses of water around the house, as offerings to orishas. His mother, Maritza de la Rosa Perdomo, would throw the water out, saying there was no place for religion in her home. That changed three years ago, when Arrazcaeta joined a wave of Cubans in embarking on a journey to the U.S., traversing the perilous jungles of the Darien Gap.

When Arrazcaeta went missing for seven days in the jungle, the first thing Perdomo did was put out an offering.

"I began to beg for my son, I said I needed to hear from him, to know that he was alive. I was begging with my whole heart," Perdomo said.

When she received a call from him shortly after, she decided to join the religion alongside her children. "A religion that used to be, you know, dominantly practiced by descendants of Africans or people of African descent has now become a multiracial religion in Cuba," Hansing said. "Santería has grown enormously." But for each practitioner, Santería means something different.

For Arrazcaeta, who nowadays travels between Cuba and work in Florida as an Uber driver, Santería is

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a spiritual experience. For Perdomo, it's a way of seeking good health. For both, it's a way to stay connected with the other an ocean away.

"Today, the entire country is dressed in white," Perdomo said.

#### Woods withdraws before completing 3rd round of Masters

By DAVE SKRETTA AP Sports Writer

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) — Tiger Woods withdrew from the Masters before the resumption of the third round because of an injury Sunday, ending his streak of completing all 72 holes of every tournament he has played at Augusta National as a professional.

The tournament announced about 90 minutes before play began that Woods, who is still hobbled by the effects of the 2021 car accident that nearly cost him his right leg, had withdrawn. He'd limped through practice rounds early in the week and again during the first and second rounds, but the limp had become more pronounced as the weather worsened.

"I am disappointed to have to WD this morning due to reaggravating my plantar fasciitis," Woods said on Twitter. "Thank you to the fans and to (at)TheMasters who have shown me so much love and support. Good luck to the players today!"

The five-time champion finished his second round in cold, driving rain on Saturday to make the cut on the number at 3 over, extending his Masters streak to 23 straight and tying Fred Couples and Gary Player for the longest in history.

The 47-year-old Woods headed back out for the start of the third round as temperatures struggled to reach 50 degrees, and it wound up being a water-logged slog. Wearing a gray winter hat over a baseball cap, he started on the 10th hole with a bogey, added another at No. 14, and then had back-to-back double bogeys after finding the water on Nos. 15 and 16.

It was the first time Woods has ever had consecutive double bogeys at the Masters.

By the time the horn blew ending play with rain still pouring and puddles beginning to stand at Augusta National, Woods was at 9 over and alone in last place among those that made the cut. That was 22 shots behind leader Brooks Koepka.

"I've always loved this golf course, and I love playing this event," Woods said after his second round Saturday. "Obviously I've missed a couple with some injuries, but I've always wanted to play here. I've loved it."

Woods also withdrew before the final round of last year's PGA Championship with what his agent, Mark Steinberg, described as pain and discomfort in his right foot. That came hours after the 15-time major champion limped to a 79 at Southern Hills in Tulsa, Oklahoma, in similarly cold and windy weather; he had shot 69 in the second round.

Woods captured his fifth green jacket in 2019 when he finished one shot ahead of Koepka, Dustin Johnson and Xander Schauffele. It was his first major win in 11 years and, at age 43, Woods became the second-oldest player to win the Masters after Jack Nicklaus, who was 46 when he won his sixth green jacket in 1986.

Woods was injured in 2021 when his car careened off a suburban Los Angeles road at over 85 mph, crushing his right leg so badly that he said doctors considered amputation. Asked how much hardware held it together, Woods replied: "A lot."

Woods recovered and made the cut at the Masters last year before shooting back-to-back 78s on the weekend.

The injuries have forced Woods to play a very limited schedule — the majors and a few select events. He shot two rounds in the 60s and finished tied for 45th at The Genesis Invitational at Riviera in February, but he skipped Bay Hill and The Players Championship so that he would be healthy and ready for a return to Augusta National.

The question now is whether Woods will play the PGA Championship at Oak Hill in May. The U.S. Open is at Los Angeles Country Club in June, not far from where Woods grew up, and the British Open is at Royal Liverpool in July.

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"Yeah, mobility, it's not where I would like it," Woods said. "I've said to you guys before, I'm very lucky to have this leg — it's mine. Yes, it has been altered and there's some hardware in there, but it's still mine. It has been tough and will always be tough. The ability and endurance of what my leg will do going forward will never be the same. I understand that.

