

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Groton Community Calendar

### 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.

### Wednesday, May 24

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

DARE Graduation, 2 p.m.

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

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

## Groton Daily Independent

PO Box 34, Groton SD 57445

Paul's Cell/Text: 605-397-7460



"KNOW YOUR WORTH, HOLD  
YOUR OWN POWER, BE YOU."

-MORGAN HARPER NICHOLS



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

### Thursday, May 25

Senior Menu: Hamburger on bun; lettuce, tomato and onion; potato salad, cucumber salad, fresh fruit.

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

Girls Golf Region 1A at Lee Park, Aberdeen, 10 a.m.

State Track Meet in Sioux Falls

### Friday, May 26

Senior Menu: Lemon chicken breast, creamy noodles, tomato spoon salad, banana bars, whole wheat bread.

Faculty In-Service

State Track Meet in Sioux Falls

### Saturday, May 27

State Track Meet in Sioux Falls

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

## OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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## 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 Bulletin by Newsweek

JANUARY 24, 2023

### World in Brief

history and to restrict diversity, equity and inclusion programs" across the state's educational system.

China and Russia slammed the Group of Seven Summit in Japan, where leaders appeared united on their concerns over China and pledged new measures to restrict Russia's ability to finance the Ukraine war.

The center-right party of incumbent Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis won a landslide election victory in the national elections but fell short of an outright majority in parliament.

The mother of a young migrant girl who died in U.S. Border Patrol custody last week claims that the child was denied medical treatment on the day she died in a Texas hospital.

Manchester City has been crowned champions of the English Premier League for the third season in a row after title rivals Arsenal failed to win at Nottingham Forest, meaning they can no longer finish top of the league despite having one game remaining.

In the ongoing war in Ukraine, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky insisted that the city of Bakhmut has "not been occupied" by Russia, denying claims by Wagner founder Yevgeny Prigozhin that his troops had taken full control.

### WHAT TO WATCH IN THE DAY AHEAD

Republican Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina is expected to launch his 2024 presidential campaign today when he makes a "major announcement" in North Charleston.

Bryan Kohberger, the man accused of killing four University of Idaho students last November, is expected to enter his plea during an arraignment scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. PT at the Latah County Courthouse in Moscow, Idaho. A grand jury indicted Kohberger in the case last week.

Angry fans crashed through an access gate to a soccer stadium in El Salvador, causing a stampede that killed at least 12 people and injured dozens of others. Fans were blocked from entering the stadium despite having tickets to watch a match between clubs Alianza and Fas.

At least three people have been killed, and one person was hospitalized after a shooting at a nightclub in Kansas City, Missouri.

The NAACP issued a travel advisory for Florida, citing Gov. Ron DeSantis' "aggressive attempts to erase Black

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## Weekly Vikings Recap - Seasons the Vikings Exceeded Expectations

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

### Minnesota Vikings Seasons that Exceeded Expectations

Since the news of the Za'Darius Smith trade last week, its been quiet in the land of 10,000 lakes. The only Vikings-related news is that the team will kick-off their first of nine Organized Team Activity practices on Monday. With the potential for a new contract extension, it will be interesting to see if Justin Jefferson is out there or tries to use any leverage he has to ensure a record-setting contract extension gets completed before the season starts.

Because of this lack of Vikings news, we thought it would be a nice change of pace to discuss various fun Vikings topics. This week, we will look back at past Vikings' seasons and see which ones greatly exceeded what was expected of them coming into the season.

#### 1992 Minnesota Vikings

In his first season as the Minnesota Vikings' head coach, Dennis Green came into the season with no expectations of immediate success. In the preseason, the Vikings were predicted to finish under .500 and third in the NFC Central. However, the Vikings quickly outdid those predictions as the team had an 11-5 record and a first-place finish in the NFC Central.

1992 was a unique Vikings season as the team's leading passer, Rich Gannon, threw for a measly 1,905 yards passing. 1992 was also the first year when two of the biggest Vikings' stars of the 1990s, John Randle and Cris Carter, started to display a little bit of their future greatness. Both Randle and Carter would eventually go on to make their first of many pro bowls the next season.

Sadly, the Vikings would eventually fall to the Washington Redskins in the Wild Card Round. However, 1992 would go on to be a great building block for the Vikings as the team would make the playoffs in six of the next seven seasons.

#### 1998 Minnesota Vikings

We all remember how fun the 1998 season was for the Vikings as it was the coming out party for rookie Randy Moss, and the team went 15-1 while setting the NFL scoring record. What we may forget, however, is that coming into that season, the Vikings were predicted to win only eight to nine games and finish tied for 3rd in the NFC Central.

That prediction quickly failed as the Vikings had 10 wins by week 12 and clinched the NFC Central title by week 14. As we all remember, the Vikings' 1998 season ended tragically in the NFC Championship game with a loss against the Atlanta Falcons. Since the Vikings' loss to the Oakland Raiders in Super Bowl XI in 1976, the 1998 Minnesota Vikings were far and away the best chance this franchise had to win a Super Bowl.

#### 2012 Minnesota Vikings

Of all the Minnesota Vikings' seasons, the 2012 season might be the weirdest of them all. Coming into the season, the Vikings were predicted to win only six games and finish dead last in the NFC North by a wide margin. Not only did the team finish 3-13 the year prior, their worst record since 1984, Adrian Peterson was coming off a torn ACL that occurred on Christmas Eve, just a little over eight months before the start of the 2012 season.

Through week 6 of the 2012 season, Percy Harvin was a human highlight reel and was poised to become the first wide receiver to ever win the NFL MVP. However, an injury to Percy Harvin derailed any dreams of hoisting that elusive prize and he was eventually shut down for the rest of the season in week 10. Adrian Peterson took over from there, eventually finishing with 2,097 rushing yards and winning the MVP award. Peterson, who is the last running back to win the MVP, truly put the Vikings on his back in 2012 as the team finished 10-6 and clinched a wild card spot in the playoffs.

Like all these other seasons, the Vikings would go on to lose in the playoffs, but the pure determination and will of Adrian Peterson in the 2012 season will never be forgotten by Vikings fans. Skol!

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## “No Zero Days”

Is there something about your health you'd like to change? For most Americans, this question usually triggers a wide range of responses. In my practice, most responses usually center on wanting to lose weight, being more consistent with their exercise routine, or finally stopping smoking, drinking or vaping. What do these 3 lifestyle changes have in common? They are really, really hard to do.

Behavioral modification of daily habits and routines is a very difficult process: humans tend to get stuck in our daily ruts and stay in that groove day after day. The mental and physical energy required to change our diet or exercise on a daily basis often feels overwhelming.

So, I'd like to introduce you to a new mindset for you to try if you are one of the millions of Americans looking to change something about their health and lifestyle: No Zero Days.

Now this is not my invention, but rather has made the rounds on the internet for quite some time, originating from a motivational response by a user from the website, Reddit.

The premise is simple:

- No Zero Days. No matter what, each day you do something towards getting closer to your goals or dreams. If your goal is to lose 30 lbs by the end of the year, then every single day you must do something to get closer to that goal, no matter how small. Over-ate at every meal? Had too many snacks throughout the day? Skip that late night snack before bed, do a couple of sit ups or pushups before bed, or spend the evening doing some healthy meal or snack prepping for the rest of the week. Even the smallest steps add up on your journey to your goal in the long run.

- Your new best friends. Think of your past self as your new best friend, because they've been doing all these “No Zero Day” things to help you get to your goal each day before today. Your future self is also your best friend, which is why you want to do these small “No Zero Day” steps today: to be kind to your future best friend.

- Self-forgiveness. Guilt, disappointment, failure and regret can put us in a cycle of negative thoughts which hinder our progress toward our goal. Forgiving ourselves each day allows us to keep working toward our goal without guilt and remorse weighing us down.

- Exercise and reading every single day help fuel our body and mind, regardless of our end goals. Even one pushup, even one page: No Zero Days.

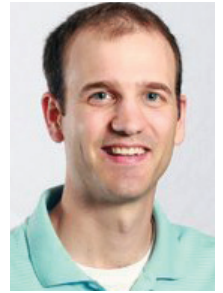
Remember, every marathon starts with a few small steps forward. Let each small day cascade into large lifestyle changes that get us to the healthy life of your dreams.

No Zero Days.

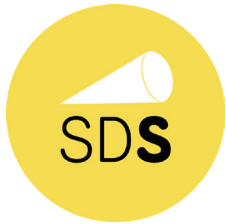
Mark D. List, MD is a Family Medicine Doctor and currently practices at Avera Medical Group 69th & Cliff in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Follow The Prairie Doc® at [www.prairiedoc.org](http://www.prairiedoc.org) and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc®, a medical Q&A show providing health information based on science, built on trust, streaming live on Facebook and SDPB most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



Based on Science, Built on Trust



Mark D. List, MD



## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### **Congressional Roundup: Rounds seeks solutions for classified document mess**

**BY: SEARCHLIGHT STAFF - MAY 21, 2023 6:00 AM**

Sen. Mike Rounds, R-South Dakota, is a cosponsor of a new bill proposing solutions to high-profile problems with the handling of classified information.

The sponsor of the bill is Sen. Mark Warner, D-Virginia. Four Democrats, three Republicans, including Rounds, and an independent are cosponsors.

Rounds said in a news release the bill would "increase accountability and oversight of the classification system, limit over-classification and direct federal agencies to justify security clearance requirements," all with a goal of modernizing decades-old practices.

"We place our national security at risk by adhering to a classification system rooted in the Cold War," Rounds said.

He also said there's a need to "rebuild trust between the government and the American people." He did not provide examples, but classified documents have been found in the private homes of President Joe Biden, former President Donald Trump and other high-ranking officials. Additionally, a Massachusetts National Guard member was arrested recently for allegedly sharing sensitive material in an online chat room.

The Sensible Classification Act of 2023 would:

Place classification authority with the president, vice president, head of an agency or a person delegated by an executive order, and specify how the authority is delegated and the training required to receive it.

Promote efficient declassification for records under the Freedom of Information Act or Mandatory Declassification Review.

Require training to promote sensible classification.

Alter the Public Interest Declassification Board by allowing for additional staff and permitting members to serve until a successor is appointed.

Direct the federal government to develop a technology solution for classification and declassification.

Direct federal agencies to conduct a study on the necessity, number and types of security clearances.

#### **Assisting families of veterans with ALS**

Rounds joined another bipartisan group of senators to reintroduce the Justice for ALS Veterans Act. It would help direct benefits to surviving spouses of veterans who died from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

Under current law, some veterans diagnosed with ALS do not survive the eight years the VA requires before their loved ones receive full benefits, Rounds' office said in a news release. The bill would extend increased VA benefits to the surviving spouses of veterans who die from service-connected ALS, regardless of how long the veteran had the disease prior to death.

#### **Higher ed help for veterans**

Rounds and Democratic Sen. Brian Schatz of Hawaii reintroduced the Student Veterans Transparency and Protection Act. The bill would improve veterans' access to information about higher education and protect benefits for veterans who've been victimized by "predatory institutions," they said.

The bill would give the Department of Veterans Affairs authority to reinstate benefits that a veteran paid to a higher-education institution that came under a civil enforcement action.

It would also require the online GI Bill Comparison Tool to provide veterans with financial and student outcome information for all eligible institutions, and require VA education counselors to be trained on the tool.

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"Through timely data publication, this tool will help veterans and service members steer clear of predatory institutions and select the best programs available," Rounds said.

The bill is supported by numerous veterans' organizations.

## Protection for Wounded Knee site

Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-S.D., introduced a bill to preserve a section of land where hundreds of Native Americans were massacred by the U.S. Army.

"The Wounded Knee Massacre is a stain on our nation's history," Johnson said in a news release.

The Oglala and Cheyenne River Sioux tribes acquired land last year at the massacre site on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The tribes also signed a covenant to protect the land as a memorial and sacred site without development.

Johnson's bill is The Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act. His office said it would place the land in "restricted fee status." That differs from other forms of tribal land ownership, including "trust status," in which the federal government holds land in trust for tribes. Restricted fee status puts ownership directly in tribal hands with a restriction against selling or transferring the land.

The massacre occurred on Dec. 29, 1890, when U.S. soldiers tried to disarm a camp of about 350 Miniconjou Lakota people. Soldiers struggled with a man who refused to give up his gun, according to some accounts, and the gun fired into the sky. Chaotic shooting ensued. Fewer than 40 soldiers died, but the number of Native American deaths has been estimated at 200 or 300 or more, depending on the source.

## Food and beverage names

Johnson and Sen. John Thune, R-South Dakota, joined a bipartisan group of senators and representatives in backing a bill they said would protect American food products from unfair trade practices by foreign countries.

The bill is the Safeguarding American Value-Added Exports (SAVE) Act. A news release from the lawmakers referenced common food and drink names such as parmesan, chateau and bologna, which are connected to geographic locations in Europe. The European Union "has begun using economic and political influence to implement unfair trade practices under the guise of protecting geographic indicators," the lawmakers said. Those unfair trade practices have the potential to block U.S. agricultural products from international sale, they said.

The SAVE Act would amend federal law to include and define a list of common names for ag commodities, food products and terms used in marketing and packaging of products. The bill would also direct the secretary of agriculture and the U.S. trade representative to negotiate with foreign trading partners to defend the right to use common names for ag commodities.

