

Groton Daily Independent

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Groton Community Calendar

Sunday, May 21

Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:30 a.m.

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

United Methodist: Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.; Newsletter items due.

St. John's Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; worship with communion at Zion, 11 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.; worship at Avantara, 3 p.m.

Monday, May 22

Senior Menu: Hamburger cabbage roll hotdish, corn, pears, muffins.

Girls Golf Meet at Olive Grove Golf Course, 10 a.m.

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

Senior Citizens meet at the Groton Community Center with potluck at noon.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6 p.m.

Tuesday, May 23

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

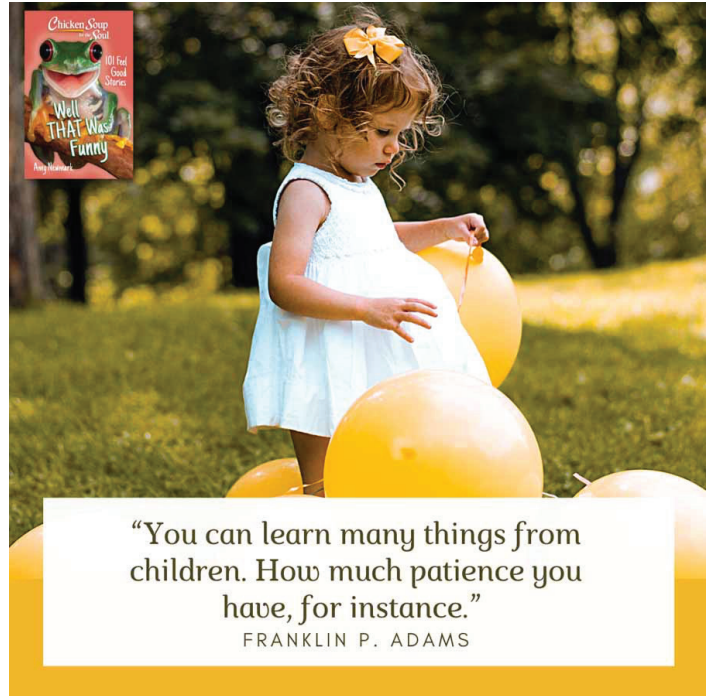
The Pantry, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

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

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

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.
© 2023 Groton Daily Independent



"You can learn many things from children. How much patience you have, for instance."

FRANKLIN P. ADAMS

Adult Mosquito Control

Adult mosquito control was done last night in Groton. With the wind out of the south, only avenues were done, but the drift was nearly perfect going across the whole block.

Pool Opening Date Set

Work continues at the Groton Swimming Pool. The opening date has been set for May 27th.

GDI on Kindle

Is any one out there using a Kindle to read the Groton Daily Independent? We have a customer that started having issues and is not able to read the paper on the Kindle. Text Paul at 605-397-7460 or email paperpaul@grotonsd.net if you are using a Kindle so we can trouble shoot with this customer.

Weber Landscaping Greenhouse Now Open!

620 West Third Ave., Groton

M-F
10-6
Saturday
10-4
Sunday
12-4




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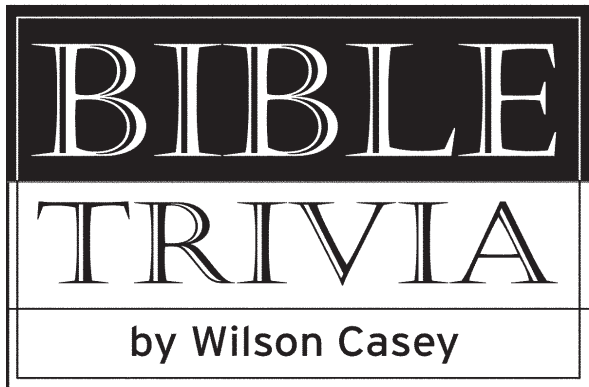


THE ILLUSTRATED BIBLE

The Lord, the God of their ancestors, sent word to them through his messengers again and again, because he had pity on his people and on his dwelling place. But they mocked God's messengers, despised his words and scoffed at his prophets until the wrath of the Lord was aroused against his people and there was no remedy. 2 CHRONICLES 36: 15,16 



Etching by Kathe Kollwitz (1910)



1. Is the book of Lamentations (KJV) in the Old or New Testament or neither?

2. In 1 Timothy 5:23, what did Paul suggest to Timothy for his frequent ailments? *Water, Wine, Bread, Honey*

3. From Genesis 41:41-42, which Hebrew became prime minister of Egypt? *David, Joseph, Nehemiah, Joel*

4. Where did Jesus spend his youth as found in Luke 4:16? *Smyrna, Tarsus, Antioch, Nazareth*

5. Who was stoned to death in the valley of Achor? *Abinoam, Achan, Ahilud, Abitub*

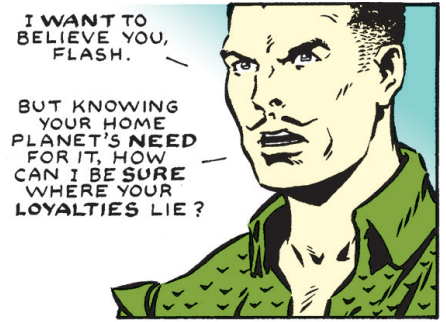
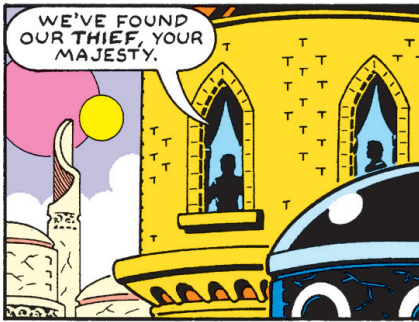
6. Jesus and who else walked on water? *Thomas, Andrew, Peter, James*

ANSWERS: 1) Old, 2) Wine, 3) Joseph, 4) Nazareth, 5) Achan, 6) Peter (Matthew 14:29)

Hardcore trivia fan? Visit Wilson Casey's subscriber site at www.patreon.com/triviaguy.

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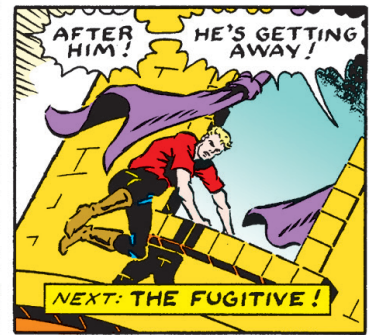
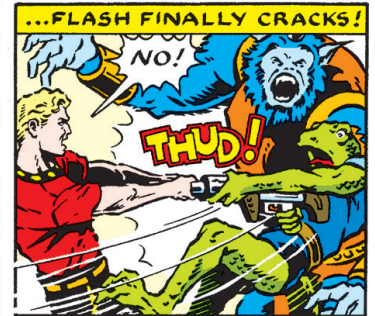
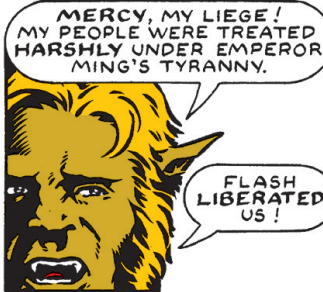


FLASH GORDON

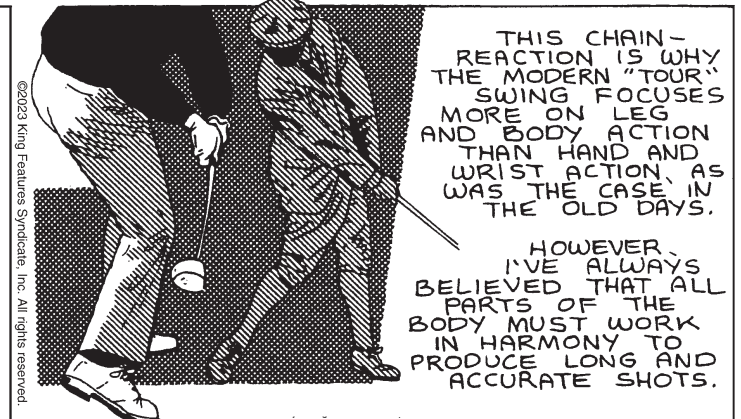
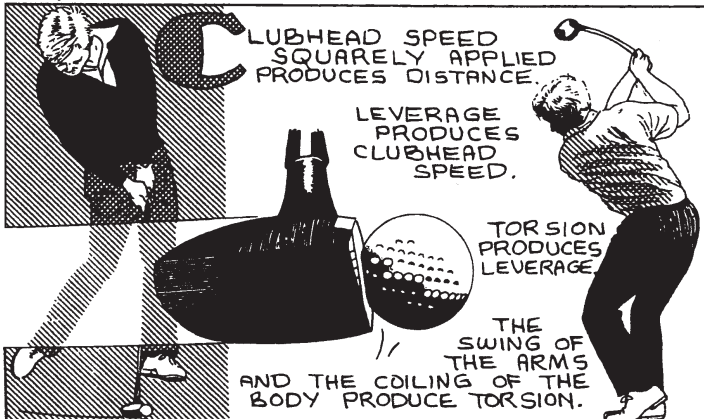
BY JIM KEEFE

FLASH IS ACCUSED OF SMUGGLING RADIUM-X!

KING BARIN, WE FOUND THE MAN RESPONSIBLE FOR LOADING THE CARGO BAY ON FLASH'S SHIP.



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS





Nurse Claims Wound Must Heal From the Inside Over Time

DEAR DR. ROACH: Whenever I got a wound while I was young, my mother would take me to the hospital to get stitches. I am now 94. I went to get a wound seen, and the nurse said that it needed to heal from the inside. They treated it with gauze, wrapping and then a stocking. It took months to heal. Why the big change? Why couldn't they have just put in stitches and saved me months of healing? — *D.J.*

ANSWER: A wound can be sutured (stitched) closed when it is new, clean and regular. A wound cannot be closed if it is infected or irregular. Most chronic wounds cannot be closed by stitching. Also, if there is a lot of swelling around the wound, there may be so much pressure that the wound cannot be closed and must be allowed to heal over time. This is often the case with larger wounds.

Basic principles of wound healing are to treat and prevent infection by bacteria or other germs, control pain and bleeding, and avoid treatments that are toxic to open wounds. I hear very frequently from people who have mistreated wounds. Strong agents like hydrogen peroxide, iodine, bleach and even soaps will kill more of your body's healing cells than bacteria, and they should not be used in open wounds.

I also hear people say wounds "need air," but wounds heal faster when they are moist. A barrier like petrolatum (Vaseline or many other proper wound-care agents) and a clean cover will accelerate wound healing. Most

when recommended by an expert. The best experts for wound care are wound-care nurses and, in extreme cases, vascular or plastic surgeons.

It takes time for a wound to heal. How much time depends on many factors, but a time span of months is not unusual, especially with a person in their 90s, who may not have the same blood supply they had when they were much younger.

DEAR DR. ROACH: I take 25 mg of quetiapine at night as a sleeping aid, and one of the side effects is an increase in blood sugar. I am curious if that will also show a rise in my A1C blood work as well? — *T.F.*

ANSWER: Quetiapine (Seroquel), an antipsychotic medication that is often used as a sleep aid due to its side effect of sedation, has at least two ways that it can increase blood sugar.

The first is that it directly acts against insulin, causing the body to try to release more insulin. At the same time, it reduces the ability of the body to make insulin. The combination means that in people who don't have much reserve (such as people with prediabetes or diabetes), this will increase their blood sugar. Secondly, the resistance to insulin helps promote weight gain, which worsens the resistance to insulin even more.

Any condition that raises blood glucose significantly for a long enough period will increase the A1C. The A1C measures the amount of sugar on hemoglobin molecules in red blood cells. The higher the blood sugar and the longer it stays high, the higher the A1C level.

A dose of 25 mg of quetiapine is relatively small, so it doesn't usually have these metabolic changes the way that quetiapine used for schizophrenia does — at the usual dose of 400 to 800 mg daily in adults. Still, I do not prescribe quetiapine as a sleep aid, since I greatly prefer nonmedication treatments such as cognitive-behavioral therapy whenever possible.

Dr. Roach regrets that he is unable to answer individual questions, but will incorporate them in the column whenever possible. Readers may email questions to ToYourGoodHealth@med.cornell.edu.

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"FUBAR" (TV-MA) -- Action movie star Arnold Schwarzenegger has a new spy-adventure series premiering May 25, which is the longtime actor's first leading role in a scripted live-action series. Schwarzenegger plays Luke, a recently retired CIA operative who gets sucked into one last, relatively simple mission. The catch? Well, once Luke arrives on site, he realizes his daughter, Emma (Monica Barbaro), also works for the CIA and that the two have been lying to each other for years. Now, as they take on the mission together in a much different way than they expected, their bond as father and daughter truly starts to form. (Netflix)



Caption: Monica Barbaro, left, and Arnold Schwarzenegger star as father-daughter CIA agents in the action series "FUBAR."

Courtesy of Netflix

"The Secrets of Hillsong" (NR) -- This four-part documentary series releasing May 20 dives into the scandals surrounding the Christian megachurch Hillsong. The Hillsong Church campus established in New York City aimed to draw in millennials and Gen Zers, mostly due to former lead pastor Carl Lentz's efforts. Lentz then went on to become a spiritual advisor to many celebrities, including Justin Bieber, Kendall Jenner and Selena Gomez, before he was dismissed amid an infidelity scandal. This documentary explores the dark-sided atmosphere attached to Hillsong, with serious allegations of sexual abuse and abuses of power from pastors like Lentz. (Hulu)

"Platonic" (TV-MA) -- The duo who led "Neighbors," Rose Byrne and Seth Rogen, are teaming up again -- this time for a comedy series. Byrne and Rogen respectively play Sylvia and Will, a pair of best friends who reconnect after years apart. Sylvia's a family woman now, but Will, who just went through a recent divorce, is in an entirely different stage of his life. So, as their friendship takes off again, the two must find the right balance between Will's shenanigans and Sylvia's family to prove that a man and a woman can maintain a platonic relationship. The first three episodes premiere on May 24, with the rest following on a weekly basis. (AppleTV+)

"Three Thousand Years of Longing" (R) -- During a trip to Istanbul, British scholar Alithea Binnie picks out a random memento at an antique store. Unbeknownst to Alithea, the antique bottle she purchased contains the Djinn, a genie, inside. As the tale often goes, the Djinn offers Alithea three wishes, but first, he tells her the stories of how he ended up in the bottle and the many wishes he's granted before. Because of these stories, Alithea's lonely heart starts to beat again, and she finds immense purpose with the Djinn's sudden appearance in her life. Idris Elba and Tilda Swinton make an odd yet intriguing match in this fantasy-romance film premiering May 23. (Prime Video)

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1. Name the artist who wrote and released "Buffalo Stance."
2. What was the first chart-topper released by The Tokens?
3. Name the Motown group that released "Heat Wave."
4. Where did UB40 get its name?
5. Name the song that contains these lyrics: "Do my dreaming and my scheming, Lie awake and pray."

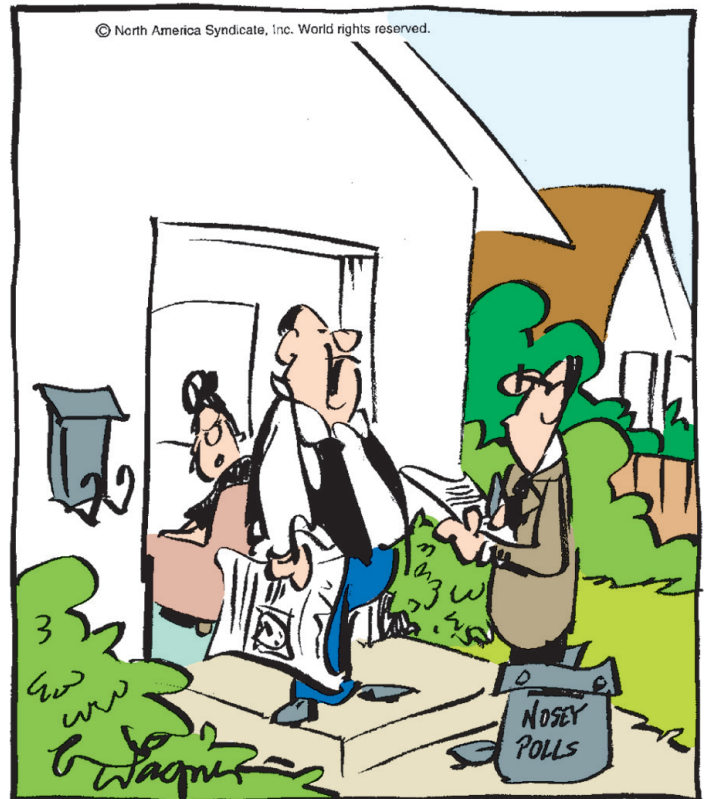
Answers

1. Neneh Cherry, in 1988. A "buffalo stance" is an attitude about survival in inner cities, specifically written about the models, musicians and photographers in the Buffalo fashion house in London.
2. "The Lion Sleeps Tonight," in 1961. The song was first written in Zulu in 1939 and is alternately called "Wimoweh" and "Mbube."
3. Martha and the Vandellas, in 1963. The song has been widely used in films, including "Carrie," "Sister Act" and the sequel "More American Graffiti."
4. The UB40 is a welfare form in the U.K. for claiming benefits. All the band members were unemployed when they formed the group.
5. "In My Room," by the Beach Boys, in 1963. The song made it to Rolling Stone's list of 500 greatest songs, and it's been covered by numerous artists. The 30-year box set contains a slightly earlier version than the one that was officially released.

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GRIN and BEAR IT ^{by Wagner}

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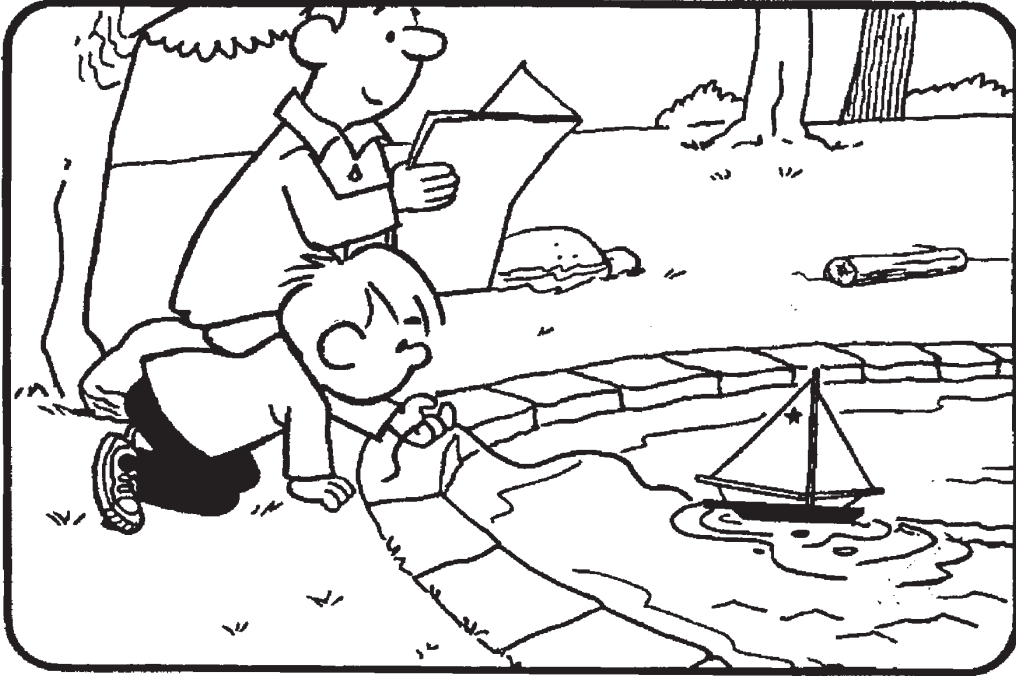
"You don't want to get her started!"

Just Like Cats & Dogs ^{by Dave T. Phipps}

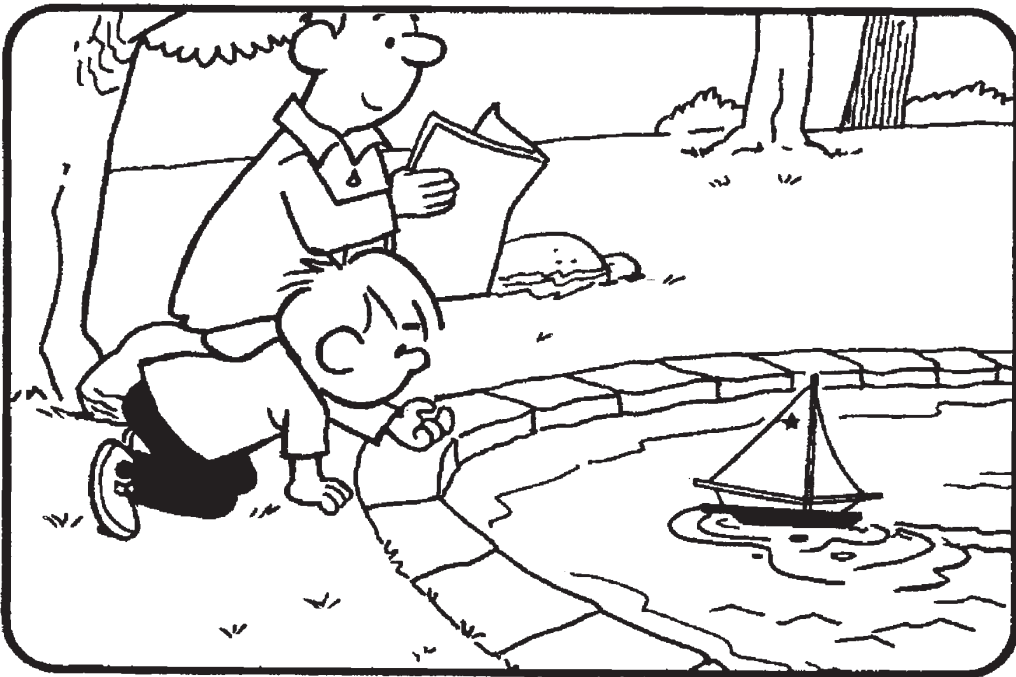


HOCUS-FOCUS

BY
HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Sneaker is different. 2. Sleeve is shorter. 3. Paper is smaller. 4. String is missing. 5. Sail is missing. 6. Log is missing.

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* Use a mesh bag to hold flowers in place in a vase. Just roll or wad it up and put it down in the bottom of the vase. When you are done with the flowers, you can use a stick to swish the bag around and loosen any gunk inside the vase when cleaning. Launder the mesh or just toss.

* When freezing leftovers, especially soup or stew, consider using zipper-closing bags. They can be filled and frozen flat, then stacked nicely. They take up much less room than standard containers.

* "To make a waterproof mattress protector in a pinch, slit a large garbage bag down the side and bottom, lay it flat over the mattress and cover with a beach towel. Then put the sheet over that. The garbage bag protects the mattress; the towel makes it comfortable." -- U.D. in

Tennessee

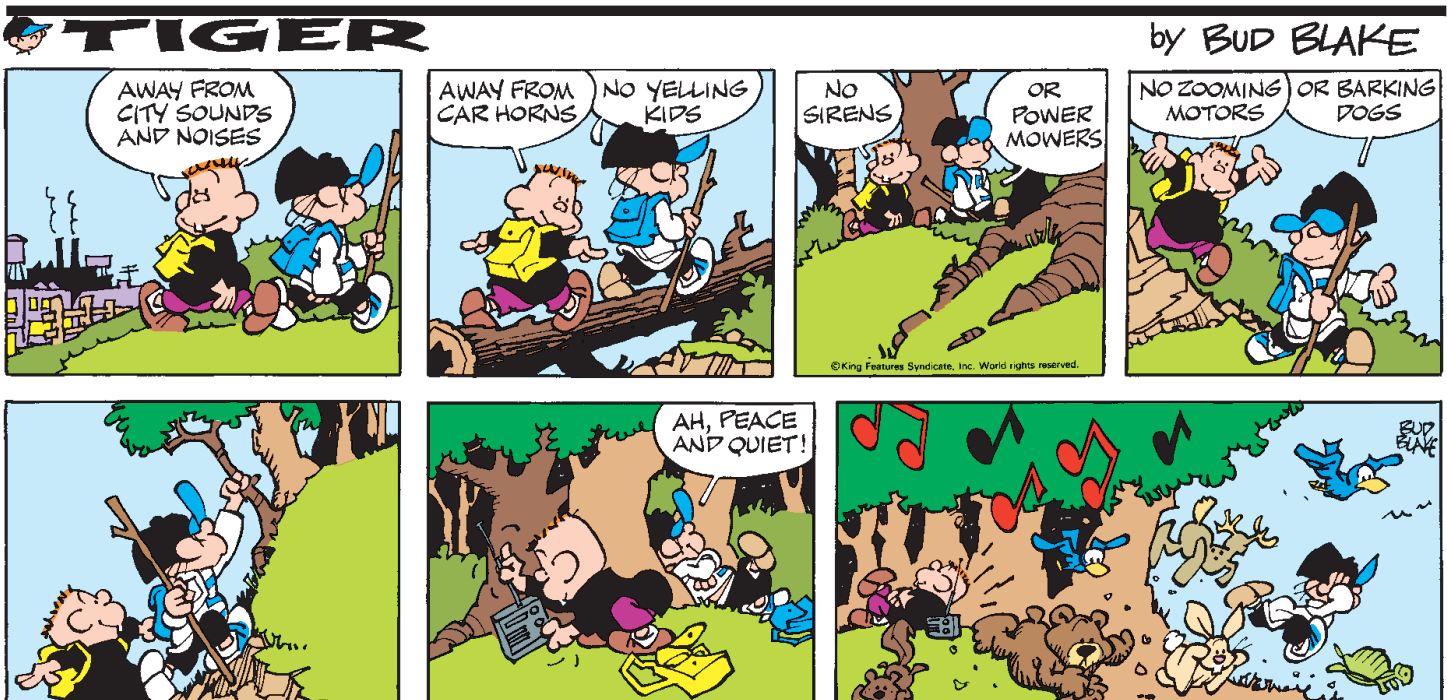
* "Keep extra liner bags in the bottom of the garbage can. They are handy, so you will be more likely to reline the can as soon as you take the garbage out." -- K.P. in Massachusetts

* Keep a box of baking soda in the fridge. When it's time to replace it, dump it down the drain and follow with a small bottle of vinegar and a hot water flush. Keep your kitchen smelling nice and use less chemicals to do it.

