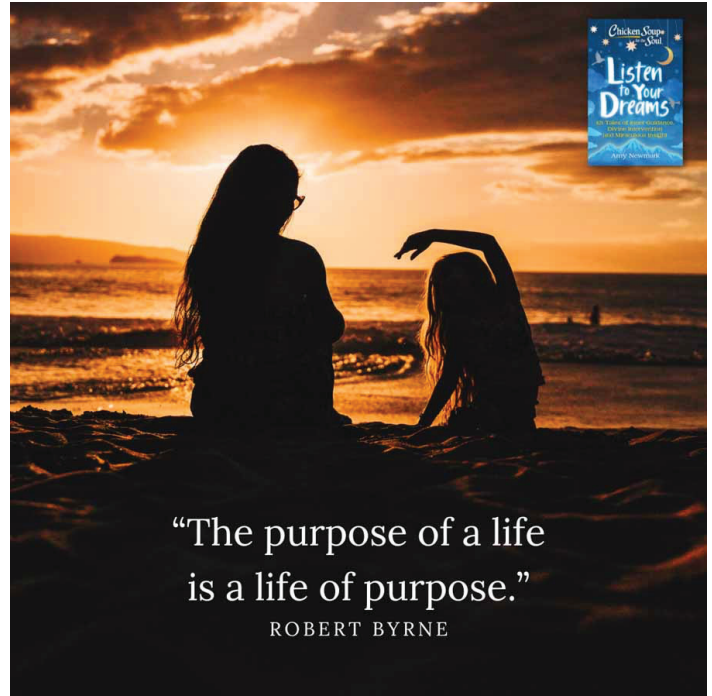


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“The purpose of a life
is a life of purpose.”

ROBERT BYRNE

Groton Community Calendar

Monday, May 15

- School Lunch: Cook's choice for rest of year.
 - Senior Menu: Sloppy joe on bun, oven roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables, ice cream sundae, whole wheat bread.
 - The Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 - Girls Golf: NEC at Sisseton, 10 a.m.
 - NEC JH Track Meet at Sisseton, 10 a.m.
 - Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m..
 - Baseball, Softball and T-Ball Uniform pickup at City Hall, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.
 - St. John's Lutheran: Christian Literature Circle, 7:30 p.m.
 - Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6 p.m.
- ### Tuesday, May 16
- Senior Menu: Chicken alfredo, buttermilk biscuit, winter blend vegetables, cookie, apricots.
 - The Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.
 - Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.
 - Baseball, Softball and T-Ball Uniform pickup at City Hall, 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.

- High School Baseball hosts Hamlin, 6 p.m. (V/JV)
 - United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.; Conde Ad Council
 - St. John's Lutheran: Quilting, 9 a.m.
- ### Wednesday, May 17
- City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.
 - Senior Menu: Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, carrots and peas, Mandarin oranges, Pineapple, whole wheat bread.
 - Groton CM&A: Kids' Club, Youth Group and Adult Bible Study begins at 7 pm
 - United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; UMYF Bonfire; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.
 - St. John's Lutheran: Bible Study, 2:45 p.m.
 - Emmanuel Lutheran: League, 6:30 p.m.
- ### Thursday, May 18
- Senior Menu: BBQ Chicken breast, rice pilaf, mixed vegetables, fruit, cookie, whole wheat bread.
 - Girls Golf Meet at Sisseton, 10 a.m.
 - Region 1A Track Meet in Groton
 - Emmanuel Lutheran: Ascension Worship, 7 p.m.

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

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

by Newsweek

JANUARY 24, 2023

World in Brief

after gunfire broke out in Yuma, Arizona, Saturday night. Police have asked people with any information to come forward, offering a cash reward for details leading to an arrest.

- Illinois is on the verge of passing a new law that would entitle child influencers under the age of 16 to a percentage of earnings based on how often they appear on video blogs or online content.
- Thailand's opposition parties, Move Forward and Pheu Thai, secured a huge win as voters rejected nearly a decade of military-backed rule. However, uncertainties remain as neither party secured enough votes to form a government, leaving the door open for coalition talks.
- China is set to launch pilot projects in several cities to promote a "new-era" marriage culture and encourage families to have children to boost the country's declining birth rates.
- In the ongoing war in Ukraine, France has promised more military support for Ukraine after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky made a surprise visit to Paris to meet with French President Emmanuel Macron.

WHAT TO WATCH IN THE DAY AHEAD

Expect more chatter about the debt ceiling as President Joe Biden and congressional leaders meet to resume negotiations.

As recession fears grow, markets will be keen to watch for commentary by several Federal Reserve officials participating in various events this week.

- New York City hotels have been transformed into emergency shelters to accommodate an anticipated influx of migrants as the Title 42 immigration policy expired last week, with reports suggesting that homeless veterans are being evicted to make space for them.

- At least six people have died after Cyclone Mocha, one of the strongest cyclones to ever hit Myanmar, battered the country's northeastern coastline, reportedly destroying makeshift shelters and causing significant flooding.

- Two people were killed, and five others were injured

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"The Gift of Kidney Donation"

The first successful organ transplant was a kidney transplant in 1954. The donor was the identical twin of the recipient. The new kidney worked for 11 months. This was long before any anti-rejection medications were available. Cyclosporine, the first anti-rejection medication, was approved for use in 1983. The use of anti-rejection medications has significantly increased how long transplanted organs will function.

A transplanted kidney from a living donor will last on average 12-20 years. A kidney from a deceased donor lasts 8-12 years on average. Amazingly, the longest reported kidney transplant lasted 60 years. Most people who have kidney transplants for end stage kidney disease are first treated with kidney dialysis. Since dialysis is an option treatment for end stage kidney disease, people may wonder why kidney transplants are needed at all.

Dialysis is not ideal as it only can do about 10-15% of the work that a healthy kidney does. Dialysis is also very costly and time consuming for the patient. The average life expectancy of a patient on dialysis is 5-10 years. Thus dialysis commonly used as a bridge to kidney transplants, and not a replacement for transplant.

Kidney and liver transplants are unique because they can be done with living donors. For the kidney donor, once a kidney is removed, the remaining one will increase in size to adjust for the lost kidney. The portion of the liver that is donated can regrow rapidly and the donor's liver will be back to normal size and function in a few months after the donation. Donation of a kidney or part of a liver does not shorten the donor's life expectancy.

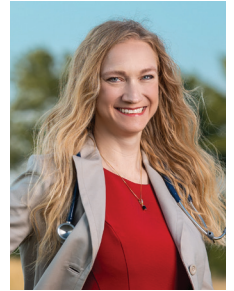
Per the National Organ Transplant Act, neither living nor deceased donors are compensated for organ donations. This is truly a gift of life that is given to the recipient. However, organ recipients may pay for their living donor's travel, lodging, and lost wages in connection with the donation. The donor's surgery is often billed to the recipient's health insurance. The National Living Donor Assistance Center also helps eligible donors financially when they cannot have their expenses covered by the donor, the donor's insurance company, or state programs.

Since 1954 over one million organ transplants have taken place in the United States. The Organ Procurement and Transplant Network reported over 42,800 organ transplants were done in 2022. Last year 6,466 people became living organ donors. Thanks to organ donors, transplant recipients can live longer and healthier lives. Consider checking the organ donor box next time you are at the DMV. One day, it may lead to the gift needed for someone else to stay healthy out there.

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



Based on Science, Built on Trust



Jill Kruse, DO

Groton City Notice

**No outdoor watering
effective
Tuesday, May 16th
until further notice.**

**Work will be done on
the reservoir.**



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Weekly Vikings Recap - Za'Darius Smith Trade & Vikings' 2023 NFL Schedule

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

Za'Darius Smith Traded to the Cleveland Browns

The Minnesota Vikings made some headlines this week when they traded Za'Darius Smith to the Cleveland Browns. Along with trading Smith, the Vikings also sent the Browns a 2025 6th-round pick and a 2025 7th-round pick. In return, the Vikings received a 2024 5th-round pick and a 2025 5th-round pick.

The trade came with no surprise to a lot of people as it had been rumored for a while that Smith was wanting to get out of Minnesota. However, I think a lot of people, including myself, thought Smith's departure would come via release and not trade, so it is nice to see that the Vikings were able to gain some compensation for Smith leaving.

With Smith's departure, the Vikings lose one of their two defensive players who accumulated double-digit sacks last season, the other being Danielle Hunter. However, Smith's game truly fell off a cliff in the second half of the season last year as he only had half a sack after week 10. His complete disappearance is likely the reason the Vikings decided to move on from him. Now, the Vikings will look to Danielle Hunter and newly acquired Marcus Davenport to lead the pass rush group in the 2023 season.

2023 Schedule Release

In other news, the 2023 NFL schedule got released this past Thursday so we thought it would be a good idea to run through the Viking's schedule and discuss some of the key games for the team.

Week 1 - vs. Tampa Bay Buccaneers

For the sixth time in seven years, the Vikings will kick off their season at home.

Week 2 - @ Philadelphia Eagles

Like last year, the Vikings will travel to Philadelphia to face the Eagles in week 2 in primetime. This year, the game will be played on Thursday night. This game will be a good barometer of what to expect from the Vikings going forward for the rest of the season.

Week 3 - vs. Los Angeles Chargers

After his release this offseason, Eric Kendricks will be returning to Minnesota to play the Vikings.

Week 4 - @ Carolina Panthers

Week 5 - vs. Kansas City Chiefs

For the first time since 2011, the Minnesota Vikings will get to match up against the defending Super Bowl champion at home.

Week 6 - @ Chicago Bears

The Vikings will head to Chicago and look to continue its three-game winning streak against the Bears at Soldier Field. For a place that saw the Vikings go 3-16 from 2001-2019, the Vikings have managed to match that win total in just the last three seasons.

Week 7 - vs. San Francisco 49ers

The Vikings will host the 49ers for the first time since 2018 in what will be an important game in deciding NFC seeding

Week 8 - @ Green Bay Packers

With the Aaron Rodgers era over in Green Bay, the Vikings will get their first chance in three decades to walk into Lambeau Field knowing that they have the better quarterback in the game.

Week 9 - @ Atlanta Falcons

Week 10 - vs. New Orleans Saints

Week 11 - @ Denver Broncos

Week 12 - vs. Chicago Bears

Week 13 - BYE Week

This will be the second latest in the Vikings' history behind their week 14 bye in 1991.

Week 14 - @ Las Vegas Raiders

Week 15 - @ Cincinnati Bengals

Week 16 - vs. Detroit Lions

Week 16 will start the final three-game stretch for the Vikings where they will face three NFC North teams in a row. This could either make or break the Vikings' season.

Week 17 - vs. Green Bay Packers

Jordan Love will get his first chance to deal with the loud Vikings' home crowd that managed to give Favre and Rodgers problems in their days as the Packers' starting quarterback.

Week 18 - @ Detroit Lions

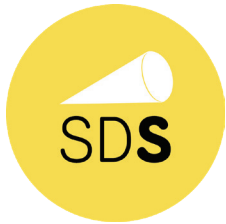
The season finale will be a matchup between the top two favorites to win the NFC North. If everything goes according to plan, this game might be a winner-take-all for the division title.

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Groton Area held its 130th Annual Commencement Program yesterday in the GHS Arena. The two school board members handing out the diplomas also had seniors this year. On the left is Marty Weismantel with Elliana and on the right is Deb Gengerke with Brooke. We will be working on the senior spotlight section in the upcoming days. (Photos lifted from GDILIVE.COM video)



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Physicians feel 'trapped' by SD's abortion trigger law. They're hoping to change it.

Pro-life physicians say current law is 'adequate'

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - MAY 13, 2023 2:09 PM

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second story in a three-part series about the impacts of South Dakota's abortion ban. The first story examined the number of South Dakotans leaving the state for abortions. The next story will look at the effects of the abortion ban on the recruitment and retention of OB-GYNs.

A wave of dread washed over Laura Hoefert as she held the pregnancy test in her hands.

All she could think about was the two pregnancies she'd already lost and her fear that she'd lose this one too.

That was two months ago.

Hoefert, a family physician serving in a rural eastern South Dakota community, knows the risk of being pregnant in the state after the Dobbs decision, in which the U.S. Supreme Court overruled Roe v. Wade last summer, and the state trigger law that took effect immediately afterward. Under that state law, abortion is only legal when "there is appropriate and reasonable medical judgment that performance of an abortion is necessary to preserve the life of the pregnant female."

That statute makes some physicians like Hoefert pause. Even if they know, medically, that continuing a pregnancy could lead to risks for the health or life of the mother, would that hold up in court? Or would they be charged with a felony for trying to save their patient?

A few weeks later, when she started to miscarry, Hoefert accepted it. But then she kept bleeding; she worried she had an ectopic pregnancy, a rare condition where the egg is fertilized outside of the uterus, leading to a rupture and life-threatening internal bleeding.

Her professional worry collided with her personal life: Who would help her?

"I was terrified that if something happens there's nowhere to go for help and I potentially can't be referred either," Hoefert said. Her bleeding eventually went away and she did not have to seek medical care, but the scare has stuck with her.

"Going forward, it's something my partner and I have to decide for ourselves. Having children is important to him, but from the standpoint of being female in our state, it is something really terrifying," she said.

Medical threats to pregnant women

Hemorrhaging during miscarriages and ectopic pregnancies aren't the only risks for pregnant women in South Dakota — or the only reason why a wanted pregnancy is terminated.

It can happen when a woman needs treatment for cancer, epilepsy, kidney disease, or another chronic illness that can't be treated without risking the baby's life, when a mother's water breaks and she gets an infection, or when severe preeclampsia, or high blood pressure during pregnancy, threatens her life.

It can happen when a woman who has struggled with infertility for years finds out her miracle child's brain isn't developing and won't survive more than a few hours after delivery.

While each instance is rare on its own, the risk overall of a life-threatening development during pregnancy happens "often enough," said Sioux Falls physician Erica Schipper — any pregnancy is a risk. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says about 700 women die from pregnancy-related complications each year in the U.S., and the majority of those deaths are preventable.

"It is always more dangerous to be pregnant than not to be pregnant," Schipper said, who is a former chair of the South Dakota Chapter of American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

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There are no exceptions for the long term health of the mother in South Dakota's current abortion law, Schipper said. So, legally, performing an abortion to "preserve the life" of the mother could mean it only applies to when her life is actively in danger, as though she's bleeding out in the emergency room from miscarriage hemorrhaging.

Even then, a doctor might fatally pause.

"It's impossible to itemize every situation where ending a pregnancy might be necessary to protect the health of the mother, and we shouldn't have to demonstrate evidence of imminent death to care for these patients without fear of a felony charge," Schipper said.

"These patients and families deserve dignity to determine when and how they'll manage their own complications rather than being told what to do by people who don't have medical knowledge and people they've never met," she added.

Attempts to define health & life of the mother exception

House Assistant Majority Leader Taylor Rehfeldt introduced a bill during the 2023 legislative session that would have redefined when physicians can intervene to end a pregnancy, hoping to clarify the issue for physicians. But she requested a committee table it because she didn't believe there was enough support to pass the bill — mostly due to opposition from the anti-abortion group South Dakota Right to Life.

A second, last-minute attempt to clarify the definition by Sen. Erin Tobin, R-Winner, was also halted later in the session. She asked the group's executive director, Dale Bartscher, during a committee hearing about clarifying the health of the mother exception in the future.

"Right to Life definitely will continue to collaborate with anyone on issues of protection of the mother and the baby in the mother's womb," Bartscher said.

"Wonderful," Tobin responded. "It seems like it's a very high priority in this statement. I'll be expecting further work on that."

Rehfeldt has vowed to bring the bill back to the Legislature in 2024 — which will likely be months before South Dakotans vote on whether to amend the state constitution to allow abortions in the first trimester.

The amendment — which petitioners are circulating now, in an attempt to get it on the ballot — would allow abortions in the first trimester for any reason, in the second trimester when "reasonably related" to the physical health of the mother, and in the third trimester only when an abortion is "necessary to preserve the life or physical or emotional health of the pregnant woman."

Rehfeldt, who works as a nurse, is in the midst of her own high-risk pregnancy, stemming from complications from a stroke she suffered in 2014. She plans to take time this summer and while on maternity leave to educate fellow lawmakers about the risks associated with pregnancy.

"There's still an appetite to figure this out and come together for a solution," Rehfeldt said.

In a survey conducted by The SDSU Poll in 2022, the majority of the survey's 565 respondents indicated they support abortion in the case of "health of mother" — nearly 85%.

"We have to listen to the general population and what they think is reasonable," Rehfeldt said. "I believe the general population believes the life of the mother is and always should be a priority."

But "there is a significant mountain to climb," she added. Rehfeldt hopes concerned physicians will help explain the difficulties navigating South Dakota's current abortion law to legislators and the public.

Pro-life physicians say the law is 'adequate'

Bartscher told South Dakota Searchlight that his organization hasn't "heard from any South Dakota doctors" who want clarification of the trigger law, but that they have heard from other doctors who say they can function within the guidelines.

"South Dakota Right to Life's commitment has always been and will be to work with legislators and the Governor's Office to pass laws that protect the unborn and support women and families who are experiencing unplanned pregnancies," Bartscher said in a statement. "We will champion a respect for the dignity of human life at all stages of life — from conception to natural death."

State law defines abortion as "the intentional termination of the life of a human being in the uterus," which encompasses all reasons for termination: elective or medical reasons.

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And according to Glenn Ridder — a family physician and medical director of Sioux Falls-based pregnancy help center, the Alpha Center — medical intervention meant to save the life or health of the mother, even if it poses a threat to the fetus' life, would be legal by that existing definition. That's because if the baby dies because of treatment — either to treat cancer or severe seizures or infection or other medical issues — that is a secondary effect of the treatment and isn't "intentional."

However, South Dakota's top law enforcement officer Attorney General Marty Jackley did not offer an interpretation of abortion exception. That wouldn't be determined until a case appears in court.

"It is not appropriate for the Attorney General's Office to address hypotheticals concerning the application of the abortion exception for the life of the mother," Jackley told South Dakota Searchlight in a statement.

Chamberlain-based OB-GYN Patti Giebink said she believes the current law is "adequate," but she also expressed a willingness to amend it. The "Unexpected Choice" book author is a licensed physician, but she does not currently practice as she's promoting her book and attending speaking events.

If doctors have done "everything possible" to ensure a pregnancy is nonviable and one that's life-threatening to the mother, Giebink said, then they shouldn't have to worry about terminating it.

"If some OB doctors need reassurance that what they're doing is ethical, then fine," Giebink said, "let's put some doctors together to answer that question of how we can better define the life of the mother, but it'll never be all inclusive."

Feeling 'trapped' by trigger law

It's difficult to ask women who have terminated pregnancies for medical reasons to share their stories and educate others, Rehfeldt said. That's because there's a stigma and "unnecessary shame" surrounding the conversation.

Hoefert agreed.

Although she's lost all three of her pregnancies, she and her partner will still celebrate Mother's Day and Father's Day each year.

She may never have biological children to cart to soccer practice or introduce to coworkers, but there is still value in her life outside of motherhood — in the children she works with, the babies she brings into the world and the people she helps on a daily basis as a doctor.

"I can't imagine what it would be like had I been trapped without any control of what would happen to me, my child and the rest of my life," Hoefert said. "To have no control over that decision is absolutely terrifying."

The intervention of governmental officials makes it feel like "there's more than just you and the patient in the exam room," Schipper said. She worries that the current law will impact future doctors' choices to practice medicine in the state.

"The critical point," Schipper said, "is that not all pregnancies are uncomplicated and that health care decisions in these situations should be made by those patients in consultation with their doctors and their own families."

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

Landowner battles against pipelines vary by state

BY: JARED STRONG - MAY 13, 2023 2:06 PM

Sprawling Midwestern pipelines that would carry captured carbon dioxide from ethanol plants and other facilities would change little when they cross state lines.

The proposals would be constructed the same way in Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska and the Dakotas — with carbon steel pipe ranging from 4 to 24 inches in diameter with operating pressures of up to 2,200 pounds per square inch.

But the rules and procedures that determine whether they can be built in the first place vary widely among those states.

They range from seemingly no rules at all in Nebraska to Iowa's robust system, which puts all regulation

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of the pipelines' construction and operation into the hands of one governing body.

Yet, even in states with rules that give a measure of protection to people who own land in the path of the pipelines, there are calls to strengthen those protections.

In three of the states, legislation failed this year that would have restricted or prevented the companies from using eminent domain to gain land easements. It remains unclear whether regulators and courts in each of the states will decide that the projects are worthy of that forced power.

Some counties have adopted stricter rules about where the pipelines can be built, and landowners are arguing in court that merely allowing the companies to survey land without permission is unconstitutional.

"This is just the beginning," said Vicki Hulse, a northwest Iowa landowner who is challenging Iowa's survey law and alluded to further legal challenges as the permit processes advance. "There's a long ways to go."

The most prominent projects have been proposed by Navigator CO2 Ventures and Summit Carbon Solutions.

Navigator wants to build about 1,300 miles of pipe — mostly in Iowa — to transport the greenhouse gas to Illinois for underground sequestration or other commercial purposes.

Summit plans a route of more than 2,000 miles that would end with sequestration in North Dakota.

The Wild West

While Nebraska has laws concerning pipeline transport of hazardous liquids, such as crude oil, it has not adopted regulations or oversight of carbon dioxide pipelines.

A proposal in 2022, which failed to advance in the Nebraska Legislature, was aimed at requiring companies that build carbon dioxide pipelines to remove the pipe once the pipeline was abandoned.

A decade ago, in reaction to the controversial Keystone XL pipeline and its initially proposed route across the state's fragile Sandhills, the Nebraska Legislature passed laws governing the routing of hazardous liquid pipelines. But those do not pertain to carbon dioxide projects.

Right now, some counties are considering local ordinances concerning the pipelines, according to Jane Kleeb, founder of Bold Nebraska, the citizen group that led the opposition to the Keystone XL crude oil pipeline. She said at least 430 landowners are rejecting offers to sell right-of-way to carbon dioxide pipeline developers in the Midwest.

Omaha lawyer Brian Jorde, who represents many of those landowners, said he doesn't believe that the pipelines have the right to use eminent domain to obtain right-of-way under Nebraska law, an issue that will likely end up in court.

At this time, none of the companies planning a carbon-capture pipeline in Nebraska — Navigator CO2 Ventures, Carbon America or Summit Carbon Solutions — has filed any eminent domain actions in that state, according to Jorde.

"As long as they don't try to use it against any of my clients, they'll be fine," he said.

Jorde thinks Nebraska's lack of a permitting process for carbon dioxide pipelines will benefit landowners if they must fight against eminent domain. Other states with laws about the permitting process explicitly say that eminent domain is allowed for the projects. Nebraska has no such edict.

Similar processes

All the other states have a board or commission to review and decide whether to grant pipeline permits. Some have publicly elected members and others are composed of governors' appointees.

North and South Dakota have three-person commissions with elected members.

The commissions in Illinois and Minnesota have five members appointed by their governors, although the Illinois Commerce Commission cannot, by law, have more than three members of the same political party affiliation.

The Iowa Utilities Board has three members who are appointed by Gov. Kim Reynolds, who recently named a new chairperson. That prompted the existing chairperson — who was still set to serve on the board for several years — to "step down."

All of the states' permit processes share the goals of evaluating the need for the projects, the environmental impacts and the best routes.

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Iowa, Illinois and South Dakota hold one final hearing to make those determinations, and Illinois' commission has 11 months from the application date to make its decision about whether to issue a permit.

North Dakota's commission holds five final hearings in different parts of the state, the last of which for Summit is scheduled for June 2 in Bismarck.

Minnesota is an outlier: An administrative law judge presides over multiple hearings to determine the need for a pipeline and its proper route. The judge submits a finding of facts to the commission along with legal conclusions and recommendations. Then the commission decides.

Iowa is unique in that it is the only state to empower its board or commission with discretion over eminent domain. In the other states, eminent domain is handled by the courts after pipeline permits are granted.

Landowner interactions

The states also vary widely in how they govern — or don't — the communications among pipeline companies and affected landowners.

Those communications most often pertain to informing the public about the projects, surveying land to help determine a pipeline path, negotiating for easements and, potentially, eminent domain.

"All of these are state-by-state, uniquely different permitting processes," said Elizabeth Burns-Thompson, vice president of government and public affairs for Navigator. "How and when we communicate with landowners. How and when we go about negotiation."

In Iowa, the companies are required to hold informational meetings in each of the affected counties, after which they can begin negotiations with landowners and survey land without fear of trespassing charges — although that survey law was recently found by a district court judge to be unconstitutional.

There are similar rules for land surveys in the Dakotas, but in Illinois there is nothing in the law that forces the surveys until after a permit is issued and eminent domain is sought.

Negotiations for easements or rights of way can begin whenever in the Dakotas. In Illinois, the companies are required to send notifications by certified mail and can follow up in other ways if there is no response. The companies must generally show a "good faith" effort to negotiate before starting the eminent domain process.

Legislation that ultimately failed in Iowa this year would have broadly curtailed the companies' ability to conduct surveys without landowner permission and would have prevented them from limitless contact in regard to negotiations.

Court challenges so far

Jorde predicted it will be at least three years before all the legal challenges related to the pipeline projects are settled.

Dozens of lawsuits have been filed in Iowa and North and South Dakota regarding the pipelines. Most of them have been initiated by the pipeline companies.

In North Dakota, Summit has sued landowners to get access to their properties for land surveys. A judge in that state recently upheld the law that allows the surveys as constitutional.

In South Dakota, there are more than 100 pending state and federal court proceedings related to the pipeline proposals. Summit has sued landowners to gain access to their property for surveys and counties for moratoriums and other actions that would block construction of its pipeline.

Recently, Summit initiated more than 80 eminent domain proceedings in South Dakota court. Each of those cases will likely take a year or more to decide and must conclude before construction can begin, Jorde said: "That's a humongous roadblock."

And some landowners have sued Summit, claiming the company lacks legal authority to enter their land for surveys or to exercise eminent domain.

In Iowa, Summit and Navigator have sued landowners and counties and also the Iowa Utilities Board to prevent it from releasing certain information they have provided to the board as part of the permit process.

The lawsuits against landowners have sought to obtain injunctions to gain access to their properties, and more than 10 suits are pending in different counties. The landowners are arguing that Iowa's pipeline land survey law is unconstitutional, and there is the potential for multiple, conflicting rulings.

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In the first case to be decided — one of Navigator's lawsuits — a judge ruled that the law is unconstitutional because it does not provide compensation for the duress landowners suffer by the mere act of the forced entries onto their properties. The law provides compensation for actual damage caused to land, which Navigator has said satisfies a constitutional requirement that land cannot be taken without appropriate compensation. In another Iowa county, a judge upheld the constitutionality of the law. A decision by a third judge in another county is pending.

A trial is also pending for a Summit land surveyor who was charged with trespassing in Dickinson County. The Iowa Supreme Court recently declined to review a district court judge's decision to let the case proceed to trial.

Paul Hammel of the Nebraska Examiner and Joshua Haiar of the South Dakota Searchlight contributed reporting for this article.

Jared Strong is the senior reporter for the Iowa Capital Dispatch. He has written about Iowans and the important issues that affect them for more than 15 years, previously for the Carroll Times Herald and the Des Moines Register. His investigative work exposing police misconduct has notched several state and national awards. He is a longtime trustee of the Iowa Freedom of Information Council, which fights for open records and open government. He is a lifelong Iowan and has lived mostly in rural western parts of the state.

Congressional Roundup: Thune aims to close crop insurance loophole

Thune teams up with Klobuchar to expand sodsaver program nationwide

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - MAY 13, 2023 1:30 PM

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

Sen. John Thune, R-South Dakota, teamed up with Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minnesota, to introduce legislation to discourage the conversion of undisturbed grasslands to cropland. The proposed bill expands the existing "sodsaver" policy, currently in place in prairie pothole states like South Dakota and Minnesota.

