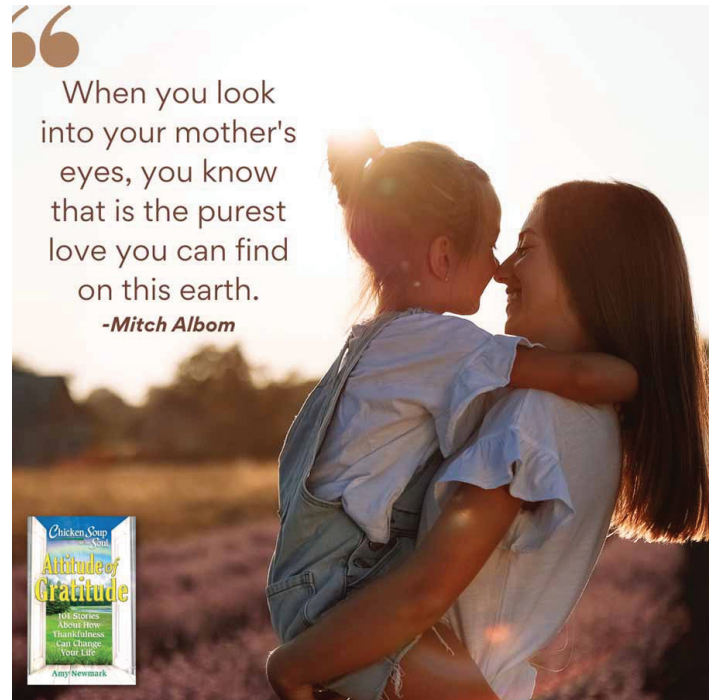


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- [3- School Board Story](#)
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When you look into your mother's eyes, you know that is the purest love you can find on this earth.

-Mitch Albom



Groton Community Calendar

Tuesday, May 9

School Lunch: Hamburgers, fries.

Senior Menu: Chicken fried steak, mashed potatoes and gravy, oriental blend vegetables, peaches, whole wheat bread.

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

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

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

St. John's Lutheran: Ladies Aid LWML, 1 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Church Council, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, May 10

School Lunch: Chicken fajitas, refried beans.

Senior Menu: Turkey sub sandwich, lettuce and tomato, macaroni salad, watermelon.

Baseball, Softball & TBall Parent Meeting at Groton Community Center, 7:30 p.m.

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

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.

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

Thursday, May 11

School Lunch: Cheeseburger, pasta bake, green beans.

Senior Menu: Tator tot hot dish, corn, apple juice, Mandarin oranges, whole wheat bread.

Girls Golf at Madison.

Northeast Conference Track Meet in Groton

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

OPEN: **Recycling Trailer in Groton**
The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.
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Groton Daily Independent

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The Bulletin

by Newsweek

JANUARY 24, 2023

World in Brief

crowd near a bus stop in Brownsville, Texas, is facing eight counts of manslaughter and 10 counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon.

- Former Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan has been arrested by paramilitary officers during an appearance at the High Court in Islamabad, a day after the Pakistani military accused him of making false accusations against a senior intelligence official.

- Tens of thousands of people joined protests against gun violence and are calling for the resignation of top officials in Serbia after 17 people were killed in two mass shootings last week.

- Canada declared Toronto-based Zhao Wei a "persona non grata" and expelled the Chinese diplomat following allegations that Beijing tried to intimidate a Canadian lawmaker, raising tensions between the two countries.

- Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin will use the \$10 million that he received through fundraising campaigns by supporters following his on-field collapse to fund his nonprofit, the Chasing M's Foundation.

- In the ongoing war in Ukraine, Russian-installed authorities have started to evacuate from Ukraine's partially occupied Kherson region, Ukrainian military leaders said. Ahead of an expected Ukrainian counteroffensive, Poland has handed over 10 MiG-29 fighter jets to Ukraine, Warsaw's defense minister said.

WHAT TO WATCH IN THE DAY AHEAD

- A jury is set to begin deliberations in a civil defamation lawsuit brought against Donald Trump by writer E. Jean Carroll, who has accused the former president of raping her in a department store in the mid-1990s.

- Advisers to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will meet today and tomorrow to evaluate an application from drugmaker Perrigo to make the birth control pill, Opill, available over the counter.

- Airbnb, 3M, Rivian Automotive, Occidental Petroleum, and others will report their quarterly results.

- Federal Reserve Gov. Philip Jefferson and New York Fed President Williams speak at various events, from 8:30 a.m. ET.

- European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen will travel to Kyiv to meet with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky and reiterate the European Union's ongoing support for the country.

- A three-year-old child and his family, and two other elementary school children were named victims of the mass shooting in Texas on Saturday. The gunman was reportedly discharged from the Army three months after joining in 2008 due to health concerns.

- Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is reportedly calling top business executives personally to discuss the catastrophic consequences of a debt default on the U.S. and the global economy. Read more on the debt ceiling saga below.

- George Alvarez, the man suspected of driving into a

Old gym renovation could cost millions; Schuring tapped for athletic director position

by Elizabeth Varin

A complete rehaul of the Groton Area High School old gymnasium could cost between \$6.8 million and \$8.5 million, according to estimates presented to the district board Monday evening.

The board reviewed a report from JLG Architects estimating costs to upgrade the 1969 gymnasium and commons area. The original report included price ranges for sections of the project, but district staff requested a drilled down list of potential costs.

A variety of projects could be included in renovations for the old gym.

A curtain currently separates the gym floors and the commons area, which is used as a lunch room. The concept of the curtain is fine, but the existing curtain needs to be replaced, said Superintendent Joe Schwan.

Vinyl sheet flooring with a hard rubber pad for movable bleachers would cost between \$231,000 and \$276,000, according to the report. New wood flooring would cost between \$278,000 and \$312,000.

New standard gym bleachers are estimated between \$322,000 and \$515,000, while moveable bleachers would cost between \$450,000 and \$708,000.

While moveable bleachers would create more options when using the gym, there are concerns about potential damage to the floor from moving the heavy seating.

Board member Tigh Fliehs brought up bleachers possibly leaving divots in the flooring.

"It seems they're engineered for it, but common sense says it would be a problem," replied Superintendent Schwan.

Additional costs would come in to renovate the restrooms and locker rooms to make them handicap accessible. The JLG report estimates range from \$293,000 to \$315,000 for the restroom work, while the locker rooms improvements could cost between \$1.59 million to \$1.713 million.

Work on the stage is estimated to cost between \$901,000 and \$1.288 million.

That brings estimated totals to between \$6.8 million and \$8.5 million, Schwan said. And those costs could go up about 12 percent by next year.

Board members expressed concerns over the high price tag.

"With total numbers of \$6 to \$8 million, you could build one heck of a shop," Fliehs said.

It might be better to just build a new facility instead of putting all that money into renovating the 1969 gym, he added.

However, a new building might not be feasible either.

"We can't quite tear apart the middle of our whole school to build something new," said board member Grant Rix.

The solution might have to be picking and choosing what areas to improve, said Board President Deb Gengerke.

Vice President Marty Weismantel added he would seriously consider replacing the bleachers and curtain between the two rooms. It's already hard to pull out the current bleachers.

The whole idea behind renovating the old gym was to involve the community and raise funds for the work, Gengerke said.

"So we'll wait for a more itemized report to see if anything's even feasible," she said. "Keep playing the lottery."

Budget process begins

The board also took a look at the preliminary 2024 fiscal year budget.

From the 2023 fiscal year to the 2024 fiscal year, general fund expenses and revenues are both set to rise, said Business Manager Mike Weber. However, the general fund balance is budgeted to drop \$40,000

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to \$1,302,652. The general fund balance has been falling since fiscal year 2021.

The capital outlay fund balance is also set to go down, with projects like the HVAC system upgrades and health science lab improvements taking place this summer.

The special education fund balance increased from the 2022 fiscal year to the 2023 fiscal year due to an open position that wasn't filled during this school year. However, the fund balance is budgeted to decrease in the 2024 fiscal year as new special education staff are hired.

New athletic director is familiar face

The board approved hiring Alexa Schuring as athletic director for the 2023-2024 school year.

The idea was to bring the position back within the district's staff, said Board President Deb Gengerke. Currently the district has an off-staff extra-curricular agreement for the position.

Brian Dolan has served as athletic director and head boys basketball coach since 2019. Before that, he held both those positions at Roncalli High School in Aberdeen.

In Groton, the athletic director position has been held by Superintendent Joe Schwan and, before him, Brian Schuring. Brian Schuring resigned as athletic director in 2018.

Now a new Schuring is taking the mantle as new athletic director.

Alexa Schuring, Brian Schuring's daughter, is currently the district's Title Math Interventionist. She has also been the junior high volleyball coach and a former Groton Area athlete.

- The board voted to hire Sadie Hanna as an elementary special education teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Hanna is currently a reading tutor at May Overby Elementary School in Aberdeen. She completed her Bachelor's Degree at Northern State University. The salary rate will be published in July with other 2023-2024 school year teacher salaries.

- The board voted to issue off-staff extra-curricular agreements for the 2023-2024 school year.
- Chelsea Hanson as head volleyball coach for \$4,950
- Jenna Strom as assistant volleyball coach for \$3,150
- Kelby Tracy as junior high volleyball coach for \$2,250
- Seth Erickson as assistant football coach for \$3,150
- Darin Zoellner as head wrestling coach for \$5,400
- Ryan Scepaniak as assistant wrestling coach for \$3,600
- Matt Locke as head girls basketball coach for \$5,400
- Trent Traphagen as assistant girls basketball coach for \$3,600
- Brian Dolan as head boys basketball coach for \$5,400
- Chris Kucker as head girls soccer coach for \$3,150
- Aubray Miller as football cheer and co-basketball cheer coach for \$2,025
- Madisen Bjerke as co-basketball cheer coach for \$1,012.50
- Kristi Peterson as yearbook adviser for \$3,600
- Amanda Bisbee as all-school play adviser for \$2,250
- Brenda Madsen as senior class adviser for \$450
- Amy Warrington as show choir adviser for \$4,500
- Groton Area School District will cast ballots for South Dakota High School Activities Association positions and amendments. The district board supported Randy Hartmann of Pierre School District for large school board of education member and Adam Shaw of Madison High School for Division III representative. The board also voted "yes" to amend the SDHSAA Constitution to tighten rules prohibiting recruitment of athletes and clarify student and coach ejections from games.

- The board approved hiring Jordan Carson as junior high football coach for the 2023-2024 school year at 5 percent of base salary.

- The district will hire Chantel Duerre as middle and high school special education teacher for the 2023-2024 school year. Duerre had worked with a teacher at Groton Area School District before and

has spent the last two years teaching in Langford and Britton-Hecla.

- The board approved 11 open enrollment applications for the 2023-2024 school year. Open enrollment applications allow parents or guardians to request to enroll their student in a different district than they live in. Board member Tigh Fliehs asked about denial based on capacity in classrooms. Superintendent Schwan answered district policy wouldn't allow open enrollment if there were too many students in classrooms. The levels are dependent on grade. Kindergarten through second grade can't exceed 26 students per teacher. Third through fifth grade can't exceed 28 students per teacher. Sixth through eighth grade can't exceed 30 students per teacher. And ninth through twelves grade classes can't exceed building capacity.

- Elementary School Principal Brett Schwan's report included a playground slide update (new slide has arrived, but likely won't be installed until after school is out), the track and field day date and times (May 12) and recent field trips.

- Middle School and High School Principal Kiersten Sombke's report included NWEA MAPS testing times (May 10 through May 25 for sixth grade through 11th grade students), American Foundation for Suicide Prevention Presentation for eighth through 11th grade students on May 9 and graduation rehearsal and ceremony times.

Guthmiller takes first at Milbank golf meet

Carly Guthmiller took first place at the Milbank Invitational golf meet held Monday. Guthmiller shot a 39 in the front nine, five strokes better than the second place golfer to help propel her to the win. She shot a 36 in the back nine and finished with a total score of 85. The runner-up was Madison's Delilah Maxwell who shot a 90.

Others golfing for Groton Area were Carly Gilbert with a 115, Shaylee Peterson with a 113, Carlee Johnson with a 114 and Mia Crank with a 127. Madison won the team title with 399 points while Groton Area took second with 427, Roncalli had a 438 and Milbank had a 468.

It's a dirty job, but someone has to do it. Tate Larson was busy scrubbing off the bird poop on the bleachers at Locke-Karst Field on Monday.





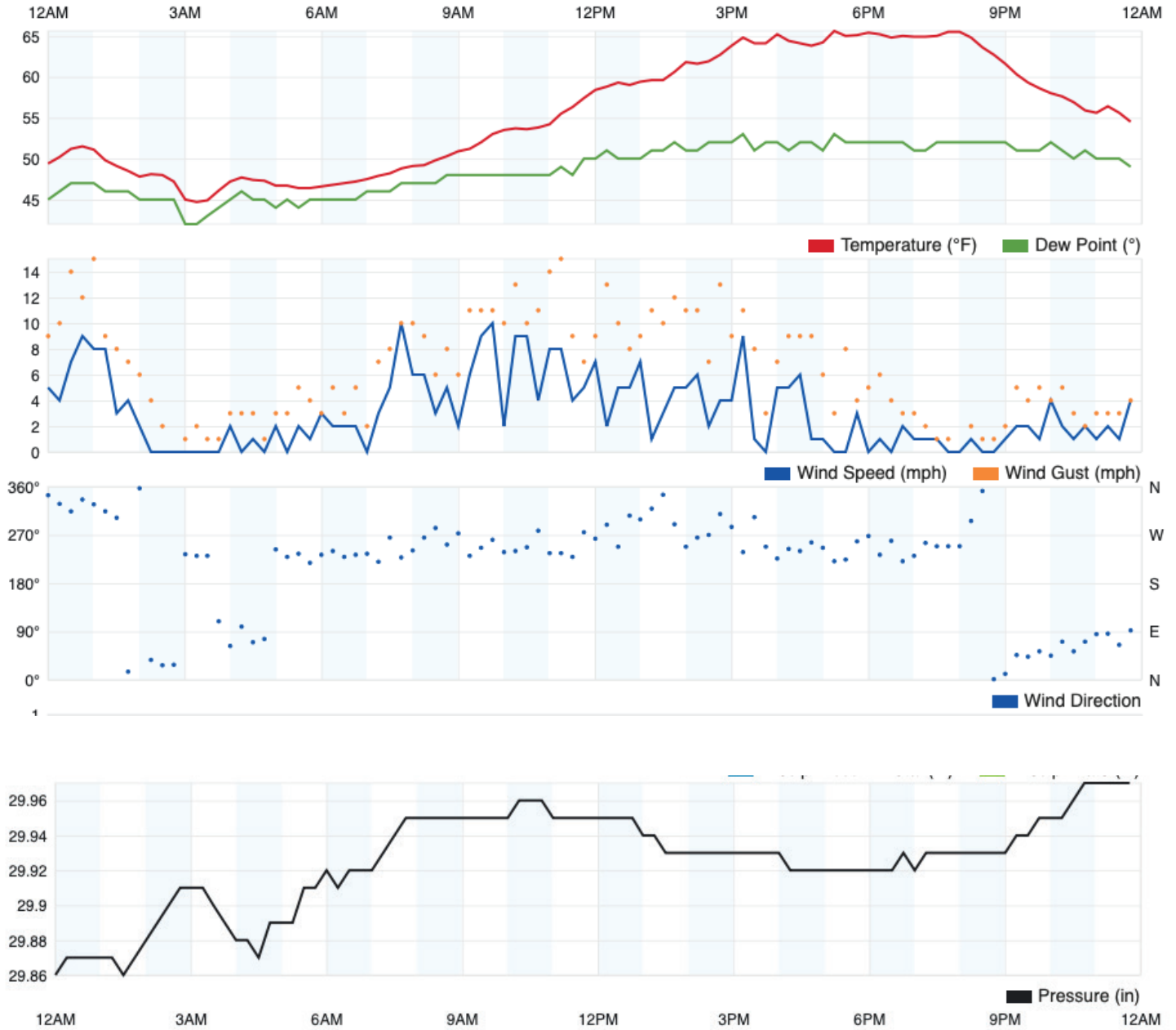
New Legion members installed

New members Ben Smith and Todd McGannon were installed last night by Post Commander, Bruce Babcock, in Groton American Legion Post 39. (L-R) Ben Smith, Todd McGannon and Bruce Babcock all of Groton. (Courtesy Photo)

Groton Daily Independent

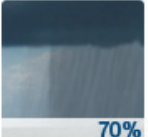

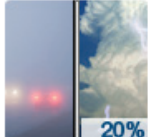
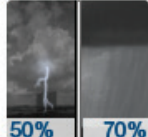


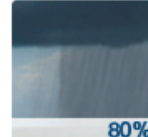
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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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| Today | Tonight | Wednesday | Wednesday Night | Thursday | Thursday Night | Friday |
|--|--|--|--|---|--|--|
|  70% |  30% |  20% |  50% 70% |  80% |  80% 80% |  80% |
| Showers Likely and Patchy Fog | Chance T-storms and Patchy Fog | Patchy Fog then Slight Chance T-storms | Chance T-storms then Showers Likely | Showers | T-storms and Breezy then Showers | Showers |
| High: 68 °F | Low: 51 °F | High: 78 °F | Low: 57 °F | High: 74 °F | Low: 57 °F | High: 73 °F |



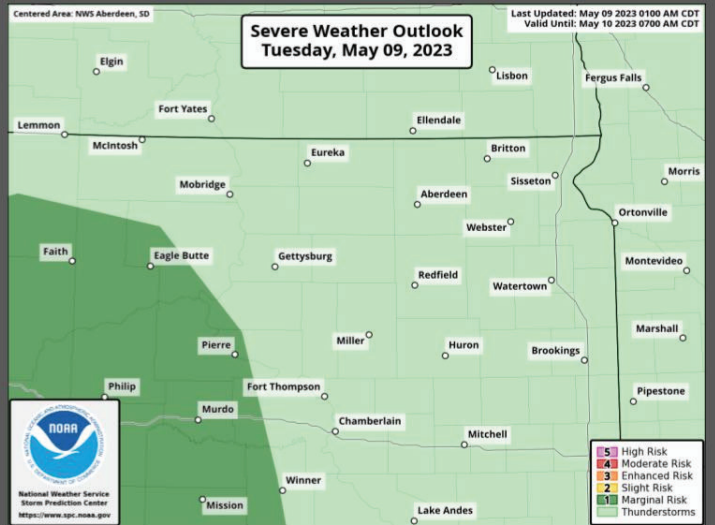
Showers/Storms Possible Today/Tomorrow

April 28, 2023
3:45 AM

Probability of Precipitation Forecast

| | 5/9 Tue | | | | | | | | 5/10 Wed | | | | | | | |
|-------------|---------|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|----|----------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|
| | 3am | 6am | 9am | 12pm | 3pm | 6pm | 9pm | | 12am | 3am | 6am | 9am | 12pm | 3pm | 6pm | 9pm |
| Aberdeen | 5 | 15 | 65 | 65 | 50 | 25 | 15 | 15 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 20 | 50 | 50 | |
| Britton | 0 | 5 | 35 | 70 | 75 | 45 | 30 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 25 | 25 | 45 | 45 | |
| Brookings | 0 | 10 | 25 | 50 | 40 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 20 | 25 | 35 | 45 | 55 | 55 | |
| Chamberlain | 15 | 50 | 70 | 30 | 15 | 10 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 20 | 20 | 35 | 35 | 80 | 80 | |
| Eagle Butte | 10 | 65 | 75 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 25 | 25 | 65 | 65 | |
| Eureka | 5 | 40 | 70 | 65 | 55 | 25 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 15 | 15 | 50 | 50 | 50 | |
| Gettysburg | 10 | 45 | 80 | 40 | 10 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 15 | 15 | 65 | 65 | |
| Huron | 5 | 20 | 50 | 45 | 15 | 15 | 15 | 5 | 10 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 35 | 60 | 60 | |
| Kennebec | 20 | 85 | 80 | 20 | 10 | 15 | 25 | 10 | 5 | 20 | 20 | 30 | 30 | 80 | 80 | |
| McIntosh | 10 | 30 | 50 | 45 | 25 | 15 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 20 | 20 | 50 | 50 | |
| Milbank | 0 | 0 | 15 | 55 | 55 | 60 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 35 | 35 | 40 | 40 | |
| Miller | 5 | 35 | 75 | 45 | 15 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 20 | 20 | 25 | 25 | 70 | 70 | |
| Mobridge | 10 | 35 | 65 | 55 | 25 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 10 | 10 | 50 | 50 | |
| Murdo | 45 | 85 | 55 | 5 | 15 | 20 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 15 | 15 | 30 | 30 | 85 | 85 | |
| Pierre | 20 | 85 | 75 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 10 | 15 | 10 | 25 | 25 | 75 | 75 | |
| Redfield | 5 | 30 | 65 | 65 | 30 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 5 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 20 | 60 | 60 | |
| Sisseton | 0 | 0 | 15 | 60 | 65 | 55 | 30 | 25 | 20 | 10 | 10 | 20 | 20 | 40 | 40 | |
| Watertown | 0 | 5 | 25 | 55 | 40 | 45 | 20 | 15 | 10 | 15 | 15 | 35 | 35 | 50 | 50 | |
| Webster | 0 | 5 | 40 | 70 | 65 | 45 | 30 | 15 | 10 | 15 | 15 | 30 | 30 | 50 | 50 | |
| Wheaton | 0 | 0 | 5 | 40 | 60 | 60 | 25 | 35 | 25 | 10 | 10 | 15 | 15 | 35 | 35 | |

Marginal Risk for Severe Storms Out West



Showers and some possible storms will move west to east today. Most of the area will not see severe weather today and in the areas where it is possible, the likelihood is low. Chances for precipitation return tomorrow evening.

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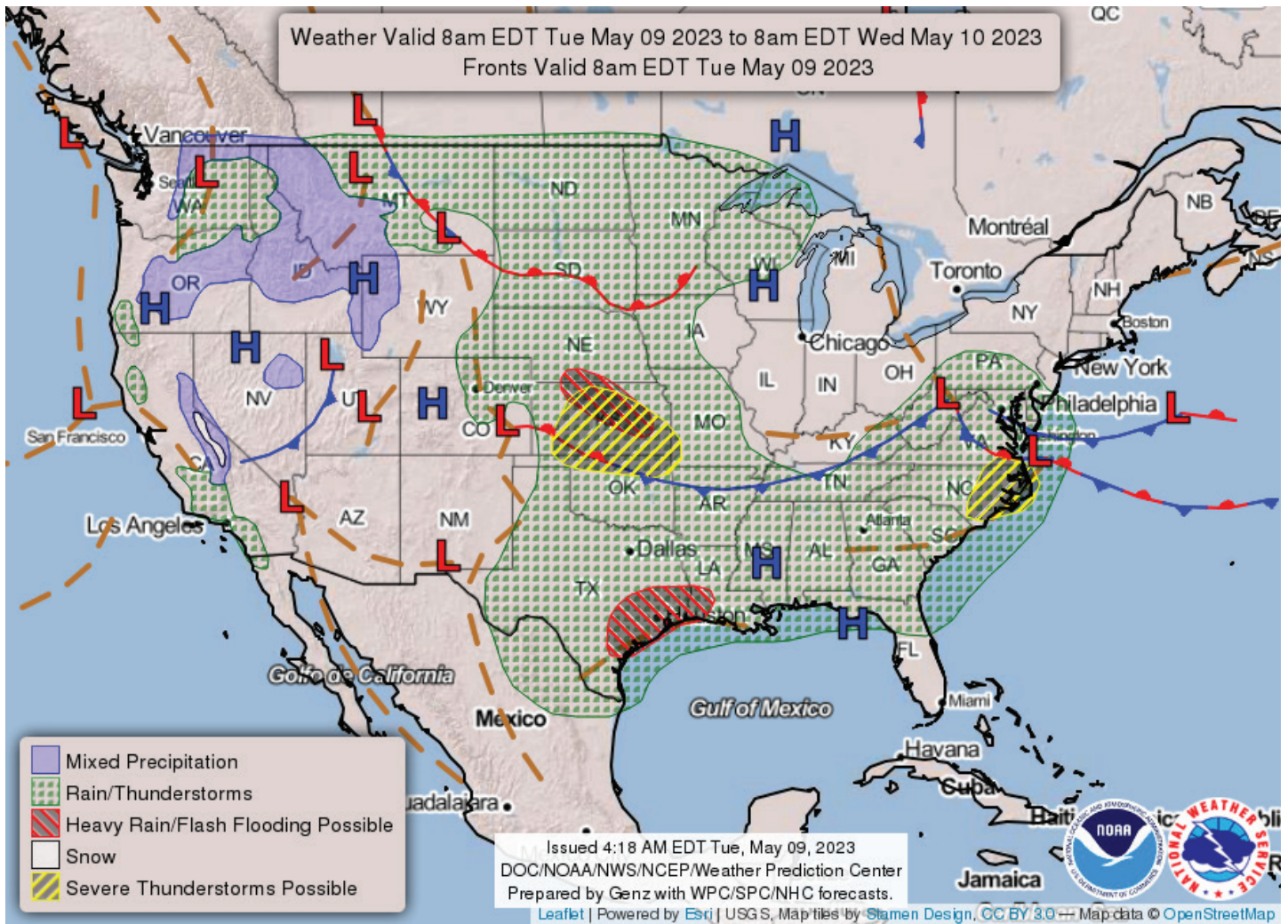
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 66 °F at 5:21 PM
Low Temp: 45 °F at 3:17 AM
Wind: 15 mph at 12:55 AM
Precip: : 0.00

Today's Info

Record High: 93 in 1992
Record Low: 21 in 1966
Average High: 68
Average Low: 41
Average Precip in May.: 0.98
Precip to date in May.: 0.87
Average Precip to date: 4.95
Precip Year to Date: 6.59
Sunset Tonight: 8:50:13 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:06:10 AM

Day length: 14 hours, 42 minutes



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Today in Weather History

May 9, 1999: Torrential rains of two to five inches fell in Lyman County during the late evening hours which caused flash flooding on Medicine Creek. The KOA Campgrounds near Kennebec were flooded including the main facility. Several roads were also flooded and damaged along Medicine Creek. Storm total rainfall in Kennebec was 3.40 inches. Also, a weak F0 tornado touched down briefly three miles south of Reliance with no damage reported. Winds gusting to 70 mph knocked over a 4000-bushel holding bin near Revillo.

1918: An F4 tornado moved across Floyd, Chickasaw, and Winneshiek Counties in northeast Iowa from two miles north of Pearl Rock to Calmar. Two people died east of Calmar when the tornado was a mile wide. Losses in and near Calmar totaled \$250,000. Overall, this tornado killed seven people and injured 15 others.

1933: An estimated F4 tornado moved through Monroe, Cumberland, and Russell Counties in Kentucky along a 60-mile path. The town of Tompkinsville, KY was the hardest hit with 18 people killed. Overall, 36 people lost their lives.

1966: Record snows fell in the northeastern Ohio and western Pennsylvania, including 3.1 inches at Pittsburgh and 5.4 inches at Youngstown Ohio. Snow also extended across parts of New York State with eight inches reported in the southern Adirondacks.