* "Here's a fun invitation to make and receive: Blow up a balloon and pinch (don't tie). Write the details of the party on the balloon in permanent marker. Let it dry fully before you deflate it. Then send it!" -- R.A. in Washington

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, 628 Virginia Drive, Orlando, FL 32803.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Beer ingredi-ent
- 5 Adj. modifier
- 8 Taverns
- 12 "The Middle" actress
Heaton
- 14 Denny's rival
- 15 Susan of "Dead Man Walking"
- 16 Donated
- 17 Business mag
- 18 Rose and fell on the sea
- 20 Chicago cagers
- 23 Seethe
- 24 God of war
- 25 Adirondack lake

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
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37	38	39					40					
41					42	43				44	45	46
47					48							
49					50				51			

- 28 Martini ingredi-ent
- 29 "Star Wars" baddie
- 30 Pirate's chart
- 32 Arabian nomad
- 34 Minus
- 35 Melodies
- 36 Blitzen's boss
- 37 Two-piece suit
- 40 Jazzy style
- 41 Greek vowels
- 42 Revolutionary War battle
- 47 Hamlet, e.g.
- 48 Stumble on

- 49 Winter coast-er
 - 50 Thanksgiving veggie
 - 51 Section
- DOWN**
- 1 AWOL pursu-ers
 - 2 Bond rating
 - 3 USPS delivery
 - 4 Nature walks
 - 5 Outlet letters
 - 6 God, in Roma
 - 7 Eighth U.S. president
 - 8 London land-mark
 - 9 Melville cap-tain
 - 10 Peregrinate
 - 11 Raced
 - 13 Hostels
 - 19 Sharif of "Funny Girl"
 - 20 Purse
 - 21 "Topaz" author
 - 22 Sultry Horne
 - 23 Loses color
 - 25 Clerics' rob-ing room
 - 26 "So be it"
 - 27 Group of actors
 - 29 Futile

- 31 Unpaid TV ad
- 33 Elevated
- 34 Portable PC
- 36 Daytime drama
- 37 Hotel furniture
- 38 Slanted type (Abbr.)
- 39 Welles role
- 40 Edge
- 43 Coach Parseghian
- 44 Eggs
- 45 Berlin's coun-try (Abbr.)
- 46 Museum dis-play

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— King Crossword —

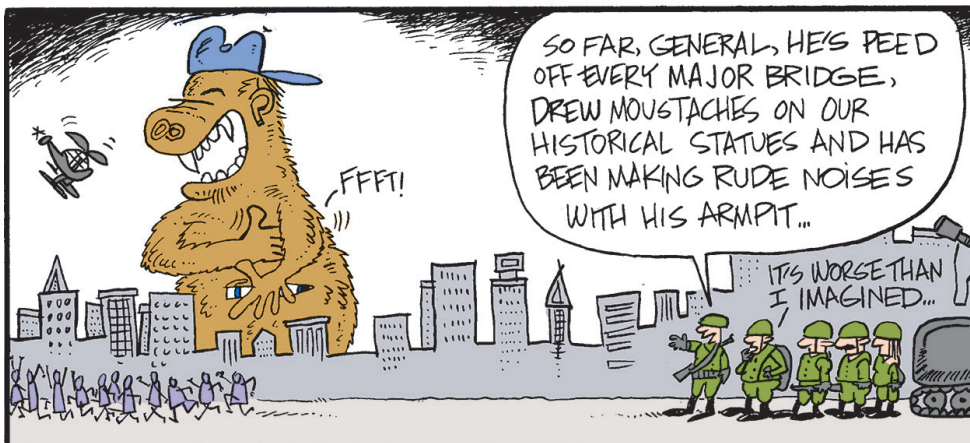
Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

M	A	L	T		A	D	V		B	A	R	S
P	A	T	R	I	C	I	A		I	H	O	P
S	A	R	A	N	D	O	N		G	A	V	E
		I	N	C		B	O	B	B	E	D	
B	U	L	L	S		F	U	M	E			
A	R	E	S		S	A	R	A	N	A	C	
G	I	N		V	A	D	E	R		M	A	P
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B	I	K	I	N	I		B	O	P			
E	T	A	S		S	A	R	A	T	O	G	A
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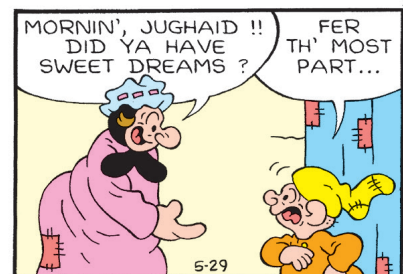
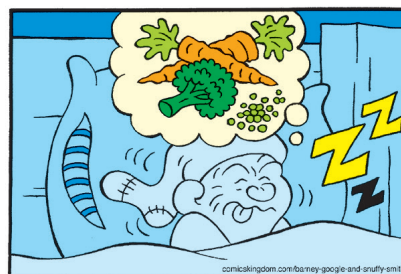
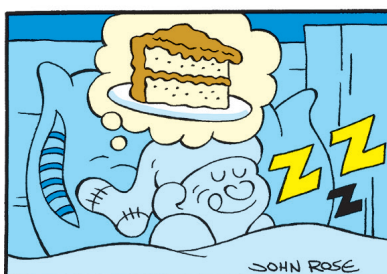
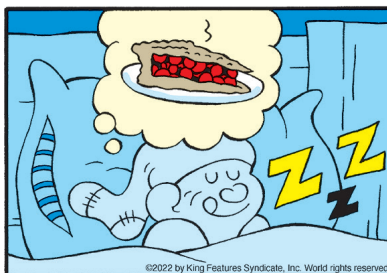
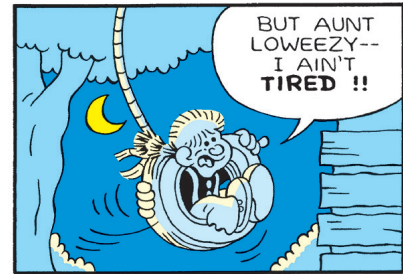
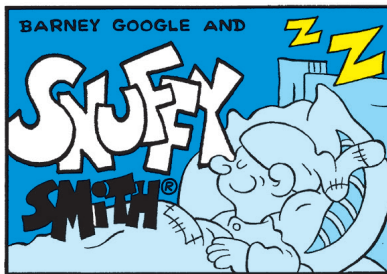
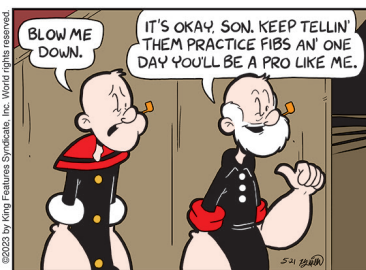
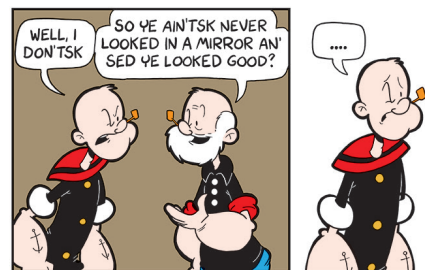
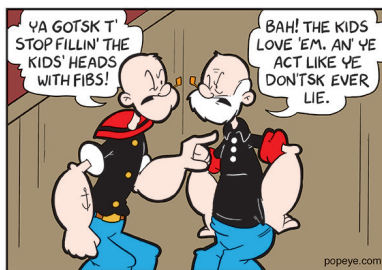
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



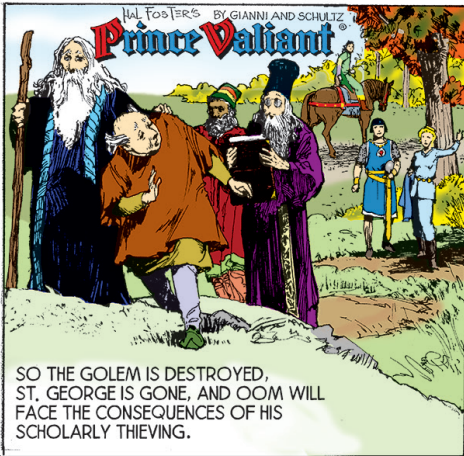
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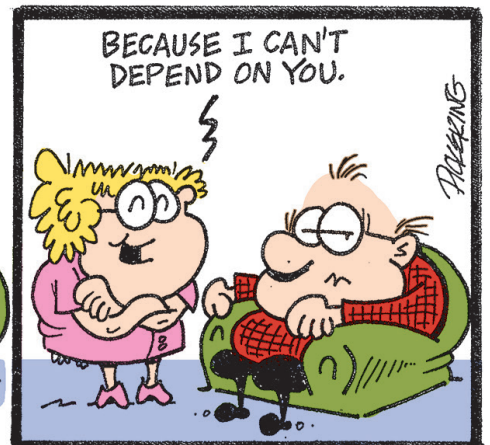
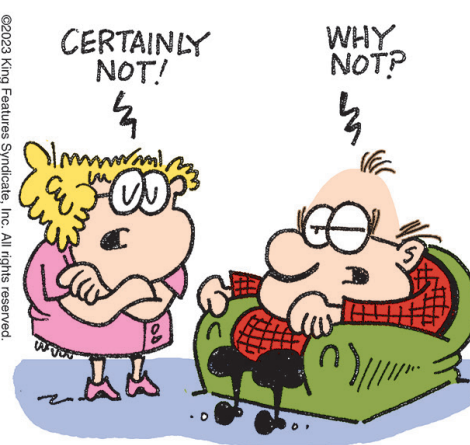
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The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



SENIOR NEWS LINE

by Matilda Charles

Decluttering -- Do It Your Way

Consider this a firsthand account of clearing clutter. I read several self-help books; I sought advice from those who call themselves experts.

But I suspected that the "how to declutter" books would be a lost cause when I saw passages that suggested taking photos of cherished items as a way of remembering them; I knew that plan was not for me. It was the same with instructions to take it one room at a time or to take months to finish the task.

In the end, I rejected all I heard and read and opted for doing it my way: quickly and ruthlessly.

The key to successful decluttering is to ask yourself realistic questions:

If you're working on clothing and realize that you haven't worn certain items in years, how likely are you to wear them ever again? If you have a set of dishware once owned by your grandmother and have never used it, are you likely to ever use it now? If you're sorting memorabilia from vacations, do you remember the details of your trip?

Give yourself one month to declutter, working at it for at least an hour every day, boxing things up as you go and dividing them into items to be donated or to be thrown out. At the end of the month, call the dump haulers or the people who take donations.

Keep in mind: If you haven't put up outdoor holiday decorations in five years, you won't start now. Relatives who indicate they want a certain item need to remove it immediately. You really don't need 17 sets of sheets or towels. Just because your mother kept her own mother's cherished items for 30 years doesn't mean you need to do the same.

But best of all: If something is no longer on a shelf, you don't have to dust it.

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1. Name the U.S. swimmer who won gold medals in the men's 800-meter and 1,500-meter freestyle events at the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics.

2. Lost, Firewire, Rusty and Pyzel are among the leading manufacturers of equipment for what sport?

3. What national team has dominated the IKF World Korfball Championship, winning 10 of the first 11 titles dating back to 1978?

4. What golf course, located in Chaska, Minnesota, hosted the PGA Championship (2002, 2009) and the 2016 Ryder Cup?

5. Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson starred in what HBO sports dramedy that ran for five seasons from 2015-19?

6. What nickname is given to the last player selected in the final round of each NFL Draft?

7. Aviva Stadium, built on the site of the former Lansdowne Road Stadium, is a soccer and rugby facility located in what city?



by Ryan A. Berenz

Answers

1. Robert Finke.

2. Surfing.

3. The Netherlands.

4. Hazeltine National Golf Club.

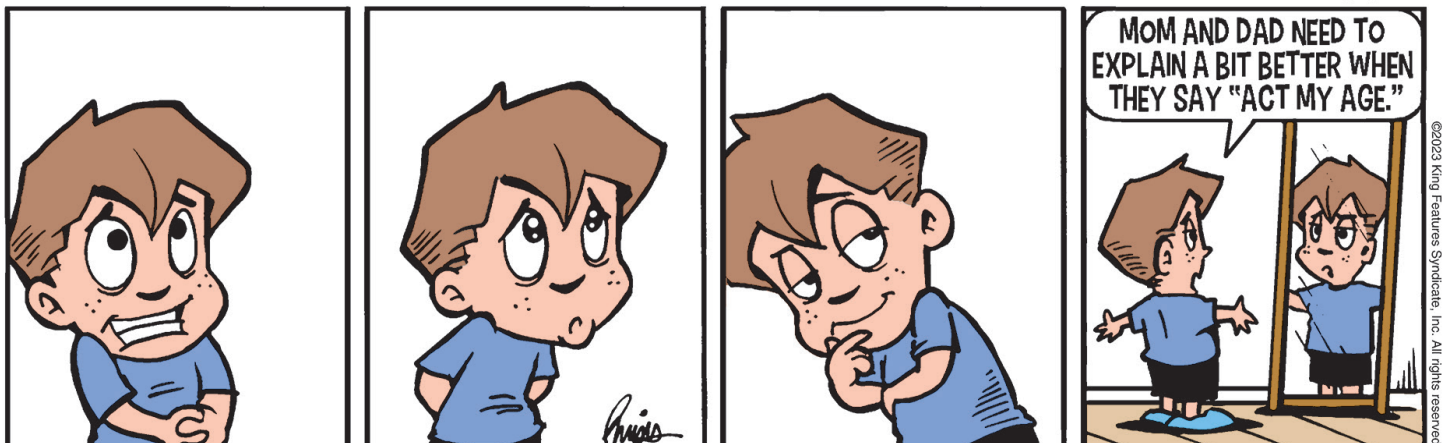
5. "Ballers."

6. Mr. Irrelevant.

7. Dublin, Ireland.

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Amber Waves





Should I Withhold Water From My Puppy to Aid Housetraining?

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: I purchased a puppy who is 2 months old from a breeder in another state. I'm having trouble housetraining her. She drinks water all day, but she can't hold her pee and ends up wetting on the floor. I work from home, but I can't catch her and correct her. Instead, I think I should just take the water bowl away for most of the day. Will that work? -- Frustrated in Tallahassee

DEAR FRUSTRATED: Do not take away the water bowl. Pets should always have access to water, regardless of their housetraining status.

Puppies have really tiny bladders and cannot hold their water for very long. So they pee much more frequently than you realize. But they shouldn't have to suffer and be thirsty just because their accidents are inconvenient for you.

This link has detailed information and advice on managing puppy housetraining issues: iaabcjournal.org/housetraining-hang-ups/, including when to contact a veterinarian.

One great piece of advice here is to create a puppy playpen and line it with pee pads, as well as water-resistant chew toys. As your puppy grows and gets better at holding their bladder and understands your commands better, gradually take away pads until there is just one "target" in the pen.

Above all, be patient with your new puppy. She is starting out in a whole new world, in a tiny body that is constantly changing and growing. Set a routine with frequent outdoor potty breaks in the same spot. Reward her when she pees outside. She will get this -- eventually!

Send your tips, comments or questions to ask@pawscorner.com.

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Strange BUT TRUE

By Lucie Winborne

* Larry Lemieux, a Canadian sailor at the 1988 Olympics, was about to win a silver medal when he abandoned the race to save two other competitors whose boat had capsized. While he lost the silver medal, he was given the Pierre de Coubertin medal for sportsmanship.

* A hydrangea flower's color is determined by the relative acidity of the soil in which it's grown: Acidic soil will produce a blue flower, while alkaline soil will yield a pink blossom.

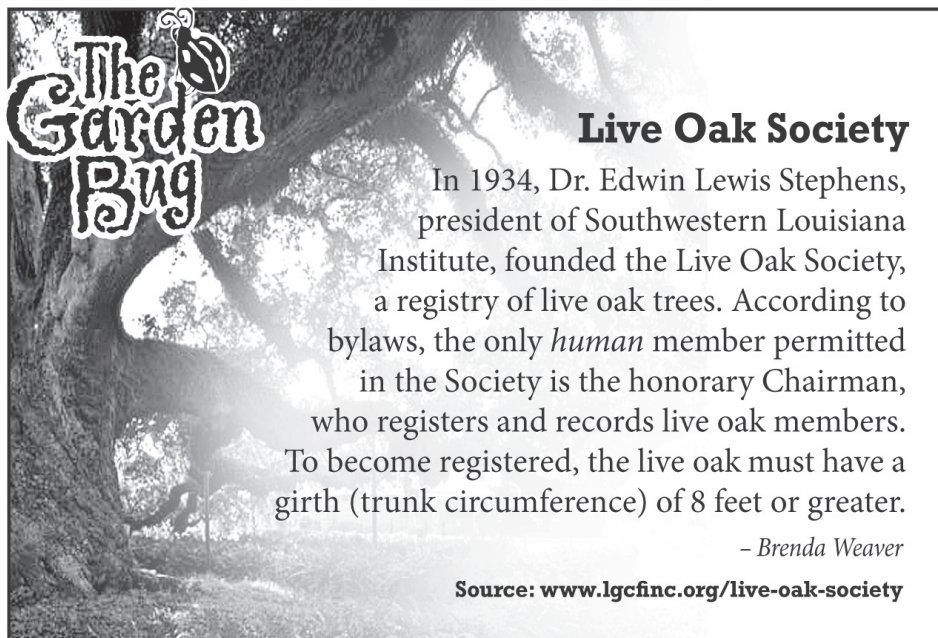
* The Sami people of Northern Finland have a unit of measurement called the "poronkusema"-- the distance a reindeer can walk before it needs to urinate.

* Had a solar eruption happened nine days earlier than it did in 2012, the Earth would have been hit by a massive solar storm that would likely have caused major X-ray and UV radiation and power failure over the planet. It also would likely have cost trillions of dollars and taken four to 10 years to recover from. Timing really is everything!

* The hotel that inspired Stephen King to write "The Shining" plays the Stanley Kubrick film of the same name on a continuous loop on channel 42 for guests.

Thought for the Day: "Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day." -- Sally Koch

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The Garden Bug

Live Oak Society

In 1934, Dr. Edwin Lewis Stephens, president of Southwestern Louisiana Institute, founded the Live Oak Society, a registry of live oak trees. According to bylaws, the only *human* member permitted in the Society is the honorary Chairman, who registers and records live oak members. To become registered, the live oak must have a girth (trunk circumference) of 8 feet or greater.

— Brenda Weaver

Source: www.lgcfinc.org/live-oak-society



by Freddy Groves

Proposed 2024 VA Budget not Good for Veterans

While the proposed 2024 Department of Veterans Affairs budget increase of 5% sounds good, it's actually the lowest hike they've seen in nearly 10 years. The president claims that there is a "sacred obligation" to support veterans and that \$325 billion will do just that.

As always, the devil is in the details, and that budget would cut into critical VA programs to the tune

of 22%.

Per a VA.gov news release, those cuts would mean:

-- 30 million fewer healthcare outpatient visits for everything from mental health services to cancer screenings and treatments to wellness care.

-- 81,000 jobs would vanish across the health care system at the VA.

-- 50,000 housing vouchers would be eliminated.

-- 6,000 jobs would be eliminated among those who handle the disability claims backlogs, which would cause delays in getting benefits for education, insurance, pensions and more. The net result would be 134,000 additional backlogged claims. This comes at the same time the VA is supposed to be increasing hiring because of the extra work due to the PACT Act, which offers help and benefits to those veterans who were exposed to toxins.

-- 500 cemetery worker jobs would be lost, meaning the five new cemeteries would be delayed and maintenance at current cemeteries would suffer.

-- Impaired abilities to expand telehealth care, with limited medical equipment for the veterans to use at home. The information and technology area, for example, would be short \$345 million for the network.

-- \$565 million less for construction to fix or build VA hospitals and clinics.

If you read about the budget in various places, all the glowing language might make it look as though so many millions are being provided to help veterans ... but keep a calculator handy and do the math. Consider your own financial position and think of what a 22% shortfall would do. There would be cutbacks, doing without, unmet needs, etc.

To read more about the damage the budget would do, check out www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5874.

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Wishing Well®

6	8	6	8	5	3	6	5	6	5	3	6	3
A	S	N	E	B	Y	O	E	L	D	O	D	U
4	7	4	8	4	6	5	8	3	5	3	4	3
B	S	E	C	A	F	I	U	R	L	L	L	U
7	2	7	3	8	7	8	7	5	7	5	2	3
U	E	C	C	R	C	E	E	I	S	G	T	K
6	7	2	5	7	3	2	3	6	7	5	8	5
L	S	E	E	F	Y	R	D	A	U	N	Y	T
2	3	7	2	7	8	2	3	4	6	8	4	2
N	A	L	A	E	O	L	Y	E	M	U	R	L
8	7	4	2	8	6	7	2	8	7	2	8	7
R	N	T	O	F	E	T	V	U	E	E	T	R
8	6	8	7	8	7	6	7	6	7	6	7	6
U	C	R	P	E	R	A	I	L	S	L	E	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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1. TELEVISION: What is the name of the high school in "Buffy the Vampire Slayer"?
2. MOVIES: Who voiced the character Woody in "Toy Story"?
3. LITERATURE: Who are the tragic lovers in the novel "Wuthering Heights"?
4. AD SLOGANS: Which product invites consumers to "taste the rainbow"?
5. FOOD & DRINK: Which root vegetable is known as Japanese horseradish?
6. ANATOMY: What substance gives skin its color?
7. GEOGRAPHY: Where are the Great Pyramids of Giza located?
8. HISTORY: Who was the first female prime minister of Great Britain?
9. SCIENCE: What is the hollow, woody tissue that carries water and nutrients from a plant's roots to the entire plant?
10. U.S. STATES: Which is the only state that doesn't have a mandatory seat belt law for adults?

Answers

1. Sunnydale High.
2. Tom Hanks.
3. Heathcliff and Catherine.
4. Skittles.
5. Wasabi.
6. Melanin.
7. Egypt.
8. Margaret Thatcher.
9. Xylem.
10. New Hampshire.

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South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Remembering Sheila

It is springtime in South Dakota and all things seem new! The grass is growing, new crops are being planted, and baby calves are kicking up their heels enjoying the recent sunshine and good weather. Some days I felt like joining them! But this week, I received some sad news. Sheila Bonrud, a fixture in my office and several Governors before me, passed away. It was a stark reminder that life is precious and that our last interaction with someone may always be that...our last interaction.

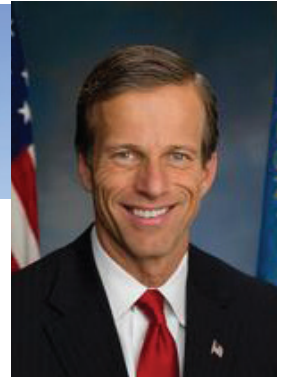
I wanted to share a little bit about Sheila with you all for several reasons. For one, her dedication to the people of South Dakota was inspirational and legendary. She started working for the state of South Dakota almost 50 years ago and tried to retire twice...and failed! She loved her work too much to give it up. She helped shepherd our office, and the offices of Governors Janklow, Rounds, and Daugaard through legislative session and much more. Tracking bills, setting up processes, and giving a clear assessment of the situation at hand, were just a few of her special gifts. Her quick wit and fantastic cooking ability gave us opportunities to laugh, break bread together, and learn a little history from her when she shared her stories. And by the way, she made a wonderful noodle salad!

"Sheila's list" was a document she shared with everyone daily that we all depended on to keep the train's running on time during session. When she would hurry into a room to deliver it to us all during a busy day, we could always count on her to summarize the situation at hand with policymaking that day. "It's sure a show upstairs today!" or "I'll get the info to you when they decide they want to share it with those of us who have to DO it!" I asked my staff to describe Sheila to you all and these were the words that rose to the top. Patient, reliable, funny, sharp and accountable. She loved to work and enjoyed mentoring younger people in my office, especially young women.

In summary, Sheila was a gem. As much as she invested in us with her gifts and talents, she also shared herself with her family and community. Sheila was special, loved by all and she lived a life of significance.

The lesson I take from Sheila's life is this. Enjoy the new beginnings spring brings us, but may we also remember the gifts surrounding us each day that makes South Dakota special. It is our people and the relationships we have with them that will change our lives. And there are many people in state government, local government and other roles in our lives who are dedicated to helping people. They may not ever get their name in the paper or be at the top of the news hour on the local tv station, but they deserve our thanks for serving us. Sheila will be greatly missed by all of us in our office, but we are so thankful God placed her in our lives to enjoy and learn from. Her faith taught her, as it teaches us, that "those who die in God's grace and friendship live forever with Christ." What a wonderful faith we share that brings us all hope to see those we love again someday when all things will be made new again.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Reining In Out-of-Control Spending

Federal spending has grown increasingly out of control under the Biden administration. The federal government will spend 40 percent more this year than it did just four years ago, yet the president and Democrats continue to propose more reckless spending and balk at Republicans' responsible attempts to rein it in. Democrats have added trillions to the debt in the last two years and fueled an inflation crisis with their overspending. And their reluctance to engage in serious negotiations to reduce excess government spending risks precipitating a debt crisis.

At \$31.4 trillion, our national debt already exceeds the size of the entire U.S. economy, and it's projected to rise to over \$50 trillion in the next decade. This level of debt is not only unsustainable, it's unacceptable. Government debt drives up interest rates, crowds out private investment, and weakens America's economic and national security.

Just paying the interest alone on this much debt is an increasingly serious challenge. Unless common-sense fiscal policy is prioritized, 50 cents out of every dollar the government borrows over the next decade will go toward making interest payments. In a few years, interest payments will exceed what we spend on national defense, with Medicare and Social Security not far behind.

Making tough choices today can help ensure we avoid these dire circumstances in the future. But President Biden doesn't seem to see it this way. He has consistently proposed budgets that call for more federal spending, which he hopes to pay for, in part, with trillions of dollars in tax hikes. But the truth is that we have a spending problem, not a revenue problem. Taxing the rich may be a convenient political slogan, but it will not bring in enough money to dig us out of the hole we're in. We have to find a way to responsibly rein in federal spending.