"That's why I can't prepare and play as many tournaments as I like, but that's my future, and that's OK. I'm OK with that."

AP golf: https://apnews.com/hub/golf and https://twitter.com/AP\_Sports

#### AMA's first gay president to take over at tumultuous time

By LINDSEY TANNER AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — The first openly gay person to lead the American Medical Association takes the reins at a fractious time for U.S. health care.

Transgender patients and those seeking abortion care face restrictions in many places. The medical judgment of physicians is being overridden by state laws. Disinformation is rampant. And the nation isn't finished with COVID-19.

In the two decades since Dr. Jesse Ehrenfeld first got involved with the AMA as young medical resident, the nation's largest physicians' group has tried to shed its image as a conservative self-interested trade association. While physician pocketbook issues remain a big focus, the AMA is also a powerful lobbying force for a range of public health issues.

Two years ago, the AMA won widespread praise for announcing a plan to dismantle structural racism within its ranks and the U.S. medical establishment. It has adopted policies that stress health equity and inclusiveness — moves that inspired critics to accuse it of "wokeness."

At 44, Ehrenfeld will be among the AMA's youngest presidents when he begins his one-year term on June 13. An anesthesiologist, Navy combat veteran and father of two young children, he spoke recently to The Associated Press about his background and new job.

The conversation has been edited for clarity and length.

Q. Why is your being part of the LGBTQ community a big deal at this moment and how will it inform your role as AMA president?

A: I didn't run as a gay man. That's not my platform, but it's a part of my identity. And people know that. Representation and visibility is so important. I can't tell you the number of emails, letters, phone calls, text messages that I got when I was elected into this role from people around the world that saw this as an important moment, an important recognition of what inclusivity and equality can be to help advance health equity for everyone.

Q: How will your experience as part of the LGBTQ community inform and influence your new role?

A: I've experienced the health care system as a gay person, as a gay parent, as in many ways wonderful positive experiences and other ways, some deeply harmful experiences. And I know that we can do better as a nation. We can do better as a system that can lift up health. And I expect that there'll be opportunities to shine a light on that during my year as president.

Q: What are examples of those experiences?

A: There's so many times where our health care system just does not accommodate people who aren't in the majority. As a gay parent and a gay dad, I can't tell you how many forms I filled out where there's a place for the mom and a place for the dad. It's a small thing. But it's a signal that we're different and maybe we're not welcome or accepted.

When you have those small, subtle irritations that add up day after day after day, whether you're an LGBT person or from a minority group, that causes stress. These friction points ... are so pronounced for so many who are in underserved communities, so many in the LGBT community, and particularly for transgender individuals. And I know we can do better.

I've been fortunate to have two beautiful boys brought into this world with the support of an incredible

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group of physicians. But there were definitely lots of moments along the way where it was clear that we were a little bit different than everybody else in a way that didn't need to be.

Q: This seems like an unprecedented time for political interference in medicine.

A: I'm deeply concerned about government intrusion into decision-making for patients. The Supreme Court ruling around abortion has had profound implications for reproductive rights. And fundamentally, patients have a right to access evidence-based health care services. That includes comprehensive reproductive health care. It includes care for transgender people.

States that ban abortion, that ban health care for transgender youth are placing the government right into the patient-physician relationship. And we know that this leads to devastating health consequences and can jeopardize lives. The AMA continues to speak out against these kinds of actions.

Q: What power does the AMA really have to protect those rights?

A: I don't think we're powerless at all. The AMA was deeply involved in helping the Biden Administration put out guidance to help physicians and patients understand that you don't have to disclose private medical information to third parties. And we'll continue to call for things like unrestricted access to (the abortion drug) mifepristone.

Q: Are you discouraged by the number of states that seem to be jumping on this bandwagon?

A: I'm an optimist. There are particular political divisions that are different right now. The attack on science, the attack on following the evidence to deliver care is new. Globally, it has accelerated during the pandemic, but the rampant misinformation, disinformation — all of those challenges are things I know we can overcome. It requires the AMA to lift up our voices and to not give up.

Q: Will addressing the nation's mental health crisis be part of your role?

A: We need Congress to take action. There have been 15 years now of repeated failures by health care companies to comply with what was a landmark law in 2008 around mental health parity and substance use disorder.

That law passed by Congress has never been enforced. Those violations continue to be more serious than they were a decade ago.

It affects patients with autism. It affects patients with eating disorders, substance use disorders. It delays care. It's harming patients.