1977 - A late season snowstorm hit parts of Pennsylvania, New York State, and southern and central New England. Heavier snowfall totals included 27 inches at Slide Mountain NY and 20 inches at Norwalk CT. At Boston it was the first May snow in 107 years of records. The heavy wet snow caused extensive damage to trees and power lines. The homes of half a million persons were without power following the storm. (9th-10th) (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1985 - Lightning struck some trees about 150 yards away from a home in Alabama, and followed the driveway to the home. The charge went through the house and burned all the electrical outlets, ruined appliances, and blasted a hole in the concrete floor of the basement. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Unseasonably warm weather spread from the Pacific Northwest to the Upper Mississippi Valley. Fifteen cities reported record high temperatures for the date. It was the fourth day of record warmth for Eugene OR and Salem OR. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A massive cyclone in the central U.S. produced severe thunderstorms from eastern Texas to the Upper Ohio Valley. A strong (F-3) tornado ripped through Middleboro KY causing more than 22 million dollars damage. Thunderstorms in east central Texas produced hail three and a half inches in diameter at Groesbeck, and near Fairfield. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a cold front in the south central U.S. produced golf ball size hail and wind gusts to 62 mph at Mira LA, and during the morning hours drenched Stuttgart AR with five inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990: The 1990 Machilipatnam Cyclone was the worst disaster to affect Southern India since the 1977 Andhra Pradesh cyclone. This category four on the Saffir-Simpson scale had a severe impact on India, with over 967 people reported having been killed. Over 100,000 animals also died in the cyclone with the total cost of damages to crops estimated at over \$600 million (1990 USD).

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather in the central U.S. during the evening hours, mainly from southeastern Missouri to southwestern Indiana. Severe thunderstorms spawned four tornadoes, including two strong (F-2) tornadoes in southern Illinois. Strong thunderstorm winds gusted to 85 mph at Orient IL, and to 100 mph at West Salem. Thunderstorms drenched northeastern Illinois with up to 4.50 inches of rain. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1995: An F3 tornado produced \$10 million in damages along its 40-mile path across central Illinois. The tornado caused significant damage in Cantrall where three homes were destroyed, 10 had significant damage, and 11 had minor damage. The roof and interior of a grade school suffered extensive damage. The tornado passed about 2 miles southeast of the new NWS Office in Lincoln, Illinois.

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

RECOGNIZING REALITY

For several weeks a radiologist had suffered from a painful stomach ache. Noting his discomfort, his associate suggested that he have a series of x-rays to rule out any problems.

He agreed to this plan and was assigned a number by the clinic. The next day he was examining a nameless but numbered x-ray. He did not realize that it was his. Suddenly he cried out, "Contact this person immediately. He has inoperable cancer."

Unfortunately, many of us have feelings of discomfort. We are "dis-eased" and troubled, anxious and afraid. We hear sermons, read Scripture and even pray but get no satisfaction or relief. Only more anxiety. We wonder what is going on.

Peter wrote to encourage us to keep our "conscience clear." When we experience moments or days of "dis-ease," it may be God's spirit reaching out to warn us. When we feel no relief or peace or quiet or joy or satisfaction, no doubt He is saying - "Take an x-ray of your heart and you will discover the problem. Look carefully for the sin that is causing your pain." If we examine our lives carefully, God will reveal the cause of our "dis-ease."

Prayer: Thank You, Lord, for all the warning signs You give us to let us know when we need to repent. May we be sensitive to the work of Your Spirit. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: But do this in a gentle and respectful way. Keep your conscience clear. Then if people speak against you, they will be ashamed when they see what a good life you live because you belong to Christ. 1 Peter 3:16



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
- 06/17/2023 Groton Triathlon
- 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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The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
05.05.23

16 18 28 42 43 11

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$83,000,000

NEXT 15 Hrs 46 Mins
DRAW: 20 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
05.08.23

7 18 24 29 44 6

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$2,800,000

NEXT 1 Days 15 Hrs 46
DRAW: Mins 20 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
05.08.23

3 15 31 33 44 14

TOP PRIZE:
\$7,000/week

NEXT 15 Hrs 16 Mins 20
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
05.06.23

2 9 10 14 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$51,000

NEXT 1 Days 15 Hrs 46
DRAW: Mins 20 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
05.08.23

4 31 50 53 63 24

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 15 Hrs 45
DRAW: Mins 20 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
05.08.23

15 20 33 36 43 12

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$109,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 15 Hrs 45
DRAW: Mins 19 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

North Dakota governor signs law protecting tribal adoptions

By TRISHA AHMED Associated Press/Report for America

North Dakota's Republican Gov. Doug Burgum has signed a bill into law to protect tribal cultures by codifying the federal Indian Child Welfare Act into state law, Burgum's office announced Monday.

The federal Indian Child Welfare Act, enacted in 1978, gives preference to Native American families in foster care and adoption proceedings of Native children.

Also known by the acronym ICWA, it was created in response to the alarming rate at which Native American and Alaska Native children were taken from their homes by public and private agencies.

Several other states — including Montana, Wyoming and Utah — have considered codifying the act this year, as the U.S. Supreme Court considers a challenge to the federal law.

A handful of white families have claimed the law is based on race and is unconstitutional under the equal protection clause. They also said it puts the interests of tribes ahead of children. Lower courts have been split on the case.

The outcome could undercut federal law. Tribes also fear more widespread impacts on the ability to govern themselves if the justices rule against them.

Supporters of the law include Native American leaders who have long championed it as a way to preserve Native families and culture. Opponents include non-Native families who have tried to adopt American Indian children in emotional legal cases.

Mike Nowatzki, a spokesperson for the governor, said the new state law ensures "that these important protections for Native American children and families will remain in place in North Dakota regardless of what happens with the ICWA in the federal court system."

Trisha Ahmed is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues. Follow Trisha Ahmed on Twitter: @TrishaAhmed15.

Tiger Woods' lawyers try to stop ex-girlfriend's lawsuit

By TERRY SPENCER Associated Press

Attorneys for golf superstar Tiger Woods are expected to argue Tuesday during a court hearing that his ex-girlfriend's lawsuit against him should be halted because she signed a nondisclosure agreement requiring that any disagreements between them be settled in private by an arbitrator.

Erica Herman, 39, is suing Woods to get out of the agreement, saying she was the victim of his sexual harassment. She has also filed a separate \$30 million illegal eviction lawsuit against the trust that owns his \$54 million Florida mansion.

Herman, who managed Woods' Palm Beach County restaurant before and during the first years of their romantic relationship, argues that the nondisclosure agreement is unenforceable under a new federal law that says such contracts can be voided when sexual abuse or sexual harassment occurred. Her attorney, Benjamin Hodas, contends that Woods' alleged threat to fire her if she didn't sign the contract was harassment.

"A boss imposing different work conditions on his employee because of their sexual relationship is sexual harassment," Hodas said.

Woods' attorney, J.B. Murray, denies that the 47-year-old golfer ever sexually assaulted or harassed Herman, calling her accusations in court documents "utterly meritless." It is unknown if Woods will attend the hearing before Circuit Judge Elizabeth Metzger, the first in what could be a lengthy court battle.

In Herman's lawsuit against Woods, she wants Metzger to either void the nondisclosure agreement or at least give her guidance about what she can say publicly. For example, can she discuss events that hap-

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pened before their agreement or after their breakup? What about information she learned about Woods from others? She is also arguing that the contract covers only her work relationship with Woods, not their personal matters.

In her unlawful eviction lawsuit against the trust, she is basing her \$30 million claim on how much it would cost to rent a property like Woods' beachfront mansion north of Palm Beach for six years of residence she was allegedly promised by the golfer and then denied.

When Hodas filed her lawsuit against the trust in October, he checked a box on a standardized form saying the case did not involve sexual abuse. In Herman's March lawsuit against Woods, Hodas checked the box saying that case does involve abuse. Hodas has not explained the apparent discrepancy.

Before they dated, Woods hired Herman in 2014 to help develop and then operate the golfer's The Woods sports bar and restaurant in nearby Jupiter — but they do not agree when their romantic relationship and cohabitation began.

Herman says in her court filings that their romantic relationship began in 2015 and that in late 2016 she moved into Woods' nearly 30,000-square-foot (2,800-square-meter) mansion in the ritzy Hobe Sound community. She says that in 2017, Woods verbally promised she could live there at least 11 more years.

Woods, in his court documents, says their romantic relationship began in 2017, shortly before she moved in with him that August — about the time the nondisclosure agreement was signed. In March 2017, Woods had placed the mansion into the Jupiter Island Irrevocable Homestead Trust, an entity he created that has only himself and his two children as beneficiaries. Forbes Magazine estimates Woods' net worth at \$1.1 billion.

Court documents filed by Woods' attorneys on Monday include an August 2017 email exchange between Herman and Christopher Hubman, the chief financial officer of Tiger Woods Ventures. Herman says she will sign the nondisclosure agreement, but expresses concern about how her romantic and professional lives are now intertwined.

"My only concern is if by chance TW does something that brings our relationship to an end, do I automatically (lose) my job?" she wrote. "I don't have any problem with what's in the document because I wouldn't go public or use anything I know to hurt him or the kids but with my whole life in his hands now I would want to have some kind of control over my future in the business.

"If something happened 5-10 years down the road I don't want to be in my 40s, heartbroken and jobless," she wrote.

Herman says Woods pressured her to quit her job managing his restaurant in 2020, saying he wanted her to spend more time taking care of him and his children.

Herman says Woods evicted her through "trickery." She says Woods told her they were going on a weekend trip to the Bahamas, so she packed a small bag and he drove her to the airport, where they parked near a private plane.

But instead of boarding, Woods told Herman to talk to his lawyer and left, she says.

"Out of the blue," the lawyer told her the relationship was over and that she was being evicted, she says. She says she refused to sign another nondisclosure agreement the lawyer tried to force upon her.

When Woods' lawyers returned her personal belongings, they kept \$40,000 in cash, "making scurrilous and defamatory allegations" about how she obtained it, she alleges.

How those fleeing Ukraine inspired US border policies

By COLLEEN LONG and ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Shortly after Russia invaded Ukraine, refugees from the threatened nation started showing up at Mexico's border with the United States. Roughly 1,000 Ukrainians a day flew to Tijuana on tourist visas, desperate to reach U.S. soil.

The volume was overwhelming the nation's busiest border crossing in San Diego. In Tijuana, thousands of Ukrainians slept in a municipal gym hoping for a chance to cross into the U.S.

In response, the Biden administration announced it would admit up to 100,000 Ukrainians for two years

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— if they applied online, had a financial backer and entered through an airport. At the same time, border officials turned back Ukrainians who arrived on foot at the U.S. border.

The Democratic administration has considered those policies to be so effective that a similar model has become the centerpiece of a broader border policy rolling out in earnest Thursday as coronavirus pandemic-related restrictions that had allowed U.S. officials to quickly turn away migrants crossing illegally come to an end.

The results are sure to be a test for President Joe Biden, who is seeking reelection as the border shifts back into the political spotlight and Republicans seek to portray him as soft on security.

“Our model is to build lawful pathways and then to impose consequences that the law provides on those that do not avail themselves of those lawful pathways,” Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas told reporters last month.

It’s a shift away from the more open immigration policies that characterized Biden’s first year as president in favor of an approach that pairs beefed-up enforcement with expanded legal pathways and diplomacy.

The policies have been criticized by the left as too much like former President Donald Trump’s. Others wonder whether anything Biden does will stop the flow of migrants along the southern border, and whether the new policies can survive expected legal challenges and a lack of resources.

But some immigration experts think it may be a balanced approach that results in fewer illegal crossings while still providing a haven for those fleeing persecution.

“I think they have a fighting chance, over time, to turn this into a real system that is both more fair and more controllable,” said Andrew Selee, president of the Migration Policy Institute, a non-partisan immigration think tank.

This account is based in part on interviews with more than a dozen current and former administration officials who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity to discuss internal deliberations.

Within his first month in office, Biden signed a slew of executive actions to undo Trump-era policies. He backed legislation to provide a path to citizenship for millions in the country illegally. He stacked his administration with immigrant advocates eager to push back against what they saw as anti-immigrant policies by Trump.

But alarms rang almost immediately when nearly 19,000 children traveling alone were stopped at the border in March 2021. Senior officials met twice weekly to strategize, moving children out of badly overcrowded Border Patrol facilities to emergency shelters, including convention centers in California and military bases in Texas.

While the number of unaccompanied children eased, a “daily dashboard” monitored by top officials showed overall arrivals continuing to rise, especially families.

Most of the people coming to the U.S. border illegally are fleeing persecution or poverty in their home countries. They ask for asylum and have generally been allowed into the U.S. to wait out their cases. That process can take years under a badly strained immigration court system, and it has prompted increasing numbers to come to the border hoping to get into the U.S.

Even though many ask for asylum, the legal pathway is narrow and most do not meet the standard.

By the time Russia invaded Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, many officials with close ties to immigration advocacy groups had left the administration, some exasperated that their views weren’t gaining more traction and feeling that Biden was not as focused on the U.S.-Mexico border as he was on other issues. That left officials with more centrist views in charge.

Mayorkas and others were worried that Ukrainians could be unsafe in their travels and their circuitous route to the U.S. was further straining border resources. That led to the “Uniting for Ukraine” policy, under which 128,000 people have been allowed into the U.S., with tens of thousands more approved to come. And the number of Ukrainians coming on foot essentially stopped.

“We built at incredible speed and it proved successful,” Mayorkas said.

The administration turned its focus to other people coming to the border illegally who could not be easily returned to their home countries. Venezuelans had become the second-largest nationality at the border

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after Mexicans, and in October 2022, they became the second group where the policy would apply. If they crossed illegally on foot, 24,000 would be returned back over the border to Mexico. If they came by air, with sponsors, the U.S. would take in 24,000.

Meanwhile, Cubans and Nicaraguans had pushed illegal crossings to the highest levels on record in December, as Fox News aired live reports of hundreds of waiting migrants under the banner: "Biden's Border Crisis."

Republican-led states had sued to keep the COVID-19 restrictions in place. And Biden officials were waiting to see if a bipartisan immigration bill in Congress could actually pass. It didn't.

So in January, Biden announced the policy would be expanded again to people from Cuba, Haiti and Nicaragua, and they increased the number of people: 30,000 from each of the four nationalities would be allowed in as long as they flew in, met background checks and had sponsors. Mexico agreed to take the same number back from those four countries who cross the border illegally.

"We can't stop people from making the journey, but we can require them to come here in an orderly way under U.S. law," Biden said in announcing the policy.

Soon, the administration was reporting that Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans made up only 3% of illegal crossings in March, down from 40% in December.

The U.S. has now declared the COVID-19 emergency over, and the restrictions will end this week that have allowed U.S. officials to turn away migrants more than 2.8 million times since March 2020.

The Biden administration has bolstered its centerpiece policy with other moves meant to clamp down at the border and open up other pathways for migrants.

Last week, the administration said it would admit 100,000 people from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador who come to be reunited with their families in the U.S. New immigration hubs in Guatemala, Colombia and perhaps elsewhere will field applications to come to the United States.

But border officials are also speeding up the process asylum seekers go through, to more quickly expel those who fail. And it's finalizing a new rule — similar to a Trump policy that was blocked in court — to make obtaining asylum extremely difficult for anyone who passes through another country, like Mexico, to reach the U.S. border.

Meanwhile, the number of Venezuelans illegally crossing the border is rising again. Administration officials are waiting to see whether it's a temporary blip related to the end of COVID-19 restrictions.

Mayorkas acknowledged the concerns during a tour of Texas' Rio Grande Valley last week. In the end, he said, nothing is a substitute for congressional action.

"We have a plan, we are executing on that plan," Mayorkas said. "Fundamentally, however, we are working within a broken immigration system that for decades has been in dire need of reform."

Spagat reported from San Diego.

Soldier to be sentenced for murder in Texas protest shooting

By JIM VERTUNO Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A U.S. Army sergeant convicted of murder in the shooting death of an armed protester in a Black Lives Matter march in Texas faces up to life in prison when his sentencing hearing begins Tuesday, even as Gov. Greg Abbott presses for the chance to pardon the soldier.

Sentencing for Daniel Perry is scheduled to last up to two days. State District Judge Clifford Brown, who presided over Perry's trial, last week denied his request for a new trial.

Perry was convicted in April in the 2020 shooting of 28-year-old Garrett Foster, who was legally carrying an AK-47 rifle through downtown Austin during a summer of nationwide unrest over police killings and racial injustice.

The verdict prompted outrage from prominent conservatives including former Fox News star Tucker Carlson, who called the shooting an act of self-defense and criticized Abbott on the air after he didn't come on his show.

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Abbott, a former judge who has not ruled out a 2024 presidential run, tweeted the next day that "Texas has one of the strongest 'Stand Your Ground' laws" and that he looked forward to signing a pardon once a recommendation from the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles hits his desk.

The board has already begun what legal experts say is a highly unusual and immediate review of the case on the orders of Abbott, who appointed the panel.

The governor has not said publicly how he came to his conclusion. It is not clear when the parole board will reach a decision on Perry's case.

Perry served in the military for more than a decade and was stationed at Fort Hood, about 70 miles (110 kilometers) north of Austin. He was working as a ride-share driver the night of the shooting and had just dropped off a customer when he turned onto a street filled with protesters.

Perry said he was trying to get past the crowd blocking the street when Foster pointed a rifle at him. Perry said he fired at Foster in self-defense. Witnesses testified that they did not see Foster raise his weapon, and prosecutors argued that Perry could have driven away without shooting.

After the trial, the court unsealed dozens of pages of text messages and social media posts that showed Perry having hostile views toward Black Lives Matter protests. In a comment on Facebook a month before the shooting, Perry allegedly wrote, "It is official I am a racist because I do not agree with people acting like animals at the zoo."

Putin tells WWII event West is waging a 'real war' on Russia

By The Associated Press undefined

Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday told his country's traditional Victory Day parade on Moscow's Red Square that the West's "untamed ambitions, arrogance and impunity" are driving "a real war" against Russia, while the Kremlin's forces fired another cruise missile barrage at Ukraine.

"Today civilization is once again at a decisive turning point," Putin said at the annual commemorations celebrating the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II. "A real war has been unleashed against our Motherland."

Putin's remarks came just hours after the Kremlin's forces fired its latest barrage of cruise missiles at Ukraine, which Russia invaded more than 14 months ago in what it officially refers to as a "special military operation."

Ukrainian authorities said air defenses destroyed 23 of the 25 missiles that were launched. The air force said in a Telegram post that eight Kalibr cruise missiles were fired from carriers in the Black Sea toward the east and 17 from strategic aircraft.

Putin has repeatedly framed the war in Ukraine as a proxy conflict with the West. The Kremlin's official narrative of the war depicts an existential battle with the West, which in Moscow's view is merely using Ukraine as a tool to destroy Russia, re-write its history and crush its traditional values. That version of events has dominated Russian state media coverage of the war.

Putin praised soldiers taking part in the war in Ukraine and urged Russians to stand together.

"Our heroic ancestors proved that there is nothing stronger, more powerful and more reliable than our unity. There is nothing in the world stronger than our love for the motherland," Putin said.

He blasted "Western globalist elites" that "harp about their exclusivity, pit people against each other, divide society and provoke bloody conflicts and coups, sow hatred, Russophobia."

But there were signs the Ukraine war is taking a toll on Russia. Military analysts say the Russian military has struggled with ammunition supplies, troop morale and poor leadership and organization. The conflict largely became a war of attrition over the winter after Russia's full-scale invasion of its neighbor in February 2022 came up short.

The parade this year appeared shorter and much more pared-back than usual. Only some 8,000 troops marched in Red Square this year — the lowest number since 2008. Even the parade in 2020, the year of the COVID-19 pandemic, featured some 13,000 soldiers, and last year, 11,000 troops took part.

Unlike in previous years, there was no fly-over of military jets, and less equipment was on show in the

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parade. The event, unusually, lasted less than an hour.

Russia also enacted a major security clampdown for the commemorations. Authorities curbed the use of drones and ride-sharing services in Moscow and even jet skis on the canals of St. Petersburg.

Russian media counted 24 Russian cities that canceled May 9 military parades — the staple of celebrations across Russia — for the first time in years. Regional officials blamed unspecified “security concerns” or vaguely referred to “the current situation” for the restrictions and cancellations. It wasn’t clear whether their decisions were taken in coordination with the Kremlin.

Last week, Russia was alarmed by two Ukrainian drones that in murky circumstances reportedly flew into the heart of Moscow under the cover of darkness and reached the Kremlin before being shot down. Other drones said to be fired by Ukraine have also hit Russian oil depots near the border.

The Immortal Regiment processions, in which crowds take to the streets holding portraits of relatives who died or served in World War II — another pillar of the holiday — have also been canceled in multiple cities. Some speculated, that the reason for this was not security but the fact that Russians might bring portraits of relatives who died in Ukraine to those processions, illustrating the scale of Russia’s losses in the drawn-out conflict.

The Red Square guest list was also light amid Putin’s broad diplomatic isolation over the war. Initially, only one foreign leader was expected to attend this year’s parade — Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov. That was one more foreign guest than last year, when no leaders went.

At the last minute on Monday, officials announced that the leaders of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were heading to Moscow as well.

The cruise missiles directed at Ukraine were launched hours before European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, the head of the European Union’s executive branch, arrived in Kyiv.

Ukraine is keen to join the European Union, but membership has many requirements and is still a long way off. Ukraine is also hoping to join NATO, after moving close to the Western military alliance during the war with Russia.

In the latest help from a NATO member, the U.S. was expected to announce Tuesday that it will provide \$1.2 billion more in long-term military aid to Ukraine to further bolster its air defenses.

Follow AP’s coverage of the war in Ukraine at <https://apnews.com/hub/russia-ukraine>

Killing of alleged collaborator exposes Palestinian tensions

By ISABEL DÉBRE Associated Press

NABLUS, West Bank (AP) — There was no mourning tent for 23-year-old Palestinian Zuhair al-Ghaleeth. There were no banners with his portrait, no chants celebrating his martyrdom.

Instead, a bulldozer dropped his bullet-riddled body into an unmarked grave, witnesses said.

The day after six masked Palestinian gunmen shot and killed al-Ghaleeth over his suspected collaboration with Israel, his family and friends refused to pick up his body at the morgue, the public prosecution said. He was buried in a field cluttered with discarded animal bones and soda cans outside the northern West Bank city of Nablus.

It was a grim end to a short life. The April 8 killing in the Old City of Nablus — the first slaying of a suspected Israeli intelligence collaborator in the West Bank in nearly two decades — riveted the Palestinian public and cast a spotlight on the plight of collaborators, preyed on by both sides in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The case has laid bare the weakness of the Palestinian Authority and the strains that a recent surge in violence with Israel is beginning to exert within Palestinian communities.

“It feels like we’re in war times,” said 56-year-old Mohammed, who heard shouting that night, followed by gunshots. He ventured out of the Ottoman-era bathhouse where he works to find his neighbor, al-Ghaleeth, motionless on the ground, his eyes rolled up and mouth agape. A crowd of Palestinians swelled around his bloodied body. “Collaborator!” they yelled. “Spy!”

The scene had an eerie familiarity, Mohammed said, as if the horrors of the First and Second Intifadas,

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or Palestinian uprisings, were being replayed: Paranoia turning Palestinians against each other. Rumors ruining lives. Vigilante violence spiraling out of control. Like all witnesses interviewed about the incident, Mohammed declined to give his last name for fear of reprisals.

The angry gathering around al-Ghaleeth's body quickly turned into a protest of the Palestinian Authority, which administers most Palestinian cities and towns in the West Bank. The cries against al-Ghaleeth's perceived betrayal took on new meaning as the crowds directed their anger toward the deeply unpopular self-rule government, which ordinary Palestinians accuse of collaboration with Israel for coordinating with Israeli security forces.

"It was chaos," acknowledged Ghassan Daghlis, a Palestinian Authority official. Palestinian security forces fired tear gas. Medics rushed al-Ghaleeth to a Nablus hospital, where they tried to resuscitate him but could not get a pulse. A medical report seen by The Associated Press said al-Ghaleeth died of gunshot wounds in his lower extremities at 10:15 p.m.

The next morning, as word spread that al-Ghaleeth had been building a house in the nearby village of Rujeib, Palestinians swarmed the construction site, poured gasoline over the unfinished walls and set them on fire.

The public prosecution is still investigating al-Ghaleeth's killing and has yet to announce arrests.

But an independent armed group known as the Lion's Den, which has risen to prominence in the past year, seemed to take responsibility.

In the Old City of Nablus, where al-Ghaleeth lived and died, the Lion's Den has brought together militants from the secular nationalist Fatah party and the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group. The young men — disillusioned with the moribund Israeli-Palestinian peace process and with the undemocratic Palestinian Authority — have made the Old City a sort of private fiefdom.

After news of al-Ghaleeth's death broke, the Lion's Den declared that "the traitor was liquidated."

"A traitor sells his homeland and his value as a human being for money," commander Oday Azizi wrote on Facebook.

Lion's Den member Tyseer Alfee said the killing was a warning. "We want all to see the fate of those who collaborate with the Israeli occupation," he wrote in a text message when asked why al-Ghaleeth was shot publicly in the bustling marketplace, his body left for residents to find.

A grainy video purporting to show al-Ghaleeth confess to his collaboration was posted on social media and quickly garnered many views. In the four-minute clip, al-Ghaleeth — looking tired and swallowing hard several times — tells how Israeli agents used footage of him having sex with another man as blackmail.

He said an Israeli recruiter ordered him to gather intelligence on Lion's Den leaders to help the military target them. After each mission, he said, the Israeli agent gave him 500 shekels (about \$137) and a carton of Marlboro cigarettes.

Two members of the Lion's Den, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals, said that after months of suspicion, they began following al-Ghaleeth around. They caught him surveilling another militant and detained him. They described a six-hour videotaped interrogation, with just a clip leaked to social media to protect sensitive information about the group. "He confessed to everything after 30 minutes, maybe in hopes we wouldn't kill him," one said.

The public prosecution said it filed the online video as additional evidence in the case.

But the confession raised as many questions as it answered, evoking the fraught judicial processes of grisly executions in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip — both those considered legal and those with little or no due process.

Since its 2007 takeover of the enclave, the Hamas militant group has publicly killed 33 suspected collaborators and other convicted criminals, according to the Palestinian Center for Human Rights. During war times, Hamas gunmen have seized at least 29 alleged collaborators from detention centers and killed them in the streets, without any pretense of a trial. Their bodies were dragged through Gaza City by motorbikes and left for crowds to gawk at or stomp on.

In the occupied West Bank, killings of alleged collaborators have occurred only in periods of intense

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unrest. Over 900 suspected collaborators were killed in the chaos of the First Intifada that began in 1987. More than 100 were killed in the second uprising, from 2000-05, according to Israeli rights group B'Tselem.

"These killings are a symptom of increased violence," said Nathan Thrall, an analyst and author of a book on Israel and the Palestinians. Without due process, he said, "there are people who will use these accusations opportunistically to eliminate rivals and settle scores."

Now Israelis and Palestinians are in the midst of one of the region's bloodiest phases, outside a full-blown war, in two decades. As of Tuesday, 105 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli fire this year, according to an AP tally, about half of them affiliated with militant groups. Palestinian attacks against Israelis have killed 20 people in that time.

In recent months, the Israeli army has killed most key commanders and founders of the Lion's Den, it says. In an apparently rare targeted killing last fall, a bomb on a motorbike exploded as militant Tamer al-Kilani walked by. Purported security video provided by the Lion's Den shows an unidentified man parking the motorbike and exiting the frame before the blast killed al-Kilani. During raids, Israeli special forces often adopt disguises, such as of local worshippers or laborers, to quietly slip into the Old City — most recently last Thursday.