Historically, the debt ceiling has provided an opportunity to do just this. The eight largest deficit reduction laws since 1985 have all been attached to debt limit legislation. The president's refusal to negotiate for three months and his repeated calls for Congress to raise the debt ceiling without any meaningful spending reforms defies precedent and it indicates a lack of seriousness.

There has never been a more important time to address the problem of reckless government spending. The trajectory it's on now is not just dangerous in the long-run, it can cause serious problems in the not-too-distant future. It's time for the president to join Republicans in taking this problem seriously and work toward a solution that puts us on a more sustainable and responsible fiscal path.

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CONGRESSMAN
DUSTY JOHNSON
Representing **SOUTH DAKOTA** at large



Preserving the Site of the Wounded Knee Massacre

In the late 1880s, a movement called the Ghost Dance swept across the nation. Indians believed that this dance would give stolen land back to them, bringing about a renewal of Native society. Indians would join together to dance for this renewal at the protest of the federal government.

On December 29th, 1890, a group of Lakota Indians led by Chief Spotted Elk made camp near Wounded Knee Creek on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. There, U.S. Army 7th Cavalry troops were sent to disarm the Lakota. A struggle occurred between the U.S. Army and some of Chief Spotted Elk's band – a majority of which consisted of women and children. A shot rang out, and the U.S. Army opened fire on the largely unarmed group, tragically massacring an estimated 350-375 Lakota Indians.

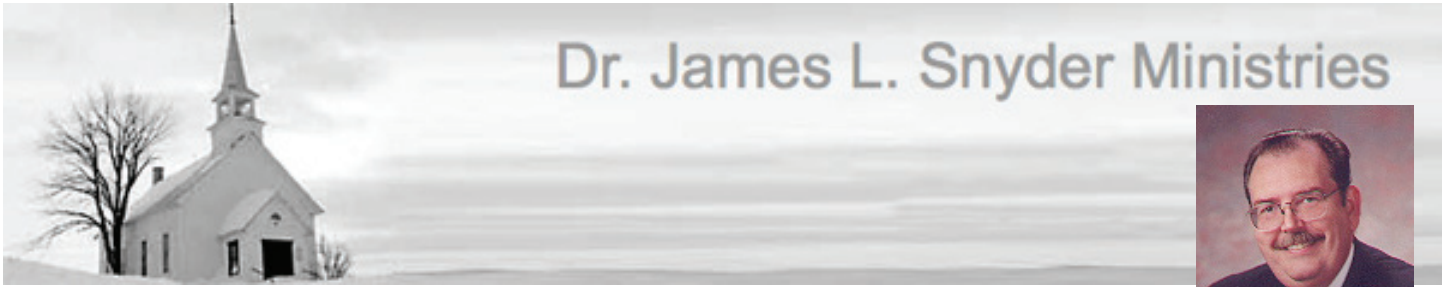
The land where this massacre occurred had been held under private ownership for decades until September 2022, when both the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe jointly purchased the land. One month later, the tribes signed a covenant to ensure the land remains a memorial and sacred site without development.

The Wounded Knee Massacre is a dark stain on our nation's history. After working with both tribes for the last six months, I introduced the Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act to honor and remember the lives lost. The bill would place the land purchased by the tribes into restricted fee status, similar to a trust, so both tribes can continue to hold ownership, prevent the land from being taxed, and protect it from development for generations to come. Once given restricted fee status, the land would not be able to be sold without consent of both tribes and Congress.

The section of land is forty acres located on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. My bill will make sure the tribes have the opportunity to protect the land as sacred and retain the sovereignty to maintain the land. It was and always is an honor to work with the tribes, striving to being a more perfect union.

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These Old Bones of Mine

I had a frightening experience the other day. I know I must be getting old because things that never frightened me before frighten me. I also see things I never saw before.

Going into the bathroom one morning, I looked in the mirror, and my grandfather looked back at me. I almost passed out. With great haste, I left the bathroom, rushed to the living room, and sat down to think a little bit. What just happened?

I hadn't thought of my grandfather for a long time, and now here I am, looking at myself in the mirror and seeing my grandfather. Oh boy. How did he get in my mirror?

I knew my grandfather was old, at least from my perspective when I knew him. One thing I remember about him was how much he complained about his bones. You could hear his knees crack whenever he would get up from a chair. I never could understand that.

At the time, I thought he was putting on a show. I never had my bones crack, nor did they ever hurt. So, I thought my dear old grandfather was trying to get pity from us, so I lavished it on as much as possible. I tried to come to the end of his joke, but he died before it ended.

The last two years that I knew him, he walked around with a cane. I thought he was just doing that for dressing. I thought he was acting like Bat Masterson; "He wore a cane and derby hat."

Several times, I asked him where his "derby hat" was. He just looked at me as though he had no idea what I was saying. So, being the grandson that I was, I went on with his ploy.

Not until recently did I discover that this was not a ploy; rather, he had aching and creaking bones.

It seems that I have inherited his creaking bones. Now I know what he was going through back then, and it wasn't a ploy.

It seems every day, I find a new bone to creak. I will never know how my grandfather handled those creaking bones at his age, but I'm starting to find out. I guess I should've taken him more seriously back then.

I have no idea how many bones I have in my body, but I am discovering new bones that are starting to creak daily. I didn't know I had so many bones.

After thinking about my grandfather and his creaking bones, I went back into the bathroom to chat with him, but instead of him being in the mirror, there I was. I am my grandfather!

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My grandfather was 69 years old when he passed, and I am, let's say, a little past that age.

Instead of inheriting creaking bones from my grandfather, I would rather have inherited \$1 million. But life is as it is. I don't know how long I have yet before my old bag of bones exhausts itself. Till then, I will creak and crack my bones every day, just like my grandfather.

That may be why people have rather short memories when they get older. Boy, would I like to forget these creaking bones of mine. When I think I have it all worked out, another bone pops and then starts creaking.

I don't know how close I am to getting a cane, but it just might be in the near future.

Of course, having a cane would be more helpful when walking down the street to protect me from some idiot who wants to rob me. So I've been thinking about that.

If it were just creaking bones, I wouldn't be too concerned. But looking in the mirror this morning caused me to see that old age is really ugly. I have more wrinkles than I can count on my face. Where do those wrinkles come from? What are they there, and how do I get rid of them?

I should start counting my wrinkles every morning to ensure I have the same amount from the day before. Of course, there must be some good to these wrinkles, or I wouldn't have so many.

I think I have become the standard for old age with my musical bones and flourishing wrinkles. I sure could use some advice from my grandfather about this situation.

With that in mind, I went to The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage and told her I thought I needed to go to a body shop to see if I could get a new body. "Do you have any recommendations?"

She looked at me up and down and then said, "Just remember, it'll cost you an arm and a leg." And then she laughed as though it was funny.

I wasn't laughing on the inside.

Later that day, I checked my Bible for verses dealing with bones, but I had never thought of these verses before.

Psalms 51:8, "Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which thou hast broken may rejoice."

Psalms 34:20, "He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken."

I am a proponent of joy, but I never thought of bones being associated with joy. As I get older, I am discovering just how important my bones are. From now on, whenever one of my bones creaks, I will rejoice to know that God keeps all my bones.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Is it possible to retrofit an old car with an Electric Vehicle drivetrain?

– Jerry M., via email

It is definitely possible to retrofit an old internal combustion engine car with an electric vehicle (EV) drivetrain, but the process can be complicated and expensive. In fact, it may be cheaper when all is said and done—not to mention easier and quicker—to just buy an EV.

If you're undeterred and want to proceed with a conversion anyway, keep in mind that certain types of cars lend themselves to the process better than others. For starters, older cars that rely on mechanics more than computers are often easier to convert. Another consideration to keep in mind is that it's easier to convert a car with a manual transmission since they use less power and are a lot less complicated than automatic cars. Likewise, lighter vehicles make better candidates for conversions given that less weight translates into greater range.

The first step in retrofitting an old car with an EV drivetrain is to remove the existing engine and transmission. This requires specialized knowledge and tools, so it's important to find a reputable mechanic or EV retrofitting company to do the job. Once the old engine and transmission are removed, the new EV drivetrain can be installed. This typically includes an electric motor, battery pack, charger, and other components needed to make the car run on electricity. The placement of these components will vary depending on the make and model of the car, and the specific EV drivetrain being used.

One of the biggest challenges in retrofitting an old car with an EV drivetrain is finding the right balance between performance and range. The battery pack needs to be large enough to provide adequate range, but it also needs to be small enough to fit in the car without compromising performance or handling. This can be a delicate balance, and it often requires custom fabrication and design work.

Another challenge is integrating the new EV drivetrain with the car's existing systems. This includes things like the brakes, steering and suspension, as well as the dashboard and other controls. In some cases, it may be necessary to replace or modify these systems to ensure they work properly with the new EV drivetrain.

Despite the hassle and expense, converting an internal combustion engine car over to electric is a great way to breathe new life into your old ride and reduce its environmental impact. In addition to being more efficient and producing fewer emissions than gasoline-powered cars, EVs also require less maintenance and can save drivers money on fuel costs over the long term. It's also a lot less wasteful to electrify an old clunker and give it years and years of additional use than buying a brand-new EV, which requires the extraction and use of precious resources and lots of new carbon emissions to build and ship out.

Several companies, including Electric GT, Legacy EV and EV West, now manufacture conversion kits. Even GM and Ford are getting in on the act with the recent release of so-called crate engines that car owners (or their mechanics) can easily swap into the engine bays of corresponding models.

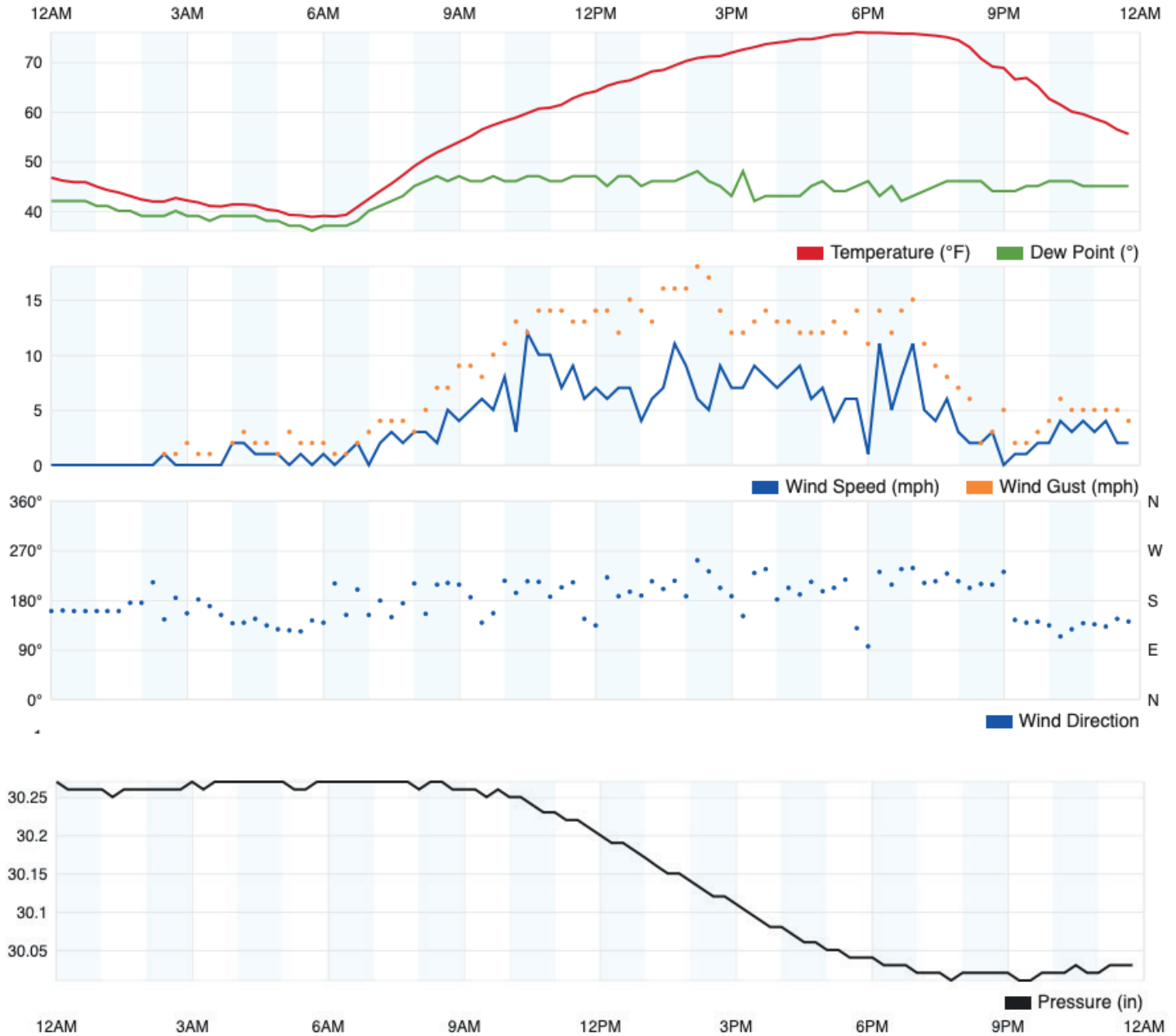


Caption: It is technically possible to convert a gas-powered car to an EV, but not without complications and expense. Credit: Tony Castley, FlickrCC.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear and Breezy	Sunny	Slight Chance Showers	Mostly Sunny
High: 78 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 83 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 86 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 82 °F



Mostly Dry Today

Possible exception this late afternoon and early evening across east central and south central SD (10 to 20% chance for isolated showers and storms)



Increasing Warmth

Above average temperatures through the week, with highs in the 70s & 80s



Smoke

Mostly aloft, today & into the work week



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

May 21, 2023

5:28 AM

Mostly dry conditions, increasing warmth, and lofted smoke from Canadian wildfires will be the main weather stories for today and the beginning of the new work week.

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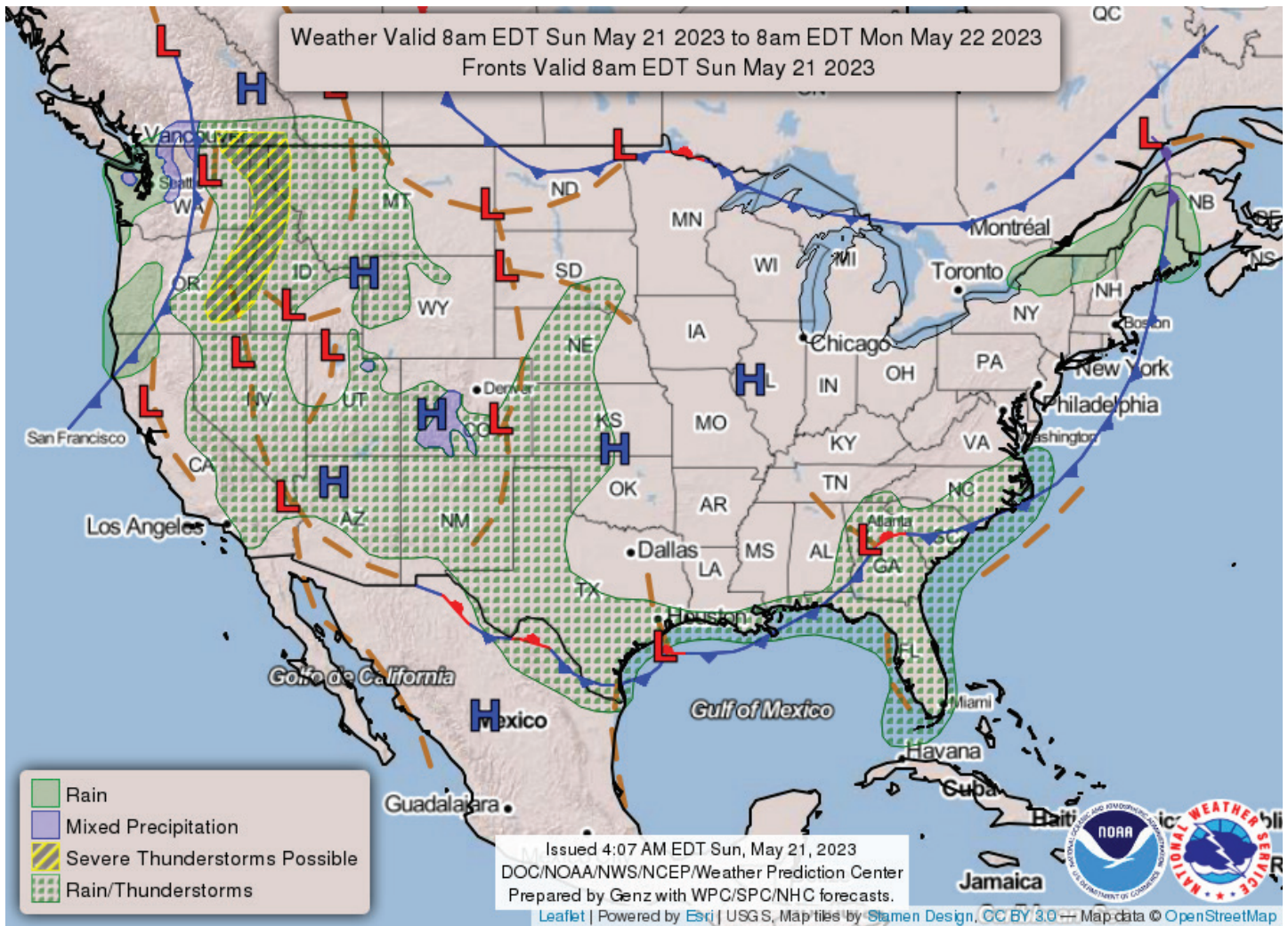
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 76 °F at 5:50 PM
Low Temp: 39 °F at 5:49 AM
Wind: 19 mph at 12:20 PM
Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 10 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 94 in 1925
Record Low: 25 in 1895
Average High: 72
Average Low: 47
Average Precip in May.: 2.31
Precip to date in May.: 2.15
Average Precip to date: 6.28
Precip Year to Date: 7.87
Sunset Tonight: 9:04:14 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:52:49 AM



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Today in Weather History

May 21, 1977: Observers south of Clear Lake saw five tornadoes. One was five miles south of town moving northeast. Another was four miles south and one mile west of Clear Lake. Both destroyed trees and some small buildings. Three other tornadoes were sighted about two miles south of town. These touched down only momentarily with no damage occurring.

Two tornadoes were seen in southern Codrington County. One was seen at Grover, and the other was five miles south of Watertown. No damage was reported.

A tornado was on the ground in the vicinity of Revillo. A few barns and some outbuilding were damaged.

May 21, 1992: A severe thunderstorm moved over Northwestern Edmunds County causing high winds and penny size hail. In Bowdle, there was considerable wind damage. Tree limbs more than five inches in diameter were broken off and fell on a car. Other tree branches went through the roof of a home. Two pickup trucks were rolled on their side. Three miles ENE of Bowdle a garage was moved 20 feet off its foundation and was stopped by a large tractor.

1860 - A swarm of tornadoes occurred in the Ohio Valley. Tornadoes struck the cities of Louisville, KY, Cincinnati, OH, Chillicothe, OH, and Marietta, OH, causing a million dollars damage. (David Ludlum)

1881: Clara Barton and a circle of close friends found the American Red Cross. Click [HERE](#) for more information from the History Channel.

1895 - The temperature at Norwalk, OH, dipped to 19 degrees to set a state record for the month of May. (The Weather Channel)

1896 - The mercury soared to 124 degrees at Salton, CA, to establish a U.S. record for May. (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1949: A violent tornado crossed the Mississippi River from the St. Louis area into Wood River, then to Roxanna. This tornado damaged or destroyed 300 homes in these two towns, killing five people. Four people died in a destroyed restaurant in Palestine, Illinois; one body was recovered from a tree. A tornado causing estimated F4 damage killed five people and injured 55 in St. Louis and St. Charles counties in Missouri and Madison County in Illinois. This tornado was part of an outbreak that produced four different tornadoes and was responsible for five deaths and 57 injuries.

1980 - The temperature at Williston ND reached 102 degrees to set a record for May, and the next day the mercury hit 106 degrees. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Severe thunderstorms, developing along a sharp cold front crossing the central U.S., produced 60 mph winds and golf ball size hail at Sedalia, MO, and drenched Hagerstown, IN, with six inches of rain in one hour. Temperatures soared into the 90s ahead of the cold front. Paducah, KY, hit 94 degrees for the second day in a row. Light snow blanketed Montana, with three inches reported at Butte. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Severe thunderstorms swept across southern Louisiana during the morning hours spawning six tornadoes, and producing wind gusts to 88 mph at Jennings. Thunderstorms also produced five inches of rain in two hours at Lake Charles, causing local flooding. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1989 - Thunderstorms moving southeastward across the Central Plains Region into Oklahoma and Arkansas produced severe weather through the day and night. Thunderstorms spawned just four tornadoes, but there were 243 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Baseball size hail was reported at Augusta, KS, and thunderstorm winds gusted to 98 mph at Johnson, KS. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather across the southeastern U.S. for the second day in a row. Severe thunderstorms spawned five tornadoes, including one which injured a person at Richmond KY. There were eighty-seven reports of large hail or damaging winds, with hail three inches in diameter reported at Austin TX. Thunderstorms produced up to five inches of rain in Macon County GA, and heavy rains left nearly eight feet of water over roads near Stepstone KY. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

2001: Golfers participating in a golf tournament at the Majestic Golf Course in Hartland, Michigan received an urgent message on the G.P.S. on their carts. The message, relayed from the clubhouse, was that a tornado was bearing down on the course. Most of the golfers made it to safety in the clubhouse, although some had to take shelter on the course. Only one golfer suffered a minor injury. The F2 tornado damaged 70 cars in the parking lot along with numerous golf carts and a pontoon boat.

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

CRITICISM

Paderewski was a great Polish pianist. But when he first chose to take piano lessons a teacher said to him, "Your hands are too small. You will never be able to master the keyboard."

Caruso was one of the greatest tenors who ever lived. When he went for his first voice lesson in Italy, the teacher said to him, "Your voice is like wind whistling through a window." He refused to give him voice lessons.

Alexander Graham Bell spent years working to develop and perfect his telephone. When he displayed it to a group of people, they said, "You are a fool with a useless toy."

As Christians, we must learn to look at criticism as a "challenge and call to courage" and turn to the Lord as our guide and guard. If we are grateful for the skills and talents God has given us, we will accept every challenge as an opportunity to "become better" as a gift to honor Him for the gifts He has given us. The choice is ours: We can choose to rise to the occasion, meet it and be victorious, or give up in fear because we do not trust in Him to give us victory over our opportunities. The God of our salvation and hope promises us that with His help all things are possible. We must accept, trust, and act in His strength, wisdom and power, not ours!

Prayer: Lord of our lives, whenever we face an obstacle, may we see it as an opportunity to turn to You for grace and guidance. All things are possible through You! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: We also pray that you will be strengthened with all his glorious power so you will have all the endurance and patience you need. May you be filled with joy. Colossians 1:11



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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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
05.19.23

5 11 41 44 55 14

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$150,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
05.20.23

4 11 15 18 19 1

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$3,050,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
05.20.23

13 23 30 34 39 13

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 15 Hrs 39 Mins 53 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
05.20.23

1 14 22 24 27

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$67,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
05.20.23

19 32 54 55 68 24

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
05.20.23

17 23 32 38 63 23

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$179,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

Biden: GOP must move off 'extreme' positions, no debt limit deal solely on its 'partisan terms'

By ZEKE MILLER and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP) — President Joe Biden said Sunday that Republicans in the U.S. House must move off their “extreme positions” on the now-stalled talks over raising America’s debt limit and that there would be no agreement to avert a catastrophic default only on their terms.

“It’s time for Republicans to accept that there is no bipartisan deal to be made solely, solely, on their partisan terms,” Biden said in Hiroshima, Japan, where he attended the Group of Seven summit.

Biden said he had done his part in trying to raising the debt ceiling so the U.S. government can keep paying its bills, agreeing to cut spending. “Now it’s time for the other side to move from their extreme position,” he said.

Biden and U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., were expected to talk later Sunday, likely as Biden flew home on Air Force One after cutting short his trip in light of the strained negotiations.

“My guess is he’s going to want to deal directly with me in making sure we’re all on the same page,” Biden said of McCarthy, adding that he believed a compromise remained within reach.

“I’m hoping that Speaker McCarthy is just waiting to negotiate with me when I get home. ... I’m waiting to find out.”

GOP lawmakers are holding tight to demands for sharp spending cuts, rejecting the alternatives proposed by the White House for reducing deficits.

Republicans want work requirements on the Medicaid health care program, though the Biden administration has countered that millions of people could lose coverage. The GOP also introduced new cuts to food aid by restricting states’ ability to waive work requirements in places with high joblessness. That idea, when floated under President Donald Trump, was estimated to cause 700,000 people to lose their food benefits.

GOP lawmakers are also seeking cuts to IRS funding and asking the White House to accept provisions from their proposed immigration overhaul.

The White House has countered by keeping defense and nondefense spending flat next year, which would save \$90 billion in the 2024 budget year and \$1 trillion over 10 years.

“I think that we can reach an agreement,” Biden said.

Still, he said: “I can’t guarantee that they wouldn’t force a default by doing something outrageous.”

Republicans had also rejected White House proposals to raise revenues in order to further lower deficits. Among the proposals the GOP objects to are policies that would enable Medicare to pay less for prescription drugs and the closing of a dozen tax loopholes. Republicans have refused to roll back the Trump-era tax breaks on corporations and wealthy households as Biden’s own budget has proposed.

The decision to set up a call with McCarthy came after another start-stop day with no outward signs of progress. Food was brought to the negotiating room at the Capitol on Saturday morning, only to be carted away hours later, and no meeting was expected. Talks, though, could resume on Sunday after the two leaders’ conversation.

McCarthy tweeted that it was the White House that was “moving backward in negotiations.”

He said “the socialist wing” of the Democratic party appears to be in control, “especially with President Biden out of the country.”

Republican Rep. Dusty Johnson, who has worked closely with McCarthy to shape the GOP proposal told The Associated Press late Saturday that there were no meetings scheduled Sunday. Republicans are trying to grab the president’s attention rather than negotiators.

“If the president doesn’t re-engage, I don’t know the staff conversations can bear fruit,” Johnson said.