And we are likely causing deaths to happen that are avoidable. We know that there are federal actions that could be taken to help with this, including enabling patients to recover losses associated with an improper denial of care.

The other aspect around mental health access that is really important is permanently expanding access to telehealth.

Q: Critics have long said the AMA is primarily a self-interested trade group. How is that a misconception?

A: We have a pretty simple message, and it's to elevate the art and science of medicine for the betterment.

A: We have a pretty simple message, and it's to elevate the art and science of medicine for the betterment of human health. And that's why we care about things like climate change and things like health equity.

We have to make sure that there is joy in the practice of medicine. We have to make sure that our health care systems reward and support and allow practices to thrive.

And you look at boneheaded decisions like the fact that physicians got a 2% pay cut from Medicare this past January as opposed to an inflation update. Those are things that are important. They're financial.

But without advocacy in those realms, practices will close. Medicare patients won't have a doctor to see. And we just we can't allow that to happen.

Follow AP Medical Writer Lindsey Tanner at @LindseyTanner. \_

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## South Africa police say prison escapee arrested in Tanzania

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME Associated Press

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — A South African convicted murderer who faked his death to escape from prison has been arrested in Tanzania following a two-week manhunt, police have announced.

South African officials are going to Tanzania Sunday to begin to extradite Thabo Bester, 35, dubbed the "Facebook Rapist" as he used the social media platform to lure at least two women he was convicted of raping. He was also found guilty of killing one.

Bester was sentenced to life imprisonment in 2012 and it was reported in May last year that he died in a fire in his prison cell.

However, reports surfaced of him being seen in Johannesburg and an investigation including DNA samples showed that the body found burned beyond recognition in the cell was not his.

Two weeks ago police said they were chasing Bester and last week they raided a luxurious home he was believed to have been renting in a posh Johannesburg suburb.

Bester was apprehended with his girlfriend Nandipha Magudumana, a well-known celebrity doctor, and a Mozambican national believed to have assisted them to cross borders and evade law enforcement authorities, officials announced.

They were found with several fake passports which were unstamped at the time of their arrest, about 10 kilometers (6 miles) from the Kenyan border.

Authorities have now started the process to extradite the fugitives back to South Africa, where they are expected to face several charges. "An official delegation from South Africa, comprising senior officials from the police and the department of justice and correctional services will depart for Tanzania on Sunday," Justice Minister Ronald Lamola said Saturday, announcing Bester's arrest.

The South African news outlet GroundUp reported that for nearly a year after his prison escape Bester had lived a lavish lifestyle with Magudumana in Johannesburg's upmarket Hyde Park suburb.

While in prison, Bester used a laptop he had for studies to run an event and production company, GroundUp reported. At one point he addressed a conference from his prison cell, telling attendees that he was speaking from the U.S., it reported.

Bester's elaborate escape from prison has raised many questions about the possible involvement of prison officials.

At least three officials have been fired from the Mangaung Correctional Centre from where Bester escaped, according to local reports. The prison was managed privately by the British-based G4S security firm. The South African government has now taken over management of the maximum security prison and has announced that the G4S contract to manage the prison will not be renewed when it expires in 2026.

### Ilhan Omar embarks on new path no longer defined by 'firsts'

By FARNOUSH AMIRI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden was winding up for a speech at a Minnesota clean energy facility when he spotted a lawmaker in the crowd whom he wanted to recognize.

"I want to thank you for being here," Biden said, gesturing toward Democratic Rep. Ilhan Omar during his recent visit. "You never stop working to level the playing field for everybody."

For Omar, the quick flash of praise from Biden — who was neither her first nor second choice to be the party's 2020 White House nominee — was more than just a courtesy shout-out during a presidential visit to her suburban Minneapolis district. It was a recognition of how far Omar has come after a rocky start to her political career that at times made her standing with Democrats appear tenuous.

As she settles into her third term, Omar is no longer defined by the "firsts" that accompanied her arrival in Congress: one of the first Muslim women in the House, the first refugee from Africa elected to the House, the first lawmaker to wear a hijab while on the House floor.

In interviews with nearly a dozen Democrats in the House and Senate, lawmakers portray Omar as a serious legislator who in the past four years has earned admiration for giving voice to marginalized groups

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often forgotten on Capitol Hill.

The best example of this came in early February when every single House Democrat voted against a GOP resolution to remove her from the House Foreign Affairs Committee over her past comments critical of Israel.