As the deaths rose, mistrust grew in the Old City. "We are all terrified because of how many have died," said Ahmad, a 23-year-old hotel waiter in Nablus. "There are drones and cameras. There must be spies. Everyone suspects everyone."

On Instagram, al-Ghaleeth looks like any other 20-something Palestinian. His page is full of mirror selfies in track suits, beauty shots of Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque and fan photos of Argentine soccer star Lionel Messi, with captions praising Lion's Den "martyrs" sprinkled in.

Rumors abound about how he first aroused suspicion. Some say he always covered his face with a keffiyeh scarf in the Old City, as though trying to hide. Others talk of his apparently sudden wealth that allowed him to build a large house on a hilltop even though he once swept streets for cash. A few neighbors allege he resembled the shadowy figure in security footage of al-Kilani's killing.

"We all knew he was an agent," said Nael, a 52-year-old cafe owner in the Old City, whose nephew, a leader in the Lion's Den, was killed last year. "It was the way he walked and talked. We have a sense for these things."

Despite Israel's sophisticated technology for surveilling militants, former intelligence officials say Palestinians themselves remain a crucial tool in preventing militant attacks, allowing Israel to conduct intelligence operations at safe remove.

"People think we only target terrorists, but the person down the street is very interesting as well. You can blackmail all kinds of people even if they're not involved," said one former Israeli intelligence agent, among nearly four dozen operatives who refused to report for reserve duty in 2014 to protest his unit's tactics. He spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of reprisals. "There is no military control without this kind of intelligence."

He said relationships between recruiters and collaborators often become twisted into something else. "The gifting of a pack of cigarettes is very symbolic," he said. "This person has to be under the impression that you care for him, that you're just a friend who's helping out."

Collaboration has featured in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since before the 1948 war surrounding Israel's creation. Palestinians have been blackmailed into service — threatened with having behavior exposed that's forbidden, or "haram," in their conservative Islamic communities, such as alcohol use, gambling or homosexuality. Others are recruited when seeking permits to get medical treatment in Israel.

"If they're gay? Absolutely," said retired Col. Miri Eisin, a former senior intelligence officer, referring to how the Israeli military, with great leverage over Palestinians' lives, tries to recruit them. "Family problems. Money problems. None of it makes you feel lovely in the morning, but it's very effective."

The Shin Bet, Israel's main agency responsible for collecting intelligence in the West Bank and Gaza since Israel's capture of those territories in 1967, declined to comment on its tactics or on al-Ghaleeth's case. The Israeli military also had no comment.

Al-Ghaleeth's family declined to be interviewed, instead sharing a statement saying that Zuhair "has

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nothing to do with them.”

“The history of the family is honorable in serving Palestine,” it added.

Neighbors said the family had barely scraped by, collecting garbage in the Old City.

The Palestinian Authority, which is responsible for prosecuting suspected Israeli collaborators, said it considered al-Ghaleeth’s death symptomatic of a larger failing.

“This is a dangerous sign,” the public prosecution said. “It affects the safety of citizens.”

The Palestinian leadership accuses Israel of undermining its security forces by raiding cities and villages under its control. Israel contends it has been forced to act because of the authority’s ineffectiveness in dismantling militant infrastructure.

“Our situation is very weak, and that empowers extremism,” said Daghlis, the Nablus official, describing growing Palestinian militancy he fears could render the authority irrelevant. “We are not Gaza, where such killings happen all the time. But Israeli escalations push us in that direction.”

Whether the authority will hold the gunmen accountable is unclear. Palestinian security forces are wary of acting against militants, especially after their arrest of a popular Hamas financier in Nablus last fall sparked a day of riots. Detaining gunmen with family ties to Fatah could exacerbate internal tensions.

Nael, the Old City cafe owner, was blunt when asked why al-Ghaleeth was killed rather than handed over to Palestinian security forces. “How can a collaborator investigate a collaborator?” he said.

In a pasture outside Nablus — between a horse farm and an Israeli military checkpoint — teenagers working the field steer clear of a certain patch of rocks.

“If the spy was guilty, he deserves what happened,” said 16-year-old Laith, looking toward the unmarked grave. “Only God knows the truth.”

Associated Press writer Fares Akram in Gaza City, Gaza Strip, contributed to this report.

In global rush to regulate AI, Europe set to be trailblazer

By KELVIN CHAN AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — The breathtaking development of artificial intelligence has dazzled users by composing music, creating images and writing essays, while also raising fears about its implications. Even European Union officials working on groundbreaking rules to govern the emerging technology were caught off guard by AI’s rapid rise.

The 27-nation bloc proposed the Western world’s first AI rules two years ago, focusing on reining in risky but narrowly focused applications. General purpose AI systems like chatbots were barely mentioned. Lawmakers working on the AI Act considered whether to include them but weren’t sure how, or even if it was necessary.

“Then ChatGPT kind of boom, exploded,” said Dragos Tudorache, a Romanian member of the European Parliament co-leading the measure. “If there was still some that doubted as to whether we need something at all, I think the doubt was quickly vanished.”

The release of ChatGPT last year captured the world’s attention because of its ability to generate human-like responses based on what it has learned from scanning vast amounts of online materials. With concerns emerging, European lawmakers moved swiftly in recent weeks to add language on general AI systems as they put the finishing touches on the legislation.

The EU’s AI Act could become the de facto global standard for artificial intelligence, with companies and organizations potentially deciding that the sheer size of the bloc’s single market would make it easier to comply than develop different products for different regions.

“Europe is the first regional bloc to significantly attempt to regulate AI, which is a huge challenge considering the wide range of systems that the broad term ‘AI’ can cover,” said Sarah Chander, senior policy adviser at digital rights group EDRi.

Authorities worldwide are scrambling to figure out how to control the rapidly evolving technology to

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ensure that it improves people's lives without threatening their rights or safety. Regulators are concerned about new ethical and societal risks posed by ChatGPT and other general purpose AI systems, which could transform daily life, from jobs and education to copyright and privacy.

The White House recently brought in the heads of tech companies working on AI including Microsoft, Google and ChatGPT creator OpenAI to discuss the risks, while the Federal Trade Commission has warned that it wouldn't hesitate to crack down.

China has issued draft regulations mandating security assessments for any products using generative AI systems like ChatGPT. Britain's competition watchdog has opened a review of the AI market, while Italy briefly banned ChatGPT over a privacy breach.

The EU's sweeping regulations — covering any provider of AI services or products — are expected to be approved by a European Parliament committee Thursday, then head into negotiations between the 27 member countries, Parliament and the EU's executive Commission.

European rules influencing the rest of the world — the so-called Brussels effect — previously played out after the EU tightened data privacy and mandated common phone-charging cables, though such efforts have been criticized for stifling innovation.

Attitudes could be different this time. Tech leaders including Elon Musk and Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak have called for a six-month pause to consider the risks.

Geoffrey Hinton, a computer scientist known as the "Godfather of AI," and fellow AI pioneer Yoshua Bengio voiced their concerns last week about unchecked AI development.

Tudorache said such warnings show the EU's move to start drawing up AI rules in 2021 was "the right call."

Google, which responded to ChatGPT with its own Bard chatbot and is rolling out AI tools, declined to comment. The company has told the EU that "AI is too important not to regulate."

Microsoft, a backer of OpenAI, did not respond to a request for comment. It has welcomed the EU effort as an important step "toward making trustworthy AI the norm in Europe and around the world."

Mira Murati, chief technology officer at OpenAI, said in an interview last month that she believed governments should be involved in regulating AI technology.

But asked if some of OpenAI's tools should be classified as posing a higher risk, in the context of proposed European rules, she said it's "very nuanced."

"It kind of depends where you apply the technology," she said, citing as an example a "very high-risk medical use case or legal use case" versus an accounting or advertising application.

OpenAI CEO Sam Altman plans stops in Brussels and other European cities this month in a world tour to talk about the technology with users and developers.

Recently added provisions to the EU's AI Act would require "foundation" AI models to disclose copyright material used to train the systems, according to a recent partial draft of the legislation obtained by The Associated Press.

Foundation models, also known as large language models, are a subcategory of general purpose AI that includes systems like ChatGPT. Their algorithms are trained on vast pools of online information, like blog posts, digital books, scientific articles and pop songs.

"You have to make a significant effort to document the copyrighted material that you use in the training of the algorithm," paving the way for artists, writers and other content creators to seek redress, Tudorache said.

Officials drawing up AI regulations have to balance risks that the technology poses with the transformative benefits that it promises.

Big tech companies developing AI systems and European national ministries looking to deploy them "are seeking to limit the reach of regulators," while civil society groups are pushing for more accountability, said EDRI's Chander.

"We want more information as to how these systems are developed — the levels of environmental and economic resources put into them — but also how and where these systems are used so we can effectively challenge them," she said.

Under the EU's risk-based approach, AI uses that threaten people's safety or rights face strict controls.

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Remote facial recognition is expected to be banned. So are government "social scoring" systems that judge people based on their behavior. Indiscriminate "scraping" of photos from the internet used for biometric matching and facial recognition is also a no-no.

Predictive policing and emotion recognition technology, aside from therapeutic or medical uses, are also out.

Violations could result in fines of up to 6% of a company's global annual revenue.

Even after getting final approval, expected by the end of the year or early 2024 at the latest, the AI Act won't take immediate effect. There will be a grace period for companies and organizations to figure out how to adopt the new rules.

It's possible that industry will push for more time by arguing that the AI Act's final version goes farther than the original proposal, said Frederico Oliveira Da Silva, senior legal officer at European consumer group BEUC.

They could argue that "instead of one and a half to two years, we need two to three," he said.

He noted that ChatGPT only launched six months ago, and it has already thrown up a host of problems and benefits in that time.

If the AI Act doesn't fully take effect for years, "what will happen in these four years?" Da Silva said. "That's really our concern, and that's why we're asking authorities to be on top of it, just to really focus on this technology."

AP Technology Writer Matt O'Brien in Providence, Rhode Island, contributed.

As key votes loom, Turkish parties vow to send migrants home

By SUZAN FRASER Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — For Nidal Jumaa, a Syrian from Aleppo, life in Turkey is tough. He works part-time at a furniture workshop and collects plastics and cardboard from trash cans that he sells for recycling, but can hardly afford the rent for his run-down house in a low-income neighborhood of Ankara.

Despite the hardship, the 31-year-old would prefer to remain in Turkey than return to Syria where he no longer has a house or a job. Most of all, he worries that his 2-year-old son, Hikmat, who requires regular medical supervision following two surgeries, wouldn't be able to receive the treatment he needs back home.

"Where would we go in Syria? Everywhere is destroyed because of the war," Jumaa said. "We can't go back. Hikmat is sick. He can't even walk."

Syrians fleeing the civil war — now into its 12th year — were once welcomed in Turkey out of compassion, making the country home to the world's largest refugee community. But as their numbers grew — and as the country began to grapple with a battered economy, including skyrocketing food and housing prices — so did calls for their return. A shortage of housing and shelters following a devastating earthquake in February revived calls for the return of Syrians, who number at least 3.7 million.

The repatriation of Syrians and other migrants has become a top theme in Sunday's presidential and parliamentary elections when the country will decide whether to give incumbent President Recep Tayyip Erdogan a new mandate to rule or bring an opposition candidate to power.

All three presidential hopefuls running against Erdogan have promised to send refugees back. Erdogan himself has not mentioned the migration issue on the campaign trail. However, faced with a wave of backlash against refugees, his government has been seeking ways to resettle Syrians back home.

Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the joint candidate of an alliance of opposition parties that includes nationalists, says he plans to repatriate Syrians on a voluntary basis within two years. If elected, he would seek European Union funds to build homes, schools, hospitals and other amenities in Syria and encourage Turkish entrepreneurs to open factories and businesses to create employment.

Kilicdaroglu has also said that he would renegotiate a 2016 migration deal between Turkey and the European Union, under which the EU offered the country billions of euros in return for Ankara's cooperation in stemming the flow of refugees into European countries.

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tigators tried to determine if the crash was intentional.

Authorities believe driver George Alvarez, 34, of Brownsville, lost control after running a red light Sunday morning, and plowed into a crowd outside a migrant center in the city, which has long been an epicenter for migration across the U.S.-Mexico border.

Police Chief Felix Saucedo said Alvarez was charged with eight counts of manslaughter and 10 counts of aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. Officials are awaiting toxicology reports to determine whether Alvarez was intoxicated, Saucedo said, adding that there was no motive that he could discuss. Asked about reports from witnesses that Alvarez was cursing at them, Saucedo said there was nothing to confirm that yet.

The SUV ran a red light, lost control, flipped on its side and hit 18 people, Saucedo told reporters Monday morning. Six people died on the scene and 12 people were critically injured, he said. Officials have said the death toll rose later.

Alvarez tried to flee, but was held down by several people on the scene, the police chief said. His bail was set at \$3.6 million.

Victims struck by the vehicle were waiting for the bus to return to downtown Brownsville after spending the night at the Bishop Enrique San Pedro Ozanam Center, said Sister Norma Pimentel, executive director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley. The center is the only overnight shelter in the city and manages the release of thousands of migrants from federal custody.

The victims were all male and several of them were from Venezuela, Saucedo said. The department is working with representatives of Venezuela and other countries. Law enforcement and shelter officials have not made public the identities of the victims killed.

Surveillance video from the Ozanam Center showed some of the victims sitting on the curb when they were hit at the bus stop.

"This SUV, a Range Rover, just ran the light that was about 100 feet (30 meters) away and just went through the people who were sitting there in the bus stop," said shelter director Victor Maldonado, who reviewed the surveillance video.

Some people walking on the sidewalk about 30 feet (9 meters) from the main group were also hit, Maldonado said.

On Monday morning, Jackson Duarte, 30, a Venezuelan migrant, was sporting a haircut from a friend he made at the Ozanam shelter, where they were both staying. It was the last haircut he'd receive from him.

Duarte said three people he met at the shelter were among the victims; two of them died while a third is in the hospital with a missing limb. He said one of his friends who was killed was a barber, and the other was a young man who had recently celebrated a birthday.

Shortly before the crash, Duarte had decided to share an Uber with a friend rather than wait for the bus downtown. It was during that ride that Duarte began receiving messages about the fatal accident through Whatsapp.

"When I got there, the survivors had already been taken. I counted about seven people who had died," Duarte recalled.

Duarte said his friend, whom he described as a studious and ambitious young man, was going downtown to reunite with his mother after crossing the border. Only Duarte made it to the bus station.

"Unfortunately, I had to share that with his mom," Duarte said. "She was desperate, because her son had just turned 18 years old and they had gone through so much trying to get here just so that he'd lose his life here."

Duarte's other friend, the barber, was also heading downtown to look for a cellphone after raising money by offering haircuts, he had told Duarte.

Duarte said his friend told him "We'll see each other in a bit," and that it was one of the last things his friend said to him.

"It hit me really hard. I still feel bad. I don't believe it. I don't feel well. I couldn't sleep all night," Duarte said, breaking down as he thought about his friends who lost their lives.

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Jesus Ferrer, 32, was standing in line with a group of migrants, including some friends when they noticed one of the vehicles driving in their direction.

"We were in line at the bus stop when we spotted a grey SUV that was coming at full speed. It came toward us and veered toward us," he said.

The driver tried to run away after the vehicle came to a stop, but Ferrer said he was part of the group that restrained him.

"Go back to your country," Ferrer recalled the driver telling the group after they confronted him. "He was furious."

Cameron County Judge Eddie Trevino, the highest-elected official in the county that includes Brownsville, said the community is mourning.

"The indications are this was just a terrible, tragic accident," Trevino said. "And regardless, whether it was intentional or accidental, it doesn't matter. Those now eight individuals that lost their lives and the other 10 that are hospitalized, we're praying for them and for their families."

The Ozanam center remains at capacity, but there are plans to expand the number of sleeping spaces from 250 to 380 a night. During the day, migrants are free to seek employment to pay bus fare or plane tickets that cost hundreds of dollars.

"They stand here at seven in the morning," Victor Maldonado, executive director of the Ozanam shelter, said Monday. "They get picked up to go do odd jobs, paint, cut yards — they get their money and they move on."

Brownsville has seen a marked increase of Venezuelan migrants over the last two weeks for reasons that aren't yet clear, authorities said. The recent increase in the number of migrants prompted Brownsville commissioners to indefinitely extend a declaration of emergency during a special meeting last week.

Roughly 30,000 migrants, mostly from Venezuela, have entered the U.S. in the region since mid-April. That's compared with 1,700 migrants Border Patrol agents encountered in the first two weeks of April.

Haunting photos from Ukraine that earned AP a Pulitzer Prize

The Associated Press undefined

The Associated Press was awarded a Pulitzer Prize for breaking news photography on Monday in recognition of 15 searing images that rendered in real-time the devastating human toll of the war in Ukraine. It was one of two prizes won by AP — the other was for public service journalism about the siege of Mariupol, Ukraine.

The winning package of breaking news photography included an image of emergency workers carrying a pregnant woman — who later died — through the shattered grounds of a maternity hospital in the Ukrainian city of Mariupol in the chaotic aftermath of a Russian attack.

Another showed Russia's brutal monthlong occupation of Bucha in a chilling still-life — a dog standing next to the body of an elderly woman who has been killed.

And another captured an elderly woman kneeling in agony next to the coffin of her son in the cemetery of Mykulychi, on the outskirts of Kyiv.

While AP photographers made countless images of horrifying, haunting and heartbreaking scenes of war, they also stood witness to courageous acts by soldiers and ordinary people.

Below is a photo gallery that showcases the Pulitzer-winning work of AP photographers Evgeniy Maloletka, Emilio Morenatti, Vadim Ghirda, Rodrigo Abd, Felipe Dana, Nariman El-Mofty, Bernat Armangué.

Canada expels China diplomat for alleged threats to lawmaker

By ROB GILLIES Associated Press

TORONTO (AP) — The Canadian government is expelling a Chinese diplomat whom Canada's spy agency alleged was involved in a plot to intimidate an opposition lawmaker and his relatives in Hong Kong.

A senior government official said Toronto-based diplomat Zhao Wei has five days to leave the country. The official spoke on condition of anonymity as they were not authorized to speak publicly on the matter.

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It's wasn't immediately clear if he's left yet.

Foreign Affairs Minister Mélanie Joly said in a statement that Canada declared Toronto-based diplomat Zhao Wei "persona non grata."

"We will not tolerate any form of foreign interference in our internal affairs," she wrote.

"Diplomats in Canada have been warned that if they engage in this type of behavior, they will be sent home."

Canada's spy service indicated that in 2021 opposition Conservative lawmaker Michael Chong and his Hong Kong relatives were targeted after Chong criticized Beijing's human rights record. Canada's spy agency has not released details publicly.

Chong has been critical of Beijing's treatment of Uyghur Muslims in China's Xinjiang province.

It became public after a Globe and Mail report last week. Chong said he learned about it from that report, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau denied knowing about it earlier.

"This should have happened years ago," Chong said Monday.

"I hope that this makes it clear not just to the People's Republic of China, but other authoritarian states who have representation here in Canada, that this crossing the line of diplomacy into foreign interference threat activities is utterly unacceptable here on Canadian soil."

On Monday, China's embassy in Ottawa issued a statement that accused Canada of breaching international law and acting based on anti-Chinese sentiment. It said the move has "sabotaged" relations between China and Canada and promised unspecified retaliatory measures.

China has previously insisted it does not interfere in other countries' internal affairs, but says it will respond to what it calls provocations.

The Canadian government took its time to decide whether to proceed, with both Joly and Trudeau warning about backlash from Beijing.

Last week, Joly said that Beijing could threaten the safety of Canadians and the prosperity of the country in retaliation for any expulsion, but Joly now says that is worth that risk.

"This decision has been taken after careful consideration of all factors at play," she wrote.

The revelation about Chong is the latest in a string of foreign interference attempts allegedly made by the Chinese government in Canada in recent years, including efforts to meddle in the 2019 and 2021 federal elections.

Trudeau has appointed former governor general David Johnston to further study the issue, including whether a public inquiry is needed.

Prize-winning AP team served as world's eyes in Mariupol

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Instincts about the strategic significance of the Ukrainian port city of Mariupol led a team of Associated Press journalists there just as Russians were about to lay siege. It proved to be a fateful decision.

For nearly three weeks last year, Mstyslav Chernov, Evgeniy Maloletka and Vasilisa Stepanenko were the only journalists in Mariupol, serving as the world's eyes and ears amid the horrors of the Russian onslaught.

Together they helped expose the extent of the suffering Ukrainians endured, served as a counterweight to Russian disinformation and contributed to the opening of a humanitarian corridor out of Mariupol. They also had to elude capture by Kremlin forces that were hunting for the team.

On Monday, Pulitzer Prize judges cited the work of the three Ukrainian journalists, along with Paris-based Lori Hinnant, in giving The Associated Press the prestigious award for public service.

Seven AP photographers, including Maloletka, also won a breaking news Pulitzer for their coverage of the war, including in Mariupol. The AP was also a finalist for a third award for work in Ukraine, this time for photography focused on the war's impact on the elderly.

"This is how the AP should work," Chernov said Monday from Ukraine during a staff celebration of the prizes. "This is how we function. All of these people supporting one another and in the end producing

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work that is supposed to change the world for the better or at least not make it worse.”

While the awards are meaningful, it’s important to recognize all the suffering and loss at the heart of what the journalists chronicled, said Julie Pace, AP’s senior vice president and executive editor.

The reporting, particularly heartbreaking images of civilian bomb victims, had a clear impact. Mariupol officials later credited their work with pressuring Russians to allow an evacuation route, saving thousands of civilian lives.

Their resourceful work, called “courageous” by the Pulitzer committee, included sneaking out a tiny file of images taken by a Ukrainian medic that was hidden in a tampon.

At one point during the siege, as the noose tightened on them, Chernov and his colleagues were reporting from a hospital treating war wounded. They were given scrubs to wear as camouflage. A group of soldiers burst in and profanely demanded to know where the reporters were.

They wore blue armbands that indicated they were Ukrainian. But were they actually Russians in disguise?

Chernov took a chance, stepped forward and identified himself.

The soldiers were indeed Ukrainian. They loaded the journalists in a car, and they escaped the city, passing through 15 Russian checkpoints.

It’s not an overstatement to say the work was a true public service — telling the world of the war’s human toll, dispelling Russian disinformation as well as opening the humanitarian corridor, Pace said.

“It was ambitious from the very beginning because it had to be, because the stakes were so high for us, for AP, for the team in Mariupol and for the people of the city,” Hinnant said Monday on a staff Zoom call. “We thought then that lives would depend on it, and that turned out to be true.”

The AP team that won the prize for breaking news photography in Ukraine included Maloletka, his second Pulitzer of the day. Other winners were Bernat Armangue, Emilio Morenatti, Felipe Dana, Nariman El-Mofty, Rodrigo Abd and Vadim Ghirda.

Eight photographers — Maloletka, Armangue, Morenatti, El-Mofty, Girda, David Goldman, Natacha Pisenko and Petros Giannakouris — were Pulitzer finalists in feature photography for their package on the elderly in Ukraine. Two journalists, Eranga Jayawardena and Rafiq Maqbool, were finalists in breaking news photography for their work covering protests over the economic collapse in Sri Lanka.

“To be there is probably more important and more critical than ever,” said J. David Ake, AP’s director of photography. “You can’t make the moment that captures the world if you’re not there, and being there is often dirty and difficult and dangerous.”

In dog show world, details obvious and subtle rule the day

By ANNA FURMAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Doe-eyed dachshunds, push-faced French bulldogs and other nonsporting breeds circle the hallowed rings. A bracco Italiano receives a jowl massage. Spaniels get blow-dried. Everyone is prepping — lovingly, meticulously — for a hoped-for big moment.

With more than 3,000 dogs competing this week at the annual Westminster Kennel Club dog show, one of the world’s most prestigious, sometimes it’s a competitor’s confident gait or self-possessed gaze that sets it apart from the pack.

“Like all things, beauty is subjective,” said Ann Ingram, who traveled from Cork, Ireland, to New York City to judge several events. “A dog’s attitude in the ring can help. If the dog loves itself, you can tell. He kind of has that attitude of, you know, ‘I’m a winner.’”

In short: There are the obvious characteristics — the quantifiable ones — and then there are the intangibles.

The show is being held this year on the 40-acre (16-hectare) grounds of the U.S. Open tennis tournament, where Ingram was selected to choose the winning schipperke, bulldog, Frenchies and miniature poodle to go on to the semifinals — and, perhaps, the marquee Best in Show competition on Tuesday night.

Each spring, the rarefied world of breeding purebreds — a beloved if idiosyncratic American subculture — is telecast to viewers around the world for three days spanning more than 16 hours. Things can get

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pretty arcane if you're not steeped in the topic.

To hear Ingram and others tell it, the dog show is an arena where details matter deeply — details that the rest of the world may have no idea about. Though with the show's increasing popularity as the years pass, that is changing.

JUDGING HERE VARIES WIDELY BY BREED

"With breeds like Frenchies and bulldogs, where there are health concerns with the breathing, you want to see them be able to move without any signs of distress," Ingram said. A spirited trot or swishy, excited wag of the tail may signify an excellent performance for one breed, but subpar training for another.

For example, "any poodle that flies around the ring like a workhorse is not a poodle," Ingram said. Some dogs were bred to hunt lions (Rhodesian ridgebacks), while others are bred to be affectionate puffballs (Pekingese).

Others are arrogant or aloof. Ingram says that when you approach an Afghan hound, "They actually look through you, rather than at you," because they're bred to be far-seeing. "It's like, 'You're disturbing my vision — could you move?'"

Atop gold-skirted, purple-velvet tables, handlers position their dogs in preparation for Ingram's scrutiny. "When you go through the coat, maybe you find that there's no body or the elbows are hanging out a bit," she said. When judging poodles, her scrupulous attention to detail goes beyond the grooming. Some hairdressers, according to Ingram, pull poodles' fluffy fur taut in order to make round eyes appear almond-shaped, which is the breed's standard.

Some details may be common, but standards are not universal. In European competitions, for example, cream-colored French bulldogs and white-colored Italian greyhounds are not recognized. But in the United States, both dogs are competitive.

GO BEHIND THE SCENES WITH SOME DOG DETAILS

At nearly 150 years old, Westminster is the second-oldest continuously-running sporting competition in the United States, behind only the Kentucky Derby. But modern innovations have changed the game. Popular TikTok accounts, the widespread use of QR codes and geotagged Instagram posts have raised the profiles of some competitors, who may go on to score lucrative kibble sponsorships.

Before dogs enter the ring, groomers blow-dry the bellies of Tibetan spaniels, unfurl curlers from the muzzles of snow-white Malteses and spritz the coiffed, cloudlike bobs of bichon frisés. Some curly and coarse-coated breeds are brushed with baby powders while fine, silky-haired dogs are spritzed with various aerosol sprays.

Behind the scenes Monday morning, handlers massaged the jowls of sleepy-faced bracco Italianos, which are eligible for the first time to compete at Westminster this year.

Beth Sweigart of Bowmansville, Pennsylvania, holds the honor of judging Best in Show this year. So she'll be holed up in her hotel room, staying clear of the rings until the premier competition. She's respecting a longstanding policy.