Biden, attending the meeting of the world’s most powerful democracies, tried to reassure them that the United States would not default, a scenario that would rattle the world economy. He said he felt there

was headway in the talks.

For months, Biden had refused to engage in talks over the debt limit, insisting that Congress was trying to use the borrowing limit vote as leverage to extract other policy priorities.

But with the U.S. Treasury Department saying that it could run out of cash as soon as June 1 and Republicans putting their own legislation on the table, the White House launched talks on a budget deal that could accompany an increase in the debt limit.

Ukraine says troops still engaging Russian forces in Bakhmut after Moscow announces victory in city

By SUSIE BLANN and ELISE MORTON Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian soldiers were still engaging Russian forces in fierce battles in and around Bakhmut on Sunday, military officials said, hours after Moscow and the private army Wagner announced that their troops had taken full control of the eastern city.

The fog of war made it impossible to confirm the situation on the ground in the invasion's longest battle, and a series of comments from Ukrainian and Russian officials added confusion to the matter.

Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Malyar even went so far as to say that Ukrainian troops "took the city in a semi-encirclement."

"The enemy failed to surround Bakhmut, and they lost part of the dominant heights around the city," Malyar said. "That is, the advance of our troops in the suburbs along the flanks, which is still ongoing, greatly complicates the enemy's presence in Bakhmut."

Her comments came after Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, at the Group of Seven summit in Japan, appeared to suggest that Bakhmut had fallen.

When asked if the city was in Ukraine's hands, Zelenskyy said: "I think no, but you have to -- to understand that there is nothing, They've destroyed everything. There are no buildings. It's a pity. It's tragedy."

Zelenskyy's press secretary later walked back those comments.

And the spokesman for Ukraine's Eastern Group of Forces, Serhii Cherevaty, said that the Ukrainian military is managing to hold positions in the vicinity of Bakhmut.

"The president correctly said that the city has, in fact, been razed to the ground. The enemy is being destroyed every day by massive artillery and aviation strikes, and our units report that the situation is extremely difficult.

"Our military keep fortifications and several premises in the southwestern part of the city. Heavy fighting is underway," he said.

It was only the latest flip-flopping of the situation in Bakhmut after eight months of intense fighting.

Only hours earlier, Russian state news agencies reported that President Vladimir Putin congratulated "Wagner assault detachments, as well as all servicemen of the Russian Armed Forces units, who provided them with the necessary support and flank protection, on the completion of the operation to liberate Artyomovsk," which is Bakhmut's Soviet-era name.

Russia's Defense Ministry also said that Wagner and military units "completed the liberation" of Bakhmut.

At the G-7 in Japan, Zelenskyy stood side by side with U.S. President Joe Biden during a news conference. Biden announced \$375 million more in aid for Ukraine, which included more ammunition, artillery, and vehicles.

"I thanked him for the significant financial assistance to (Ukraine) from (the U.S.)," Zelenskyy tweeted later.

Many analysts say that even if Russia was victorious in Bakhmut, it was unlikely to turn the tide in the war.

The Russian capture of the last remaining ground in Bakhmut is "not tactically or operationally significant," a Washington-based think tank said late Saturday. The Institute for the Study of War said that taking control of these areas "does not grant Russian forces operationally significant terrain to continue conducting offensive operations," nor to "to defend against possible Ukrainian counterattacks."

In a video posted on Telegram, Wagner head Yevgeny Prigozhin said the city came under complete Russian control at about midday Saturday. He spoke surrounded by about a half-dozen fighters, with ruined

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buildings in the background and explosions heard in the distance.

Russian forces still seek to seize the remaining part of the Donetsk region still under Ukrainian control, including several heavily fortified areas.

It isn't clear which side has paid a higher price in the battle for Bakhmut. Both Russia and Ukraine have endured losses believed to be in the thousands, though neither has disclosed casualty numbers.

Zelenskyy underlined the importance of defending Bakhmut in an interview with The Associated Press in March, saying its fall could allow Russia to rally international support for a deal that might require Kyiv to make unacceptable compromises.

Analysts have said Bakhmut's fall would be a blow to Ukraine and give some tactical advantages to Russia but wouldn't prove decisive to the outcome of the war.

Bakhmut, located about 55 kilometers (34 miles) north of the Russian-held regional capital of Donetsk, had a prewar population of 80,000 and was an important industrial center, surrounded by salt and gypsum mines.

The city, which was named Artyomovsk after a Bolshevik revolutionary when Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union, also was known for its sparkling wine production in underground caves. Its broad tree-lined avenues, lush parks and stately downtown with imposing late 19th-century mansions — all now reduced to a smoldering wasteland — made it a popular tourist destination.

When a separatist rebellion engulfed eastern Ukraine in 2014 weeks after Moscow's illegal annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, the rebels quickly won control of the city, only to lose it a few months later.

After Russia switched its focus to the Donbas following a botched attempt to seize Kyiv early in the February 2022 invasion, Moscow's troops tried to take Bakhmut in August but were pushed back.

The fighting there abated in autumn as Russia was confronted with Ukrainian counteroffensives in the east and the south, but it resumed at full pace late last year. In January, Russia captured the salt-mining town of Soledar, just north of Bakhmut, and closed in on the city's suburbs.

Intense Russian shelling targeted the city and nearby villages as Moscow waged a three-sided assault to try to finish off the resistance in what Ukrainians called "fortress Bakhmut."

Mercenaries from Wagner spearheaded the Russian offensive. Prigozhin tried to use the battle for the city to expand his clout amid the tensions with the top Russian military leaders whom he harshly criticized.

"We fought not only with the Ukrainian armed forces in Bakhmut. We fought the Russian bureaucracy, which threw sand in the wheels," Prigozhin said in the video on Saturday.

The relentless Russian artillery bombardment left few buildings intact amid ferocious house-to-house battles. Wagner fighters "marched on the bodies of their own soldiers" according to Ukrainian officials. Both sides have spent ammunition at a rate unseen in any armed conflict for decades, firing thousands of rounds a day.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu has said that seizing the city would allow Russia to press its offensive farther into the Donetsk region, one of the four Ukrainian provinces that Moscow illegally annexed in September.

Elise Morton reported from London. Zeke Miller contributed to this report from Hiroshima, Japan.

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

Biden, McCarthy to speak on debt limit; talks stalled as Republicans seek deep spending cuts

By ZEKE MILLER and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP) — President Joe Biden planned on Sunday to speak directly with House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, hoping to salvage talks to raise the debt limit that have stalled in recent days while he was abroad at the Group of Seven summit.

GOP lawmakers are holding tight to demands for sharp spending cuts, rejecting the alternatives proposed

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by the White House for reducing deficits. Biden and world leaders at the gathering for industrial nations in Japan had been closely tracking the negotiations, looking for signs of a compromise that would ensure the federal government can keep paying its bills and avoid a potentially catastrophic default.

Biden has tried to project optimism even as the talks back in Washington were rocky. Republicans are rejecting a White House plan that would impose less strict cuts while also increasing revenues. The two sides are up against a deadline as soon as June 1 to raise its borrowing limit, now at \$31 trillion.

"We're going to get a chance to talk later today," Biden said of McCarthy, R-Calif., while the president met with the leaders of Japan and South Korea at the G7 in Hiroshima, Japan.

But McCarthy may need bipartisan support; it's possible he'll need as many as 100 House Democratic votes to pass an agreement, based on likely GOP defections and past votes, according to a person familiar with the talks. The person was not authorized to provide details about the proposal and spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

In the latest round, McCarthy's team called for deep cuts to non-defense spending, while insisting on increased funding for the military. Education, health care, Meals on Wheels and other programs would likely bear the burden, according to the person.

The GOP wants work requirements on Medicaid, though the administration has countered that millions of people could lose coverage. The Republican side also introduced new cuts to food aid by restricting states' ability to waive work requirements in places with high joblessness, an idea that when floated by the Trump administration was estimated to cause 700,000 people to lose their food benefits.

The GOP lawmakers are also seeking cuts to IRS funding and asking the White House to accept provisions from their proposed immigration overhaul.

The White House has countered by keeping defense and nondefense spending flat next year, which would save \$90 billion in fiscal 2024 and \$1 trillion over 10 years.

Republicans have also rejected White House proposals to raise revenues in order to further lower deficits. Among the proposals the GOP objects to are policies that would enable Medicare to pay less for prescription drugs and the closing of a dozen tax loopholes. Republicans have refused to roll back the Trump-era tax breaks on corporations and wealthy households as Biden's own budget has proposed.

With talks frozen on Saturday as each side accused the other of being unreasonable, Biden was frequently briefed on the status of negotiations and directed his team to set up the call with McCarthy.

The decision to set up a call came after another start-stop day with no outward signs of progress. Food was brought to the negotiating room at the Capitol on Saturday morning, only to be carted away hours later, and no meeting was expected. Talks, though, could resume on Sunday after the two leaders' conversation.

"The Speaker's team put on the table an offer that was a big step back and contained a set of extreme partisan demands that could never pass both Houses of Congress," press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement late Saturday.

"Let's be clear: The president's team is ready to meet any time," said Jean-Pierre, adding that Republican leadership is beholden to its extreme wing in threatening default.

McCarthy tweeted that it was the White House that was "moving backward in negotiations."

He said "the socialist wing" of the Democratic party appears to be in control, "especially with President Biden out of the country."

Republican Rep. Dusty Johnson, who has worked closely with McCarthy to shape the GOP proposal told The Associated Press late Saturday that there were no meetings scheduled Sunday. Republicans are trying to grab the president's attention rather than negotiators.

"If the president doesn't re-engage, I don't know the staff conversations can bear fruit," Johnson said.

Biden, attending the meeting of the world's most powerful democracies, tried to reassure them on Saturday that the United States would not default, a scenario that would rattle the world economy. He said he felt there was headway in the talks.

"The first meetings weren't all that progressive, the second ones were, the third one was," he said. The president added that he believes "we'll be able to avoid a default, and we'll get something decent done."

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For months, Biden had refused to engage in talks over the debt limit, insisting that Congress must not play political games by trying to use the borrowing limit vote as leverage to extract other policy priorities.

But as the deadline approaches as soon as June 1 when Treasury says it could run out of cash, and Republicans put their own legislation on the table, the White House launched talks on a budget deal that could accompany an increase in the debt limit.

Negotiations heading into the weekend had been dizzying. McCarthy said Friday it was time to "pause" talks but then the two sides convened again in the evening, only to quickly call it quits for the night.

"We reengaged, had a very, very candid discussion," Rep. Garret Graves, R-La., a negotiator on McCarthy's side, said Friday evening.

As the White House team left the nighttime session, Biden counselor Steve Ricchetti, who is leading talks for the Democrats, said he was hopeful. "We're going to keep working," he said.

McCarthy had said resolution to the standoff is "easy," if only Biden's team would agree to some spending cuts Republicans are demanding. The biggest impasse was over the fiscal 2024 top-line budget amount, according to another person briefed on the talks and granted anonymity to discuss them. Democrats contend the steep reductions Republicans have put on the table would be potentially harmful to Americans, and they are insisting that Republicans agree to tax increases on the wealthy, in addition to spending cuts, to close the deficit.

Wall Street turned lower Friday as negotiations came to a sudden halt. Experts have warned that even the threat of a debt default could spark a recession.

Republicans argue the nation's deficit spending needs to get under control, aiming to roll back spending to fiscal 2022 levels and restrict future growth. But Biden's team is countering that the caps Republicans proposed in their House-passed bill would amount to 30% reductions in some programs if Defense and veterans are spared, according to a memo from the Office of Management and Budget.

Any deal would need the support of both Republicans and Democrats to find approval in a divided Congress and be passed into law. Negotiators are eyeing a more narrow budget cap deal of a few years, rather than the decade-long caps Republicans initially wanted, and clawing back some \$30 billion of unspent COVID-19 funds.

Still up for debate are policy changes, including a framework for permitting reforms to speed the development of energy projects, as well as the Republican push to impose work requirements on government aid recipients that Biden has been open to but the House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York has said was a "nonstarter."

McCarthy faces pressures from his hard-right flank to cut the strongest deal possible for Republicans, and he risks a threat to his leadership as speaker if he fails to deliver. Many House Republicans are unlikely to accept any deal with the White House.

Biden is facing increased pushback from Democrats, particularly progressives, who argue the reductions will fall too heavily on domestic programs that Americans rely on.

AP Congressional Correspondent Lisa Mascaro and AP writers Seung Min Kim, Kevin Freking, Stephen Groves and Farnoush Amiri in Washington contributed to this report.

Zelenskyy says 'Bakhmut is only in our hearts' after Russia claims control of Ukrainian city

By SUSIE BLANN and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Sunday that Bakhmut was "only in our hearts," hours after Russia's defense ministry reported that forces of the Wagner private army, with the support of Russian troops, had seized the city in eastern Ukraine.

Speaking alongside U.S. President Joe Biden at the Group of Seven summit in Hiroshima, Japan, Zelenskyy said the Russians had destroyed "everything." "You have to understand that there is nothing," he said.

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"For today, Bakhmut is only in our hearts," he said. "There is nothing in this place."

The Russian ministry statement on the Telegram channel came about eight hours after a similar announcement by Wagner head Yevgeny Prigozhin. Ukrainian authorities at that time said that fighting for Bakhmut was continuing.

The eight-month battle for Bakhmut has been the longest and probably most bloody of the conflict in Ukraine.

Zelenskyy's comments came as Biden announced \$375 million more in aid for Ukraine, which included more ammunition, artillery, and vehicles.

"I thanked him for the significant financial assistance to (Ukraine) from (the U.S.)," Zelenskyy tweeted later.

Analysts said that a Russian victory in Bakhmut was unlikely to turn the tide in the war.

The Russian capture of the last remaining ground in Bakhmut is "not tactically or operationally significant," a Washington-based think tank said late Saturday. The Institute for the Study of War said that taking control of these areas "does not grant Russian forces operationally significant terrain to continue conducting offensive operations," nor to "to defend against possible Ukrainian counterattacks."

Using the city's Soviet-era name, the Russian ministry said, "In the Artyomovsk tactical direction, the assault teams of the Wagner private military company with the support of artillery and aviation of the southern battlegroup has completed the liberation of the city of Artyomovsk."

Russian state news agencies cited the Kremlin's press service as saying President Vladimir Putin "congratulates the Wagner assault detachments, as well as all servicemen of the Russian Armed Forces units, who provided them with the necessary support and flank protection, on the completion of the operation to liberate Artyomovsk."

In a video posted earlier on Telegram, Wagner head Yevgeny Prigozhin said the city came under complete Russian control at about midday Saturday. He spoke flanked by about a half dozen fighters, with ruined buildings in the background and explosions heard in the distance.

Fighting has raged in and around Bakhmut for more than eight months.

Russian forces will still face the massive task of seizing the remaining part of the Donetsk region still under Ukrainian control, including several heavily fortified areas.

It isn't clear which side has paid a higher price in the battle for Bakhmut. Both Russia and Ukraine have endured losses believed to be in the thousands, though neither has disclosed casualty numbers.

Zelenskyy underlined the importance of defending Bakhmut in an interview with The Associated Press in March, saying its fall could allow Russia to rally international support for a deal that might require Kyiv to make unacceptable compromises.

Analysts have said Bakhmut's fall would be a blow to Ukraine and give some tactical advantages to Russia but wouldn't prove decisive to the outcome of the war.

Russian forces still face the enormous task of seizing the rest of the Donetsk region under Ukrainian control, including several heavily fortified areas. The provinces of Donetsk and neighboring Luhansk make up the Donbas, Ukraine's industrial heartland where a separatist uprising began in 2014 and which Moscow illegally annexed in September.

Bakhmut, located about 55 kilometers (34 miles) north of the Russian-held regional capital of Donetsk, had a prewar population of 80,000 and was an important industrial center, surrounded by salt and gypsum mines.

The city, which was named Artyomovsk after a Bolshevik revolutionary when Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union, also was known for its sparkling wine production in underground caves. Its broad tree-lined avenues, lush parks and stately downtown with imposing late 19th-century mansions — all now reduced to a smoldering wasteland — made it a popular tourist destination.

When a separatist rebellion engulfed eastern Ukraine in 2014 weeks after Moscow's illegal annexation of Ukraine's Crimean Peninsula, the rebels quickly won control of the city, only to lose it a few months later.

After Russia switched its focus to the Donbas following a botched attempt to seize Kyiv early in the February 2022 invasion, Moscow's troops tried to take Bakhmut in August but were pushed back.

The fighting there abated in autumn as Russia was confronted with Ukrainian counteroffensives in the

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east and the south, but it resumed at full pace late last year. In January, Russia captured the salt-mining town of Soledar, just north of Bakhmut, and closed in on the city's suburbs.

Intense Russian shelling targeted the city and nearby villages as Moscow waged a three-sided assault to try to finish off the resistance in what Ukrainians called "fortress Bakhmut."

Mercenaries from Wagner spearheaded the Russian offensive. Prigozhin tried to use the battle for the city to expand his clout amid the tensions with the top Russian military leaders whom he harshly criticized.

"We fought not only with the Ukrainian armed forces in Bakhmut. We fought the Russian bureaucracy, which threw sand in the wheels," Prigozhin said in the video on Saturday.

The relentless Russian artillery bombardment left few buildings intact amid ferocious house-to-house battles. Wagner fighters "marched on the bodies of their own soldiers" according to Ukrainian officials. Both sides have spent ammunition at a rate unseen in any armed conflict for decades, firing thousands of rounds a day.

Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu has said that seizing the city would allow Russia to press its offensive farther into the Donetsk region, one of the four Ukrainian provinces that Moscow illegally annexed in September.

Zeke Miller reported from Hiroshima, Japan.

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

G7 ends with Ukraine in focus as Zelenskyy meets world leaders, Russia claims a battlefield victory

By ADAM SCHRECK, FOSTER KLUG and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy huddled with some of his biggest backers as the Group of Seven summit closed in Hiroshima on Sunday, building momentum for his country's war effort even as Russia claimed a symbolic victory on the battlefield.

The Ukrainian leader's in-person appearance in his trademark olive drab underscored the centrality of the war for the G7 bloc of rich democracies. It also stole much of the limelight from other priorities, including security challenges in Asia and outreach to the developing world, that the leaders focused on at the three-day gathering.

"G7 reaffirmed our commitment to continue our strong backing for Ukraine from every possible dimension," Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said.

Zelenskyy held two major rounds of meetings Sunday, one with G7 leaders and a second with them and a host of invited guests including India and South Korea. He also held one-on-one talks with several of the leaders.

Hanging over Sunday's talks was the Russian claim that forces of the Wagner private army, backed by Russian troops, had seized the Ukrainian city of Bakhmut. The eight-month battle for the eastern city — seen by both sides as a major symbolic prize — has been the longest and likely bloodiest of the war.

Asked if Bakhmut was still in Ukraine's hands, Zelenskyy said he thought that Russian forces had finally taken the city.

"For today, Bakhmut is only in our hearts. There is nothing in this place," Zelenskyy said, adding that the fight had left nothing in Bakhmut but a lot of "dead Russians."

U.S. President Joe Biden announced a new military aid package worth \$375 million for Ukraine during his meeting with Zelenskyy, saying the U.S. would provide ammunition and armored vehicles. That fresh pledge came after the U.S. agreed to allow training on American-made F-16 fighter jets, laying the groundwork for their eventual transfer to Ukraine.

"We have Ukraine's back and we're not going anywhere," Biden said. Zelenskyy thanked Biden for the support, adding that "we will never forget."

Even before Zelenskyy landed Saturday, the G7 nations had unveiled a slew of new sanctions and other

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measures meant to punish Moscow over its invasion that began in February last year.

While Ukraine dominated the summit, the leaders of Japan, the U.S., the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Canada and Italy, as well as the European Union, also aimed to address global worries over climate change, poverty, economic instability and nuclear proliferation.

And Biden sought to reassure world leaders that the U.S. would not default because of the debt limit standoff that has cast a large shadow over his trip.

Two U.S. allies — South Korea and Japan — furthered efforts to improve ties colored by lingering anger over issues linked to Japan's brutal 1910-1945 colonization of the Korean Peninsula. Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol visited a memorial to Korean victims, many of them slave laborers, of the Aug. 6, 1945, atomic bombing.

Washington wants the two neighbors, both of which are liberal democracies and bulwarks of U.S. power in the region, to stand together on issues ranging from Russia to North Korea.

Biden, Yoon and Kishida met briefly as a group outside the summit venue in front of Hiroshima Bay. Biden invited the two leaders to visit Washington for a trilateral meeting and they accepted, said a U.S. official who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

In a meeting with Zelenskyy, Yoon promised to provide South Korean demining equipment and ambulances to Ukraine.

Zelenskyy also met on the sidelines of the summit with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, their first face-to-face talks since the war. He briefed him on Ukraine's peace plan, which calls for the withdrawal of Russian troops from the country before any negotiations.

India, the world's largest democracy and a major buyer of Russian arms and oil, has avoided outright condemnation of Russia's invasion.

"Zelenskyy's presence puts some pressure on G7 leaders to deliver more — or explain to him directly why they can't," said Matthew Goodman, an economics expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank in Washington.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov criticized the summit for aiming to isolate both China and Russia.

"The task has been set loudly and openly: to defeat Russia on the battlefield, but not to stop there, but to eliminate it as a geopolitical competitor," he said.

The G7 has vowed to intensify the pressure, calling Russia's assault on Ukraine "a threat to the whole world in breach of fundamental norms, rules and principles of the international community."

The group took a different approach in its comments on China, the world's No. 2 economy. The leaders said they did not want to harm China and were seeking "constructive and stable relations" with Beijing, "recognizing the importance of engaging candidly with and expressing our concerns directly to China."

They also urged China to pressure Russia to end the war in Ukraine and "support a comprehensive, just and lasting peace."

China's Foreign Ministry for its part urged G7 members to "focus on addressing the various issues they have at home, stop ganging up to form exclusive blocs, stop containing and bludgeoning other countries."

The G7 also warned North Korea, which has been testing missiles at a torrid pace, to completely abandon its nuclear weapon ambitions, "including any further nuclear tests or launches that use ballistic missile technology."

The G7 leaders have rolled out a new wave of global sanctions on Russia, now the most-sanctioned country in the world, as well as plans to enhance the effectiveness of existing financial penalties meant to constrain President Vladimir Putin's war effort.

The latest sanctions aimed at Russia include tighter restrictions on already-sanctioned people and firms involved in the war effort. More than 125 individuals and organizations across 20 countries have been hit with U.S. sanctions.

Russia had participated in some summits with the other seven countries before being removed from the then-Group of Eight after its 2014 annexation of Crimea.

Kishida, mindful of the host city's symbolic importance, has twice taken leaders to visit to a peace park dedicated to the tens of thousands who died in the world's first wartime atomic bomb detonation. He had

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wanted nuclear disarmament to be a major focus of discussions.

Some survivors of the 1945 atomic bomb attack and their families worried that Zelenskyy's inclusion at the summit overshadowed that priority. Etsuko Nakatani, an activist whose parents survived the Hiroshima atomic bombing, said the leaders' visit was "not appropriate for Hiroshima, which is a peace-loving city."

Protesters carrying "No War No G7" banners briefly scuffled with riot police deployed as part of a massive show of force throughout the city during a march Sunday.

The G7 leaders also discussed efforts to strengthen the global economy and address rising prices that are squeezing families and government budgets around the world, particularly in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. They reiterated their aim to pull together up to \$600 billion in financing for the G7's global infrastructure development initiative, which is meant to offer countries an alternative to China's investment dollars.

Associated Press writers Josh Boak, Elaine Kurtenbach and Mari Yamaguchi contributed to this report.

Greece votes in first election since international bailout spending controls ended

By ELENA BECATOROS and THEODORA TONGAS Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Greeks were voting Sunday in the first election since their country's economy ceased to be subject to strict supervision and control by international lenders who had provided bailout funds during its nearly decade-long financial crisis.

The vote pitches conservative Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, 55, a Harvard-educated former banking executive, against 48-year-old Alexis Tsipras, who heads the left-wing Syriza party and served as prime minister during some of the financial crisis' most turbulent years, as the two main contenders.

The rising cost of living was at the forefront of many voters' minds as they headed to polling centers set up in schools across the country.

"Every year, instead of improving, things are getting worse," said Athens resident Dimitris Hondrogiannis, 54, "Things are expensive. Every day, things are getting out of control. It's enough to make you afraid to go to the supermarket to shop. We'll see how things go."

Hondrogiannis said he hoped for a stable government that would help reduce prices for food and general goods. "People cannot make ends meet," he said.

Although Mitsotakis has been steadily ahead in opinion polls, a newly introduced electoral system of proportional representation makes it unlikely that whoever wins the election will be able to garner enough seats in Greece's 300-member parliament to form a government without seeking coalition partners.

The winner of Sunday's election will have three days to negotiate a coalition with other parties. If that fails, the mandate to form a government passes to the second party and the process is repeated. But deep divisions between the two main parties and four smaller ones expected to enter parliament mean a coalition will be hard to come by, making a second election likely, probably on July 2.

The second election would be held under a new electoral law which makes it easier for a winning party to form a government by giving it a bonus of up to 50 seats in parliament, calculated on a sliding scale depending on the percentage of votes won.

A total of 32 parties are running, although opinion polls have indicated only six have a realistic chance of meeting the 3% threshold to gain seats in parliament.

Greece's once-dominant socialist Pasok party is likely to be at the center of any coalition talks. Overtaken by Syriza during Greece's 2009-2018 financial crisis, the party has been polling at around 10%. Its leader, Nikos Androulakis, 44, was at the center of a wiretapping scandal in which his phone was targeted for surveillance.

Pasok would be vital in any coalition deal, but Androulakis' poor relationship with Mitsotakis, who he accuses of covering up the wiretapping scandal, mean a deal with the conservatives is unlikely. His rela-

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tionship with Tsipras is also poor, accusing him of trying to poach Pasok voters.

The far-right Greeks Party, founded by a jailed former lawmaker with a history of neo-Nazi activity, was banned from participating by the Supreme Court. His former party, Golden Dawn, which rose to become Greece's third largest during the financial crisis, was deemed to be a criminal organization.

In the run-up to the election, Mitsotakis had enjoyed a double-digit lead in opinion polls, but saw that erode following a rail disaster on Feb. 28 that killed 57 people after an intercity passenger train was accidentally put on the same rail line as an oncoming freight train. It was later revealed that train stations were poorly staffed and safety infrastructure broken and outdated.