"I think we've been successful in making the Democratic caucus, Democratic Party, Democratic establishment to get to a place where they are able to see me fully, for all of the multiple identities I am a first for and not just to see and celebrate it but to defend it," Omar told The Associated Press.

In the debate over her committee seat, many of Omar's fellow Democrats, including those of Jewish descent, spoke out in the chamber about what they said was hypocrisy from the new Republican majority.

"I don't need any of you to defend me against antisemitism," said Rép. Jan Shakowsky, D-Ill. "My friend Ilhan Omar and I have worked together toward the values that I treasure as an American Jew and that she treasures as an American Islamic woman, the only one on the Foreign Affairs Committee."

Democrats called it payback because they had used their majority in the last Congress to oust far-right GOP lawmakers from committees for their incendiary, violent remark s. But the emotionally charged floor debate over Omar was a departure from the bipartisan outrage she faced in her first year in office. At that time, Democrats were confronted by the reality that comes with diverse viewpoints when Omar — showing less deference to the party line — dragged the divisions over Israel into the open.

It began with social media posts in which Omar criticized pro-Israel lobbyist groups and questioned the loyalty of Jewish lawmakers who pushed back against her criticisms of the Israeli government.

Omar apologized for her comments at the time, both privately to her Jewish colleagues and publicly. She said what she was questioning was the influence game in Washington and voicing her concern that anything she said about Israel and its treatment of Palestinians would be construed as antisemitic.

In response, top Democrats began to draft a resolution that would have condemned antisemitism, with an early version even mentioning Omar by name. At the time, only a handful of Democrats inside and outside of Congress came to her defense.

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders, the highest-ranking progressive in Congress, said in April 2019 that Omar may "need to do a better job speaking to the Jewish community," but that "it is not antisemitic to be critical of a right-wing government in Israel."

Ben Rhodes, who was President Barack Obama's deputy national security adviser, said that after meeting Omar early in her career, it was clear that she wanted to use her background to push for structural change in foreign policy.

"There are plenty of people in Congress that can represent the kind of established view of American foreign policy whether it's on the Middle East or whether it's on military policy," Rhodes said. "There's a desperate need for unconventional thinking and different perspectives, and that's what she brings."

The resolution that Democrats ended up introducing and passing in the spring of 2019 included condemnation of anti-Muslim bias but did not mention of Omar's name. For the next several years, the former state legislator focused on bringing attention to issues that affected immigrants and families both back in her district and across Minnesota. And she gained support from various factions of the party as a result.

"The more time I've spent with her the more I've come to appreciate her perspective, the more I've come to realize how important her voice is to represent not just our community in Minnesota, not just in our country but many around the world," Rep. Dean Phillips, D-Minn., another Jewish member of Congress. "It's not about agreeing. This building was not built for agreement. It was built to manage disagreement. And I'd like to think that she and I can be the perfect example of that."

Omar began to move up the ranks in the Congressional Progressive Caucus — one of the largest ideological caucuses in the House. She become the vote counter for the caucus chair, Rep. Pramila Jayapal, D-Wash., in the last Congress as progressives helped pave the way for Biden's agenda to pass the House and Senate.

In January, Omar was chosen by more than 100 members to serve as deputy caucus chair.

"She's not gonna stop using her voice," Jayapal said. "She'll continue to use her voice on foreign affairs

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issues. Just kicking her off a committee is not going to silence her. She's way too strong for that."

Omar, who was born in Somalia, is now embarking on a new chapter "as a minority," helping Biden and the Democratic Party provide a split screen to Republican control by highlighting the implementation of several legislative achievements made in the past two years, including the infrastructure law.

"Being taken off the committee is not a pleasant experience. But I think she's gonna turn it into a real blessing," said Rep. Jim Clyburn, D-S.C., who was an early supporter of Omar and is a member of the House Democratic leadership team.

Omar is also chairing a newly formed Africa policy working group, where she and more than a dozen House Democrats will focus on issues concerning the continent.

"We don't agree on everything," said Rep. Sara Jacobs, one of the group's members. "But we share a similar worldview, especially when it comes to the African continent, where we're both really focused on U.S. engagement, not leading with our military, but actually leading with diplomacy and centering our values on human rights and promoting good governance."

While many voiced concerns that her removal from the House Foreign Affairs Committee would effectively silence her on foreign policy, Omar said Republicans badly miscalculated, given that she was assigned to the House Budget Committee as a replacement.

"This is why I joke about the fact that Republicans taking me off the Foreign Affairs Committee essentially meant that they were promoting me," Omar said.