The legislation addresses a crop insurance loophole that lets farmers substitute historical data from previously cultivated land when applying for insurance on newly converted grasslands. This loophole results in higher premiums and higher payouts for claims that do not accurately reflect the converted land's productivity.

Typically, undisturbed grasslands produce less than previously cultivated land. By closing this loophole, the program aims to reduce the likelihood of marginal grasslands being converted to cropland.

"By applying sodsaver nationwide, taxpayers would save money, and America's diminishing prairie grasslands would be protected, which is critical for livestock producers who rely on grazing," Thune said.

The bill, the American Prairie Conservation Act, would:

Reduce insurance and disaster assistance benefits for native sod acreage tilled for crop production.

Establish that native sod acreage tilled to produce an insurable crop, other than hay or forage crops, is subject to lower insurance benefits for four cumulative years.

Require producers report tilled native sod acreage to the USDA. The USDA would be required to submit annual reports on native sod losses for each county and state.

China and trade

Thune and Sen. Angus King, an independent from Maine, reintroduced a resolution they said "confronts China's self-designation status as a developing country at the World Trade Organization."

The resolution says the World Trade Organization (WTO) should reform its special and differential treatment rules so globally competitive countries like China — which has the world's second-largest economy — cannot designate themselves as developing countries to gain unfair trade advantages.

"Meaningful reforms at the WTO need to be made, and reserving special treatment for truly developing

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countries would be a good start," Thune said in a press release.

When China entered the WTO in 2001, its development status was vastly different than it is in 2023, Thune and King said. China is now a major source of foreign direct investment and provides billions of dollars for cross-border infrastructure through its Belt and Road Initiative and other geo-economic projects.

Recognizing Native veterans

Sen. Mike Rounds, R-South Dakota, and Sen Ben Ray Luján, D-New Mexico led a group of 34 senators in introducing a bill to officially recognize the National American Indian Veterans, or NAIV. Rounds and Luján are members of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs.

The NAIV is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization headquartered on the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Reservation in South Dakota that advocates for Native American veterans across the U.S.

The proposed legislation would grant a congressional charter to the NAIV. Charters have been granted to veterans groups representing other communities, but no Native American veterans' organization has yet received one.

"Native Americans serve in our nation's military at five times the national average, and this charter would give them the recognition they truly deserve and have earned," Rounds said.

There are over 140,000 Native American veterans in the country, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Rounds lukewarm on Trump

Reporters in Washington, D.C., caught up with Rounds on Tuesday after a New York jury found former President Donald Trump liable for sexually abusing E. Jean Carroll in the 1990s and awarded her \$5 million in damages.

According to the political news website Politico, Rounds was asked about the news and said, "You never like to hear that a former president has been found in a civil court guilty of those types of actions."

When asked if he could support somebody who's been found liable for sexual battery, Rounds said, "I would have a difficult time doing so."

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

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Is the Maine lobster industry sustainable and why are the fishermen suing Monterey Bay Aquarium?

-- Derek Wilson, Bangor, ME

When one thinks of Maine, they can't help but think of Maine Lobsters. Lobster has been an integral part of Maine's culture and economy for centuries. In fact, the beginnings of the Maine Lobster industry can be traced back to the colonial settlement of the region in the 17th century, and is one of the oldest continually operating industries in North America. Since then, it has grown to become one of the most iconic industries in the country, and currently contributes over \$1 billion to the Maine economy annually via the harvesting of over 100 million pounds of lobster every year. However, whether or not the Maine lobster industry is environmentally sustainable has come into question in recent years.

The Maine lobster industry touts a fairly sustainable record. It has a number of sustainable fishing practices in place including tail notching (the marking of an egg-bearing female lobster to signify that it cannot be harvested), minimum and maximum lobster size limits and trap size limits.

Laws to protect Maine lobster populations began in 1872 with the outlawing of harvesting egg-bearing female lobsters. Since then, the industry has continued to project lobster populations as well as other local marine life. The industry claims to have reduced lobster gear entanglements by 90 percent, as well as removed 27,000 miles worth of fishing lines.

Despite these measures, the Maine lobster industry has come under attack lately by environmental groups who claim that the industry's fishing practices are harmful to the endangered North Atlantic right whale. One of these groups, Monterey Bay Aquarium Foundation, changed their sustainability rating of Maine lobster under claims of harm to the right whale, thus discouraging customers from buying Maine's most iconic delicacy. As a result, the Maine lobster industry sued the foundation, arguing that there is no evidence that its fishing practices are to blame for any harm to the endangered whale species.

Environmental groups believe that lobster fishing practices are to blame for right whale deaths, while the lobster industry denies these claims, stating that there have been no right whale deaths traced back to the Maine lobster industry. Environmental groups counter that it is difficult to trace deaths back to specific industries or commercial fishermen, so there is no way to prove their innocence. While fishing regulations have been introduced by these groups, Maine politicians have backed the lobster industry and helped to delay the passing of new fishing regulations in order to protect their state's \$1.5 billion industry. As it stands, the Maine lobster industry is embroiled in a contentious debate between the survival of an iconic and economically critical industry, and the survival of the local ecosystem and an endangered species.

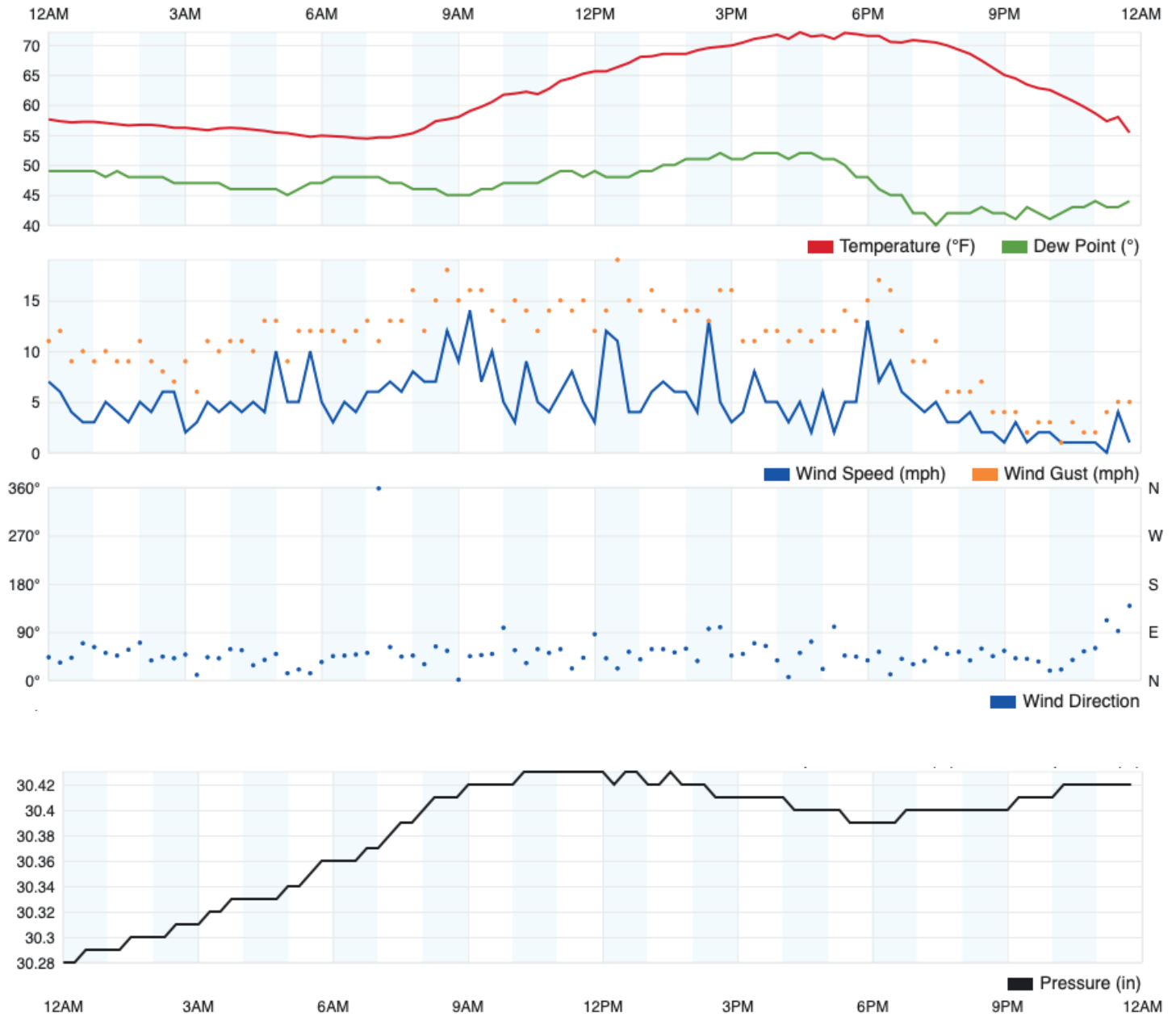


Caption: The debate rages on whether the Maine lobster industry is culpable for right whale declines in recent years. Credit: Roddy Scheer.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs




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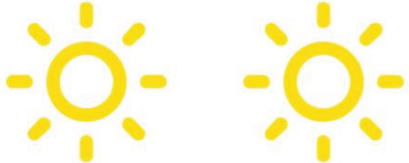
Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Chance T-storms	Chance Showers
High: 75 °F	Low: 48 °F	High: 80 °F	Low: 51 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 55 °F	High: 71 °F

Today
May 15, 2023




Highs 69 to 77°
Some morning fog, becoming sunny

Tuesday *Wednesday*



76 to 81° 77 to 83°



Some morning fog will give way to sunny skies today as high pressure becomes dominant over the area. Temperatures will be increasing through the week. Some rain chances arrive Wednesday afternoon/evening and continue through Thursday.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 72 °F at 4:28 PM

Low Temp: 54 °F at 6:50 AM

Wind: 19 mph at 12:28 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 14 hours, 57 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 103 in 1931

Record Low: 23 in 2014

Average High: 70

Average Low: 44

Average Precip in May.: 1.65

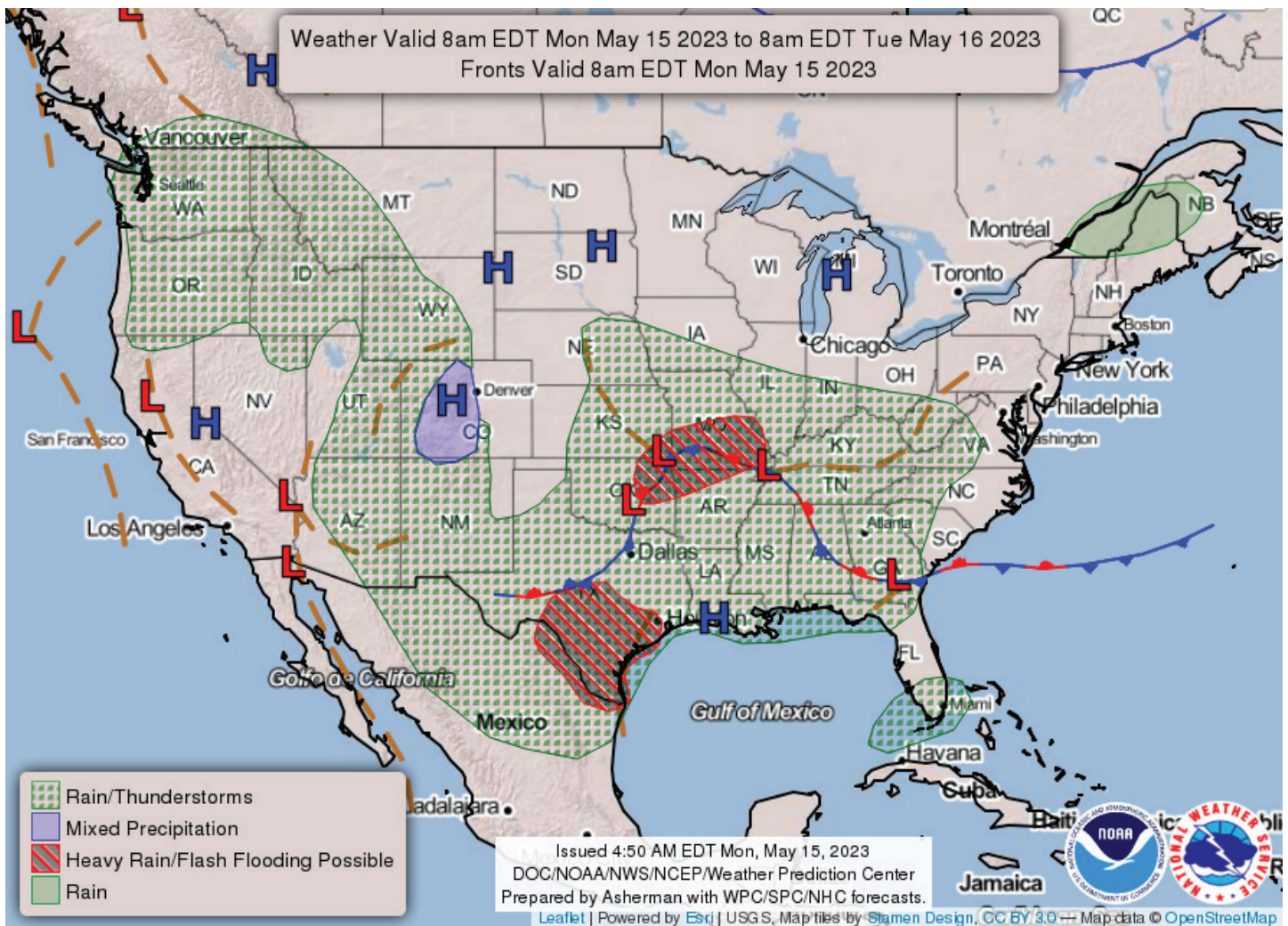
Precip to date in May.: 1.90

Average Precip to date: 5.62

Precip Year to Date: 7.62

Sunset Tonight: 8:57:26 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:58:56 AM



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Today in Weather History

May 15, 1964: A two-day rainfall event ended with 3.57 inches at Rapid City. Damage to roads and bridges was reported in the northern Black Hills.

1834 - The Northern Atlantic Coast States were in the midst of their greatest May snowstorm of record. The hills around Newbury, VT, were covered with two to three feet of snow. (David Ludlum)

1896: An estimated F5 tornado struck Sherman, Texas, killing 73 people; 60 of them in downtown. Tornado victims were found as far as 400 yards away from their original location. A trunk lid was carried 35 miles by the twister.

1957: An F4 tornado killed 20 people in Silverton, Texas. A 5,000-pound gasoline storage tank was reportedly carried 1.5 miles and dropped into a lake. Residents said the tornado "looked like red sand, boiling and rumbling."

1968: Also, an F5 tornado moved through Butler, Chickasaw, Floyd, Franklin, and Howard Counties in northeast Iowa. The tornado touched down northeast from north of Hansell, passing east of Aredale and Marble Rock, before devastating Charles City. The tornado grew more massive and intense as it approached Charles City. The huge funnel passed directly through town, destroying 337 homes, and causing about \$30 million in damage. The tornado continued to the northeast hitting Elma. From there the tornado turned to the north and dissipated south of Chester, 4 miles south of the Minnesota border. Nearly 2000 homes were damaged or destroyed. All 13 deaths occurred in Floyd County. 450 injuries were reported in Floyd County and 12 injuries in Howard County. Another F5 tornado moved north-northeast from southwest of Oelwein to Maynard and east of Randalia in Fayette County, IA. Homes were leveled and swept away in both Oelwein and Maynard. The warning sirens had sounded for only 15 seconds before the power failed in Oelwein. Nearly 1000 homes were damaged or destroyed along the path, and 34 people had to be hospitalized. Almost 1,000 families were affected. In addition to these F5 tornadoes, an F2 tornado touched down 6 miles south of Cresco, IA and two weak F1 tornadoes touched down in Dodge County, MN. Also, baseball size hail fell in Fayette County, IA.

1972: The worst ice jam flooding of memory for long-time residents took place along the Kuskokwim River and Yukon River in Alaska. It was the first time since 1890 that the two rivers "flowed as one." The towns of Oscarville and Napaskiak have been entirely inundated.

1968 - A tornado touched down southwest of Anchorage, AK. It was the second of just three tornadoes reported in Alaska since 1950. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Unseasonably warm weather returned to the north central U.S. Seven cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Janestown, ND, with a reading of 96 degrees. Thunderstorms in Utah produced five inches of rain south of Bicknell. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thunderstorms in Oklahoma produced wind gusts to 80 mph in Oklahoma County, and baseball size hail at Pawnee. Hail piled up to a depth of 18 inches south of Pawnee. Hail damage in Oklahoma was estimated at close to 25 million dollars. Thunderstorms in the Upper Midwest produced golf ball size hail around Cleveland, OH, and wind gusts to 83 mph at Angola, IN. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms developing along and north of a stationary front produced severe weather in the south central U.S. Thunderstorms spawned eleven tornadoes, and there were 145 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Softball size hail caused 2.1 million dollars damage at Sherman, TX. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather from the Central Plains Region and Oklahoma to Indiana and western Kentucky. Thunderstorms spawned fifteen tornadoes, including seven in Oklahoma, and there were 165 reports of large hail or damaging winds. A tornado killed one person, injured a dozen others, and caused four million dollars damage at Stillwater, OK. Another tornado injured eight persons at Foyil, OK. Thunderstorms in Oklahoma also produced wind gusts to 92 mph at Oologah Lake, and softball size hail at Canton and north of Oakwood. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

THE POTENTIAL OF PRAISE

He had a burning desire to be a writer even though everything seemed to be against him. As a young man in London, he was only able to attend school for four years. His father was jailed for bad debts, and he had no one to help him.

Finally, he got a job pasting labels on bottles. The owner of the business was kind enough to allow him to sleep in the warehouse where he worked. Every spare moment he had was invested in writing stories. For several years every editor rejected every story he ever wrote. But he refused to give up. He kept writing and submitting his stories.

Finally, one day, one editor wrote him and said that one of his stories had been accepted for publication. He went on in his letter and complimented him for his work. A word of praise and the publication of one story were all that he needed. He continued to write and, after many years, perfected his passion. Today, libraries and bookstores around the world contain many books written by Charles Dickens.

A word of encouragement goes a long way. And a word of encouragement is all that most of us need to "keep on keeping on." Be an "encourager" to someone today!

Prayer: Lord, keep our eyes open and our minds alert to find and help any in need of encouragement. Help us to be an "encourager" that changes lives. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. Hebrews 10:24



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:

05.12.23

1 2 23 40 45 15

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$113,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 15 Hrs 15
DRAW: Mins 13 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.13.23

7 34 35 39 43 10

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$2,900,000

NEXT 15 Hrs 15 Mins 13
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.14.23

5 10 28 45 48 8

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT 14 Hrs 45 Mins 13
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.13.23

1 7 11 24 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$59,000

NEXT 2 Days 15 Hrs 15
DRAW: Mins 13 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.13.23

23 32 52 58 60 3

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT 15 Hrs 14 Mins 13
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

05.13.23

3 15 20 23 46 11

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$135,000,000

NEXT 15 Hrs 14 Mins 13
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

UK promises more arms for Ukraine as Zelenskyy meets Sunak on European tour

By JILL LAWLESS and DANICA KIRKA Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was in Britain Monday on his whirlwind European tour, as the staunch ally of Kyiv promised to give Ukraine hundreds more missiles and attack drones in an effort to change the course of the war.

Zelenskyy landed by helicopter at Chequers, the British leader's official country retreat, and was greeted by Prime Minister Rishi Sunak with a handshake and a hug. It's Zelenskyy's second trip to the U.K. since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

Zelenskyy thanked Britain for its support so far, and said the war was a matter of "security not only for Ukraine, it is important for all of Europe."

Sunak told Zelenskyy that "your leadership, your country's bravery and fortitude are an inspiration to us all."

This is the fourth European country Zelenskyy has visited in the past few days. He is seeking more aid as Ukraine prepares a long-anticipated spring offensive to retake territory seized by Russia.

The Kremlin said it took London's promise to supply Ukraine with more weapons "extremely negatively," but at the same time believed the supplies wouldn't drastically change the course of the war, spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday.

"Britain aspires to be at the forefront among countries that continue to pump weapons into Ukraine," Peskov said. "We repeat once again, it cannot yield any drastic and fundamental influence on the way the special military operation (in Ukraine) is unfolding. But, definitely, it leads to further destruction, further action. ... It makes this whole story for Ukraine much more complicated."

Sunak responded by vowing the U.K.'s long-term support for Ukraine.

Ukraine's leader made an unannounced visit to Paris on Sunday evening to meet French President Emmanuel Macron, after trips to Germany and Italy, where he met those countries' leaders and Pope Francis.

The U.K. has become one of Ukraine's major military allies, sending Kyiv short-range missiles and Challenger tanks and training 15,000 Ukrainian troops on British soil. Last week Britain announced it had sent Ukraine Storm Shadow cruise missiles, which have a range of more than 250 kilometers (150 miles) — the first known shipment of the weaponry that Kyiv has long sought from its allies.

Sunak's office said that on Monday Britain would confirm it was giving Ukraine hundreds more air defense missiles, as well as "long-range attack drones" with a range of more than 200 kilometers (120 miles).

"This is a crucial moment in Ukraine's resistance to a terrible war of aggression they did not choose or provoke," Sunak said. "They need the sustained support of the international community to defend against the barrage of unrelenting and indiscriminate attacks that have been their daily reality for over a year.

"We must not let them down."

Sunak will also push allies to deliver more support to Ukraine at a meeting of Group of Seven leaders in Japan later this week, Downing Street said.

As Zelenskyy visited European capitals, Russia stepped up attacks across Ukraine with drones and missiles over the weekend. On Sunday, Russia shelled two communities in the northern border region of Sumy, the region's military administration said in a statement on its official Telegram channel. It said 109 explosions were recorded.

Zelenskyy's office said Monday that the shelling had killed nine civilians and injured 19 in the past day. Six of the deaths were in the Kherson region. Two civilians were killed in Chuhuiv in the Kharkiv region and one in Prymorsk, which is on the Azov Sea coast about 12 miles (20 kilometers) from Russian-occupied Berdyansk.

The presidential office also reported that Marhanets, which lies across the river from the Zaporizhzhia

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nuke plant, was shelled.

Zelenskyy and Macron met for about three hours on Sunday at the French presidential Elysee Palace — an encounter kept under wraps until shortly before the Ukrainian leader's arrival in Paris.

Macron's office said France would supply dozens of light tanks and armored vehicles "in the weeks ahead," without giving specific numbers. Also promised were more air defense systems, but again details weren't made public.

More Ukrainians will also be made battle-ready, with France aiming to train about 2,000 Ukrainian soldiers in France this year and nearly 4,000 others in Poland as part of a wider European effort, Macron's office said.

France has supplied Ukraine with an array of weaponry, include air defense systems, light tanks, howitzers and other arms and equipment and fuel.

France had dispatched a plane to pick up Zelenskyy in Germany, where he met with Chancellor Olaf Scholz earlier Sunday and discussed his country's planned counteroffensive.

It was his first visit to Berlin since the start of the invasion and came a day after the German government announced a new package of military aid for Ukraine worth more than 2.7 billion euros (\$3 billion), including tanks, anti-aircraft systems and ammunition.

After initially hesitating to provide Ukraine with lethal weapons, Germany has become one of the biggest suppliers of arms to Ukraine, including Leopard 1 and 2 battle tanks, and the sophisticated IRIS-T SLM air defense system. Modern Western hardware is considered crucial if Ukraine is to succeed in its planned counteroffensive.

In the western German city of Aachen, Zelenskyy also received the prestigious International Charlemagne Prize, awarded to him and the people of Ukraine.

On Saturday, he met Francis and Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni in Rome.

On the European trip, Zelenskyy said Ukraine would aim to liberate Russian-occupied areas within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders, and not attack Russian territory.

The Washington Post cited previously undisclosed documents from a trove of U.S. intelligence leaks suggesting that Zelenskyy had considered trying to capture areas in Russia proper for possible use as bargaining chips in peace negotiations to end the war launched by Moscow. This would put him at odds with Western governments that have insisted that weapons they provide must not be used to attack targets in Russia.

Asked about the report, Zelenskyy said: "We don't attack Russian territory, we liberate our own legitimate territory."

"We have neither the time nor the strength (to attack Russia)," he said, according to an official interpreter. "And we also don't have weapons to spare with which we could do this.

"We are preparing a counterattack for the illegally occupied areas based on our constitutionally defined legitimate borders, which are recognized internationally," Zelenskyy said.

Among areas still occupied by Russia are the Crimean peninsula and parts of eastern Ukraine with mainly Russian-speaking populations.

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

Vice Media files for Chapter 11 bankruptcy, the latest in a string of digital media setbacks

Associated Press undefined

NEW YORK (AP) — Vice Media is filing for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection, the latest digital media company to falter after a meteoric rise.

Vice said Monday that it has agreed to sell its assets to a consortium of lenders — Fortress Investment Group, Soros Fund Management and Monroe Capital — in exchange for \$225 million in credit. Other parties will also be able to submit bids.

The bankruptcy filing arrives just weeks after the company announced it would cancel its flagship "Vice

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News Tonight” program amid a wave of layoffs — which was expected to impact more than 100 employees in the company’s 1,500-person workforce, the Wall Street Journal reported. The company also said it would end its Vice World News brand, making Vice News its only brand worldwide.

Monday’s filing comes amid a wave of media layoffs and closures — including job cuts at Gannett, NPR, the Washington Post and more over recent months. In April, BuzzFeed Inc. announced that its Pulitzer Prize winning digital media outlet BuzzFeed News was being shut down as part of a cost-cutting drive by its corporate parent.

Digital advertising has plummeted this year, cutting into the profitability of major tech companies from Google to Facebook.

Vice Media’s roots date back to 1994, with the launch of Vice’s original punk magazine in Montreal. Vice soon moved to New York and built itself into a global media company.

Over the years, Vice developed a reputation for in-your-face journalism that covered daring stories around the world. The media company’s assets also includes film and TV production, an in-house marketing agency, and brands such as Refinery 29 and Unbothered.

The media company has struggled to turn around profits in recent years. Amid its financial crunch, Vice secured \$30 million in debt financing from Fortress Investment Group in February, the Wall Street Journal reported.

In 2017, Vice was valued at \$5.7 billion. Now, however, most experts estimate the company is worth just a fraction of that, The New York Times reported earlier this month.

Vice co-CEOs Bruce Dixon and Hozefa Lokhandwala said the sale process will strengthen the company and position it for long-term growth, “thereby safeguarding the kind of authentic journalism and content creation that makes VICE such a trusted brand for young people and such a valued partner to brands, agencies and platforms.”

Fixing instead of replacing: Average age of vehicles on US roads hits a record high

By TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — With new and used cars still painfully expensive, Ryan Holdsworth says he plans to keep his 9-year-old Chevy Cruze for at least four more years. Limiting his car payments and his overall debt is a bigger priority for him than having a new vehicle.

A 35-year-old grocery store worker from Grand Rapids, Michigan, Holdsworth would probably be in the market for a vehicle within a few years — if not for the high cost. For now, it’s out of the question.

“You’re not going to get one for a price you can afford,” he said.

Holdsworth has plenty of company. Americans are keeping their cars longer than ever. The average age of a passenger vehicle on the road hit a record 12.5 years this year, according to data gathered by S&P Global Mobility. Sedans like Holdsworth are even older, on average — 13.6 years.