The government was also battered by a surveillance scandal in which journalists and prominent Greek politicians, including Androulakis, discovered spyware on their phones. The revelations deepened mistrust among the country's political parties at a time when consensus may be badly needed.

Tsipras has campaigned heavily on the rail disaster and the wiretapping scandal.

In power since 2019, Mitsotakis has delivered unexpectedly high growth, a steep drop in unemployment and a country on the brink of returning to investment grade on the global bond market for the first time since it lost market access in 2010, at the start of its financial crisis.

Debts to the International Monetary Fund were paid off early. European governments and the IMF pumped 280 billion euros (\$300 billion) into the Greek economy in emergency loans between 2010 and 2018 to prevent the eurozone member from bankruptcy. In return, they demanded punishing cost-cutting measures and reforms that saw the country's economy shrink by a quarter.

A severe recession and years of emergency borrowing left Greece with a whopping national debt that reached 400 billion euros last December and hammered household incomes, which will likely need another decade to recover.

Retired Bank of Greece employee Evangellos Tassis, 78, said he can still make ends meet with his pension. "We're from an older generation and we were a bit lucky. You young people have it hard now," he said.

Tassis said he hoped the election would produce "better days. That's it. What else can I say?"

The other three parties with realistic chances of parliamentary seats are Greece's Communist Party, or KKE, led by Dimitris Koutsoumbas; the left-wing European Realistic Disobedience front (MeRA25), led by Tsipras' flamboyant former finance minister; and the right-wing Elliniki Lysi, or Greek Solution, headed by Kyriakos Velopoulos.

The KKE, a staple of Greek politics, has seen a steady core of support around 4.5%-5.5% over the past decade, while Varoufakis' party has been polling at just over the 3% parliamentary threshold. Velopoulos' party elected 10 lawmakers in 2019 and looks set to enter parliament again.

Derek Gatopoulos and Nicholas Paphitis contributed to this report.

New York City has a right to shelter, but will it establish a right to sleep outside?

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN and CHRISTOPHER WEBER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — New York Mayor Eric Adams has hailed his city's right to shelter as a hallmark of compassion for its most destitute. Now he must decide if he will extend that compassion by bestowing homeless people with the right to sleep outside.

The City Council unanimously approved a "Homeless Bill of Rights" last month that would make New York the first big U.S. city to establish an explicit right to sleep in at least some public places.

If Adams, a Democrat, allows the measure to become law, it could be a notable departure for the city, which has for years sent police and sanitation crews to clear homeless encampments as they arise.

It also would run against the prevailing political headwinds in other places that have struggled with large numbers of people living in tents and other makeshift shelters.

The Los Angeles City Council passed a broad anti-camping measure two years ago. Then last year, the city outlawed tents within 500 feet (150 meters) of schools and day cares and banned sitting, lying, sleep-

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ing or storing personal property that would disrupt the flow of traffic on sidewalks, streets and bike lanes.

The changes were billed as a compassionate way to get homeless people off the streets and restore access to public spaces for other people. Sonja Verdugo, an organizer with the Los Angeles advocacy group Ground Game LA, called the measure "inhumane."

"Basically, you can't rest anywhere outdoors if you're unhoused," she said.

Earlier this year, a "Right to Rest" proposal in Oregon died quietly after its sponsor could not muster support. It would have granted the right to use public spaces "without discrimination and time limitations that are based on housing status."

Attempts to establish a similar Homeless Bill of Rights in California, including a right to sleep outdoors without fear of being confronted by police, also have faltered.

Some hope Los Angeles' newly elected Mayor Karen Bass will make good on a campaign promise to move people out of tents and cardboard shanties and into permanent housing.

Bass vowed to eliminate encampments lining entire blocks and have made the city's notorious Skid Row the embodiment of the country's homeless crisis. Bass also promised to house 15,000 people by the end of her first year in office. The number comprises more than a third of the estimated 42,000 Los Angelenos without permanent shelter.

The increasing visibility of homeless camps has fueled public frustration and prompted politicians, including some moderate Democrats, to push to reduce their prevalence — to the chagrin of some advocates for homeless people.

"More and more, it's simply illegal to be homeless all across the country — in Republican and Democratic cities," said Mark Horvath, CEO of Los Angeles-based nonprofit Invisible People. "But it's not like we can arrest our way out of this crisis."

Aside from establishing the right to sleep outdoors, the Homeless Bill of Rights passed in New York would also codify the city's longstanding right to shelter, the only one of its kind among the country's biggest cities.

Among the nine rights in the measure are safeguards against being forced into facilities that don't correspond to a person's gender identity. It also gives people the right to apply for rental assistance and requires parents staying in shelters be given diapers for their babies.

"This is a sensible and compassionate policy response to unprecedented homelessness," said Taysha Milagros Clark, a policy and data analyst for the Coalition for the Homeless in New York City.

"The bill of rights really encompasses an understanding that homeless people do have rights. They haven't violated any laws or anything of the sort just by virtue of their homeless status," she said. "It is a stark departure from what this administration has done."

Fabien Levy, a spokesperson for Adams, said the mayor was still evaluating the measure.

"Since Day One of this administration, Mayor Adams has been focused on helping New Yorkers experiencing homelessness and connecting them with a clean, safe place to rest their heads at night," Levy said.

The mayor's subway safety program has resulted in more than 4,600 New Yorkers experiencing homelessness being connected to the help and shelter they need "to stabilize their lives," Levy said.

It is uncertain how the proposed right to sleep outdoors might work in practice.

New York City has rules limiting the ability to set up a campsite. Most city parks close at 1 a.m. Privately owned spaces are off limits. Sidewalks and roads are required to be free of obstructions.

People are forbidden from lying down on benches or seats on the city's subway trains, though enforcement is lax.

New York City is required by law to guarantee space in its huge shelter system to anyone who needs it, but the system has been bursting partly due to an influx of migrants, many of whom crossed into the U.S. along the southern border.

Nearly 81,000 people were housed in the shelter system in the past week. City officials scrambled to find more space, including renting out entire hotels for families without permanent housing.

Some people choose to live on the streets because they find the city's shelters dangerous or too crowded, don't like their rules or curfews, or have trouble being around other people.

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Jasmine Sturm and Matthew Pettus, were killed in the same attack — chose to spend the day alone.

"I turn down invites to 'celebrate' because it's not a celebration to me," she said.

Instead, she honors her children privately by looking at their photos and remembering how their life together used to be. She writes, cries and practices self-care by reading a good book or taking a hot bath. She hopes people will understand that she wants to be alone, and that they shouldn't worry or be upset if she turns down invitations or doesn't respond to texts.

Everyone deals with grief differently, said Jeffrey Shahidullah, a pediatric psychologist at UT-Austin Dell Children's Medical Center.

Shahidullah was part of a team that stayed in Uvalde for months after the shooting to operate a crisis walk-in clinic for first responders, community members, family and friends of victims.

In the short and long term, mass shootings can traumatize entire communities, Shahidullah said. That can lead people — even those who didn't know the victims personally — to avoid situations that remind them of the event, feel constantly unsafe and experience intrusive flashbacks to when they first heard about the killing.

"A lot of these symptoms could be exacerbated or worsened around the time of these anniversaries," Shahidullah said. "Over time, those symptoms do tend to subside. But everyone has their own timeline."
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By cruel coincidence, the first anniversary of the Buffalo supermarket shooting fell on Mother's Day. That made things especially hard for Wayne Jones, whose mother, Celestine Chaney, was among the 10 people killed by a white supremacist that day.

Jones said some friends came over on the anniversary, and they talked about other things.

"5/14 is every day to me still," he said. "I watched my mother get killed on video."

The video and a photo of the shooter — standing with the gun he used, a vulgar racial slur scrawled on its barrel — are "ingrained in my brain," he said.

Tirzah Patterson and her 13-year-old son, Jaques "Jake" Patterson — who lost his father, church deacon Heyward Patterson, in the supermarket shooting — left town altogether for the anniversary. They have not set foot in Tops Friendly Market since it reopened last summer and did not attend the memorial events in Buffalo for her ex-husband and the others who were killed.

"We don't want to go through that again," Tirzah Patterson said before the weekend. "We're going to be gone."

They spent Mother's Day weekend in Detroit and attended a church service there.

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While some are just crossing the one-year mark, others have been dealing with these anniversaries for years.

Topaz Cooks marked the 10-year anniversary of her father's death last September. She was a month shy of her 21st birthday in 2012 when her dad and several others were shot and killed at work by a man who was fired from the company in Minneapolis.

"I still cannot believe that happened to my family," she said.

On the anniversaries, she likes to do things her dad, Rami Cooks, enjoyed. Last year, she went on a hike and ate dessert — because her dad loved rugelach, birds and wind. She loves that her friends send her photos of their dessert that day each year with the caption: "For your dad!"

She also has a journal she writes in once a year on that day, filling her dad in on the highlights, challenges and thoughts from the year that she wishes she could share with him.

Seven years after the killing, Topaz Cooks said she experienced PTSD while working as a theater stage manager. She was surprised because she didn't expect it to hit so late. The production's plot may have triggered it — the play was about a woman avenging her father's death.

She said she would get exhausted at the end of rehearsals, lie down on the floor of her office and feel like she couldn't get up. At times, she felt like her skin was vibrating or that she was outside of her own body. It took months of therapy to feel like she was back in control.

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Talking about the loss isn't for everybody, but Cooks said it's important to her.

"I wish that people talked about it more and normalized it," she said. "Grief is just so lonely."

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A hint of fall hung in the air on Sept. 12, the day Presley threw a party to mark the day his daughter and her three friends were killed and left abandoned. He said he wanted to think about who his daughter was rather than how she died.

She loved to throw exciting and glamorous birthday parties for her kids, friends and family.

Presley placed a life-size cardboard cut-out of his daughter smiling in a pink outfit by the door. Guests wore T-shirts with photos of her and phrases like "Never Forgotten" and "Daddy's #1 Angel." At Presley's request, guests gave speeches about the funniest things they remembered his daughter doing.

Late in the afternoon, they gathered around the front steps of his home, clutching red, yellow, pink and white balloons, some embossed with words like "Forever in Our Hearts."

Wide-eyed children, following the lead of the adults around them, listened quietly as a woman sang the gospel song "Take Me to the King." Presley recited a poem his father had written years before, words Presley's daughter had adored.

"I meet the sunrise daily on the way to get mine," he recited. "I don't play myself 'cause I don't got time."

When he finished the poem, Presley gave the signal to release the balloons. They soared straight up, gently rising above the rooftops and disappearing into a clear blue sky.

Aaron Morrison and Carolyn Thompson contributed from Buffalo, N.Y.

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

Ahmed's father, Avijit Roy, was killed on Feb. 26, 2015, by religious militants in Bangladesh. Each year on that date, she throws a party — because he loved celebrations — and surrounds herself with people she loves. This February, they played games and gave a toast in his honor.

At least 9 dead in stampede at soccer stadium in El Salvador

By MARCOS ALEMÁN Associated Press

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — At least nine people were killed and dozens more injured when stampeding soccer fans pushed through one of the access gates at a quarterfinal match in the Salvadoran league Saturday.

The National Civil Police said in a preliminary report via Twitter that nine dead were confirmed at the match between clubs Alianza and FAS at Monumental stadium in Cuscatlan, which is about 25 miles (41 kilometers) northeast of the capital.

At least two of the injured transported to hospitals were in critical condition, police said.

Carlos Fuentes, spokesman for the first aid group Rescue Commandos, also confirmed the deaths.

"We can confirm nine dead — seven men and two women — and we attended to more than 500 people, and more than 100 were transported to hospitals, some of them were serious," Fuentes said.

Play was suspended about 16 minutes into the match, when fans in the stands waving frantically began getting the attention of those on the field and carrying the injured out of a tunnel and down to the pitch.

Local television transmitted live images of the aftermath of the stampede by Alianza fans. Dozens made it onto the field where they received medical treatment. Fans who escaped the crush stood on the field furiously waving shirts attempting to review people lying on the grass barely moving.

Pedro Hernández, president of El Salvador soccer's first division, said the preliminary information he had was that the stampede occurred because fans managed to push through a gate into the stadium.

"It was an avalanche of fans who overran the gate. Some were still under the metal in the tunnel. Others managed to make it to the stands and then to the field and were smothered," an unidentified volunteer

with the Rescue Commandos first aid group told journalists.

National Civil Police Commissioner Mauricio Arriza Chicas, at the scene of the tragedy, said there would be a criminal investigation in conjunction with the Attorney General's Office.

"We are going to investigate from the ticket sales, the entries into the stadium, but especially the southern zone," where, he said, the gate was pushed open.

The Salvadoran Soccer Federation said in a statement that it regretted what had happened and voiced support for the victims' families.

Ukraine's Zelenskyy at center of last day of high-level diplomacy as G7 looks to punish Russia

By FOSTER KLUG, ADAM SCHRECK and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP) — World leaders ratcheted up pressure Sunday on Russia for its war against Ukraine, with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the center of a swirl of diplomacy on the final day of the Group of Seven summit of rich-world democracies.

Zelenskyy's in-person attendance at one of the world's premier diplomatic gatherings is meant to galvanize attention on his nation's 15-month fight against Russia. Even before he landed Saturday on a French plane, the G7 nations had unveiled a slew of new sanctions and other measures meant to punish Moscow and hamper its war-fighting abilities.

Ukraine is the overwhelming focus of the summit, but the leaders of Japan, the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Canada and Italy, as well as the European Union, are also working to address global worries over climate change, AI, poverty, economic instability and nuclear proliferation.

Two U.S. allies — South Korea and Japan — continued efforts Sunday to improve ties that have often been hurt by lingering anger over issues linked to Japan's brutal 1910-1945 colonization of the Korean Peninsula. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida and South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol visited a memorial to Korean victims, many of them slave laborers, of the Aug. 6, 1945, atomic bombing.

Washington wants the two neighbors, both of which are liberal democracies and bulwarks of U.S. power in the region, to stand together on a host of issues, including rising aggression from China, North Korea and Russia.

Bolstering international support is a key priority as Ukraine prepares for what's seen as a major push to take back territory seized by Russia in the war that began in February last year. Zelenskyy's visit to the G7 summit closely followed the United States agreeing to allow training on potent American-made fighter jets, which lays the groundwork for their eventual transfer to Ukraine.

"Japan. G7. Important meetings with partners and friends of Ukraine. Security and enhanced cooperation for our victory. Peace will become closer today," Zelenskyy tweeted after his arrival.

U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan said that President Joe Biden and Zelenskyy would have direct engagement at the summit. On Friday, Biden announced his support for training Ukrainian pilots on U.S.-made F-16 fighter jets, a precursor to eventually providing those aircraft to Ukraine.

"It is necessary to improve (Ukraine's) air defense capabilities, including the training of our pilots," Zelenskyy wrote on his official Telegram channel after meeting Italian Premier Giorgia Meloni, one of a number of leaders he talked to.

Zelenskyy also met on the sidelines of the summit with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, their first face-to-face talks since the war, and briefed him on Ukraine's peace plan, which calls for the withdrawal of Russian troops from the country before any negotiations.

India, the world's largest democracy, has avoided outright condemnation of Russia's invasion. While India maintains close ties with the United States and its Western allies, it is also a major buyer of Russian arms and oil.

Summits like the G7 are a chance for leaders to put pressure on one another to align or redouble their diplomatic efforts, according to Matthew Goodman, an economics expert at the Center for Strategic and

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International Studies think tank in Washington. "Zelenskyy's presence puts some pressure on G7 leaders to deliver more — or explain to him directly why they can't," he said.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov criticized the G7 summit for aiming to isolate both China and Russia.

"The task has been set loudly and openly: to defeat Russia on the battlefield, but not to stop there, but to eliminate it as a geopolitical competitor. As a matter of fact, any other country that claims some kind of independent place in the world alignment will also be to suppress a competitor. Look at the decisions that are now being discussed and adopted in Hiroshima, at the G7 summit, and which are aimed at the double containment of Russia and China," he said.

The G7, however, has vowed to intensify the pressure.

"Russia's brutal war of aggression represents a threat to the whole world in breach of fundamental norms, rules and principles of the international community. We reaffirm our unwavering support for Ukraine for as long as it takes to bring a comprehensive, just and lasting peace," the group said in a statement.

Another major focus of the meetings was China, the world's No. 2 economy.

There is increasing anxiety that Beijing, which has been steadily building up its nuclear weapons program, could try to seize Taiwan by force, sparking a wider conflict. China claims the self-governing island as its own and regularly sends ships and warplanes near it.

The G7 said they did not want to harm China and were seeking "constructive and stable relations" with Beijing, "recognizing the importance of engaging candidly with and expressing our concerns directly to China."

They also urged China to pressure Russia to end the war in Ukraine and "support a comprehensive, just and lasting peace."

China's Foreign Ministry said that "gone are the days when a handful of Western countries can just willfully meddle in other countries' internal affairs and manipulate global affairs. We urge G7 members to ... focus on addressing the various issues they have at home, stop ganging up to form exclusive blocs, stop containing and bludgeoning other countries."

The G7 also warned North Korea, which has been testing missiles at a torrid pace, to completely abandon its nuclear bomb ambitions, "including any further nuclear tests or launches that use ballistic missile technology," the leaders' statement said.

The green light on F-16 training is the latest shift by the Biden administration as it moves to arm Ukraine with more advanced and lethal weaponry, following earlier decisions to send rocket launcher systems and Abrams tanks. The United States has insisted that it is sending weapons to Ukraine to defend itself and has discouraged attacks by Ukraine into Russian territory.

"We've reached a moment where it is time to look down the road again to say what is Ukraine going to need as part of a future force, to be able to deter and defend against Russian aggression as we go forward," Sullivan said.

Biden's decisions on when, how many, and who will provide the fourth-generation F-16 fighter jets will be made in the months ahead while the training is underway, Biden told leaders.

The G7 leaders have rolled out a new wave of global sanctions on Moscow as well as plans to enhance the effectiveness of existing financial penalties meant to constrain President Vladimir Putin's war effort. Russia is now the most-sanctioned country in the world, but there are questions about the effectiveness.

Russia had participated in some summits with the other seven countries before being removed from the then-Group of Eight after its 2014 annexation of Crimea.

The latest sanctions aimed at Russia include tighter restrictions on already-sanctioned people and firms involved in the war effort. More than 125 individuals and organizations across 20 countries have been hit with U.S. sanctions.

Kishida has twice taken leaders to visit to a peace park dedicated to the tens of thousands who died in the world's first wartime atomic bomb detonation. Kishida, who represents Hiroshima in parliament, wants nuclear disarmament to be a major focus of discussions.

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The G7 leaders also discussed efforts to strengthen the global economy and address rising prices that are squeezing families and government budgets around the world, particularly in developing countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The group reiterated its aim to pull together up to \$600 billion in financing for the G7's global infrastructure development initiative, which is meant to offer countries an alternative to China's investment dollars.

Associated Press writers Zeke Miller, Elaine Kurtenbach and Mari Yamaguchi in Hiroshima, Japan, and Joanna Kozłowska in London contributed to this report.

Nuggets on brink of NBA Finals with 119-108 win over Lakers in Game 3

By GREG BEACHAM AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Nikola Jokic was far from his usual dominant self while mired in foul trouble, and Jamal Murray cooled off after his scorching first half. The Denver Nuggets' big early lead disappeared entirely in the fourth quarter of Game 3, and the Lakers' home crowd was in a frenzy.

The Nuggets weathered every setback and calmly, methodically took control with a poise worthy of champions.

With one more victory, they'll finally get the chance to play for their first rings.

Murray scored 37 points, Jokic added 24 points and eight assists and the Nuggets rolled to a 3-0 lead in the Western Conference finals with a 119-108 victory over Los Angeles on Saturday night.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope scored 12 of his 17 points in the second half against his former team for the top-seeded Nuggets, who have never been this close to the NBA Finals in 47 years in the league. Denver is making its fifth straight playoff appearance, and the ultimate stage is now just one win away.

"I learn a lot about this team every time we play," Caldwell-Pope said. "We have that dog mentality where no matter if we're up, down, we're going to continue to fight and play our game, and do it at a high level. We're going to continue to do that for the rest of these games."

Denver blew a 14-point lead in Game 3, but made a decisive 13-0 run in the fourth quarter to snap the Lakers' nine-game home winning streak since March 26, including seven straight victories since the regular season ended. The Nuggets excelled down the stretch with Murray and Jokic repeatedly running a two-man pick-and-roll game suggested by "Coach Jokic," according to coach Michael Malone.

"This group is capable of doing great things, and they believe," Malone said. "Belief is a very powerful thing."

No team has rallied from a 3-0 playoff series deficit in NBA history. Game 4 is Monday night in Los Angeles.

"I can't speak for the guys right now because I don't know what's going through all their minds, but I still (believe)," said LeBron James, who had 23 points, 12 assists and seven rebounds. "So it's time to go right back home and start to refuel and start the treatment process and recovery process and get ready for Monday. My mindset is always locked in."

Anthony Davis had 28 points and 18 rebounds for the seventh-seeded Lakers, who hadn't lost three straight games since early February. Los Angeles' prolonged, desperate surge ever since the trade deadline has finally run out of steam against the powerhouse Nuggets, who have won five consecutive playoff games.

"They've been at the top of the food chain for a reason, and have a plethora of guys that can hurt you, as was on full display tonight," Lakers coach Darvin Ham said. "But you know, circumstances are what they are. Difficult, but not impossible."

James hit three 3-pointers after starting the series 0 for 13 from distance, and Austin Reaves added 23 points and seven rebounds. But Rui Hachimura was the only other Lakers scorer to crack double figures with 13 points, and they couldn't counter the Nuggets' balanced effort down the stretch.

"Our backs have been against the wall (for) probably about the last two months, maybe more than that since the trade deadline," Reaves said. "Swinging, throwing punches to fight to get to this opportunity. ... We can either come out Monday and go home, or we can fight for another day. And with the group of

Jumaane Williams, New York City's elected public advocate and a sponsor of the homeless rights measure now before Adams, said he would like the city to focus less on preventing encampments and more on addressing what he says are the roots of the crisis: rising housing costs, joblessness, racism, addiction and mental illness.

"I think we're in dire situations for things that have been decades in the making," Williams said.

The concept of a bill of rights for homeless people dates back more than a decade. In 2012, Rhode Island was the first state to adopt one, soon followed by Connecticut and Illinois.

"So far none of them have explicitly protected the right of a person to be able to sleep outside," said Eric Tars, the legal director of the National Homelessness Law Center.

Five years ago, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled the city of Boise, Idaho, could not stop people from sleeping outside if there was nowhere else for them to sleep. Doing so, the court suggested, would criminalize homeless people. The right to sleep outside only exists, the court ruled, if there is no shelter space available.

Weber reported from Los Angeles.

What should I do on the death anniversary? More are asking as US mass killings rise

By TRISHA AHMED Associated Press/Report for America

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — On a September day that he knew would be hard, 51-year-old Damone Presley marked the occasion with barbecue and balloons.

He was commemorating the one-year anniversary of the day in 2021 that his daughter and her three friends were fatally shot in Minnesota by a man who left their bodies in an abandoned SUV in a Wisconsin cornfield. Presley gathered 50 friends to celebrate the life of his daughter, Nitosha Flug-Presley, who was 30 when she died. He went big on the anniversary because he felt sure that's what his daughter would have wanted.

"She would always do stuff big," Presley told The Associated Press.

There have been 553 mass killings in the United States since 2006, and at least 2,880 people have died, according to a database maintained by The Associated Press and USA Today in partnership with Northeastern University. Those include killings where four or more died, not including the assailant, within a 24-hour period. So far in 2023, the nation has witnessed the highest number on record of mass killings and deaths to this point in a single year.

As the number of people who die in mass killings in the U.S. continues to rise, thousands more are left to handle the trauma of losing someone they love to a senseless act of violence. They struggle with a special kind of grief, haunted both by the loss and by how it happened.

One of the hardest days they confront each year is the anniversary of the killing.

This Wednesday, families in Uvalde, Texas, will have to face that one-year anniversary — transporting them back to the day when a gunman entered Robb Elementary School and fatally shot 19 children and two teachers as they gathered to celebrate the end of the school year. And last week, families of 10 people in Buffalo, New York, crossed the one-year mark from the day a white supremacist shot and killed them in a supermarket.

People cope with these anniversaries in different ways. Some throw a party to get through the pain. Others prefer to be completely alone. Many fall somewhere in the middle, adopting little rituals to help get them through the day.

But they all grapple with the same question, sometimes after many years have passed:

What do I do with myself on the date that changed everything?

(asterisk)(asterisk)(asterisk)

On the same day Presley gathered with friends and family at his home, Angela Sturm — whose children,

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guys that we've got, I know what that answer will be."

Jokic's streak of four consecutive triple-doubles ended in a fairly quiet game for the two-time MVP, who got his fourth foul in the third quarter. But Murray scored 17 points in a dynamic first quarter following his 23-point fourth quarter two nights ago, and he had 30 points by halftime of Game 3.

Bruce Brown scored 15 points and hit a key 3-pointer down the stretch for the Nuggets before Jokic all but iced it on a 3-pointer with 3:17 to play.

The Lakers' passionate fans turned out in force for the 17-time champion franchise's first conference finals games at home since 2010. Los Angeles tried desperately to get back in the series, with James playing 43 minutes after spraining his left ankle in Game 2 on top of his already sore right foot.

But the Nuggets' flight to the coast didn't cool off Murray in the slightest: The Canadian guard poured in 17 points in the first quarter and had 26 midway through the second. Reaves racked up 15 points, three assists and three rebounds in the second quarter alone to keep LA in it.

Hachimura's 3-pointer early in the fourth gave the Lakers their first lead since the opening minutes, but the Nuggets took charge again in a rally highlighted by Brown's 3-pointer with 7:02 to play, after which he taunted the Lakers' bench with Los Angeles' own "Freeze" 3-point celebration.

D'Angelo Russell had another rough game for the Lakers, scoring three points on 1-of-8 shooting in 20 minutes. The Lakers' biggest addition in their trade deadline transformation has just 21 points in the series.

TIP-INS

Nuggets: Aaron Gordon had seven points in 32 minutes. ... Michael Porter Jr. had 14 points and 10 rebounds, capped by a 3-pointer in the final 90 seconds.