"Some breeds are more glamorous than others and catch the eye," Sweigart said. But others, like Labrador retrievers, are what she called "a very utilitarian kind of dog. They're not fancy movers." They're bred to be duck hunters. Though they were the most popular breed in the U.S. for nearly 30 years, Sweigart points out that at Westminster, they've never won.

HERE'S HOW THEY PREP FOR THE BIG MOMENTS

Though she doesn't wear a uniform, experienced handlers and owners will likely recognize Sweigart from her more than 50 years in the dog world. In previous years, she's judged various terrier, toy and sporting groups. At home, she has more than eight dogs, including Labradors, affenpinschers, and a pack of Norfolk terriers that she said are "named after patriots" such as Eisenhower, Sam Adams and Patrick Henry.

Dress style is typically conservative and sensible, since handlers and judges are bending over dogs in all manners. Most female handlers and judges wear formal blouses and skirts cut below the knees. But "you don't want to be too precious about your outfit," Ingram said, because "if you're judging something like a Saint Bernard, you're getting slobber on it."

Also sequestered in a hotel Monday was George Milutinovich of Fresno, California, who was judging 21

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"How long must we carry this heavy load?" Kilicdaroglu said in an address to ambassadors from European nations last month. "We want peace in Syria. We want our Syrian brothers and sisters who took refuge in our country to live in peace in their own country."

Sinan Ogan, a candidate backed by an anti-migrant party, says his government would consider sending Syrians back "by force if necessary."

Faced with mounting public pressure, Erdogan's government, who long defended its open-door policy toward refugees, began constructing thousands brick homes in Turkish-controlled areas of northern Syria to encourage voluntary returns. His government is also seeking reconciliation with Syrian President Bashar Assad to ensure the refugees' safe return.

The Syrian government, however, has made normalization of ties conditional on Turkey withdrawing its troops from areas under its control following a series of military incursions, and on Ankara cutting support to opposition groups.

"Realistically speaking, implementing the promises (of repatriation) is much harder than restoring the (Turkish) economy," said Omar Kadkoy, an expert on migration at the Ankara-based TEPAV think tank. "At the end of the day, if the opposition comes to power or if the government stays in power, I don't really see how they could repatriate 3.5 million Syrians in two years."

Kadkoy continued: "Assad is so maximalist with his demands from Turkey to accept millions of people back. I don't think Turkey is ready to meet his demands."

Around 60,000 Syrians crossed the border into northern Syria following the earthquake, after Turkey relaxed regulations allowing them to return to Syria and remain there for a maximum of six months. The move allowed refugees to check on family or homes in quake-hit areas of northern Syria. It was not immediately known how many have crossed back into Turkey, or plan to do so.

Kadkoy says high inflation and a cost of living crisis have made life for Syrians in Turkey difficult.

"But when compared to ... having no place to stay, no functioning democracy ... where you might be subjected to bombing and shelling at any given moment, (Syrians) prefer the bad conditions here in Turkey over having nothing in Syria," he said.

In Ankara's impoverished Ismetpasa neighborhood, plastic sheets partially cover the roof to keep the rain out of the house where Jumaa, his wife Jawahir and their four children live. The family has no furniture and they sleep on mats they throw around a coal heater.

Jawahir Jumaa says their home in Syria was destroyed in air raids. The few relatives that have remained there live in tents that are flooded in winter months.

"The living conditions (here) are better than in Syria," she said.

Hikmat, her youngest son, had a cyst and a tumor removed from his head and back. "They can't treat him in Syria. They don't know how," Jawahir added.

Asked about the anti-migrant sentiment and calls for the repatriation of Syrians, Nidal Jumaa was fatalistic.

"There is nothing we can do, for now we are carrying on living. We are under the mercy of God," he responded.

The neighborhood is close to an area where riots broke out two years ago after a Turkish teenager was stabbed to death in a fight with a group of young Syrians. Hundreds of people chanting anti-immigrant slogans took to the streets, vandalized Syrian-run shops and hurled rocks at refugees' homes.

Hassan Hassan, a neighbor, says he isn't concerned about the violence that erupted or about the calls for Syrians to leave.

"I'm not afraid, we suffered too many terrible things, what could happen that is worse than what we (have already) lived through?" he asked.

Driver in deadly Texas crash charged with manslaughter

By VALERIE GONZALEZ Associated Press

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (AP) — An SUV driver who killed eight people when he slammed into a group waiting at a bus stop in Brownsville, Texas, was charged with manslaughter, police said Monday as inves-

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breeds and varieties in the nonsporting group Monday night. He said he'll have a leisurely lunch and will reread standards, then watch a few breed videos and "kind of get my head set for the night."

At home he has a Russell Terrier named Millie. Over the past couple decades, he has bred pugs and bichon frisés. But in the ring, judges suspend their personal affinities and biases. "What's foremost in your mind," Milutinovich said, is this: "Can this dog before me do the job that it was originally bred to do?"

On Monday, the converging aromas of cologne and wet dog were in the air. Bon Bon, a short-haired dachshund, scarfed down a filet of chicken plucked from his handler's breast pocket before rounding the ring with a dignified strut that drew rapturous applause.

"There's bigger shows numerically, but the fact that you're actually getting the absolute cream of the cream ... is quite exciting," Ingram said. "The whole razzmatazz of Westminster is very special."

Jury to start deliberations in suit accusing Trump of rape

By LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A jury in New York City is set to begin deliberations Tuesday in a civil trial over advice columnist E. Jean Carroll's claims that Donald Trump raped her in a luxury Manhattan department store in 1996.

U.S. District Judge Lewis A. Kaplan will read instructions on the law to the nine-person jury for about an hour before jurors begin discussing the civil claims of battery and defamation.

If they believe Carroll, jurors can award compensatory and punitive damages. Trump, who did not attend the trial, has insisted he never sexually assaulted Carroll or knew her.

Trump's lawyer, Joe Tacopina, told the jury in closing arguments Monday that Carroll's story is too far fetched to be believed. He said she made it up to fuel sales of a 2019 memoir where she first publicly revealed her claims and to disparage Trump for political reasons.

Carroll's attorney, Roberta Kaplan, cited excerpts from Trump's October deposition and his notorious comments on a 2005 "Access Hollywood" video in which he said celebrities can grab women between the legs without asking.

She urged jurors to believe her client.

"He didn't even bother to show up here in person," Kaplan said, referring to Trump's absence from court during the two weeks of trial. She said much of what he said in his deposition and in public statements "actually supports our side of the case."

"In a very real sense, Donald Trump is a witness against himself," she said. "He knows what he did. He knows that he sexually assaulted E. Jean Carroll."

Carroll, 79, testified that she had a chance encounter with Trump at the Bergdorf Goodman store across the street from Trump Tower. She said it was a lighthearted interaction in which they teased each other about trying on a piece of lingerie before Trump became violent inside a dressing room.

Tacopina told jurors there was no reason to call Trump as a witness when Carroll can't even recall when her encounter with Trump happened.

He told the jury Carroll made up her claims after hearing about a 2012 "Law and Order" episode in which a woman is raped in the dressing room of the lingerie section of a Bergdorf Goodman store.

"They modeled their secret scheme on an episode of one of the most popular shows on television," he said of Carroll.

Two of Carroll's friends testified that she told them about the encounter with Trump shortly after it happened, many years before the "Law and Order" episode aired.

Trump forum a big test for CNN, moderator Kaitlan Collins

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump's town hall forum on CNN on Wednesday is the first major television event of the 2024 presidential campaign — and a gigantic test for the chosen moderator, Kaitlan Collins.

Both sides of the political divide expressed suspicion when the CNN forum at New Hampshire's St. An-

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selm College was announced last week. Some Democrats question whether the former president should be given the airtime, while Republicans wonder if a network Trump has long disparaged can be fair.

Once it begins, Collins must give audience members the chance to ask questions while determining when to step in with her own. She'll weigh how to correct misinformation in a potentially hostile environment: Invited town hall participants are those who expect to vote in a Republican primary.

"It's a balance beam and it can be walked," said Frank Sesno, a former CNN Washington bureau chief now at George Washington University. "We're going to see if Kaitlan is worthy of the Olympics."

CNN would not make Collins available to talk before the event, scheduled for 8 p.m. Wednesday.

It speaks to Collins' stature that she was given the assignment at a network with no shortage of experienced political journalists — Dana Bash, Anderson Cooper, Jake Tapper, Chris Wallace. She worked at The Daily Caller, the conservative website launched by Tucker Carlson, before turning occasional guest appearances on CNN into a full-time job in 2017.

She covered the Trump White House and became CNN's chief White House correspondent in 2021. She moved to New York late last year for a co-hosting role on "CNN This Morning." For the 31-year-old Collins, now in the mix for a role on CNN's prime-time lineup, Wednesday's event may also be an important audition.

"She has had a pretty meteoric rise at a young age because of her talent," said Maggie Haberman, New York Times correspondent and author of the Trump biography "Confidence Man." "She was a formidable White House correspondent, always calm under pressure, but she is also incredibly fair and facts-focused."

Collins had her run-ins with the Trump White House. She was barred from a Rose Garden event in 2018 when the Trump team got upset with her shouted questions in the Oval Office earlier in the day.

She has fact-checked on the fly as a morning anchor. "That's not true, Senator," she said to Republican Sen. Rick Scott of Florida recently when he made a claim about President Joe Biden and Medicare spending on "CNN This Morning."

Alyssa Farah Griffin, once on Trump's communications team and now a panelist on "The View," tweeted after the forum was announced that Collins "is one of the toughest interviews out there. Anyone thinking that Trump will get away with lying without being called out needs to watch her past interviews. Honestly surprised he agreed."

Remarkably, it's Trump's first appearance for a CNN interview since before he was elected president in 2016. Since announcing his 2024 candidacy, he's generally confined himself to television interviews with outlets that appeal to conservatives.

During his presidency, Trump continually attacked CNN as "fake news." CNN's reputation among Republicans sunk, and although the network's new management has sought to inhabit more of a middle ground politically, it's an uphill battle among his supporters.

"It's obvious to everyone with half a brain that Trump won't get a fair shake from CNN," wrote columnist Paula Bonyard for the conservative PJ Media. "Why does he keep prostrating himself before these dishonest left-wing media hacks?"

A Trump adviser, who was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity, said CNN executives made a compelling pitch to the former president. The adviser also noted that Trump found success in 2016 by stepping outside Republicans' traditional comfort zone.

Meanwhile, many Trump opponents believe a man who has continued to spread lies about fraud during his 2020 election loss to Biden doesn't deserve the prime-time exposure.

There's also deep-seated suspicion dating to CNN's frequent coverage of Trump's rallies before the 2016 election, which gave a ratings boost to the network and outsize airtime to the first-time candidate.

"I find it very hard to defend the choice to give him a live platform, no matter how it is dressed up," MSNBC's Chris Hayes said on his show, which will directly compete with Trump on Wednesday.

CNN has said the forum is part of the network's long-standing tradition of hosting candidate interviews and events. Given Trump's standing in polls with Republican voters, the network said, his candidacy can't be ignored.

It's also a reflection of the new era of leadership at the network, and management's efforts to rebuild

trust as a nonpartisan news brand. To that end, current CNN chairman and CEO Chris Licht has made it a goal to broaden the network's reach and ease some of the tension with Republicans, including by reportedly meeting with lawmakers from both parties on Capitol Hill.

Collins was chosen as moderator in part because she's a rising star and in part because of her direct experience covering Trump. She'll be onstage on Wednesday with a team of producers and fact-checkers giving her advice through an earpiece.

Sesno said that CNN should make clear in its advance promotion that it's a no-holds-barred event where the former president can be asked any question. The ad that the network has been running has been a straightforward preview.

"I simply cannot imagine that CNN or New Hampshire Republicans are going to give him a free pass," Sesno said. "But if they do, shame on them."

Associated Press writer Michelle L. Price in New York contributed to this report.

First wild koalas caught and vaccinated against chlamydia

By CHRISTINA LARSON AP Science Writer

Australian scientists have begun vaccinating wild koalas against chlamydia in an ambitious field trial in New South Wales.

The aim is to test a method for protecting the beloved marsupials against a widespread disease that causes blindness, infertility and death.

"It's killing koalas because they become so sick they can't climb trees to get food, or escape predators, and females can become infertile," said Samuel Phillips, a microbiologist at the University of the Sunshine Coast who helped to develop the vaccine.

The scientists' initial goal is to catch, vaccinate and monitor around half of the koala population in the Northern Rivers region of New South Wales — that means vaccinating around 50 animals.

The safety and effectiveness of the single-shot vaccine, which has been designed specifically for koalas, has previously been tested by vaccinating a few hundred koalas brought to wildlife rescue centers for other afflictions.

Now scientists want to understand the impact of vaccinating a population of wild koalas. "We want to evaluate what percentage of the koalas we need to vaccinate to meaningfully reduce infection and disease," said Phillips.

The first koalas were caught and vaccinated in March, and the effort is expected to last about three months.

Researchers use binoculars to spot koalas in eucalyptus trees, then construct circular enclosures around the tree bases with doors leading into cages. After a few hours or days, the koalas will eventually climb down from one tree to seek tasty leaves on another, and wander into the harmless traps.

"It's hard to confuse a koala with any other animals — they're pretty easy to spot," said Jodie Wakeman, veterinary care and clinical director at Friends of the Koala, a nonprofit that runs a wildlife hospital where the koalas are being brought for vaccination.

After a check-up to make sure the animals are in good condition, researchers administer anesthesia and shots of vaccine, then keep them under observation for 24 hours after they wake up, to confirm there are no unexpected side effects, said Wakeman.

The goal is to vaccinate healthy koalas to prevent them from becoming infected with chlamydia.

Before release, the researchers mark the koalas with a dab of pink dye on their backs, to ensure the same animals aren't caught twice.

When the first vaccinated koala was returned to her habitat on March 9, the scientists placed her cage at the base of a tree and opened the door. She quickly emerged and bounded up the tree trunk.

Koalas are iconic Australian marsupials, like wombats and kangaroos. They spend most of their time eating and sleeping in eucalyptus trees, and their paws have two opposing thumbs to help them grasp

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and climb up trunks.

Australia's wild koala populations have declined steeply in the past two decades.

Last February, Australia's federal government declared koalas "endangered" in the eastern regions of New South Wales, Queensland and the Australian Capital Territory.

Facing compounded threats from disease, habitat loss and road collisions, koalas could become extinct by 2050, according to a 2020 assessment from the New South Wales government.

Around half of wild koalas in Queensland are already infected with chlamydia, scientists estimate.

In deciding to vaccinate, the scientists are balancing the risk of disturbing the animals against the danger of allowing the disease to spread. The trial was approved by multiple government bodies, including Australia's agriculture department and New South Wales' planning and environment department.

The origins of chlamydia in koalas aren't confirmed, but scientists believe it's likely the marsupials initially caught the disease from exposure to the feces of infected sheep and cattle. Then it's spread sexually, or passed from mother to offspring.

While humans and livestock infected with the bacteria that causes chlamydia can be treated with antibiotics, it's not so simple for koalas.

The "complex" microbes inside the stomachs of koalas are designed to neutralize toxins in eucalyptus leaves that are their main food source, said Mathew Crowther, a conservation biologist at the University of Sydney. But their digestive systems can also neutralize some medicines so "that means they don't respond well to antibiotics treatment," he said.

Crowther has been monitoring a population of koalas in northern New South Wales for more than a decade. In 2008, 10% of animals tested there were infected with chlamydia. Today that rate is 80%.

"It's been devastating — there's very, very low fertility," he said. "You hardly see any babies."

The other threats koalas face — including habitat destruction from land clearing and climate-enhanced wildfires — may increase their stress levels, weakening their immune systems and making them more susceptible to diseases including chlamydia, said Crowther.

Rebecca Johnson, now chief scientist at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C., previously led the Koala Genome Consortium in Australia. She said that seeing the effects of the disease up close was heartbreaking.

A necropsy of one koala with advanced chlamydia that was euthanized revealed "ovaries completely encased in cysts" and "intestines full of hard lumps of food, evidence that she couldn't properly digest food," recalled Johnson. "She was obviously infertile and in pain."

There are only a handful of other examples worldwide of scientists attempting to catch and inoculate endangered wildlife for conservation. In 2016, scientists began to vaccinate Hawaiian monk seals against a deadly strain of morbillivirus. Two and a half years ago, biologists in Brazil began to vaccinate golden lion tamarins against yellow fever.

"Vaccination for wildlife is certainly not routine yet," said Jacob Negrey, a biologist at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. "But whether it should be used more often is a fundamental question that conservation biologists are really wrangling with right now."

The Smithsonian's Johnson said the benefits are likely to outweigh the risks for koalas. "Vaccination is an incredibly resource-intensive thing to do. Koalas live high up in trees," she said.

"But because the effects of chlamydia are so debilitating, I think it's totally worth it."

Follow Christina Larson on Twitter: @larsonchristina

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Peke, Frenchie, Aussie and, yes, PBGV make dog show finals

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

It could be the day for the petit basset griffon Vendéen named for Buddy Holly. Or the Pekingese could notch his breed's third Westminster Kennel Club dog show win in little over a decade.

And what about the French bulldog that nearly won last year? Or will the purple-and-gold best in show ribbon go to ... Ribbon?

Buddy Holly the PBGV (for short), Rummie the Peke, Winston the Frenchie and Ribbon the Australian shepherd are headed to the Westminster Kennel Club dog show finals Tuesday, along with three other finalists yet to be chosen.

The first four got their chance to vie for the best in show trophy after making it through two rounds of judging Monday. First, each bested other dogs of its breed, and then of its "group" — toy dogs or hounds, for example.

Ribbon, the Aussie, is "like the fun girl at the party," handler Jessica Plourde said. Buddy Holly is "just a PBGV through-and-through," said handler and co-owner Janice Hayes. (The full name of the merry, low-slung French rabbit-hunting breed is pronounced peh-TEE' bah-SAY' grihf-FAHN' vahn-DAY'-ahn.)

Rummie comes to Westminster with handler, owner and breeder David Fitzpatrick, who has guided two other Pekes to Westminster wins: Malachy in 2012 and Wasabi in 2021. Rummie has what it takes, too, he said.

"He moves so beautiful, true to Pekingese type, lots of carriage, presence — everything in one, here," Fitzpatrick said.

The Frenchie, Winston, came in second at Westminster last year and went on to win last fall's National Dog Show, hosted by the Kennel Club of Philadelphia. Now he's representing the most prevalent dog breed in the United States, as of rankings released in March.

He "just steals your heart," handler and co-owner Perry Payson said after Winston's spirited turn, which included an impromptu leap into a decorative box in the middle of the ring.

But if those four were the chosen finalists, there were other fan favorites, too.

There was the bloodhound that bowed deeply before a judge, the shiba inu shown by a 10-year-old handler, and the Ibizan hound that breeder, owner and handler Alexandria Mitchell led to a strong showing.

The Ibizan hound, Hugo, made it past the judge's first cut. That's a feat for a breeder-owner-handler at a show where many exhibitors handle other people's dogs as a career.

"I'm speechless right now," said Mitchell, of Benton Harbor, Michigan.

Audra Maes, at 10, was decades younger than many other handlers in the televised semifinals (which isn't unheard-of in dog showing). But the Denver girl summed up the experience with aplomb: "It was pretty cool."

Associated Press writer Anna Furman contributed. New York-based AP journalist Jennifer Peltz has covered the Westminster dog show since 2013.

FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried seeks dismissal of indictment

By LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — FTX founder Sam Bankman-Fried sought a dismissal of criminal charges against him in a court filing late Monday, saying prosecutors have improperly made federal crimes out of civil and regulatory issues that resulted from an industrywide collapse of cryptocurrency markets dubbed the "crypto winter."

Lawyers for the onetime head of a multibillion dollar cryptocurrency exchange said in papers in Manhattan federal court that the U.S. government had a "dramatic — and troubling" response to a broad market crash in cryptocurrency last year that affected every corner of the market.

They said Bankman-Fried's non-U.S. FTX company lasted far longer than others in the industry before it entered bankruptcy in November when the global exchange ran out of money after the equivalent of a

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bank run. A trial is tentatively set for the fall.

Prosecutors alleged in December that Bankman-Fried cheated investors and looted customer deposits on FTX to make lavish real estate purchases, donate money to politicians and make risky trades at Alameda Research, his cryptocurrency hedge fund trading firm. U.S. Attorney Damian Williams has called it one of the biggest frauds in U.S. history.

In March, new charges added to the indictment alleged that Bankman-Fried violated the anti-bribery provisions of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act by directing the payment of \$40 million in bribes to a Chinese official or officials to free up \$1 billion in cryptocurrency that was frozen in early 2021.

The original indictment to which Bankman-Fried pleaded not guilty after his December extradition from the Bahamas contained eight vague and non-specific charges against Bankman-Fried, his lawyers said Monday.

The additional charges filed later violated an Extradition Treaty between the United States and the Bahamas, they added.

"In the wake of the 'crypto winter,' the Government, in hindsight, may dislike or disapprove of business practices of the cryptocurrency industry, FTX, or even Mr. Bankman-Fried — but this does not give it license to turn them into federal crimes," Bankman-Fried's lawyers wrote.

Bankman-Fried, 31, has been living with his parents in Palo Alto, California, under a \$250 million bail arrangement that has severely limited his ability to communicate on the internet and move money around.

In other papers filed Monday, Bankman-Fried's lawyers sought dismissal of portions of the indictment on other grounds, including with arguments that some charges duplicated others.

They also claimed that FTX debtors had become an arm of the government, casting Bankman-Fried as a villain and providing so much information to prosecutors that defense lawyers must worry that they will be unable to get their hands on documents that might help prove Bankman-Fried's innocence.

A message sent to a spokesperson for prosecutors was not immediately returned.

Texas shooter's 'RWDS' patch linked to far-right extremists

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER, MICHAEL KUNZELMAN and LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

The shooter who killed eight people at a Dallas-area mall was wearing a patch that read "RWDS" — short for "Right Wing Death Squad" — a phrase that has been embraced in recent years by far-right extremists who glorify violence against their political enemies.

Authorities have not said what they believe might have motivated 33-year-old Mauricio Garcia, who was killed by a police officer who happened to be near the mall Saturday when Garcia opened fire.

Social media accounts authorities believe were used by Mauricio Garcia also appear to have expressed interest in white supremacist and neo-Nazi views, according to an official who spoke to The Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because they could not discuss details of the investigation publicly. The official cautioned that the investigation is in the early stages.

Here is a look at the term "Right Wing Death Squad" and how it became a popular symbol among violent extremists:

WHAT'S THE HISTORY OF THE TERM?

The "RWDS" acronym is one of countless shorthand terms used by extremists. Others include "RaHoWa," short for "racial holy war," and "1488," an alphabet-driven code combining references to a white nationalist slogan and Adolf Hitler.

The term "Right Wing Death Squad" originally emerged in the 1970s and '80s to describe Central and South American paramilitary groups created to support right-wing governments and dictatorships and oppose perceived enemies on the left, said Oren Segal, vice president of the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism.

It reemerged in the 2010s among right-wing groups who use it on stickers, patches and in online forums. Other far-right gear and online memes specifically glorify Gen. Augusto Pinochet, the brutal Chilean military dictator whose death squads killed thousands of political opponents.

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"It essentially became a phrase that was co-opted to demonstrate opposition to the left more broadly by right-wing extremists," Segal said.

Heidi Beirich, co-founder of the Global Project Against Hate and Extremism, said the Proud Boys, the neo-fascist group of self-described "Western chauvinists," are largely responsible for injecting "RWDS" into the far-right vernacular.

The group has sold patches and T-shirts adorned with the acronym and celebrating Pinochet's death squads. Proud Boys have been photographed wearing "RWDS" patches at rallies and wearing T-shirts that read, "Pinochet did nothing wrong."

Photos shared on social media appeared to show former Proud Boys national chairman Enrique Tarrío and another former Proud Boys leader, Jeremy Bertino, among those who have worn such patches.

Tarrío was convicted last week of seditious conspiracy in the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol for what prosecutors have described as a violent plot to keep President Donald Trump in power. Bertino, who was vice president of the South Carolina Proud Boys chapter, previously pleaded guilty to seditious conspiracy in the Jan. 6 riot.

WHICH GROUPS HAVE EMBRACED IT?

The Proud Boys aren't the only far-right extremists to adopt the term.

"Right Wing Death Squad" was the name of the smaller groups that participated in the white nationalist "Unite the Right Rally" in Charlottesville, Virginia, in August 2017, according to the Anti-Defamation League. The rally turned deadly when a white supremacist rammed his car into a crowd of counterprotesters, killing a woman.

Facebook banned several hate-filled pages, including one named "Right Wing Death Squad," after the bloodshed in Charlottesville, the New York Times reported.

"It has really become something over the past couple years that has cut across and far beyond any individual group," said Jon Lewis, a research fellow at the Program on Extremism at George Washington University.

"It has kind of become this rallying cry to some extent: This is what we want, to seize the levers of democratic power, just like Pinochet did, and we want to use the power of the state to then engage in violent genocide effectively against whoever is against us," he said.

American University professor Cynthia Miller-Idriss, director of the school's Polarization and Extremism Research & Innovation Lab, said extremists who adopt these terms and symbols often don't fully understand their origins.

"Nobody is going to accidentally have a 'Right Wing Death Squad' patch," she said. "But it's because of this whole meme culture, and generally the way that iconography is used to signal encoded speech or messages, they don't always know exactly" what it means.

WHITE SUPREMACIST GROUPS HAVE NON-WHITE MEMBERS?

Far-right extremist groups like the Proud Boys often point to their Black and Hispanic members to rebut claims that they promote racism or white supremacist ideologies. Tarrío, the former Proud Boys leader, is Cuban American, for example.

The Daily Stormer, a leading neo-Nazi website, launched a Spanish-language edition in 2017 tailored for readers in Spain and Latin America.

Some Hispanics identify as white.

But those who don't consider themselves to be white "can still be attracted to and support movements that are inherently or explicitly white supremacist," said Miller-Idriss, author of "Hate in the Homeland: The New Global Far Right."

"And that is the same way that women can support patriarchal or male supremacist movements," she added.

Tanya Hernández, a law professor at Fordham University and author of "Racial Innocence: Unmasking Latino Anti-Black Bias," said Latinos are often viewed "as an unwanted other" in the U.S.

"If you are a Latino who is already affected by being viewed as other and want desperately to be part of the club that is the U.S., what better way to make a claim ... than to be part of the enforcement, the

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policing of whiteness within a white supremacist hate group?" she said.

Associated Press writer Michael Balsamo in New York contributed to this report.

At this Westminster, King Charles is the spaniel sort

By JENNIFER PELTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — At Westminster Abbey, Britain's King Charles III was crowned Saturday. At the Westminster Kennel Club dog show this week, a cavalier King Charles spaniel won't be as lucky.

The affectionate toy dogs are having a moment amid the monarchical fanfare. Over 100 King Charles spaniels marched in a parade in London Saturday to celebrate the coronation, some sporting miniature crowns, perhaps politely signaling to Pembroke Welsh corgis to move over after decades of attention as the late Queen Elizabeth II's beloved pets.

Across the pond in New York, Chester the cavalier won his breed, then got eliminated in the semifinals Monday at the Westminster show, the United States' premier canine event.