Blame it mainly on the pandemic, which in 2020 triggered a global shortage of automotive computer chips, the vital component that runs everything from radios to gas pedals to transmissions. The shortage drastically slowed global assembly lines, making new vehicles scarce on dealer lots just when consumers were increasingly eager to buy.

Prices reached record highs. And though they’ve eased somewhat, the cost of a vehicle still feels punishingly expensive to many Americans, especially when coupled with now much-higher loan rates.

Since the pandemic struck three years ago, the average new vehicle has rocketed 24% to nearly \$48,000 as of April, according to Edmunds.com. Typical loan rates on new-car purchases have ballooned to 7%, a consequence of the Federal Reserve’s aggressive streak of interest rate hikes to fight inflation.

It’s all pushed the national average monthly auto loan payment to \$729 — prohibitively high for many. Experts say a family earning the median U.S. household income can no longer afford the average new car payment and still cover such necessities as housing, food and utilities.

Used vehicle prices, on average, have surged even more since the pandemic hit — up 40%, to nearly

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\$29,000. With an average loan rate having reached 11%, the typical monthly used-vehicle payment is now \$563.

Faced with deciding between making a jumbo payment and keeping their existing vehicles, more owners are choosing to stick with what they have, even if it means spending more on repairs and maintenance.

Auto mechanics have been struck by the rising ages and mileages of vehicles that now arrive at the shop in numbers they'd never seen before.

"You see cars all the time in here with 250,000, 300,000 miles," said Jay Nuber, owner of Japanese Auto Professional Service, a repair garage near downtown Ann Arbor, Michigan. "They haven't been really having major work or anything. They've just been doing the (routine) service."

It doesn't mean that most owners of older vehicles are necessarily stuck with constant repair bills. One reason people can hold their vehicles for increasingly long periods is that auto manufacturing has improved over time. Engines run longer. Bodies don't rust as quickly. Components last longer.

Yet the cost of buying either a new or used vehicle is leaving more people with essentially no choice but to keep the one they have.

"The repair-versus-buy equation changed," said Todd Campau, an associate director with S&P. Even with rising repair costs, Campau said, it's still typically more cost-effective to fix an older vehicle than to spring for a purchase.

The average vehicle age, which has been edging up since 2019, accelerated this year by a substantial three months. And while 12.5 years is the average, Campau noted, more vehicles are staying on the road for 20 years or more, sometimes with three or four successive owners.

In such cases, the third or fourth owner is getting a much older car than they would have in the past. Nearly 122 million vehicles on the road are more than a dozen years old, Campau said. S&P predicts that the number of older vehicles will keep growing until at least 2028.

Even with more durable vehicles able to last longer, all of this has created a boom time for auto shops. Through most of last year, Nuber's Japanese Auto was overwhelmed with customers. It took up to three weeks to get an appointment, whether for repairs or the routine maintenance that older vehicles, in particular, require.

"The phone just kept ringing, and the cars just kept coming," Nuber said.

It's now at the point where some vehicle owners must decide whether to pay for a repair that costs more than their vehicle is worth. That's where many of them draw the line, said Dave Weber, manager at Japanese Auto.

On Friday, Weber said, one customer needed rear brakes, wheel bearings and exhaust system repairs. The customer decided to do only half the repairs and wait until later to decide whether to sink more money into the aging vehicle.

"They patch them up and drive them for however long, until the next major repair," Weber said.

S&P predicts that U.S. new vehicle sales will reach 14.5 million this year, from about 13.8 million last year. A big reason is that the supply at dealerships is finally growing. Automakers have also begun to restore some discounts that had long helped keep a lid on prices. The result is that many people who can afford to buy can now do so. It's a trend that could slow the advancing age of the U.S. fleet and boost overall sales.

Still, no one is predicting a return to pre-pandemic annual sales of around 17 million anytime soon. Even with discounts, new-vehicle prices are likely to stay much higher than pre-pandemic levels for years to come.

As for Holdsworth, the Chevy Cruze owner, he plans to keep up with the scheduled maintenance on his car, especially routine oil changes. Even if he encountered a major repair, he thinks he'd probably pay for it.

Having bought his vehicle two years ago, Holdsworth has about two years of payments left. So his Cruze, too, may reach the 12.5-year-old national average.

"I'll finish paying it off," he said, "and drive it for a couple more years."

A Texas woman was fatally shot by her boyfriend after she got an abortion, police say

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DALLAS (AP) — A man who didn't want his girlfriend to get an abortion fatally shot her during a confrontation in a Dallas parking lot, police said.

He was jailed on a murder charge as of Friday.

Texas banned abortions after roughly six weeks of pregnancy in September 2021. But nearly all abortions have been halted in Texas since Roe v. Wade was overturned last summer, except in cases of medical emergency.

Gabriella Gonzalez, 26, was with her boyfriend, 22-year-old Harold Thompson, on Wednesday when he tried to put her in a chokehold, according to an arrest warrant affidavit. She had returned the night before from Colorado, where she had gone to get an abortion.

"It is believed that the suspect was the father of the child," the affidavit said. "The suspect did not want (Gonzalez) to get an abortion."

Surveillance video from the parking lot shows Gonzalez "shrugs him off," police said, and the two continue walking. Thompson then pulls out a gun and shoots Gonzalez in the head. She falls to the ground and Thompson shoots her multiple times before running away, the affidavit said.

Thompson was arrested later Wednesday and is being held in the Dallas County Jail without bond. Court records did not list an attorney who could speak on his behalf.

Gonzalez's sister was at the scene and heard the shooting, police said. Another witness saw Thompson try to choke Gonzalez but couldn't call police because she did not have her cell phone.

At the time of the shooting, Thompson had been charged with assault of a family member, who accused him of choking her in March.

The affidavit from March does not specifically name Gonzalez as the person who was assaulted. But it does say the woman told police that Thompson "beat her up multiple times throughout the entirety of their relationship" and that Thompson told police the woman was pregnant with his child at that time.

The woman "reiterated that she is scared of the suspect because he had made threats to harm her family and her children," according to the affidavit.

Turkey appears headed for runoff in presidential race as Erdogan performs better than expected

By SUZAN FRASER and ZEYNEP BILGINSOY Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey's presidential elections appeared headed for a runoff Monday, with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan pulling ahead of his chief challenger, but falling short of an outright victory that would extend his increasingly authoritarian rule into a third decade.

The vote was being closely watched to see if the strategically located NATO country — which has a coast on the Black Sea to the north, and neighbors Iran, Iraq and Syria to the south — remains under the president's firm grip or can embark on a more democratic course envisioned by his main rival, Kemal Kilicdaroglu.

While Erdogan has governed for 20 years, opinion polls had suggested that run could be coming to end amid economic turmoil, a cost-of-living crisis and criticism over the government's response to a February earthquake that killed more than 50,000 people. Western nations and foreign investors were particularly interested in the outcome because of Erdogan's unorthodox leadership of the economy and often mercurial but successful efforts to put Turkey at the center of international negotiations, including in Ukraine.

With 99.4% of the domestic votes and 84% of the overseas votes counted, Erdogan had 49.4% of the votes, with Kilicdaroglu, garnering 45%, Ahmet Yener, the head of the Supreme Electoral Board, told reporters. A third candidate, nationalist politician Sinan Ogan received 5.2%.

Erdogan, 69, told supporters in the early hours of Monday that he could still win. He said, however, that he would respect the nation's decision if the race went to a runoff on May 28 — a vote that may favor him since his alliance looked set to retain its majority in parliament.

Opinion polls in the runup to Sunday's vote had given Kilicdaroglu, the joint candidate of a six-party op-

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position alliance, a slight lead over Erdogan, who has governed Turkey as either prime minister or president since 2003.

Kilicdaroglu sounded hopeful for a second-round victory.

"We will absolutely win the second round ... and bring democracy" said Kilicdaroglu, 74, maintaining that Erdogan had lost the trust of a nation now demanding change.

Ogan has not said whom he would endorse if the elections go to a second round. He is believed to have received support from electors wanting change after two decades under Erdogan but unconvinced by the Kilicdaroglu-led six party alliance's ability to govern.

The election results showed that the alliance led by Erdogan's ruling Justice and Development Party looked like it would keep its majority in the 600-seat parliament, although the assembly has lost much of its legislative power after a referendum to change the country's system of governance to an executive presidency narrowly passed in 2017.

Anadolu news agency said Erdogan's ruling party alliance was hovering around 49.3%, while Kilicdaroglu's Nation Alliance had around 35.2% and support for a pro-Kurdish party stood above 10%.

The fact that Erdogan appears to have held on to his majority increases his chances of winning a second-round vote, with more voters likely to support Erdogan to avoid a split government.

As in previous years, Erdogan led a highly divisive campaign. He portrayed Kilicdaroglu, who had received the backing of the country's pro-Kurdish party, of colluding with "terrorists" and of supporting what he called "deviant" LGBTQ rights. In a bid to woo voters hit hard by inflation, he increased wages and pensions and subsidized electricity and gas bills, while showcasing Turkey's homegrown defense industry and infrastructure projects.

Kilicdaroglu, for his part, campaigned on promises to reverse crackdowns on free speech and other forms of democratic backsliding, as well as to repair an economy battered by high inflation and currency devaluation.

"That the election results have not been finalized doesn't change the fact that the nation has chosen us," Erdogan said.

Results reported by the state-run Anadolu Agency showed Erdogan's party dominating in the earthquake-hit region, winning 10 out of 11 provinces despite criticism of a slow and anemic response by Erdogan's government to the 7.8-magnitude earthquake. Lax implementation of building codes is thought to have exacerbated the casualties and devastation in the 11 southern provinces.

Turkey's conservative heartland overwhelmingly voted for the ruling party, with Kilicdaroglu's main opposition winning most of the coastal provinces in the west and south. The pro-Kurdish Green Left Party, YSP, won the predominantly Kurdish provinces in the southeast.

More than 64 million people, including the overseas voters, were eligible to vote and nearly 89% voted. This year marks 100 years since Turkey's establishment as a republic — a modern, secular state born on the ashes of the Ottoman Empire.

Voter turnout in Turkey is traditionally strong, despite the government suppressing freedom of expression and assembly over the years and especially since a 2016 coup attempt. Erdogan blamed the failed coup on followers of a former ally, cleric Fethullah Gulen, and initiated a large-scale crackdown on civil servants with alleged links to Gulen and on pro-Kurdish politicians.

Erdogan, along with the United Nations, helped mediate a deal with Ukraine and Russia that allowed Ukrainian grain to reach the rest of the world from Black Sea ports despite Russia's war in Ukraine. The agreement, which is implemented by a center based in Istanbul, is set to expire in days, and Turkey hosted talks last week to keep it alive.

But Erdogan also has held up Sweden's quest to join NATO, contending that nation has been too lenient on followers of the U.S.-based cleric and members of pro-Kurdish groups that Turkey considers national security threats.

Critics maintain the president's heavy-handed style is responsible for a painful cost-of-living crisis. The latest official statistics put inflation at about 44%, down from a high of around 86%. The price of vegetables became a campaign issue for the opposition, which used an onion as a symbol.

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In contrast with mainstream economic thinking, Erdogan contends that high interest rates fuel inflation, and he pressured the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey to lower its main rate multiple times.

Government says dogs can dine al fresco but not everyone is on board

By DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Business Writer

Just in time for the summer dining season, the U.S. government has given its blessing to restaurants that want to allow pet dogs in their outdoor spaces.

But even though nearly half of states already allow canine dining outdoors, the issue is far from settled, with many diners and restaurants pushing back against the increasing presence of poodles.

"I'd like to be able to enjoy my meal without having to worry about fleas, pet hair, barking and entitled dogs and their owners," said Tracy Chiu Parisi, a food blogger in New York, who was once startled by a dog that stuck its head in her lap while she was reading a menu.

Restaurants have been required to allow service dogs for decades. But it wasn't until the mid-2000's that a handful of states — including Florida and Illinois — began passing laws allowing dogs in outdoor dining spaces, according to the Animal Legal and Historical Center at Michigan State University. Twenty-three states now have such laws or regulations.

But the legal landscape is confusing. Michigan law doesn't allow dogs in outdoor dining spaces, for example, but lets restaurants apply for a variance from their county health department.

So in 2020, the Conference for Food Protection — a group of food industry and health experts that advises the government — asked the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to issue guidance for states. It cited a 2012 risk assessment in Australia and New Zealand that found that the health risk to human diners from dogs was very low.

The FDA's updated food code, issued late last year, says restaurants can have dogs in outdoor areas if they get approval from a local regulator. Restaurants should have signs saying dogs are welcome and should develop plans to handle dogs and their waste. They should ensure dogs remain properly restrained and provide separate food bowls so dogs don't use plates or utensils meant for humans.

The new guidance comes as U.S. pet ownership is rising. Nearly 87 million U.S. households now have a pet, up from 85 million in 2019, according to the American Pet Products Association.

And experts say more people are looking for dining options that will accommodate their dogs. Yelp searches for businesses using the "dogs allowed" filter jumped 58% between the year ending May 1, 2021, and the year ending May 1, 2023. A total of 47,415 businesses now describe themselves as "dog friendly" on Yelp, the company says.

"Younger pet owners, Millennials and Generation Z, have incredibly strong bonds with their pets and they are willing to act upon that," said Steven Feldman, president of the Human Animal Bond Research Institute. "They are more likely to frequent — and express a preference for — pet-friendly businesses."

Monty Hobbs, the managing director of a digital marketing agency in Washington, can often be found at local restaurant patios with Mattox, his 5-year-old terrier and miniature schnauzer mix. Some waiters even bring Mattox bits of bacon.

Hobbs stresses that he doesn't take Mattox everywhere. "He's my dog. He's not my child," he said.

But Mattox is well-behaved, he said, so it's nice to know they can drop in at a neighborhood bar if they're out taking a walk.

At Zazie, a San Francisco bistro, diners get \$10 off a bottle of wine on Mondays if they bring their dogs, who get treats donated by the pet store across the street.

"It's great for business. People really enjoy bringing their dog out with them," said Megan Cornelius, Zazie's co-owner.

But other restaurants are saying no to Fido.

The Salty Dog Café in Hilton Head, South Carolina, allowed dogs on its patio when it first opened in 1987. But two years later, it banned them. Too many dogs were barking through meals, fighting, lying in

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walkways and stealing hot dogs from kids' plates, says Tim Stearns, the Salty Dog's chief operating officer. If diners object, the Salty Dog points them to a separate dog-friendly deck where they can eat takeout food from the restaurant. But most diners seem to appreciate the policy.

"We are all dog lovers at Salty Dog, but we remain a restaurant for humans," Stearns said.

The Blond Giraffe Key Lime Pie Factory in Key West, Florida, banned dogs because it didn't want to be held responsible if a dog ate iguana droppings — which can make them violently ill — or tripped a child or an elderly diner. In at least one case, an unleashed dog at the restaurant killed a neighborhood cat.

Julie Denzin, who has worked as a restaurant server in Milwaukee for more than a decade, has watched dogs drool, fight, growl and relieve themselves on restaurant patios. Dogs have bitten her and knocked her over, causing her to spill scalding hot coffee. She has also encountered diners who are allergic to dogs or afraid of them.

Denzin doesn't think dogs should be banned, but says restaurants should consider designating dog-friendly areas or specific hours when dogs are allowed.

"It's not a matter of liking or disliking dogs," she said. "The point is, regardless of what the owner might say — no matter how perfect and obedient they insist their dog is — there's no way to ensure the safety and comfort of other guests."

Maddie Speirs, a dog trainer with Pawsitive Futures Dog Training in St. Petersburg, Florida, said many people hire her with the goal of training their dogs to eat out at restaurants. Not every dog is cut out for that, she said; they need to be comfortable with noise and unsolicited interactions and able to be able to sit near food for long periods.

She urges owners to think about who benefits from restaurant visits: them or their dogs.

"If you think it's for your dog, what exactly are they getting out of it?" she said. "It's not as fun of a social interaction for dogs as it is for us."

Minor league host families, once a pillar of pro baseball, phased out by new CBA

By DAVID BRANDT AP Baseball Writer

PHOENIX (AP) — Long before David Peralta was a veteran outfielder for the Los Angeles Dodgers, he was an 18-year-old kid from Venezuela who didn't speak much English playing minor league baseball in Johnson City, Tennessee.

To call it culture shock would be quite the understatement.

"Even little things, like going to the grocery store, were a challenge," Peralta said. "That's why it was so great to have TeriAnn helping."

TeriAnn Reynolds and her family were part of a little-known but vital piece of baseball's minor leagues that dates back decades: host families. Players at the lower levels of the minor leagues in places like Johnson City or Lake Elsinore, California, often stayed at the homes of local families instead of apartments or hotels — a way to save money for low-wage players as they transitioned into their lives as pro athletes.

Host family programs were suspended during the coronavirus pandemic over health concerns. Now, they may never return. When minor league players unionized and reached a historic initial collective bargaining agreement with Major League Baseball in March, the league agreed to double salaries and provide guaranteed housing to most players.

The use of host families was officially outlawed.

"While players are sincerely appreciative of the many fans who hosted players in their homes, they're excited this spring about the first minor league CBA, including salary and housing policy improvements that made the practice unnecessary," the MLBPA said in a statement.

It's true that the changes — particularly when it comes to salary — are widely considered positive among players. Many acknowledge that individual living arrangements are also a step in the right direction, particularly for players with spouses and children. The new arrangements are generally viewed as more professional.

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While a host family was better than an air mattresses in an overcrowded apartment, the preference for players is certainly to be in a furnished unit with adequate living space.

Not that players aren't wistful about the end of host family programs.

"The good was much better than anything bad," Peralta said. "Sometimes, you felt sort of obligated to hang out, but I figured that was the least I could do considering they let me into their home. Honestly, it was a great experience."

Reynolds hosted players for more than a decade, including a handful of eventual big leaguers like Peralta and Donovan Solano. She said it was a wonderful experience — outside of a few "cantankerous kids" — and is sad that more families won't be able to experience it.

Reynolds' ability to speak Spanish was a huge plus in a place like Johnson City, which for years was the rookie league franchise for the St. Louis Cardinals. It was among the lowest levels of the minor leagues, filled with 17- and 18-year-olds, some of whom had never been in the United States.

"The thing I loved the most was being able to call a player's family in the Dominican Republic, Colombia or Venezuela and let their parents know that their son was in a good place," Reynolds said. "Sometimes the families would be able to make the trip to the U.S., and it was always so great to meet them."

The role of host families varied from place to place, but for most, it was pretty basic. Players usually got a room, a bed and access to a few good meals each day. Reynolds said she usually had one or two players at a time, but there was one summer that six players were staying at her house because it was a better option than one of the local hotels.

"It was like a giant party all the time," Reynolds said laughing. "It wasn't ideal, but it was so much fun."

Lora and Matt Greco hosted players in Lake Elsinore — a Class A affiliate for the San Diego Padres — for three seasons from 2017-19. Their tenants included future big-league pitchers Joey Lucchesi and David Bednar.

The Grecos are originally from Pennsylvania and Bednar was born in Pittsburgh, so the connection was instant. One weekend, Lora knew Bednar had a day off so she made a spread of Pittsburgh-area food favorites.

"He did a video chat with his family back home, showing them everything," Lora said, laughing. "I was just glad to make him feel at home."

The Grecos said Lucchesi used to stop at a gas station on his way home from games, pick up a movie from a Redbox in the parking lot, and then come home for a family movie night.

"If there's no host families, you lose a little of that personal connection," Lora said. "We're very disappointed."

Arizona Diamondbacks reliever Andrew Chafin said he had fond memories of the summer he stayed with a family in Visalia, California, in 2012 when he was in Class A. That family loved to hunt and fish — which was right in Chafin's leisure wheelhouse — and he said the friendship continues to this day.

"I can't speak for everyone, but for me, I wouldn't have changed a thing," Chafin said.

That long-lasting connection was a common refrain for both players and families. Peralta said he invited the Reynolds family to his wedding nearly a decade after he stayed at their house.

Linda Pereira worked for the San Jose Giants — a Class A affiliate of the San Francisco Giants — for 52 years until 2021. One of her main roles was overseeing the franchise's host family program. She hosted a handful of players in emergency situations over the decades but mostly made sure players were matched with good families.

"When I would give players the choice between a hotel or a host family, nine out of 10 wanted to stay with a family," Pereira said. "When you open your home, you're opening your heart. I'm so sad it's not continuing."

Tiffany Fuentes and her family hosted San Jose players from 2012 to 2019, including six future big leaguers — catchers Joey Bart and Trevor Brown, outfielder Adam Duvall, and pitchers Sam Coonrod, Trevor Brown and Tristan Beck.

Beck made his big-league debut earlier this year and the Fuentes family was present in San Francisco.

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"Just watching him warm up, the tears start flowing," Fuentes said. "It's just very emotional, knowing how hard they've worked to get to this point."

Fuentes said her family stays in touch with all the players they've hosted, going to weddings, All-Star Games and even the World Series. Duvall made it for the Braves in 2021 and invited the family out for a game.

"We have a sign in our house that says 'Enter as strangers, leave as friends,' but really, it should say family," Fuentes said.

The host family arrangement lasted for so long in the minors that it's a bond between current and former players. Diamondbacks manager Torey Lovullo recalled a summer in 1987 spent in Toledo, Ohio, playing Class A ball after he was drafted out of UCLA.

He said the host family he stayed with was great, but there was one problem: The ceiling fan in his room squeaked so loud that he was always worried he'd wake up his hosts when he came home from a night game.

So he'd creep downstairs to the basement — where it was cooler anyways — and go to sleep on the couch.

"Looking back on those days," Lovullo said. "That was the minor league experience."

AP Baseball Writer Ronald Blum contributed to this story.

AP MLB: <https://apnews.com/hub/mlb> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Powerful cyclone floods homes, cuts communications in western Myanmar; at least 6 dead, 700 injured

By JULHAS ALAM Associated Press

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — Rescuers on Monday evacuated about 1,000 people trapped by seawater 3.6 meters (12 feet) deep along western Myanmar's coast after a powerful cyclone injured hundreds and cut off communications. Six deaths were reported, but the true impact was not yet clear in one of Asia's least developed countries.

Strong winds injured more than 700 of about 20,000 people who were sheltering in sturdier buildings on the highlands of Sittwe township, such as monasteries, pagodas and schools, according to a leader of the Rakhine Youths Philanthropic Association in Sittwe. He asked not to be named due to fear of reprisals from the authorities in the military-run country.

Seawater raced into more than 10 low-lying wards near the shore as Cyclone Mocha made landfall in Rakhine state Sunday afternoon, he said. Residents moved to roofs and higher floors, while the wind and storm surge prevented immediate rescue.

"After 4 p.m. yesterday, the storm weakened a bit, but the water did not fall back. Most of them sat on the roof and at the high places of their houses the whole night. The wind blew all night," the rescue group leader said.

Water was still about 1.5 meters (5 feet) high in flooded areas later Monday, but rescues were being made as the wind calmed and the sun rose in the sky. He asked civil society organizations and authorities to send aid and help evacuate residents.

Six deaths were reported by Myanmar media and rescue groups. Several injuries were reported in neighboring Bangladesh, which was spared the predicted direct hit.

Mocha made landfall near Sittwe township with winds blowing up to 209 kilometers (130 miles) per hour, Myanmar's Meteorological Department said. By midday Monday, it had weakened to a tropical depression, according to the India Meteorological Department.

The State Administration Council issued disaster declarations for 17 townships in Rakhine state.

High winds crumpled cell phone towers, but in videos collected by local media before communications were lost, deep water raced through streets and wind blew off roofs.

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Myanmar's military information office said the storm had damaged houses and electrical transformers in Sittwe, Kyaukpyu, and Gwa townships. It said roofs were torn off buildings on the Coco Islands, about 425 kilometers (264 miles) southwest of the country's largest city, Yangon.

Volunteers previously said shelters in Sittwe did not have enough food after more people arrived there seeking help.

Mocha largely spared the Bangladeshi city of Cox's Bazar, which initially had been in the storm's predicted path. Authorities had evacuated hundreds of thousands of people before the cyclone veered east.

About a dozen people were injured on Saint Martin's Island, while some 300 homes were either destroyed or damaged, leading Bengali-language daily Prothom Alo reported.

U.N. agencies and aid workers in Bangladesh had prepositioned tons of dry food and dozens of ambulances in the refugee camps that house more than 1 million Rohingya Muslims who fled persecution in Myanmar.

In May 2008, Cyclone Nargis hit Myanmar with a storm surge that devastated populated areas around the Irrawaddy River delta. At least 138,000 people died and tens of thousands of homes and other buildings were washed away.

Roxy Mathew Koll, a climate scientist at the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology in Pune city, said cyclones in the Bay of Bengal are becoming more intense more quickly, in part because of climate change.

Climate scientists say cyclones can now retain their energy for many days. Cyclone Amphan in eastern India in 2020 continued to travel over land as a strong cyclone and caused extensive devastation.

"As long as oceans are warm and winds are favorable, cyclones will retain their intensity for a longer period," Koll said.

Tropical cyclones, which are called hurricanes or typhoons in other regions, are among the world's most devastating natural disasters when they hit densely populated coastal areas.

Minneapolis city council nomination brawlers could be expelled from Minnesota Democratic Party

By JOSH FUNK and TRISHA AHMED Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Minnesota Democratic Party will consider expelling anyone involved in a brawl that broke out at a political event to nominate candidates for a Minneapolis City Council seat.

At least two people were injured in Saturday's confrontation. The head of the state Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, Chair Ken Martin, said on Twitter that he plans to call an emergency meeting later this week to consider banning anyone involved in the assaults from the DFL Party, an affiliate of the national Democratic Party.

Video posted on social media showed the disturbance began after supporters of Minneapolis Council Member Aisha Chughtai took the stage, which caused an uproar among supporters of her challenger, Nasri Warsame. Some Warsame supporters then jumped on stage, shouting, banging on tables and waving signs.

As supporters of both candidates pushed and shoved each other, a party official repeatedly banged a gavel and tried to quiet the crowd but was ignored.

"I was scared some of us might die," said Bridget Siljander, who was on the stage with other Chughtai supporters when they saw people punching, shoving and pushing each other on the floor.

"It was complete chaos," Siljander said, adding they were terrified the fight would turn into a stampede and that it felt -- in the moment -- like an insurrection. Siljander said those who incited the violence should be removed from the party and criminally charged.

Convention chair Sam Doten called the behavior embarrassing and adjourned the event without a nominee being chosen, saying it was no longer safe. It wasn't immediately clear Sunday how the party would proceed with choosing a nominee.

Martin denounced the violence in a statement on Twitter and apologized to Chughtai and her supporters and staff.

"Harassment and violence are unacceptable, and we expect candidates and their campaign teams to

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Such investigations and trials are held behind closed doors and little information is generally released other than vague accusations of infiltration, gathering secrets and threatening state security.

Relations between Washington and Beijing are at their lowest in decades amid disputes over trade, technology, human rights and China's increasingly aggressive approach toward its territorial claims involving self-governing Taiwan and the South China Sea. High-level government visits have been on hold and U.S. companies are delaying major investments amid mixed messaging from Beijing.

The sentencing comes as U.S. President Joe Biden is traveling to Hiroshima, Japan, for the Group of Seven major industrial nations summit, followed by a visit to Papua New Guinea, a Pacific island nation in a region where China has sought to increase its economic, military and diplomatic influence. After Beijing's gains in the area, the U.S. and its Asia-Pacific partners stepped up their regional presence, offering investments and financial support rivaling those furnished by China.

Now the world's second-largest economy, China is expanding its footprint in ports, railways and other infrastructure from Europe to Southeast Asia and beyond.

While the Suzhou court offered no indication of a tie to overall China-U.S. relations, spying charges are highly selective and evidence backing them up is not released. That is standard practice among most countries, who wish to secure their personal connections, networks and access to information.