## Affordable housing

Thune and his Republican colleague Sen. Jerry Moran, of Kansas, reintroduced legislation they said would address a shortage of affordable housing by amending a 1930s-era labor law.

That law is the Davis-Bacon Act. It requires construction contractors involved in certain federally funded or federally assisted construction contracts to pay their workers at least the prevailing wages of the vicinity in which the project is located.

Thune and Moran said the Davis-Bacon Act can disincentivize the construction of affordable housing due to the costs and administrative burdens it imposes on construction contractors. The U.S. Department of Labor sets prevailing wage rates by reviewing voluntary survey data from construction contractors, which Thune and Moran said can be inaccurate or inconsistent.

Among other changes, the Housing Supply Expansion Act would alter the way wage rates are calculated and create a working group to propose modernizations of the Davis-Bacon Act.

The bill is supported by the National Association of Home Builders and the Mortgage Bankers Association.

## Other activities

Rounds signed on to letters opposing a Food and Drug Administration rule that he said would allow non-dairy products to use names such as "milk" on their product labels, and a Public Lands Rule proposed by



the Bureau of Land Management that would allow the agency to lease public land to external entities for environmental restoration or mitigation projects.

After a House Democrat introduced a resolution to expel disgraced New York Republican Rep. George Santos, Republicans made a successful motion to move the resolution to the House Ethics Committee, and Johnson voted yes on that motion.

## LGBTQ+ candidate recruitment event draws dozens to downtown Sioux Falls

**'You have to get to the point where you know you're the right person,' lawmaker tells group**

**BY: JOHN HULT - MAY 20, 2023 3:16 PM**

SIOUX FALLS — Being an LGBTQ+ lawmaker in a deep red state may feel like an uphill battle, but offering a presence and voice in statehouses "makes a big difference" behind the scenes.

That was a key message at a candidate recruitment event in downtown Sioux Falls on Saturday organized by the Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit organization LGBTQ+ Victory Institute.

The group is the nonprofit arm of the Victory Fund political action committee, a 31-year-old group that throws financial support behind LGBTQ+ candidates.

The institute's recruitment efforts have focused for about eight years on red states, according to Director Elliot Imse. Montana State Rep. Zooey Zephyr, whose advocacy on the House floor in Helena drew a censure from fellow lawmakers and national attention to a transgender health care bill, was recruited by attendees of an event similar to the one held in a meeting room below Rehfeldt's Art and Framing on Phillips Avenue.

Zephyr later attended a Victory Institute "boot camp" for candidates, and was supported financially by the Victory Fund. Recruitment events have already taken place in several GOP-led states this year, with more to come, Imse said. The boot camps have taken place in Salt Lake City and Dallas, and others will take place this year in Orlando and Detroit.

Recruitment events, Imse said, are just a starting point.

"It's up to the folks in the room to take that next step," Elliott said. "This is the first step in the process."

### Overcoming fears

Local partners Equality South Dakota and The Transformation Project sponsored and helped organize the event, which was attended by around two dozen people, including Rep. Kameron Nelson, South Dakota's only openly gay legislator.

After introductions and a rundown of campaigning basics from the Victory Institute, the Sioux Falls Democrat took part in a panel discussion on LGBTQ+ politics in South Dakota.

He was joined by Brookings Deputy Mayor Nick Wendell and North Dakota State Sen. Ryan Braunberger, D-Fargo.

Nelson and Wendell are two of four LGBTQ+ elected officials in South Dakota at all levels of government. Four is on the low end of states in that regard, according to the Victory Institute's state-by-state map. Only Alabama, Idaho, Mississippi, Wyoming and South Carolina have fewer. North Dakota also has four.

Nationwide, Imse told the audience, just .02% of elected officials are openly LGBTQ+, although "Gallup conservatively estimates that we're 7% of the population."

All three panelists talked about how difficult it was at first to overcome fears about fundraising and negative feedback when they moved into the political arena.

Nelson, for example, said he'd never pictured himself as a politician. At age 18, he said, he had dreams of theater, perhaps even a career on Broadway. As he grew older and saw LGBTQ+ issues take center stage in Pierre, he decided his community needed a voice.



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Nelson offered a fiery speech on the House floor earlier this year denouncing House Bill 1080, which restricted medical treatments for transgender youth, calling out a colleague who had used the words of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. in support of the bill.

"There's a lot of insecurity you have to self-manage, because you may not feel like the right person," Nelson said. "But you have to get to the point where you know you're the right person."

Wendell also talked about the fulfillment of offering a voice to underrepresented viewpoints. Wendell came out as gay at age 30. By then, he'd been married and had a daughter. He'd also been politically involved in college, and found what appeared to be traditional familial and career success after graduation.

Coming out and "blowing up my life," he said, made him question how his family, friends and community might react. He even wondered if his parents would ever be proud of him again.

On a professional level, he said, he felt like he "could do a lot of good" in local politics. He did want to bring his perspectives on equality and discrimination to local government decisions on housing, policing and economic development.

On a personal level, he said, running for office turned out to be empowering.

"I can tell you that just putting your name on the ballot will make the people in your life proud of you."

Sen. Braunberger said the experience of lawmaking has been frustrating at times as an advocate for positions that rarely draw majority attention in Republican-led legislatures.

Being that advocate, though, has become energizing, particularly in a state where the LGBTQ+ community feels threatened by their legislature's work.

GOP lawmakers "get hate mail all the time," he said, but "all I get are thank-yous."

"Hearing from the people makes all the difference, because that's who I'm there for," Braunberger said.

## Campaigning vs. serving

In practice, Nelson said, there's considerable daylight between campaigning and serving.

As a lawmaker, he said, he represents everyone in District 10 and is responsible for incorporating all their viewpoints and needs into his decisions.

"Listening to people and taking feedback, even if we disagree, is part of the work of finding common ground," Nelson said.

Campaigning, on the other hand, is a matter of connecting with the people who are most likely to be energized and go to the polls.

"It's a wild ride to balance those two sides," Nelson said.

Wendell pointed out that at the local government level, he's learned that focusing on common ground and returning results can solidify support as a candidate.

He's lucky, he said, to serve in a nonpartisan position on a city council whose decisions impact residents' daily lives. His sexuality and Democratic Party affiliation never came up during his first city council run in 2016, he said, but his 2021 campaign encountered pushback.

On election day, he said, "those voices were shut out."

"I won by the widest margin I ever had," Wendell said.

The state lawmakers, both Democrats in states with Republican supermajorities, told the group that being in a statehouse is more than being a token voice of objection. Behind the scenes, they said, they can make connections with lawmakers who vote against their interests. Those connections make a difference in votes that impact the lives of people in the LGBTQ+ community.

"We killed a lot of those anti-trans bills, but we also dulled some of them," Braunberger said.

The officials, like Imse, said working to build coalitions with other groups like teachers and nurses can further bolster influence. It's also notable, the state officials said, that competing GOP factions have turned the small Democratic caucus into swing voters on some legislation. Rep. Kady Wittman, D-Sioux Falls, was among the attendees. Wittman said that reality is important to keep in mind for anyone who might consider running with an eye to protecting LGBTQ+ rights. Democrats don't have numbers in Pierre, but they do have power when votes are close.

"Our seven votes truly can be instrumental," she said.

Before the panel took place, the audience was asked if anyone has or would consider running for office. More than half a dozen hands went up, including that of Cole Sartell, a Brookings man who ran for a legislative seat last fall.

Sydney Eager was not among those to raise a hand. She's into art and poetry, she said – she just completed her first book of poems – not the limelight. She moved to South Dakota from Chicago 20 years ago in part because she saw it as a great place to raise children.

Recent political conversations have pushed her to a point where she feels her identity as a trans woman is under attack.

Speaking out as a volunteer, she said, feels important in order to help others know they're welcome in a state where the political conversation feels threatening.

"This is kind of against my nature, but I feel like I have to do it," Eager said.

*John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux falls Argus Leader.*

## **Biden says he's offered \$1 trillion in spending cuts but GOP won't budge on debt limit**

**BY: JENNIFER SHUTT - MAY 21, 2023 4:22 PM**

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden said Sunday his administration has offered \$1 trillion in spending cuts as part of the ongoing talks with Republicans around a budget agreement, but he said no deal has yet been reached.

Biden, speaking from Japan during a press conference following the G7 summit, said his administration wants House Speaker Kevin McCarthy to consider changes to the tax code in addition to spending cuts.

"It's time for Republicans to accept that there's no bipartisan deal to be made solely on their partisan terms — they have to move as well," Biden said.

McCarthy, a California Republican, has rejected increasing taxes on anyone throughout the negotiations.

"My point is that there's a lot of things that they refuse to entertain and they just said revenue is off the table. Well, revenue is not off the table," Biden said. "And so that's what we continue to have significant disagreement on — on the revenue side."

Biden said he planned to call McCarthy while traveling back to Washington, D.C., on Air Force One, suggesting that McCarthy might want to talk directly to him about negotiations.

"I'm hoping that Speaker McCarthy is just waiting to negotiate with me when I get home. I don't know if that's true or not, we'll find out," Biden said.

Last week, Biden and congressional leaders agreed to have two White House aides negotiate with McCarthy's team on a government spending agreement that could clear the way for Congress to raise the debt limit.

The White House and Democrats have insisted that talks around government spending are not tied to raising the debt ceiling, though a wide swath of GOP lawmakers in Congress have said they won't address the borrowing limit without reductions in spending.

Any stalemate that lasts past June 1 puts the country at risk of a first-ever default, according to projections from the Treasury Department.

A default on the debt would have significant implications on hundreds of federal programs as well as the global economy. And a default would be vastly different from past partial government shutdowns, which didn't have broad impacts on Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid.

House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, a New York Democrat, called on GOP lawmakers to "get serious" about the negotiations in a Sunday morning tweet.

"House Republicans walked away from a meeting with the Biden administration," Jeffries wrote. "They returned hours later with a ransom note that's nothing more than a partisan right-wing wish list. The MAGA

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extremists are recklessly driving the nation toward a dangerous default.”

McCarthy tweeted Saturday night that the White House wasn’t aligned with House Republicans’ vision for future government spending.

“President Biden doesn’t think there is a single dollar of savings to be found in the federal government’s budget,” McCarthy wrote. “He’d rather be the first president in history to default on the debt than to risk upsetting the radical socialists who are calling the shots for Democrats right now.”

When asked during the press conference who would be blamed if the country entered default, Biden said “on the merits of it, based on what I’ve offered, I would be blameless.”

“On the politics of it, no one would be blameless.”

*Jennifer covers the nation’s capital as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Her coverage areas include congressional policy, politics and legal challenges with a focus on health care, unemployment, housing and aid to families.*



## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: What is the “right to roam” and why is it controversial in the United States?

-- P.K., Bend, OR

The “right to roam” is a concept that allows people to access and enjoy natural areas, such as parks, forests and beaches, without being restricted by private property laws. In essence, it grants people the right to walk or hike freely in the countryside, and to camp, fish and pick berries, among other activities, without obtaining prior permission or paying fees. While this right is well-established in some countries like Scotland and Sweden, it is not a widespread concept in the United States, where the notion of private property is deeply ingrained.

Proponents of the right to roam argue that it promotes physical activity, environmental stewardship and mental health by encouraging people to spend more time outdoors. They also claim that it is a democratic right that allows everyone, regardless of their socio-economic status, to access and enjoy public lands. In addition, they argue that the right to roam can have positive economic effects by stimulating outdoor recreation and tourism.

However, opponents argue that it undermines private property rights, reduces landowners’ incentives to maintain their properties, and can lead to trespassing, vandalism and littering. They also claim that it can pose a threat to public safety by exposing people to dangerous terrain or wild animals.

While the right to roam is not enshrined in U.S. law, some states have passed laws that provide for limited forms of public access to private lands. For example, in some western states, such as Montana and Colorado, people can access certain types of public lands, such as rivers and streams, by crossing private lands without trespassing. Other states, such as Maine and Vermont, have passed “right-to-roam” laws that allow people to access certain types of private lands, such as coastal areas and abandoned railroad beds, for recreational purposes.

Despite these efforts, the right to roam remains controversial in the U.S., with many landowners opposing it as an infringement on their property rights. In some cases, disputes have arisen between landowners and outdoor enthusiasts, with some landowners posting “no trespassing” signs or even blocking access to public lands. Advocates for the right to roam argue that such restrictions violate the public’s right to access public lands and call for greater legal protections for outdoor recreation.

Indeed, the right to roam is a controversial concept in the U.S. that has generated debate between proponents of public access to natural areas and opponents who prioritize private property rights. While some states have taken steps to provide limited access to public lands, there is still a long way to go before the right to roam becomes a widely accepted and legally protected concept in the U.S.