"Because we will have the opportunity not only to address investments in regards to our foreign policy with development, defense, and diplomacy, but we will also be able to have more of a say as part as the discussions move forward in regards to our own defense budget."

### As tiger count grows, India's Indigenous demand land rights

By SIBI ARASU Associated Press

BENGALURU, India (AP) — It was a celebratory atmosphere for officials gathered just hours away from several of India's major tiger reserves in the southern city of Mysuru, where Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced Sunday to much applause that the country's tiger population has steadily grown to over 3,000 since its flagship conservation program began 50 years ago after concerns that numbers of the big cats were dwindling.

"India is a country where protecting nature is part of our culture," Modi proclaimed. "This is why we have many unique achievements in wildlife conservation."

Modi also launched the International Big Cats Alliance that he said will focus on the protection and conservation of seven big cat species, namely, the tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, puma, jaguar and cheetah.

Protesters, meanwhile, are telling their own stories Sunday of how they have been displaced by wildlife conservation projects over the last half-century, with dozens demonstrating about an hour away from the announcement.

Project Tiger began in 1973 after a census of the big cats found India's tigers were fast going extinct through habitat loss, unregulated sport hunting, increased poaching and retaliatory killing by people. It's believed the tiger population was around 1,800 at the time, but experts widely consider that an overestimate due to imprecise counting methods in India until 2006. Laws attempted to address the decline, but the conservation model centered around creating protected reserves where ecosystems can function undisturbed by people.

Several Indigenous groups say the conservation strategies, deeply influenced by American environmentalism, meant uprooting numerous communities that had lived in the forests for millennia.

Members of several Indigenous or Adivasi groups — as Indigenous people are known in the country — set up the Nagarahole Adivasi Forest Rights Establishment Committee to protest evictions from their ancestral lands and seek a voice in how the forests are managed.

"Nagarahole was one of the first forests to be brought under Project Tiger and our parents and grand-

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parents were probably among the first to be forced out of the forests in the name of conservation," said J. A. Shivu, 27, who belongs to the Jenu Kuruba tribe. "We have lost all rights to visit our lands, temples or even collect honey from the forests. How can we continue living like this?"

Jenu, which means honey in the southern Indian Kannada language, is the tribe's primary source of livelihood as they collect it from beehives in the forests to sell.

The fewer than 40,000 Jenu Kuruba people are one of the 75 tribal groups that the Indian government classifies as particularly vulnerable. Adivasi communities like the Jenu Kurubas are among the poorest in India.

Some experts say conservation policies that attempted to protect a pristine wilderness were influenced by prejudices against local communities.

The Indian government's tribal affairs ministry has repeatedly said it is working on Adivasi rights. Only about 1% of the more than 100 million Adivasis in India have been granted any rights over forest lands despite a government forest rights law, passed in 2006, that aimed to "undo the historical injustice" for forest communities.

India's tiger numbers, meanwhile, are thriving: the country's 3,167 tigers account for more than 75% of the world's wild tiger population.

Tigers have disappeared in Bali and Java and China's tigers are likely extinct in the wild. The Sunda Island tiger, the other sub-species, is only found in Sumatra. India's project to safeguard them has been praised as a success by many.

"Project Tiger hardly has a parallel in the world since a scheme of this scale and magnitude has not been so successful elsewhere," said SP Yadav, a senior Indian government official in charge of Project Tiger.

But critics say the social costs of fortress conservation — where forest departments protect wildlife and prevent local communities from entering forest regions — is high.

Sharachchandra Lele, of the Bengaluru-based Ashoka Trust for Research in Ecology and the Environment, said the conservation model is outdated.

"There are already several examples of forests used actively by local communities and tiger numbers have actually increased even while people have benefited in these regions," he said.

Vidya Athreya, the director of Wildlife Conservation Society in India who has been studying the interactions between large cats and humans for the last two decades, agreed.

"Traditionally we always put wildlife over people," Athreya said, adding that engaging with communities is the way forward for protecting wildlife in India.

Shivu, from the Jenu Kuruba tribe, also wants to go back to a life where Indigenous communities and tigers lived together.

"We consider them gods and us the custodians of these forests," he said.

Aniruddha Ghosal in New Delhi, India, contributed to this report.

Follow Sibi Arasu on Twitter at @sibi123

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#### **Today in History: April 10, Titanic sets sail**

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, April 10, the 100th day of 2023. There are 265 days left in the year.