However, China's authoritarian political system and the ruling Communist Party's absolute control over legal matters, civil society and freedom of information forestalls demands for further information, as well as court appeals.

The U.S. Embassy in Beijing said it was aware of the case, but could not comment further due to privacy concerns. "The Department of State has no greater priority than the safety and security of U.S. citizens overseas," the embassy said in the emailed statement.

The government of Hong Kong, a former British colony that reverted to Chinese control in 1997, had no immediate word on Leung's sentencing.

When it was returned to China, Hong Kong was promised it would retain its financial, social and political liberties, but Beijing has essentially scuttled that commitment since cracking down on pro-democracy protesters and imposing a sweeping national security law in 2020.

Chinese national security agencies have also raided the offices of foreign business consulting firms in Beijing and other cities as part of a crackdown on foreign businesses that provide sensitive economic data.

Foreign companies operating in China have come under increasing pressure as Xi Jinping's government tightens control over the economy. That stands in stark contrast to efforts to lure back foreign investors after draconian COVID-19 pandemic restrictions were lifted at the beginning of the year.

Long pretrial detentions are not unusual in China and prosecutors have broad powers to hold people charged in national security cases, regardless of their citizenship status.

Two Chinese-Australians, Cheng Lei, who formerly worked for China's state broadcaster, and writer Yang Jun, have been held since 2020 and 2019 respectively without word on their sentencing.

Government suspicion is particularly focused on Chinese-born foreign citizens and people from Taiwan and Hong Kong, especially if they have political contacts or work in academia or publishing.

Under Xi, the party has launched multiple campaigns against what it calls foreign efforts to sabotage its rule, without showing evidence. Universities have been ordered to censor discussions of human rights, modern Chinese history and ideas that could prompt questions about total Communist Party control.

Xi's government has also taken a hard line on foreign relations, most recently ordering out a Canadian diplomat in retaliation for Ottawa's expulsion of a staffer at the Chinese embassy accused of threatening a member of the Canadian parliament and his family members living in Hong Kong.

That meshes with Xi's confrontational global stance that has seen China partner with Russia in accusing the West of provoking Moscow's invasion of Ukraine and seeking to overthrow the U.S.-led liberal dominance of global affairs.

What lies ahead for Thailand after dramatic opposition election

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win?

By GRANT PECK and HRVOJE HRANJSKI Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Thailand's opposition racked up a stunning majority of the 500 seats at stake in the race for the House of Representatives, dealing a major blow to the establishment parties and the former general who has led the Southeast Asian country since seizing power in a 2014 coup.

The results of Sunday's general election are a strong repudiation of the country's conservatives and reflect the disenchantment in particular of young voters who want to limit the influence of the military in politics and reform the monarchy.

But the exact shape of the new government is less clear as post-election coalition talks and behind-the-scene negotiations take center stage.

THE RESULTS

With almost all votes counted Monday, the Move Forward Party emerged as the big winner. It captured a projected 151 seats in the lower House by winning over 24% of the popular vote for 400 constituency seats, and more than 36% of the 100 seats allocated by proportional representation.

Tailing a close second is the main opposition Pheu Thai Party, whose combined seat total is projected at 141.

The party of incumbent Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, a former army general who came to power in the 2014 coup, held the fifth spot in the constituency vote and third in the party-preference tally, for a projected total of 36 seats.

Voter turnout was about 75% of the 52 million registered voters.

WHAT NEXT?

Who becomes the next prime minister will depend on a vote set for July that includes all the House lawmakers plus the 250-seat military-appointed Senate, whose members share the establishment's conservative policies. The winner must attain at least 376 of their combined 750 seats.

Opposition parties have criticized the process as undemocratic. It's a legacy of the 2014 coup and a new constitution drafted in its aftermath that was meant to ensure that the military and the state bureaucracy, the main upholders of the royal order, continue to hold sway.

Analysts have pointed out that a lot can still happen before the Election Commission even declares the results valid, a process that can take up to 75 days and will almost certainly include legal challenges.

In the past, the commission and the courts have used their authority to disqualify opposition parties.

WHAT THE OPPOSITION WANTS?

Move Forward leader Pita Limjaroenrat tweeted that he is ready to bring about change as the country's 30th prime minister.

"Whether you agree or disagree with me, I will be your prime minister. Whether you have voted for me or not, I will serve you," he wrote.

Although he energized younger voters with his progressive agenda, the 42-year-old businessman has alarmed conservatives with calls for reform of the monarchy, the institution that has been traditionally treated as sacrosanct.

In 2019, the Constitutional Court ousted his colleague from Parliament on charges of violating the election law and dissolved the Future Forward party, which then changed its name and leadership to become Move Forward.

It had been supporting amending the draconian law that punishes defaming the monarchy, which according to critics has been used to as a tool to quash political dissent and imprison pro-democracy student activists.

Student-led protests beginning in 2020 openly criticized the monarchy, previously a taboo subject, leading to vigorous prosecutions under the law. They were also dismayed by the dissolution of the Future Forward party, which they believed was an unfair use of state power.

THAKSIN'S SHADOW

Pheu Thai is led by Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the 36-year-old daughter of billionaire former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra who was toppled in a 2006 coup.

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The power struggle between Thaksin's supporters, many of them rural poor who benefited from his populist policies, and his conservative opponents has been fought — sometimes in the street, sometimes at the ballot box — for almost two decades.

In the 2014 coup, Prayuth unseated the government of Yingluck Shinawatra — Paetongtarn's aunt, Thaksin's sister — as prime minister. And Pheu Thai topped the field in the 2019 vote, only to be denied power when the army-backed Palang Pracharath Party found partners to assemble a coalition government.

Thaksin, 73, said before Sunday's vote that he wants to return to Thailand from self-exile, even if it means facing justice, including several convictions on charges including abuse of power and corruption.

Hranjski reported from Zagreb, Croatia.

Find more of AP's Asia-Pacific coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/asia-pacific>

'They want change': Opposition parties win big in Thailand election on promises of reform

By GRANT PECK and JINTAMAS SAKSORNCHAI Associated Press

BANGKOK (AP) — Ballots tallied Monday showed voters in Thailand wanted change after nine years under a former general who took power in a coup, with the main opposition parties easily besting other contenders in the general election.

The opposition Move Forward Party outperformed even optimistic projections and appeared poised to capture almost all 33 House seats in the capital Bangkok. Along with the Pheu Thai Party, the favored opposition group, Move Forward campaigned for reform of the military and the monarchy.

Move Forward put those issues closer to the heart of its platform, earning a more radical reputation. Its outspoken support for minor reforms of the monarchy, while winning younger voters, antagonized conservatives committed to the royal institution.

Incumbent Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, who came to power in a 2014 coup, was blamed for a stuttering economy, pandemic response shortcomings and thwarting democratic reforms — a particular sore point with younger voters.

"This is people saying that we want change," said Saowanee T. Alexander, a professor at Ubon Ratchathani University in northeastern Thailand. "They are saying that they could no longer take it. The people are very frustrated. They want change, and they could achieve it."

With more than 99% of ballots counted early Monday, Move Forward appeared to have a small edge over Pheu Thai, whose leaders conceded Sunday they might not finish on top following voter turnout of about 39 million, or 75% of registered voters.

Move Forward leader Pita Limjaroenrat tweeted that he is ready to bring about change should he be the country's 30th prime minister.

"Whether you agree or disagree with me, I will be your prime minister. Whether you have voted for me or not, I will serve you," he wrote.

Sunday's winner is not assured the right to form the new government. A joint session of the 500-seat House of Representatives will be held with the 250-member Senate in July to select the prime minister, a process widely seen as undemocratic because the military appointed the senators, who will vote along with elected lawmakers.

Move Forward captured just over 24% of the popular vote for the 400 constituency seats in the House of Representatives and nearly 36% for seats allocated in a separate nationwide ballot for 100 members elected by proportional representation.

Pheu Thai lagged slightly behind with just over 23% for constituency seats and about 27% for the party list.

The tally of constituency votes gave 113 House seats to Move Forward and 112 to Pheu Thai, according

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to unofficial results Monday from the Election Commission.

Prayuth's United Thai Nation Party held the fifth spot in the constituency vote with almost 9% of the total, but placed third in the party-preference tally with close to 12% and 23 House seats in the constituency vote.

The three parties were considered the most likely to head a new government. Paetongtarn Shinawatra, the 36-year-old daughter of billionaire former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, was favored in opinion polls to be the country's next leader.

Move Forward's 42-year-old businessman leader Pita now seems a likely prospect.

Pheu Thai won the most seats in the 2019 election. But its archrival, the military-backed Palang Pracharath Party, cobbled together a coalition with Prayuth as prime minister and unanimous support from conservative Senate members appointed by the military government after Prayuth's coup.

Ubon University's Alexander cautioned that the current situation remains "very unpredictable" and the results could be unilaterally affected by the Election Commission, which previously disqualified opposition parties or otherwise undermined challenges to the conservative establishment.

She noted the Bhumjaithai Party, which came in third, could be a "swing vote" since the combined Move Forward and Pheu Thai seats may not be enough for a majority coalition. Bhumjaithai controls a large bloc of votes in the northeast and helped put the military-backed coalition into power.

Move Forward's Pita is a possible target for what the opposition, from bitter experience, calls dirty tricks. A Palang Pracharath candidate last week filed a complaint with the Election Commission and the National Anti-Corruption Commission claiming Pita failed to list a stock shareholding on a statutory assets declaration. Pita denied any wrongdoing in the minor, technical claim.

However, the leader of the Future Forward Party, forerunner of Move Forward, lost his Parliament seat on similar technical grounds. His party, also considered a radical challenge to the military-backed royalist establishment, was dissolved.

Tyrell Haberkorn, a University of Wisconsin Thai studies scholar, said there is a chance street protests could be triggered again if Move Forward meets the same fate as its predecessor.

"The time is up for the generals and their allies in the palace and the courts. The military can either listen to the voters and step down gracefully, or lead the country into chaos," Haberkorn said.

Auschwitz museum begins emotional work of conserving 8,000 shoes of murdered children

By VANESSA GERA Associated Press

OSWIECIM, Poland (AP) — In a modern conservation laboratory on the grounds of the former Auschwitz camp, a man wearing blue rubber gloves uses a scalpel to scrape away rust from the eyelets of small brown shoes worn by children before they were murdered in gas chambers.

Colleagues at the other end of a long work table rub away dust and grime, using soft cloths and careful circular motions on the leather of the fragile objects. The shoes are then scanned and photographed in a neighboring room and catalogued in a database.

The work is part of a two-year effort launched last month to preserve 8,000 children's shoes at the former concentration and extermination camp where German forces murdered 1.1 million people during World War II. Most of the victims were Jews killed in dictator Adolf Hitler's attempt to exterminate the Jews of Europe.

The site was located during the war in a part of Poland occupied by German forces and annexed to the German Reich. Today it is a memorial and museum managed by the Polish state, to whom the solemn responsibility has fallen to preserve the evidence of the site, where Poles were also among the victims. The Germans destroyed evidence of their atrocities at Treblinka and other camps, but they failed to do so entirely at the enormous site of Auschwitz as they fled the approaching Soviet forces in chaos toward the war's end.

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Eight decades later, some evidence is fading away under the pressures of time and mass tourism. Hair sheered from victims to make cloth is considered a sacred human remain which cannot be photographed and is not subjected to conservation efforts. It is turning to dust.

But more than 100,000 shoes of victims remain, some 80,000 of them in huge heaps on display in a room where visitors file by daily. Many are warped, their original colors fading, shoe laces disintegrated, yet they endure as testaments of lives brutally cut short.

The tiny shoes and slippers are especially heartrending.

"Children's shoes are the most moving object for me because there is no greater tragedy than the tragedy of children," said Mirosław Maciaszczyk, a conservation specialist from the museum's conservation laboratories.

"A shoe is an object closely related to a person, to a child. It is a trace, sometimes it's the only trace left of the child."

Maciaszczyk said that he and the other conservation workers never lose sight of the human tragedy behind the shoes, even as they focus on the technical aspects of their conservation work. Sometimes they are overcome by emotion and need breaks. Volunteers working with adult shoes in the past have asked for new assignments.

Elżbieta Cajzer, head of the Collections, said conservation work always turns up some individual details of those killed at the camp — suitcases, in particular, can offer up clues because they bear names and addresses. She expects that the work on children's shoes will also reveal some new personal details.

They also open a window into a bygone era when shoes were a valuable good passed from child to child. Some have traces of mended soles and other repairs.

The museum is able to conserve about 100 shoes a week, and has processed 400 since the project began last month. The aim is not to restore them to their original state but to render them as close to how they were found at war's end as possible. Most of the shoes are single objects. One pair still bound by shoelaces is a rarity.

Last year, workers conserving adult shoes found an Italian 100 lire banknote in a lady's high-heeled shoe that was also imprinted with the name Ranzini, which was a shoe manufacturer in Trieste. The owner was likely Italian, but nothing else is known about her.

They also found the name of Věra Vohryzková on a child's shoe. By coincidence, a museum worker had noticed that family name on a suitcase and the museum was able to piece together details about the family. Vera was born Jan. 11, 1939, into a Jewish Czech family and was sent to Auschwitz in a transport from the Theresienstadt ghetto in 1943 with her mother and brother. Her father, Max Vohryzek, was sent in a separate transport. They all perished.

Cajzer described the shoes as powerful testimony also because the huge heaps of shoes that remain give some idea of the enormous scale of the crimes, even though what is left is only a fraction of what was.

Before the SS men sent people into the gas chambers, they ordered them to undress and told them they were going into showers to be disinfected.

"We are able to imagine how many people came here, hoping that they would be able to put those shoes back on after a shower. They thought they would take their shoes back and keep using them. But they never returned to their owners," Cajzer said.

In most cases, the shoes and other possessions were collected and the material used to help the Third Reich in its war effort. The 110,000 shoes in the museum's collection — while massive — most likely came from only the last transports to the camp, Cajzer said.

The project's cost of 450,000 euros (\$492,000) is funded by the Auschwitz-Birkenau Foundation, to which Germany has been a key donor, as well as the International March of the Living, a Holocaust education program.

Both Cajzer and Maciaszczyk said that it is impossible to save the shoes forever, but the goal is to preserve them for more years to come.

"Our conservation today slows down these processes (of decay), but for how long, it's hard to say," Maciaszczyk said.

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work hard to curb such behavior when it comes from their supporters, staffers, or volunteers," Martin said. "Warsame and his team took the opposite approach at today's convention by escalating the situation and encouraging conflict."

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey also condemned the violence.

"The behavior we saw at yesterday's Ward 10 convention was not okay. Physical intimidation, threats, and harassment have no place in our democracy or our politics — not at conventions, not at city council meetings," Frey said on Twitter.

At least one person was treated at a hospital for injuries that were not believed to be life-threatening. A second person was treated at the scene.

Minneapolis police spokesman Brian Feintech said no arrests were made because officers didn't see anyone fighting when they arrived and the crowd was already dispersing.

The scuffle reflects the polarization of politics, both across the country and in Minnesota, where the Democratic party is divided between far-left and moderate forces, said Hamline University political science professor David Schultz. Race and generational differences are also a factor, he said. Meanwhile, the longstanding political practices of conceding a loss and respecting differences of opinion are becoming a lost art.

"Politics has become almost a blood sport or fighting to the end, no matter what," Schultz said.

The central Minneapolis city council district that Chughtai represents includes part of the popular Uptown neighborhood where Prince got his start and includes a mix of Victorian homes and more urban apartments.

Political blogger John Edwards, who posted the video on his Wedge Live site and social media, told the Minneapolis Star Tribune there may have been issues with translating earlier in the day that caused some confusion, and there had been disagreements on rules and procedures. Before Warsame's supporters stormed the stage, Chughtai was getting ready to deliver the first speech of the convention. Warsame would have had the chance to speak next.

Chughtai said in a statement on her website that more than a dozen of her supporters and DFL volunteers were assaulted. She said Warsame delegates "charged the stage assaulting me and my supporters as I was about to begin my convention speech" and that her supporters had to lock themselves in a hospitality room to get away from the conflict.

"What happened at the Ward 10 DFL Convention today was horrifying, unacceptable, and indicative of the growing threat to progressive, pro-people candidates and movement leaders," Chughtai said in the statement.

Warsame said in a Facebook post that his campaign manager was assaulted by a staff member of the Chughtai campaign. He later posted a picture of himself visiting an injured supporter in the hospital.

"Violence & unfairness have no place in democracy!!" Warsame said.

Funk reported from Omaha, Nebraska.

China sentences 78-year-old US citizen to life in prison on spying charges

BEIJING (AP) — China sentenced a 78-year-old United States citizen to life in prison Monday on spying charges, in a case that could exacerbate the deterioration in ties between Beijing and Washington over recent years.

Details of the charges against John Shing-Wan Leung, who also holds permanent residency in Hong Kong, have not been publicly released.

Leung was detained April 15, 2021, by the local bureau of China's counterintelligence agency in the southeastern city of Suzhou, according to a statement posted by the city's intermediate court on its social media site. His detention came after China had closed its borders and imposed tight domestic travel restrictions and social controls to fight the spread of COVID-19.

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NYC skyscrapers turning to carbon capture to lessen climate change

By CATHY BUSSEWITZ AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — From the outside, the residential high-rise on Manhattan's Upper West Side looks pretty much like any other luxury building: A doorman greets visitors in a spacious lobby adorned with tapestry and marble.

Yet just below in the basement is an unusual set of equipment that no other building in New York City — indeed few in the world — can claim. In an effort to drastically reduce the 30-story building's emissions, the owners have installed a maze of twisting pipes and tanks that collect carbon dioxide from the massive, gas-fired boilers in the basement before it goes to the chimney and is released into the air.

The goal is to stop that climate-warming gas from entering the atmosphere. And there's a dire need for reducing emissions from skyscrapers like these in such a vertical city. Buildings are by far the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions here, roughly two-thirds, according to the city buildings department.

New York state's buildings also emit more air pollution than any other state's.

So building owners must make dramatic cuts starting next year or face escalating fines under a new city law. About 50,000 structures — more than half the buildings in the city, are subject to Local Law 97. Other cities such as Boston and Denver followed suit with similar rules.

As a result, property managers are scrambling to change how their buildings operate. Some are installing carbon capture systems, which strip out carbon dioxide, direct it into tanks and prepare it for sale to other companies to make carbonated beverages, soap or concrete.

They see it as a way to meet emissions goals without having to relocate residents for extensive renovations. In this case, the carbon dioxide is sold to a concrete manufacturer in Brooklyn, where it's turned into a mineral and permanently embedded in concrete.

"We think the problem is reducing emissions as quickly as possible," said Brian Asparro, chief operating officer of CarbonQuest, which built the system. "Time is not on our side, and this type of solution can be installed quickly, cost-effectively and without a major disruption."

Yet critics, many of them representing environmental groups, say building managers should be going much further: They argue that to achieve meaningful reductions in emissions, buildings should be significantly upgraded and switched to renewable-powered electricity instead of continuing to burn fossil fuels. They also express concerns about the safety of storing large amounts of carbon dioxide, an asphyxiant, in a densely populated community.

"Carbon capture doesn't actually reduce emissions; it seeks to put them somewhere else," said Anthony Rogers-Wright, director of environmental justice at New York Lawyers for the Public Interest. "The emissions still exist. And we should be clear that the only way to reduce emissions ... is to stop emitting."

It's still unclear whether carbon capture technology will even be recognized by New York City as a qualifying emissions reduction; the city has yet to decide. Asparro and others are trying to persuade city officials to accept it.

CAPTURING THE CULPRIT

In the basement of the Upper West Side apartment building, two hulking 500-horsepower boilers rumble, burning natural gas and releasing carbon dioxide. The boilers, which are expected to last another 10 or 20 years, produce roughly half the building's emissions, Asparro said.

The other half of the emissions that, in the city's view, the building is responsible for, are those generated at the power plants where the building gets its electricity. The carbon capture system, Asparro said, is trapping about 60% of the boilers' emissions. All told then, including the electricity to power the system, it's reducing the building's emissions by roughly 23%.

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"Boilers like this are installed everywhere, in schools and hospitals around the world," Asparro said. "It's a really big challenge that buildings are facing in order to reduce emissions."

The carbon dioxide and other gases are diverted from the chimney and piped into a room where a few parking spaces have been repurposed to house the carbon capture system. The gases flow over a special material that separates out the carbon dioxide. Then it's compressed and cooled to minus-10 degrees Fahrenheit (minus-23 Celsius), turning it into liquid that's then stored in tanks. That process takes energy, and capturing carbon dioxide does increase the building's electricity use, but overall the system is still reducing the building's emissions.

More pipes lead to spigots outside the building, where a truck pulls up once or twice a week to load up with liquefied CO₂. The truck carries it through city streets and across a bridge to Brooklyn, where it's sold to a concrete manufacturer.

Carbon capture technology has existed on an industrial scale for decades, used by oil and gas companies and some manufacturing plants to capture climate-warming carbon dioxide and either sell it, or use it to wrestle more oil from underground.

But now a handful of green tech companies and building owners are trying for the first time to deploy this technology on a much smaller scale on residential buildings. New York City's law requires buildings exceeding 25,000 square feet to reduce emissions. In Minnesota, Radisson Blu Mall of America, a hotel, has installed a system that captures carbon dioxide that's eventually used to make soap.

Building owners that can afford to pay for carbon capture equipment do receive some federal tax breaks for installing the systems. There are other incentives available to help update buildings, according to NYC Accelerator, a program that helps homeowners and property managers find ways to reduce emissions.

To reduce energy use, the apartment building also has computerized motors, fans and pumps, LED lighting and battery storage, said Josh London, senior vice president at Glenwood Management Corp., which manages the building. The company plans to install carbon capture systems in five other buildings this year.

Without action, similar high-rise buildings could face fines of nearly \$1 million annually starting in 2030, Asparro estimated.

Nearly 70% of New York City's large buildings have steam boilers that run on natural gas or oil, according to NYC Accelerator. Many have heating systems more than a half-century old, and often they're under-maintained, said Luke Surowiec, director of building decarbonization at ICF, a consulting firm which manages NYC Accelerator.

"Our buildings are very old and inefficient, and that's the reality," Surowiec said. "There are a ton of opportunities that haven't been realized."

MINERALIZING INTO CONCRETE

Over in Brooklyn, the floor rattles and shakes as yellow machines churn at Glenwood Mason Supply Company Inc., a concrete maker unrelated to Glenwood Management Corp. Grey blocks rattle down a conveyor line under a din of metal gears and motors. Somehow, birds have moved in and fly between towering piles of blocks.

It's into this clamor that a truck delivers the liquefied carbon dioxide collected at the Manhattan apartment building. Then, using equipment provided by a company called CarbonCure, the liquid carbon dioxide is compressed and turned into a solid.

As concrete ingredients churn in a structure resembling a pizza oven, the carbon dioxide, now essentially dry ice, flows in like a mist. The carbon dioxide reacts with calcium ions in cement, one of the ingredients of concrete. This forms calcium carbonate, which becomes embedded in the concrete.

Once carbon dioxide is in that mineral state, it's secure and it won't be released unless it's heated to about 900 degrees Celsius (1652 degrees Fahrenheit), said Claire Nelson, a geochemist who specializes in carbon capture at Columbia Climate School.

"So unless a volcano erupts on top of your concrete building, that carbon is going to be there forever," Nelson said.

One main ingredient of concrete is cement, which contributes about 7% of all greenhouse gas emissions

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worldwide, according to a study by PBL Netherlands Environmental Assessment Agency.

Adding mineralized carbon dioxide to concrete can reduce its carbon footprint, though not by much. On average, concrete producers using CarbonCure technology reduce their carbon footprint by just 5% to 6%, said Robert Niven, CEO of CarbonCure, which works with 700 concrete producers in 30 countries.

Connie Cincotta, owner of Glenwood Mason, said her company takes other measures as well, for example to reduce the amount of cement in its concrete mix, by adding post-industrial glass that would have gone to landfills.

"If there's any way we can get cement out of the mix, that's helpful," she said.

The company's concrete blocks with mineralized CO₂ have been used in buildings owned by Amazon and a Manhattan charter school, among others.

QUESTIONS REMAIN

Many environmental groups remain skeptical of carbon capture and instead favor investing in a transition to renewable energy. They also fear that it could be unsafe to store carbon dioxide, which in extreme concentrations can lead to suffocation, in a residential dwelling.

After a carbon dioxide pipeline ruptured in Satartia, Mississippi, in 2020, 45 people sought medical attention at local hospitals, including people who had been caught in a vapor cloud while driving, according to a report from the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration. People exposed to high concentrations of carbon dioxide, the report said, may experience rapid breathing, confusion, elevated blood pressure and increased arrhythmias. Extreme concentrations of carbon dioxide can lead to death by asphyxiation.

Storing concentrated carbon dioxide under a residential building is worrisome, because "in the case of Mississippi, people weren't actually living right on top of it," Rogers-Wright said. "We're talking about big buildings here in New York City. So the risks are unknown, but they certainly are apparent."

There's also a risk of leaks, he said, if a truck transporting carbon dioxide were to get into an accident.

Proponents of carbon capture technology respond that there are safeguards to prevent such scenarios. The carbon capture technology installed in the Manhattan apartment, Asparro said, was permitted by multiple city agencies.

"We have carbon dioxide everywhere in cities," he added. "Hospitals, restaurants, breweries — all utilizing carbon dioxide. And it's being done in a fairly safe and manageable way."

Nelson, the Columbia geochemist, who also started a carbon capture company, contends that having natural gas stored in basements is more dangerous than storing carbon dioxide, and many people accept those risks posed by natural gas.

The biggest challenge, proponents say, is scaling this and other solutions fast enough to make a difference in climate change.

That's why proponents say many solutions should be deployed at once.

Back in Manhattan, powering the apartment building entirely with renewable electricity isn't possible yet because the local utility doesn't have enough renewable energy to sell to all New York customers, London said.

And "with solar, you need a bigger footprint than what we have in a building like this," he added.

London said he wants to buy power from wind farms once it becomes more widely available.

But "that's going to take a long while, so I don't think we have the luxury of sitting," he said. "We can reduce our emissions while we wait for that."

Associated Press climate and environmental coverage receives support from several private foundations. See more about AP's climate initiative here. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Are you who you say you are? TSA tests facial recognition technology to boost airport security

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By REBECCA SANTANA and RICK GENTILO Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — A passenger walks up to an airport security checkpoint, slips an ID card into a slot and looks into a camera atop a small screen. The screen flashes “Photo Complete” and the person walks through — all without having to hand over their identification to the TSA officer sitting behind the screen.

It’s all part of a pilot project by the Transportation Security Administration to assess the use of facial recognition technology at a number of airports across the country.

“What we are trying to do with this is aid the officers to actually determine that you are who you say who you are,” said Jason Lim, identity management capabilities manager, during a demonstration of the technology to reporters at Baltimore-Washington International Thurgood Marshall Airport.

The effort comes at a time when the use of various forms of technology to enhance security and streamline procedures is only increasing. TSA says the pilot is voluntary and accurate, but critics have raised concerns about questions of bias in facial recognition technology and possible repercussions for passengers who want to opt out.

The technology is currently in 16 airports. In addition to Baltimore, it’s being used at Reagan National near Washington, D.C., airports in Atlanta, Boston, Dallas, Denver, Detroit, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Miami, Orlando, Phoenix, Salt Lake City, San Jose, and Gulfport-Biloxi and Jackson in Mississippi. However, it’s not at every TSA checkpoint so not every traveler going through those airports would necessarily experience it.