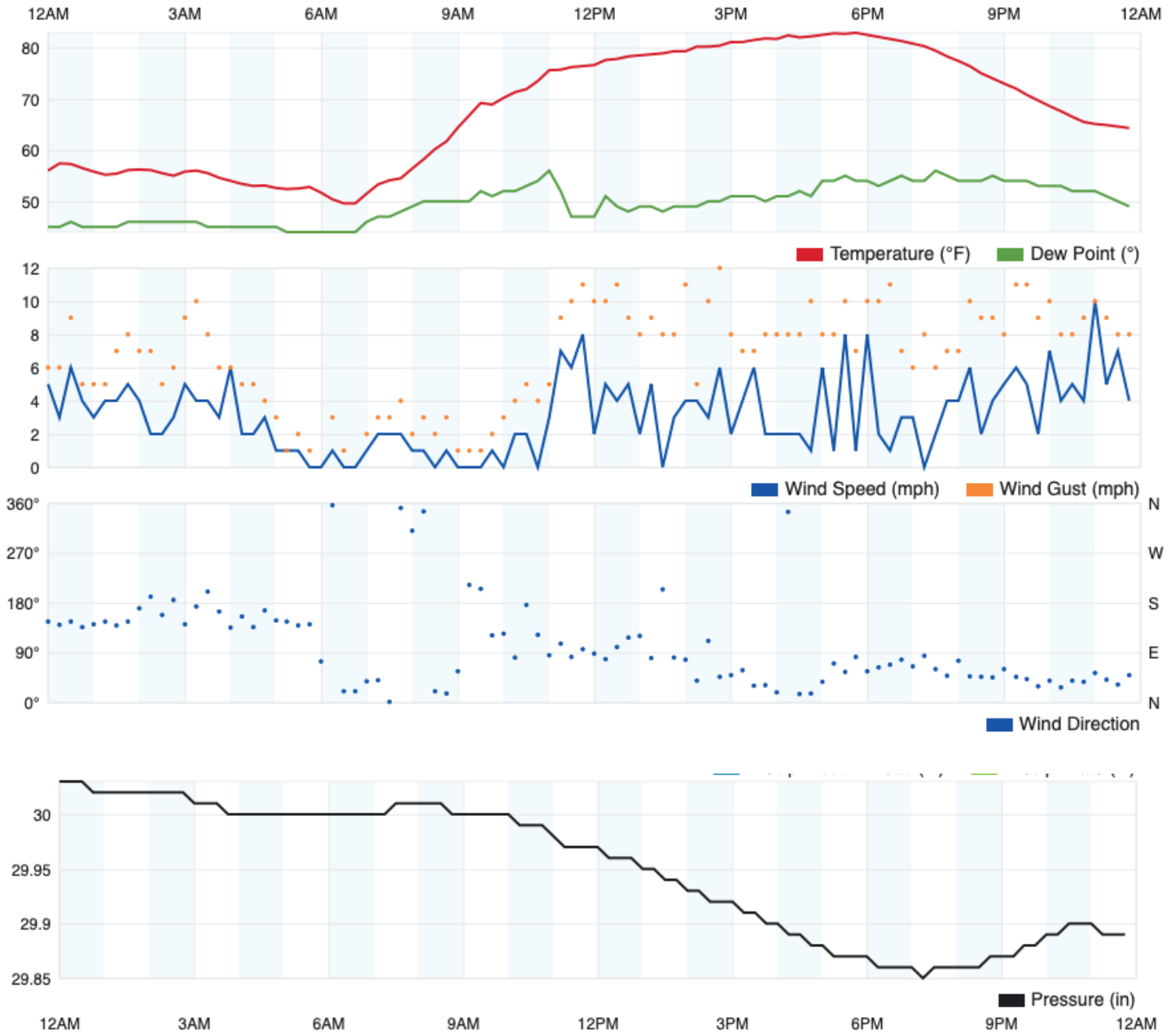


**Caption: The “right to roam” concept may be big in parts of Europe, but Americans are typically too skittish about giving up their property rights.** Credit: Neil Moralee, FlickrCC.

# Groton Daily Independent








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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



# Groton Daily Independent

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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Chance Sprinkles	Partly Cloudy then Partly Cloudy and Breezy	Sunny	Slight Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear and Breezy	Sunny and Breezy
High: 86 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 87 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 84 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 83 °F

Warm, Smoky, Mostly Dry Next Several Days



weather.gov/abr  
May 22, 2023 4:13 AM

### Maximum Temperature Forecast

	5/22	5/23	5/24	5/25	5/26	5/27	5/28
	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Aberdeen	86	88	84	84	82	80	81
Britton	84	85	80	80	81	77	78
Brookings	81	83	80	78	80	79	79
Chamberlain	85	87	86	85	82	84	84
Clark	82	83	80	79	79	78	78
Eagle Butte	82	86	83	80	79	79	79
Ellendale	82	85	81	82	80	77	78
Eureka	84	87	83	82	80	79	80
Gettysburg	84	85	83	81	79	79	79
Huron	85	86	86	84	83	82	83
Kennebec	85	86	86	83	81	83	83
McIntosh	83	85	82	79	77	77	77
Milbank	85	86	80	80	83	81	82
Miller	85	87	84	82	81	81	80
Mobridge	86	89	86	85	83	82	83
Murdo	83	87	84	81	80	82	81
Pierre	86	90	88	85	84	85	85
Redfield	86	87	85	83	82	81	82
Sisseton	85	87	81	81	84	79	81
Watertown	83	84	80	79	80	79	80
Webster	82	83	79	78	79	77	78
Wheaton	85	87	79	80	83	79	80

\*Table values in °F  
\*\*Created: 3 am CDT Mon 5/22/2023  
\*\*\*Values are maximums over the period beginning at the time shown.

### Probability of Precipitation Forecast

	5/22		5/23		5/24		5/25		5/26		5/27		5/28
	12am	12pm	12am	12pm	12am	12pm	12am	12pm	12am	12pm	12am	12pm	12am
Aberdeen	0	15	5	20	20	10	5	25	25	40	40	35	35
Britton		15	5	25	25	10	5	25	25	40	40	40	40
Brookings	10	10	5	5	5	10	5	10	10	25	25	35	35
Chamberlain	5	10	5	5	5	10	5	30	30	45	45	45	45
Clark	5	15	0	10	10	10	5	15	15	35	35	40	40
Eagle Butte	0	0	5	15	15	15	15	50	50	55	55	45	45
Ellendale		15	0	30	30	15	5	35	35	45	45	40	35
Eureka		15	5	25	25	15	5	40	40	45	45	40	30
Gettysburg	0	0	0	15	15	15	10	40	40	50	50	40	40
Huron	5	10	5	5	5	10	5	10	20	40	40	40	40
Kennebec	5	15	0	5	5	10	5	35	35	45	45	45	45
McIntosh	0	0	5	25	25	20	20	55	50	50	50	35	35
Milbank	0	15	0	10	10	10	5	5	10	30	30	35	35
Miller	0	15	0	10	10	10	5	30	30	45	45	45	45
Mobridge	0	0	5	20	20	15	10	45	45	45	45	35	35
Murdo	5	0	0	5	5	10	10	40	40	50	50	50	50
Pierre	0	0	0	10	10	10	10	40	40	50	50	40	40
Redfield	0	15	0	10	10	10	5	25	25	40	40	40	40
Sisseton	0	15	5	20	20	10	5	15	15	35	35	35	35
Watertown	5	15	0	10	10	10	5	10	10	30	30	35	35
Webster	0	15	0	15	15	10	5	20	20	40	40	40	40
Wheaton	15	5	20	20	10	10	5	5	10	30	30	35	35

\*Table values in %  
\*\*Created: 3 am CDT Mon 5/22/2023  
\*\*\*Values are maximums over the period beginning at the time shown.

Increasing chances through the week

Above average temperatures and smoky skies from Canadian wildfires are expected today. Not much changes temperature-wise thereafter, but there will be both decreasing smoke and increasing precipitation chances during the second half of the week.



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## Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 83 °F at 5:18 PM

Low Temp: 49 °F at 6:34 AM

Wind: 14 mph at 1:03 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 12 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 92 in 1928

Record Low: 22 in 1963

Average High: 73

Average Low: 47

Average Precip in May.: 2.42

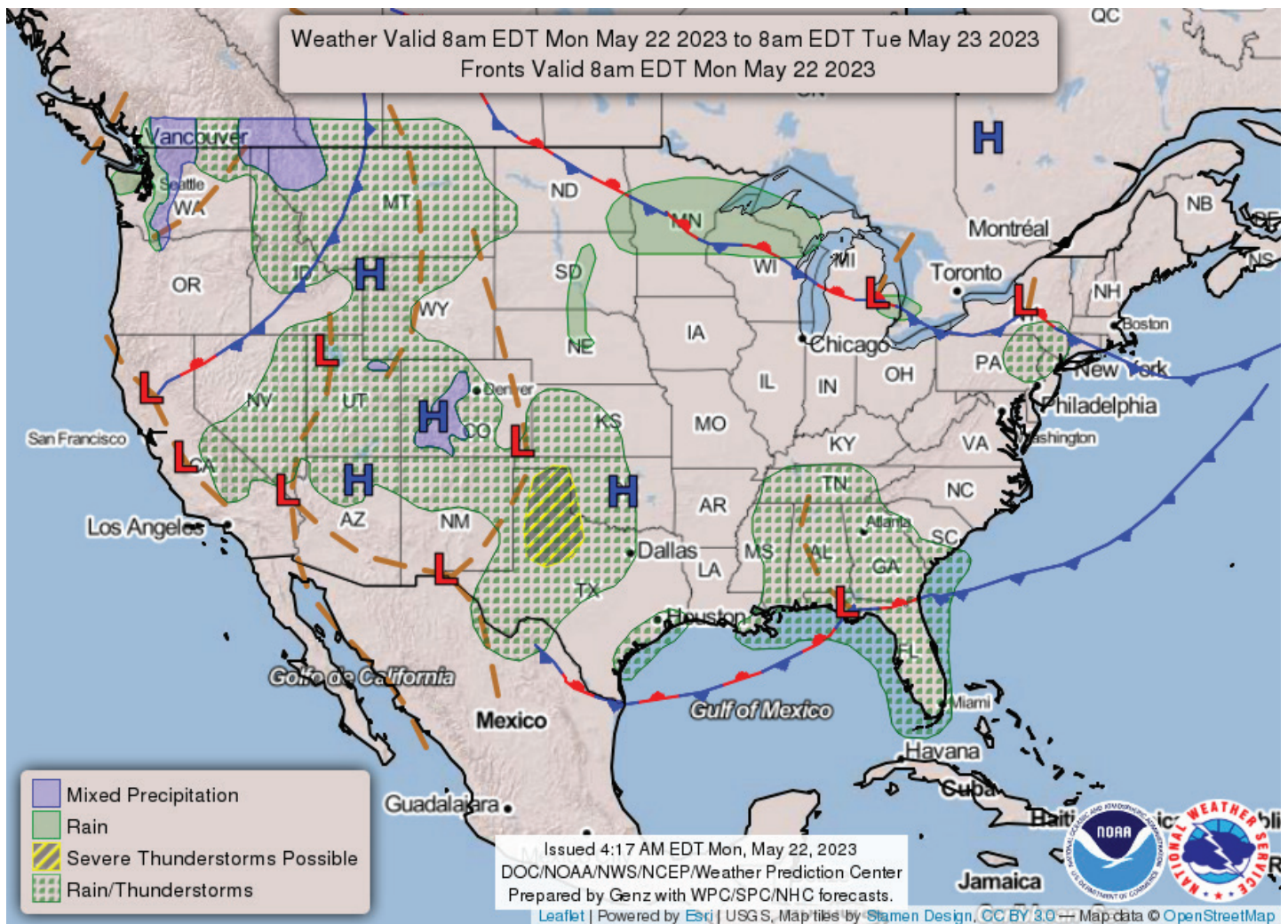
Precip to date in May.: 2.15

Average Precip to date: 6.39

Precip Year to Date: 7.87

Sunset Tonight: 9:05:19 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:51:55 AM



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## Today in Weather History

May 22, 1963: A late spring freeze impacted many locations reporting lows in the lower 20s. Some low temperatures include: 18 degrees in Andover; 20 degrees in Britton, 4 NW of Gann Valley, Leola and Roscoe; 21 degrees Castlewood, Ipswich, Kennebec, Redfield, 2 NW of Stephen, and 1 west of Summit; 22 degrees in Aberdeen, Eureka, 1 west of Highmore, McLaughlin, and 4 west of Mellette.

May 22, 1993: Nearly stationary thunderstorms dumped five to seven one-half inches of rain and hail within three hours on the southwest side of Sioux Falls causing major urban flooding and a flash flood on an area creek. Water and sewage flooded at least 200 basements as the storm and sewer systems backed up. Water came up to the rooftops of many cars in the Empire Mall area. Power was knocked out at the Empire Mall and to 2600 other customers in southwest Sioux Falls. Rainwater came through the roof of the Empire Mall causing damage to some stores. Hail up to an inch in diameter fell continuously for up to one and one-half hours in parts of southwest Sioux Falls causing considerable damage to hundreds of roofs, trees, and gardens. Thousands of cars received damage from hail or water in Sioux Falls. In the Silver Glen area, a flash flood turned a typically three-foot wide creek to a hundred feet wide in places. At least five houses near this creek had severe damage caused by the rushing waters. The flash flood also tore out a section of a road adjacent to the creek, buckled sidewalks, ripped away 100-year-old trees, and floated a 5500 lb truck down the road.