Cavalier King Charles spaniels are named not for the current sovereign but for 17th-century predecessors Charles I and especially Charles II, who was known for his fondness for wee spaniels. (A similar breed, known in the U.S. as the English toy spaniel, comes in both "Prince Charles" and "King Charles" varieties; the difference is in the coat colors.)

"Cavs," as they often are called for short, are renowned for their soft-eyed, sweet expression and attachment to their people.

"They really do comfort you and look deep in your soul," says breeder Lynnette Bragg of Springfield, Georgia.

She said her cavaliers "saved our life" after she and her husband lost two sons, 17-year-old Matthew in a 2001 car crash and 36-year-old Scott, who had multiple disabilities, in 2010.

She was at Westminster on Monday to show one of her cavaliers, named Hope. The dog splits time between Bragg and her friend Lori Dasher, whose husband died of COVID-19 in 2021.

"I knew when Lori lost her husband, and those children lost their dad, they need a little Hope over there," Bragg said as she and Dasher awaited Hope's turn in the ring.

"She's our little royal girl," Bragg said.

New York-based Associated Press journalist Jennifer Peltz has covered the Westminster dog show since 2013.

Biden calls for 'fair deal' for striking Hollywood writers

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden called for a "fair deal" for Hollywood's striking writers on Monday as he hosted a White House screening of the the upcoming streaming series "American Born Chinese" to mark Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander Heritage Month.

Biden made his first public comments on the strike, which hits the one-week mark Tuesday, in remarks ahead of the pilot's screening. He was joined by an overflow crowd of hundreds of community leaders, elected officials and cast members and producers from the show in the East Room and the State Dining Room.

"Nights like these are a reminder of stories and the importance of treating storytellers with the dignity, respect and the value they deserve," Biden said. "I sincerely hope the writers strike in Hollywood gets resolved and the writers are given a fair deal they deserve as soon as possible."

He added: "This is an iconic, meaningful American industry. And we need the writers and all the workers and everyone involved to tell the stories of our nation and the stories of all of us."

"American Born Chinese" is an adaptation of a graphic novel of the same name by Gene Luen Yang, and stars Oscar winners Michelle Yeoh and Ke Huy Quan. It will premiere on Disney+ May 24.

Biden used his brief remarks onstage to outline his administration's efforts to highlight the accomplish-

ments of the Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities and to speak out against prejudice and violence targeting them.

"Hate can have no safe harbor in America," Biden said. "Silence is complicity and we will not remain silent" Quan, who introduced Biden, reflected on his journey from arriving in the U.S. as an 8-year-old refugee from Vietnam to making his first visit to the White House months after winning an Oscar.

"I do not take this moment lightly, because I know this building is a monument to a country that opened its arms to me," he said.

Disney updates lawsuit against DeSantis to add new events

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Disney on Monday amended its free speech lawsuit against Gov. Ron DeSantis to add recent developments in the tit-for-tat fight between the entertainment giant and the Florida governor, such as a new law granting the state unprecedented authority to inspect a monorail system at Disney World.

Disney's amended complaint filed in federal court in Tallahassee is updated with developments since the entertainment giant almost two weeks ago sued DeSantis and an oversight board for the Disney World governing district that is made up of members newly appointed by the governor.

The new complaint references legislation passed last week by Florida lawmakers that rescinds agreements that Disney and a previous oversight board consisting of Disney supporters made earlier this year, giving the entertainment giant control over design and construction at Disney World. The amended lawsuit also includes the new measure passed last week by Florida lawmakers giving the state authority to inspect Disney World's monorail system, which previously had been conducted in-house.

Disney is the only company impacted by the new measure and it "was precision-engineered to target Disney alone, just as Governor DeSantis intended and previewed," said the amended lawsuit.

The Disney lawsuit asks a federal judge to void the governor's takeover of the theme park district, as well as the oversight board's actions, on the grounds that they were violations of company's free speech rights.

Almost a week after Disney filed its lawsuit, members of the oversight board sued Disney last week in state court in an effort to maintain its control of construction and design at Disney World. It claimed the agreements between the company and previous board members "reek of a backroom deal."

Disney and DeSantis have been engaged in a tug-of-war for more than a year that has engulfed the governor in criticism as he prepares to launch an expected presidential bid in the coming weeks.

The fight began last year after Disney, beset by significant pressure both internally and externally, publicly opposed a state law that bans classroom lessons on sexual orientation and gender identity in early grades, a policy critics call "Don't Say Gay."

As punishment, DeSantis took over Disney World's self-governing district through legislation passed by Florida lawmakers and appointed a new board of supervisors that would oversee municipal services for the sprawling theme parks and hotels. But before the new board came in, the company made agreements with members of the previous oversight board that stripped the new supervisors of their authority when it comes to design and construction.

The creation of Disney's self-governing district by the Florida Legislature was instrumental in the company's decision in the 1960s to build near Orlando. The company had told the state at the time that it planned to build a futuristic city that would include a transit system and urban planning innovations, so the company needed autonomy in building and deciding how to use the land. The futuristic city never materialized and instead morphed into a second theme park that opened in 1982.

Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at @MikeSchneiderAP

Anti-abortion group aligns with Trump, weeks after criticism

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

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HOUSTON (AP) — The leader of a major anti-abortion group aligned herself Monday with former President Donald Trump on the issue, just weeks after raising questions about his commitment to restricting access to the procedure.

Calling her meeting Monday with Trump “terrific,” Marjorie Dannenfelser, president of the Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America group, said in a statement that he “reiterated that any federal legislation protecting these children would need to include the exceptions for life of the mother and in cases of rape and incest.”

The characterization of the meeting — which Dannenfelser’s group said happened at Trump’s Florida home — marked a turnaround from more than two weeks ago. Then, Dannenfelser called Trump’s contention that abortion restrictions should be left up to individual states, not the federal government, a “morally indefensible position for a self-proclaimed pro-life presidential candidate.”

Dannenfelser’s group has said it would not support any White House candidate who did not at a minimum support a 15-week federal abortion ban. Her statement about Monday’s meeting with the leading GOP contender didn’t mention any discussion of proposed confines for a federal ban, aside from Trump’s opposition to late-term procedures, which he has long opposed.

Trump has referred to himself as “the most pro-life president in American history,” as his three nominations of conservative judges to the Supreme Court paved the way for the reversal of *Roe v Wade*, which had legalized abortion nationwide for nearly 50 years.

But in the early months of his 2024 bid, Trump has often sidestepped the issue of abortion, even as Republicans across the country celebrate the Supreme Court decision stripping federal constitutional rights to the practice.

On Monday, Dannenfelser repeated a description she’s previously used, calling Trump’s term in office “the most consequential in American history for the pro-life cause.” Despite the credit Trump received for his judicial nominations, he was criticized after last year’s elections for saying that Republicans’ underperformance was due to abortion foes’ opposition to exceptions for women who became pregnant by rape or incest or whose life was at risk.

Trump’s campaign didn’t immediately respond to a message seeking comment on the meeting, which Dannenfelser also said included Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina — one of Trump’s top congressional allies — along with Family Research Council President Tony Perkins, a Christian conservative ally of Trump’s.

All the candidates running in the Republican presidential primary or moving toward a bid have supported state bans on abortion. Most have been much more cautious about staking a position on a nationwide ban, though entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy’s campaign has said he believes it’s an issue for the states, not the federal government.

Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina, who has launched a presidential exploratory committee and is expected to enter the race later this month, has said he would sign a federal law to prohibit abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy if elected president.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis last month signed a state abortion ban that, if upheld by the courts, would ban the procedure after six weeks of pregnancy, or before many women know they are pregnant. It will take effect only if the state Supreme Court, which is controlled by conservatives, upholds Florida’s current 15-week ban, which is part of an ongoing legal challenge.

The Florida ban would be one of the toughest in the U.S. But DeSantis has not made clear his position on whether such restrictions should be imposed across the country.

Nikki Haley, the former South Carolina governor and one-time United Nations ambassador, has called abortion a “personal issue” that should be left to the states, though she has left open the possibility of a federal ban. Last month, in a speech at SBA’s headquarters, Haley said she saw a federal role in the debate but stopped short of endorsing a national ban.

Former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, who as governor signed a law banning abortion after six weeks of pregnancy, has said he would sign a federal ban but stopped short of saying what timelines he would support as president.

Trump’s stance has provided an opening on the right for potential rivals like former Vice President Mike

Pence, an evangelical Christian with long-held anti-abortion views. Pence's advocacy group, Advancing American Freedom, has pushed for Congress to pass legislation including a national abortion ban beginning around six weeks.

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

Posts show mall gunman researched attack, had Nazi tattoos

By JAKE BLEIBERG, GENE JOHNSON and LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

DALLAS (AP) — The man accused of killing eight people and wounding several others in a mass shooting at a suburban Dallas shopping mall researched when it was busiest and posted photos on social media in mid-April of a store near where he ultimately started his attack.

The posts by Mauricio Garcia on a Russian social networking site suggest the 33-year-old had been planning the attack for weeks before he stepped out of a silver sedan and opened fire Saturday. Among the dead were two elementary school-age sisters, a couple and their 3-year-old son, and a security guard.

Garcia's online activity also betrayed a fascination with white supremacy and mass shootings, which he described as sport. Photos he posted showed large Nazi tattoos on his arm and torso, including a swastika and the SS lightning bolt logo of Hitler's paramilitary forces.

Other posts indicated Garcia had researched when the Allen Premium Outlets in Allen, one of the Dallas-area's most diverse suburbs, would be the busiest — Saturday afternoons, the time he carried out the massacre, which ended when police shot and killed him.

The online activity contributed to an emerging picture of the gunman Monday. He was discharged from the Army in 2008 because of mental health issues and apparently had been working as a security guard, according to neighbors and an Army official.

Aric Toler, director of training and research at the international research collective bellingcat.com, said he identified Garcia's profile on the site OK.RU by searching for active accounts with his birthdate located in the U.S. The AP independently verified the account, which also featured an image of a traffic ticket with Garcia's name and birthdate as well as paperwork from a motel where he stayed before the shooting.

Federal agents investigating what motivated the shooting have also reviewed the online posts, according to a federal law enforcement official who could not discuss details of the investigation publicly and spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity.

The official also said Garcia had a patch on his chest when police killed him that read "RWDS," an acronym for the phrase "Right Wing Death Squad," popular among right-wing extremists and white supremacy groups.

Investigators have also interviewed family members and associates of Garcia to ask about his ideological beliefs and are examining his financial records and other electronic media, the official said.

Garcia joined the Army in 2008 but was terminated three months later without completing his initial training, U.S. Army spokeswoman Heather J. Hagan said.

According to an Army official who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss personnel issues, he was kicked out due to mental health issues.

Garcia received an "uncharacterized" discharge, which is common for recruits who don't make it through training or the first 180 days, according to a defense official who also spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss personnel issues. That type of discharge — which is not dishonorable — would not set off red flags or require any reports to law enforcement.

On the Dallas block where Garcia lived at a family home until recently, neighbors said they thought he worked as a security guard but they weren't sure where. The company that manages the mall where the attack happened didn't immediately reply to messages seeking further information.

A woman who lives next door said she didn't know her neighbors well but described them as nice and polite. Garcia was always friendly, waving and honking, she said.

A law enforcement official said investigators also have searched a Dallas motel where Garcia had been

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staying ahead of the attack.

Amid protests Monday at the Texas Capitol for stricter gun control, two Republicans sided with Democrats to advance a bill that would raise the age to buy semiautomatic rifles from 18 to 21, though the measure has little or no chance of actually becoming law.

The shooting was the latest attack to contribute to the unprecedented pace of mass killings this year in the U.S. Just over a week before, five people were fatally shot in Cleveland, Texas, after a neighbor asked a man to stop firing his weapon while a baby slept, authorities said.

The community mourned the dead and awaited word on the seven people who were wounded. Medical City Healthcare said Monday it was treating six patients: Three were in critical condition, two were in fair condition and one was in good condition at a children's hospital. Police said a seventh wounded person was taken to a different hospital.

Allen, which is home to about 105,000 people, is among the Dallas-Fort Worth area's diverse suburbs. The area saw the largest Asian American growth rate of any major U.S. metro area, according to U.S. Census figures. Those statistics show that Allen's population is about 19% Asian, 10% Black and 11% Hispanic.

Allen also is connected to another of Texas' recent mass shootings. Patrick Crusius lived there in 2019 before he posted a racist screed online warning of a "Hispanic invasion" and drove to El Paso, where he opened fire at a Walmart, killing 23. Crusius, 24, pleaded guilty to federal hate crime and weapons charges in February.

Baldor reported from Washington and Johnson from Seattle. Jamie Stengle and Adam Kealoha Causey in Dallas; Michael Balsamo in Washington; Vanessa Alvarez in New York; James Vertuno in Austin; Michelle R. Smith in Providence, Rhode Island; and Rebecca Boone in Boise, Idaho, contributed to this report.

AP wins public service, photo Pulitzers for Ukraine coverage

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Associated Press won two Pulitzer Prizes on Monday for its coverage of the war in Ukraine, earning recognition for its breaking news photography of the Russian invasion, as well as the prestigious public service award for its startling — and exclusive — dispatches from the besieged port city of Mariupol.

AP journalists were also finalists in two Pulitzer categories, for breaking news photography of Sri Lanka's political crisis and for feature photography of the Ukraine war's impact on older people.

For the public service award, the Pulitzer judges acknowledged AP — which had the only international journalists in Mariupol for nearly three weeks — for capturing notable images of an injured, pregnant woman being rushed to medical help and Russia firing on civilian targets.

AP's Mariupol team was made up of videojournalist Mstyslav Chernov, photographer Evgeniy Maloletka and video producer Vasilisa Stepanenko on the ground in the besieged city, and reporter Lori Hinnant in Paris.

Other winners of two Pulitzers apiece were AL.com, of Birmingham, Alabama, the Los Angeles Times, The New York Times and The Washington Post.

The Pulitzers honor the best in journalism from 2022 in 15 categories, as well as eight arts categories focused on books, music and theater. The public service winner receives a gold medal. All other winners receive \$15,000.

Kyle Whitmire, of AL.com, won a commentary award for "measured and persuasive columns" about Alabama's Confederate heritage and a legacy of racism.

His Alabama colleagues John Archibald, Ashley Remkus, Ramsey Archibald and Challen Stephens won a local reporting award for a probe into a local police force.

It was a second Pulitzer win for John Archibald, who previously won in 2018 for commentary, and the first for his son, Ramsey Archibald. Remkus and Stephens were also picking up their second Pulitzers, after being part of a team that won in 2021 for national reporting.

"The recognition is tremendous and we're grateful our work is being honored on the national stage like

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this," Kelly Ann Scott, editor in chief and vice president of Alabama Media Group, said in a statement. "This is local journalism at its best – and local journalism is the heartbeat of this country's journalism in general."

The New York Times was honored with an international reporting award for its coverage of Russian killings in the Ukrainian town of Bucha. Pulitzers were also given for work surrounding the U.S. Supreme Court's decision overturning the Roe v. Wade abortion standard, the government's policy of child separation at the border, and welfare spending in Mississippi.

The Washington Post's Caroline Kitchener won for "unflinching reporting" on the consequences of the abortion decision, including the story of a Texas teenager who gave birth to twins after new restrictions denied her an abortion. The Post's Eli Saslow won for feature writing.

The Los Angeles Times won for breaking news for its stories revealing a secretly recorded conversation with city officials making racist comments. The newspaper's Christina House won for feature photography, for her images of a 22-year-old pregnant woman living on the street.

The AP coverage of Mariupol, according to the Ukrainian city's deputy mayor, focused the world's attention on the devastation there and ultimately pressured Russians to open an evacuation route, saving thousands of civilian lives.

"They told the world of the human toll of this war in its earliest days," AP Executive Editor Julie Pace said during a staff Zoom celebration. "They served as a counterweight against Russian disinformation, and they helped open up a humanitarian corridor out of Mariupol with the power of their work."

The AP team that won for breaking news photography included Maloletka, who was part of the Mariupol coverage, along with Bernat Armangue, Emilio Morenatti, Felipe Dana, Nariman El-Mofty, Rodrigo Abd and Vadim Ghirda.

AP's director of photography, David Ake, credited winners in the breaking news photography category for simply staying put in a war zone to bear witness.

"You can't make the moment that captures the world if you're not there, and being there is often dirty and difficult and dangerous," he said.

Pulitzer Prize Board co-chair Neil Brown highlighted the dangers faced by journalists, noting the imprisonment in Russia of Wall Street Journal reporter Evan Gershkovich on spying charges, which his family and the newspaper vehemently deny. Brown said the board demands Gershkovich's immediate release.

The Atlantic won the Pulitzer for explanatory journalism for Caitlin Dickerson's exhaustive probe of the Trump administration policy of separating parents from children at the U.S. border.

The Wall Street Journal won for its investigation into federal officials holding stock that could have been affected by government action, including dozens who reported trading stock in companies shortly before their own agencies announced enforcement actions against them.

Anna Wolfe, of Mississippi Today, was honored for her reporting on a former Mississippi governor sending federal welfare money to family and friends, including NFL Hall of Famer Brett Favre.

Andrew Long Chu, of New York magazine, won a Pulitzer for criticism. Nancy Ancrum, Amy Driscoll, Luisa Yanez, Isadora Rangell and Lauren Constantino, of the Miami Herald, won for editorial writing. Mona Chalabi, a contributor to The New York Times, won for illustrated reporting and commentary. The staff of Gimlet Media won for audio reporting.

The prizes were established in the will of newspaper publisher Joseph Pulitzer and first awarded in 1917.

Ex-girlfriend: Tiger Woods used lawyer to break up with me

By TERRY SPENCER Associated Press

Tiger Woods' ex-girlfriend said in an August 2017 email her only concern about signing a nondisclosure agreement was losing her job in Woods' restaurant if the relationship ended and having control of her future in the business.

"I don't have any problems with what's in the document because I wouldn't go public or use anything I know to hurt him or the kids," Erica Herman wrote in the email to the CFO of Tiger Woods Ventures.

"But with my whole life in his hands now I would want to have some control over my future in the busi-

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ness. If something happened 5-10 years down the road I don't want to be in my 40's heartbroken and jobless."

The email exchange was part of documents filed Sunday evening in advance of a Tuesday hearing. Woods' attorneys are expected to ask Circuit Judge Elizabeth Metzger to halt Herman's lawsuit against their billionaire client. They say the former couple's NDA requires all disputes be settled privately by an arbitrator, not in court.

Herman has filed a lawsuit against Woods, accusing golf's biggest star of beginning their sexual relationship when she was his employee and threatening to fire her if she didn't sign the NDA she now wants voided.

Her email to Chris Hubman, the CFO of Woods' company, was sent Aug. 7, 2017.

"In my mind, your employment by The Woods Jupiter and your personal relationship with TW are two separate items," Hubman wrote back the next day. "I don't think the end of one automatically impacts the other ... although I admit it could be complicated. It will most likely depend on the terms, condition or reason for the relationship ending.

"The NDA doesn't address the terms of your TWJ employment ... only the dissemination and control of information that you become privy to as a result of your personal and professional relationship with TW."

She signed the NDA on Aug. 9, 2017, according to documents.

Herman, in court documents filed late Friday, also accused Woods of having his lawyer break up with her at an airport last October after falsely telling her they were going on a weekend trip to the Bahamas. She says the lawyer then evicted her from Woods' \$54 million mansion north of Palm Beach and tried to get her to sign another NDA, which she refused.

Herman, who managed Woods' Palm Beach County restaurant before and during the first years of their romantic relationship, argues the NDA is unenforceable under a new federal law that says such contracts can be voided when sexual abuse or sexual harassment occurred. Her attorney, Benjamin Hodas, contends that Woods' alleged threat to fire her if she didn't sign the contract was harassment.

"A boss imposing different work conditions on his employee because of their sexual relationship is sexual harassment," Hodas said.

Herman, 39, is separately suing the trust that owns Woods' mansion for \$30 million, saying he verbally promised in 2017 she could live there for at least 11 years, but kicked her out after five.

Woods' attorney, J.B. Murray, denies that the 47-year-old Woods ever sexually assaulted or harassed Herman, calling her accusations in court documents, "utterly meritless."

Neither Hodas nor Murray responded to emails and phone calls seeking comment.

It is unknown if Woods will attend Tuesday's hearing. He had ankle surgery last month stemming from his February 2021 car crash in Los Angeles and is likely to miss the rest of the major championships this year.

In Herman's lawsuit against Woods, she wants Judge Metzger to either void the NDA or at least give her guidance about what she can say publicly. For example, can she discuss events that happened before their agreement or after their breakup? What about information she learned about Woods from others? She is also arguing the contract covers only her work relationship with Woods, not their personal matters.

In her unlawful eviction lawsuit against the trust, she is basing her \$30 million claim on how much it would cost to rent a property like Woods' mansion for the six years of residence she was allegedly denied.

When Hodas filed Herman's lawsuit against the trust in October, he checked a box on a standardized form saying the case did not involve sexual abuse. In Herman's March lawsuit against Woods, Hodas checked the box saying that case does involve abuse. Hodas has not explained the apparent discrepancy.

Herman says in her court filings that their romantic relationship began in 2015 and that in late 2016 she moved into Woods' nearly 30,000-square-foot (2,800-square-meter) mansion in the ritzy Hobe Sound community.

Woods, in his court documents, says their romantic relationship began in 2017, shortly before she moved in with him that August — about the time the NDA was signed. In March 2017, Woods had placed the mansion into the Jupiter Island Irrevocable Homestead Trust, an entity he created that has only himself and his two children as beneficiaries.

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Forbes Magazine estimates Woods' net worth at \$1.1 billion.

They were first seen publicly as a couple at the Presidents Cup in late September 2017, and Herman had been a steady presence at the larger tournaments and events, such as the 2019 Masters. She was also with Woods at the White House in 2019 when then-President Donald Trump awarded him the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Herman says Woods pressured her to quit her job managing his restaurant in 2020, saying he wanted her to spend more time taking care of him and his children.

In another email, Herman wrote on Feb. 17, 2020, that she had spoken with Woods and "we realized it's best if I remove myself from the daily operations of the restaurant."

"Our lives have evolved and after 4 years I've realized I'm spread to(o) thin and I don't have the time or the desire to dedicate to the restaurant," Herman wrote to Hubman.

When Woods' lawyers returned her personal belongings, they kept \$40,000 in cash, "making scurrilous and defamatory allegations" about how she obtained it, she alleges.

Woods and his former wife, Elin Nordegren, divorced in 2010, some nine months after he was caught in a series of extramarital affairs that cost him blue-chip corporate sponsors and tarnished an image that had been largely impeccable.

AP Golf Writer Doug Ferguson contributed to this report.

This version corrects that Woods received the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 2019, not 2018.

Bob Huggins apologizes for homophobic slur during radio show

By JOHN RABY AP Sports Writer

West Virginia basketball coach Bob Huggins apologized Monday after using a homophobic slur to refer to Xavier fans while also denigrating Catholics during a radio interview.

West Virginia's athletic department called Huggins' comments "offensive" and said it was reviewing the matter.

During a call to Cincinnati radio station WLW, Huggins, a former longtime coach at Cincinnati, was asked about the transfer portal and whether he had a chance of landing a player from Xavier, a Jesuit school and the Bearcats' crosstown rival.

"Catholics don't do that," Huggins said. "I tell you what, any school that can throw rubber penises on the floor and then say they didn't do it, by God they can get away with anything.

"It was the Crosstown Shootout. What it was, was all those (expletive), those Catholic (expletive), I think."

Later Monday, Huggins issued a statement saying he "used a completely insensitive and abhorrent phrase that there is simply no excuse for — and I won't try to make one here. I deeply apologize to the individuals I have offended, as well as to the Xavier University community, the University of Cincinnati and West Virginia University.

"As I have shared with my players over my 40 years of coaching, there are consequences for our words and actions, and I will fully accept any coming my way. I am ashamed and embarrassed and heartbroken for those I have hurt. I must do better, and I will."

In a separate statement, West Virginia's athletic department said Huggins' remarks "were insensitive, offensive and do not represent our University values. Coach Huggins has since apologized. West Virginia University does not condone the use of such language and takes such actions very seriously. The situation is under review and will be addressed by the University and its athletics department."

Huggins spent 16 seasons at Cincinnati before being fired in 2005 in a power struggle with the school's president as well as the aftermath of a 2004 drunken driving arrest. After spending one season at Kansas State, Huggins took his dream job at West Virginia, his alma mater, in 2007.

Huggins was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame last year.

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AP college basketball: <https://apnews.com/hub/college-basketball> and <https://apnews.com/hub/ap-top-25-college-basketball-poll> and https://twitter.com/AP_Top25

Chaos? Kumbaya? How the debt limit standoff might end

By JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Just how does this debt limit standoff end?

Plenty of scenarios are being publicly and privately gamed out, but no one knows for sure. The possibilities range from kumbaya to economic chaos with plenty of possibilities in between.

So far, neither President Joe Biden nor House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., is giving ground ahead of talks slated for Tuesday. Biden wants to increase the government's \$31.4 trillion legal borrowing limit, so that the federal government can continue to pay its bills and the risk of a historic default goes away. McCarthy and other GOP lawmakers want a deal that guarantees trillions of dollars in spending cuts before they sign on to raising the debt limit.

Time is short: The Treasury Department warns the U.S. could default as soon as June 1 if there is no deal.

A look at potential outcomes:

LET'S AGREE TO DISAGREE

The president wants to disarm the whole debate by having Republicans make a public commitment that the U.S. won't default. He'd then be ready to discuss spending, taxes and other budget issues.

He wants an assurance from McCarthy that the U.S. can keep paying all of its bills by having the ability to keep borrowing. The president says he's ready to have a public debate with GOP lawmakers about the budget, just not with the world's largest economy held "hostage."

"As I've said all along, we can debate where to cut, how much to spend, how to finally move the tax system where everybody begins to pay their fair share," Biden said. "But not under the threat of default."

It's unclear how many GOP lawmakers share his definition of default. Some suggest a default would only apply to unpaid debt, while the administration wants to include the salaries of federal workers, repayments for contractors and aid to the poor, veterans, schools and others.

Shortly before the House narrowly passed a bill with \$4.5 trillion in deficit savings along party lines, McCarthy said the U.S. would not default. But he is still linking that issue directly to spending cuts in a way that Biden wants to avoid.

"Addressing the debt requires us to come together, find common ground, and reduce spending," McCarthy said last month. "Let me be clear: Defaulting on our debt is not an option, but neither is a future of higher taxes."

REPUBLICANS HOLD TIGHT

Congressional Republicans could hold firm and force Democrats to wobble.

McCarthy has a slim majority in the House: 222 Republicans, compared to 213 Democrats.

His debt limit bill would reverse discretionary spending to 2022 levels, then place a 1% cap on increases going forward. The bill also would reverse Biden's forgiveness of student loan debt, his increased funding for the IRS and the tax incentives created in 2022 to encourage the adoption of clean energy. Those cuts would extend the debt limit through March 31, 2024, or up to an additional \$1.5 trillion.

GOP conservatives such as South Carolina Rep. Ralph Norman and others say they won't back anything less than that bill House Republicans passed on April 27 with 217 votes.

But Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., won't let that bill make it through the Senate. Neither will Biden. The question as the deadline approaches is whether Republicans stay united and that causes Democrats to cave. There is also the risk that dissent within the GOP caucus could put McCarthy's speakership at risk, which could then make it even more challenging to reach an agreement.