Travelers put their driver’s license into a slot that reads the card or place their passport photo against a card reader. Then they look at a camera on a screen about the size of an iPad, which captures their image and compares it to their ID. The technology is both checking to make sure the people at the airport match the ID they present and that the identification is in fact real. A TSA officer is still there and signs off on the screening.

A small sign alerts travelers that their photo will be taken as part of the pilot and that they can opt out if they’d like. It also includes a QR code for them to get more information.

Since it’s come out the pilot has come under scrutiny by some elected officials and privacy advocates. In a February letter to TSA, five senators — four Democrats and an Independent who is part of the Democratic caucus — demanded the agency stop the program, saying: “Increasing biometric surveillance of Americans by the government represents a risk to civil liberties and privacy rights.”

As various forms of technology that use biometric information like face IDs, retina scans or fingerprint matches have become more pervasive in both the private sector and the federal government, it’s raised concerns among privacy advocates about how this data is collected, who has access to it and what happens if it gets hacked.

Meg Foster, a justice fellow at Georgetown University’s Center on Privacy and Technology, said there are concerns about bias within the algorithms of various facial recognition technologies. Some have a harder time recognizing faces of minorities, for example. And there’s the concern of outside hackers figuring out ways to hack into government systems for nefarious aims.

With regard to the TSA pilot, Foster said she has concerns that while the agency says it’s not currently storing the biometric data it collects, what if that changes in the future? And while people are allowed to opt out, she said it’s not fair to put the onus on harried passengers who might be worried about missing their flight if they do.

“They might be concerned that if they object to face recognition, that they’re going to be under further suspicion,” Foster said.

Jeramie Scott, with the Electronic Privacy Information Center, said that while it’s voluntary now it might not be for long. He noted that David Pekoske, who heads TSA, said during a talk in April that eventually the use of biometrics would be required because they’re more effective and efficient, although he gave no timeline.

Scott said he’d prefer TSA not use the technology at all. At the least, he’d like to see an outside audit to verify that the technology isn’t disproportionately affecting certain groups and that the images are deleted immediately.

TSA says the goal of the pilot is to improve the accuracy of the identity verification without slowing down

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the speed at which passengers pass through the checkpoints — a key issue for an agency that sees 2.4 million passengers daily. The agency said early results are positive and have shown no discernable difference in the algorithm's ability to recognize passengers based on things like age, gender, race and ethnicity.

Lim said the images aren't being compiled into a database, and that photos and IDs are deleted. Since this is an assessment, in limited circumstances some data is collected and shared with the Department of Homeland Security's Science and Technology Directorate. TSA says that data is deleted after 24 months.

Lim said the camera only turns on when a person puts in their ID card — so it's not randomly gathering images of people at the airport. That also gives passengers control over whether they want to use it, he said. And he said that research has shown that while some algorithms do perform worse with certain demographics, it also shows that higher-quality algorithms, like the one the agency uses, are much more accurate. He said using the best available cameras also is a factor.

"We take these privacy concerns and civil rights concerns very seriously, because we touch so many people every day," he said.

Retired TSA official Keith Jeffries said the pandemic greatly accelerated the rollout of various types of this "touchless" technology, whereby a passenger isn't handing over a document to an agent. And he envisioned a "checkpoint of the future" where a passenger's face can be used to check their bags, go through the security checkpoints and board the plane — all with little to no need to pull out a boarding card or ID documents.

He acknowledged the privacy concerns and lack of trust many people have when it comes to giving biometric data to the federal government, but said in many ways the use of biometrics is already deeply embedded in society through the use of privately owned technology.

"Technology is here to stay," he said.

Follow Santana on Twitter @ruskygal.

Kehinde Wiley is taking his art everywhere, all at once

By JOCELYN NOVECK AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Kehinde Wiley was already well into his influential art career when his portrait of Barack Obama — arms crossed, perched on a chair amid brilliant foliage — was unveiled in 2018. But there's no doubt it changed the artist's life.

Here's one way he describes the shift: Now, should he ever show up at the bank and realize he's forgotten his ID — which hasn't happened yet, but still — he could say: "You know that portrait of Obama? I'm that guy, and I didn't bring my ID, so if you could just Google that..."

But Wiley, proud as he is of the groundbreaking work — an official portrait of a Black president by a Black artist — does wonder how long he'll be referred to in that context.

"I wonder if I will ever be able to do anything that lives up to the gravity of that moment," he says. "Everybody wants to be seen in a number of different contexts ... but I mean, what a great project to be involved in. So, come on, here's the world's smallest violin, playing just for me."

If Wiley, 46, is on a mission to make sure he's remembered for a lot more, he seems well on his way. With shows currently on both U.S. coasts, another headed to Paris, and growing artistic bases in Africa, he truly seems to be everywhere all at once.

Just take the last few months. In March, he was in San Francisco for the U.S. premiere of "Kehinde Wiley: An Archaeology of Silence" at the de Young Museum, a powerful display of massive paintings and sculptures exploring anti-Black violence in a global context. The museum has set up dedicated spaces for attendees who need a breather from the intensity of the show, which runs until Oct. 15.

Meanwhile, at the Sean Kelly gallery in New York, he's just opened "HAVANA," running through June 17, focusing on circus performers and carnival street dancers in Cuba.

In between, he was in Africa, where he's been doing everything from negotiating prices with vendors to selecting stone for the floors while building his second artist residency campus on the continent, Black

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Rock Nigeria, in Calabar (the first is in Senegal).

Wiley is also at work on a new portrait show on Black heads of state at the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris, scheduled for September.

With homes in Senegal, Nigeria, New York City and the Catskills, plus a studio in Brooklyn, not to mention roots in his native Los Angeles — including his mother and twin brother — Wiley is not an easy man to pin down for an interview. But he was generous with his time — and anecdotes — as he recently showed The Associated Press around “HAVANA.” Later that night, a passerby peering into the gallery would have seen the airy space packed to the gills with admirers for an opening reception.

Wiley had just returned from Ethiopia, and before that Nigeria. The rhythm of his travels, he says, goes like this: “You’ll be on the road working on something and you’ll be in some amazing place and there’s a couple of down days, and then you’re (again) in some extraordinary part of the world. I guess work and play are all kind of intertwined. But I’m also incredibly hungry for new experiences.”

Wiley’s projects often overlap and intersect over a number of years. His current Cuba show stems from two visits there, in 2015 and in 2022.

It features new paintings, works on paper and a three-screen film downstairs, exploring the phenomenon of the “carnavalesque.” On this particular day, with the opening only hours away, he was still actively discussing changing the font for the film’s subtitles.

During his 2015 visit, Wiley visited the Escuela Nacional de Circo Cuba — a circus school. He became intrigued by the idea of “not fully formed technicians, this metaphor of not quite being quite perfect at creating magic.” During his second visit, he met with performers from Raices Profundas, a nearly 50-year-old dance ensemble that performs in the Yoruba tradition.

Just like Obama’s portrait features, in its background, flowers from places of significance in the president’s life, the backgrounds of the Cuba paintings are comprised of “things from Africa that found their way to the Americas like sugar cane, yams, cola nut, okra ... All of these fit into the narrative of African presence in the Americas.”

Wiley’s method of working has been much discussed — he has studio assistants work on the backgrounds, and then he comes in to execute the figure, or figures. There are variations, though, “moments when I’m super excited about doing that figure and the crew is already working on something else, so I’ll just go ahead and they’ll catch up with me. Now that I’ve got studios all over the place, you can swing it both ways.”

This gallery show is more intimate than his massive show in San Francisco, which has drawn significant attendance, museum officials say. In that show, portraits of young Black people in positions of rest (or in some interpretations, death) inhabit settings that recall famous artworks of the Western world. On the audio track, one of the most moving sections is commentary from Wanda Johnson, the mother of Oscar Grant, who was killed by police at a BART station in Oakland in 2009.

Museumgoer La Tanya Carmical, 66, of Castro Valley, was struck by that commentary, particularly “the tragedy in her voice.” Carmical took a Friday in March to see the show, where she spent four hours. She was particularly moved by an image of a man laying on rocks.

“For me it was the hands, the way they’re positioned,” she said. “I took a couple of pictures. And then (Wiley’s) color — these are just beautifully colored, the skin tones. It’s the hands, it’s the color, it’s the lighting.”

The show is not only about anti-Black violence in the United States.

“It’s a story of anti-Blackness globally,” says Abram Jackson, director of interpretation at the de Young. “It’s not limited to a particular country or region. There’s a universality to the ways in which Black people have been mistreated and the violence that has happened to us from colonialism forward.”

For this show, models were found in Senegal, Jackson says. The way Wiley chooses his models depends on the project — sometimes he recruits them on the streets, whereas in Cuba it took research and outreach.

Does he remember everyone? The artist laughs.

“That’s a lot to ask,” he notes, standing amid his Cuba portraits. “But yeah, certain people stand out.”

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He points to a woman in yellow, a street dancer.

"I remember her being much more timid in her self-presentation, but then this radical transformation happening when she was onstage," he says. When a visitor says she looks wary, he notes that "a lot of it is direction, right? There's me telling them what to do, and there's how every human being is going to respond. Portraiture in some ways reveals how different people respond to the same direction."

Which brings us back to Obama.

When Wiley was photographing the former president, the artist did what he always does: He directed. "Turn this way." "Look here."

But Obama soon grew impatient. "I'm trying to box him into this set of formulaic poses," Wiley says, "and he's like, 'You know what? Stop. Let me take care of this.' And the pose that you see him in, is when he starts to take over. And there's a fluidity to the photo shoot."

"And when I got to the editing," the artist chuckles, "it was like, 'Yeah. I should have just let him handle it!'"

UN to commemorate Palestinians' 1948 flight from Israel for the first time

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — For the first time, the United Nations will officially commemorate the flight of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from what is now Israel on the 75th anniversary of their exodus — an action stemming from the U.N.'s partition of British-ruled Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas is headlining Monday's U.N. commemoration of what Palestinians call the "Nakba" or "catastrophe."

Riyad Mansour, the Palestinian U.N. ambassador, called the U.N. observance "historic" and significant because the General Assembly played a key role in the partition of Palestine.

"It's acknowledging the responsibility of the U.N. of not being able to resolve this catastrophe for the Palestinian people for 75 years," Mansour told a group of U.N. reporters recently.

He said "the catastrophe to the Palestinian people is still ongoing:" The Palestinians still don't have an independent state, and they don't have the right to return to their homes as called for in a General Assembly resolution adopted in December 1948.

Israel's U.N. ambassador, Gilad Erdan, condemned the commemoration, calling it an "abominable event" and a "blatant attempt to distort history." He said those who attend will be condoning antisemitism and giving a green light to Palestinians "to continue exploiting international organs to promote their libelous narrative."

The General Assembly, which had 57 member nations in 1947, approved the resolution dividing Palestine by a vote of 33-13 with 10 abstentions. The Jewish side accepted the U.N. partition plan and after the British mandate expired in 1948, Israel declared its independence. The Arabs rejected the plan and neighboring Arab countries launched a war against the Jewish state.

The Nakba commemorates the estimated 700,000 Palestinians who fled or were forced from their homes in 1948.

The fate of these refugees and their descendants — estimated at over 5 million across the Middle East — remains a major disputed issue in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Israel rejects demands for a mass return of refugees to long-lost homes, saying it would threaten the country's Jewish character.

As the 75th anniversary approached, the now 193-member General Assembly approved a resolution last Nov. 30 by a vote of 90-30 with 47 abstentions requesting the U.N. Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People organize a high-level event on May 15 to commemorate the Nakba.

The United States was among the countries that joined Israel in voting against the resolution, and the U.S. Mission said no American diplomat will attend Monday's commemoration.

Explaining why a U.N. commemoration took so long, Mansour told The Associated Press on Friday that the Palestinians have moved cautiously at the United Nations since the General Assembly raised their

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status in 2012 from a non-member observer to a non-member observer state.

U.N. recognition as a state enabled the Palestinians to join treaties, take cases against Israel's occupation to the International Criminal Court and the International Court of Justice, which is the U.N.'s highest tribunal, and in 2019 to chair the Group of 77, the U.N. coalition of 134 mainly developing nations and China, he said.

At the 70th anniversary of the 1948 exodus five years ago, Mansour said, "the word Nakba was used in a General Assembly resolution for the first time," and Abbas then gave instructions to obtain a mandate from the U.N. to commemorate the 75th anniversary.

The Nakba commemoration comes as Israeli-Palestinian fighting has intensified and protests over Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's right-wing government and its plan to overhaul Israel's judiciary show no sign of abating. Israel's polarization and the Netanyahu government's extremist positions have also sparked growing international concern.

Mansour said Friday that Palestinian refugees "are being forcibly removed from their homes and forcibly transferred by Israel at an unprecedented rate," reminiscent of 1948.

In a speech to the U.N. Security Council on April 25, Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Malki said "it is time to bring the Nakba to an end," stressing that the Palestinians have suffered from the most protracted refugee crisis in the world and "the longest occupation of an entire territory in modern history."

He was sharply critical of the U.N. and the wider international community for adopting resolutions that make demands and call for action— but doing nothing to implement them. He said if the international community made Israel's occupation costly, "I can assure you it will come to an end."

Malki renewed his call for countries that haven't yet recognized the state of Palestine "to do so as a means to salvage the moribund two-state solution." He also urged countries to support the Palestinian request for full membership in the United Nations, which would demonstrate international support for a two-state solution where Israelis and Palestinians lived side-by-side in peace.

To hurt Israel economically, Malki urged countries to ban products from Israeli settlements and trade with settlements, to "sanction those who collect funds for settlements and those who advocate for them and those who advance them," and to list settler organizations that carry out killings and burnings as "terrorist organizations."

And he urged the international community to take Israel to the International Court of Justice. The General Assembly asked the court in December to give its opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories, a move denounced by Israel.

What to Watch: Clues about voter sentiment could emerge from Kentucky, Pennsylvania primaries

By BRUCE SCHREINER Associated Press

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Off-year elections on Tuesday in Kentucky and Pennsylvania could send early signals about the mood of voters ahead of next year's races for the White House and Congress.

The Kentucky governor's race is a table-setter for what should be a bruising general election contest. Republican voters will settle on a nominee to challenge incumbent Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear, who has enjoyed high approval ratings but will have to fend off a GOP challenge in a state Republicans usually dominate. Two candidates with ties to former President Donald Trump are contenders in a 12-candidate field.

A special legislative race in the Philadelphia suburbs could determine whether Democrats retain a one-vote majority in Pennsylvania's House of Representatives, and the outcome could demonstrate how voters are feeling in a crucial region of a swing presidential state. Both parties will choose nominees for the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and Philadelphia voters will cast ballots in mayoral primaries.

What to watch in Tuesday's primaries:

KENTUCKY REPUBLICANS PICK A CHALLENGER FOR POPULAR DEMOCRAT

A fierce Republican primary for governor comes to a head in red-leaning Kentucky, where a flurry of attacks has overshadowed candidates' plans for governing.

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Attorney General Daniel Cameron turned away from a bid for reelection to run for governor, a race many Republicans think is ripe for the taking, but the primary campaign has been unexpectedly feisty. Cameron snagged the campaign's biggest endorsement from Trump and touted his legal fights defending Kentucky's anti-abortion laws, all the while challenging policy decisions by Beshear and working to tie him to President Joe Biden's administration.

With a primary win, Cameron would become the state's first Black nominee for governor by either major political party.

His main rival, Kelly Craft, mounted an aggressive campaign backed by her family's fortune. Craft pointed to her experience as ambassador to Canada and later at the United Nations during Trump's presidency. She touts her ties with government and business leaders, which she says would benefit Kentucky.

The campaign escalated into a slugfest between the Craft and Cameron camps. A pro-Craft group ridiculed Cameron as an "establishment teddy bear." Cameron backers criticized Craft's tenure as ambassador.

Another GOP gubernatorial contender, state Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles, stayed out of the fray, hoping to win over Republican voters turned off by the attacks.

As the campaign entered the stretch run, Craft had loaned her campaign more than \$9 million. She was on the air for months before Cameron and Quarles ran TV ads. Cameron got a boost from a well-financed outside group.

Beshear, expected to cruise through the primary over two nominal opponents, looks to draw on his family's political brand to counter the state's GOP tilt. He was attorney general four years ago when he defeated then-Republican Gov. Matt Bevin. Before Bevin's single term, Steve Beshear, the current governor's father, served two terms as governor.

Andy Beshear has presided over record economic growth. His term also has been marked by a series of crises — the pandemic, tornadoes, flooding and a mass shooting that killed one of his closest friends. He has received consistently high voter approval ratings, in part by settling into a role as the state's consoler in chief.

INCUMBENT SECRETARY OF STATE FACES REMATCH WITH ELECTION DENIER

Republican incumbent Michael Adams will face two challengers in the GOP primary for Kentucky secretary of state, including a former opponent who has raised his profile by denying election victories by Democrats.

Adams, a lawyer, has worked with Beshear across party lines on election reform and soundly defeated challenger Steve Knipper in the GOP primary four years ago. Knipper is back for another run along with a third Republican, Allen Maricle, a former state representative and TV executive. The winner will face Democrat Buddy Wheatley, a former legislator who narrowly lost reelection.

Other statewide offices also are on the ballot.

PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE ON THE LINE

Special legislative elections could determine if Democrats remain in control of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives.

They won a one-seat majority in November after 12 years. On Tuesday, voters will fill two empty seats, with most of the attention focused on a seat in Philadelphia's suburbs left vacant by a Democrat who resigned. The contest pits Democrat Heather Boyd, a former legislative and congressional aide, against Republican Katie Ford, a military veteran, school volunteer and behavioral therapist.

Control of the House will affect how partisan measures are handled, from abortion rights, gun rights and election law to the coming year's budget, which will be lawmakers' focus through June.

PHILADELPHIA MAYOR

In heavily Democratic Philadelphia, voters will likely choose the next mayor of the nation's sixth most-populous city from a crowded field of candidates in Tuesday's primary. The election comes as the city faces upticks in gun violence and safety concerns.

Five frontrunner candidates including former city council members, former city officials and a grocery store franchiser, have sought to differentiate themselves in a tight contest.

They are vying to replace Mayor Jim Kenney, a Democrat who is term-limited. The winner will go up

against the lone Republican candidate, David Oh, a former city councilmember, in November.

Associated Press writers Marc Levy, Brooke Schultz and Mark Scoloro in Harrisburg, Pa., contributed to this report.

GOP state lawmakers try to restrict ballot initiatives, partly to thwart abortion protections

By JULIE CARR SMYTH Associated Press

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — With other state lawmakers seated around her in the Ohio House, Democratic state Rep. Tavia Galonski got to her feet and began to loudly chant, "One person, one vote!"

The former Teamster's cry spread quickly through the visitors gallery, then began to rise from the throng of protesters gathered outside in the statehouse rotunda. Struggling to be heard over the din, the Republican speaker ordered spectators cleared from the chamber.

Last week's striking scene came as Ohio joined a growing number of Republican-leaning states that are moving to undermine direct democracy by restricting citizens' ability to bypass lawmakers through ballot initiatives and constitutional amendments.

The Ohio proposal will ask voters during an August special election to boost the threshold for passing constitutional amendments to 60% rather than a simple majority. It also would double the number of counties where signatures must be collected, adding an extra layer of difficulty to qualifying initiatives for the ballot.

The Missouri Legislature failed to approve a similar measure on Friday, but Republicans vowed to bring the issue back in 2024 in an attempt to head off a citizens' attempt to restore abortion rights in the state through a constitutional amendment.

A similar measure will be on North Dakota's ballot next year, while one in the works in Idaho would ask voters to increase signature requirements imposed on petition gatherers. In Wisconsin, which does not allow statewide citizen initiatives, Republicans who control the Legislature have proposed prohibiting local governments from placing advisory questions on ballots. Such referenda are sometimes used to boost voter turnout, though results don't carry the weight of law. Florida Republicans added new hurdles to that state's constitutional amendment process in 2020.

The trend has taken off as Democrats and left-leaning groups frustrated by legislative gerrymandering that locks them out of power in state legislatures are increasingly turning to the initiative process to force public votes on issues that are opposed by Republican lawmakers yet popular among voters. Only about half the states, mostly in the Western U.S., allow some form of citizen ballot initiative.

In Ohio, voters have proposed using the initiative process to enshrine abortion rights in the state constitution this November, as well as to increase the minimum wage, to legalize recreational marijuana and to reform a redistricting system that has produced persistently unconstitutional political maps favoring Republicans.

Arkansas Sen. Bryan King, a Republican who has joined the League of Women Voters in a lawsuit challenging his state's latest initiative restriction, said he views efforts to undermine the initiative process as anti-democratic.

A measure approved earlier this year by Arkansas' majority-GOP Legislature and signed by Republican Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders makes it harder to get initiatives on the ballot by raising the number of counties where signatures must be gathered from 15 to 50.

"I think one of the things it does is, no matter what party is in power, when you start trying to make it harder for citizens to challenge what their government does or make changes, then it just makes people not have faith in the process," King said. "So I do think that making it harder is wrong."

In Ohio, former governors and attorneys general of both major parties have lined up against the proposed constitutional amendment that would alter the simple majority threshold for passing citizen-led initiative that has been in place since 1912.

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Democratic legislators point to the bipartisan opposition and the maneuvering that allowed the proposal to be on an August ballot as evidence that today's Republicans are extremist in their desire to maintain political power.

Republican state Rep. Brian Stewart, the Ohio plan's sponsor, argued during last week's raucous floor session that a simple majority of voters will get to decide whether to impose the stricter requirements on future ballot initiatives.

"SJR 2 will ask Ohioans, not us, whether Ohio's constitution should require a 60% vote threshold to adopt amendments going forward. It will ask Ohioans, not us, to decide whether all 88 counties should have a voice in determining what amendments make it onto the ballot and to eliminate the cumbersome 'cure' period, which gives initiative petitions effectively a do-over when they fail to meet the requirements for ballot access," he said. "Putting this issue in front of Ohioans, that is democratic."

What Stewart didn't address is how Republicans circumvented a law they had just passed so they could put the proposed amendment on a summertime ballot when voter turnout is typically quite low, rather than putting it before voters in the regular election this November.

Democratic Rep. Casey Weinstein called out Stewart and Ohio Secretary of State Frank LaRose, a Republican, for previously opposing the very August special elections that they supported for offering the 60% question.

Weinstein read in its entirety LaRose's testimony from December advocating for the provisions of a new law — signed in January — that eliminated most August elections. LaRose argued that making big decisions, including those regarding ballot issues, in chronically low-turnout August elections "isn't the way democracy is supposed to work" and that such elections "aren't good for taxpayers, election officials or the civic health of our state."

In testimony, Mark Gavin Sr., outreach director for the Black Environmental Leaders Association, referred to the U.S. Constitution's counting of enslaved people by calling the Ohio proposal "the new Three-Fifths Compromise."

Gavin was among hundreds of protesters who packed statehouse hearings and overflow rooms, testified and marched in opposition to the Republican proposal, which he said is intended to dilute the power of individual voters.

"I've been a voter in Ohio for 15 years, and it's getting really old to always have to have new rules and regulations on a ballot," he said.

Anti-abortion and pro-gun groups were the primary forces behind the push in favor of the proposed Ohio amendment. Since the Supreme Court's decision last year overturning *Roe v. Wade*, voters in Michigan, Kentucky and Kansas have protected abortion rights through statewide votes.

David Couch, an attorney who has worked on citizens' initiatives in Arkansas, said Republicans' efforts to thwart direct democracy are uniquely partisan.

"If you look in Arkansas history in the '90s, when the Democrats controlled Arkansas, the conservative right passed same-sex marriage amendments, they passed adoption amendments," he said. "They passed all sorts of reforms, and the Democrats didn't try to change the process."

Democrats in Missouri did try to cripple the initiative process through legislation in 1992. Then-Gov. John Ashcroft, a Republican who went on to serve as U.S. attorney general, vetoed the bill. Ashcroft's son, Jay, is the state's current secretary of state.

"It is through the initiative process that those who have no influence with elective representatives may take their cause directly to the people," the elder Ashcroft said in a veto letter that became part of this year's debate. "The General Assembly should be reluctant, therefore, to enact legislation which places any impediments on the initiative power which are inconsistent with the reservation found in the Constitution."

Missouri's Republican lawmakers are singing a different tune today. Fearing a constitutional amendment to protect abortion rights, they vowed last week to make it a priority in 2024 to adopt a ballot measure that would establish a 57% threshold for passing future amendments.

Not all Republicans in the state think that's a good idea. Former Republican House Speaker Pro Tem Carl

Bearden said the proposal would infringe on the rights of Missouri voters while noting that the initiative process is intended to be a check on the power of the Legislature.

"It is not a conservative policy," he said of the Republican plan.

Associated Press writers Ayanna Alexander in Washington, Summer Ballentine in Jefferson City, Mo., Scott Bauer in Madison, Wis., and Andrew DeMillo in Little Rock, Ark., contributed to this report.

Native American remains discovered at Dartmouth College spark calls for accountability

By MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — As a citizen of the Quapaw Nation, Ahnili Johnson-Jennings has always seen Dartmouth College as the university for Native American students.

Her father graduated from the school, founded in 1769 to educate Native Americans, and she had come to rely on its network of students, professors and administrators. But news in March that the Ivy League school in New Hampshire found partial skeletal remains of 15 Native Americans in one of its collections has Johnson-Jennings and others reassessing that relationship.

"It's hard to reconcile. It's hard to see the college in this old way where they were taking Native remains and using them for their own benefit," said Johnson-Jennings, a senior and co-president of Native Americans at Dartmouth. The remains were used to teach a class as recently as last year, just before an audit concluded they had been wrongly catalogued as not Native.

"It was very upsetting to hear, especially when you've just felt so supported by a school and they've had that secret that maybe no one knew about, but still, to some sense, was a secret," Johnson-Jennings said, describing a March meeting where Native American students were briefed on the discovery.

Dartmouth is among a growing list of universities, museums and other institutions wrestling with how best to handle Native American remains and artifacts in their collections and grappling with what these discoveries say about their past policies regarding Native communities.

Until the 20th century, archeologists, anthropologists, collectors and curiosity seekers took Native remains and sacred objects during expeditions on tribal lands. Some remains, including Native skulls, were sought after in the name of science, while bodies were collected by government agencies after battles with tribes. Museums wanted them to enhance their collections while academic institutions came to rely on Native bones as teaching tools.

"One-hundred years ago, it was OK for a professor, for an alumni to go into the lands of a Native community and dig up their ancestors," said professor Jeremy DeSilva, a paleoanthropologist and chairman of Dartmouth's anthropology department.

He continued: "It's amazing that folks didn't recognize how harmful that was."

For Native tribes, the loss of the remains and cultural items caused significant pain. The remains, most believe, are imbued with the spirit of the ancestor to whom they belong and are connected to living citizens of those tribes. They could go to court or negotiate with an institution for them to be repatriated. But it wasn't until the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act or NAGPRA in 1990 that a process was created for their return.

It requires federally funded institutions, including universities, to return remains and funerary items to rightful communities. In February, Cornell University returned ancestral remains to the Oneida Indian Nation that were inadvertently dug up in 1964 and stored for decades in a school archive. Colgate University in November returned to the Oneidas more than 1,500 items once buried with ancestral remains, some dating back 400 years. And since 1995, Dartmouth itself has repatriated skeletal remains of 10 Native Americans along with 36 burial objects.

Critics complain that many institutions move too slowly in repatriating remains and funerary items once they're discovered in their collections, often hiding behind a loophole in NAGPRA that allows them to label remains as culturally unidentifiable. That puts the burden on tribes to prove the remains are their ances-

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tors, an expense many can't afford.

Some 884,000 Native American artifacts — including nearly 102,000 human remains — that should be returned to tribes under federal law are still in the possession of colleges, museums and other institutions across the country, according to data maintained by the National Park Service.