May 22, 2010: An EF2 tornado in eastern Walworth County crossed into western Edmunds County and intensified into a massive EF4 tornado as it struck several farms in its path. At the first farm, several large cottonwood trees were uprooted along with damage to several trailers. Three-grain bins were also destroyed with debris located several hundred yards to the northeast. The residence suffered some shingle and antenna damage. The tornado then tracked northeast to a second farm where several outbuildings were damaged or destroyed along with widespread tree damage. The primary residence at this location suffered no damage. Several grain cars were also rolled about 100 yards into the trees behind the house. The massive tornado continued to track northeast to a third farm to the north of Bowdle. The main residence suffered major damage to walls with part of the roof structure removed. Widespread tree damage was sustained with many of the trees completely debarked with only the stumps of the largest branches remaining. Two large garages were destroyed with the concrete slab wiped clean. The vehicles in one garage were rolled or tossed from 25 to 100 yards away. It is estimated that one car flew through the air 75 to 100 yards resting in the tree shelter belt to the north of the residence. Several other outbuildings were destroyed. The tornado then toppled six to eight metal power transmission towers as it moved to the north of the farm. One tower was sheared off from the concrete footings and traveled an estimated 400 yards. Ground scouring was visible along the path of these towers. The large tornado continued to track east crossing over State Highway 47 where a state radio tower was toppled. The tornado lifted shortly after that. The highest wind speeds were estimated to be from 166 to 200 mph.

1876: Denver, Colorado was drenched with 6.50 inches of rain in 24 hours, an all-time record for that location.

1986: A devastating hailstorm hit the Sichuan Province of China. Reports indicate that up to 100 people were killed, 35,000 homes destroyed and entire crops devastated.

2011: On this day, one of the most devastating tornadoes in the nation's history directly killed 158 people and injured over 1,000 in Joplin, Missouri. The Joplin EF5 tornado was the first single tornado to result in over 100 fatalities since the June 8, 1953, Flint, Michigan tornado.



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Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### FORTIFIED BY FAITH

If we knew what was going to happen, we would not need faith. We could plan for tomorrow and the next day and the next with confidence. But only God knows what tomorrow will bring into our lives. So, we need faith.

Faith enables us to live courageously, live life with confidence, and know that with God beside us, His Son within us and the Holy Spirit to empower us, we can be more than conquerors.

Unfortunately, not all Christians walk by faith. Some squeak through life by sight. But, the two principles of action are exclusive of each other and contradictory.

Sight is concerned with things that are material and visible. Faith is concerned with things that are invisible and spiritual. Each principle struggles to master the other. As Christians, we must choose which one will be our master.

If we walk by sight, we will encounter many things that will frighten us. We see this in the lives of the people of Israel. When they left Israel, they were followed by the best fighters that Egypt had.

When they came to the Red Sea and saw the enemy about to destroy them, they were frightened. But despite their lack of faith, the Lord saved them. He caused the sea to divide and provided a dry road for their escape.

"Then," states the Psalmist, "they believed His words." When? After they saw His miracle. It was not necessary for them to experience such despair and the fear of destruction. Their lack of faith in the presence and power of God caused them to doubt His promises. "Lord, help our unbelief!" said one disciple. What about you?

Prayer: Lord, help us to take You at Your Word and trust in You for everything. Please increase our faith now. Teach us to see challenges and threats as faith builders. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Then they believed his promises and sang his praise. Psalm 106:12



We all need the encouragement, comfort, and peace that comes through God's grace. Our daily devotionals, known as Seeds of Hope, have been a means through which thousands of people have experienced this grace. Each devotional comes from God's Word and we pray this good "seed" finds good soil in your heart. Our aim is that the Seeds of Hope will be a great source of daily encouragement to you and that God will use them to draw you near to Him



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## 2023 Community Events

- 01/29/2023 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed, 10am-1pm, Community Center
- 01/29/2023 85th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 01/31/2023-02/03/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Drop Off 6-9pm, Community Center
- 02/04/2023-02/05/2023 Lion's Club Prom & Formal Dress Consignment Sale 1-5pm, Community Center
- 02/25/2023 Littles and Me, Art Making 10-11:30am, Wage Memorial Library
- 03/25/2023 Spring Vendor Fair, 10am-3pm, Community Center
- 04/01/2023 Dueling Duo Baseball/Softball Fundraiser at the Legion Post #39 6-11:30pm
- 04/06/2023 Groton Career Development Event
- 04/08/2023 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)
- 04/22/2023 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 04/23/2023 Princess Prom 4:30-8pm (Sunday after GHS Prom)
- 05/06/2023 Lion's Club Spring Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday in May)
- 05/29/2023 Legion Post #39 Memorial Day Services (Memorial Day)
- 06/16/2023 SDSU Alumni and Friends Golf Tournament
- 06/17/2023 Groton Triathlon
- 07/04/2023 Couples Firecracker Golf Tournament
- 07/09/2023 Lion's Club Summer Fest/Car Show at the City Park 9am-4pm (Sunday Mid-July)
- 07/26/2023 GGA Burger Fundraiser Lunch at Olive Grove Golf Course
- 08/04/2023 Wine on Nine 6pm
- 08/11/2023 GHS Basketball Golf Tournament
- 09/09/2023 Lion's Club Fall Citywide Rummage Sale 8am-3pm (1st Saturday after Labor Day)
- 09/10/2023 Couples Sunflower Golf Tournament
- 10/14/2023 Pumpkin Fest at the City Park 10am-3pm
- 10/31/2023 Downtown Trick or Treat 4-6pm (working day on or closest to Halloween)
- 10/31/2023 United Methodist Church Trunk or Treat 5:30-7pm
- 11/23/2023 Community Thanksgiving at the Community Center 11:30am-1pm (Thanksgiving)
- 12/02/2023 Tour of Homes & Holiday Party
- 12/09/2023 Santa Claus Day at Professional Management Services 9-11am

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## The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:  
05.19.23

5 11 41 44 55 14

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$150,000,000**

NEXT 1 Days 15 Hrs 31  
DRAW: Mins 8 Secs

[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 15 Hrs 31 Mins 8  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
05.21.23

9 11 18 22 27 9

TOP PRIZE:  
**\$7,000/week**

NEXT 15 Hrs 1 Mins 9  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
05.20.23

1 14 22 24 27

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$67,000**

NEXT 2 Days 15 Hrs 31  
DRAW: Mins 8 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
05.20.23

19 32 54 55 68 24

TOP PRIZE:  
**\$10,000,000**

NEXT 15 Hrs 30 Mins 8  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
05.20.23

17 23 32 38 63 23

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$179,000,000**

NEXT 15 Hrs 30 Mins 8  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)



## News from the Associated Press

### Iran nuclear site deep underground challenges West as talks on reviving atomic deal have stalled

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Near a peak of the Zagros Mountains in central Iran, workers are building a nuclear facility so deep in the earth that it is likely beyond the range of a last-ditch U.S. weapon designed to destroy such sites, according to experts and satellite imagery analyzed by The Associated Press.

The photos and videos from Planet Labs PBC show Iran has been digging tunnels in the mountain near the Natanz nuclear site, which has come under repeated sabotage attacks amid Tehran's standoff with the West over its atomic program.

With Iran now producing uranium close to weapons-grade levels after the collapse of its nuclear deal with world powers, the installation complicates the West's efforts to halt Tehran from potentially developing an atomic bomb as diplomacy over its nuclear program remains stalled.

Completion of such a facility "would be a nightmare scenario that risks igniting a new escalatory spiral," warned Kelsey Davenport, the director of nonproliferation policy at the Washington-based Arms Control Association. "Given how close Iran is to a bomb, it has very little room to ratchet up its program without tripping U.S. and Israeli red lines. So at this point, any further escalation increases the risk of conflict."

The construction at the Natanz site comes five years after then-President Donald Trump unilaterally withdrew America from the nuclear accord. Trump argued the deal did not address Tehran's ballistic missile program, nor its support of militias across the wider Middle East.

But what it did do was strictly limit Iran's enrichment of uranium to 3.67% purity, powerful enough only to power civilian power stations, and keep its stockpile to just some 300 kilograms (660 pounds).

Since the demise of the nuclear accord, Iran has said it is enriching uranium up to 60%, though inspectors recently discovered the country had produced uranium particles that were 83.7% pure. That is just a short step from reaching the 90% threshold of weapons-grade uranium.

As of February, international inspectors estimated Iran's stockpile was over 10 times what it was under the Obama-era deal, with enough enriched uranium to allow Tehran to make "several" nuclear bombs, according to the head of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

President Joe Biden and Israel's prime minister have said they won't allow Iran to build a nuclear weapon. "We believe diplomacy is the best way to achieve that goal, but the president has also been clear that we have not removed any option from the table," the White House said in a statement to the AP.

The Islamic Republic denies it is seeking nuclear weapons, though officials in Tehran now openly discuss their ability to pursue one.

Iran's mission to the United Nations, in response to questions from the AP regarding the construction, said that "Iran's peaceful nuclear activities are transparent and under the International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards." However, Iran has been limiting access for international inspectors for years.

Iran says the new construction will replace an above-ground centrifuge manufacturing center at Natanz struck by an explosion and fire in July 2020. Tehran blamed the incident on Israel, long suspected of running sabotage campaigns against its program.

Tehran has not acknowledged any other plans for the facility, though it would have to declare the site to the IAEA if they planned to introduce uranium into it. The Vienna-based IAEA did not respond to questions about the new underground facility.

The new project is being constructed next to Natanz, about 225 kilometers (140 miles) south of Tehran. Natanz has been a point of international concern since its existence became known two decades ago.

Protected by anti-aircraft batteries, fencing and Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, the facility sprawls across 2.7 square kilometers (1 square mile) in the country's arid Central Plateau.

Satellite photos taken in April by Planet Labs PBC and analyzed by the AP show Iran burrowing into the

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Kūh-e Kolang Gaz Lā, or "Pickaxe Mountain," which is just beyond Natanz's southern fencing.

A different set of images analyzed by the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies reveals that four entrances have been dug into the mountainside, two to the east and another two to the west. Each is 6 meters (20 feet) wide and 8 meters (26 feet) tall.

The scale of the work can be measured in large dirt mounds, two to the west and one to the east. Based on the size of the spoil piles and other satellite data, experts at the center told AP that Iran is likely building a facility at a depth of between 80 meters (260 feet) and 100 meters (328 feet). The center's analysis, which it provided exclusively to AP, is the first to estimate the tunnel system's depth based on satellite imagery.

The Institute for Science and International Security, a Washington-based nonprofit long focused on Iran's nuclear program, suggested last year the tunnels could go even deeper.

Experts say the size of the construction project indicates Iran likely would be able to use the underground facility to enrich uranium as well — not just to build centrifuges. Those tube-shaped centrifuges, arranged in large cascades of dozens of machines, rapidly spin uranium gas to enrich it. Additional cascades spinning would allow Iran to quickly enrich uranium under the mountain's protection.

"So the depth of the facility is a concern because it would be much harder for us. It would be much harder to destroy using conventional weapons, such as like a typical bunker buster bomb," said Steven De La Fuente, a research associate at the center who led the analysis of the tunnel work.

The new Natanz facility is likely to be even deeper underground than Iran's Fordo facility, another enrichment site that was exposed in 2009 by U.S. and other world leaders. That facility sparked fears in the West that Iran was hardening its program from airstrikes.

Such underground facilities led the U.S. to create the GBU-57 bomb, which can plow through at least 60 meters (200 feet) of earth before detonating, according to the American military. U.S. officials reportedly have discussed using two such bombs in succession to ensure a site is destroyed. It is not clear that such a one-two punch would damage a facility as deep as the one at Natanz.

With such bombs potentially off the table, the U.S. and its allies are left with fewer options to target the site. If diplomacy fails, sabotage attacks may resume.

Already, Natanz has been targeted by the Stuxnet virus, believed to be an Israeli and American creation, which destroyed Iranian centrifuges. Israel also is believed to have killed scientists involved in the program, struck facilities with bomb-carrying drones and launched other attacks. Israel's government declined to comment.

Experts say such disruptive actions may push Tehran even closer to the bomb — and put its program even deeper into the mountain where airstrikes, further sabotage and spies may not be able to reach it.

"Sabotage may roll back Iran's nuclear program in the short-term, but it is not a viable, long-term strategy for guarding against a nuclear-armed Iran," said Davenport, the nonproliferation expert. "Driving Iran's nuclear program further underground increases the proliferation risk."

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Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/jongambrellAP](http://www.twitter.com/jongambrellAP).

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The Associated Press receives support for nuclear security coverage from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and Outrider Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## **Biden gets low ratings on economy, guns, immigration in AP-NORC Poll**

By AAMER MADHANI and EMILY SWANSON Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As President Joe Biden embarks on his reelection campaign, just 33% of American adults say they approve of his handling of the economy and only 24% say national economic conditions are in good shape, according to a new poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

Public approval of Biden's handling of the economy remains low in a time of high inflation, a difficult

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housing market and concerns about a potential U.S. government debt default. American opinion is also gloomy about Biden's efforts on gun policy and immigration, with only 31% saying they approve of the president's performance on those hot button issues. Overall, 40% say they approve of the way Biden is doing his job, similar to where his approval rating has stood for much of the past year and a half.

Zoie Mosqueda, 24, who does not identify with any political party, said her family is ready to buy their first home but with the average mortgage interest rate hovering around 6.9%, that goal, at least for now, is out of reach.