The question is what kind of an agreement could get through the House, the Senate and the Oval Office.

GET AN EXTENSION

Washington loves to put things off — the old "kick the can down the road" routine.

There is the possibility that lawmakers could agree to a short-term extension, pushing the debt limit

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expiration to Sept. 30, when a federal budget also needs to be passed.

This would be in line with the GOP's effort to sync the budget debate with the debt limit, while also removing the immediate risk of a default. It's the option government officials generally discuss in private with the most optimism.

Still, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries tried to pour cold water on that idea in a Sunday interview with NBC News.

"I don't think the responsible thing to do is to kick the can down the road," Jeffries said, even as he prioritized the importance of avoiding a default.

MARKETS GO CRAZY

Wall Street could save the day, sort of, by having a meltdown.

Along with economists, Senate Budget Committee Chairman Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., has indicated that a stiff market selloff could force Republicans to retreat. Their donors would holler about the pending financial losses and give every lawmaker an incentive to be the hero and rescue the jobs and retirement savings of millions of Americans.

Joe Brusuelas, chief economist at the consultancy RSM US, said in a Monday email that the talk of a potential default already is making it more expensive for investors to buy insurance on U.S. Treasury notes. But the panic is largely contained, so far, from the broader stock market that many voters and lawmakers follow.

14th AMENDMENT

Biden could play the Constitution card.

The 14th Amendment became part of the Constitution after the Civil War. It states that the "validity of the public debt of the United States, authorized by law, ... shall not be questioned."

Laurence Tribe, an emeritus Harvard University law school professor, wrote Sunday in *The New York Times* that Biden can argue he has a constitutional duty to avoid default and thus can blow past the debt limit to continue the spending Congress has already approved. On Monday, a union of government employees sued Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and Biden to make the argument that they are constitutionally obligated to disregard the debt limit.

As a former senator, Biden likes to defer to Congress. But when pressed about invoking the 14th Amendment during last week, he kept his options open.

"I've not gotten there yet," he told MSNBC.

Sen. James Lankford, R-Okla., said Biden cannot act unilaterally. He told ABC News that the Constitution is "very clear that spending — all those details around spending and money actually has to come through Congress."

MINT A COIN

This is among the many creative — and unlikely — solutions circulating on the internet. The idea is that the government could mint a \$1 trillion platinum coin and use it to avoid a default. Basically, there is a loophole in the law that could allow the U.S. to mint a coin of any denomination if it's made of platinum.

That has at least one big problem: Yellen ruled out the idea in a January interview with *The Wall Street Journal*, calling it "something that's a gimmick."

DEFAULT

This is the scariest possibility.

If there's no deal, the U.S. government could reach its "X-date" — the moment when it no longer can pay all of its bills. The Treasury Department would no longer be able to use accounting strategies to keep the government open. If the government were no longer able to borrow, unpaid bills would mount and the government would default.

But, but, but ... not all defaults are the same.

The U.S. could briefly miss some payments, and the risk of things getting worse could jolt lawmakers into reaching a deal. But even a "brief" default would cost the economy 500,000 jobs, according to a White House analysis. A "protracted" default would cost 8.3 million jobs, according to the analysis, almost as many job losses as there were during the 2008 financial crisis.

As Trump probes intensify, foes of ex-president see opening

By ERIC TUCKER and STEVE PEOPLES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An investigation into Donald Trump's handling of classified documents has intensified in recent weeks, with prosecutors summoning a broad range of witnesses before a federal grand jury and zeroing in on questions of whether the former president or others obstructed government efforts to recover the records.

It remains unclear when the investigation led by Justice Department special counsel Jack Smith might end or whether Trump might face charges over documents found at Mar-a-Lago, his Florida estate. But as probes in Washington and Atlanta proceed, Republican critics of Trump see an opportunity for intensifying legal woes to take away his frontrunner mantle in the 2024 presidential race in a way that an earlier indictment in New York failed to do.

The ongoing investigations "are the ones that have the meat," said Bobbie Kilberg, a longtime Republican donor who has become a vocal Trump critic.

"It's very, very serious," she said. "It ought to have a real impact on the American people. And if it doesn't, all I can do is shake my head in bewilderment."

A grand jury in the Mar-a-Lago case has heard testimony over the last few months from numerous Trump associates. Prosecutors have put before the panel a lawyer who helped respond to Justice Department demands for the classified documents last year, and have also been interested in Mar-a-Lago surveillance footage. At least one witness was asked to testify a second time, suggesting prosecutors may be looking to lock in particular testimony they view as useful, according to a person familiar with the matter who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss secret legal proceedings.

In a message Friday on his Truth Social platform, Trump accused Smith of "harassing and threatening my people" over the documents investigation, which he called a "hoax." His lawyers have similarly sought to pre-emptively attack any indictment, telling the House Intelligence Committee in a letter last month that the Justice Department "should be ordered to stand down" from the probe.

Trump spokesman Steven Cheung said in a statement to The Associated Press on Monday that the investigations are "nothing more than a targeted, politically motivated witch hunt against President Trump" designed to prevent him from returning to the White House.

Investigators over the last year have cast a wide net. They've interviewed witnesses about Trump's handling of classified documents as president and about the response to a May 2022 subpoena that demanded the return of classified materials in his possession, people familiar with the matter have said. They've also sought to determine whether Trump took steps to hide any records taken to Mar-a-Lago or showed them to anyone, as part of a continued focus on possible obstruction.

Among the witnesses who recently testified was Matthew Calamari Jr., the director of security at Trump Organization, Trump's company, according to one of the people.

His testimony could be relevant because of prosecutors' subpoena to the Trump Organization last year for surveillance footage from the Palm Beach property. Video reviewed by prosecutors showed a Trump associate moving boxes of documents out of a Mar-a-Lago storage room, prosecutors have said. Other media organizations reported that Calamari's father, also named Matthew Calamari, a Trump organization executive vice president, testified last week too.

A moment that underscored the gravity of the case came in March when Smith's team secured the testimony of Trump lawyer M. Evan Corcoran after convincing a judge in sealed proceedings that Corcoran's legal services had been used in furtherance of a crime.

Corcoran helped draft a letter last June to the Justice Department attesting that Trump's team had conducted a "diligent search" for classified documents at Mar-a-Lago in response to the government's subpoena. At that time, the Trump team produced roughly three dozen classified documents, on top of 15 boxes of records returned in January 2022 to the National Archives and Records Administration.

But prosecutors suspected even more classified records remained. They obtained a search warrant last

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August and seized more than 100 additional documents.

In their letter, Trump's lawyers said that Corcoran expected investigators to return to Mar-a-Lago to go through any boxes of documents that remained, and that he and Trump "understood this to be the beginning, not the end, of working cooperatively." Though the letter was addressed to lawmakers, it presumably includes arguments the lawyers would make to try to head off any potential indictment.

Prosecutors on Smith's team have simultaneously pressed forward with a separate probe into efforts by Trump and allies to overturn the results of the 2020 election, winning court orders to question key advisers and aides before the grand jury. Among the witnesses to appear was former Vice President Mike Pence, who two weeks ago spent hours inside the Washington courthouse.

In Georgia, prosecutors in Fulton County are investigating whether Trump or anyone else committed crimes in trying to undo his narrow loss in that state to Democrat Joe Biden.

The investigations are in addition to the March indictment from the Manhattan district attorney arising from hush-money payments during Trump's 2016 presidential campaign to a porn actor who alleged an extramarital sexual encounter with him years earlier.

Though a blow legally, the indictment seemed a boon for Trump in the Republican Party's evolving presidential primary contest ahead of the 2024 election. Trump's standing in the GOP had been slipping until he was charged, when suddenly, Republicans across the political spectrum rushed to defend him against what they framed as a questionable, politically motivated prosecution.

Today, polling suggests that Trump is the dominant frontrunner in the GOP's growing 2024 field.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Trump's chief primary rival, has struggled to maintain the same level of strength he wielded prior to Trump's indictment. But as the governor prepares to launch his campaign officially, his allies are quietly confident that Trump's baggage will eventually catch up to him.

Former Georgia Lt. Gov. Geoff Duncan, a frequent Trump critic, described the New York indictment as "somewhat of a swing and a miss."

But any further indictments prosecutors might bring, Duncan said, "are going to be a whole different amplitude that he's gonna have to deal with."

Peoples reported from New York.

See more about the 2023 Pulitzer winners in journalism, arts

By The Associated Press undefined

The Pulitzer Prizes recognizing the best of journalism and the arts in 2022 were announced Monday. The Associated Press compiled a list of winners in journalism, arts and letters, along with hyperlinks to their awarded works.

PUBLIC SERVICE: Mstyslav Chernov, Lori Hinnant, Evgeniy Maloletka, Vasilisa Stepanenko, The Associated Press

The quartet of AP reporters won for what the Pulitzers described as "courageous reporting" from the besieged city of Mariupol about the slaughter of civilians in Russia's invasion of Ukraine. You can find a list of stories the team produced on our "Erasing Mariupol" page.

BREAKING NEWS REPORTING: The Los Angeles Times

The staff of the Los Angeles Times published a secretly recorded conversation among LA city officials that included racist comments, and then followed up with in-depth coverage of the aftermath.

INVESTIGATIVE REPORTING: The Wall Street Journal

The Wall Street Journal's "Capital Assets" series analyzed the investments of about 12,000 federal officials and their families between 2016 and 2021. The Journal collected and analyzed data on about 850,000 financial assets and more than 315,000 transactions. This was a staff award.

EXPLANATORY REPORTING: Caitlin Dickerson, The Atlantic

The Atlantic's Caitlin Dickerson conducted more than 150 interviews as part of an 18-month investigation

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into former President Donald Trump's "zero tolerance" policy of child separation at the border.

LOCAL REPORTING: John Archibald, Ashley Remkus, Ramsey Archibald and Challen Stephens, AL.com; Anna Wolfe, Mississippi Today

There were two winners; they don't share the category, but instead each receive the full prize amount of \$15,000. The AL.com, Birmingham, reporters won for a series of stories exposing how the police force in the town of Brookside preyed on residents to inflate revenue. The reporting freed people from jail, the outlet says, and resulted in resignations and new laws.

Mississippi Today reporter Anna Wolfe's "The Backchannel" series detailed how state officials misspent millions in welfare money that was supposed to help some of the poorest people in the United States. In one case, Wolfe wrote about how former Gov. Phil Bryant and NFL legend Brett Favre worked together to channel at least \$5 million of the state's welfare funds to build a new volleyball stadium at University of Southern Mississippi, where Favre's daughter played the sport.

NATIONAL REPORTING: Caroline Kitchener, The Washington Post

Caroline Kitchener of The Washington Post wrote about the consequences of life after the Supreme Court ruling that overturned Roe v. Wade, including stories about women trying to navigate the aftermath.

INTERNATIONAL REPORTING: The New York Times

The staff of The New York Times won for their coverage of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, including an investigation into Ukrainian deaths in the town of Bucha.

FEATURE WRITING: Eli Saslow, The Washington Post

Eli Saslow won for what the Pulitzers called "evocative individual narratives" about people struggling with the pandemic, homelessness, addiction and inequality in the United States. Saslow has since left the Post, joining The New York Times in February. According to the Times announcement, he had been a finalist in this category thrice before and had previously won a Pulitzer for explanatory reporting.

BREAKING NEWS PHOTOGRAPHY: The Associated Press

A team of AP photographers won the Pulitzer for "unique and urgent" images of the first weeks of Russia's invasion of Ukraine.

While it was a staff award, AP CEO Daisy Veerasingham wrote that the prize is shared among Rodrigo Abd, Bernat Armangue, Felipe Dana, Nariman El-Mofty, Vadim Ghirda, Evgeniy Maloletka and Emilio Morenatti. See a photo gallery of their work here.

FEATURE PHOTOGRAPHY: Christina House, Los Angeles Times

Christina House of the Los Angeles Times won for "an intimate look" into the life of a pregnant 22-year-old woman living on the street in a tent. It was part of a series called "Hollywood's Finest," a look at the lives of three women without housing.

COMMENTARY: Kyle Whitmire, AL.com

Kyle Whitmire of AL.com, Birmingham, won for "State of Denial," a series of what the Pulitzers called "measured and persuasive columns" that documented how Alabama's Confederate heritage still lingers.

CRITICISM: Andrea Long Chu, New York magazine

Andrea Long Chu of New York magazine won for book reviews that employ "multiple cultural lenses" to explore societal issues, the Pulitzers said.

EDITORIAL WRITING: Nancy Ancrum, Amy Driscoll, Luisa Yanez, Isadora Rangel and Lauren Costantino, Miami Herald

The Miami Herald writers won for "Broken Promises," a series of editorials on the failure of Florida public officials to deliver on taxpayer-funded amenities and services long promised to residents.

ILLUSTRATED REPORTING AND COMMENTARY: Mona Chalabi, The New York Times

New York Times contributor Mona Chalabi won for illustrations that combine statistical reporting with analysis to help readers understand the immense wealth and economic power of Amazon founder Jeff Bezos.

This prize replaced the editorial cartooning award last year, right on the heels of Pulitzer judges declining to name an editorial cartooning winner in 2021.

AUDIO JOURNALISM: Gimlet Media, notably Connie Walker

The award went to the staff of Gimlet Media, notably Connie Walker, whose "Stolen: Surviving St.

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Michael's" investigation into her father's troubled past revealed a larger story of abuse of hundreds of Indigenous children at a residential school in Canada.

FICTION: "Demon Copperhead" by Barbara Kingsolver; "Trust" by Hernan Diaz

The two novels each won the fiction prize. "Demon Copperhead" is what the Pulitzers called a "masterful recasting of 'David Copperfield,'" set in Appalachia. The citation described "Trust" as "riveting" and "a complex examination of love and power in a country where capitalism is king."

DRAMA: "English" by Sanaz Toossi

Sanaz Toossi's "English" is a "quietly powerful play," the Pulitzers said, centered on four adults preparing for an English exam near Tehran, Iran. The classroom drama explores the ways in which language shapes identity, experience and a sense of belonging in the world.

According to the Pulitzer website, the jury for this prize attends plays in New York and in regional theaters – while the award goes to the playwright, the actual productions of the shows are factored in.

U.S. HISTORY: "Freedom's Dominion: A Saga of White Resistance to Federal Power," by Jefferson Cowie

Jefferson Cowie won the history prize for a book that the Pulitzers describe as a "resonant account of an Alabama county in the 19th and 20th centuries shaped by settler colonialism and slavery" that illustrates the evolution of white supremacy.

Generally speaking, this is the only arts and letters — books, music, drama — award that can be awarded to someone who isn't a U.S. citizen (but the book must be a history of the U.S.).

GENERAL NONFICTION: "His Name Is George Floyd: One Man's Life and the Struggle for Racial Justice," by Robert Samuels and Toluse Olorunnipa

The book by two Washington Post reporters is what the Pulitzers called an "intimate, riveting portrait" of George Floyd, the man whose murder by Minneapolis police officer in 2020 sparked an international racial justice movement. The Pulitzer board moved it from the biography category, a release says.

BIOGRAPHY: "G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century," by Beverly Gage

The prize was awarded to the "deeply researched and nuanced" biography of longtime FBI director J. Edgar Hoover, per the citation.

MEMOIR OR AUTOBIOGRAPHY: "Stay True" by Hua Hsu

Hua Hsu's memoir won this category for "an elegant and poignant coming of age account," the Pulitzers said.

POETRY: "Then the War: And Selected Poems, 2007-2020," by Carl Phillips

Carl Phillips' poetry won for what the Pulitzers called "a masterful collection that chronicles American culture."

MUSIC: "Omar," by Rhiannon Giddens and Michael Abel

"Omar" is an innovative and compelling opera about enslaved people brought to North America from Muslim countries," the Pulitzers said. It premiered last May at the Spoleto Festival USA in Charleston, South Carolina.

To award the musical competition prize, the website says the jury convenes in New York to listen to recordings and study the scores.

US to propose new rules for airline cancellations, delays

By DAVID KOENIG AP Airlines Writer

President Joe Biden said Monday his administration will write new regulations that will require airlines to compensate air travelers and cover their meals and hotel rooms if they are stranded for reasons within the airline's control.

The compensation would be in addition to ticket refunds when the airline is at fault for a flight being canceled or significantly delayed. It would give consumers in the United States protections similar to those in the European Union.

"I know how frustrated many of you are with the service you get from your U.S. airlines," Biden said.

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"That's why our top priority has been to get American air travelers a better deal."

Biden added, "You deserve more than just getting the price of your ticket (refunded) — you deserve to be fully compensated. Your time matters, the impact on your life matters."

Biden's pledge comes just weeks before the start of the peak summer travel season, when air travel could exceed pre-coronavirus pandemic records.

Officials at the Transportation Department, which will write the new rules, said they didn't have a precise date for when they expect to finish, but indicated they are working to quickly publish a notice that is required to get the process started.

As outlined at the White House by Biden and Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg, the rules would focus on cancellations and long delays caused by things such as mechanical issues with the plane or lack of a crew.

Airlines for America, which represents the biggest carriers, said in a statement that airlines have no incentive to delay or cancel flights. The trade group said more than half of cancellations in 2022 and 2023 have been caused by "extreme weather" or air traffic control outages.

"Carriers have taken responsibility for challenges within their control and continue working diligently to improve operational reliability," including hiring more workers and reducing their schedules, the group said.

After the pandemic hit, airlines received \$54 billion in federal aid that included a prohibition on layoffs, but that didn't prevent them from paying tens of thousands of workers to quit or retire early.

Airlines have added about 118,000 workers since November 2020 and now have 5% more employees than before the pandemic, according to Transportation Department figures.

The rate of canceled flights has declined to 1.6% so far this year, compared with 2.1% in the same period last year. However, delays are slightly more common and a few minutes longer on average, according to data from tracking service FlightAware.

Currently, when an airline cancels a flight for any reason, consumers can demand a refund of the unused part of their ticket and certain extras that they might have paid to the airline, such as fees for checking a bag or getting a seat assignment. Airlines often try to persuade consumers to accept a travel voucher instead of a refund.

After widespread flight disruptions last summer, the Transportation Department posted an online dashboard to let consumers compare airline policies on refunds and compensation.

The Transportation Department is expanding the site to indicate when airlines offer cash, travel vouchers or frequent-flyer miles as compensation for flight disruptions under their control.

None of the major U.S. airlines offer cash for controllable cancellations or long delays, only Alaska Airlines offers frequent-flyer miles, and only Alaska and JetBlue provide travel credits, according to the dashboard.

Biden and Buttigieg credited the dashboard with pushing the 10 largest U.S. airlines to promise to provide cash or vouchers for meals when a carrier-caused cancellation forces passengers to wait at least three hours for another flight. Nine of the 10 — all but Frontier Airlines — also promise under those circumstances to pay for accommodations for passengers stranded overnight.

Questions arose again around reimbursing consumers for out-of-pocket costs after Southwest Airlines canceled nearly 17,000 flights during a December meltdown in service. The Transportation and Justice departments are investigating whether Southwest scheduled more flights than it realistically could handle.

A report last month from the congressional Government Accountability Office blamed airlines for a surge in cancellations as air travel began to recover in 2021 and early 2022. The Federal Aviation Administration has also created disruptions due to technology outages and staffing shortages. The FAA recently encouraged airlines to reduce flights to and from major New York airports this summer because it doesn't have enough air traffic controllers at a key facility.

Aamer Madhani in Washington contributed to this report.

Jury hears final arguments in writer's claims against Trump

By LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump should be held accountable for sexually attacking an advice columnist in 1996 because even a former president is not above the law, a lawyer for the columnist told a jury Monday in closing arguments in the lawsuit that accuses Trump of rape.

A lawyer for Trump responded by calling the accuser's account "unbelievable" and "outrageous."

Once the final arguments were complete, the judge sent the jury home with instructions to return Tuesday to hear about an hour of instructions before beginning deliberations. Jurors will be asked to decide whether Trump committed battery and defamed writer E. Jean Carroll and whether damages should be awarded.

In recapping Carroll's case, attorney Roberta Kaplan showed jurors video clips of Trump from his October deposition and replayed the "Access Hollywood" video from 2005 in which Trump said into a hot mic that celebrities can grab women's genitals without asking.

Kaplan recalled Trump's comment that "stars like him can get away with sexually assaulting women."

"That's who Donald Trump is. That is how he thinks. And that's what he does," Kaplan said. "He thinks he can get away with it here."

Kaplan used Trump's words to support Carroll's claims that Trump raped her in early spring 1996 in the dressing room of Bergdorf Goodman, a luxury department store in Manhattan across the street from Trump Tower.

Trump's attorney, Joe Tacopina, attacked the allegations as absurd, saying they were an "affront to justice" and minimized "real rape victims."

He agreed with Kaplan that no one is above the law, but he warned that "no one's below it" either.

Tacopina told jurors they won't have to "let her profit to the tune of millions of dollars" because they will see that it is impossible to believe the "unbelievable."

"This is an absolutely outrageous case," he said, arguing that Carroll sued to raise her status and for political reasons.

He said even Carroll had testified that it was an "astonishing coincidence" that a "Law and Order" offshoot aired an episode in 2012 in which a woman is raped in the dressing room of a Bergdorf Goodman.

"What is the likelihood of that?" Tacopina asked. "One in 20 billion? One in 10 billion?"

Tacopina said the claims were too absurd to call his client as a witness, noting that Carroll expected jurors to believe Trump would risk everything to attack a woman in a busy department store even though she couldn't remember exactly when the assault happened.

"What could I have asked Donald Trump? Where were you on some unknown date, 27 or 28 years ago?" he said.

In a rebuttal argument, Carroll attorney Mike Ferrara mocked Trump's decision to skip the trial, saying jurors could use his absence to conclude that Trump committed the attack because Trump "never looked you in the eye and denied it."

Kaplan told jurors that it wasn't a "he said, she said" case but rather one in which jurors should weigh what 11 witnesses, including Carroll, said versus what they heard from Trump in his video deposition.

"He didn't even bother to show up here in person," Kaplan said, referring to Trump's absence from the proceedings in federal court. She told jurors that much of what he said in his deposition and in public statements "actually supports our side of the case."

"In a very real sense, Donald Trump is a witness against himself," she said. "He knows what he did. He knows that he sexually assaulted E. Jean Carroll."

Kaplan recounted the testimony of two women who say they too were attacked sexually by Trump.

Jessica Leeds, 81, said he grabbed her chest and ran his hand up her skirt on a 1979 airline flight. Natasha Stoyloff said he forcibly kissed her at his Florida mansion in 2005 as she worked on a story about his marriage for People magazine.

Trump has insisted in public statements and in the deposition that Carroll made up the claims to boost sales of a 2019 memoir. He has called Carroll "mentally sick" and a "disgrace."

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Carroll, 79, who is seeking unspecified compensatory and punitive damages, testified for more than two days. Kaplan praised her testimony as "credible."

"It was consistent, and it was powerful," the lawyer said.

She contrasted that testimony with Trump's deposition, noting that a man who had derided Carroll as not his "type" was shown a photograph of Carroll from over three decades ago and twice misidentified her as his second wife, Marla Maples.

"Carroll, a former cheerleader and Miss Indiana, was exactly Mr. Trump's type," Kaplan said. "She is smart. She is funny. She is beautiful. And, most of all, she is courageous."

Carroll said she was leaving the Bergdorf Goodman store through a revolving door in spring 1996 when Trump was entering the store and stopped her to help him shop for a gift for a woman.

Carroll, a former "Saturday Night Live" writer, said they took escalators to the store's desolate sixth floor, where they teased each other about trying on a piece of see-through lingerie.

She said she entered a dressing room with Trump before the flirting turned violent, with Trump slamming her against a wall, pulling down her tights and raping her. She said she kneed him after an encounter that lasted several minutes and fled the store.

Carroll blames the encounter in part for never having another intimate relationship in her life.

Trump's public comments are the basis of Carroll's defamation claim. Kaplan labeled the comments as lies and said they ruined her client's reputation and forced an end to her 27-year employment as an Elle magazine advance columnist.

Kaplan urged jurors to find in favor of "my brave client, E. Jean Carroll," but she put no number on the damages being sought.

"Consider the evidence and pick a number you think is right," she said. "This lawsuit is not about the money. This lawsuit is about getting her name back."

Debt options abound, but can Biden, McCarthy strike a deal?

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and Congress could strike a deal to raise the debt ceiling in exchange for budget cuts. Or they could agree to a stopgap measure to keep paying the nation's bills while negotiations continue. They also could let the negotiations unravel, sending the economy into chaos.

As President Joe Biden meets Tuesday with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy and other congressional leaders for the first time over the debt ceiling crisis, the options for easing out of the standoff are many.

But the political incentive for compromise is harder to come by. There's no easy endgame ahead of a June 1 deadline to raise the debt ceiling or risk defaulting on the nation's \$31 trillion in debt.

"It's Congress' constitutional duty to act to prevent default," White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Monday. "That's what the president is going to be very clear about."

At Tuesday's first meeting, it's extremely unlikely there will be any quick resolution. Biden and the big four congressional leaders of the House and Senate will convene at the White House with neither side yet signaling a willingness to budge off its opening position.

Biden wants Congress to simply raise the debt limit without any strings attached, while Republicans led by McCarthy are insisting on budget cuts in exchange for any votes to allow more borrowing to pay the nation's bills.

More likely, Democratic president Biden and Republican House speaker McCarthy will at least be able to set aside their differences enough to launch a process for negotiations that could begin to form the contours of a deal to avert a true debt ceiling crisis.

But with tensions high and the outcome uncertain, some lawmakers are considering unprecedented proposals, even one that would allow Biden to bypass Congress, invoking his responsibilities under the 14th Amendment to simply raise the nation's debt limit on his own. That would be certain to face a court challenge.

Though the endgame is uncertain, the political terrain is familiar for the White House and Congress. The

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once routine vote to raise the debt ceiling has increasingly been wielded as powerful political leverage to extract policy priorities that otherwise would not be likely to become law.

Republicans have put down their opening bid — a sweeping House-passed proposal that would slash \$4.8 trillion off the federal budget over a decade by rolling back spending to fiscal 2022 levels and capping future spending increases at 1% a year, resulting in steep cuts to programs and services.

The Republicans refuse to simply raise the debt limit on its own, and are demanding budget cuts and other party priorities. The House Republican-passed bill would drop millions of Americans from health care, food stamps and cash assistance programs by imposing additional work requirements that many would be unable to meet. And it would undo much of Biden's climate change agenda.

Senate Republicans are backing up their House Republican colleagues, announcing they will not advance "any bill that raises the debt ceiling without substantive spending and budget reforms."

In a letter from Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, and signed by Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, the 43 GOP senators said they are "united behind the House Republican conference in support of spending cuts and structural budget reform as a starting point for negotiations on the debt ceiling."

Biden and Democrats have also dug in, refusing to debate over the debt ceiling — though they have opened the door to negotiations over spending levels as part of the regular budget process.

"We have to avoid default, period. Full stop," the House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries said over the weekend.

"We, of course, are open to having a discussion about what type of investments, what type of spending, what type of revenues are appropriate," Jeffries said. "That's a process that is available to us right now."

Time is short for any deal. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has said that come June 1, there may simply not be enough cash on hand to meet all of the nation's obligations. She noted the U.S. has never defaulted on its debt.

"Every option is a bad option," Yellen said Monday on CNBC.

The House and Senate arrive back at work Tuesday, but they are in session together just eight days before the Senate breaks for the Memorial Day recess the week of May 22 with the House set to recess the following week.