The University of California, Berkeley tops the list, according to the Park Service, followed closely by the Ohio History Connection, a nonprofit organization working to preserve the state's history, and Harvard University's Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology.

Shannon O'Loughlin, chief executive of the Association on American Indian Affairs, a national group that assists tribes with repatriations, called the practice racist.

"It just says that they value the idea of Native Americans as specimens more than they do as human beings," said O'Loughlin, a citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.

The most recent discovery at Dartmouth has set off the complex and complicated process of returning the remains to the affiliated tribes.

The remains, in its teaching collection in Silsby Hall, were discovered in November, following an audit spearheaded by Jami Powell, curator of Indigenous art at Dartmouth's Hood Museum.

Until they were found to be Native, the bones had been stored in a locked cabinet in the basement. They have since been moved to a secure off-campus location and Dartmouth has hired a team of independent experts to study them and do archival research to determine their origin. The college said the review will take months.

It also is studying an additional 100 bones that may be Native American and working with tribes to repatriate additional bone fragments related to three individuals that were repatriated in the 1990s.

"For me as an Indigenous person, it's always important in my work that I treat these ancestors with the utmost care and respect and that an essential part of my function is helping them return home," Powell said.

In March, Dartmouth President Philip Hanlon issued a statement that he was "deeply saddened by what we've found on our campus" and apologized for the college's wrongful possession of the remains. He pledged "to take careful and meaningful action to address our situation and consult with the communities most directly impacted."

The Department of Anthropology's teaching collection is believed to come from several sources — bones purchased from biological supply companies; donated cadavers used by medical students; and archeological remains, some of which came from Native American burial mounds and were given by alumni. Until November, Dartmouth officials say they believed Native American bones had been removed from the school in the 1990s.

"Nobody had really taken the time or the effort to fully document what we had. This was around a time where our whole discipline was beginning to reflect a little more deeply on what it meant to be in the care of, or caring for human remains," said DeSilva, the anthropology department's chairman.

DeSilva acknowledged mistakes in documenting Native American remains, but said they weren't malicious and that although no one was to blame, he hopes the most recent discovery will force a reckoning over past practices.

Along with working to return the Native American remains, the college is reevaluating its whole collection of human remains and plans to "build an ethically sourced collection that complies with legal standards" to be used in osteology — the study of bones and skeletal systems.

The college is also working to repair the relationship with Native students and alumni, starting with a March meeting in which Hanlon apologized. The school also worked to accommodate Native students who were uncomfortable going into Silsby. Many Native Americans believe it is taboo to speak about the dead or be near them.

Last month, a Navajo medicine man held a cleansing ceremony at several locations on campus, including Silsby.

The discovery has spotlighted Dartmouth's relationship with its Native students, who represent about 1% of the 4,458 students. Though the school was formed to teach Native students, it wasn't until 1972 that

the college created one of the first Native programs in the country. Still, the college has had to confront symbols of insensitivity that lingered on campus, including in 2018 when it announced it would move into storage a set of murals that offended Native Americans.

Shawn Attakai, co-president of the Native American Alumni Association of Dartmouth, said he was disappointed about the discovery and sad about the possibility that they could be from his own Navajo Nation, where he is a tribal lawyer. But Attakai also said he was not surprised.

"Native Americans have a history of injustices in this country starting from it's founding all the way to the present," said Attakai.

Johnson-Jennings appreciates the efforts, but said justice requires a person or entity to be held accountable for the remains having been mislabeled for so long.

"It was disappointing that it went on for so long and does feel a little bit sad that the college was not able to find that mistake and find out that they were mislabeled before," she said. "That's a mistake that us Natives are paying for, the tribes that those ancestors belong to are paying for."

Biden, India's Modi out to deepen their bonds, but geopolitical friendships have their limits

By JOSH BOAK and ASHOK SHARMA Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden has made it a mission for the U.S. to build friendships overseas — and the next few weeks will offer a vivid demonstration of the importance he's placing on a relationship with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The two are both scheduled to attend this week's Group of Seven summit in Japan, a subsequent gathering of Pacific island leaders in Papua New Guinea, and a later meeting of Indo-Pacific leaders in Australia. Those travels will be followed by a June 22 state visit by Modi to Washington, a sign that both seem willing to deepen their bonds.

But like many geopolitical friendships, things are complicated between the world's largest economy (the U.S.) and its most populous nation (India).

The personal outreach has a clear strategic calculus as both countries respond to China's economic rise and increased global prominence. Yet while Biden champions democratic ideals and openly opposes Russia for invading Ukraine, Modi has offered tepid criticism of Russia and opponents say he is eroding India's democratic traditions.

That means the future of the alliance depends on a degree of patience.

"It's a long game of steady forward movement in defense relations and some fairly rapid intensification of business ties — with the pace of both determined by the speed of movement on the Indian side," said Kurt Tong, a former ambassador for the U.S. who is now managing partner of The Asia Group, a consultancy.

Biden last year publicly called India's response to the war in Ukraine "shaky." India abstained from voting on U.N. resolutions condemning Russia and refused to join the global coalition against Russia. Modi had a relatively warm relationship with Biden's predecessor, Donald Trump, and has made some efforts to forge a connection with Biden, who is known to focus on his Irish roots even when meeting with leaders of other nations.

When Modi came to Washington in September 2021, he brought with him documents about people with the last name "Biden" in India.

"Are we related?" Biden asked.

"Yes," Modi joked.

While visiting Canada in March, Biden said he's made it a strategic goal to improve relations with the rest of the world as he feels that America's leverage against China and Russia is through its alliances.

"I have now met with 80% of the world leaders just since I've been president," he said. "We're the ones expanding the alliances. The opposition is not."

Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay, a biographer of Modi, said the Indian leader's connection with Biden is not personal — and has its limits. But it is necessary for the U.S. to keep India on its side as tensions with

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China have accelerated over Taiwan, the federal government's ban on exporting advanced computer chips to China and human rights issues.

"To what extent can India be part of the U.S.-led alliance, that is for Modi to decide," Mukhopadhyay said. "At some point or the other, the Americans would realize that Modi is not really going the whole hog as much as they would like India to be. But Modi will not get swayed by meeting Biden several times."

Nirupama Rao, a retired diplomat who served as Indian ambassador to the U.S., said India has its reasons for not joining the condemnation of Moscow.

"The country wants Russia to maintain some distance from China, and it worries that isolating Moscow would just push it closer to Beijing," she said. Relations between India and China are strained, with the two sides embroiled in an intense three-year standoff involving thousands of soldiers stationed along their disputed border in the eastern Ladakh region.

Rao said U.S. policymakers should not mistake India's involvement in the so-called Quad — whose other members are the U.S., Japan and Australia — for an alliance. India is also in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, a group dominated by Beijing and Moscow. It routinely attends trilateral meetings with China and Russia. It also continues to participate in the forum known as BRICS, which stands for Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa.

"So far, India has done an impressive job of maintaining its balancing act," she said. "Whether it can continue to do so in the years ahead is an open question. Beijing has become increasingly belligerent, and it may eventually decide it will not deal with India if New Delhi strengthens its security ties to Washington."

Both the U.S. and India have been emphasizing technology partnerships, including defense, clean energy and space. During Modi's visit to the U.S. in June, the two leaders are also expected to discuss common challenges, including climate change and health security.

Russia is India's largest supplier of military hardware. But India has been reducing its dependence on Russian arms by diversifying its purchases, buying from the U.S., France, Germany and other countries. The U.S. defense trade with India has risen from near zero in 2008 to over \$20 billion in 2020.

The U.S. imported about \$86 billion in goods from India last year, according to the Census Bureau. That figure has steadily increased, but it has room to grow as the U.S. still gets more goods from Taiwan and Vietnam than India. With more than 1.4 billion people, India is about 14 times the size of Taiwan and Vietnam combined.

There are some risks for Biden as he devotes more time to Modi, with advocates for human rights wary of the Indian leader's track record. The freedom of the news media in India has been challenged after Modi became prime minister in 2014. Political rivals of Modi's governing Hindu nationalist party have accused him of stifling dissent and introducing divisive policies that discriminate against Muslims and other minorities.

Modi's Hindu nationalist party also suffered a political setback as India's main opposition Congress party won control of the southern Karnataka state, according to a near complete vote count Saturday. The victory could help unite the largely divided opposition in next year's general election, in which Modi will seek a third consecutive term as prime minister.

Yet for Biden, developing a personal rapport out of public view might be critical for overcoming any differences with Modi.

"In this case, the investment is worth it," said Lisa Curtis, director of the Indo-Pacific Security Program at the Center for a New American Security, a think tank. "There are a lot of things that President Biden can say privately to Prime Minister Modi that could end up having a favorable impact on U.S.-India relations."

Sharma reported from New Delhi, India.

Philadelphia Inquirer hit by cyberattack causing newspaper's largest disruption in decades

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The Philadelphia Inquirer experienced the most significant disruption to its operations in 27 years due to what the newspaper calls a cyberattack.

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The company was working to restore print operations after a cyber incursion that prevented the printing of the newspaper's Sunday print edition, the Inquirer reported on its website.

The news operation's website was still operational Sunday, although updates were slower than normal, the Inquirer reported.

Inquirer publisher Lisa Hughes said Sunday "we are currently unable to provide an exact time line" for full restoration of the paper's systems.

"We appreciate everyone's patience and understanding as we work to fully restore systems and complete this investigation as soon as possible," Hughes said in an email responding to questions from the paper's newsroom.

The attack was first detected when employees on Saturday morning found the newspaper's content-management system was not working.

The Inquirer "discovered anomalous activity on select computer systems and immediately took those systems off-line," Hughes said.

The cyberattack has caused the largest disruption to publication of Pennsylvania's largest news organization since a massive blizzard in January 1996, the Inquirer reported.

The cyberattack precedes a mayoral primary election scheduled for Tuesday. Hughes said the operational disruption would not affect news coverage of the election, although journalists would be unable to use the newsroom on election night.

Hughes said other Inquirer employees will not be allowed to use offices through at least Tuesday, and the company was looking into coworking arrangements for Tuesday, the Inquirer reported.

An investigation was ongoing into the extent and specific targets of the attack, and the company has contacted the FBI, Hughes said.

The FBI in Philadelphia declined to comment in response to questions from Inquirer journalists, the newspaper reported.

Turkey's Erdogan says he could still win, would accept presidential election runoff

By SUZAN FRASER and ZEYNEP BILGINSOY Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who has ruled his country with an increasingly firm grip for 20 years, was locked in a tight election race early Monday, with a make-or-break runoff against his chief challenger possible as the final votes were counted.

The results, whether they come within days or after a second round of voting takes place in two weeks, will determine if a NATO ally that straddles Europe and Asia but borders Syria and Iran remains under Erdogan's control or resumes the more democratic path promised by his main rival, opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu.

Speaking to supporters in Ankara, Erdogan, 69, said he could still win but would respect the nation's decision if the race went to a runoff vote in two weeks.

"We don't yet know if the elections ended in the first round. ... If our nation has chosen for a second round, that is also welcome," Erdogan said early Monday, noting that votes from Turkish citizens living abroad still need to be tallied. He garnered 60% of the overseas vote in 2018.

This year's election largely centered on domestic issues such as the economy, civil rights and a February earthquake that killed more than 50,000 people. But Western nations and foreign investors also awaited the outcome because of Erdogan's unorthodox leadership of the economy and often mercurial but successful efforts to put Turkey at the center of international negotiations.

With the unofficial count nearly completed, voter support for the incumbent had dipped below the majority required for him to win reelection outright. Erdogan had 49.3% of the vote, while Kilicdaroglu, had 45%, according to the state-run news agency Anadolu.

"We will absolutely win the second round ... and bring democracy" Kilicdaroglu, 74, the candidate of a six-party alliance, said, arguing that Erdogan had lost the trust of a nation now demanding change.

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Turkey's election authority, the Supreme Electoral Board, said it was providing numbers to competing political parties "instantly" and would make the results public once the count was completed and finalized.

The majority of ballots from the 3.4 million eligible overseas voters still needed to be tallied, according to the board, and a May 28 runoff election was not assured.

Howard Eissenstat, an associate professor of Middle East history and politics at St. Lawrence University in New York, said Erdogan was likely to have an advantage in a runoff because the president's party was likely to do better in a parliamentary election also held Sunday. Voters would not want a "divided government," he said.

Erdogan has governed Turkey as either prime minister or president since 2003. In the run-up to the election, opinion surveys had indicated the increasingly authoritarian leader narrowly trailed his challenger.

With the partial results showing otherwise, members of Kilicdaroglu's center-left, pro-secular Republican People's Party, or CHP, disputed Anadolu's initial numbers, contending the state-run agency was biased in Erdogan's favor.

Omer Celik, a spokesperson for Erdogan's Justice and Development, or AK, party, in turn accused the opposition of "an attempt to assassinate the national will." He called the opposition claims "irresponsible."

While Erdogan hopes to win a five-year term that would take him well into his third decade as Turkey's leader, Kilicdaroglu campaigned on promises to reverse crackdowns on free speech and other forms of democratic backsliding, as well as to repair an economy battered by high inflation and currency devaluation.

Voters also elected lawmakers to fill Turkey's 600-seat parliament, which lost much of its legislative power after a referendum to change the country's system of governance to an executive presidency narrowly passed in 2017.

Anadolu news agency said Erdogan's ruling party alliance was hovering around 49.3%, while Kilicdaroglu's Nation Alliance had around 35.2% and support for a pro-Kurdish party stood above 10%.

"That the election results have not been finalized doesn't change the fact that the nation has chosen us," Erdogan said.

More than 64 million people, including the overseas voters, were eligible to vote and nearly 89% voted. This year marks 100 years since Turkey's establishment as a republic — a modern, secular state born on the ashes of the Ottoman Empire.

Voter turnout in Turkey is traditionally strong, despite the government suppressing freedom of expression and assembly over the years and especially since a 2016 coup attempt. Erdogan blamed the failed coup on followers of a former ally, cleric Fethullah Gulen, and initiated a large-scale crackdown on civil servants with alleged links to Gulen and on pro-Kurdish politicians.

Internationally, the elections were seen as a test of a united opposition's ability to dislodge a leader who has concentrated nearly all state powers in his hands and worked to wield more influence on the world stage.

Erdogan, along with the United Nations, helped mediate a deal with Ukraine and Russia that allowed Ukrainian grain to reach the rest of the world from Black Sea ports despite Russia's war in Ukraine. The agreement, which is implemented by a center based in Istanbul, is set to expire in days, and Turkey hosted talks last week to keep it alive.

But Erdogan also has held up Sweden's quest to join NATO while demanding concessions, contending that nation was too lenient on followers of the U.S. based cleric and members of pro-Kurdish groups that Turkey considers national security threats.

Critics maintain the president's heavy-handed style is responsible for a painful cost-of-living crisis. The latest official statistics put inflation at about 44%, down from a high of around 86%. The price of vegetables became a campaign issue for the opposition, which used an onion as a symbol.

In contrast with mainstream economic thinking, Erdogan contends that high interest rates fuel inflation, and he pressured the Central Bank of the Republic of Turkey to lower its main rate multiple times.

Erdogan's government also faced criticism for its allegedly delayed and stunted response to the 7.8 magnitude earthquake that left 11 southern provinces devastated. Lax implementation of building codes is thought to have exacerbated the casualties and misery.

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In his election campaign, Erdogan used state resources and his domineering position over media to try to woo voters. He accused the opposition of colluding with "terrorists," of being "drunkards" and of upholding LGBTQ+ rights, which he depicts as threatening traditional family values in the predominantly Muslim nation.

In a bid to secure support, the Turkish leader increased wages and pensions and subsidized electricity and gas bills, while showcasing Turkey's homegrown defense and infrastructure projects.

"Paychecks, or putting food on the table doesn't necessarily surmount the identification one feels for one's own political party," Eissentat, the university professor, said. "Erdogan's efforts at polarization, demonization of the opposition as traitors and as terrorists, the use of culture wars, ... that's all made to play on those dynamics."

Kilicdaroglu's Nation Alliance pledged to return Turkey's governance system to a parliamentary democracy if it won both the presidential and parliamentary ballots. It also promised to restore the independence of the judiciary and the central bank.

"We have all missed democracy so much. We all missed being together," Kilicdaroglu said after voting at a school in Ankara.

Also seeking the presidency was Sinan Ogan, a former academic who had the backing of an anti-immigrant nationalist party and more than 5% of votes tallied so far.

Bilginsoy reported from Istanbul. Mucahit Ceylan contributed from Diyarbakir, Turkey.

This version has been corrected to show that Turkey straddles Europe and Asia, not the Middle East.

Border crossings off from last week's highs as US pins hopes for order on mobile app

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — Pandemic-era limits on asylum known as Title 42 have been rarely discussed among many of tens of thousands of migrants massed on Mexico's border with the United States.

Their eyes were — and are — fixed instead on a new U.S. government mobile app that grants 1,000 people daily an appointment to cross the border and seek asylum while living in the U.S. With demand far outstripping available slots, the app has been an exercise in frustration for many — and a test of the Biden administration's strategy of coupling new legal paths to entry with severe consequences for those who don't follow them.

"You start to give up hope but it's the only way," said Teresa Muñoz, 48, who abandoned her home in the Mexican state of Michoacan after a gang killed her husband and beat her. She has been trying for a month to gain entry through the app, called CBPOne, while staying in a Tijuana shelter with her two children and 2-year-old grandson.

U.S. Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas said the Border Patrol made 6,300 arrests on Friday — the first day after the Title 42 restrictions expired — and 4,200 Saturday. That's sharply below the 10,000-plus on three days last week as migrants rushed to get in before new policies to restrict asylum took effect.

"It is still early," Mayorkas said Sunday on CNN's 'State of the Union.' "We are in day three, but we have been planning for this transition for months and months. And we have been executing on our plan. And we will continue to do so."

Despite the drop in recent days, authorities predict arrests will spike to between 12,000 and 14,000 a day, Matthew Hudak, deputy Border Patrol chief, said in a court filing Friday. And authorities cannot confidently estimate how many will cross, Hudak said, noting intelligence reports failed to quickly flag a "singular surge" of 18,000 predominantly Haitian migrants in Del Rio, Texas, in September 2021.

More than 27,000 migrants were in custody along the border one day last week, a number that may top 45,000 by the end of May if authorities can't release migrants without orders to appear in immigration

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court, Hudak said.

The administration plans to ask an appeals court Monday for permission to release migrants without orders to appear in court. Authorities say it takes between 90 minutes and two hours to process a single adult for court - potentially choking Border Patrol holding facilities - and longer to process families. By contrast, it takes only 20 minutes to release someone with instructions to report to an immigration office in 60 days, a common practice since 2021 to ease overcrowding along the border.

The Justice Department even raised the possibility of declining to take people into custody if it can't quickly release migrants, calling that a "worst-case scenario."

President Joe Biden, spending the weekend at his home in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware, said his hope was that the border numbers would "continue to go down" but that "we have a lot more work to do."

"We need some more help from the Congress as well, in terms of funding and legislative changes," Biden told reporters.

The administration is touting new legal pathways in an effort to deter illegal crossings, including parole for 30,000 Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans a month who apply online with a financial sponsor and arrive at an airport.

Hundreds of predominantly Colombian migrants waited to be processed Saturday in searing heat near Jacumba, California, having slept for days in thatched tents east of San Diego and getting by on the Border Patrol's limited supply of cookies and water. Several said they crossed illegally after trying the app without success or hearing tales of frustration from others.

Ana Cuna, 27, said she and other Colombians paid \$1,300 each to be guided across the border after reaching Tijuana. She said she touched foot on U.S. soil hours before Title 42 expired Thursday but, like others, was given a numbered wristband by the Border Patrol and, two days later, had not been processed.

Under Title 42, a public-health rule, migrants were denied asylum more than 2.8 million times on grounds of preventing the spread of COVID-19. When it expired, the administration launched a policy to deny asylum to people who travel through another country, like Mexico, to the U.S., with few exceptions.

"We want to come according to the law and be welcomed," said Cuna, whose thatched tent included Colombian women and families hoping to reach Chicago, San Antonio, Philadelphia and Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Releasing migrants without court orders but with instructions to report an immigration office in 60 days became widespread in 2021. Directing that processing work to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement offices when migrants report to the agency's offices created additional delays - with ICE offices in New York backed up until 2033 just to schedule an initial court appearance.

U.S. District Judge T. Kent Wetherell in Pensacola, Florida, in March ordered an end to the practice, which the administration had effectively stopped by then anyway. It chose not to appeal the ruling but reactivated the policy last week, calling it an emergency response. The state of Florida protested and Wetherell ordered the administration to avoid the quick releases for two weeks. He scheduled a hearing on Friday.

Since CBPOne launched Jan. 12 for asylum-seekers, it has exasperated many with error messages, difficulty capturing photos and a frantic daily ritual of racing thumbs on phone screens until slots run out within minutes.

In Tijuana, Muñoz looked into being smuggled through the mountains east of San Diego but determined it would cost too much. She is still haunted by walking through the Arizona desert in the mid-2000s on a grueling one-week trek. After saving money working double shifts at a supermarket near Los Angeles, she returned to Mexico to raise her children.

Last week, the administration increased the number of slots awarded on the app to 1,000 from 740, began granting priority to those who try longest, and released slots gradually throughout the day instead of all at once, which had created mad rushes. So far, Muñoz said she is unconvinced.

Associated Press writer Seung Min Kim contributed to this report from Rehoboth Beach, Delaware.

2-time world champion Doyle Brunson, called the Godfather of Poker, dies at 89

By MARK ANDERSON AP Sports Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Doyle Brunson, one of the most influential poker players of all time and a two-time world champion, died Sunday, according to his agent.

Brunson was 89.

Brian Balsbaugh, Brunson's agent, posted a statement on Twitter from the family.

"It is with a heavy heart we announce the passing of our father, Doyle Brunson," the statement read. "He was a beloved Christian man, husband, father and grandfather. We'll have more to say over the coming days as we honor his legacy. Please keep Doyle and our family in your prayers. May he rest in peace."

Brunson, called the Godfather of Poker and also known as "Texas Dolly," won 10 World Series of Poker tournaments — second only to Phil Hellmuth's 16. He also captured world championships in 1976 and 1977 and was inducted into the Poker Hall of Fame in 1988.

He wrote a book called "Super System" in 1979, which was one of the first books to delve into poker strategy and created a lasting impact that helped bring many others to the game.

Five-time WSOP winner Scotty Nguyen tweeted that he "can't believe this day has come - you will always be held high in our hearts, the man, the myth, the legend & THE GODFATHER of poker baby! Mr Brunson, you made poker what it is baby! thank you for what you give to all of us baby! RIP Mr Doyle Brunson THE GODFATHER OF POKER."

His influence carried beyond poker.

"This one is a heartbreaker," actor James Woods tweeted. "Doyle Brunson, the greatest poker player who ever lived, has cashed in his chips.

"Doyle was so kind and helpful to me. He was gracious to my late dear brother and every friend I introduced him to. A gentleman and a genuine legend."

AP sports: <https://apnews.com/hub/sports> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Guest nations at the G-7 reflect outreach to developing countries, worries over China, Russia

By HYUNG-JIN KIM and MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — This week's summit of the Group of Seven wealthy democracies in Hiroshima will include eight other guest nations, part of a complicated, high-stakes diplomatic gambit meant to settle the world's most serious crises.

Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has invited South Korea, Australia, India, Brazil, Vietnam, Indonesia, Comoros and the Cook Islands.

Kishida hopes this mix of countries will help efforts to stand up to China's assertiveness and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, according to analysts. He also wants stronger ties with U.S. allies and with developing nations and to make progress on working toward a nuclear-free world, something that looks increasingly difficult amid North Korean and Russian nuclear threats.

Here's a look at what to expect as the rich world leaders welcome these guest countries:

PUSHBACK ON CHINA, RUSSIA

As their top diplomats did last month in a meeting in Nagano, Japan, the leaders of the G-7 nations — the United States, Japan, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Canada, Italy and the European Union — will try to form a unified front against Chinese threats to Taiwan and Russia's war on Ukraine.

"The G-7 is committed to upholding the international order, and most of its members are in Europe, so supporting Ukraine against Russia's invasion is a top priority," said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul.

"As the pillar of the G-7 in Asia, Japan is particularly focused on updating the international order to cope

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with the rise of China," Easley said. "The Kishida government's agenda and special invitations for the Hiroshima summit reflect an effort not to contain China but to expand the international coalition defending standards for state behavior."

The eight guest nations have complex political and economic ties with China and Russia.

India is part of the Quad group of four Indo-Pacific nation, which also includes the United States, Japan and Australia. China has accused that group of representing an "Asian NATO." On the Russia-Ukraine war, India has abstained several times from voting on U.N. resolutions against Moscow, though it has stressed the need for diplomacy on ending the war. It's boosted its imports of Russian oil.

Brazil is a member of the so-called BRICS group of developing nations, including China, Russia and India. Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva recently visited China to strengthen ties with its biggest trade market. He has also irritated Ukraine and some in the West with his position on the war, recently suggesting that Ukraine cede Crimea to forge peace.

Japan is courting Vietnam because it also has territorial disputes with China, according to Kim Yeol Soo, an expert at South Korea's Korea Institute for Military Affairs.

___ 'GLOBAL SOUTH' NATIONS

Kishida has said his list of guest nations reflects the importance of the so-called "Global South" countries. That's a term used for developing countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The G-7 nations account for about 40% of the world's economic activity, a decrease from an estimated 80% of global gross domestic product in the 1970s.

"When the U.N. adopts resolutions, you see a considerable number of its 190 or so member states are 'Global South' countries," said Choi Eunmi, a Japan expert at South Korea's Asan Institute Policy Institute.

Indonesia's importance for Japan, for instance, is linked to its abundant natural resources and economic potential, said Kim, the expert.

India is this year's president of the G-20, which is seen as a crucial bridge between G-7 economies and the Global South. Japan has traditionally had close ties with India, where Kishida visited in March for a summit with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In response to questions by The Associated Press, Japan's Foreign Ministry said the G-7 and other nations need to cooperate with the Global South to deal with energy, food security, climate change, health and development issues.

___ US ALLIES

Japan's invitation of South Korea reflects the neighbors' role as staunch U.S. allies with a shared security threat from North Korea's advancing nuclear arsenal.

In recent weeks, Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol have taken major steps to boost security and economic cooperation and to move beyond historical grievances stemming from Japan's 1910-45 colonization of the Korean Peninsula.

The Japanese Foreign Ministry's response to an AP query praised Yoon for an "active diplomacy showing commitment to the peace and prosperity of the region, including announcing the Indo-Pacific strategy."

Kishida, Yoon and U.S. President Joe Biden are expected to meet on the margins of the G-7 summit to discuss North Korea's nuclear ambitions, China's growing influence and the Russian-Ukraine war.

Australia, also a key U.S. ally, has already been closely cooperating with Japan, including on efforts to achieve a "free and open Indo-Pacific," according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry, which called Australia a "special strategic partner."

Last year, the two countries signed a new security agreement covering military, intelligence and cybersecurity cooperation to counter the deteriorating security outlook driven by China's increasing assertiveness. It was the first such agreement Japan has struck with any country other than the United States.

___ OTHER ISSUES

Some of the guest nations lead regional and other bodies.

Brazil takes over next year for India as president of the G-20. Indonesia is chair of the Association of

Southeast Asian Nations. Comoros leads the African Union, and the Cook Islands chairs the Pacific Islands Forum.

Japan is stepping up its security and economic ties with the 18 Pacific Forum countries, partly to counter growing Chinese influence there. Observers say the invitation of the Cook Islands is an expression of Japanese respect to the Pacific nations, where there's been worry about the planned release of treated but still radioactive wastewater into the Pacific from Japan's tsunami-wrecked Fukushima nuclear power plant.