The woman from West Texas said she also has been frustrated with Biden's handling of gun policy and said he's fallen short on his campaign promise to implement a fairer immigration policy.

A recent spate of mass shootings around the country, including this month's shooting at an Allen, Texas mall that left eight victims dead and seven others wounded, has left her wishing that Biden and lawmakers in Washington would do more to address the scourge of gun violence.

Even among Democrats, the poll finds only about half approve of his handling of immigration and gun policy.

"Everything feels a bit crazy right now in this economy," Mosqueda, a mother of two who works at a boutique and is looking to open her own business, said in explaining her disapproval of Biden's performance. "My older daughter is in school now, and I just worry that this lack of gun policy stuff could affect her."

Biden returned late Sunday from a visit to Hiroshima, Japan, for the annual G7 summit where the global economic impact of Russia's invasion in Ukraine was front-and-center.

The summit was shadowed by the Biden administration's negotiations with Republican lawmakers to raise the U.S. borrowing authority to prevent a default in early June that could have severe impact on the global economy. Before departing for Japan, Biden canceled scheduled stops in Papua New Guinea and Australia so he could return to the U.S. to focus on the debt limit talks.

"It would be a total catastrophe for the country if they don't agree to do something," said Bob Vought, a retired auto parts warehouse manager in St. Petersburg, Florida. He said he strongly disapproves of Biden's handling of the economy.

Vought, who lives on his Social Security benefit, said inflation is taking a toll on his personal finances.

The Biden administration oversaw two of the bigger Social Security cost-of-living adjustment in recent decades, with a 5.9% increase that took effect in 2022 and 8.7% in 2023. But Vought said that's not enough to keep up with a rental increase at the trailer park where he lives with his father and the rising costs of food and other basic necessities.

Vought, an independent who typically votes Republican but voted for Biden in 2020, said he's also been frustrated by the "out of control" rise in illegal crossings by migrants at the U.S. southern border.

In the 2022 budget year, which ended in September, agents apprehended immigrants a record 2.38 million times at the southern border.

Coronavirus restrictions implemented under President Donald Trump, which were known as Title 42, allowed border officials to turn away migrants to help stop the spread of COVID-19. The restrictions recently ended.

While Title 42 was used to deny asylum more than 2.8 million times, it carried no legal consequences, which encouraged repeat attempts by migrants to enter the United States. Border Patrol agents returned to pre-pandemic immigration laws on May 11 that impose stiffer penalties on migrants who enter the U.S. without permission than the emergency health order did.

Despite his frustrations with Biden, Vought said he'd probably vote for the Democrat again if Trump wins the Republican nomination.

"I agree with about half of Trump's policies but I think the guy is a liar and is so arrogant," Vought said. "If those were the only two candidates ... I'd have to still vote Biden."

John Billman, 79, of Chapel Hill, North Carolina, said Biden doesn't get enough credit for passage of the \$1 trillion infrastructure bill and \$280 billion CHIPS Act aimed at boosting the U.S. semiconductor industry, or the historically low unemployment rate. The unemployment rate stands at 3.4%,



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Billman, who approves of Biden's performance, said he feels the political conversation has become even more toxic since the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

"Since January 6, there are so many that seem incredibly angry at the government, that think the government and Biden are only doing bad things," Billman said. "I mean an infrastructure bill? It's a bad thing? I have relatives who I respect and love and are intelligent people who say, 'I hate Biden.' I can understand disagreeing with him but how can you hate Biden? It's scary."

Biden underperforms on the economy even among Democrats: 61% approve of him on the issue, compared with 75% for his job overall. Democrats feel even more dour about the current condition of the nation's economy, though they continue to be more likely than Republicans to say the country is headed in the right direction (36% vs. 7%) or to rate the economy as good (41% vs. 7%).

Some Democratic respondents who approve of the president's performance said they felt flummoxed by life in post-pandemic America and what often seems like a total abandonment of bipartisanship in Washington.

Karen D'Andrea, 64, a Democrat from Port Lucie, Florida, was among the millions of Americans who lost their jobs at the beginning of the pandemic. She was able to land a new job at a tech startup, but was recently laid off as that sector is going through some of the most significant cost cutting since the Great Recession.

"I think people with the same mindset as me feel our best days are behind us," said D'Andrea, who approves of Biden's performance but believes the country is moving in the wrong direction. "Republicans like to say they want to make America great again. I think things can be wonderful now, but we got to work together."

The poll of 1,680 adults was conducted May 11-15 using a sample drawn from NORC's probability-based AmeriSpeak Panel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population. The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.4 percentage points.

## Meta fined record \$1.3 billion and ordered to stop sending European user data to US

By KELVIN CHAN AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — The European Union slapped Meta with a record \$1.3 billion privacy fine Monday and ordered it to stop transferring user data across the Atlantic by October, the latest salvo in a decadelong case sparked by U.S. cybersnooping fears.

The penalty of 1.2 billion euros is the biggest since the EU's strict data privacy regime took effect five years ago, surpassing Amazon's 746 million euro fine in 2021 for data protection violations.

Meta, which had previously warned that services for its users in Europe could be cut off, vowed to appeal and ask courts to immediately put the decision on hold.

"There is no immediate disruption to Facebook in Europe," the company said.

"This decision is flawed, unjustified and sets a dangerous precedent for the countless other companies transferring data between the EU and U.S.," Nick Clegg, Meta's president of global and affairs, and Chief Legal Officer Jennifer Newstead said in a statement.

It's yet another twist in a legal battle that began in 2013 when Austrian lawyer and privacy activist Max Schrems filed a complaint about Facebook's handling of his data following former National Security Agency contractor Edward Snowden's revelations of electronic surveillance by U.S. security agencies. That included the disclosure that Facebook gave the agencies access to the personal data of Europeans.

The saga has highlighted the clash between Washington and Brussels over the differences between Europe's strict view on data privacy and the comparatively lax regime in the U.S., which lacks a federal privacy law. The EU has been a global leader in reining in the power of Big Tech with a series of regulations forcing them police their platforms more strictly and protect users' personal information.

An agreement covering EU-U.S. data transfers known as the Privacy Shield was struck down in 2020

by the EU's top court, which said it didn't do enough to protect residents from the U.S. government's electronic prying. Monday's decision confirmed that another tool to govern data transfers — stock legal contracts — was also invalid.

Brussels and Washington signed a deal last year on a reworked Privacy Shield that Meta could use, but the pact is awaiting a decision from European officials on whether it adequately protects data privacy.

EU institutions have been reviewing the agreement, and the bloc's lawmakers this month called for improvements, saying the safeguards aren't strong enough.

The Ireland's Data Protection Commission handed down the fine as Meta's lead privacy regulator in the 27-nation bloc because the Silicon Valley tech giant's European headquarters is based in Dublin.

The Irish watchdog said it gave Meta five months to stop sending European user data to the U.S. and six months to bring its data operations into compliance "by ceasing the unlawful processing, including storage, in the U.S." of European users' personal data transferred in violation of the bloc's privacy rules.

If the new transatlantic privacy agreement takes effect before these deadlines, "our services can continue as they do today without any disruption or impact on users," Meta said.

Schrems predicted that Meta has "no real chance" of getting the decision materially overturned. And a new privacy pact might not mean the end of Meta's troubles, because there's a good chance it could be tossed out by the EU's top court, he said.

"Meta plans to rely on the new deal for transfers going forward, but this is likely not a permanent fix," Schrems said in a statement. "Unless U.S. surveillance laws gets fixed, Meta will likely have to keep EU data in the EU."

Meta warned in its latest earnings report that without a legal basis for data transfers, it will be forced to stop offering its products and services in Europe, "which would materially and adversely affect our business, financial condition, and results of operations."

The social media company might have to carry out a costly and complex revamp of its operations if it's forced to stop shipping user data across the Atlantic. Meta has a fleet of 21 data centers, according to its website, but 17 of them are in the United States. Three others are in the European nations of Denmark, Ireland and Sweden. Another is in Singapore.

Other social media giants are facing pressure over their data practices. TikTok has tried to soothe Western fears about the Chinese-owned short video sharing app's potential cybersecurity risks with a \$1.5 billion project to store U.S. user data on Oracle servers.

## **Russia claims to have Bakhmut but top Ukrainian military leaders say the battle is not over**

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Although Russia claims it has won control of Ukraine's eastern city of Bakhmut, after a grinding nine-month conflict in which tens of thousands of fighters have died, top Ukrainian military leaders say the battle is not over.

Ukrainian officials acknowledge they now control only a small part of Bakhmut.

Ukraine's Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar said Monday that Ukrainian troops are holding some areas in the southwest outskirts of the city, while the fight for the strategic heights on the northern and southern parts of the suburbs continues.

"The offensive potential of the enemy has been significantly reduced, huge losses have been inflicted on the enemy, we have gained time for certain actions, which will be revealed later," Maliar said.

Ukraine says their fighters' presence has played a key role in their strategy of exhausting the Russian military. And they say their current positions in the areas surrounding Bakhmut will let them strike back inside the 400-year-old city.

"Despite the fact that we now control a small part of Bakhmut, the importance of its defense does not lose its relevance," said Col.-Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi, the commander of ground forces for the Ukrainian

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Armed Forces. "This gives us the opportunity to enter the city in case of a change in the situation. And it will definitely happen."

The fog of war made it impossible to confirm the situation on the ground in Bakhmut. Russia's defense ministry said Wagner mercenaries backed by Russian troops had seized the city, but Ukraine President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Bakhmut was not being fully occupied.

In a video posted on Telegram, Wagner head Yevgeny Prigozhin claimed the city came under complete Russian control at about midday Saturday. Holding a Russian flag before a group of at least nine masked fighters in body armor who were toting heavy weapons, Prigozhin proclaimed: "This afternoon at 12:00, Bakhmut was completely taken."

More important for Ukraine has been the high numbers of Russian casualties and sapping of the morale of enemy troops for the the small patch of the 1,500-kilometer (932-mile) front line as Ukraine gears up for a major counteroffensive in the 15-month-old war.

"The enemy failed to surround Bakhmut. They lost part of the heights around the city. The continuing advance of our troops in the suburbs greatly complicates the enemy's presence," said Hanna Maliar, Ukraine's deputy defense minister. "Our troops have taken the city in a semi-encirclement, which gives us the opportunity to destroy the enemy."

About 55 kilometers (34 miles) north of the Russian-held regional capital of Donetsk, Bakhmut was an important industrial center, surrounded by salt and gypsum mines and home to about 80,000 people before the war, in a country of more than 43 million.

The city, named Artyomovsk after a Bolshevik revolutionary when Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union, was known for its sparkling wine produced in underground caves. It was popular among tourists for its broad tree-lined avenues, lush parks and stately downtown with imposing late 19th century mansions. All are now reduced to a smoldering wasteland.

Fought over so fiercely by Russia and Ukraine in recent months has been Bakhmut's urban center, where Ukrainian commanders have conceded Moscow controlled more than 90%. But even now, Ukrainian forces are making significant advances near strategic roads through the countryside just outside, chipping away at Russia's northern and southern flanks by the meter (yard) with the aim of encircling Wagner fighters inside the city.

Ukrainian military leaders say their months-long resistance has been worthwhile because it limited Russia's capabilities elsewhere and enabled Ukrainian advances.

"The main idea is to exhaust them, then to attack," Ukrainian Col. Yevhen Mezhevikin, commander of a specialized group fighting in Bakhmut, said Thursday.

Russia has deployed reinforcements to Bakhmut to replenish the lost northern and southern flanks and prevent more Ukrainian breakthroughs, according to Ukrainian officials and outside observers. Russian President Vladimir Putin badly needs to claim victory in Bakhmut, where Russian forces have focused their efforts, analysts say, especially after a winter offensive by his forces failed to capture other cities and towns along the front.

Ukraine's tactical gains in the rural area outside urban Bakhmut could be more significant than they seem, according to some analysts.

"It was almost like the Ukrainians just took advantage of the fact that, actually, the Russian lines were weak," said Phillips O'Brien, a professor of strategic studies at the University of St. Andrews. "The Russian army has suffered such high losses and is so worn out around Bakhmut that ... it cannot go forward anymore."

Ukrainian forces in the outskirts of Bakhmut and in the city bore relentless artillery attacks until a month ago. Then, Ukrainian forces positioned south of the city spotted their chance for a breakthrough after reconnaissance drones showed the southern Russian flank had gone on the defensive, Col. Mezhevikin said.

After fierce fighting for weeks, Ukrainian units made their first advance in the vicinity of Bakhmut since it was invaded nine months ago.

In all, nearly 20 square kilometers (8 square miles) of territory were recaptured, Maliar said in an interview last week. Hundreds of meters more have been regained almost every day since, according to Serhii



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Cherevatyi, spokesman for Ukraine's Operational Command East.

"Previously we were only holding the lines and didn't let Russians advance further into our territory. What has happened now is our first advance (since the battle started)," Maliar said.

Victory in Bakhmut does not necessarily bring Russia any closer to capturing the Donetsk region — Putin's stated aim of the war. Rather, it opens the door to more grinding battles in the direction of Sloviansk or Kostiantynivka, 20 kilometers (12 miles) away, said Kateryna Stepanenko, a Russia analyst at the Institute for the Study of War, a U.S.-based think tank.

Satellite imagery released this week shows infrastructure, apartment blocks and iconic buildings reduced to rubble.