Both Biden and McCarthy have insisted they will not allow the country to default on its obligations.

What's different about this round of talks is that it's being led by McCarthy, debuting after his tumultuous battle to become House speaker.

To win the gavel, McCarthy made steep concessions to the hard right Freedom Caucus and other conservatives who make up his slim majority, and who can threaten to oust the speaker if he negotiates a deal they are unwilling to accept.

While Biden had a willing partner in past budget showdowns negotiating with McConnell, the Senate Republican leader is keeping a lower profile enabling McCarthy to take the lead. But the threat hanging over McCarthy from his far-right flank could leave him unwilling or unable to strike a compromise with Biden.

Congress has been known to push this issue to the brink, but it has also proven its ability to buy time, by voting for stopgap measures to allow negotiations to continue.

One solution in the weeks ahead would be for Biden and McCarthy to agree to some smaller measure of budget cuts or changes, say clawing back the unspent COVID-19 funds that Republicans have targeted, in exchange for a vote to lift the debt limit past the June 1 deadline as they keep working on a broader budget deal.

In an earlier debt ceiling showdown a decade ago, Congress agreed to set up a "super committee" tasked with coming up with bipartisan spending reductions or facing automatic cuts — an idea that has been mentioned in another form this time.

It all means that while June 1 looms as a serious deadline, it may end up being just the first of several to come — a level of fiscal uncertainty that some experts have warned could rock the economy.

To stave off a crisis, House Democrats have pushed forward a process that would force a vote on a clean debt ceiling increase they prefer. But it's a cumbersome procedure that would be a longshot in the Senate, where Democrats have only a slim majority and need Republican support to advance most bills.

Asked about invoking the 14th Amendment proposal, Biden said in an interview Friday that he's not there yet.

Associated Press writers Fatima Hussein and Chris Megerian contributed to this report.

Simulation suggests 2020 census missed many noncitizens

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

New results from a U.S. Census Bureau simulation indicate a significant number of noncitizens were missed in the 2020 census, a national head count during which the Trump administration tried to prevent people in the United States illegally from being tallied at all.

Some civil rights groups pointed to the bureau's latest findings as evidence that, despite the Trump administration's failure to exclude residents in the country illegally from the 2020 count altogether, the former president's push contributed to an undercount for some racial and ethnic minorities.

A simulated head count by the statistical agency utilized 31 types of administrative records from government agencies and third-party sources to produce estimates of the U.S. population on April 1, 2020 that could be compared to the survey-like responses used in the last official tally of every U.S. resident. The simulation was an experiment which doesn't change the results of the once-a-decade count of every U.S. resident that helps determine political power and the distribution of \$1.5 trillion in federal funding in the U.S.

Almost a fifth of noncitizens found in the administrative records had addresses that couldn't be matched in the 2020 census, suggesting that "a significant fraction of noncitizens" were missed, according to the U.S. Census Bureau report released Friday. By comparison, that same figure was 5.4% for citizens.

Using administrative records from government agencies that have records on immigration, welfare programs, motor vehicle registrations and other data, the test tallied 2.3% more people than in the actual census in 2020 that produced a head count of 331 million U.S. residents, primarily because the simulation captured more noncitizens residing in the U.S., the report said.

The simulation was a test to see how good a job administrative records perform in counting historically undercounted groups like racial and ethnic minorities, renters and young children. Its results actually bumped up the numbers for Hispanic and Black residents, two groups who were undercounted in the 2020 census, respectively, by 8.3 million people and 2.8 million people, the report said.

The administrative records census produced estimates of 11.6 million people in the U.S. with an unknown legal status.

Opponents have said Trump administration policies in 2019 and 2020 created a chilling effect which likely deterred immigrants, Hispanics and others from participating in the 2020 census.

In 2019, the Trump administration attempted to add a citizenship question to the 2020 census questionnaire, but the U.S. Supreme Court blocked it. In the middle of the 2020 census, President Donald Trump directed the Census Bureau to exclude people in the country illegally from numbers used for divvying up congressional seats among the states. An influential GOP adviser had advocated excluding them from the apportionment process in order to favor Republicans and non-Hispanic whites. Trump's memo was rescinded when President Joe Biden arrived at the White House in January 2021, before the census figures were released.

The Black population in the 2020 census had a net undercount of 3.3%. The undercount was almost 5% for Hispanics, 5.6% for American Indians and Native Alaskans living on reservations and 0.84% for children under age 18. Those undercounts were higher than in the 2010 census, though only the Hispanic count and tally of children had statistically significant differences from 2010 to 2020.

"The Census Bureau simulation strongly indicates that Donald Trump's attempt at a race-motivated manipulation of the decennial census, despite being largely blocked in court, had a significant impact on noncitizen participation, which also may explain, in significant part, the substantial Latino undercount in 2020," said Thomas Saenz, president and general counsel of the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

Saenz added that the simulation points to the need to study and confront the reputational harm to the Census Bureau in the Hispanic community due to the "manipulation" by the Trump administration.

"Failure to do so now risks long-term and serious damage to future Census data-collection efforts," he said.

Using administrative records produced lower population estimates in rural areas, mainly because of the more common use of post office boxes and rural route addresses rather than physical addresses, according to the simulation results. Counts from administrative records also were lower than the 2020 census figures for people between ages 65 and 74, Asians and people who identified as being two or more races. Among the reasons is that these populations were more likely to be double counted in the 2020 census.

Along with noncitizens, Blacks and Hispanics, the administrative records produced higher counts for males, working-age adults, children under age 15 and non-Hispanic whites.

At the state level, Minnesota and several other Midwestern states had the highest match rates between a person identified in an administrative record and a 2020 census record, while Hawaii had the lowest. Minnesota also had the highest rate of residents who answered the census questionnaire on their own without needing prompting from a census taker visiting their home.

Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at @MikeSchneiderAP

Teachers earn \$67K on average. Is push for raises too late?

By MARC LEVY Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — As schools across the country struggle to find teachers to hire, more governors are pushing for pay increases, bonuses and other perks for the beleaguered profession — with some vowing to beat out other states competing for educators.

Already in 2023, governors in Georgia and Arkansas have pushed through teacher pay increases. Ahead of Monday's start of national Teacher Appreciation Week, others — both Republican and Democratic — have proposed doing the same to attract and retain educators.

More than half of the states' governors over the past year — 26 so far — have proposed boosting teacher compensation, according to groups that track it. The nonprofit Teacher Salary Project said it is the most it has seen in nearly two decades of tracking.

"Today we have governors left and right from every political party and then some who are addressing this issue because they have to," said founder and CEO Ninivé Caligari. "We've never seen what we are seeing right now. Never."

In Idaho, Gov. Brad Little is aiming to raise the state's average starting salary into the nation's top 10. In Delaware, Gov. John Carney said competition for teachers is more intense than ever and a pay increase is necessary to "win the competition with surrounding states."

It's not clear how far pay raises will go toward relieving the shortages, though, and some teachers say it is too little, too late to fix problems that are years in the making.

Blame for teacher shortages has fallen on underfunding after the Great Recession, tight labor markets, lackluster enrollments in colleges and programs that train teachers and teacher burnout inflamed by the travails of the COVID-19 pandemic.

There has been no mass exodus, but data from some states that track teacher turnover has shown rising numbers of teachers leaving the profession over the past couple years.

Shortages are most extreme in certain areas, including the poorest or most rural districts, researchers say. Districts also report particular difficulties in hiring for in-demand subjects like special education, math and science.

Meanwhile, teacher salaries have fallen further and further behind those of their college-educated peers in other fields, as teachers report growing workloads, shrinking autonomy and increasingly hostile school environments.

Magan Daniel, who at 33 just left her central Alabama school district, was not persuaded to stay by pay

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raises as Alabama's governor vows to make teacher salaries the highest in the Southeast. It would take big increases to match neighboring Georgia, where the average teacher salary is \$62,200, according to the National Education Association.

Fixing teachers' deteriorating work culture and growing workloads would be a more powerful incentive than a pay raise, she said.

She recalled, for instance, her principal asking her to make copies and lesson plans last fall while she was on unpaid maternity leave. Difficulty getting substitutes puts pressure on teachers who need time off for emergencies, she said, and spending nights and weekends on paperwork siphoned the joy out of teaching.

"I would not go back just for a higher salary," Daniel said.

In Oklahoma, Joshua Morgan, 46, left his rural district a year ago because after 18 years he was still earning under \$47,000. Oklahoma's governor is talking about awarding performance bonuses, but Morgan said he would only go back to teaching for substantially more money — like \$65,000 a year.

The national average public school teacher salary in 2021-22 increased 2% from the previous year to \$66,745, according to the NEA, the nation's largest teachers union. Inflation peaked around 9% at the time.

For new recruits, the math of paying for a college education is grim: The national average beginning teacher salary was \$42,845 in 2021-22, according to the NEA. Teachers do often qualify for public service loan forgiveness, which forgives their student debt after they've made 10 years of monthly payments.

Besides fewer teachers getting certified, the "teacher pay penalty" — the gap between teacher salaries and their college-educated peers in other professions — is growing.

It reached a record 23.5% in 2021, with teachers earning an average 76.5 cents for every dollar earned by other college-educated professionals, according to the Economic Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank.

It has been widening for decades, researchers say. For men, it is 35% and for women it is 17% — reflecting the gender pay gap seen across the U.S. economy.

For Rachaele Otto and other Louisiana teachers, the prospect of a \$3,000 salary increase proposed by the governor might be appreciated. But at roughly \$200 a month after taxes, it's not enough to keep a teacher who feels burned out or demoralized, Otto said.

"I know there are teachers willing to take pay cuts to leave the profession," said Otto, 38, a science teacher in a rural Louisiana district. "If you double the salary, maybe that would change their thinking."

Sylvia Allegretto, a senior economist who studies teacher compensation for the Center for Economic and Policy Research, called salary promises by governors one-time "Band-Aids" that barely keep up with inflation.

"You're kind of chipping away at the margins," Allegretto said. "You're not fixing the problem, generally."

For governors, raising teacher pay may be good politics, but raising it across the board may have little long-term impact. Getting better data on where the shortages are and then targeting raises — or bigger raises — to those areas will help more, researchers say.

Research shows a pay raise will have at least some effect on retaining teachers, said Ed Fuller, a Penn State associate professor who studies teacher quality and turnover. What is difficult to research, Fuller said, is the effect a raise has on a college student's decision to enter a teacher preparation program — and take on debt.

Some districts haven't waited for governors and legislatures to act.

Kentucky's biggest school district, Jefferson County in Louisville, gave a 4% raise last year and the board approved another raise of 5% to start this coming July. It also started giving an annual \$8,000 stipend to teachers who work with higher-need students.

Superintendent Marty Pollio wants the district to be the highest paying in Kentucky, calling the teacher shortage "a real crisis and a growing crisis."

In Pennsylvania, the William Penn School District is offering signing bonuses for long-term subs and holding its first-ever teachers job fair.

Superintendent Eric Becoats said a teacher told him they can move to neighboring districts and make \$10,000 more — something the relatively small and poor district cannot compete with right now.

Some teachers also tell him they will retire or leave the profession if they can.

Morgan said a major change in salary is required to overcome a major change in how teachers now view a profession where they once expected to stay until they retired.

"That's not how the world works anymore," Morgan said. "I'm seeing more educators, especially the younger ones, coming in and saying, 'I'm not willing to put up with this.'"

Brooke Schultz, a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative, contributed to this report. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues. Data reporter Sharon Lurye also contributed from New Orleans.

Follow Marc Levy on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/timelywriter>

Warming-stoked tides eating huge holes in Greenland glacier

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Daily tides stoked with increasingly warmer water ate a hole taller than the Washington Monument at the bottom of one of Greenland's major glaciers in the last couple years, accelerating the retreat of a crucial part of the glacier, a new study found.

And scientists worry that the phenomenon isn't limited to this one glacier, raising questions about previous projections of melting rates on the world's vulnerable ice sheets.

The rapid melt seen in this study was in the far northwest of Greenland on Petermann Glacier. If it is happening in the rest of Greenland and the even bigger Antarctic ice sheet, then global ice loss and the sea level rise could jump as much as twice as fast as previously thought, according to the study in Monday's Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

"It's bad news," said study author Eric Rignot, a glaciologist at University of California Irvine. "We know the current projections are too conservative. We know that they have a really hard time matching the current record" of melt.

He said this newly found consequence of tidal activity "could potentially double the projections" of global melt.

The study looks at the all-important grounding line area of glaciers on ice sheets. That's the point where glaciers go from being on land to floating on water. Previous studies show it's also a key spot for rapid ice loss.

At remote Petermann, where few people have been and there are no base camps, that grounding line zone is more than six-tenths of a mile (1 kilometer) wide and could be as much as 3.7 miles (6 kilometers) wide, the study said.

Scientists used to think the daily tides weren't a big deal on melt. The snow added on top of the glacier compensated for the tides moving further in, said Rignot, the day before he left for an expedition to Petermann.

But with an ocean that's warmer because of climate change the tides became "a very powerful mechanism," Rignot said.

"The sea water actually goes much farther beneath the grounded ice (than previously thought), kilometers, not hundreds of meters," Rignot said. "And that water is full of heat and able to melt the glaciers vigorously. And it's kind of the most sensitive part of the glacier."

Using satellite altitude measurements, Rignot's team found a 669-foot tall (204 meters) cavity at the grounding line where the melt rate is 50% higher in the last three years than it was from 2016 to 2019. Previous models forecast zero melt there.

The melting in Petermann has accelerated in the last few years, later than the rest of Greenland, probably because it is so far north that the water melting it from underneath is from the North Atlantic and it takes longer for the warmer water to reach there, Rignot theorized.

Rignot this month is exploring Petermann to get more ground-based measurements using ultrasound.

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He hasn't been there since 2006, a decade before the changes were seen via satellite. Visiting Petermann, even before the glacier's retreat accelerated, Rignot said he noticed movements that make it seem like a living thing.

"When you are standing on that shelf or sleeping on the shelf you hear noise all the time, loud noises from deep inside cracks forming," Rignot said. "That's where the concept of a glacier being alive starts getting to you."

Greenland ice researcher Jason Box of the Geological Survey of Denmark and Greenland, who wasn't part of the research, called Rignot's technique clever and said the study makes sense, showing "that ocean heat delivery to tidewater glacier grounding lines represents a potent destabilizing effect."

Box, who uses a different technique to calculate how much ice is no longer being fed by glaciers and is doomed to melt, something called "zombie ice," figures 434 billion metric tons of ice on Petermann is already committed to melting.

The study provides strong evidence that models need to include these tidal effects deep inland and if they don't, then they are underestimating future sea level rise, said Pennsylvania State University glaciologist Richard Alley, who wasn't part of the Rignot study.

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Russia bans jet skis, ride-hailing before WWII tributes

By SUSIE BLANN Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia enacted a major security clampdown before Tuesday's annual commemorations marking the defeat of Nazi Germany in World War II, curbing the use of drones and ride-sharing services in its largest cities — even jet skis on the canals of St. Petersburg — amid its 14-month war with Ukraine.

At least 21 Russian cities canceled May 9 military parades — the staple of Victory Day celebrations across Russia — for the first time in years, Russian media said.

Regional officials blamed unspecified "security concerns" or vaguely referred to "the current situation" for the restrictions and cancellations. It wasn't clear whether their decisions were taken in coordination with the Kremlin.

Last week, Russia — which hasn't witnessed the carnage endured by Ukraine during the invasion — was rattled by ambiguous official reports that two Ukrainian drones flew into the heart of Moscow under the cover of darkness and reached the Kremlin before being shot down.

Media and local officials have blamed other sporadic drone attacks, especially targeting oil depots near the two countries' border, on the Ukrainian military. Kyiv officials decline to comment on such claims.

The fears of a possible Ukrainian attack appeared real, even though parades will go ahead in Russia's largest cities, Moscow and St. Petersburg. But the use of drones has been banned in both cities before Victory Day.

In St. Petersburg, often referred to as "Venice of the north" for its network of rivers and canals, using jet skis in certain parts of the city is prohibited through Wednesday. In the Russian capital, car-sharing services have been temporarily barred from the city center — drivers won't be able to start or finish rides there — amid preparations for the traditional Red Square parade.

Initially, only one foreign leader was expected to attend this year's Moscow parade — Kyrgyz President Sadyr Zhaparov, who arrived Monday and met with Putin for talks. That was one more foreign guest than last year, when no leaders went amid Putin's broad diplomatic isolation over the war. The Kremlin at the time said it hadn't invited any because it wasn't a "round-number anniversary."

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But on Monday officials announced that Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev and Tajik President Emomali Rakhmon would be joining Putin and Zhaparov at the festivities, along with Armenia's prime minister, Nikol Pashinyan, and Kazakhstan's leader, Kassym-Jomart Tokayev.

Late Monday, Belarusian media said that country's president, Alexander Lukashenko, had arrived in Moscow to attend the parade. His presence is significant because Russia bases troops and arms being used in Ukraine in Belarus, and Putin said in March that tactical nuclear weapons would be placed there.

Pashinyan and Tokayev were surprising choices for the guest list as they have in the past diverged from Putin's line. Kazakhstan and Armenia, though Russian allies, haven't publicly supported the war in Ukraine. In fact, Tokayev has spoken to Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy on the phone several times throughout the invasion.

Tokayev also told Putin last summer that Kazakhstan wouldn't recognize the Russian-occupied Ukrainian regions of Donetsk and Luhansk as independent states.

Armenia is a member of the Russian-dominated Collective Security Treaty Organization, but Pashinyan snubbed Moscow earlier this year by refusing to host the alliance's military drills.

May 9 is normally a bank holiday in Ukraine, too, but not this year, because of the war.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Monday he had sent a draft bill to parliament proposing a Day of Remembrance and Victory over Nazism in World War II on May 8, and a Day of Europe on May 9, further distancing Kyiv from Moscow.

Zelenskyy equated Russia's goals in Ukraine to those of the Nazis. "Unfortunately, evil has returned," Zelenskyy said on Telegram. "Although now it is another aggressor, the goal is the same — enslavement or destruction."

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen is due to travel to Kyiv on Tuesday to mark Europe Day together with Zelenskyy.

Meanwhile, Ukrainian air defenses shot down 35 Iranian-made drones over Kyiv in Russia's latest night-time assault, as attacks across Ukraine by the Kremlin's forces killed four civilians, officials said Monday.

Five people in the capital were injured by falling drone debris, according to Serhii Popko, head of the Kyiv City Military Administration. Air raid alarms sounded for more than three hours during the night.

Drone wreckage struck a two-story apartment building in Kyiv's western Svyatoshynskiy district, while other debris struck a car parked nearby, setting it on fire, Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko said in a Telegram post.

Russia has faced economic sanctions and limits on its supply chains because of its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Moscow has routinely turned to Iranian Shahed drones to bolster its firepower.

Russian shelling of 127 targets across northern, southern and eastern parts of Ukraine killed three civilians, the Ukrainian defense ministry said. Russian long-range bombers launched up to eight cruise missiles at Ukraine's southern Odesa region, authorities said. One person was killed and three others were wounded.

Some of the Soviet-era cruise missiles fired against the Odesa region self-destructed or fell into the sea before reaching their targets, according to Ukrainian air force spokesman Yuri Ihnat.

Meanwhile, Russian-installed authorities have begun evacuating residents of Tokmak, a town in the front-line southern Zaporizhzhia region, toward the Black Sea coast, Ukraine's General Staff said.

Those working for Kremlin-appointed local authorities, as well as children and educational workers, are being relocated to Berdyansk, a Russian-occupied seaside city about 100 kilometers (60 miles) to the southeast, it said.

On Friday, the Russian-appointed governor of the partially-occupied Zaporizhzhia region ordered the evacuation of civilians from 18 settlements there, including Enerhodar, which neighbors the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant.

Speculation has been mounting for months about the timing and focus of Ukraine's expected spring offensive, with some analysts saying Kyiv might try to strike south into Zaporizhzhia in order to split Russian forces and cut Moscow's land link to the occupied Crimean Peninsula.

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

Mac DeMarco on fame and why he indulged on a 199-song album

By KRYSTA FAURIA Associated Press

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Often dubbed the prince of indie music, Mac DeMarco has built a devoted fanbase through his mix of distinct slacker rock and being unafraid to show off his endearingly offbeat personality.

His latest release — a nine-hour, 199-song album — has confounded and stunned fans and critics alike. But for DeMarco, it was a way to reach his next creative phase.

"If I'm going to write something, I need to move forward," he said in a recent interview, his first since his opus, "One Wayne G," was released. "I like this stuff. I'd like to share it. I don't really know how. I might as well just give it all at the same time."

The album is a window into DeMarco's creative process, as well as his extensive range as an artist. He drew the cover art himself as a finishing touch to the personal project. "It's a self-portrait. And that's essentially what 'One Wayne G' is, you know, five years of me," he said.

The album arrived roughly three months after "Five Easy Hot Dogs," a collection of instrumental songs he recorded during a road trip and is particularly proud of.

But more than just a way to get unreleased and some seemingly unfinished songs off his chest, the 33-year-old saw "One Wayne G" as an opportunity to subvert expectations of what releasing an album nowadays should look like.

"People are making music for TikTok or really short songs and there's like 9,000 writers on a pop song. It's very single-driven. So, I was like, 'Well, I'm going to put out like nine hours and most of it won't have song titles. It will just have dates,'" he recalled.

The scope of the album is daunting, but listeners have found rewards in all those tracks. Paste Magazine summed it up: "There's a Tender Album Hidden Inside Mac DeMarco's One Wayne G, But It'll Take You Nine Hours to Find It."

DeMarco made a name for himself as a singer, songwriter and multi-instrumentalist known for his laid-back style of music. He has become synonymous with his DIY-ethos and his proselytization of analog recording methods.

He showed up for his interview with The Associated Press in the most unfussy way possible. Missing were the combination of publicists, managers and hair and makeup people that often trail stars to interviews.

Instead, DeMarco rode his motorcycle to downtown Los Angeles from his home a few miles away, sporting a solid blue hoodie with his keys and a keychain which reads "Millionaire in Training" hanging around his neck.

And while DeMarco was confused by the question about his missing entourage, the musician conceded that he has reached a surprising level of fame.

He built a steady following after he released his second full-length studio album, "Salad Days," but said he doesn't feel pressure to recreate the same kind of sound that led to his ascent. "There are a lot of people that want me to just make 'Salad Days' over and over and over again," he said. "But that was a certain period.

"I've made a bunch of records that have made me enough money to live comfortably and like, I'm in a position where I can make the art that I want to make," he said. "I don't know, I just enjoy — I love music. Music is cool."

DeMarco likes to segment his music into periods. "Five Easy Hot Dogs" emerged from a road trip that he said would only end once he finished the album.

"It all feels like it's just so encapsulated. It's kind of like, 'This is a period in time. This is where it was made. This is where it was mixed. This is the vibe.' And you know, for me, I like that," he said. "People can take it however they want, but it was an important period in my life."

He plans to make his next album the same way, except this time on his motorcycle. Asked how that would work, he grinned, as if having a plan up his sleeve, and replied, "I'll figure it out."

In addition to music, DeMarco has gained a reputation for some offbeat antics.

There's the time he was beaten and tied up on "The Eric Andre Show," or the time he brought Nathan Fielder on stage at his Los Angeles concert and the pair kissed, something DeMarco didn't remember. Or

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one might come across his "Advanced Studio Recording Techniques," a series of insightful but mostly absurd videos, during which his face is inexplicably doused in Vaseline.

"It was fun at first, but then, especially the longer my hair is, the worse it is getting the Vaseline off," he recalled. "It doesn't matter how much shampoo you use. You have it in there for about a week."

Although his irreverent attitude is still very much intact, the Canadian musician appears to have matured and mellowed with age. He has cut out caffeine and alcohol, regularly sees an acupuncturist and quit smoking a year ago while on his "Five Easy Hot Dogs" road trip.

"I don't like being beholden to things like that, you know? As humans, we got to have water, you got to have shelter, you got to have food. That's enough things to be trapped by," he said of his spartan lifestyle.

But DeMarco still enjoys a good prank. After "One Wayne G" dropped, his record label teased a physical release of the 199 songs on social media, something fans will be disappointed to discover is not going to happen.

"We had these fake mock-ups of a vinyl and a cassette and it's just like, it's not going to fit. I'm sorry," he laughed.

What's behind Syria's return to the Arab League?

By KAREEM CHEHAYEB and ABBY SEWELL Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — The Arab League's decision to re-admit Syria after shunning it for 12 years was a significant symbolic victory for Damascus, part of a larger regional realignment and an indication of the United States' waning role, analysts say.

But it may not immediately bring the reconstruction dollars that Syrian President Bashar Assad is hoping for. Nor is it likely to bring the changes Syria's neighbors want, such as an agreement on refugee returns and moves to reduce drug trafficking.

Syria is returning to the Arab fold even though there is no sign of a resolution to the country's uprising-turned-civil war, now in its 13th year. The long-stalemated conflict has killed nearly a half million people since March 2011 and displaced half of the country's pre-war population of 23 million. Multiple mediation attempts have failed.

The league approved Syria's readmission at a closed-door meeting in Cairo on Sunday. It means Assad can attend the league's summit in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on May 19, further cementing his move out of pariah status.

WHAT IS THE ARAB LEAGUE AND WHY WAS SYRIA SUSPENDED FROM IT?

The Arab League is a 22-member organization founded in 1945 to promote regional cooperation and resolve disputes. But it is widely seen as toothless and has long struggled to help solve conflicts, especially in the recent era of wars in Syria, Yemen and Libya and a bitter diplomatic rift between Gulf monarchies and Qatar years ago.

The league suspended Syria's membership in 2011 after Assad's government cracked down brutally on mass protests against his rule, an uprising that quickly descended into a brutal civil war. Qatar, Saudi Arabia and several other Arab countries funneled support to armed opposition groups trying to overthrow Assad, who was backed by Russia, Iran and militias affiliated with Tehran.

WHY LET IT BACK IN NOW?

After years of deadlock in the war, Assad's government has a secure grip on most of the country, particularly most main cities. Opposition groups or U.S.-backed Kurdish forces control most of northern and eastern Syria -- and that's unlikely to change any time soon -- but it has been clear for years now that an opposition overthrow of Assad is virtually impossible.

Arab governments that may have once hoped for that outcome are now deciding it's better to reach out.

"We're not looking for magical solutions, but what we do know is that the current situation is unsustainable. It's going nowhere," Saudi political scientist Hesham Alghannam said. "We don't know when the conflict will end, and boycotting the regime didn't lead to a solution."

In recent years, several Arab countries moved towards reestablishing diplomatic ties, most notably the

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United Arab Emirates in 2018. Jordan and Syria reopened their borders in 2021. Last month, Saudi Arabia and Syria announced they are moving to reopen embassies and resume flights.

The devastating Feb. 6 earthquake that hit Syria and Turkey also sped up rapprochement, bringing sympathy for Syria. More than 6,000 people were killed in Syria and hundreds of thousands lost their homes. Senior officials from once-hostile countries visited Damascus for the first time in over a decade and sent plane-loads of aid.

Approaching Assad under the pretext of the humanitarian crisis was a less controversial way to continue improving ties.

Another boost was the Chinese-brokered deal to reestablish ties between Saudi Arabia and regional rival Iran, which is encouraging them to de-escalate conflicts like Syria and Yemen.