Kishida is from Hiroshima, one of the two Japanese cities hit with U.S. atomic bombs at the end of World War II. Holding the summit in his hometown will give him a chance to outline his determination to build a nuclear-free world.

Because of North Korea's pursuit of nuclear missiles meant to target the U.S. mainland, "it would be a bit awkward if Japan didn't include South Korea, which faces North Korea's nuclear threats on its doorstep," said Choi, the expert.

Kim reported from Seoul, South Korea.

Find more of AP's Asia-Pacific coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/asia-pacific>

France pledges more military aid as Ukraine's Zelenskyy makes surprise Paris visit to meet Macron

By JOHN LEICESTER and FRANK JORDANS Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — France pledged additional military aid for Ukraine on Sunday, including light tanks, armored vehicles, training for soldiers and other assistance as the Ukrainians gear up for a counteroffensive against Russian forces, following surprise talks in Paris between the Ukrainian and French presidents.

Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy and France's Emmanuel Macron met for about three hours at the French presidential Elysee Palace — an encounter kept under wraps until shortly before the Ukrainian leader's arrival in Paris from Germany on a French government jet, extending his multi-stop European tour.

With Ukraine planning to go on the offensive hoping to retake Russian-occupied territory, military aid was a top agenda item. Macron's office said France will supply dozens of light tanks and armored vehicles "in the weeks ahead," without giving specific numbers. Also promised were more air defense systems, but again details weren't made public.

More Ukrainians will also be made battle-ready, with France aiming to train about 2,000 Ukrainian soldiers in France this year and nearly 4,000 others in Poland as part of a wider European effort, Macron's office said.

In a statement, France described its support for Ukraine's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity as "unwavering" and promised that its political, economic, humanitarian and military aid will continue "for as long as necessary."

In a tweet on his arrival, Zelenskyy said: "With each visit, Ukraine's defense and offensive capabilities are expanding. The ties with Europe are getting stronger, and the pressure on Russia is growing."

France has supplied Ukraine with an array of weaponry, include air defense systems, light tanks, howitzers and other arms and equipment and fuel.

France dispatched a plane to pick up Zelenskyy in Germany, where he met with Chancellor Olaf Scholz earlier Sunday and discussed his country's planned counteroffensive. Zelenskyy said it will aim to liberate Russian-occupied areas within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders, and not attack Russian territory.

The Washington Post cited previously undisclosed documents from a trove of U.S. intelligence leaks suggesting that Zelenskyy has considered trying to capture areas in Russia proper for possible use as bargaining chips in peace negotiations to end the war launched by Moscow in February 2022. This would put him at odds with Western governments that have insisted that weapons they provide must not be used to attack targets in Russia.

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Asked about the report, Zelenskyy said: "We don't attack Russian territory, we liberate our own legitimate territory."

"We have neither the time nor the strength (to attack Russia)," he said, according to an official interpreter. "And we also don't have weapons to spare, with which we could do this."

"We are preparing a counterattack for the illegally occupied areas based on our constitutionally defined legitimate borders, which are recognized internationally," Zelenskyy said.

Among areas still occupied by Russia are the Crimean peninsula and parts of eastern Ukraine with mainly Russian-speaking populations.

A Luftwaffe jet flew Zelenskyy to the German capital from Rome, where he met Saturday with Pope Francis and Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni.

It was his first visit to Berlin since the start of the invasion and came a day after the German government announced a new package of military aid for Ukraine worth more than 2.7 billion euros (\$3 billion), including tanks, anti-aircraft systems and ammunition.

Zelenskyy thanked Scholz for the support, saying Germany is now second only behind the United States in providing aid to Ukraine — and joked that he is working to make it the biggest donor.

"German air defense systems, artillery, tanks and infantry fighting vehicles are saving Ukrainian lives and bringing us closer to victory. Germany is a reliable ally! Together we are bringing peace closer!" he wrote on Twitter.

Scholz said that Berlin has so far given Kyiv some 17 billion euros in bilateral aid and that it can expect more in future.

After initially hesitating to provide Ukraine with lethal weapons, Germany has become one of the biggest suppliers of arms to Ukraine, including Leopard 1 and 2 battle tanks, and the sophisticated IRIS-T SLM air defense system. Modern Western hardware is considered crucial if Ukraine is to succeed in its planned counteroffensive.

In the western German city of Aachen, Zelenskyy also received the prestigious International Charlemagne Prize, awarded to him and the people of Ukraine.

In her congratulatory speech, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen compared the war in Ukraine to the fall of the Iron Curtain more than 30 years ago.

"Every generation has its moment when it has to stand up to defend democracy and what it believes in," she said. "For us, that moment has come."

Zelenskyy accused Moscow of trying to turn back the clock of European history.

"Modern Russia waged war not just on us, as a free and sovereign state, not just against united Europe as a global symbol of peace and prosperity," he said in his acceptance speech. "This is Russia's war for the past."

In other developments:

—Zelenskyy's chief aide, Andriy Yermak, said Sunday that five civilians died in Ukraine's southern Kherson region when an unexploded Russian shell blew up.

—Overnight, Russia launched a "massive" attack on Ukraine with Iranian-made Shahed explosive drones, which wounded more than 30 people, according to the Ukrainian military. Eighteen of the 23 drones were shot down, but those that got through, and wreckage from those intercepted, damaged 50 apartment buildings, private homes and other buildings, the military said without providing further details.

—Russia also hit the western city of Ternopil and southern city of Mykolaiv with rockets, wounding an unspecified number of civilians.

—Shelling by Russian forces killed a 59-year-old woman and a 65-year-old man Sunday in the Chuhuiv district of Ukraine's northeastern Kharkiv province, regional Gov. Oleh Syniehubov reported on Telegram.

—Russia's Defense Ministry said Sunday that Ukrainian forces had killed two of its colonels in the Bakhmut area.

Jordans reported from Berlin. Associated Press writers David Rising in Kyiv and Elise Morton in London contributed to this report.

Victims of racist Buffalo supermarket mass shooting remembered on anniversary

By CAROLYN THOMPSON Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. (AP) — Standing in the same parking lot where he was shot in the neck a year ago in a racist attack at a Buffalo supermarket, Zaire Goodman said he was grateful to see the community come together in remembrance Sunday.

His family and others affected by the mass shooting gathered with top state and local officials, first responders and religious leaders to remember the 10 people who were killed and three, including Goodman, who were wounded at Tops Friendly Market, which closed Sunday for the one-year anniversary of the shootings.

Goodman, 21, who worked at the store and was shot while collecting carts outside, has been back to the market many times since, even visiting while it was being remodeled in the weeks after the massacre as some questioned whether it should ever reopen.

"I just wanted to show people that it's alright. We don't need to close the store indefinitely," he said. "We know the store is still important to people in this area."

Mayor Byron Brown read the 13 victims' names before a moment of silence. A first responder then chimed a bell 13 times. Brown, Gov. Kathy Hochul and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer were among those who gave speeches.

"It's a beautiful day. It's Mother's Day," Hochul said. "And the cruel irony behind the fact is a day we celebrate a life that comes into this world, making someone a mother, is also a day we're here to think about those who are no longer with us. It's hard. It's been a really hard year."

Earlier in the week, panelists discussed ways to combat racism and social media radicalization and residents were invited to reflect at an outdoor community gathering.

After Sunday's ceremony, Goodman recalled how after being wounded he ran across the street in search of safety, calling his mother along the way.

"Hey, you need to get here," he told her.

Since then, Goodman's mother, Zeneta Everhart, and other relatives of the victims have spoken before Congress about white supremacy and gun reform and organized events to address food insecurity that worsened when the market, the neighborhood's only grocery store, was inaccessible for two months.

President Joe Biden honored the lives of those killed in Buffalo in an op-ed published Sunday in USA Today. He called on Congress and state legislative leaders to act by banning assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, requiring background checks for all gun sales, and repealing gun manufacturers' immunity from liability. His administration passed a landmark gun measure in June following a series of mass shootings.

New York state law already bans possessing magazines that hold more than 10 rounds of ammunition.

Gun control organizations and advocates including Moms Demand Action and Students Demand Action held nearly 200 events across the country over the weekend, calling on Congress to reinstate a bipartisan assault weapons ban.

In Buffalo, Wayne Jones, whose mother Celestine Chaney, 65, died in the attack, urged the city and its institutions to keep on investing in the area and its residents even after the anniversary events are over.

That's why he is willing, he said, "to keep opening up this wound that I have" and talk about it.

After the remembrance ceremony, adults visited tents offering information about mental health and other forms of community support.

Rosemary Glover of Buffalo remembered the pain she felt when she recognized two of the shooting victims' names: Katherine Massey, a community advocate; and Pearl Young, who belonged to the same church ministry as Glover. She came Sunday to honor them and the community.

"We have to continue to support one another," she said. "That's the only way we're going to heal."

The son of 63-year-old shooting victim Geraldine Talley on Sunday released a book that he said describes

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what he went through after losing his mother. He titled it: "5/14 : The Day the Devil Came to Buffalo."

"I definitely know that she wouldn't want me to be consumed by sadness and anger," Talley said of his mother, speaking outside of the store as the anniversary approached, "so I will definitely try to find strength in her memory and use it to fight injustice and racism for the rest of my life in her name."

Inside the remodeled store, fountains flank a poem dedicated to the victims. A commission is at work designing a permanent memorial outside. In the meantime, a hand-painted mural overlooking the parking lot promotes unity, with a Black hand and white hand meeting together in prayer.

An 18-year-old white supremacist carried out the attack after driving more than 200 miles (320 kilometers) from his home in rural Conklin, New York.

In addition to Chaney, Talley, Massey and Young, the dead included Andre Mackneil, who was buying a cake for his son's third birthday; church deacon Heyward Patterson; Ruth Whitfield, whose son was a Buffalo fire commissioner; Roberta Drury, who had moved back to Buffalo to help a brother diagnosed with cancer; Margus Morrison, who was buying dinner for a family movie night; and Aaron Salter, a retired Buffalo police officer who was working as a security guard.

The gunman pleaded guilty to murder and other charges and was sentenced to life in prison without parole in February. A federal case against him is pending.

Associated Press Writer Maysoon Khan from Albany, New York, contributed to this report.

Tatum sets Game 7 record with 51 points, Celtics beat 76ers 112-88

By JIMMY GOLEN AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Jayson Tatum gave Boston a long-overdue fast start and followed it up with a finish the NBA had never seen before.

After struggling in back-to-back games, Tatum erupted for 51 points – the most in a Game 7 in history — and the Celtics beat the Philadelphia 76ers 112-88 on Sunday to advance to the Eastern Conference finals for the second straight year.

One game after missing 14 of his first 15 shots only to awaken in the fourth quarter in time to save their season, Tatum scored 25 in the back-and-forth first half and 17 more in Boston's 33-10 third quarter that turned a three-point lead into a runaway.

The Celtics, who lost to the Golden State Warriors in the NBA Finals last year, will face the Miami Heat in the East finals for the second straight season. Game 1 is on Wednesday in Boston.

"I was relieved just to get another chance. Our season could have been over after Game 6," said Tatum, who broke the Game 7 record of 50 points Stephen Curry set two weeks ago. "It definitely was on my mind that I had played as bad as it could get, for 43 minutes.

"We had a saying: 'It's only up from here.'"

Tatum added 13 rebounds and Jaylen Brown scored 25 points for Boston, which rallied from a 3-2 deficit in the series to keep alive their hopes for an unprecedented 18th NBA championship.

"You always come into a series with the expectation of how it's supposed to go," said Celtics coach Joe Mazzulla, who is in his first year as an NBA head coach after being promoted on the eve of training camp after Ime Udoka was suspended. "That's not how the playoffs are."

Tatum was subbed out of the game with three minutes left to a standing ovation from the crowd, which soon broke out in a "Beat the Heat!" chant. Miami beat Boston in six games in the 2020 East finals and the Celtics took a seven-game matchup last season.

"It's the best time of the year," Tatum said. "As a competitor, I love the opportunity."

Newly crowned NBA MVP Joel Embiid scored 15 points on 5-for-18 shooting, and Tobias Harris scored 19 for Philadelphia. The Sixers lost in the conference semifinals for the third straight year, and the fifth time in six seasons; they have not gotten any farther since reaching the NBA Finals in 2001 despite "The Process" — tanking their way to four top-three draft picks in a row, including Embiid.

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"I thought we had the right group. I really did," said Sixers coach Doc Rivers, who was on the Boston bench when the Celtics won it all in 2008. "We played great all year and this loss absolutely diminishes what we did this year in some way. ... I think this team is headed right. I thought we took another step this season. And then tonight I think we took a step backward. But that's OK. That happens, too."

Tatum started 0 for 6 in a Game 5 loss and missed 14 of his first 15 shots overall from the floor in Game 6 before making four 3-pointers in the final 4:14 to force the decisive seventh game.

He picked up where he left off, scoring Boston's first basket and 11 points in the first quarter, 14 more in the second and outscoring the Sixers on his own, 17-10, in the third. The 33-10 edge in the third was the most lopsided quarter in a Game 7 since at least 1997.

"JT just got it going and get out of that man's way," Brown said. "He got it rolling, and there's nothing they could do to stop him."

BANGED-UP BROWN

Brown began the game with the black mask he has worn since breaking a bone in his face before the All-Star break. He took it off and soon absorbed an elbow to the face from James Harden, who was assessed a flagrant foul.

Brown continued without the mask but finished the half with cotton in his left nostril. He also played with an edge, making both foul shots and following it with a steal and layup as Boston went on a 9-0 run to erase a 35-26 deficit.

Brown also dove into the Sixers bench to save a ball, then had words with the bench after Georges Niang grabbed his leg and kept him from getting back on the court. Both players were given technical fouls.

Williams followed the commotion with a layup that tied the score 35-all.

"Nothing like a shot to the face to wake you right up," Brown said.

WHAT'S UP, DOC?

Rivers is 6-10 in seventh games. The 10 defeats are five more than any other NBA coach and three more than the NHL's Mike Babcock and Bruce Boudreau. His teams are 6-16 in their last 22 chances to close out an opponent in a playoff series.

Asked if he expected to be back next year, Rivers said: "Yeah. I think I got two years left. No one is safe in our business and I get that."

Harden also could be gone if the Sixers opt for an overhaul. He has the opportunity to become a free agent this offseason.

"We've got an unfinished job. We haven't won anything and I think we've got the chance to win," Embiid said. "We've got what it takes to win. ... I still believe me and him have the chance to win. But it's going to take more than us."

TIP-INS

Tatum is the sixth player since 1997 to score 25 points or more in the first half of a seventh game. The last was Luka Doncic, who had 29 against the Clippers in the first round of the 2021 playoffs. Paul Pierce scored 26 for the Celtics against Cleveland in the second round in 2008. ... The 10 points Philadelphia scored were tied for the fewest in any Game 7 quarter in the shot clock era.

AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/hub/NBA> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

How Barcelona won its 1st Spanish league title since Messi's traumatic exit

By JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Barcelona's risky bet to mortgage the club's future paid off Sunday — in the short term at least — when a team led by newcomer Robert Lewandowski clinched its first Spanish league title in four years.

Barcelona won its 27th league title, second to Real Madrid's 35, with four rounds remaining after a 4-2 win at Espanyol with a pair of goals by Lewandowski.

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Now the club can finally start a new chapter after winning its first major title since the painful exit of Lionel Messi two years ago.

Here is how Barcelona led the league since the 13th round, brushing aside an arguably more talented Real Madrid side and giving Atletico Madrid no chance of catching up.

WIN NOW, PAY LATER?

When club president Joan Laporta, the man who first hired Pep Guardiola nearly 15 years ago, returned for a second stint in charge near the end of the 2019-2020 season, he found a club in ruins.

The financial situation of the club with 1.3 billion euros (\$1.4 billion) of debt meant Laporta could not honor his pledge to convince Messi to stay. Instead, Laporta told Barcelona's greatest player that he had to leave because the club could not afford him.

So last season, after seeing the team win zero titles, Laporta and his board decided it was time for drastic action. They sold off 25% of its Spanish league TV rights for the next 25 years for 667 million euros (\$725 million) along with other assets.

That cash was used to revamp the squad with the transfers of Lewandowski, Jules Koundé, Raphinha and signing free agents Franck Kessie, Andreas Christensen and Marcos Alonso.

Even though Barcelona once again flopped in the Champions League group phase, in addition to losing to Manchester United early in the Europa League playoffs, it did put Barcelona back in contention in the Spanish league.

LEWANDOWSKI

Lewandowski showed that the former Bayern Munich star still has the ability to regularly find the holes in rival defenses when given just a sliver of space.

The 34-year-old Lewandowski had no trouble at all adapting to his new team after eight highly successful seasons with Bayern. The Poland striker leads the Spanish league with 21 goals.

Raphinha added seven goals while sharing playing time with Ousmane Dembélé, who scored six times in the league before being injured for several weeks.

TER STEGEN

After a couple of years where the German appeared to have lost his best form, Marc-Andre ter Stegen was back to playing like the goalkeeper that helped Barcelona win its last Champions League title back in 2015.

While Madrid leads the league in scoring with 70 goals, Barcelona needed just 64 goals to win the title thanks to its great defense that conceded a competition-low 13 goals.

Ter Stegen kept 25 clean sheets.

The backline was led by Ronald Araújo, who ensured that Barcelona did not miss the midseason retirement of Gerard Piqué. Araújo was Barcelona's best one-on-one defender, especially against Madrid's Vinícius Júnior in their "clasico" matches.

BRIGHT FUTURE

The best news for Barcelona is that its future seems secure after the continued growth of its youngest starters.

Midfielders Gavi Páez (18) and Pedri González (20) have won the past two Golden Boy awards for Europe's best under-21 players, while Alejandro Balde (19) displaced long-time starter Jordi Alba as Xavi's preferred option at left back this season.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Barcelona faces an uncertain off-season, even without considering the possibility that Messi turns down more lucrative offers – say from Saudi Arabia – and returns from Paris Saint-Germain.

The club was barely able to meet the Spanish league's strict financial control rules last season in time to register all its players, and some more long nights loom for Barcelona's bookkeepers.

The club still needs to reduce its salary burden, and that means it may have to sell players.

It would not be surprising to see the club have to consider offers for Raphinha and Dembélé, who both play as right wingers, striker Ansu Fati, or even midfielder Frenkie de Jong, who the club wanted to sell last summer.

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It will also have to find a replacement for sports director Mateu Alemany, one of the main architects of Barcelona's rebuild last season, after his surprising decision announced earlier this month that he was quitting.

Among its pressing needs on the squad is how to replace longtime holding midfielder Sergio Busquets, who announced last week that he will leave the club this summer.

Next season the team and its fans will have to adapt to playing at a smaller stadium while Camp Nou is renovated. Beyond lower ticket sales, the temporary move will also test Barcelona's home strength: Camp Nou seats 98,000, compared to the 56,000 at the Olympic Stadium.

More AP soccer: <https://apnews.com/hub/soccer> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sport

Herders in Kenya kill 10 lions, including Loonkiito, one of the country's oldest

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — One of Kenya's oldest wild lions was killed by herders and the government has expressed concern as six more lions were speared at another village on Saturday, bringing to 10 the number killed last week alone.

The male lion named Loonkiito was 19 years old and was described as frail by Kenya Wildlife Service spokesperson Paul Jinaro, who said it wandered out of the Amboseli national park into a village in search of food on Thursday night.

Six other lions from the same national park were speared by herders after they killed 11 goats in Mbirikani area, Kajiado county. The deaths brought to 10 the number of lions killed by herders last week in escalated human-wildlife conflict that has worried the government.

Tourism minister Peninah Malonza met locals in Mbirikani area on Sunday and urged them not to spear wandering lions and to instead reach out to the wildlife service.

The government and conservation groups have a compensation program for herders whose livestock is killed by wild animals.

But herders have become more protective after losing livestock to a drought that has been termed as the worst in decades in the East Africa region.

Conservation group Big Life Foundation's Craig Miller said the killing of Loonkiito "was unfortunate" because he was the oldest lion in the Amboseli national park.

Wild lions rarely live past 15 years, according to conservationists.

Daughters without moms find support in each other's grief

By TRACEE M. HERBAUGH Associated Press

When my mother died suddenly 30 years ago, I was 13. I'd spend the next 20 years attempting to understand what it means not to have a mother.

And I did this basically alone.

Mostly, this was because my mother's parents, who raised me, were old-fashioned folks who lived through the Dust Bowl. They didn't discuss feelings, good or bad. I never once saw my grandfather shed a tear after his daughter died. Plus, our town was in the rural plains of Colorado, hours away from any city with services like a grief therapist, even if my grandparents had been open to that.

But the silence around grief also was a product of the times. I am encouraged to see that now a mom's death is generally not handled the same way it was in 1993.

There are many kinds of support today, from the organized to the grassroots. Grief can be talked about and shared more publicly, experts say, and is acknowledged to last a long time.

Motherless children can attend special summer camps, for instance, or Mother's Day retreats like those hosted by the Massachusetts-based non-profit EmpowerHer, which works with girls whose mothers have died. They also link girls with mentors so they can see an older version of themselves. The group recently started working with boys and nonbinary children, too, who have lost either parent.

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"There isn't a perfect ending," said Cara Belvin, who founded EmpowerHer. "You can cry and scream but you can't give up, and we hold space for a kid who is grieving."

Podcasts on the topic of parent loss, and support groups both virtual and in-person, have proliferated. "It really grew exponentially over COVID," said Hope Edelman, author of several grief books, including the bestseller "Motherless Daughters: The Legacy of Loss," published in 1994.

Edelman has led motherless daughters' groups, and her books have helped usher in a new way to live with loss. "The death of a mother affects a daughter profoundly, but what comes after can affect her as much or more," she said.

Edelman was 17 when her mother died in 1981, a time she has called the "dark ages" of grief, when mourning often wasn't discussed much outside the stale office of a therapist.

The prevailing wisdom today tends to be the "continuing bonds" theory, which says grief is to be carried, and relationships continue and change with a loved one, even after their death.

This more engaged approach to grief has been furthered by the internet and social media.

Ontario native Janet Gwilliam-Wright, 46, started "The Motherlove Project," a blog and corresponding Instagram account, in 2020 to honor the 25th anniversary of her mother's death. It has since become a place where women from around the world share stories about their late mothers; nearly 300 people have shared so far.

"I didn't have anywhere to grieve her — she didn't have a grave — so I decided to make a place on the internet," Gwilliam-Wright explained.

"I have enormous gratitude for every woman who reaches out to me. It helps me in my grieving and has brought me a community of people I feel so connected to."

Mother's Day can feel particularly isolating, said Julia Morin, 36, of Nashua, New Hampshire, who created her Instagram account "Girl_meets_grief" on Mother's Day 2021 to connect with others who felt the same way.

Before the internet, even though the prevailing attitude toward grief might have been less supportive, still there was often more community and family around than there is now, when many Americans lack built-in support networks.

"And so the widespread online support gives people a broader space to share in that grief and meet people with similar experiences," said Megan Kelleher, a historian who has studied grief and bereavement practices.

Writing is another way motherless daughters are connecting.

Sasha Brown-Worsham of Acton, Massachusetts, has written about losing her mom as a teenager. She penned a viral essay and followed it up with a memoir, "Namaste the Hard Way." When Brown-Worsham turned 45, the same age her mother was when she died of breast cancer, she sought out a virtual support group of mothers without moms.

"My daughter turned 16 at the same time, and that's how old I was when my mom died," she said.

The group is a collaboration between Edelman's Motherless Daughters and the Twin Cities-based non-profit She Climbs Mountains.

"There's this sense of being seen for possibly the first time in my whole life," Brown-Worsham said.

Life's milestones — such as getting married or having a baby — can trigger grief. By the time I was 30, I had tricked myself into believing I was adept at ignoring my mother's loss. That was, of course, far from true.

It was when I had my first baby that I felt grief rise to the surface. Jealousy cropped up in unexpected ways, particularly when I saw my new mom friends with their mothers.

It turns out, this is normal.

"Having kids ripped me open" emotionally, said Katie Paradis, 42, of Rockport, Massachusetts, who has two girls and no mother.

Susanna Gilbertson's mom died a year before her daughter was born.

"I looked around and didn't see any support I could access," said Gilbertson, 47, of Philadelphia.

Along with another motherless mom, she posted fliers for a book group, reading Edelman's "Mother-

less Daughters." After the initial meeting, the women in the group wanted to keep going. They ended up meeting for seven years.

"You get to experience, rather than be told, that you're not alone," said Gilbertson, now a full-time grief coach.

Grizzlies suspend Ja Morant after another gun video appears on social media

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

Ja Morant was suspended by the Memphis Grizzlies on Sunday after he appeared to be holding a gun in another social media video that was streamed live on Instagram, the latest in a series of concerning incidents involving the two-time All-Star guard.

It's the second time in less than three months that Morant was seen on Instagram holding what appeared to be a weapon. The first led to an eight-game NBA suspension that was handed down in March and cost Morant about \$669,000 in salary.

It's unclear what sanctions Morant may face for the second video, which was captured Saturday night and widely shared online. The video was streamed on the Instagram account of Morant associate Davonte Pack, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press, speaking on condition of anonymity because neither the NBA nor the Grizzlies have commented on the specifics of the latest video.

"We are aware of the social media post involving Ja Morant and are in the process of gathering more information," NBA spokesman Mike Bass said.

The Grizzlies, whose season is over, said Morant is suspended from all team activities "pending league review."

The video streamed by Pack shows Morant in the passenger seat of a vehicle, briefly appearing to display a handgun. At the very brief moment — maybe less than a second — when Morant is shown holding what appears to be a weapon, the livestream had 111 viewers.

The video that got Morant suspended during the season happened when the Grizzlies star went live on his own Instagram account while holding a gun at a club in the Denver suburbs in early March. After that went viral, Morant announced that he was taking time away from basketball to seek help, without specifying what sort of treatment he was getting. ESPN later reported that he was getting counseling in Florida, which the team eventually confirmed but did not share any details.

"Ja's conduct was irresponsible, reckless and potentially very dangerous," NBA Commissioner Adam Silver said in a statement after meeting with Morant and deciding on the suspension's length. "It also has serious consequences given his enormous following and influence, particularly among young fans who look up to him.

"He has expressed sincere contrition and remorse for his behavior," Silver continued. "Ja has also made it clear to me that he has learned from this incident and that he understands his obligations and responsibility to the Memphis Grizzlies and the broader NBA community extend well beyond his play on the court."

Morant sat down for an interview with ESPN during his suspension, taking responsibility for the video.

"I don't condone any type of violence," Morant told ESPN. "But I take full responsibility for my actions. I made a bad mistake and I can see the image that I painted over myself with my recent mistakes. But in the future, I'm going to show everybody who Ja really is, what I'm about and change this narrative."

When the season ended a couple weeks ago, Morant said again that he needed to work on his decision-making.

"Being disciplined on both sides, off the court making better decisions and on the court being locked in even more," Morant said following a season-ending loss to the Los Angeles Lakers. "Being a leader of this team, it pretty much starts with me. ... I've got to be better in that area."

Morant's five-year, \$194 million max contract is set to begin this coming season. It could have escalated to a supermax if he made All-NBA this season; he was not voted onto that team, which cost him about \$39 million in future earnings. He has endorsement deals with Nike and Powerade, though the sports drink

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company pulled an ad featuring Morant almost immediately after the March video emerged.

His talent on the court is not a question. He averaged 27.4 points last season, 26.2 points this season and helped Memphis secure the No. 2 seed in the Western Conference playoffs.