In the last week, days before Russia announced the city had fallen into their control, Ukrainian forces retained only a handful of buildings amid constant Russian bombardment. Outnumbered and outgunned, they described nightmarish days.

Russia's artillery dominance was so overwhelming, accompanied by continuous human waves of mercenaries, that defensive positions could not be held for long.

"The importance of our mission of staying in Bakhmut lies in distracting a significant enemy force," said Taras Deiak, a commander of a special unit of a volunteer battalion. "We are paying a high price for this."

The northern and southern flanks regained by Ukraine are located near two highways that lead to Chasiv Yar, a town 10 kilometers (6 miles) from Bakhmut, that serve as key logistics supply routes. One is dubbed the "road of life."

Ukrainian forces passing this road often came under fire from Russians positioned along nearby strategic heights. Armored vehicles and pickup trucks driving toward the city to replenish Ukrainian troops were frequently destroyed.

With those high plains now under Ukrainian control, its forces have more breathing room.

"This will help us design new logistic chains to deliver ammunition in and evacuate the injured or killed boys," said Deiak, speaking from inside Bakhmut on Thursday, two days before Russia claimed control of the city. "Now it is easier to deliver supplies, rotate troops, (carry out) evacuations."

Danica Kirka in London contributed to this report.

## **US bomb designed to hit targets like Iran underground nuclear sites briefly reappears amid tensions**

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — As tensions with Iran have escalated over its nuclear program, the U.S. military this month posted pictures of a powerful bomb designed to penetrate deep into the earth and destroy underground facilities that could be used to enrich uranium.

The U.S. Air Force on May 2 released rare images of the weapon, the GBU-57, known as the "Massive Ordnance Penetrator." Then it took the photos down — apparently because the photographs revealed sensitive details about the weapon's composition and punch.

The publication of the photographs comes as The Associated Press reported that Iran is making steady progress in constructing a nuclear facility that is likely beyond the range of the GBU-57, which is considered the U.S. military last-ditch weapon to take out underground bunkers.

**WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT AMERICA'S MASSIVE ORDNANCE PENETRATOR?**

The U.S. developed the Massive Ordnance Penetrator in the 2000s as concerns grew over Iran hardening its nuclear sites by building them underground.

The Air Force posted images of the bombs on the Facebook page for Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri. The base is home to the fleet of B-2 stealth bombers, the only aircraft that can deploy the bomb.

In a caption, the base said it had received two Massive Ordnance Penetrator bombs so a munitions squadron there could "test their performance."

It is not the first time the Air Force has published photos and videos of the bomb that coincided with

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rising acrimony with Tehran over its nuclear program. In 2019, the U.S. military released a video of a B-2 bomber dropping two of the bombs. The Air Force did not respond to requests for comment on why it posted — and removed — the most recent set of photos.

WHAT DID WE LEARN FROM THE PHOTOS?

The latest photos revealed stenciling on the bombs that listed their weight as 12,300 kilograms (27,125 pounds). It also described the bomb as carrying a mix of AFX-757 — a standard explosive — and PBXN-114, a relatively new explosive compound, said Rahul Udoshi, a senior weapons analyst at Janes, an open-source intelligence firm.

The weight of the bomb, judging from the stenciling, shows the majority of it comes from its thick steel frame, which allows it to chew through concrete and soil before exploding. However, it remains unclear what the exact effectiveness of the weapon would be.

The Warzone, an Internet news site, first reported on the publication of the photographs. The AP contacted Whiteman Air Force Base and the Air Force's Global Strike Command with questions about the images. Within a day, the Facebook post vanished.

Udoshi said the Air Force likely took them down because they revealed too much data about the bombs. "Immediate removal from the internet without comment (or) justification means there is a potential lapse," Udoshi said.

WHAT ROLE WOULD THIS BOMB PLAY IN POTENTIALLY TARGETING IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM?

The AP reported on Monday that satellite imagery from Planet Labs PBC reveals Tehran has been digging tunnels in the mountain near the Natanz nuclear site in central Iran. Excavation mounds at the site suggest the facility could be between 80 meters (260 feet) and 100 meters (328 feet) under the ground, according to the experts and AP's analysis.

Experts say the size of the construction project indicates Iran likely would be able to use the underground facility to enrich uranium as well — not just to build centrifuges. Those tube-shaped centrifuges, arranged in large cascades of dozens of machines, rapidly spin uranium gas to enrich it. Additional machines would allow Iran to quickly enrich uranium under the mountain's protection.

That could be a problem for the GBU-57: In previously describing the bomb's capabilities, the Air Force has said it could tear through 60 meters (200 feet) of ground and cement before detonating.

COULD THE UNITED STATES STILL TRY TO DROP THE BOMB?

U.S. officials have discussed using two such bombs in succession to ensure a site is destroyed. But even then, the new depth of the Natanz tunnels likely presents a serious challenge.

Further complicating any possible U.S. military strike is that the B-2 has been grounded since December when one caught fire after an emergency landing. The U.S. still could fly the aircraft "if there's an operational need," said Col. Brus E. Vidal, a spokesperson for the Air Force's Global Strike Command.

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Follow Jon Gambrell on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/jongambrellAP](https://www.twitter.com/jongambrellAP).

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The Associated Press receives support for nuclear security coverage from the Carnegie Corporation of New York and Outrider Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## TikTok and other social media trends are thrusting performance crimes into the US spotlight

By CLAUDIA LAUER and HALELUYA HADERO Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Jonnifer Neal's Kia was stolen twice in one day — first from in front of her Chicago home and later from outside the mechanic shop where she took it to get fixed.

But Neal's ordeal didn't end there. After her car was recovered a month later, she was stopped by police twice coming home from work because a police error caused the Optima to remain listed as stolen. The same error resulted in officers waking her up at 3 a.m. another night. On yet another occasion, a swarm of officers pulled her over as she was traveling to Mississippi, handcuffing and placing her in the back of

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a cruiser for more than an hour.

The Kia now sits in her garage.

"It's been a few months, but honestly I'm still nervous," Neal said. "I drive that car maybe once in a blue moon and I loved that car."

Neal's story is one of thousands from Kia and Hyundai owners across the country whose cars were stolen or damaged in the past two years.

The sharp uptick has been linked to viral videos, posted to TikTok and other social media platforms, teaching people how to start the cars with USB cables and exploit a security vulnerability in some models sold in the U.S. without engine immobilizers, a standard feature on most cars since the 1990s preventing the engine from starting unless the key is present.

But unlike some social media-driven trends that seemingly disappear just as police get a handle on them, the car thefts have continued. Hyundai has tried to work with TikTok and other platforms to remove the videos, but as new ones surface fresh waves of thefts occur, illustrating the lingering effects of dangerous content that gains traction with teens looking for ways to go viral.

It's a phenomenon known as performance crime. Police departments in a dozen cities have said it factors into an increase they've seen in juveniles arrested or charged with car thefts. Still, criminology experts caution that the role teens are playing in the theft increases — which began during the pandemic and aren't limited to Kia and Hyundai — may be artificially inflated because teenagers inexperienced at crime are more likely to be caught.

Attorneys general from 17 states have called on federal regulators to issue a mandatory recall, arguing the voluntary software fixes issued by the companies aren't enough. Multiple cities including Baltimore, Milwaukee and New York have filed or announced plans to join legal action against the automakers, which also are facing class-action and civil lawsuits from consumers like Neal. One such lawsuit was settled for roughly \$200 million last week.

The National Highway and Safety Administration blames the trend for at least 14 crashes and eight fatalities, but lawyers suing the carmakers say the number is likely much higher.

Morgan Kornfeind was driving to a yoga class in Portland, Oregon, at the end of March when a man in a stolen Kia barreled into her as he drove the wrong way while fleeing police. The 25-year-old suffered lacerations, broken bones and extensive injuries to her leg. She needed surgery and attends multiple medical appointments every week.

"I'm unable to work my job that I love dearly. I'm unable to practice yoga or walk my dogs. I've missed planned trips with friends because of my ongoing rehab. The idea of ever driving again causes me great distress," she wrote in a statement.

Earlier this month in Milwaukee, a stolen Kia collided with a school bus, leaving a 15-year-old who was hanging out the window in critical condition. Police later arrested four 14-year-olds, one of whom allegedly was driving.

Many of the calls for accountability have been directed at the automakers. MLG Attorneys at Law, a California law firm specializing in automotive defect lawsuits, has received more than 4,000 inquiries from victims like Kornfeind.

"And the amazing thing is it's not slowing down," said Randy Shrewsbury, MLG chief strategy officer.

But some police departments, victims and the automakers also point the finger at social media platforms. Videos posted on YouTube in recent weeks show people breaking into various cars or using a USB cable to hotwire cars. The company removed the videos when notified by The Associated Press.

YouTube removed videos depicting what's known as the "Kia Challenge" in recent months, spokesperson Elena Hernandez said in a statement, while stressing the company considers context when making those decisions.

"We might allow some videos if they're meant to be educational, documentary, scientific, or artistic," Hernandez wrote.

In a statement, a TikTok spokesperson pushed back on assertions that many of the dangerous chal-



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lenges mentioned in news reports had reached mass popularity on the platform.

"There is no evidence any of these challenges ever 'trended' on TikTok, and there is a clear documented history that many challenges falsely associated with TikTok pre-date the platform entirely," TikTok spokesperson Ben Rathe said.

Hany Farid, who stepped down in January from TikTok's U.S. content advisory council because he felt unable to affect change, said TikTok tends to be defensive when criticized for its content moderation practices. He acknowledged the challenge of knowing where some trends originate because content moves quickly between platforms.

"It's very much a Whack-A-Mole problem," said Farid, a digital forensics expert at the University of California, Berkeley. "Because these platforms were not designed to be safe for kids, or for anybody."

TikTok's enforcement report from the last three months of 2022 showed 5% of the videos the company removed were due to dangerous acts and challenges, with 82% removed within 24 hours.

Like many social platforms, TikTok screens content with a combination of artificial intelligence and human moderators who try to catch whatever AI might miss. A spokesperson said it's easier for technology to spot certain violations, like nudity, than things like teens breaking into cars. The human moderators are a second level of screening when content is questionable.

Users also sometimes subvert the platform's controls by misspelling or changing words in hashtags. Some see that as a loophole deserving attention. TikTok says it monitors misspellings and touted the content being forced away from mainstream hashtags as a success.

Meta, which owns Facebook and Instagram, did not reply to a request for comment on how it screens for similar videos.

While the Kia Challenge is the social media crime trend of the moment, it's not the first. And, experts say, it's not indicative of social media creating a paradigm shift in criminal activity.

In LaGrange, Georgia, a city of about 31,000 people close to the Alabama border, before the Kia Challenge the police dealt with fallout from the "Orbeez Challenge," which directed people to use toy or airsoft guns to shoot small, gel-filled balls called Orbeez at strangers or friends. Lt. Mark Cavender said officers were alarmed when they saw middle schoolers using toy guns painted black to look like real weapons, immediately putting out warnings to stop.

Michael Scott, director of the Problem-Oriented Policing Center at Arizona State University, said social media hasn't completely changed crime.

"Social media seems to be a radically new thing, but the only new things are the speed and the breadth," Scott said.

There are also plenty of examples of trends in criminal activity spreading before social media existed as it does now. Before there were "rob mobs" there was "wilding" in the 1980s, in which groups of people gathered in public to cause chaos, vandalize or steal property. And before the Kia Challenge, there were groups of teens in the 1990s who figured out they could steal General Motors vehicles using a screwdriver.

Scott, who was an officer in the St. Louis Police Department at the time, said the carmaker was slow to act when officers noticed the uptick in their cars being stolen.

"Even without social media, that technique spread around the country," he said. "What social media changed, was it sped up the process. Before, you had to know or meet someone who had figured out that all you needed was a screwdriver."

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Lauer reported from Philadelphia.

## Fire destroys main post office in Philippine capital, a nearly 100-year-old neoclassical landmark

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A massive fire tore through Manila's historic post office building overnight, slightly injuring seven people and razing the nearly 100-year-old landmark in the Philippine capital, police and postal officials said Monday.

The fire started before midnight in the basement of the neoclassical, five-story building and was brought under control Monday morning more than seven hours after it began, firefighters said.

An investigation was underway to determine the cause of the fire and what was damaged, officials said, adding seven people, mostly firefighters, sustained minor injuries or were overwhelmed by thick smoke.

The Manila Central Post Office was one of the capital's busiest office buildings but was closed when the fire started. The building was the country's main mail-sorting and distribution hub and was the central office for the Philippine Postal Corporation.

The building, recognized as a national landmark, was built in 1926 with high columns in the traditional neoclassical style. It was severely damaged during World War II and was rebuilt in 1946.

It has been used as a backdrop for many Philippine movies and stands near a plaza named after national hero Andres Bonifacio which has been the site of protests by left-wing and nationalist activists over a range of political and social issues.

It is located along the Pasig River on a main intersection of the capital's key roads.

Postal service in the Philippines began during the Spanish colonial period with horse-riding mail couriers.

## **Comedian Uncle Roger silenced on Chinese social media after jokes about China**

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — A Malaysian comedian better known for mocking attempts by Western chefs at Asian cooking has had his Chinese social media account suspended after making jokes about China.