Lakers: Backup C Mo Bamba missed his ninth consecutive game with a sore left ankle. The team is hopeful Bamba can play at some point in this series. ... Fans near courtside included Jack Nicholson, Eddie Murphy, Denzel Washington, Jake Gyllenhaal, Andy Garcia, Dyan Cannon, Ken Jeong, Joel McHale, LA Kings captain Anze Kopitar and defenseman Drew Doughty, and Khalil Mack, Derwin James and Sebastian Joseph-Day from the Los Angeles Chargers' defense.

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

Mexico prosecutors withdraw case against woman sentenced to prison for killing man raping her

By MEGAN JANETSKY Associated Press

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexican prosecutors announced Saturday night that they are withdrawing a case against a woman who was sentenced to six years in prison for killing a man as he raped and attacked her.

In a ruling last week that touched off a public outcry, a court in Mexico State said that while it agreed 23-year-old Roxana Ruiz was raped in 2021, it found her guilty of homicide with "excessive use of legitimate defense." It also ordered Ruiz to pay more than \$16,000 in reparations to the family of her attacker.

Feminist groups, which have supported Ruiz's defense, angrily protested, saying the ruling was criminalizing survivors of sexual violence while protecting perpetrators in a country with high levels of gender-based violence and femicides. Protesters in Mexico City carried signs reading "Defending my life isn't a crime."

Ruiz, an Indigenous woman and single mother, told reporters after the court's ruling that she had received death threats because of the case and that she worried for her family's safety, particularly the life of her 4-year-old son.

"This isn't justice," she said. "Remember I am the one who was sexually assaulted by that man, and after he died because I defended myself ... because I didn't want to die by his hands."

Responding to the outrage, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador had said during a morning press briefing that he would seek to pardon Ruiz. But her lawyers said accepting a pardon would be admitting Ruiz committed a crime and that she is completely innocent.

In a press release Saturday night, the state Prosecutor's Office said it had examined the case — taking into consideration that Ruiz is part of a vulnerable group — and found she was "exempt from guilt." It

added that the Prosecutor's Office believes she acted in self defense.

The announcement was celebrated by Ruiz's defense lawyer, Ángel Carrera, though he noted that he had not been formally notified of the charges being dropped.

"It means that they're recognizing her innocence," Carrera told The Associated Press. "It's a recognition that she simply defended herself."

In May 2021, Ruiz was working selling french fries in Nezahualcoyotl, one of the 11 municipalities in Mexico State, a state that borders Mexico City on three sides and continues to have posted alerts warning women about femicides and the forced disappearances of women.

The defense said Ruiz had a drink with a friend and a man she knew around the neighborhood. The man offered to walk her home, later asking to stay the night because it was late and he was far from home. While she slept on a separate bed, the man attacked and raped her.

Ruiz fought back and he threatened to kill her, then in the struggle, Ruiz managed to kill the man in self defense, Carrera said.

The court said the man was hit in the head and knocked unconscious, saying that was enough for Ruiz to defend herself. Carrera said that claim was "totally false," saying it had not been determined that the attacked was rendered unconscious.

Carrera said that in a panic, Ruiz put the man's body in a bag and dragged it out to the street, where passing police arrested her.

Despite Ruiz telling police she had been raped, a forensic exam was never done, a crucial step in prosecuting sexual violence cases, Carrera said. Instead, an officer responded that she probably wanted to have sex with the man at first and then changed her mind, the lawyer said.

Nearly half of Mexican women have experienced sexual violence in their lifetime, government data say. In 2022, the Mexican government registered a total of 3,754 women — an average of 10 a day — who were slain, a significant jump from the year before. Only a third were investigated as femicides.

Carrera said he hopes the announcement of the case being dropped sets a precedent for other gender-based violence cases to be more thoroughly investigated and treated with deeper sensitivity.

The Associated Press does not normally identify sexual assault victims, but Ruiz has given her permission to be identified and participates in public demonstrations led by activists who support her.

Associated Press journalist Fernanda Pesce contributed to this report.

Using 'he/him,' 'she/her' in emails got 2 dorm directors fired at small New York Christian college

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Shua Wilmot and Raegan Zelaya, two former dorm directors at a small Christian university in western New York, acknowledge their names are unconventional, which explains why they attached gender identities to their work email signatures.

Wilmot uses "he/him." Zelaya goes by "she/her."

Their former employer, Houghton University, wanted them to drop the identifiers in line with a new policy for email formats implemented in September. Both refused and were fired.

"My name is Shua. It's an unusual name. And it ends with a vowel, 'a,' that is traditionally feminine in many languages," Wilmot said in a nearly one-hour video he and Zelaya posted on YouTube shortly after they were let go last month. "If you get an email from me and you don't know who I am, you might not know how to gender me."

Ongoing culture wars in the U.S. over sexual preferences, gender IDs and transgender rights have engulfed politics, school campuses and many other facets of public and private life. At least 17 Republican-led states have severely restricted gender affirming care. Debates continue to rage in some communities about school curricula mentioning sexual orientation or gender identity. And pickets have sprung up outside

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public libraries hosting "drag story hours."

Meanwhile, controversies swirl at campuses with religious affiliations. The recent firings prompted more than 700 Houghton alumni to sign a petition in protest.

In the Northwest, 16 plaintiffs are suing Seattle Pacific University, a Christian liberal arts college, to challenge the school's employment policy barring people in same-sex relationships from full-time jobs.

In New York City, LGBTQ students are challenging Yeshiva University's decision to bar their student-run club from campus.

Paul Southwick, director of the Religious Exemption Accountability Project, a 2-year-old advocacy group for LGBTQ students at publicly funded religious colleges and universities, said actions such as these are cause for despair.

"There's a backlash against the rise of LGBTQ rights," he said, and not just with "white evangelical Christianity in the South ... but in places like New York and Oregon that we wouldn't think would be experiencing this backlash."

Earlier this year, a federal judge in Oregon dismissed a lawsuit that LGBTQ students filed against the U.S. Department of Education claiming it didn't protect them against discrimination at religiously affiliated universities receiving federal money.

Houghton University, an 800-student campus 60 miles (96 kilometers) southeast of Buffalo, says it offers a "Christ-centered education in the liberal arts and sciences."

In a statement emailed to The Associated Press on Saturday, the university said it could not speak publicly about personnel matters, but it "has never terminated an employment relationship based solely on the use of pronouns in staff email signatures."

The university said it had previously asked employees to remove "anything extraneous," including Bible quotes, from email signatures.

The university also shared with the AP an email outlining its new policy sent to staff. The memo cautioned employees against using politically divisive and inflammatory speech in communications bearing the Houghton name. It also directed them to use standardized signature styles and forbade the use of pronouns.

Also attached to the statement was a copy of a letter university President Wayne D. Lewis Jr. sent to students.

"I would never ask you to agree with or support every decision I make," Lewis wrote. "But I do humbly ask that you resist the temptation to reduce Houghton's decision making to the simple and convenient political narratives of our time."

Zelaya said she received an email in the fall from administrators saying the school was mandating changes in colors, fonts and other aspects of email to help the school maintain branding consistency.

She complied, she said, but retained her pronouns on her signature, calling it a "standard industry practice" to do so.

In the dismissal letters hand-delivered to Wilmot and Raegan Zelaya, copies of which they shared on social media, the university wrote that the firings were "a result of your refusal to remove pronouns in your email signatures in violation of institutional policy."

In a video posted on Facebook, Zelaya said she already has another job lined up. In their joint YouTube video, she and Wilmot urged their supporters to push for change in policies, but constructively and with civility.

"As a result of this whole controversy, as a result of having my pronouns in my email signature," Wilmot said, "it's given me the opportunity to educate people on this topic."

Low-income tenants lack options as old mobile home parks are razed

By ANITA SNOW Associated Press

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PHOENIX (AP) — Alondra Ruiz Vazquez and her husband were comfortable in Periwinkle Mobile Home Park for a decade, feeling lucky to own their mobile home and pay about \$450 a month for their lot in a city with spiraling rents.

But now they and dozens of other families have until May 28 to leave the Phoenix park, which nearby Grand Canyon University purchased seven years ago to build student housing. Two other mobile home communities are also being cleared this spring for new developments in a city where no new parks have been built in more than 30 years.

"I'm here, well, because I have nowhere to go," said Isabel Ramos, who lives at Periwinkle with her 11-year-old daughter. "I don't know what's going to happen."

The razing of older mobile home parks across the United States worries advocates who say bulldozing them permanently eliminates some of the already limited housing for the poorest of the poor. Residents may have to double up with relatives or live in their cars amid spiking evictions and homelessness, they warn.

"Mobile homes are a much bigger part of our affordable housing stock than people know," said Mark Stapp, who directs Arizona State University's master's degree program in real estate development. "Once it's gone, a lot of people will have no place to go."

A recent survey by the National Low Income Housing Coalition showed a U.S.-wide shortage of 7.3 million affordable rental homes for extremely low-income renters, defined in Arizona as a three-member household making \$28,850 or less.

Industry groups estimate that more than 20 million people live in some 43,000 mobile home parks across the United States.

"We are in the deepest affordable housing crisis we've ever experienced," said Joanna Carr, acting head of the Arizona Housing Coalition. "Housing for many people is getting completely out of reach. It's very dire."

Ken Anderson, president of the Manufactured Housing Industry of Arizona, said trying to bring an old park up to modern standards can be cost-prohibitive for owners, requiring replacement of electrical and sewage infrastructure for newer homes.

At least six such communities have been torn down in Arizona in the last 18 months, he said, adding that Grand Canyon University "bent over backwards" to help residents more than other park owners.

"A lot of these parks are 70 years old," said Anderson, noting an uptick in demolitions of older communities for redevelopment. "It's going to be a big problem down the line."

Efforts under way to revitalize old mobile homes have limits. Despite their name, most aren't truly mobile, and moving them can be very costly. The oldest homes are often too decrepit to move at all.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development recently announced \$225 million in grants to governments, tribes and nonprofits to preserve mobile homes, but the money can only be used to replace, not repair dwellings built before 1976, which are common at older parks.

Vermont earlier this year announced a mobile home improvement program to be funded by \$4 million in federal money. It aims to help park owners prepare vacant or abandoned lots for new mobile homes, and help mobile homeowners install new foundations and make their dwellings more habitable.

In Riverdale, Utah, the last of about 50 families at Lesley's Mobile Home Park must leave by the end of May for construction of new apartments and townhouses.

"The state laws don't protect us," said Jason Williams, who sold his mobile home for half what he asked for and will now live in a motorhome.

Some old parks weren't originally envisioned as permanent housing.

Florida City Campsite and RV Camp was built decades ago for vacationers headed to the Florida Keys or the Everglades.

But the dilapidated park eventually became home to retirees on fixed incomes and young families on government assistance. Florida City, the southernmost municipality in Miami-Dade County, sold it two years ago for a new townhouse project.

Cities often don't like older parks because unlike other housing they don't generate property taxes for municipal services. Rundown parks can also be eyesores, depressing the worth of nearby properties even as the value of the land the mobile homes sit on has increased exponentially.

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In Phoenix, Grand Canyon University said in a statement it "waited as long as it could" to build new student housing after buying Periwinkle in 2016. "Now, with the need to expand, the University has raised funds to provide multiple layers of assistance to tenants at Periwinkle."

The university said it initially gave residents six months to leave, then extended the deadline to 13 months. It offered free rent for the first five months of this year, early departure compensation, relocation assistance and some household goods.

Many park residents are Spanish-speaking immigrants earning minimum wage as landscapers or restaurant workers. There are also retirees living on Social Security.

"We haven't found anything under \$1,800. That's way above what we can afford," Ruiz Vazquez said of apartment rents. She said the couple's mobile home is too old to move and must be abandoned.

"It's really taken a toll on our health, mental state of mind."

Maricopa County, home to Phoenix, has a housing shortfall of more than 74,000 units. Zillow.com currently lists the median monthly rental price for all bedrooms and property types in Phoenix at \$2,095.

More than 20 families have moved out of Periwinkle in recent months, leaving behind weed-strewn lots. The rusting hulks of several mobile dwellings with rotting wooden stairs were left behind.

Residents wanted an additional 18-month eviction moratorium or a zoning change to stave off their departure indefinitely.

The Phoenix City Council this spring decided to let the eviction proceed, but set aside \$2.5 million in federal funds to help mobile home park residents facing eviction in the future.

CEO Mike Traylor of the nonprofit Trellis, who once headed the Arizona Department of Housing, said the organization is working with the university to help Periwinkle families find apartments and arrange to move mobile homes that can be moved.

Still, Phoenix activist Salvador Reza said most families face uncertain futures.

"Some of them might move in with another family, with an uncle or aunt," said Reza. "Some might go out into the streets and become part of the homeless."

A new law in Arizona recently increased state funds for owners forced to move their mobile homes because of redevelopment to \$12,500 for a single-section dwelling and \$20,000 for a multi-section.

Those who must abandon their home because of precarious condition can now get \$5,000 for a single-section home and up to \$8,000 for a multi-section.

Periwinkle resident Graciela Beltran said it's not enough.

"They want my house?" she asked, her voice cracking. "Give me a house that is equal to mine. I am not asking for anything more."

EDITORS: This version corrects that the nonprofit Trellis is working with the university to help Periwinkle residents and was not allocated money from the \$2.5 million general fund established by the city.

DeSantis asks that judge be disqualified from Disney's free speech lawsuit

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Gov. Ron DeSantis is asking that a federal judge be disqualified from the First Amendment lawsuit filed by Disney against the Florida governor and his appointees, claiming the jurist's prior statements in other cases have raised questions about his impartiality on the state's efforts to take over Disney World's governing body.

DeSantis' attorney filed a motion in federal court in Tallahassee on Friday seeking to disqualify Chief U.S. District Judge Mark Walker from overseeing the lawsuit filed by Disney last month. The lawsuit alleges that DeSantis and his appointees violated the company's right to free speech, as well as the contracts clause, by taking over the special governing district that previously had been controlled by Disney supporters after Disney opposed Florida legislation that critics have dubbed "Don't Say Gay."

The Republican governor's motion was filed a day after Disney announced that it was scrapping plans

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to build a new campus in central Florida and relocate 2,000 employees from Southern California to work in digital technology, finance and product development, amid an ongoing feud with DeSantis.

DeSantis' motion said Walker referenced the ongoing dispute between his administration and Disney during hearings in two unrelated lawsuits before him dealing with free speech issues and fear of retaliation for violating new laws championed by DeSantis and Republican lawmakers. One of those was a First Amendment lawsuit filed by Florida professors that challenged a new law establishing a survey about "intellectual freedom and viewpoint diversity" on state campuses.

Walker, who was nominated to the federal bench in 2012 by President Barack Obama and is now chief judge of the district, tossed out that lawsuit on the grounds that the professors didn't have standing to challenge the law championed by DeSantis and Florida lawmakers.

In the first case, Walker said, "What's in the record, for example — is there anything in the record that says we are now going to take away Disney's special status because they're woke?"

In the second case, the judge said, "And then Disney is going to lose its status because—arguably, because they made a statement that run afoul—ran afoul of state policy of the controlling party," according to the DeSantis motion.

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

The feud started after Disney, in the face of significant pressure, publicly opposed the state concerning lessons on sexual orientation and gender identity in early grades that critics called "Don't Say Gay."

As punishment, DeSantis took over Disney World's self-governing district through legislation passed by lawmakers and appointed a new board of supervisors. Before the new board came in, the company signed agreements with the old board stripping the new supervisors of design and construction authority.

In response, the Republican-controlled Florida Legislature passed legislation allowing the DeSantis-appointed board to repeal those agreements and made the theme park resort's monorail system subject to state inspection, when it previously had been done in-house.

Disney filed the First Amendment lawsuit against the Florida governor and the DeSantis-appointed board last month in federal court in Tallahassee, and it landed in Walker's court. The DeSantis-appointed board earlier this month sued Disney in state court in Orlando seeking to void the deals the company made with the previous board.

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

This story has been corrected to reflect that Disney filed the First Amendment lawsuit against the Florida governor and the DeSantis-appointed board, not a Disney-appointed board; and that the DeSantis-appointed board, not a Disney-appointed board, earlier this month sued Disney in state court in Orlando.

Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at @MikeSchneiderAP

Baffert back from ban, wins Preakness with National Treasure after another horse euthanized

By STEPHEN WHYNO AP Sports Writer

BALTIMORE (AP) — Bob Baffert choked back tears and his voice cracked while he tried to juggle the conflicting feelings of seeing one of his horses win the Preakness Stakes hours after another was euthanized on the same track.

"This business is twists and turns, ups and downs," the Hall of Fame trainer said. "To win this — losing that horse today really hurt. ... It's been a very emotional day."

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National Treasure won the Preakness on Saturday in Baffert's return to the Triple Crown trail following a suspension, ending Kentucky Derby champion Mage's Triple Crown bid in the race Baffert has now captured more than any other trainer. But the joy was tempered by the agony of another 3-year-old colt, Havnameltdown, injuring his left front leg in an undercard race and being put down.

"When he got hurt, it's just the most sickening feeling a trainer can have," Baffert said. "It put a damper on the afternoon."

It also put the sport squarely back in a familiar spot, two weeks after seven horses died in a 10-day span at Churchill Downs leading up to the Derby.

National Treasure did not run in the Derby at Churchill Downs, where Baffert has been barred the past two years because of a suspension stemming from 2021 Kentucky Derby winner Medina Spirit's failed drug test that led to a disqualification in that race. Medina Spirit was Baffert's most recent Preakness horse, finishing third.

The 5-2 second choice Saturday, National Treasure came through, delivering Baffert a record-breaking eighth victory in the Preakness and his 17th in a Triple Crown race, also the most among trainers. National Treasure held off hard-charging Blazing Sevens down the stretch to win the 1 3/16-mile, \$1.65 million race by a head in 1:55.12.

"He fought the whole way," said jockey John Velazquez, who won the Preakness for the first time in his 13th try. "He put up a really good fight. ... That's what champions do."

National Treasure paid \$7.80 to win, \$4 to place and \$2.60 to show. Blazing Sevens paid \$5 to place and \$2.80 to show.

Mage finished third after going off as the 7-5 favorite, paying \$2.40 to show. Despite the smallest Preakness field since 1986, horses at the lead went much slower than in the Derby, which did not benefit Mage's running style of closing late and passing tired rivals down the stretch.

"Slow, very slow," Mage's trainer, Gustavo Delgado Sr., said.

Mage's defeat means there will not be a Triple Crown winner for a fifth consecutive year since Baffert's Justify in 2018.

Baffert became the face of the sport after his American Pharoah ended a 37-year Triple Crown drought in 2015. Since Medina Spirit was DQed from the Derby, though, Baffert has turned into a polarizing figure. In addition to his Churchill Downs punishment, he was forced to miss the Preakness and Belmont last year because of a related suspension in Kentucky that Maryland and New York honored.

On Saturday, he was back at a major race — and, thanks to National Treasure, back in the winner's circle.

"You can't do it without the group of owners I have that have stuck by me through all of this negative, all this bad stuff that's happened to me in the last few years," Baffert said. "Days like this, it's not really vindication. It's just, I feel like we have a moment where we can enjoy it."

Even that wasn't simple, given the somber scene earlier in the day, when Havnameltdown stumbled and unseated jockey Luis Saez.

While Saez was being attended to, black barriers were propped up on the dirt track while the horse was euthanized. All the while, 2Pac's "California Love" blared from the infield speakers at what is intended as an annual daylong celebration of thoroughbred racing.

"It felt like a knife to my heart when I saw it," Velazquez said. "It's devastating when you see it. When a horse suffers something like this — and the jockey on top of it — you feel it."

Saez went to the hospital but was conscious, and his agent said X-rays were negative.

While expressing concern for Saez, Baffert said he was still grieving about Havnameltdown.

"We're still sad about that horse, and we will be for a while," he said.

While horse racing deaths in the U.S. are at their lowest level since they began being tracked in 2009, adding another at the track hosting a Triple Crown race will only intensify the internal and external scrutiny of the industry. Those inside it have said they accept the realities of on-track deaths of horses while also acknowledging more work needs to be done to prevent as many as possible.

In that vein, new national medication and doping rules are set to go into effect on Monday. The federally mandated Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority, which already regulated racetrack safety and other

measures, will oversee drug testing requirements for horses that should standardize the sport nationwide for the first time.

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

Lawyer who quit Trump legal team cites disagreements with Trump adviser as basis for departure

By ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A lawyer who quit Donald Trump's legal team this past week attributed his decision Saturday to strategy disagreements with a close adviser to the former president.

Timothy Parlatore, who had been a key lawyer for Trump in a Justice Department special counsel investigation into the potential mishandling of classified documents at his Florida estate, told CNN in an interview on Saturday that there were "certain individuals that made defending the president much harder than it needed to be."

He singled out Boris Epshteyn, another lawyer and top Trump adviser in multiple criminal investigations, whom he accused of "doing everything he could to try to block us to prevent us from doing what we could to defend the president."

Parlatore disclosed Wednesday that he was resigning from the Trump legal team, a move that comes as the investigation by special counsel Jack Smith shows signs of winding down and nearing a decision on whether or not to bring charges against the former president. His comments Saturday provided additional context for the decision.

In a statement responding to Parlatore's comments, a Trump spokesman said "Mr. Parlatore is no longer a member of the legal team. His statements regarding current members of the legal team are unfounded and categorically false."

In his interview, Parlatore said Epshteyn had served as a "filter" in preventing the legal team from getting information about the investigation to or from Trump.

He also said Epshteyn had resisted the idea of the legal team organizing months ago a search of Trump's property in Bedminster, New Jersey, for potential additional classified documents, and that he had impeded a defense strategy aimed at helping "educate (Attorney General) Merrick Garland as to how best to handle this matter." Parlatore was one of the authors of a letter last month to the chairman of the House intelligence committee laying out a series of potential defenses in the investigation.

"It's difficult enough fighting against DOJ, and in this case a special counsel, but when you also have people within the tent that are also trying to undermine you, block you and really make it so that I can't do what I know that I need to do as a lawyer," Parlatore said.

"And when I am getting into fights like that, that's detracting from what is necessary to defend the client and ultimately was not in the client's best interest, so I made the decision to withdraw," he added.

Follow Eric Tucker on Twitter at <http://www.twitter.com/etuckerAP>

Warring factions in Sudan agree to temporary ceasefire, say US-Saudi mediators

By MATTHEW LEE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sudan's warring factions have agreed to a new short-term ceasefire, U.S. and Saudi mediators announced on Saturday, after several previous attempts to broker a truce that holds have failed.

Meeting in the Saudi port city of Jeddah, the Sudanese army and the Rapid Support Forces signed off on a seven-day ceasefire that is due to take effect on Monday 9:45 p.m. local time in Sudan, the U.S. and Saudi Arabia said in a joint statement. The ceasefire could be extended if both sides agree.

"Both parties have conveyed to the Saudi and U.S. facilitators their commitment not to seek military

advantage during the 48-hour notification period after signing the agreement and prior to the start of the ceasefire," it said.

The talks in Jeddah had previously produced an agreement between the two sides on protecting civilians and easing the flow of humanitarian assistance to those affected by the conflict. But, earlier ceasefire deals have foundered amid accusations by both of violations.

"It is well known that the parties have previously announced ceasefires that have not been observed," the U.S.-Saudi statement said.

"Unlike previous ceasefires, the Agreement reached in Jeddah was signed by the parties and will be supported by a U.S.-Saudi and international-supported ceasefire monitoring mechanism."

The Monitoring and Coordination Committee is to be made up of three representatives each from the U.S. and Saudi Arabia and three representatives from each party.

Mother of 8-year-old girl who died in Border Patrol custody says pleas for hospital care were denied

By VALERIE GONZALEZ Associated Press

McALLEN, Texas (AP) — The mother of an 8-year-old girl who died in Border Patrol custody said Friday that agents repeatedly ignored pleas to hospitalize her medically fragile daughter as she felt pain in her bones, struggled to breathe and was unable to walk.

Agents said her daughter's diagnosis of influenza did not require hospital care, Mabel Alvarez Benedicks said in an emotional phone interview. They knew the girl had a history of heart problems and sickle cell anemia.

"They killed my daughter, because she was nearly a day and a half without being able to breathe," the mother said. "She cried and begged for her life and they ignored her. They didn't do anything for her.

The girl died Wednesday on what her mother said was the family's ninth day in Border Patrol custody. People are to be held no more than 72 hours under agency policy, a rule that is violated during unusually busy times.

The account is almost certain to raise questions about whether the Border Patrol properly handled the situation, the second child migrant death in two weeks in U.S. government custody after a rush of illegal border crossing severely strained holding facilities.

Roderick Kise, a spokesperson for the Border Patrol's parent agency, Customs and Border Protection, said he could not comment beyond an initial statement because the death was the subject of an open investigation. In that statement, CBP said the girl experienced "a medical emergency" at a station in Harlingen, Texas, and died later that day at a hospital.

"No parent should have to beg for their child to get basic medical attention and be forced to watch as their child's health worsens to the point where they cannot be saved," Jennifer Nagda, chief programs officer at the nonprofit Young Center for Immigrant Children's Rights, said in a statement Saturday.

Nagda urged the Biden administration to create "welcoming centers" at the border where immigration officials can process asylum-seeking families with children while non-governmental groups can offer food, clothing and medical care.

"The only way to stop these preventable deaths is to stop jailing families. To stop jailing children," Nagda said.

Alvarez Benedicks, 35, said she, her husband and three children, aged 14, 12 and 8, crossed the border to Brownsville, Texas, on May 9. After a doctor diagnosed the 8-year-old, Anadith Tanay Reyes Alvarez, with influenza, the family was sent to the Harlingen station on May 14. It was unclear why the family was held so long.

Anadith woke up her first day in the Harlingen station with a fever and had a headache, according to her mother, who said the station was dusty and smelled of urine.

When she reported her daughter's bone pain to an agent, she said he responded, "Oh, your daughter

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is growing up. That's why her bones hurt. Give her water."

"I just looked at him," Alvarez Benedicks said. "How would he know what to do if he's not a doctor?"

She said a doctor told her the pain was related to influenza. She asked for an ambulance to take her daughter to the hospital for breathing difficulties but was denied.

"I felt like they didn't believe me," she said.