Also, the United States' "de-prioritization of the Middle East and particularly of the Syria portfolio" led regional actors to work out their own deals with Damascus, despite Washington's objections, said Randa Slim, director of the Conflict Resolution and Track II Dialogues Program at the Washington-based Middle East Institute.

WHICH COUNTRIES WERE FOR AND AGAINST IT?

Saudi Arabia played a key role in pushing for Syria's return to the Arab League, hosting a meeting last month to discuss the topic. Jordan hosted another gathering earlier this month.

Qatar remained the most prominent hold-out. However, after Sunday's decision to readmit Damascus, Qatar said in a statement that it "will not be an obstacle" to "an Arab consensus."

Kuwait also has not endorsed normalization, said Bader Al-Saif, assistant professor of history at Kuwait University.

Kuwait "wants to know what the conditions are, what the political solution looks like. Will there be elections? An apology? Anything?" he said. Despite these key skeptics, al-Saif said Riyadh will continue to push for Damascus to work for a "more robust and integrated Arab order."

One main criticism of the rapprochement is that Assad has made no concessions toward a political deal to resolve Syria's conflict. Without a credible resolution, millions of Syrians who fled abroad — many to neighboring countries — will be too afraid to return.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN ON THE GROUND?

On the symbolic level, Syria's return to the league signals to opposition Syrians that "they are left on their own," Slim said, and confirms to Damascus that its scorched-earth strategy in the war worked.

But on a practical level, "a seat at the Arab League is not that powerful," she said.

U.S. and European sanctions will likely prevent Arab countries from significant investments in reconstruction in the near future.

Many Syrians in government-held areas hope to see a benefit in greater trade with the Arab world to help to offset a crippling economic crisis.

That could happen, Alghannam said. "If there is stability, I believe there will be an influx of Gulf investment and trade with Syria." Still, he noted, Saudi-Syrian relations were strained even before the Syrian conflict, "so confidence-building will take time."

A statement issued by the Arab League after Sunday's meeting suggested that Syria's further reintegration will depend on moving towards a political solution to the conflict, combating drug trafficking and facilitating the return of refugees. Gulf countries have also pushed for Damascus to curb Iranian influence in Syria.

Maha Yahya, the director of the Beirut-based Carnegie Middle East Center, said it is unlikely that Syria will meet Arab countries' demands.

As such, she said, "I honestly don't think this move is going to open the floodgates of support for Syria."

Americans bet \$220B on sports in 5 years since legalization

By WAYNE PARRY Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Americans have bet over \$220 billion on sports with legal gambling outlets in the five years since the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way for all 50 states to offer it, and the industry

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shows few signs of slowing despite some recent scandals that have put a spotlight on wagering safeguards.

When Sunday's anniversary of the court ruling in a case brought by New Jersey arrives, two-thirds of the country will offer legal sports betting, with additional states likely to join in coming months or years.

The fast-growing industry is also far-reaching: its advertisements reach into most U.S. homes during sporting events and even non-sports programming. Few TV viewers have been spared from repeated ads featuring a Caesar character discussing sports gambling with members of the Manning football dynasty, or from actor Jamie Foxx placing sports bets in between takes on a film set.

"While the milestones of legalized sports betting that have led up to now are remarkable, this industry is excitingly still far from being fully realized," said Jason Robins, CEO of DraftKings, one of the industry's two dominant companies. "Legal betting is already part of mainstream sports culture, and I anticipate this trend will grow as adoption increases. The accessibility right now for fans to place a live, micro-bet during a game, for example, shares parallels with other smartphone-powered capabilities like hailing a ride, buying a stock, or playing a podcast."

On May 14, 2018, the Supreme Court decided a case that had begun 10 years earlier in New Jersey as the longest of long shots: a bid to overturn a federal law, the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act, that restricted sports betting to just four states that met a 1991 deadline to legalize it.

Since then, some once-unthinkable changes have happened: Professional sports leagues, which fought New Jersey tooth and nail right up to the Supreme Court in an ultimately unsuccessful effort to prevent legal betting, now partner with gambling companies, slather their ballparks with sports betting advertising and some even have betting outlets in their stadiums. Betting odds are now an integral part of broadcasts of many games.

Legalization of sports betting has opened up opportunities: additional tax revenue for states, a small auxiliary revenue stream for casinos and horse tracks, and a way to keep many people away from the dangers of unregulated offshore gambling web sites.

It's also caused problems: Those treating compulsive gambling say calls to their hotlines seeking help have increased significantly in the five years since sports betting was legalized and made available on cell phones. Keith Whyte, executive director of the National Council on Problem Gambling, says calls to the 800-GAMBLER help line have increased by 15% over the last five years as "states began the fastest and largest expansion of gambling in our history."

Several NFL players have been suspended for betting on games, and some colleges that struck partnerships with sports leagues illegally marketed sports betting to students under the legal age of 21, prompting leagues and gambling companies to revise their policies.

Gambling integrity was in the news again last week when Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey regulators ordered their sports books to stop taking bets on the University of Alabama baseball team after suspicious activity was identified in an Alabama-Louisiana State University game on April 28. Alabama baseball coach Brad Bohannon was fired amid an investigation that began when one of the numerous companies monitoring sports betting data and other activities found what it considered suspicious activity and tipped off gambling regulators. No criminal charges have been filed.

The \$220 billion figure includes wagers made through the end of March in most states, according to the American Gaming Association, the gambling industry's national trade group. It is up from the \$125 billion that had been wagered at the four-year mark.

Consider this: Sports books generally keep about 10% of all the money they handle, after paying out winning bets to customers.

Achieving profitability has been a long, hard slog. FanDuel became the first to report a profitable quarter in the second leg of 2022 and expects to be profitable for 2023. DraftKings expects its first profitable quarter at the end of this year, and BetMGM expects to enter the black in the second half of this year.

Sports betting has also kept the Meadowlands Racetrack in northern New Jersey, just across the Hudson River from New York City, alive.

"Sports betting has saved the day," said Jeff Gural, who operates the track in East Rutherford that in-

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cludes a FanDuel sportsbook, which combined with FanDuel's online operation takes in nearly 50 cents of every dollar wagered on sports in New Jersey.

"I don't think the Meadowlands would be open as a racetrack now without sports betting," he said.

The amount of money kept by sports books as winnings over the last five years is \$17 billion, according to the American Gaming Association, the gambling industry's national trade group.

Over that same period, sports betting taxes on operators have generated almost \$3.6 billion: \$3 billion for state and local governments, and \$570 million for the federal government. In many cases, an individual state's take amounts to a drop in the bucket.

While additional money for state governments was used as a selling point for legal sports betting, another goal was consumer protection, allowing customers to bet with entities regulated by the government, where their deposits are secure and there's no danger of a sports book suddenly disappearing with someone's cash.

The avalanche of advertising for sports betting has also triggered a backlash, to the point where the gambling industry and most major professional sports leagues adopted stronger standards for their own advertisements. These were widely seen as an attempt not only to do something about the proliferation of gambling, and particularly sports betting ads, but also to be seen as doing something and hopefully head off threatened government regulation of sports betting ads.

Five years in, just two companies — FanDuel and Draft Kings — control over 70% of the legal sports betting market in the US, according to the gambling analytics firm Eilers & Krejcik.

In the 12-month period ending with Feb. 2023, FanDuel has just under 46% of the market, while DraftKings has over 25%. BetMGM has nearly 12%, Caesars Entertainment has 6.7%, and no one else has more than 2.4%, the company said.

What will the next five years look like? Chris Krafcik of Eilers & Krejcik predicts more multi-faceted deals among teams, leagues and stadiums, and among betting operators and media companies, hotel chains, and beverage companies.

Krafcik said sports betting companies could develop VIP-focused retail destinations, and look to expand "hyper-casual" online wagering.

The trend of gambling companies locating sportsbooks in or next to pro sports stadiums is likely to continue. Sports books as a whole may slow down their promotional spending to rein in costs. And uncertainty should continue in the near term about the prospects for online sports betting in California, the nation's largest state, and in Florida, where it is tied up in litigation.

The industry is constantly coming up with new ways to bet, too. One fast growing trend is so-called microbetting, which can be a series of rapid-fire bets. In baseball, it could involve how fast the next pitch will be; whether it will be put into play; whether that ball will be caught for an out, or become a single, double, triple or home run.

Those who treat problem gambling are particularly concerned about this type of betting for its capacity to lure gamblers into one wager after another in a very short period of time, potentially racking up large losses quickly.

Follow Wayne Parry on Twitter at www.twitter.com/WayneParryAC

Bidens to host UConn, LSU basketball teams at White House

Associated Press undefined

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden and his wife, Jill, plan to welcome the men's and women's NCAA basketball champions to the White House later this month.

The University of Connecticut Huskies men's team beat San Diego State 76-59 in April to secure its fifth national title. The Louisiana State University Tigers women's team won its first championship by beating the University of Iowa 102-85.

The invite to LSU became a source of controversy this year after the first lady said in a speech that the

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defeated Iowa women's team should also come to the White House "because they played such a good game." In recent decades, the White House has usually hosted only champions.

LSU star Angel Reese tweeted a link to a story about Jill Biden's remarks. "A JOKE," she wrote, along with three rolling-on-floor-laughing emojis. On a podcast shortly after, Reese said her team should instead celebrate their title with former President Barack Obama and former first lady Michelle Obama.

Reese later told ESPN during an interview that she would go to the White House because she wants to do "what's best for the team."

The team visits are scheduled for May 26.

King's pledge of service defines UK's modern monarchy

By DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — If one thread ran throughout the festivities marking the coronation of King Charles III, it was the idea of public service.

It was there when Charles stood before a choirboy at Westminster Abbey on Saturday and promised to serve. It was there in the words of his son, Prince William, during Sunday's concert at Windsor Castle. And it is there in the day of volunteerism that the king called for on Monday's holiday in the U.K.

It's a strange word from the lips of a king — not exactly the stuff of fairy tales, or monarchs leading armies into battle, or shouting, "Off with their heads!" It's been more than 260 years since a British king led troops in the field, and Charles is legally barred from meddling in politics.

Despite the trappings of medieval power on display at the coronation, a modern monarchy links the royal family to the people of the United Kingdom and the 14 other countries Charles serves as head of state.

His grandfather, King George VI, is remembered for staying in London during the German bombing raids of World War II, showing the people that he was with them.

His mother, Queen Elizabeth II, endeared herself to the nation with 70 years of public duties, sprinkling a bit of royal stardust on communities from Belfast to Brighton. As a young princess, she pledged that "my whole life, whether it be short or long, will be devoted to your service."

She did it not just with mundane ribbon cuttings and tree plantings, but also by boosting the morale of health care workers during the pandemic and supporting charities that helped veterans and the disadvantaged.

Charles' reign, and the future of the monarchy, will rest on whether he and his heir, Prince William, can maintain that link in a country that is much less deferential to royalty than the one that cheered Elizabeth's coronation in 1953.

"It's a marriage between the monarch and the people," said former BBC royal correspondent Michael Cole. "His life has been dedicated to service. And I think that you're going to see that more and more and more. He's very committed to it. He's utterly sincere and it will be up for other people to judge — and I hope they judge fairly and honestly — because nobody can doubt his good intentions."

Throughout the weekend, Charles pledged to serve and recognized the service of others. When he walked into Westminster Abbey on Saturday morning, with four page boys carrying the train of his flowing robe, he walked past prime ministers and global dignitaries.

But in the side chapels, out of sight of the cameras, were hundreds of the usually anonymous people who make the United Kingdom tick. People like Barbara Swinn, a librarian from York, Kim Beck, who works with Afghan refugees in Solihull, and Naomi Brock, who does community work and looks after four foster children, and well as five of her own, in Olney. All were invited to the abbey to honor their service to their communities.

Prince William picked up the theme Sunday night as 20,000 people gathered in the shadow of Windsor Castle for a concert headlined by Lionel Richie, Katy Perry and Take That.

After saluting his father's work to protect the environment and help the disadvantaged, William turned his attention to others.

"I also want to express my pride and gratitude for the millions of people who serve — in the forces, in

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classrooms, hospital wards and local communities," he said. "I wish I could mention you all. Your service inspires us."

The theme carried through to Monday's final act of the holiday weekend, a less-glitzy affair that is being called "The Big Help Out." Hoping to inspire a new generation of volunteers, Buckingham Palace asked people around the country to donate a few hours to local charities.

It's a modern role for a modern monarchy.

As Britain's ceremonial head of state, the king is symbol of stability and unity who helps the nation celebrate its victories and consoles it during times of adversity.

Some argue that these duties are better performed by an elected head of state, not a 74-year-old man who inherited wealth and status by an accident of birth. But supporters argue that Britain is better off with a hereditary monarch, above the fray of party politics, who doesn't have to face voters regularly.

That debate, muted recently out of respect for the aging queen, is likely to intensify during Charles' reign. There were rumblings of that over the weekend, when police arrested anti-monarchist protesters.

"These arrests were not about protecting people from harm, but about protecting the king from embarrassment," said Graham Smith, head of the campaign group Republic. "It was the state wanting to stamp down dissent in order to present an image of a grateful and consenting public at the time of the coronation."

Others grumbled that the coronation was too filled with the trappings of the Church of England for a country that isn't very religious, too much medieval pageantry for a modern nation that has ditched many of the formalities of the past, and too much military involvement for a diminished world power.

These traditions provide the historical underpinnings of the monarchy and give the royal family its majesty and its mystique.

But Charles — and William — know that's not enough.

A day after the crown was placed on Charles' head, William ended his speech — like his grandmother decades earlier — by pledging to continue his father's work.

"I commit myself to serve you all," the heir said.

Follow AP's coronation coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/king-charles-iii>

Mother's Day gift guide: Wheels, books, tech and more

By LEANNE ITALIE Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — From just the right book to just the right wheels, there are lots of ways to please all the mothers in your life when their special holiday rolls around.

Some ideas:

TECHNOLOGY

Give the gift of a heartbeat. Bond Heart is a smart necklace in the shape of a heart that allows the wearer to record heart beats and play them back in pulses felt when the bauble is grasped. From a company called Bond Touch, the \$99 necklace pairs with iOS and Android phones via Bluetooth. Instructions on how to record heartbeats using the pulse from a finger are included. An app stores multiple heartbeats for playback in the heart.

Reach for a digital camera. There's one that's great for beginners if mom isn't a pro but would like to be pro-like. It's the Canon EOS R50 Mirrorless Camera for \$799.99. It's light, compact, and reviewers rave about how easy it is to use. Comes in black or white. Turn it on and begin. The A+ mode does the rest.

Have at it on pricier options. But in the under \$1,000 range, The Strategist's Steven John recommends the Sony Alpha A6000 Mirrorless Digital Camera for its versatility and superfast autofocus abilities, among other things.

BOOKS

"The Art of Feminism." This collection of art, illustration, photography and graphic design spans the feminist aesthetic over two centuries. The original book, out in 2018, has been revised to add 60 pages of material. It's an in-depth examination of the subject, from the suffragists and Judy Chicago to Zanele

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Muholi and Andrea Bowers. Chronicle Books. \$45. Consultant editor Helena Reckitt. Written by Lucinda Gosling, Hilary Robinson and Amy Tobin.

"Head of Household: A Journal for Single Moms." Beth Raymer, a single mom, has put together words of inspiration from famous single mothers, prompts aimed at reflection, and ways to help their lives go easier. "What are the top five things you wish people understood or acknowledged about your single-mom experience?" she asks. Some estimates put the number of children in the U.S. being raised by single mothers at 15 million. Princeton Architecture Press. \$24.95.

How about a burn book? Emily Rose, host of the podcast "It's Become a Whole Thing," has put together "The Stuff I Hate Journal." Among the prompts: What's the most condescending remark you've ever received? Who's the person in your life who always has to outdo everyone else? Think of the worst neighbors you've ever had and write the note you'd love to leave on their doorstep. Might be just the thing to help mom take the edge off. Adams Media. \$15.99.

SUPPORT ADOPTION

The nonprofit Helpusadopt.org sells beaded bracelets with a gold leaf charm symbolizing the family tree. It gives 100% of its proceeds to its grant program that helps families struggling with the cost of adoption. The bracelets come in a variety of colors and materials, including marble and glass. They're also accentuated by gold beads with the group's "Help Us Adopt" signature. Available at Helpusadopt.org. Prices range from \$50 for a single bracelet to \$175 for a stack.

The nonprofit Jockey Being Family Foundation, which funds post-adoption support, benefits from the sale of a plush bear, because why shouldn't mom have her own stuffed animal? Jockey sets aside \$5 per bear for the foundation's work. There are two bear versions dubbed Sam and Donna. They cost \$10 each at Jockey.com.

FOR MOMS WHO ROLL

The folks at Oprah Daily put this bike on the O list for Mother's Day: The Electra Loft 7D. And it's a beaut. At \$549.99, it comes in cream and seafoam green. It's lightweight, European style and has seven speeds. Considered a commuter bike, it has an aluminum frame and painted fenders. Tires are slightly wider than traditional road tires. Available at REI.

Consider a new suitcase, either carry-on size or larger. There's a huge selection out there so track down a sale.

Perhaps a balance ball would serve if your gift recipient is still working from home. There's one that comes with a traditional chair, including arms. \$237.99. For new moms, a ball could double as a new baby activity.

MISCELLANEOUS GOODNESS

Walking poles are abundant. Jetti Poles go a step further. They're walking poles that add an extra pound each for fuller-body intensity on a stroll or hike. The poles come with rubber soles made of the same material as car tires to help navigate a range of terrains. From Jetti Fitness, the poles come in lengths of petite (5 feet to 5 foot, 3 inches) to extra tall (5 feet, 11 inches to 6 feet, 2 inches). They come in blue, pink and yellow. A carry bag is included.

Don't forget about Pickleball. ProXR has on offer a paddle from Beth Bellamy. The special-edition paddle comes in a white design with a premium fiberglass face for extra pop. A cover is included. Bellamy is ranked No. 1 in senior world pro women's singles. \$179.99.

Got a crafter? Solve her storage crisis with the Dreambox. The rolling storage closet is full of adjustable shelving, rods, hooks and boxes. And, to reiterate, it's on wheels so can be stashed when not unfurled. There's lighting built in, along with an adjustable table, with options to add two additional side tables. Comes in two designs in white. Lots of other add-ons are available, like a white magnetic board that can be used to stick metal cutting dies onto. Making dreams come true sometimes doesn't come cheap. The base cost is around \$2,500.

Follow Leanne Italie on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/litalie>

To improve kids' mental health, some schools start later

By BROOKE SCHULTZ Associated Press/Report for America

DREXEL HILL, Pa. (AP) — In the hours before he's due at Upper Darby High School, senior Khalid Doulat has time to say prayers, help his mother or prepare for track practice.

It's a welcome shift from last year for him and thousands of students at the school, which pushed its start time back by more than two hours — from a 7:30 a.m. start time to 9:45 a.m. One goal for the change: to ease strains on students that were more visible than ever coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I'll be honest, I've been much happier in the mornings," Doulat said. "I've been more positive, and I've come to school smiling more rather than, you know, grudging out of bed and stuff like that at 7:30."

The idea of later school start times, pushed by many over the years as a way to help adolescents get more sleep, is getting a new look as a way to address the mental health crisis affecting teens across the U.S.

For some schools, the pandemic allowed experimentation to try new schedules. Upper Darby, for one, initially considered later start times in 2019. Ultimately, it found a way to do it this year by using distance learning as a component of the school day.

As students first came back to in-person learning, many dealt with mental health struggles and behavioral issues, Upper Darby Superintendent Daniel McGarry said. Officials saw a breakdown in students respecting the authority of teachers in the classroom.

"We had a lot of those things that we were facing and we're still working our way through it; we're in a much better place," McGarry said. "I think our kids feel better. They're not 100% better." But, he said, much of the social anxiety students felt after being in online school has dissipated.

During the pandemic, soaring numbers of high school students expressed persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness, with girls and LGBTQ+ youth reporting the highest levels of poor mental health and suicide attempts. It doesn't help that research suggests middle and high school students aren't getting enough sleep.

"These mental health challenges are already going to happen and then, with the absence of sleep, are much worse," said Orfeu Buxton, director of the Sleep, Health & Society Collaboratory at Penn State University. "The same with decision making, suicidal ideation, those kinds of things."

The reasons why high schools start as early as they do — many begin their day before 7:30 a.m. — are "lost to the sands of history," Buxton said. But now, he said, "everything is baked into that: traffic light patterns, bus schedules and adults' work."

Nationally, at least nine states are considering legislation related to school start times, up from four the previous year, according to the National Conference on State Legislatures. California in 2019 became the first and only state to dictate school start times.

Large school systems including Denver, Philadelphia and Anchorage, Alaska, have been looking into later start times.

It can require innovation to forge a new schedule.

At Upper Darby High, the school day technically still begins at 7:30 a.m., with students assigned coursework to be done remotely that ties into their lessons for the day. But they can use the early morning hours as they see fit — they can meet with teachers during office hours, sleep in or finish other homework. Ultimately, the work assigned for the early morning needs to be done, but when is up to students.

"I think getting more sleep is definitely helping," Elise Olmstead, a junior. "I would be more irritable throughout the day, especially later, because I have a lot of after-school things. I would just have a harder time getting through the day."

The school day still ends by 3 p.m.

Fatima Afrani, a freshman, said that when she gets home, she'll usually relax, then help her mom or do homework.

"If I'm tired I go to sleep, which was not something I was able to do last year. Last year I just had to get my homework done because there wasn't an option of being able to do it later," she said. "And so I liked that if I was tired, I could listen to my body and just let myself sleep."

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Principal Matthew Alloway said educators have noticed fewer students sleeping in class. The new schedule also has allowed “kids to go to school for exactly what they need,” he said. About 400 of the school’s 4,250 students attend only through virtual learning — an option it offered to compete with online schools.

Critics have argued students have less instruction time in the new schedule. The original 80-minute periods have been shortened, but Alloway said that it’s not as if lectures always took up the full 80 minutes.

“It was sometimes a 60-minute concentrated instructional time. But then there was time to write. There was time to read. There was time to view a video,” he said.

Other challenges wrought by the pandemic — teacher shortages, for one — have also benefitted from the schedule change, administrators said. Teachers can take care of themselves and their families in the morning. Administrators have more time to replace staffers who call out sick.

Doulat, the Upper Darby senior, said that even if students can’t see the effects every day, there’s been a big positive impact.

“It’s such little changes in our daily lives that we don’t notice it,” he added. “But they slowly start building up, and we actually see the difference within our own lives.”

Brooke Schultz is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

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Today in History: May 9, Mandela chosen to lead South Africa

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, May 9, the 129th day of 2023. There are 236 days left in the year.

Today’s Highlight in History:

On May 9, 1994, South Africa’s newly elected parliament chose Nelson Mandela to be the country’s first Black president.

On this date:

In 1860, writer J.M. Barrie, the creator of Peter Pan, was born in Kirriemuir, Scotland.

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson, acting on a joint congressional resolution, signed a proclamation designating the second Sunday in May as Mother’s Day.

In 1945, with World War II in Europe at an end, Soviet forces liberated Czechoslovakia from Nazi occupation. U.S. officials announced that a midnight entertainment curfew was being lifted immediately.

In 1951, the U.S. conducted its first thermonuclear experiment as part of Operation Greenhouse by detonating a 225-kiloton device on Enewetak Atoll in the Pacific nicknamed “George.”

In 1962, scientists at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology succeeded in reflecting a laser beam off the surface of the moon.

In 1965, Russian-born American pianist Vladimir Horowitz performed publicly for the first time in 12 years with a recital at Carnegie Hall in New York.

In 1970, President Richard Nixon made a surprise and impromptu pre-dawn visit to the Lincoln Memorial, where he chatted with a group of protesters who’d been resting on the Memorial steps after protests against the Vietnam War and the Kent State shootings.

In 1974, the House Judiciary Committee opened public hearings on whether to recommend the impeachment of President Richard Nixon. (The committee ended up adopting three articles of impeachment against the president, who resigned before the full House took up any of them.)

In 1980, 35 people were killed when a freighter rammed the Sunshine Skyway Bridge over Tampa Bay in Florida, causing a 1,400-foot section of the southbound span to collapse.

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In 2016, Filipinos went to the polls to elect Rodrigo Duterte, the controversial, tough-talking mayor of Davao city, to be their country's next president.

In 2019, Pope Francis issued a groundbreaking new church law requiring all Catholic priests and nuns to report clergy sexual abuse and cover-ups by their superiors to church authorities.

In 2020, Rock 'n' roll pioneer Little Richard, known for his piercing wail, pounding piano and towering pompadour, died in Tennessee at the age of 87 after battling bone cancer; he had helped shatter the color line on the music charts while introducing Black R&B to white America.

Ten years ago: Afghan President Hamid Karzai, who had irked Washington with his frequent criticism of U.S. military operations in his country, said his government was ready to let the U.S. have nine bases across Afghanistan after the withdrawal of most foreign forces in 2014. A 72-foot-long, high-tech catamaran sailboat capsized in San Francisco Bay while practicing for the America's Cup races, killing English Olympic gold medalist Andrew "Bart" Simpson. Malcolm Shabazz, 28, grandson of civil rights activist Malcolm X, died in Mexico City of blunt trauma injuries sustained in a bar dispute.

Five years ago: Secretary of State Mike Pompeo arrived in North Korea to finalize plans for a summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Three Americans who had spent more than a year in prison in North Korea were freed during his visit and left North Korea aboard Pompeo's plane. Five officers and one prisoner were killed in a riot at a police detention center near Indonesia's capital, Jakarta. Authorities alleged the facility was being targeted by Islamic militants.

One year ago: Russian President Vladimir Putin marked his country's biggest patriotic holiday, Victory Day, without a major new battlefield success in Ukraine to boast of, as the war ground on through its 11th week with the Kremlin's forces making little or no progress in their offensive. The Washington Post won the Pulitzer Prize in public service journalism for its coverage of the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Ray Scott, who helped launch professional bass angling and became a fishing buddy to presidents while popularizing the conservation practice of catching and releasing fish, died at age 88.

Today's Birthdays: Actor-writer Alan Bennett is 89. Actor and politician Glenda Jackson is 87. Producer-director James L. Brooks is 86. Musician Sonny Curtis (Buddy Holly and the Crickets) is 86. Singer Tommy Roe is 81. Singer-musician Richie Furay (Buffalo Springfield and Poco) is 79. Actor Candice Bergen is 77. Pop singer Clint Holmes is 77. Actor Anthony Higgins is 76. Singer Billy Joel is 74. Blues singer-musician Bob Margolin is 74. Rock singer-musician Tom Petersson (Cheap Trick) is 73. Actor Alley Mills is 72. Actor Amy Hill is 70. Actor Wendy Crewson is 67. Actor John Corbett is 62. Singer Dave Gahan (GAHN) (Depeche Mode) is 61. Actor Sonja Sohn is 59. Rapper Ghostface Killah is 53. Actor Chris Diamantopoulos (dy-uh-MAN'-toh-POO'-lehs) is 48. R&B singer Tamia (tuh-MEE'-ah) is 48. Actor Daniel Franzese is 45. Rock singer Pierre Bouvier (Simple Plan) is 44. Actor Rosario Dawson is 44. Rock singer Andrew W.K. is 44. Actor Rachel Boston is 41. TV personality Audrina Patridge is 38. Actor Grace Gummer is 37.