Nigel Ng, who uses the name Uncle Roger, is the latest comedian to feel the consequences of jokes that could be perceived as reflecting negatively on China under increasingly intense censorship and rising nationalism.

Last week, a Chinese comedian came under police investigation for a joke about stray dogs.

Ng posted a video clip last Thursday from an upcoming comedy special in which he pokes fun at Chinese surveillance and Beijing's claims of sovereignty over Taiwan.

The video shows Ng interacting with someone in the audience who said he is from Guangzhou, a metropolis in China's south.

"Good country, good country, we have to say that now, correct?" Ng says. "All the phones listening."

Ng then jokes with members of the audience who said they're from Taiwan, a self-governed island claimed by China, saying Taiwan is not a real country. "I hope one day you rejoin the motherland. One China," he said.

His Weibo account said on Monday that he was banned from posting for "violating relevant laws and regulations." Ng's agency did not respond to a request for comment.

A Chinese comedian, meanwhile, could face jail time as police and government departments investigate him for a joke he made at a performance earlier in May.

Beijing police announced last Wednesday that they were investigating comedian Li Haoshi "for severely insulting" the People's Liberation Army.

The comedian, who goes by the stage name HOUSE, made a joke about stray dogs by riffing on a well-known propaganda slogan used to describe the Chinese military.

Li said he had adopted two dogs who were very energetic when they went after squirrels, shooting off like artillery shells after a target.

Usually, he said, dogs are cute and melt your heart, but when he sees his two dogs, he thinks of the Chinese phrase, "Able to win battles, with first-rate style."

The phrase was first used 10 years ago by Chinese leader Xi Jinping to describe planned reforms for the Chinese military, according to the China Media Project, which studies Chinese media.

A government department known as Beijing's Comprehensive Team of Law Enforcement on Cultural Market said in a statement last week it had received tips from the public about Li's performance on May 13 and in response launched an investigation into the company Li is signed with.

government — the safety of children at their schools — and still hasn't been resolved.

The South African government promised to replace all pit toilets at schools nationwide by March 31 this year. It hasn't happened. Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga said there are still 3,398 schools using pit latrines and the deadline to eradicate them has been shifted to 2025.

Lebelo said "it speaks about how we perceive people in rural areas."

"What we are saying about them is that they don't deserve dignity, that's why we're not going to provide you with a basic toilet. We're not going to give that to you because already you've been using it (pit toilets)," she said. "So, what's another year, or two years, or 10, or decades? We're saying to them you're not worthy of dignity."

Section27 is another human rights group pushing for the pit toilets to be eradicated for "safe and decent sanitation facilities." Section27 supported Michael Komape's family in their legal action against the local and national education departments and they succeeded in getting a court ruling that authorities must provide updated information every six months on schools in the Limpopo province using pit toilets and the plans to replace them.

Section27 called its system to track the government's work The Michael Komape Sanitation Progress Monitor and it is able to use the information to hold the education department accountable.

The department has made some progress by reducing schools using pit toilets in Limpopo from 363 in 2021 to 210 schools now. But James Komape said the government hasn't kept its side of an agreement to remove pit toilets and "many children are still in real danger."

At the Seipone Secondary School, the pit toilets are officially called ventilation improved toilets, and known as "VIP toilets." They are anything but. There is anger and now pushback from students, too.

"Our health also matters, (we) cannot use toilets like these," said Tebogo Makgoka, a 17-year-old student representative.

More AP Africa news: <https://apnews.com/hub/africa>

## At Cannes, Polish filmmaker's 'In the Rearview' spotlights Ukrainians escaping war

By VANESSA GERA Associated Press

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — When Polish filmmaker Maciek Hamela first began evacuating Ukrainians fleeing Russia's war on their country, he wasn't intending to make a film. He was one of the many Poles extending humanitarian aid to neighbors under attack, and had turned down an offer to film a television investigation there.

But the reflections of the people he was transporting to safety in his van were so poignant that soon he began filming them. He asked a friend who is a director of photography to help him film — and drive — and directed his camera squarely back at his passengers as they traversed their war-scarred land.

The result is "In the Rearview," a documentary film being shown at the Cannes film festival in France as part of a parallel program devoted to independent cinema. It is not in competition.

A Polish-French co-production, it takes place almost entirely in Hamela's van, with the camera capturing the harrowed passengers, one group after another in countless journeys made between March and November of 2022.

The result is a composite portrait of men, women and children traversing a devastated landscape of bombed-out buildings and past checkpoints with dangerous detours caused by mines and collapsed bridges and roads.

The 84-minute film shows a little girl so traumatized that she stopped speaking. There is a Congolese woman who was so badly injured that she has undergone 18 operations since Hamela evacuated her. A mother with two kids who pass by the Dnieper River; believing it to be the sea, the kids ask their mother if she will take them there after the war.



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"The way we set up the film was to see the reflection of the war in these very small details of ordinary life and the life that we all have," Hamela told The Associated Press in an interview in Warsaw before he flew to Cannes.

There is also some humor, with one woman commenting ironically that she had always wanted to travel. A woman escaping with her cat saying it needed a bathroom break.

In order not to exploit the people he was helping, Hamela told them a camera was in a car before he picked them up. And they only signed forms giving him permission to use the footage after they had arrived safely at their destinations so they would never feel that was a condition for his help.

"In the Rearview" also documents one of the many Polish efforts to help Ukraine. When Russia launched its all-out invasion of Ukraine on Feb. 24, 2022, there was a massive grassroots effort to help across Poland, with regular people taking time off work to travel to the border with Ukraine to distribute food. Some picked up strangers and took them to shelters or even into their own homes.

Hamela began on day one to raise money for the Ukrainian army. By day three he had bought a van to transport Ukrainians from the Polish border and convinced his father to open his beloved summer home to strangers.

Soon Hamela heard from a friend of people in eastern Ukraine needing to be rescued, and he began driving to the front lines of the war to pick them up. Some emerged from basements where they had been sheltering in terror.

When the war began, Hamela had been working on a documentary about a crisis at Poland's border with Belarus. Large numbers of migrants from the Middle East and Africa had been trying to cross that border in 2021. Poland and other European Union countries viewed that as an effort organized by Russia's ally Belarus to destabilize Poland and other EU countries.

Poland reacted by building a wall to stop the migrants, resulting in some dying in the forests and bogs of the area.

The war in Ukraine led Hamela to drop that project, which was to have focused on the indifference in some Polish border communities to the plights of the migrants and refugees.

Having observed both crises up close, he sees a connection.

"This is my personal take on this, but I really think it was meant to antagonize Poles against all refugees in preparation for the war with Ukraine," he said.

Hamela, who is now 40, was also active in supporting Ukrainians involved in the pro-democracy Maidan Revolution of 2014, which led to Russia's initial incursions into Ukraine.

He says the world shown in his documentary could hardly be further from the glamorous world of Cannes, and he hopes it will remind people of how high the stakes are in Ukraine.

"We're trying to use this coverage to remind everybody that the war is still going on and lives need saving. And Ukraine is not going to win it without our help," he said. "So that's the ultimate task with this film."

## **Biden, McCarthy to hold pivotal meeting on debt ceiling as time to resolve standoff grows short**

By LISA MASCARO, STEPHEN GROVES and ZEKE MILLER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy are set to meet at the White House at a pivotal moment as Washington works to strike a budget compromise and raise the nation's borrowing limit in time to avert a devastating federal default.

The meeting Monday afternoon between the Democratic president and the new Republican speaker will be critical as they race to prevent a looming debt crisis. After a weekend of start-stop talks, both men appeared upbeat as they face a deadline, as soon as June 1, when the government could run out of cash to pay its bills.

Biden and McCarthy spoke by phone Sunday while the president was returning home on Air Force One after the Group of Seven summit in Japan. "It went well, we'll talk tomorrow," Biden said in response to a shouted question upon his return late Sunday.

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The call revived talks and negotiators met for 2 1/2 hours at the Capitol late Sunday evening, saying little as they left. Financial markets turned down last week after talks stalled.

McCarthy, R-Calif., told reporters earlier Sunday that the call with Biden was "productive" and that the on-again, off-again negotiations between his staff and White House representatives are focused on spending cuts.

Biden told a press conference before departing from Japan: "I think that we can reach an agreement."

The contours of an agreement appear within reach, and the negotiations have narrowed on a 2024 budget year cap that would be key to resolving the standoff. Republicans have insisted next year's spending cannot be more than current 2023 levels, but Democrats have refused to accept the steeper cuts McCarthy's team first proposed.

A budget deal would unlock a separate vote to lift the debt ceiling, now \$31 trillion, to allow more borrowing to pay bills already incurred bills. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Sunday that June 1 is a "hard deadline."

"We'll keep working," said Steve Ricchetti, counselor to the president, as the White House team exited talks late Sunday.

McCarthy said after his call with Biden that "I think we can solve some of these problems if he understands what we're looking at." The speaker added, "But I've been very clear to him from the very beginning. We have to spend less money than we spent last year."

McCarthy emerged from that conversation sounding optimistic and was careful not to criticize Biden's trip, as he had before. He did caution, "There's no agreement on anything."

Earlier, Biden used his concluding news conference in Hiroshima, Japan, to warn House Republicans that they must move off their "extreme positions" over raising the debt limit and that there would be no agreement to avoid a catastrophic default only on their terms.

Biden said "it's time for Republicans to accept that there is no deal to be made solely, solely, on their partisan terms." He said he had done his part in attempting to raise the borrowing limit so the government can keep paying its bills, by agreeing to significant cuts in spending. "Now it's time for the other side to move from their extreme position."

GOP lawmakers have been holding tight to demands for sharp spending cuts with caps on future spending, rejecting the alternatives proposed by the White House for reducing deficits in part with revenue from taxes.

Republicans want to roll back next year's spending to 2022 levels, but the White House has proposed keeping 2024 the same as it is now, in the 2023 budget year. Republicans initially sought to impose spending caps for 10 years, though the latest proposal narrowed that to about six. The White House wants a two-year budget deal.

A compromise on those topline spending levels would enable McCarthy to deliver for conservatives, while not being so severe that it would chase off the Democratic votes that would be needed in the divided Congress to pass any bill.

Republicans also want work requirements on the Medicaid health care program, though the Biden administration has countered that millions of people could lose coverage. The GOP additionally introduced new cuts to food aid by restricting states' ability to waive work requirements in places with high joblessness. But Democrats have said any changes to work requirements for government aid recipients are nonstarters.

GOP lawmakers are also seeking cuts in IRS money and, by sparing Defense and Veterans accounts from reductions, would shift the bulk of spending reductions to other federal programs.

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.

All sides have been eyeing the potential for the package to include a framework that would speed energy project developments.

And despite a push by Republicans for the White House to accept parts of their proposed immigration overhaul, McCarthy indicated the focus was on the House's previously approved debt and budget package.

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Republicans had also rejected various White House revenue proposals, with McCarthy insisting personally in his conversations to Biden that tax hikes are off the table.

For months, Biden had refused to engage in talks over the debt limit, contending that Republicans in Congress were trying to use the borrowing limit vote as leverage to extract administration concessions on other policy priorities.

But with the June 1 potential deadline looming 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.

McCarthy faces a hard-right flank that is likely to reject any deal, which has led some Democrats encouraging Biden to resist any compromise with the Republicans and simply raise the debt ceiling on his own to avoid default.

The president, though, said he was ruling out the possibility, for now, of invoking the 14th Amendment as a solution, saying it's an "unresolved" legal question that would become tied up in the courts.

Miller reported and Associated Press writer Josh Boak contributed from Hiroshima, Japan. Associated Press writers Farnoush Amiri, Colleen Long and Will Weissert contributed to this report from Washington.

## **With all the politics and maneuvering, how is life in Florida changing for its residents?**

By The Associated Press undefined

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP) — "Don't say gay." Regulation of books and classroom discussion. Teachers, parents and school librarians all navigating new and uncertain ground. LGBTQ+ rights under attack. A very public spat between state government and Disney. And at the center of it all is a governor who has emerged as a rival of former President Donald Trump and likely has his eyes set on the White House.

This is Florida at this moment in history, in mid-2023.

For many of those who live in Florida, recent months have brought some changes — many linked to Gov. Ron DeSantis. Here, longtime Florida-based Associated Press journalist Brendan Farrington, who has covered the state's politics since 1997, reflects on the changes for different groups and puts them into the context of the cultural and political landscape.

HOW LIFE IS CHANGING FOR ...

YOUR AVERAGE FLORIDIAN:

For your average Floridian, cost of living concerns have become an issue and really are not being addressed as vocally as most folks would have hoped.

Rents are going sky-high. Property insurance, whether you live near the coast or not, is becoming less available and less affordable.

Inflation obviously has played a role, but a lot of the discussion has been steered away from those issues affecting everyday Floridians into more of an "us against them" on cultural issues or abortion and discussions of race.

Guns are another thing. Under a new law, anyone who can legally own a gun can also carry it concealed without a permit. Now you need a permit in order to carry a gun and go through training and a background check to carry a concealed weapon. That will no longer have to happen beginning July 1.

There also seems to be an uptick in hate-related incidents. Somebody projected anti-Semitic messages on the Jacksonville Jaguars' stadium last season and there have been self-proclaimed Nazis waving flags and signs at events.