Anadith received saline fluids, a shower and fever medication to reduce her temperature, but her breathing problems persisted, her mother said, adding that a sore throat prevented her from eating and she stopped walking.

At one point, a doctor asked the parents to return if Anadith fainted, Alvarez Benedicks said. Their request for an ambulance was denied again when her blood pressure was checked Wednesday.

An ambulance was called later that day after Anadith went limp and unconscious and blood came out of her mouth, her mother said. She insists her daughter had no vital signs in the Border Patrol station before leaving for the hospital.

The family is staying at a McAllen, Texas, migrant shelter and seeking money to bring their daughter's remains to New York City, their final destination in the U.S.

Anadith, whose parents are Honduran, was born in Panama with congenital heart disease. She received surgery three years ago that her mother characterized as successful. It inspired Anadith to want to become a doctor.

Her death came a week after a 17-year-old Honduran boy, Ángel Eduardo Maradiaga Espinoza, died in U.S. Health and Human Services Department custody. He was traveling alone.

A rush to the border before pandemic-related asylum limits known as Title 42 expired brought extraordinary pressure. The Border Patrol took an average of 10,100 people a day into custody a day over four days last week, compared to a daily average of 5,200 in March.

The Border Patrol had 28,717 people in custody on May 10, one day before pandemic asylum restrictions expired, which was double from two weeks earlier, according to a court filing. By Sunday, the custody count dropped 23% to 22,259, still historically high.

Custody capacity is about 17,000, according to a government document last year, and the administration has been adding temporary giant tents like one in San Diego that opened in January with room for about 500 people.

On Sunday, the average time in custody was 77 hours.

Associated Press writer Elliot Spagat in San Diego contributed to this report.

Victims of deadly Oregon highway crash were farmworkers, union says

ALBANY, Ore. (AP) — The victims of one of Oregon's deadliest highway crashes were farmworkers traveling in a van at an hour when agricultural laborers typically commute home after toiling in the harvest, the state's farmworkers union and Mexican officials said.

Authorities have not yet released the names of the seven who died or the four who were injured when a semitruck ran off Interstate 5 on Thursday and slammed into the van as it was parked on the roadside near Albany, in an agricultural area of the Willamette Valley.

But the union, the Woodburn-based PCUN, said in a statement late Friday that the 11 people in the vehicle were farmworkers and that it has been in contact with some of their families to support them. It also offered condolences to those affected by the tragedy.

"At this time, families are asking for safer roads for workers commuting after a hard day's work," Reyna Lopez, the union's executive director, was quoted as saying.

The Mexican Consulate in Portland also said that the victims were farmworkers in a statement in Spanish that it posted on Facebook and Twitter.

"According to information provided by the office of the Oregon State Police, seven dead were reported

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in the ... accident and four people injured, all of them apparently agricultural workers of Mexican nationality," the statement said.

The consul traveled to a hospital in Salem, the state capital, to offer assistance to the injured, who had been taken there for "urgent medical attention," it said.

The consulate also said it was in close communication with law enforcement and trying to locate family members of the deceased. It urged relatives of those killed or hospitalized to call the consulate.

The driver of the semitruck that rammed into the van, Lincoln Clayton Smith, 52, of North Highlands, California, was arrested Friday on suspicion of manslaughter, driving under the influence of intoxicants, reckless driving and assault, police said. He was being held without bail in Marion County Jail.

It wasn't clear whether Smith's case had been assigned to the state public defender's office or a specific attorney. The office didn't immediately respond to a message asking about that, and a lawyer whose name appears in court documents said she had not formally been assigned the case and could not comment.

At Smith's arraignment, a district attorney said he had refused a field sobriety test and was unable to focus and answer basic questions, the Salem Statesman Journal reported. The prosecutor also said Smith acknowledged taking "speed" the day before the crash and was in possession of methamphetamine, according to the paper.

The DA said witnesses reported the truck had been weaving on and off the road as it traveled in the northbound lanes Thursday afternoon before it plowed into the van without braking first, according to the Statesman Journal.

The van was then pushed into the back of another truck parked in front of it, Oregon State Police said.

All the victims were passengers in the van. Six died at the scene and one more died after being airlifted to a hospital, according to Oregon State Police. Information on the condition of the four injured has not been made public.

Bodies were seen covered in plastic in a nearby field after the crash, the Albany Democrat-Herald reported.

The crash is one of the deadliest in Oregon in recent years.

A head-on collision on a remote road in Harney County in eastern Oregon in August 2018 killed a family of seven, including five young children. Eight people died in total.

In December 2012, nine people died after a tour bus careened on an icy Interstate 84 and crashed through a guardrail, plunging several hundred feet down a steep embankment. The bus was carrying about 40 people when the accident occurred in an area near Pendleton called Deadman Pass.

Another crash in 1988, also near Albany on I-5, killed 7 people and injured 37 more. Two infants were among those killed in the fiery 23-vehicle pileup.

Albany lies between Salem and Eugene and is about 70 miles (113 kilometers) south of Portland. I-5 is the main north-south interstate highway on the West Coast.

Scorsese debuts 'Killers of the Flower Moon' in Cannes to thunderous applause

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

CANNES, France (AP) — Martin Scorsese unveiled "Killers of the Flower Moon" at Cannes on Saturday, debuting a sweeping American epic about greed and exploitation on the bloody plains of an Osage Nation reservation in 1920s Oklahoma.

Scorsese's latest — starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Lily Gladstone and Robert De Niro — is one of his most ambitious. Adapting David Grann's nonfiction bestseller, it stretches nearly three and a half hours and cost Apple \$200 million to make.

Nothing has been more anticipated at this year's Cannes Film Festival than "Killers of the Flower Moon" — a historical epic, a bitter crime film and a Great Plains Western — which appeared to meet those expectations. It drew a lengthy standing ovation and repeated cheers for Scorsese, 80, who premiered his first film at Cannes since 1985's "After Hours."

"We shot this a couple of years ago in Oklahoma. It's taken its time to come around but Apple did so

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great by us," Scorsese said, addressing the crowd after the screening. "There was lots of grass. I'm a New Yorker."

The red carpet drew a wide spectrum of stars. Along with the film's expansive cast, attendees included Apple CEO Tim Cook, as well as actors Cate Blanchett, Salma Hayek, Paul Dano and Isabelle Huppert.

Though Grann's book affords many possible inroads to the story, Scorsese and co-writer Eric Roth center their story on Ernest Burkhart (DiCaprio, in his seventh collaboration with Scorsese), a WWI veteran who falls for Mollie Brown (Gladstone), the member of a wealthy Osage family.

Since finding oil reserves on their land, the Osage were then the richest people per capita in the country. But that wealth is closely controlled by appointed white guardians. A series of murders prompts increased panic among the Osage, who are preyed on by a host of greedy killers.

Though Grann's book devoted many pages to the connections between the cases and the birth of the FBI, less time is spent in Scorsese's film on the murder investigations. (Jesse Plemons plays an agent from the just-formed Bureau.) Instead, "Killers of the Flower Moon" captures the manipulation and murders of Native American people through the dynamics in Ernest and Mollie's relationship.

"Killers of the Flower Moon," which is playing out of competition in Cannes, opens in U.S. theaters on Oct. 6.

Follow AP Film Writer Jake Coyle on Twitter at: <http://twitter.com/jakecoyleAP>

2024 Republican hopefuls rush to defend Marine who put NYC subway rider in fatal chokehold

By WILL WEISSERT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis urged the nation to show Daniel Penny that "America's got his back." Former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley called for New York's governor to pardon Penny, and biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy donated \$10,000 to his legal defense fund.

Republican presidential hopefuls have lined up to support Penny, a 24-year-old U.S. Marine veteran who was caught on video pinning an agitated fellow subway passenger in New York City to the floor in a chokehold. The passenger, 30-year-old Jordan Neely, later died from compression of the neck, according to the medical examiner.

Penny has been charged with manslaughter. His attorneys say he acted in self-defense.

He's already become a hero to many Republicans, who have trumpeted Penny as a Good Samaritan moving to protect others in a Democrat-led city that they say is unsafe — even though criminal justice experts say current crime levels are more comparable to where New York was a decade ago, when people frequently lauded it as America's safest big city.

The GOP support for Penny has been unwavering, despite the fact that Neely, who was Black, never got physical with anyone on the train before he was placed in the chokehold for several minutes by Penny, who is white.

The rush to back Penny recalls how then-President Donald Trump and other top Republicans fiercely supported Kyle Rittenhouse during the 2020 presidential election. Rittenhouse, a white teenager who killed two men and wounded a third during a tumultuous night of protests in Wisconsin over a Black man's death, was acquitted.

More recently, Texas Republican Gov. Greg Abbott vowed to pardon Daniel Perry, a white Army sergeant who was sentenced to 25 years in prison for fatally shooting an armed man during a 2020 Black Lives Matter protest in the state's capital of Austin.

Top Republicans have tried to make rising crime rates a political liability for Democrats. The Republican-controlled House Judiciary Committee traveled to New York City last month — before Neely was killed — for a hearing examining "victims of violent crime in Manhattan."

Democrats and racial justice advocates counter that GOP messaging around restoring "law and order" plays on deep-seated racism.

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"They have a playbook of winning elections that is based on really tapping into the worst parts of human nature and really driving it home with division and fear," said Jumaane Williams, a Democrat who is New York City's public advocate. "And, if there's race and class played into it, then it's like Christmastime for them."

Neely, known by some commuters as a Michael Jackson impersonator, had a history of mental illness and had frequently been arrested in the past. Bystanders said he had been shouting at passengers, begging for money and acting aggressively, but didn't touch anyone aboard the train.

Christopher Borick, director of the Muhlenberg College Institute of Public Opinion, said GOP presidential candidates see Penny's cause as a way to excite their party's base.

"There's very little downside within the Republican electorate, given that it overlays so nicely with the issues that are incredibly salient among Republican voters in terms of law and order and fitting this narrative about the degeneration of urban life," Borick said. "That's the message — Trump's and his bloc of Republicans' message — that the 'crazies' are a threat, and we have to do what we can to protect 'Americans' any way we can."

But the GOP defense of white people after Black people are killed is often very different from incidents in which white people are killed. A key example is Ashli Babbitt, the white former Air Force veteran who was shot to death by a Black police officer while trying to climb through a broken window at the U.S. Capitol during the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection.

Trump called Babbitt an "innocent, wonderful, incredible woman" and labeled the Black officer who shot her a "thug." Other Republicans have mourned her as a martyr.

Adrienne Shropshire, executive director of Black PAC, said the issue goes beyond the presidential race, noting that some Republican-controlled legislatures passed measures after the wave of protests in 2020 against institutional racism and police brutality, seeking to more severely punish demonstrators.

Shropshire, whose group works to increase African American political engagement and voter turnout, said the issue reinforces the GOP's long-standing commitment to "protecting whiteness, which is what this is fundamentally about."

As for Democrats, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez of New York tweeted before charges were filed that Neely's "murderer" was being "protected" while "many in power demonize the poor." New York Mayor Eric Adams called Neely's death a "tragedy that never should have happened" but warned against irresponsible statements before all the facts are known.

Rafael Mangual, head of research for policing and public safety at the Manhattan Institute, a conservative New York think tank, said the case features deep legal ambiguity that many people from both parties are overlooking.

"I've been very put off to the degree by which politicians on the left have decried Daniel Penny a murderer and politicians on the right have come out and said, 'This is what we need to do,' Mangual said. "I don't want to live in a world in which maintaining public order falls to everyday straphangers."

There was no such hesitation from Georgia Republican Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, who called Penny a "hero," or Florida Republican Rep. Matt Gaetz, who dubbed Penny a "Subway Superman" and once offered an internship to Rittenhouse.

Trump, now running for president for a third time, said this week that he hadn't seen the video but told The Messenger that he thought Penny "was in great danger and the other people in the car were in great danger."

Helping fuel Republican anger is the fact that Penny's case is being handled by Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, who is leading the prosecution of Trump on charges he paid hush money to cover up an affair during his 2016 presidential campaign.

"We must defeat the Soros-Funded DAs, stop the Left's pro-criminal agenda, and take back the streets for law abiding citizens," tweeted DeSantis, who is preparing to announce his 2024 presidential bid, repeating false claims that billionaire investor and philanthropist George Soros orchestrated Trump's indictment.

"We stand with Good Samaritans like Daniel Penny," DeSantis wrote, including a link to a fundraising

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page for Penny. "Let's show this Marine... America's got his back."

Former ambassador Haley told Fox News Channel that New York Gov. Kathy Hochul, a Democrat, should pardon Penny. Ramaswamy donated to the defense fund for Penny via GiveSendGo, a site that also raised funds to support the insurrectionists who attacked the Capitol on the day Babbitt was killed. It has collected around \$2 million in donations for Penny.

During Neely's funeral Friday, the Rev. Al Sharpton offered an indirect response to Penny's supporters, saying that "a Good Samaritan helps those in trouble, they don't choke them out."

Williams, an ombudsman who can investigate citizen complaints about agencies and services, said prominent Republicans have been capitalizing politically on violence with racial overtones since 1988 political ads featuring Willie Horton, a Black murderer who raped a white woman while on a weekend furlough from prison. He also noted that many of the people now contributing to Penny's defense fund also are likely to have supported cutting social programs that might have benefited people like Neely.

"These folks are not saying, 'Let's let it play out, see what happens,'" Williams said. "They're immediately making someone a hero who killed someone on a train who was screaming and yelling about being hungry."

Associated Press writer Luke Sheridan contributed to this report from New York.

Trans girl misses Mississippi graduation after being told to dress like boy

By EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. (AP) — A transgender girl in Mississippi is not participating in her high school graduation ceremony because school officials told her to dress like a boy and a federal judge did not block the officials' decision, an attorney for the girl's family said Saturday.

Linda Morris, staff attorney at the American Civil Liberties Union's Women's Rights Project, said the ruling handed down late Friday by U.S. District Judge Taylor McNeel in Gulfport, Mississippi, "is as disappointing as it is absurd."

"Our client is being shamed and humiliated for explicitly discriminatory reasons, and her family is being denied a once-in-a-lifetime milestone in their daughter's life," Morris said. "No one should be forced to miss their graduation because of their gender."

The ACLU confirmed that the 17-year-old girl — listed in court papers only by her initials L.B. — would skip the Saturday ceremony for Harrison Central High School in Gulfport, about 160 miles (260 kilometers) south of Jackson.

The student "has met the qualifications to receive a diploma," according to Wynn Clark, attorney for the Harrison County School District.

The ACLU sued the district Thursday on behalf of the student and her parents after Harrison Central principal Kelly Fuller and school district superintendent Mitchell King told L.B. that she must follow the boys' clothing rules. Graduating boys are expected to wear white shirts and black slacks, while girls are expected to wear white dresses.

L.B. had selected a dress to wear with her cap and gown. The lawsuit said L.B. had worn dresses to classes and extracurricular events throughout high school, including to a prom last year, and she should not face discriminatory treatment during graduation.

King told L.B.'s mother that the teenager could not participate in the graduation ceremony unless L.B. wears "pants, socks, and shoes, like a boy," according to the lawsuit.

Clark wrote in court papers Friday that taking part in a graduation ceremony is voluntary and not a constitutionally protected right for any student.

Martin Amis, British novelist who brought a rock 'n' roll sensibility to his work, has died at 73

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NEW YORK (AP) — British novelist Martin Amis, who brought a rock 'n' roll sensibility to his stories and lifestyle, has died. He was 73.

His death on Friday at his home in Florida, from cancer of the esophagus, was confirmed by his agent, Andrew Wylie, on Saturday.

Amis was the son of another British writer, Kingsley Amis. Martin Amis was a leading voice among a generation of writers that included his good friend, the late Christopher Hitchens, Ian McEwan and Salman Rushdie.

Among his best-known works were "Money," a satire about consumerism in London, "The Information" and "London Fields," along with his 2000 memoir, "Experience."

Jonathan Glazer's adaption of Amis' 2014 novel "The Zone of Interest" premiered Saturday at the Cannes Film Festival. The film, about a Nazi commandant who lives next to Auschwitz with his family, drew some of the best reviews of the festival.

The Holocaust was the topic of Amis' novel "Time's Arrow" and Josef Stalin's reign in Russia in "House of Meetings," examples of how his writing explored the dark soul.

"Violence is what I hate most, is what baffles me and disgusts me most," Amis told The Associated Press in 2012. "Writing comes from silent anxiety, the stuff you don't know you're really brooding about and when you start to write you realize you have been brooding about it, but not consciously. It's terribly mysterious."

Amis was a celebrity in his own right, his life often chronicled by London tabloids since his 1973 debut, "The Rachel Papers." His love life, his change of agents, even his dental work were fodder for stories.

"He was the king — a stylist extraordinaire, super cool, a brilliantly witty, erudite and fearless writer and a truly wonderful man," said Michal Shavit, his editor in England. "He has been so important and formative for so many readers and writers over the last half century. Every time he published a new book it was an event."

Critic Michiko Kakutani wrote of Amis in The New York Times in 2000 that "he is a writer equipped with a daunting arsenal of literary gifts: a dazzling, chameleonesque command of language, a willingness to tackle large issues and larger social canvases and an unforgiving, heat-seeking eye for the unwholesome ferment of contemporary life."

"We are devastated at the death of our author and friend, Martin Amis," Amis' publisher, Penguin, tweeted. "He leaves a towering legacy and an indelible mark on the British cultural landscape, and will be missed enormously."

Uvalde families dig in for new test of gun industry protections

By PAUL J. WEBER and JAKE BLEIBERG Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — After Mayah Zamora was shot and wounded at Robb Elementary School, her family did what many mass shooting survivors do: They sued.

They sued the store off Main Street in Uvalde, Texas, that sold the teenage gunman his AR-style rifle. They sued the gun maker. And they sued police who waited 77 minutes outside Mayah's fourth-grade classroom before stopping the shooting that killed 19 children and two teachers.

"Mainly what we are looking for is some sort of justice," said Christina Zamora, Mayah's mother.

As the grim frequency of gun violence continues, both the U.S. government and gun manufacturers have reached large settlements in recent years following some of the nation's worst mass shootings. In April, the Justice Department announced a \$144 million settlement with relatives and families of a 2017 Texas church attack, which was carried out by a former U.S. airman with a criminal history.

The lawsuits, relatives and victims of mass shootings say, are an effort to get accountability and prevent more attacks — by forcing reforms, hurting the gun industry's bottom line and strengthening background checks after lapses failed to stop gunmen from buying weapons.

But despite two high-profile settlements in the last year involving gun manufacturers, and Democrat-led states rolling back some industry protections, not only do high hurdles remain for lawsuits to succeed, but

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in some places the hurdles are growing taller.

On May 11, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee signed a new law that further shields gun manufacturers from lawsuits, weeks after a shooter at a Nashville school killed six people.

It comes as attorneys say the narrow path for victims to bring lawsuits has begun to widen, including for families in Uvalde, who on Wednesday will mark the one year since the most deadly school shooting in Texas history.

"I think there are more opportunities for accountability than maybe there were five to 10 years ago," said Eric Tirschwell, executive director for Everytown for Gun Safety, which for years has brought lawsuits against the gun industry and is also involved in the Uvalde case.

The track record for lawsuits following mass shootings is mixed. The gun industry remains largely protected from liability under a federal law, known as the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act, though it does not completely exempt or immunize gun manufacturers from lawsuits.

Over the last decade, courts have tossed numerous lawsuits, many of which did not target the gun industry but instead brought negligence claims against the government or the places where the attacks took place. In 2020, the casino company MGM Resorts International and its insurers agreed to an \$800 million settlement over a shooting on the Las Vegas Strip that killed 58 people and injured hundreds more.

Last year, the maker of the rifle used in the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary shooting settled with families for \$73 million over a lawsuit that accused Remington of targeting younger, at-risk males in marketing. In Tennessee, the GOP sponsor of the state's new law waved to what happened in Connecticut in defending the need to further shield the industry: "Few companies can survive a \$73 million settlement," state Rep. Monty Fritts said in February.

In Uvalde, victims have also accused Daniel Defense, the maker of the weapon used in the attack, of dangerous marketing. The company has denied that in court, and gun industry groups have broadly rejected the argument since the Sandy Hook settlement.

"The commercial speech is still protected speech," said Mark Oliva, managing director for public affairs at the National Shooting Sports Foundation.

The lawsuits in Uvalde are still in the early stages and not all families sued. For the Zamoras, they decided to join only after Mayah was released from the hospital, which was not until more than two months after the shooting and dozens of surgeries. Next year, her parents say, they hope she can return to school in person.

After the Uvalde shooting, Sandy and Lonnie Phillips drove to the town and shared with families their own experiences of suing the gun industry: a decision that ended with them declaring bankruptcy after losing and a court ordering them to pay more than \$200,000 to the defendants' attorneys.

Their daughter, Jessica, was killed in the 2012 movie theater shooting in Aurora, Colorado. Last month, the couple joined Colorado Gov. Jared Polis as the Democrat signed laws aimed at making it easier to sue the gun industry, one of which prevents plaintiffs from having to pay if their lawsuits are dismissed.

"They're not aware of what's coming down the pike," Lonnie Phillips said of victims who bring lawsuits. "They only know that they lost their child and somebody has to pay."

Bleiberg reported from Dallas. Associated Press writer Jonathan Mattise in Nashville, Tennessee, contributed to this report.

Television's biggest mystery: how long will pipeline for new programming be closed?

By DAVID BAUDER AP Media Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For decades, the week in May when television executives revealed what new shows were coming and which old ones were going spoke to the power and influence that ABC, CBS, NBC and Fox had over popular culture.

This past week offered more evidence of how that is diminishing, draped in confusion about the future

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wrought by the Hollywood writers strike.

The week of schedule presentations, known as "upfronts" because networks are looking for millions of dollars in advertising commitments, have long been star-studded, news-making events.

Johnny Carson announced the end of his late-night run at an NBC upfront. So convinced they had a hit, ABC showed advertisers the entire pilot episode of "Modern Family" one year (the same strategy didn't work as well when NBC tried it with "Joey"). CBS rewarded advertisers with the Who in a private Carnegie Hall concert.

This year the stars stayed home, unwilling to cross picket lines of striking writers outside Manhattan venues. That meant no Jimmy Kimmel, whose annual routine skewering his own industry is always anticipated. He's been doing it since 2002, with a few years off due to the pandemic and his son's illness.

Instead, networks tried to excite advertisers with sports and news stars. Michael Strahan tossed autographed balls into the audience with Rob Gronkowski, Derek Jeter and Alex Rodriguez at Fox's event, and kibitzed with fellow "Good Morning America" host George Stephanopoulos at ABC's.

"With the writers strike and everything, there wasn't a whole lot of excitement about the upfronts this year," said Alan Wolk, co-founder of TV(R)EV, a media consulting business.

Television's biggest mystery is when viewers will be able to see new mysteries on television.

Networks tried different strategies to deal with uncertainties caused by the strike. Generally, television programs begin preparing new episodes for the fall starting in about a month, but there have been no contract talks since members of the Writers Guild for America went on strike May 2.

CBS and NBC released fall schedules as usual, knowing that shifting gears is a possibility.

"It creates some buzz, it creates some hope," Wolk said.

Fox, however, didn't bother announcing a schedule. ABC, where an executive privately said it would be "miraculous" if the strike was settled in time to allow business as usual, released a fall schedule that relies almost exclusively on unscripted programming. Reruns of the popular comedy "Abbott Elementary" was the only exception.

NBC has an entire season of episodes of "Found," a new missing persons drama starring Shanola Hampton, already filmed in advance and ready to debut Thursdays in the fall, and recorded some new episodes of "Quantum Leap."

But very few new or returning broadcast shows have done the same. If the strike lasts into the summer, look for CBS, for example, to offer expanded versions of shows like "Survivor," "The Amazing Race" and "Big Brother," prime-time versions of game shows like "The Price is Right" or "Let's Make a Deal," and reruns of scripted shows from previous years.

"It's not lost on me that with the strike underway, all eyes are on unscripted," said Allison Wallach, president of unscripted programming on Fox. Fox has two new game shows, hosted by Jamie Foxx and David Spade, on the docket.

Across the networks, executives put off deciding whether to reject pilots of several proposed new shows or order a full season of episodes, calls that are usually made by May. The future of some current programs — "American Auto," "Grand Crew" and "Young Rock" on NBC, for example — are up in the air, too.

If the strike lasts through summer, the idea of new shows for television's traditional midseason would be in jeopardy, one executive said.

There are some in the television industry who see ABC's fall schedule as a sign of things to come for broadcast networks.

With television viewers, and media conglomerates, increasingly turning their attention to streaming services, the future for broadcast TV may lie in schedules consisting primarily of live sports, reality games like "The Bachelor," game shows or news programming.

An ABC executive pushed against that notion, saying scripted series will always be in the mix, and noting that one of the network's big moves this spring was to pick up the drama "9-1-1" after it had been canceled by Fox.

Still, it was hard not to miss the increasing amount of time spent in upfront presentations touting new programming being created for streaming services Peacock and Disney+.

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And perhaps the biggest development in upfronts week had nothing to do with the broadcast networks at all. It was the virtual presentation by Netflix, a first. Netflix had never needed to tout their wares to advertisers before but now they do, since it now offers a lower-cost subscription that contains advertising.

Since that option was introduced last fall, more than one-quarter of new subscribers have chosen it, said Greg Peters, co-CEO of Netflix.

"People love Netflix," Peters said, "which is why we believe advertisers will love Netflix, too."

End of an era? GOP walkout shows political chasm where 'The Oregon Way' once meant bipartisan trust

By ANDREW SELSKY Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — Oregon has long been seen as a quirky state whose main city was satirized in a TV comedy, where rugged country folk and urban hipsters could get along and political differences could be settled over a pint or two of craft beer.

But with a Republican walkout in the Democrat-controlled Oregon Senate in its third week, Oregonians these days are wistfully recalling "The Oregon Way," when politicians of different stripes forged agreements for the common good. Famous examples include establishing the nation's first recycling program, ensuring public beach access for the entire coastline and limiting urban sprawl in a pioneering land-use program.

A quarter-century ago, former Republican U.S. Sen. Gordon Smith and current Democratic U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden championed legislation together in Congress and even jointly appeared at town halls across the state, said Kerry Tymchuk, who was Gordon's Oregon chief of staff back then. That spirit of cooperation was mirrored in the Legislature, he said.