On April 10, 1912, the British liner RMS Titanic set sail from Southampton, England, on its ill-fated maiden voyage.

On this date:

In 1866, the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals was incorporated.

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In 1932, German President Paul Von Hindenburg was reelected in a runoff, with Adolf Hitler coming in second.

In 1947, Brooklyn Dodgers President Branch Rickey purchased the contract of Jackie Robinson from the Montreal Royals.

In 1963, the fast-attack nuclear submarine USS Thresher (SSN-593) sank during deep-diving tests east of Cape Cod, Massachusetts, in a disaster that claimed 129 lives.

In 1971, a table tennis team from the United States arrived in China at the invitation of the communist government for a goodwill visit that came to be known as "ping-pong diplomacy."

In 1972, the United States and the Soviet Union joined some 70 nations in signing an agreement banning biological warfare.

In 1974, Golda Meir announced her resignation as prime minister of Israel.

In 1998, the Northern Ireland peace talks concluded as negotiators reached a landmark settlement to end 30 years of bitter rivalries and bloody attacks.

In 2005, Tiger Woods won his fourth Masters with a spectacular finish of birdies and bogeys.

In 2010, Polish President Lech Kaczynski (lehk kah-CHIN'-skee), 60, was killed in a plane crash in western Russia that also claimed the lives of his wife and top Polish political, military and church officials.

In 2017, Justice Neil Gorsuch took his place as the newest addition on the bench of the Supreme Court, restoring a narrow conservative majority.

In 2019, scientists released the first image ever made of a black hole, revealing a fiery, doughnut-shaped object in a galaxy 53 million light-years from earth.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama proposed a \$3.8 trillion budget that would raise taxes on smokers and wealthy Americans and trim Social Security benefits for millions. The financially beleaguered U.S. Postal Service backpedaled on its plan to end Saturday mail delivery. Robert Edwards, 87, a Nobel Prize winner from Britain whose pioneering in vitro fertilization research led to the first test tube baby, died near Cambridge, England.

Five years ago: During five hours of questioning from a U.S. Senate panel, Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg batted away accusations that he had failed to protect the personal information of millions of Americans from Russians intent on upsetting the U.S. election, though he conceded that Facebook needed to work harder to make sure the tools it creates are used in "good and healthy" ways. The international chemical weapons watchdog said it was sending a fact-finding mission to a Syrian town where a suspected chemical gas attack had taken place over the weekend.

One year ago: Incumbent Emmanuel Macron and face far-right nationalist Marine Le Pen both advanced in the first round of voting in the country's presidential election to set up a head-to-head clash of their sharply opposing visions for France. (Macron would win in a runoff two weeks later.) Pope Francis opened Holy Week on Palm Sunday with a call for an Easter truce in Ukraine to make room for a negotiated peace, highlighting the need for leaders to "make some sacrifices for the good of the people." British author Jack Higgins, who wrote "The Eagle Has Landed" and other bestselling thrillers and espionage novels, died at age 92.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Steven Seagal is 71. Folk-pop singer Terre Roche (The Roches) is 70. Actor Peter MacNicol is 69. Actor Olivia Brown is 66. Singer-producer Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds is 65. Rock singer-musician Brian Setzer is 64. Rock singer Katrina Leskanich (les-KAH'-nich) is 63. Olympic gold medal speedskater Cathy Turner is 61. Rock musician Tim "Herb" Alexander is 58. R&B singer Kenny Lattimore is 56. Actor-comedian Orlando Jones is 55. Rock musician Mike Mushok (Staind) is 54. Rapper Q-Tip (AKA Kamaal) is 53. Actor David Harbour is 48. Blues singer Shemekia Copeland is 44. Actor Laura Bell Bundy is 42. Actor Harry Hadden-Paton is 42. Actor Chyler Leigh is 41. Pop musician Andrew Dost (fun.) is 40. Actor Ryan Merriman is 40. Singer Mandy Moore is 39. Actor Barkhad Abdi (BAHRK'-hahd AHB'-dee) is 38. Actor Shay Mitchell is 36. Actor Haley Joel Osment is 35. Actor Molly Bernard (TV: "Younger") is 35. Country singer Maren Morris is 33. Actor Alex Pettyfer is 33. Actor-singer AJ (AKA Amanda) Michalka (mish-AL'-kah) is 32. Actor Daisy Ridley is 31. Singer-actor Sofia Carson is 30. Actor Audrey Whitby is 27. Actor Ruby Jerins is 25.