But the Grizzlies' season ended amid dysfunction. They were ousted in Round 1 by the Lakers, getting eliminated in a 40-point loss to close a series where trash-talking and antics became as much of a storyline as actual playing of basketball.

And the offseason is now off to a less-than-ideal start as well, especially after Grizzlies coach Taylor Jenkins said following the playoffs that the team has to eliminate "unnecessary drama, self-inflicted decisions that take away from the team."

"It has to be completely different going into next year," Jenkins said.

This will be at least the third known NBA investigation surrounding Morant and the possible involvement of firearms so far in 2023.

Morant's actions were investigated after a Jan. 29 incident in Memphis that he said led to Pack — someone Morant calls "my brother" — banned from Grizzlies' home games for a year.

That incident followed a game against the Indiana Pacers; citing unnamed sources, The Indianapolis Star and USA Today reported that multiple members of the Pacers saw a red dot pointed at them while they were near the loading dock where their bus was located, and The Athletic reported that a Pacers security guard believed the laser was attached to a gun.

The NBA confirmed that unnamed individuals were banned from the arena but said its investigation found no evidence that anyone was threatened with a weapon.

Then came the Denver-area incident in the early hours of March 4, after the Grizzlies played a road game against the Nuggets. At 5:19 a.m., Morant started a livestream from inside a strip club called Shotgun Willys in Glendale, Colorado. No charges were filed and police said there were no complaint calls stemming from Morant holding the gun.

Morant and Pack also are involved in a civil lawsuit brought after an incident at Morant's home last summer, in which a then-17-year-old alleged that they assaulted him. Morant filed a countersuit on April 12, accusing the teen of slander, battery and assault.

AP Sports Writer Teresa M. Walker in Nashville contributed to this report.

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He likes to be, under the sea: Florida man sets record for living underwater

KEY LARGO, Fla. (AP) — A university professor broke a record for the longest time living underwater without depressurization this weekend at a Florida Keys lodge for scuba divers.

Joseph Dituri's 74th day residing in Jules' Undersea Lodge, situated at the bottom of a 30-foot-deep lagoon in Key Largo, wasn't much different than his previous days there since he submerged March 1.

Dituri, who also goes by the moniker "Dr. Deep Sea," ate a protein-heavy meal of eggs and salmon prepared using a microwave, exercised with resistance bands, did his daily pushups and took an hour-long nap. Unlike a submarine, the lodge does not use technology to adjust for the increased underwater pressure.

The previous record of 73 days, two hours and 34 minutes was set by two Tennessee professors -- Bruce Cantrell and Jessica Fain -- at the same location in 2014.

But Dituri isn't just settling for the record and resurfacing: He plans to stay at the lodge until June 9, when he reaches 100 days and completes an underwater mission dubbed Project Neptune 100.

The mission combines medical and ocean research along with educational outreach and was organized by the Marine Resources Development Foundation, owner of the habitat.

"The record is a small bump and I really appreciate it," said Dituri, a University of South Florida educator who holds a doctorate in biomedical engineering and is a retired U.S. Naval officer. "I'm honored to have

it, but we still have more science to do.”

His research includes daily experiments in physiology to monitor how the human body responds to long-term exposure to extreme pressure.

“The idea here is to populate the world’s oceans, to take care of them by living in them and really treating them well,” Dituri said.

The outreach portion of Dituri’s mission includes conducting online classes and broadcast interviews from his digital studio beneath the sea. During the past 74 days, he has reached over 2,500 students through online classes in marine science and more with his regular biomedical engineering courses at the University of South Florida.

While he says he loves living under the ocean, there is one thing he really misses.

“The thing that I miss the most about being on the surface is literally the sun,” Dituri said. “The sun has been a major factor in my life – I usually go to the gym at five and then I come back out and watch the sunrise.”

Israeli cease-fire with militants in Gaza appears to hold, despite new rocket launch

By FARES AKRAM and TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP) — A fragile cease-fire between Israeli forces and militants in the Gaza Strip appeared to be holding on Sunday after a five-day clash that killed 33 Palestinians and two people in Israel.

In an early test for the truce, Palestinian militants fired a rocket that landed in an open area of southern Israel Sunday evening. Palestinian media said the launch was caused by a technical error as militants were trying to deactivate the rocket.

Israel responded with tank fire on what it said were two military posts belonging to Gaza’s ruling Hamas militant group. Hamas stayed out of the recent round of fighting, but Israel says it holds the group responsible for fire coming out of the territory.

The latest round of Gaza fighting was sparked Tuesday when Israeli jets killed three top commanders from the Islamic Jihad militant group in response to earlier rocket launches from Gaza. Those killings set off a barrage of militant fire and the conflagration threatened to drag the region into another all-out war until Egypt mediated a cease-fire that took hold late Saturday.

While the calm appeared to bring a sense of relief to Gaza’s 2 million people and hundreds of thousands of Israelis who had been largely confined to bomb shelters in recent days, the agreement did nothing to address the underlying issues that have fueled numerous rounds of fighting between Israel and Palestinian militant groups in the Gaza Strip over the years.

In Gaza, residents surveyed the latest damage caused to their surroundings, with gaping holes left in the apartments serving as what Israel said were hideouts for the six senior Islamic Jihad members killed during this round. Gaza’s main cargo crossing with Israel reopened Sunday after warnings that keeping it closed would force Gaza’s sole power plant to shut down, deepening a power crisis.

Israel was gradually lifting restrictions on residents in southern Israel, which had borne the brunt of the rocket fire.

Israeli officials expressed satisfaction with the latest battle, having killed at least six members of Islamic Jihad’s top brass in what it says were pinpointed strikes based on solid intelligence. But at least 13 of those killed in Gaza were civilians, among them children as young as 4 years old, as well as women.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the targeted attacks on the militants’ hideouts would reverberate around the region.

“Israel’s enemies in Gaza and much farther than Gaza know that even if they try to hide, we are able and prepared to reach them at any time,” he told a meeting of his Cabinet.

Israel has faced criticism in the past from rights groups over the civilian casualties in its bombardments in Gaza. Israel says it does its utmost to avoid harming civilians in its strikes and says militants operate from within the territory’s densely populated areas to fire rockets indiscriminately at Israeli communities.

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Even if some of the strikes were precise, others destroyed the homes of uninvolved Palestinians. "If they want to target a house, let them target it alone. Why destroy the whole neighborhood? Why?" said Mai Sarson, whose house in Deir el-Balah was reduced to ruins in an Israeli strike.

Throughout the fighting, Israel's repeated airstrikes targeting Islamic Jihad and its command centers and rocket-launching sites showed no signs of stopping the rocket fire, prompting Islamic Jihad to declare victory and sending cheering Palestinians out into the streets late Saturday.

The Israeli military reported over 1,400 launches throughout the fighting, with some rockets reaching as far as the Tel Aviv and Jerusalem areas. Israeli jets struck more than 400 targets, according to a preliminary military tally, which also showed about a fifth of the rockets were misfired and landed in Gaza, while most of the rest were either intercepted or landed in open areas.

An 80-year-old woman and a Palestinian laborer who was working inside Israel were killed by rocket fire. A Palestinian human rights group said three people, including two children, were killed in Gaza by errant rockets.

It was the latest in a long series of battles between Israel and Palestinian militants in Gaza since the Islamic militant group Hamas seized control of the seaside territory in 2007. Israel and Hamas have fought four wars, and there have been numerous smaller flareups as well.

The more powerful Hamas has praised Islamic Jihad's strikes but remained on the sidelines during the latest round of fighting, limiting the scope of the conflict. As the de facto government held responsible for the abysmal conditions in the blockaded Gaza Strip, Hamas has recently tried to keep a lid on its conflict with Israel. Islamic Jihad, on the other hand, a more ideological and unruly militant group wedded to violence, has taken the lead in the past few rounds of fighting with Israel.

Saturday's deal did not address many of the causes of the repeated fighting, including Israel's ongoing blockade of Gaza, the large arsenals of weapons possessed by Hamas and Islamic Jihad and Israeli policies in the occupied West Bank and east Jerusalem.

The Gaza violence came after more than a year of fighting in the occupied West Bank, where the Israeli military has been staging near-nightly arrest raids and Palestinians have carried out repeated attacks. Tensions could once again soar this week when nationalist Israelis hold an annual march through a sensitive area of Jerusalem's Old City, which the Palestinians view as provocative.

Israel captured the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians claim all three areas for a future state. Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005, but Hamas subsequently overran the territory and expelled forces loyal to the internationally recognized Palestinian Authority.

Israel and Egypt have maintained a blockade over Gaza in what Israel says is a policy aimed at preventing Hamas from arming. The Palestinians and international rights groups say the policy, which restricts the movement of people and goods in and out of Gaza, amounts to collective punishment.

Goldenberg reported from Tel Aviv, Israel.

Bolivian EV startup hopes tiny car will make it big in lithium-rich country

By CARLOS VALDEZ

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — On a recent, cold morning, Dr. Carlos Ortuño hopped into a tiny electric car to go check on a patient in the outskirts of Bolivia's capital of La Paz, unsure if the vehicle would be able to handle the steep, winding streets of the high-altitude city.

"I thought that because of the city's topography it was going to struggle, but it's a great climber," said Ortuño about his experience driving a Quantum, the first EV to have ever been made in Bolivia. "The difference from a gasoline-powered vehicle is huge."

Ortuño's home visit aboard a car the size of a golf cart was part of a government-sponsored program that brings doctors to patients living in neighborhoods far from the city center. The "Doctor in your house" program was launched last month by the municipality of La Paz using a fleet of six EV's manufactured by

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Quantum Motors, the country's sole producer of electric cars.

"It is a pioneering idea. It helps protect the health of those in need, while protecting the environment and supporting local production," La Paz Mayor Iván Arias said.

The program could also help boost Quantum Motors, a company launched four years ago by a group of entrepreneurs who believe EVs will transform the auto industry in Bolivia, a lithium-rich country, where cheap, subsidized imported gasoline is still the norm.

Built like a box, the Quantum moves at no more than 35 mph (56 kph), can be recharged from a household outlet and can travel 50 miles (80 kilometers) before a recharge. Its creators hope the \$7,600 car will help revive dreams of a lithium-powered economy and make electric cars something the masses will embrace.

"E-mobility will prevail worldwide in the next few years, but it will be different in different countries," says José Carlos Márquez, general manager of Quantum Motors. "Tesla will be a dominant player in the U.S., with its speedy, autonomous cars. But in Latin America, cars will be more compact, because our streets are more similar to those of Bombay and New Delhi than to those of California."

But the company's quest to boost e-mobility in the South American country has been challenging. In the four years since it released its first EVs, Quantum Motors has sold barely 350 cars in Bolivia and an undisclosed number of units in Peru and Paraguay. The company is also set to open a factory in Mexico later this year, although no further details have been provided on the scope of production there.

Still, Quantum Motors' bet on battery-powered cars makes sense when it comes to Bolivia's resources. With an estimated 21 million tons, Bolivia has the world's largest reserve of lithium, a key component in electric batteries, but it has yet to extract — and industrialize — its vast resources of the metal.

In the meantime, the large majority of vehicles in circulation are still powered by fossil fuels and the government continues to pour millions of dollars subsidizing imported fuel than then sells at half the price to the domestic market.

"The Quantum (car) might be cheap, but I don't think it has the capacity of a gasoline-powered car," says Marco Antonio Rodriguez, a car mechanic in La Paz, although he acknowledges people might change their mind once the government puts an end to gasoline subsidies.

Despite the challenges ahead, the makers of the Quantum car are hopeful that programs like "Médico en tu casa," which is scheduled to double in size and extend to other neighborhoods next year, will help boost production and churn out more EV's across the region.

"We are ready to grow," said Márquez. "Our inventory has been sold out through July."

AI presents political peril for 2024 with threat to mislead voters

By DAVID KLEPPER and ALI SWENSON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Computer engineers and tech-inclined political scientists have warned for years that cheap, powerful artificial intelligence tools would soon allow anyone to create fake images, video and audio that was realistic enough to fool voters and perhaps sway an election.

The synthetic images that emerged were often crude, unconvincing and costly to produce, especially when other kinds of misinformation were so inexpensive and easy to spread on social media. The threat posed by AI and so-called deepfakes always seemed a year or two away.

No more.

Sophisticated generative AI tools can now create cloned human voices and hyper-realistic images, videos and audio in seconds, at minimal cost. When strapped to powerful social media algorithms, this fake and digitally created content can spread far and fast and target highly specific audiences, potentially taking campaign dirty tricks to a new low.

The implications for the 2024 campaigns and elections are as large as they are troubling: Generative AI can not only rapidly produce targeted campaign emails, texts or videos, it also could be used to mislead voters, impersonate candidates and undermine elections on a scale and at a speed not yet seen.

"We're not prepared for this," warned A.J. Nash, vice president of intelligence at the cybersecurity firm ZeroFox. "To me, the big leap forward is the audio and video capabilities that have emerged. When you

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can do that on a large scale, and distribute it on social platforms, well, it's going to have a major impact."

AI experts can quickly rattle off a number of alarming scenarios in which generative AI is used to create synthetic media for the purposes of confusing voters, slandering a candidate or even inciting violence.

Here are a few: Automated robocall messages, in a candidate's voice, instructing voters to cast ballots on the wrong date; audio recordings of a candidate supposedly confessing to a crime or expressing racist views; video footage showing someone giving a speech or interview they never gave. Fake images designed to look like local news reports, falsely claiming a candidate dropped out of the race.

"What if Elon Musk personally calls you and tells you to vote for a certain candidate?" said Oren Etzioni, the founding CEO of the Allen Institute for AI, who stepped down last year to start the nonprofit AI2. "A lot of people would listen. But it's not him."

Former President Donald Trump, who is running in 2024, has shared AI-generated content with his followers on social media. A manipulated video of CNN host Anderson Cooper that Trump shared on his Truth Social platform on Friday, which distorted Cooper's reaction to the CNN town hall this past week with Trump, was created using an AI voice-cloning tool.

A dystopian campaign ad released last month by the Republican National Committee offers another glimpse of this digitally manipulated future. The online ad, which came after President Joe Biden announced his reelection campaign, and starts with a strange, slightly warped image of Biden and the text "What if the weakest president we've ever had was re-elected?"

A series of AI-generated images follows: Taiwan under attack; boarded up storefronts in the United States as the economy crumbles; soldiers and armored military vehicles patrolling local streets as tattooed criminals and waves of immigrants create panic.

"An AI-generated look into the country's possible future if Joe Biden is re-elected in 2024," reads the ad's description from the RNC.

The RNC acknowledged its use of AI, but others, including nefarious political campaigns and foreign adversaries, will not, said Petko Stoyanov, global chief technology officer at Forcepoint, a cybersecurity company based in Austin, Texas. Stoyanov predicted that groups looking to meddle with U.S. democracy will employ AI and synthetic media as a way to erode trust.

"What happens if an international entity — a cybercriminal or a nation state — impersonates someone. What is the impact? Do we have any recourse?" Stoyanov said. "We're going to see a lot more misinformation from international sources."

AI-generated political disinformation already has gone viral online ahead of the 2024 election, from a doctored video of Biden appearing to give a speech attacking transgender people to AI-generated images of children supposedly learning satanism in libraries.

AI images appearing to show Trump's mug shot also fooled some social media users even though the former president didn't take one when he was booked and arraigned in a Manhattan criminal court for falsifying business records. Other AI-generated images showed Trump resisting arrest, though their creator was quick to acknowledge their origin.

Legislation that would require candidates to label campaign advertisements created with AI has been introduced in the House by Rep. Yvette Clarke, D-N.Y., who has also sponsored legislation that would require anyone creating synthetic images to add a watermark indicating the fact.

Some states have offered their own proposals for addressing concerns about deepfakes.

Clarke said her greatest fear is that generative AI could be used before the 2024 election to create a video or audio that incites violence and turns Americans against each other.

"It's important that we keep up with the technology," Clarke told The Associated Press. "We've got to set up some guardrails. People can be deceived, and it only takes a split second. People are busy with their lives and they don't have the time to check every piece of information. AI being weaponized, in a political season, it could be extremely disruptive."

Earlier this month, a trade association for political consultants in Washington condemned the use of deepfakes in political advertising, calling them "a deception" with "no place in legitimate, ethical campaigns."

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Other forms of artificial intelligence have for years been a feature of political campaigning, using data and algorithms to automate tasks such as targeting voters on social media or tracking down donors. Campaign strategists and tech entrepreneurs hope the most recent innovations will offer some positives in 2024, too.

Mike Nellis, CEO of the progressive digital agency Authentic, said he uses ChatGPT "every single day" and encourages his staff to use it, too, as long as any content drafted with the tool is reviewed by human eyes afterward.

Nellis' newest project, in partnership with Higher Ground Labs, is an AI tool called Quiller. It will write, send and evaluate the effectiveness of fundraising emails — all typically tedious tasks on campaigns.

"The idea is every Democratic strategist, every Democratic candidate will have a copilot in their pocket," he said.

Swenson reported from New York.

The Associated Press receives support from several private foundations to enhance its explanatory coverage of elections and democracy. See more about AP's democracy initiative here. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Follow the AP's coverage of misinformation at <https://apnews.com/hub/misinformation> and coverage of artificial intelligence at <https://apnews.com/hub/artificial-intelligence>

Child social media stars have few protections. Illinois aims to fix that

By CLAIRE SAVAGE Associated Press/Report for America

CHICAGO (AP) — Holed up at home during the pandemic lockdown three years ago, 13-year-old Shreya Nallamothu was scrolling through social media when she noticed a pattern: Children even younger than her were the stars — dancing, cracking one-liners and being generally adorable.

"It seemed innocuous to me at first," Nallamothu said.

But as she watched more and more posts of kids pushing products or their mishaps going viral, she started to wonder: Who is looking out for them?

"I realized that there's a lot of exploitation that can happen within the world of 'kidfluencing,'" said Nallamothu, referring to the monetization of social media content featuring children. "And I realized that there was absolutely zero legislation in place to protect them."

Illinois lawmakers aim to change that by making their state what they say will be the first in the country to create protections for child social media influencers. Nallamothu, now 15, raised her concerns to Illinois state Sen. David Koehler of Peoria, who then set the legislation in motion.

The Illinois bill would entitle child influencers under the age of 16 to a percentage of earnings based on how often they appear on video blogs or online content that generates at least 10 cents per view. To qualify, the content must be created in Illinois, and kids would have to be featured in at least 30% of the content in a 30-day-period.

Video bloggers — or vloggers — would be responsible for maintaining records of kids' appearances and must set aside gross earnings for the child in a trust account for when they turn 18, otherwise the child can sue.

The bill passed the state Senate unanimously in March, and is scheduled to be considered by the House this week. If it wins approval, the bill will go back to the Senate for a final vote before it makes its way to Gov. J.B. Pritzker, who said he intends to sign it in the coming months.

Family-style vlogs can feature children as early as birth and recount milestones and family events — the wholesome clips that Nallamothu had been initially scrolling through.

But experts say the commercialized "sharenting" industry, which can earn content creators tens of

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thousands of dollars per brand deal, is underregulated and can even cause harm.

"As we see influencers and content creators becoming more and more of a viable career path for young people, we have to remember that this is a place where the law has not caught up to practice," said Jessica Maddox, a University of Alabama professor who studies social media platforms.

She added that child influencers "are in desperate need of the same protections that have been afforded to other child workers and entertainers."

The Illinois bill is modeled largely after California's 1939 Jackie Coogan law, named for the silent film-era child actor who sued his parents for squandering his earnings. Coogan laws now exist in several states and require parents to set aside a portion of child entertainers' earnings for when they reach adulthood.

Other states have tried to pass laws to regulate against potential child exploitation on social media without success. A 2018 California child labor bill included a social media advertising provision that was removed by the time it was passed, and Washington's 2023 bill stalled in committee.

Across the Atlantic, France passed a law in 2020 that entitles child influencers under 16 to a portion of their revenue, as well as "the right to forget," which means video platforms must withdraw the images of the child at the minor's request. Parental consent is not needed.

Illinois' own bill underwent several changes during the legislative session that watered down its reach, including stripping out a provision allowing child influencers to request deletion of content once they reached the age of 18, and requiring family vloggers to register their channels.

Still, Chicago-based Tyler Diers, the Midwest executive director of technology trade association Technet, which opposed the bill before the changes but is now neutral, said that when one state legislature takes up an issue, others tend to follow, "and oftentimes perfect what the first state did."

Nallamothu emphasized that the Illinois bill isn't aimed at "parents posting their kids on Facebook for their close family and friends," or even a funny clip that went viral.

"This is for families who make their income off of child vlogging and family vlogging," she said.

Many social media platforms — including Facebook, Instagram and TikTok — don't allow children to have accounts until they're at least 13 years old. But that hasn't stopped them from appearing on social media. And the internet is littered with examples of children being showcased for financial gain — and the harm it has caused as a consequence.

In 2019, an Arizona mother was accused of torturing her seven adopted children for subpar performances in their popular YouTube series, *Fantastic Adventures*; a Maryland couple who posted "prank" videos of themselves screaming at their children and breaking their toys lost custody and were sentenced to five years of probation for child neglect.

Another YouTube couple filmed every step of their family's process of adopting a young child from China with autism, only to eventually place him in a new home.

Chris McCarty, an 18-year-old college student who founded Quit Clicking Kids, an advocacy organization focused on protecting minors being monetized online, and who was the force behind the bill in Washington, noted that "this issue is not going away."

"Once these kids start growing up, the true extent of the damage inflicted by monetized family channels will be realized," McCarty said at a hearing for the Washington bill in February.

TikToker Bobbi Althoff is the mother of two little girls she lovingly refers to as "Richard" and "Concrete" to her 3.7 million followers. Althoff used to share her older daughter's face and real name online, but stopped after people made rude comments about her.

"I kept thinking about my daughter growing up to read these things, and it really upset me because I hate reading things like that about myself," she said.

When she shared her decision on Instagram, she lost thousands of followers and received backlash.

"A lot of people were supportive, but there were definitely a lot of people that were very strange about it," Althoff said, describing how some viewers seemed to feel like "they had a relationship with my daughter... and wanted to keep seeing her grow."

Although TikTok-famous tots are not quite old enough to reflect on their experiences, child reality TV

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stars of the last decade can offer comparable insight on how it feels to be on the other side of the camera.

Ohio-based Jason Welage enjoyed his time as a preteen on TruTV's 2015 reality show *Kart Life*, which followed families in the world of go-kart racing. Now 20, Welage says some of the less pleasant aspects have followed him into adulthood.

"When you Google the show, the first clip that comes up on YouTube is me coming off the track and crying," he said. "I still hear about it to this day."

His parents funneled the \$10,000 he earned on the show back into his racing, which can cost families up to \$150,000 a year, according to his mother, Meghan, who, like her son, supports the child influencer legislation in Illinois and hopes similar laws will be implemented in other states or even federally.

For children appearing on social media or TV, "it's definitely work for them," she said. Her son "wanted to go play, but instead he had to go sit on a stool in our motorhome and do interviews."

"There should be something to compensate the child for what they are going through or what they have to do," she said.

AP Staff Writer Elaine Ganley in Paris contributed to this report.

Savage 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.

Today in History: May 15, George Wallace shot and paralyzed

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, May 15, the 135th day of 2023. There are 230 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 15, 1948, hours after declaring its independence, the new state of Israel was attacked by Transjordan, Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon.

On this date:

In 1862, President Abraham Lincoln signed an act establishing the Department of Agriculture.

In 1928, the Walt Disney cartoon character Mickey Mouse made his debut in the silent animated short "Plane Crazy."

In 1967, the U.S. Supreme Court, in its unanimous *In re Gault* decision, ruled that juveniles accused of crimes were entitled to the same due process afforded adults.

In 1970, just after midnight, Phillip Lafayette Gibbs and James Earl Green, two Black students at Jackson State College in Mississippi, were killed as police opened fire during student protests.

In 1972, Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace was shot and left paralyzed while campaigning for president in Laurel, Maryland, by Arthur H. Bremer, who served 35 years for attempted murder.

In 1975, U.S. forces invaded the Cambodian island of Koh Tang and captured the American merchant ship *Mayaguez*, which had been seized by the Khmer Rouge. (All 39 crew members had already been released safely by Cambodia; some 40 U.S. servicemen were killed in connection with the operation.)

In 1988, the Soviet Union began the process of withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan, more than eight years after Soviet forces entered the country.

In 2000, by a 5-4 vote, the U.S. Supreme Court threw out a key provision of the 1994 Violence Against Women Act, saying that rape victims could not sue their attackers in federal court.

In 2007, the Rev. Jerry Falwell, who built the Christian right into a political force, died in Lynchburg, Virginia, at age 73.

In 2009, General Motors told about 1,100 dealers their franchises would be terminated.

In 2015, a jury sentenced Dzhokhar Tsarnaev (joh-HAHR' tsahr-NEYE'-ehv) to death for the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing that killed three and left more than 250 wounded.

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In 2020, President Donald Trump formally unveiled a coronavirus vaccine program he called "Operation Warp Speed," to speed development of COVID-19 vaccines and quickly distribute them around the country. Comedic actor Fred Willard, whose films included "Best In Show" and "Anchorman," died at 86.

Ten years ago: Under mounting pressure, President Barack Obama released a trove of documents related to the Benghazi attack and forced out the top official at the Internal Revenue Service following revelations the agency had targeted conservative political groups. Richard Swanson, a man who planned to dribble a soccer ball from Seattle to Brazil to raise money for charity, was struck and killed by a pickup truck in Oregon.

Five years ago: Seattle Mariners second baseman Robinson Cano was suspended for 80 games for violating baseball's drug agreement, becoming one of the most prominent players disciplined under the sport's anti-doping rules. Former Taiwanese President Ma Ying-jeou was sentenced to four months in prison on charges of leaking classified information related to testimony allegedly disclosed to him illegally five years earlier when he was president and facing challenges from opponents in the legislature.

One year ago: Police said the white 18-year-old who shot and killed 10 people at a Buffalo supermarket a day earlier had researched the local demographics while looking for places with a high concentration of Black residents, arriving there at least a day in advance to conduct reconnaissance. President Joe Biden urged unity to address the "hate that remains a stain on the soul of America" after a deadly mass shooting at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York. Pennsylvania Lt. Gov. John Fetterman, the leading Democrat in the state's high-profile Senate contest, suffered a stroke but his campaign said he was on his way to a full recovery. (Fetterman would defeat Dr. Mehmet Oz in November to win the Senate seat.)

Today's Birthdays: Actor-singer Anna Maria Alberghetti is 87. Counterculture icon Wavy Gravy is 87. Singer Lenny Welch is 85. Actor-singer Lainie Kazan is 81. Actor Gunilla Hutton is 81. Actor Chazz Palminteri is 77. Former Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius is 75. Singer-songwriter Brian Eno is 75. Actor Nicholas Hammond (Film: "The Sound of Music") is 73. Baseball Hall of Famer George Brett is 70. Musician-composer Mike Oldfield is 70. Actor Lee Horsley is 68. TV personality Giselle Fernández is 62. Rapper Grandmaster Melle Mel is 62. Actor Brenda Bakke is 60. Football Hall of Famer Emmitt Smith is 54. Actor Brad Rowe is 53. Actor David Charvet (shahr-VAY') is 51. Actor Russell Hornsby is 49. Rock musician Ahmet Zappa is 49. Olympic gold medal gymnast Amy Chow is 45. Actor David Krumholtz is 45. Rock musician David Hartley (The War on Drugs) is 43. Actor Jamie-Lynn Sigler is 42. Actor Alexandra Breckenridge is 41. Rock musician Brad Shultz (Cage the Elephant) is 41. Rock musician Nick Perri is 39. Tennis player Andy Murray is 36.