"There were moderate Republicans in the Legislature who represented suburban Portland. There were conservative Democrats who represented some of the rural districts," said Tymchuk, currently the executive director of the Oregon Historical Society. "And now there are no more Democrats in the rural districts. There are no more moderate Republicans."

The crisis in Oregon's statehouse is a microcosm of the deeply partisan politics playing out nationwide, often pitting urban against rural areas, and the growing divide in Oregon shows the Pacific Northwest state is not immune.

The gridlock in the state Capitol in Salem comes as Oregon grapples with homelessness, mental health issues, a fetid open-air drug market in Portland and gun violence in the state's main city, where some businesses are fleeing, including outdoor gear retailer REI.

Elsewhere, a campaign to have rural eastern Oregon counties secede and join neighboring Idaho has gained steam amid growing complaints about the state's progressive politics.

"There is no turning back now," Republican Sen. Daniel Bonham said of the GOP boycott.

"We are in it for the long haul. Oregon is in a leadership crisis," he emailed his constituents, who live mostly east of Portland along the Columbia River and along the flanks of snow-capped Mount Hood.

The drumbeat of political discord has been building in Oregon for some time: Republicans walked out in 2019, 2020 and 2021. A breach of the state Capitol in December 2020 was an eerie predictor of the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection.

In 2001, Democrat House members, then in the minority, walked out over redistricting. There was even a walkout in 1860, a year after statehood, with six senators hiding for two weeks in a barn to prevent a quorum.

The departure this year of an unpopular governor and the success of several bipartisan bills on affordable housing, homelessness and mental health funding early this session buoyed hopes that this year, things might be different — until this month.

The GOP boycott, which began May 3, now threatens to derail hundreds of pending bills, approval of a biennial state budget and the boycotters' own political futures. Neither side seems willing to give an inch over a bill on abortion rights and transgender health care and another measure on guns.

This year's standoff has disqualified nine Republican senators and one Independent from serving as

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lawmakers in the next term under a ballot measure approved overwhelmingly by boycott-weary voters last November. After 10 or more unexcused absences, a lawmaker can't take office in the Legislature, even if the secretary of state's elections division allows them on the ballot and they win.

A disqualified lawmaker running for reelection could disrupt Oregon's election system, already shaken by the resignation of Secretary of State Shemia Fagan this month for secretly moonlighting as a highly paid consultant to a marijuana business. Striking Republican lawmakers have pointed to Fagan's actions as a sign of corruption among Democratic politicians.

Senate President Rob Wagner, new to the job after his predecessor, Peter Courtney — the longest-serving Senate president in Oregon history — retired last year, accused GOP lawmakers of undermining democracy.

"This walkout must end," Wagner said from the rostrum Thursday as he gavelled closed another session because of a lack of quorum. "The people of Oregon desire it. Democracy demands it."

In Oregon, two-thirds of the 30 members of the Senate must be present for a quorum for floor sessions. In recent days, 18 senators showed up but most Republicans and the lone Independent didn't.

Democratic and Republican leaders in the statehouse have met to end the boycott, but talks have repeatedly failed amid social media sparring, grandstanding to supporters and emailed accusations.

Republicans accuse Democrats of ignoring a long-forgotten 1979 law that says summaries of bills need to be written at an eighth-grade level — a law resurrected this month by the GOP. The boycotters also say they won't return unless "extreme" bills, like the ones on abortion, gender-affirming care and gun safety, are scrapped.

Wagner has said House Bill 2002 on abortion and gender-affirming care is nonnegotiable. Republicans object, in particular, to a provision that would allow doctors to provide an abortion to anyone regardless of age and bar them in certain cases from disclosing that to parents.

The last day of Oregon's legislative session is June 25. Democratic Gov. Tina Kotek has signed a bill to keep funds flowing to state agencies until September if no budget has become law by July 1 and says she doesn't think the state "is in crisis mode yet."

She could call a special legislative session in the summer to get a budget approved and hasn't ruled out ordering the Oregon State Police to haul the protesters to the Senate. Such an order was issued in 2019 but not carried out.

Despite all the rancor, Tymchuk doesn't believe The Oregon Way is dead.

"I still remain hopeful and optimistic that Oregon will find its way back," he said.

A year after Mariupol's fall, Azovstal survivor recalls surrender with pain and a sense of purpose

By MSTYSLAV CHERNOV ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Mikhailo Vershinin was a shadow of the burly Mariupol policeman he was when he emerged after four months in Russian captivity.

The head of Mariupol's Police Patrol, he was among hundreds to surrender from the Russian siege of the Azovstal steel mill on the orders of the Ukrainian president a year ago and was close to death on the day he was exchanged for Russian prisoners of war.

He experienced first-hand the day the final square of the besieged city fell and now recalls it with both deep sadness, but a sense of purpose for Ukraine's future.

The air strikes had been relentless for weeks, but the skies fell silent while Russian and Ukrainian officers negotiated terms of surrender. At the time, Vershinin said, it seemed like the only chance for both the men and women with him underground — and for Mariupol.

Azovstal's last stand also became a rallying point for many countries hesitating about support for Ukraine. "Beginning with Mariupol, the world started to wake up in understanding what's going on," he said. "We knew perfectly well that we locked on ourselves lots of Russian forces. We were like a bone in the throat of Russia."

The group hoped for reinforcements that never came, then finally surrendered.

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But Russia failed to keep its promises to treat the prisoners of war under the rules of the Geneva Convention. Torture, hunger, and illness stalked the group. More than 700 remain in captivity: winning their release has been a priority for the Ukrainian government, and for Vershinin, who was in a group exchanged for Russian prisoners of war last fall.

The men and women who fought to the last at Azovstal are heroes and martyrs across Ukraine, their faces on posters and giant banners.

At the time, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy explained the order to surrender because "Ukraine needs Ukrainian heroes to be alive. It's our principle."

But Vershinin said ill-treatment was routine as their Russian captors tried to turn men against each other and starve them into submission.

"Now I can say this: If we knew what awaited us in prison, many people would not go, would not surrender."

Many transgender health bills came from a handful of far-right interest groups, AP finds

By JEFF McMILLAN, KAVISH HARJAI and KIMBERLEE KRUESI Associated Press

Aaron and Lacey Jennen's roots in Arkansas run deep. They've spent their entire lives there, attended the flagship state university, and are raising a family. So they're heartbroken at the prospect of perhaps having to move to one of an ever-dwindling number of states where gender-affirming health care for their transgender teenage daughter, Sabrina, is not threatened.

"We were like, 'OK, if we can just get Sabrina to 18 ... we can put all this horrible stuff behind us,'" Aaron Jennen said, "and unfortunately that's not been the case, as you've seen a proliferation of anti-trans legislation here in Arkansas and across the country."

At least 17 states have enacted laws restricting or banning gender-affirming care for transgender minors, though judges have temporarily blocked their enforcement in some, including Arkansas. An Associated Press analysis found that often those bills sprang not from grassroots or constituent demand, but from the pens of a handful of conservative interest groups.

Many of the proposals, as introduced or passed, are identical or very similar to some model legislation, the AP found. Those ready-made bills have been used in statehouses for decades, often with criticisms of carpetbagging by out-of-state interests. In the case of restrictions on gender-affirming care for youths, they allow a handful of far-right groups to spread a false narrative based on distorted science, critics say.

"These are solutions from outside our state looking to solve nonexistent problems inside our state," said Aaron Jennen. "For whatever reason, they have the ear of legislatures in states like Arkansas, and the legislators will generally defer to and only listen to those individuals."

The AP obtained the texts of more than 130 bills in 40 state legislatures from Plural, a public policy software company, and analyzed them for similarities to model bills peddled by the conservative groups Do No Harm, which also criticizes efforts to diversify staffing in medicine, and the Family Research Council, which has long been involved in abortion restrictions.

One of the clearest examples is in Montana, where nearly all the language in at least one bill can be found in Do No Harm's model. Publicly available emails from December show the Republican sponsor, Sen. John Fuller, tweaked the model before introducing it weeks later. Democrats criticized his efforts.

"This is not a Montana issue; it is an issue pushed by well-funded national groups," Democratic Sen. Janet Ellis said during debate in February.

Republicans pushed back.

"Someone mentioned this is not a Montana solution. And I can tell you that I won my election on this issue," said Republican Sen. Barry Usher, who ran unopposed in the general election after winning his contested primary.

The Montana bill passed in March with much of Do No Harm's model language intact and has been signed into law.

Do No Harm's model and the 2021 Arkansas bill endorsed as a model by the Family Research Council

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also have many similarities, including the assertion — rebutted by major medical organizations — that the risks of gender-affirming care outweigh its benefits.

Republicans' recent focus on legislation to restrict aspects of transgender life is largely a strategy of using social "wedge issues" — in the past, abortion or same-sex marriage — to motivate their voting base, political observers say. And it does appear to resonate; a Pew Research Center survey a year ago found broad support among Republicans, but not Democrats, for restrictions on medical care for gender transitions.

"These organizations are not introducing this model legislation to make legislators' jobs easier, to support kids in their constituencies. They're introducing this model legislation to gain wealth, to gain eyes, to gain power, and to gain access," said Heron Greenesmith, a senior research analyst who monitors anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric for Political Research Associates, a liberal think tank.

Such bills often distort valid science that supports gender-affirming care for youths, said Dr. Jack Drescher, a psychiatry professor at Columbia University who edited the section about gender dysphoria in the American Psychiatric Association's diagnostic manual. Do No Harm cites the manual in its model bill.

"These bills are not at all interested in patient care," Drescher said. "These bills are designed to inflame."

It's problematic "any time policymakers are cherry-picking isolated studies or scientific research that arrives upon a different conclusion than the rest of the community or that relies upon studies without having that expertise," said Marty P. Jordan, an assistant professor of political science at Michigan State University. "It's problematic for the individuals that the legislation could impact. It's problematic for the larger public, and problematic for democracy writ large."

Kent Syler, a political science professor at Middle Tennessee State University, said: "If it's a good bill, no one should be shy about where they got it because that's the federal system working correctly."

Do No Harm launched last year with an initial critical focus on the role of race in medical education and hiring, and the Virginia-based nonprofit has registered lobbyists in at least four states. People associated with it have testified in statehouses around the U.S.

When asked about Do No Harm's legislative activity, founder and chair Dr. Stanley Goldfarb responded in an email: "Do No Harm works to protect children from extreme gender ideology through original research, coalition-building, testimonials from parents and patients who've lived through deeply troubling experiences, and advocacy for the rigorous, apolitical study of gender dysphoria."

The Family Research Council, an advocacy group that opposes abortion and LGBTQ+ rights, has been behind what it calls the Save Adolescents from Experimentation Act, or SAFE Act. Among other things, it falsely asserts that "gender transition" is an experiment."

A leader of the Family Research Council declined to directly answer several questions about its model bill, including where it had been used and which legislators it had worked with, but said, "What should be an issue debated in the scientific community now has to be dealt with through legislation."

"The SAFE Act gives minors a chance to experience development before imposing lifelong chemical and surgical procedures that increasingly show evidence of psychological and physiological harm and completed suicide after the transition," Jennifer Bauwens, the organization's director of family studies, said in an email.

In Arkansas, Sabrina Jennen — who will turn 18 in July — continues to receive gender-affirming health care while her family's suit winds through the courts.

"For these outside groups to carry more weight than the people these legislators were elected to represent is very upsetting," Aaron Jennen said. "They didn't listen to us before, but now they have to listen to us because we filed a lawsuit and went to court."

Contributing to this report were Associated Press journalists around the country, including Andrew DeMillo in Little Rock, Arkansas; Amy Beth Hanson in Helena, Montana; and Michael Goldberg and Emily Wagster Pettus in Jackson, Mississippi.

Harjai is a corps member of 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.

Will Biden's hard-hat environmentalism bridge the divide on clean energy future?

By CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — When John Podesta left his job as an adviser to President Barack Obama nearly a decade ago, he was confident that hundreds of miles of new power transmission lines were coming to the Southwest, expanding the reach of clean energy throughout the region.

So Podesta was shocked to learn last year, as he reentered the federal government to work on climate issues for President Joe Biden, that the lines had never been built. They still hadn't even received final regulatory approval.

"These things get stuck and they don't get unstuck," Podesta said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Podesta is now the point person for untangling one of Biden's most vexing challenges as he pursues ambitious reductions in greenhouse gas emissions. If the president cannot streamline the permitting process for power plants, transmission lines and other projects, the country is unlikely to have the infrastructure needed for a future powered by carbon-free electricity.

The issue has become an unlikely feature of high-stakes budget talks underway between the White House and House Republicans as they try to avoid a first-ever default on the country's debt by the end of the month.

Whether a deal on permitting can be reached in time is unclear, with Republicans looking for ways to boost oil drilling and Democrats focused on clean energy. But its mere presence on the negotiating table is a sign of how political battle lines are shifting. Although American industry and labor unions have long chafed at these kinds of regulations, some environmentalists have now grown exasperated by red tape as well.

That represents a stark change for a movement that has been more dedicated to slowing development than championing it, and it has caused unease among longtime allies even as it creates the potential for new partnerships. Still, this transformation is core to Biden's vision of hard-hat environmentalism, which promises that shifting away from fossil fuels will generate blue-collar jobs.

"We have to start building things again in America," Podesta said. "We got too good at stopping things, and not good enough at building things."

What gets built, of course, is the question that's the central hurdle for any agreement.

The issue of permitting emerged last year during negotiations with Sen. Joe Manchin, a West Virginia Democrat who was a key vote for the Inflation Reduction Act, far-reaching legislation that includes financial incentives for clean energy.

Manchin pushed a separate proposal that would make it easier to build infrastructure for renewable energy and fossil fuels. His focus has been the Mountain Valley Pipeline, which would carry natural gas through his home state.

Republicans called the legislation a "political payoff." Liberal Democrats described it as a "dirty side deal." Manchin's idea stalled.

Nonetheless, Elizabeth Gore, senior vice president for political affairs at the Environmental Defense Fund, said the senator "gets a lot of credit for really elevating this."

"It was his effort that really put this issue on the map," she said.

Since then, the Capitol has been awash in proposals to alleviate permitting bottlenecks. House Republicans passed their own as part of budget legislation last month, aiming to increase production of oil, natural gas and coal. Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., recently introduced another proposal geared toward clean energy.

"I think there is a path forward," Gore said, describing all the ideas "as stepping stones."

Neil Bradley, executive vice president of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, was also optimistic.

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"The hurdle isn't whether people think it's a good idea or not," he said. "The hurdle is getting the details worked out."

Despite broad interest in permitting changes, reaching a deal will likely involve trade-offs that are difficult for Democrats and environmentalists to stomach.

Republicans want to see more fossil fuels and, now that they control the House, no proposal will advance without their consent. But too many concessions to Republicans in the House could jeopardize support in the Democratic-controlled Senate.

Biden has frustrated environmentalists by approving Willow, an oil drilling project in an untouched swath of Alaskan wilderness. After Podesta finished a speech on permitting at a Washington think tank this month, activists rushed to block his vehicle with a white banner that said "end fossil fuels" in bold black letters.

Podesta argues that it's impossible to immediately phase out oil and gas, and he said the status quo won't suffice when it comes to building clean energy infrastructure. He points to federal data analyzed by the Brookings Institution that found permitting transmission lines can take seven years, while natural gas pipelines take less than half that time.

He was circumspect when asked about where the negotiations may lead.

"There is bipartisan interest in the topic," Podesta said. "Where any of that ends, I can't predict."

A deal could bolster Biden's political coalition by easing tension between environmentalists and labor unions, which have often been frustrated by objections to projects that would lead to jobs.

"They've unnecessarily taken food off the table of my members," said Sean McGarvey, president of the North America's Building Trades Unions.

The relationship with environmentalists "could turn into an alliance depending on how this process ends," he said, but "we've got to do some good business to see if we're inviting each other for barbecues and crab picks."

Other factions of the green movement have already expressed frustration.

Brett Hartl, government affairs director for the Center for Biological Diversity, said the administration made a mistake by allowing Manchin's proposal to be a starting point. The White House, he said, "negotiated away the game at the beginning and put the football on the 2-yard line."

He also criticized Podesta's approach to permitting.

"He's dogmatically saying that environmentalists are the problem here," he said. "It's easy to caricature environmental legislation as the boogeyman."

Historians trace the American regulatory system to a backlash against massive infrastructure initiatives in the middle of the 20th century, such as the interstate highway system and a series of dams. The projects raised concerns about environmental impacts and left local communities feeling steamrolled. More fears about ecological damage were sparked by an oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara, California, and fires on the polluted Cuyahoga River in Ohio.

The result was the National Environmental Policy Act, signed by President Richard Nixon in 1970 to require federal agencies to consider the environmental ramifications of their decisions. State-level laws, such as the California Environmental Quality Act, proliferated at the same time.

"We have a system that works for what it was designed to do," said Christy Goldfuss, chief policy impact officer at the Natural Resource Defense Council. "What we're looking at doing is optimizing that system for the future we need. And that's a fundamentally different conversation than anything we've had before."

"It's an incredibly difficult shift to make for the environmental movement," she added. "And I don't think everybody is going to make it. Some organizations are going to continue to stand in the way of development."

And what about that transmission lines in the Southwest that Podesta was counting on?

The goal is to span about 520 miles, carrying electricity from a series of turbines in New Mexico that's being billed as the largest wind project in the hemisphere. The lines were rerouted to satisfy the Department of Defense, which tests weapons in the area, but local conservationists still say that natural habitats will be threatened by construction.

On Thursday, nearly two decades after the initial proposal, the federal government announced it had

approved the project.

More states are requiring patients to give consent for medical students performing pelvic exams

By SAMANTHA HENDRICKSON and JESSE BEDAYN Associated Press/Report for America

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP) — A new batch of states are looking to legislate the level of informed consent when it comes to medical students performing pelvic exams for educational purposes on unconscious patients.

At least 20 states already have consent laws for this practice. Montana's governor signed a bill in April, Missouri has legislation that needs the governor's signature to become law and Ohio lawmakers are also considering it.

Colorado lawmakers want to go a step further, with Democratic Gov. Jared Polis expected to sign a bill that one bioethicist calls the broadest she's seen — and says may go too far — due to a requirement of naming the involved students ahead of time and introducing them to the patients.

Proponents "see the Colorado bill as a model we hope other states will pass," said Elizabeth Newman, public policy director at the Colorado Coalition Against Sexual Assault, which testified in favor of the legislation.

It's hard to track and quantify how often medical students are asked to do intimate exams — like pelvic, rectal or prostate exams — on patients who are anesthetized. Opponents of the various bills and laws, who are often doctors, argue it's government overreach which could compromise the established trust between patient and provider and should instead be left to recommendations from medical associations.

Typically, a patient signs a number of forms giving broad consent for a range of procedures that might be medically necessary while someone is anesthetized. That can also include consent for educational purposes.

"Most folks just sign them and assume they are going to get the care that they need," said Colorado Democratic Rep. Jenny Willford, who co-sponsored the bill.

But patients often don't know they were examined while unconscious, and if they do, they may fear coming forward, according to Newman. Plus, she said, medical students who could report it are often afraid to raise concerns with superiors who have power over their careers.

Colorado's bill would require an informed consent process, as well as ensure that the pelvic, breast, rectal or prostate exam is within the scope of the treatment. While this would be required even without students, practitioners are excepted from the consent process in emergency situations.

The bill goes beyond others across the U.S. to include whistleblower protections for medical students who want to speak out, as well as liability for doctors and hospitals if they don't follow the consent rules. It's also unique in the requirement that the involved students would be named on the consent form, and be introduced to the patient prior to the procedure.

Kayte Spector-Bagdady, a clinical ethicist, said Colorado's proposal is the broadest she's seen and worries that listing the names of involved students could limit learning opportunities. Getting consent is typically done days or weeks ahead of time, but students may be unavailable on the day of the procedure — and Colorado's proposed law wouldn't allow others to step in and learn, she said.

"We want people to generally know how to take care of women, and (these exams are) a critical component of that," said Spector-Bagdady, who co-authored a 2019 recommendation by the Association of Professors of Gynecology and Obstetrics for such exams. "It's a balance of respecting the autonomy of our patients and ensuring that the next time they go see a doctor, that doctor knows how to care for them properly."

That association's 2019 recommendation, endorsed by major obstetric and gynecological professional associations, says students should only perform pelvic exams that are "explicitly consented to" and "related to the planned procedure."

Newman, however, said the mandates are important not only for patients to give complete informed consent, but for medical students to know that the client has given their consent and to learn the rules governing the consent process.

Alexandra Fountaine, a medical student at Ohio University, was asked to do a pelvic exam on an un-

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conscious female patient by the doctor overseeing Fountaine's training on her first day of rotation at an OhioHealth hospital in Columbus.

She said she didn't know whether the woman, who was anesthetized for an abdominal surgery that Fountaine said didn't require a pelvic exam, had given consent for it.

Fountaine also did not ask the physician whether the woman had consented, telling The Associated Press that students are taught "to be seen and not heard." Fountaine said the physician assured her that doing a pelvic exam was fine and "for her education."

"I initially froze," said Fountaine, who didn't end up doing the exam but told the physician she did when her back was turned. The experience led Fountaine to testify in front of an Ohio House committee; her school says it supports students "on their professional journey."

OhioHealth, which has several teaching hospitals, told the AP in a statement that its policies "regarding patient consent are consistent with current law" and that attending physicians oversee patient exams, which are "a component of the medical education process."

There can be an intense disconnect between patient understanding and provider understanding on consent and procedures, said Phoebe Friesen, a bioethicist at McGill University in Montreal whose research helped bring the practice back into focus following the #MeToo movement.

Providers view these unconscious exams as strictly medical or educational; the vagina and other intimate areas are "just another body part," so specific informed consent isn't necessary.

But for patients, Friesen believes it's absolutely necessary. Such exams can leave a patient feeling robbed of their bodily autonomy, or even retraumatize people who have survived sexual assault.

"The solution is so simple," Friesen said. "Just ask people whether they're comfortable with this particular practice."

Jesse Bedayn reported from Denver.

Samantha Hendrickson and Jesse Bedayn are corps members 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 21, Amelia Earhart crosses Atlantic

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, May 21, the 141st day of 2023. There are 224 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 21, 1881, Clara Barton founded the American Red Cross.

On this date:

In 1471, King Henry VI of England died in the Tower of London at age 49.

In 1542, Spanish explorer Hernando de Soto died while searching for gold along the Mississippi River.

In 1924, in a case that drew much notoriety, 14-year-old Bobby Franks was murdered in a "thrill killing" carried out by University of Chicago students Nathan Leopold Jr. and Richard Loeb (Bobby's cousin).

In 1927, Charles A. Lindbergh landed his Spirit of St. Louis monoplane near Paris, completing the first solo airplane flight across the Atlantic Ocean in 33 1/2 hours.

In 1932, Amelia Earhart became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic Ocean as she landed in Northern Ireland, about 15 hours after leaving Newfoundland.

In 1941, a German U-boat sank the American merchant steamship SS Robin Moor in the South Atlantic after the ship's passengers and crew were allowed to board lifeboats.

In 1955, Chuck Berry recorded his first single, "Maybellene," for Chess Records in Chicago.

In 1972, Michelangelo's Pieta, on display at the Vatican, was damaged by a hammer-wielding man who shouted he was Jesus Christ.

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In 1979, former San Francisco City Supervisor Dan White was convicted of voluntary manslaughter in the slayings of Mayor George Moscone (mahs-KOH'-nee) and openly gay Supervisor Harvey Milk; outrage over the verdict sparked rioting. (White was sentenced to seven years and eight months in prison; he ended up serving five years and took his own life in 1985.)

In 1991, former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated during national elections by a suicide bomber.

In 2000, death claimed actor Sir John Gielgud at age 96 and author Dame Barbara Cartland at age 98.

In 2020, President Donald Trump visited a Ford Motor Co. plant outside Detroit that had been repurposed to manufacture ventilators; he did not publicly wear a face mask but said he had worn one while out of public view.

Ten years ago: Former IRS Commissioner Douglas Shulman told the Senate Finance Committee he first learned in the spring of 2012 that agents had improperly targeted political groups that vehemently opposed President Barack Obama's policies, saying he decided to let the inspector general look into the matter. Singer Kellie Pickler and pro partner Derek Hough were named "Dancing with the Stars" champions.

Five years ago: Syria's military captured an enclave in southern Damascus from Islamic State militants after a monthlong battle, bringing the entire capital and its suburbs under full government control for the first time since the civil war began in 2011. A divided Supreme Court ruled that businesses can prohibit their workers from banding together in disputes over pay and conditions in the workplace, finding that individual employees can be forced to use arbitration, not the courts, to air complaints about wages and overtime. Gina Haspel was sworn in as CIA director. Netflix announced a multi-year deal with Barack and Michelle Obama; there were no details announced on what shows they would make.

One year ago: Concern mounted over Ukrainian fighters who became prisoners at the end of Russia's brutal three-month siege in Mariupol, as a Moscow-backed separatist leader vowed tribunals. Russia claimed the Azovstal steel plant, which for weeks was the last holdout in the strategic port city and a symbol of Ukrainian tenacity, now in ruins with more than 20,000 residents feared dead. President Joe Biden and South Korea President Yoon Suk Yeol said after meeting that they would consider expanded military exercises to deter the nuclear threat from North Korea. Australia's center-left opposition party toppled the conservative government after almost a decade in power, and Prime Minister-elect Anthony Albanese in his victory speech promised sharper reductions in greenhouse gas emissions.

Today's Birthdays: R&B singer Ron Isley (The Isley Brothers) is 82. Musician Bill Champlin is 76. Singer Leo Sayer is 75. Actor Carol Potter is 75. Former Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., is 72. Actor Mr. T is 71. Music producer Stan Lynch is 68. Actor Judge Reinhold is 66. Actor-director Nick Cassavetes is 64. Actor Lisa Edelstein is 57. Actor Fairuza Balk is 49. Rock singer-musician Mikel Jollett (Airborne Toxic Event) is 49. Rapper Havoc (Mobb Deep) is 49. Rock musician Tony LoGerfo (Lukas Nelson & Promise of the Real) is 40. Actor Sunkrish Bala is 39. Actor David Ajala is 37. Actor Ashlie Brillault is 36. Country singer Cody Johnson is 36. Actor Scott Leavenworth is 33. Actor Sarah Ramos is 32.