And, again, abortion. In April 2022, Florida passed a law setting a ban on abortion after 15 weeks, two months before the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*, and passed a stricter one enforcing that ban after six weeks this year. It's clear reproductive rights are taking a hit in Florida.

TEACHERS:

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With the “Don’t Say Gay” bill — opponents call it this because it bans discussion on sexuality in schools with students — the argument for the people who support the legislation say it doesn’t mention the word gay, that it’s simply to protect children from material that parents should have more of a say in.

But because of vague language, some people are wondering whether they can mention LGBTQ+ issues at all. A student may ask, “Why does so and so have two mommies?” Some teachers feel they can’t even address the question without ramifications.

The bill also has left some teachers feeling they can’t even represent who they are in the classroom. If they’re gay, transgender or bisexual, they’ve been left to conclude they can’t have or say anything indicating that. This includes hiding items such as photographs of partners and gay pride emblems.

Some people say it’s better not to say anything than to risk violating the mandates coming down from the state Department of Education.

## PARENTS:

It empowers parents who agree with DeSantis’ philosophy and ideology on education. But parents who welcome this discussion feel like, “What about us? What happened to our right to have our children taught about these things?” Parents with LGBTQ+ children feel they’re being denied access to health care, and subsequently their children will be put at risk for depression or suicide.

It’s almost symbolic of a lot of what DeSantis has put forward. It divides people of different ideologies and empowers people who agree with him to speak out more. It empowers parents who — for religious or moral or whatever reasons — do not want their kids to be told about sexuality, particularly gender transition or about other gay students.

And those parents who welcome these policies with open arms are becoming more engaged in school boards. DeSantis, more so than any other governor, has promoted school board races, encouraged people to run, helped candidates who share his ideology, and encouraged parents to complain to school boards. It’s put a lot more tension on the schools. And it’s dividing people among ideologies. A Sarasota school board member recently walked out of a meeting after the Republican chairwoman allowed a parent to personally attack him for being gay.

## SCHOOL LIBRARIANS:

School books must be approved by school librarians. And that’s raised questions about schools that don’t currently have a “media specialist” — someone trained to work with staff on approving library and classroom material. It allows investigations of books to happen more easily, which forces people to justify why the books should be in schools over the complaints of people who want them banned.

There are still a lot of questions about the vague language used, such as whether a book can include an LGBTQ+ character even if there is no sexual content. It’s causing schools to be a bit more cautious, perhaps even more than needed, in an effort to conform to the governor’s wishes.

## LGBTQ+ RESIDENTS:

It’s caused some steps back in LGBTQ+ rights. I think people feel more endangered — that they can be the subject of hate attacks — and by having the government get involved in these issues, people who are homophobic may feel like they can act out more often.

I’ve talked to a lot of LGBTQ+ lawmakers and activists who feel they are not being treated like whole people, and that the government is trying to suppress who they really are. In some cases, it reminds people of the anti-gay movement in the 1970s. But now, instead of fighting for rights, they are defending rights.

## THE THOUSANDS OF DISNEY EMPLOYEES IN CENTRAL FLORIDA:

I don’t know how it affects Disney employees’ day-to-day rights. I’m sure they’re taking a keen interest in the feud going on between DeSantis and their employer right now.

I don’t think Disney is going anywhere. North Carolina has floated the idea of trying to lure them. Some people have discussed that and wondered, “What if Disney moves?” But it is a huge company with such a huge footprint in central Florida, that it’s highly unlikely you’ll see this get to the point where Disney says, “No, we don’t want to be in Florida.”

## DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS:

Democrats once dominated politics in the state of Florida.



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The law enforcement team said it would fine the company, Xiao Guo Wenhua, about \$2 million (13.3 million yuan). The company did not respond to a request for comment.

An officer who did not give his name at Beijing's police headquarters declined to say whether Li was under detention or arrest, saying the investigation was continuing and the results would be publicized accordingly.

Associated Press reporter Kanis Leung in Hong Kong contributed to this report.

## Dignity denied as more than 3,000 schools in South Africa still use pit toilets

By MOGOMOTSI MAGOME Associated Press

GA-MASHASHANE, South Africa (AP) — At a high school in rural northern South Africa, more than 300 students and their teachers share three toilets, and that woefully lopsided figure isn't the worst problem.

The three toilets are pit latrines, effectively 10-foot-deep holes in the ground that students line up during a lunch break to use.

The pit toilets at Seipone Secondary School in the village of Ga-Mashashane at least are covered by white toilet seats and enclosed by brick structures. Some of the pit toilets still used at more than 3,300 schools in poor, mostly rural areas across South Africa aren't.

It's a shameful situation for a country referred to as the most developed in Africa, and an indicator of its profound problems with poverty and inequality, say human rights groups pushing the South African government to do away with the sub-standard facilities in schools forever.

Unhygienic, the latrines also present a much more direct danger.

The sight that greeted James Komape one day in January 2014 at the nearby Chebeng village is horrific by every measure.

He'd received a phone call asking him to rush to his 5-year-old son's pre-school. The little boy, Michael, was found dead, drowned at the bottom of a pit latrine. Michael's body hadn't even been removed from the pool of water mixed with feces and urine at the bottom of the pit he fell into when his father got there.

"What hurt me a lot about Michael's incident is that the people who were there saw that he had fallen in the toilet, but they did not remove him," said James Komape. "They said they were waiting for the responsible authorities to come and remove him. I told them that if they had removed him quickly maybe he could have survived."

It was Michael Komape's first week at a new school and his dreadful death incensed many South Africans. His family took the Limpopo province's education department to court and won their case seeking damages. Later, court orders compelled the South African government to urgently address the issue of pit toilets in schools.

But the tragedy of Michael Komape has not been unique. Other small children have also drowned in pit latrines in the near-decade since, one girl as recently as last month, another boy in March. There are no reliable figures to say how many children have lost their lives in pit toilets.

The latrines, which have an outlet that is used to drain them periodically, are cheaper and more practical for poorer schools because they don't rely on a constant supply of running water.

At the Jupiter Pre-School and Creche in the same Limpopo province where Michael died, children as young as 3 are still using pit toilets that have no proper seat but rather a hole carved out of a concrete slab that opens to the pit below.

"These are not good because of possible accidents of children falling in the toilet," the school's manager, Florina Ledwaba, said. "We have to follow them (the children) every time. What if they go without you seeing them? They are not safe at all."

The Equal Education human rights group has been inspecting pit toilets in South African schools. Tiny Lebelo, an organizer with the group, expresses frustration over an issue that should be a top priority for

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For decades, their party was in control. They controlled the Legislature and the governor's office most years. Even when the Republicans were elected to the governor's office, they had a Democratic Legislature to deal with until Jeb Bush seemed to bring new life to the state Republican Party, despite losing his first election in 1994. By the time he won in 1998, Republicans had a legislative majority and built on that year after year after year.

Republicans now have a supermajority in the Legislature. They now hold all statewide offices and have more registered voters than Democrats. And the power of the party is playing to its strengths and voter engagement and messaging.

Democrats seem to be frustrated in Tallahassee because they have no power to stop legislation without the numbers to prevent bills from moving forward. They're now relegated mostly to messaging, trying to work with colleagues on the other side of the aisle to tweak legislation and make what they call bad bills a little bit better.

But generally, they know they can't do anything. Republicans are having a field day and, basically, doing whatever they want. DeSantis has exerted more control over the Legislature than any governor I've seen.

DESANTIS HIMSELF:

Gov. DeSantis won by a larger margin than any Republican has won the state of Florida. And he's used that as a mandate that the state supports him and his policy and ideology.

So it's made him more powerful in Florida. It's made him more emboldened. And the agenda that he has passed fits very well for a GOP presidential primary.

A lot of the issues that he's taken on, he's doing so to play just as much in places like Iowa and South Carolina as he is in Florida. He's used the word woke more times in the past year than probably the four years previous. That's been a big change for him.

He's been doing his book tour and traveling. His name recognition has skyrocketed nationally outside of Florida. But with that, he's increasingly coming under fire from fellow Republicans, especially Trump.

Other candidates and potential hopefuls such as Mike Pence and Nikki Haley have criticized him for attacking Disney, which they say is attacking businesses and isn't the Republican thing to do. In turn, DeSantis has had to defend himself more. While he isn't a candidate yet — that's expected very soon — he's essentially campaigning while traveling to Iowa, New Hampshire and other key primary states.

## One year after Uvalde shooting, investigation of police response continues

By PAUL J. WEBER Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A criminal investigation in Texas over the hesitant police response to the Robb Elementary School shooting is still ongoing as Wednesday marks one year since a gunman killed 19 children and two teachers inside a fourth-grade classroom in Uvalde.

The continuing probe underlines the lasting fallout over Texas' deadliest school shooting and how the days after the attack were marred by authorities giving inaccurate and conflicting accounts about efforts made to stop a teenage gunman armed with an AR-style rifle.

The investigation has run parallel to a new wave of public anger in the U.S. over gun violence, renewed calls for stricter firearm regulations and legal challenges over authorities in Uvalde continuing to withhold public records related to the shooting and the police response.

Here's a look at what has happened in the year since one of America's deadliest mass shootings:

POLICE SCRUTINY

A damning report by Texas lawmakers put nearly 400 officers on the scene from an array of federal, state and local agencies. The findings laid out how heavily armed officers waited more than hour to confront and kill the 18-year-old gunman. It also accused police of failing "to prioritize saving innocent lives over their own safety."

All of the students killed were between the ages of 9 and 11 years old.

At least five officers who were put under investigation after the shooting were either fired or resigned,

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although a full accounting is unclear. The head of the Texas Department of Public Safety, Col. Steve McCraw, put much of the blame after the attack on Uvalde's school police chief, who was later fired by trustees.

McCraw had more than 90 of his own officers at the school — more than any other agency — and has rebuffed calls by some Uvalde families and lawmakers to also resign.

Uvalde County District Attorney Christina Mitchell said last week that Texas Rangers are still investigating the police response and that her office will ultimately present the findings to a grand jury. She said she did not have a timeline for when the investigation would be finished.

## CALLS FOR GUN CONTROL INTENSIFY

President Joe Biden signed the nation's most sweeping gun violence bill in decades a month after the shooting. It included tougher background checks for the youngest gun buyers and added more funding for mental health programs and aid to schools.

It did not go as far as restrictions sought by some Uvalde families who have called on lawmakers to raise the purchase age for AR-style rifles. In the GOP-controlled Texas Capitol, Republicans this year rejected virtually all proposals to tighten gun laws over the protests of the families and Democrats.

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott has also waved off calls for tougher gun laws, just as he did after mass shootings at a Sutherland Springs church in 2017 and an El Paso Walmart in 2018. The issue has not turned Texas voters away from Abbott, who easily won a third term months after the Uvalde shooting.

## UVALDE GRIEVES

The Uvalde school district permanently closed the Robb Elementary campus and plans for a new school are in the works. Schools in Uvalde will be closed on Wednesday.

About a dozen students in the classroom where the shooting unfolded survived the attack. Some returned to class in person last fall. Others attended school virtually, including a girl who spent more than two months in the hospital after being shot multiple times.

Veronica Mata, a kindergarten teacher in Uvalde, also returned to class this year after her 10-daughter Tess was among those killed in the attack.

Some Uvalde families have filed lawsuits against the gun maker and law enforcement.

## Debt ceiling explained: Why it's a struggle in Washington and how the impasse could end

By LISA MASCARO and MARY CLARE JALONICK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy will meet face to face Monday after a weekend of on again, off again negotiations over raising the nation's debt ceiling and mere days before the government could reach a "hard deadline" and run out of cash to pay its bills.

The two sides are working to reach a budget compromise before June 1, when Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has said the country could default.

McCarthy and Republicans are insisting on spending cuts in exchange for raising the debt limit. Biden has come to the negotiating table after balking for months but says the GOP lawmakers will have to back off their "extreme positions."

On Sunday evening, negotiators met again and appeared to be narrowing on a 2024 budget year cap that could resolve the standoff. After speaking with Biden by phone as the president traveled home from a trip to Asia, McCarthy sounded somewhat optimistic. But he warned that "there's no agreement on anything."

A look at the negotiations and why they are happening:

### WHAT IS THE DEBT CEILING FIGHT ALL ABOUT?

Once a routine act by Congress, the vote to raise the debt ceiling allows the Treasury Department to continue borrowing money to pay the nation's already incurred bills.

The vote in more recent times has been used as a political leverage point, a must-pass bill that can be loaded up with other priorities.

House Republicans, newly empowered in the majority this Congress, are refusing to raise the debt limit

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unless Biden and the Democrats impose federal spending cuts and restrictions on future spending.

The Republicans say the nation's debt, now at \$31 trillion, is unsustainable. They also want to attach other priorities, including stiffer work requirements on recipients of government cash aid, food stamps and the Medicaid health care program. Many Democrats oppose those requirements.

Biden had insisted on approving the debt ceiling with no strings attached, saying the U.S. always pays its bills and defaulting on debt is non-negotiable.

But facing a deadline as soon as June 1, when Treasury says it will run out of money, Biden launched negotiations with Republicans.

## IS IT CLOSE TO BEING RESOLVED?

There are positive signs, though there have been rocky moments in the talks.

Start-stop negotiations were back on track late Sunday, and all sides appear to be racing toward a deal. Negotiators left the Capitol after 8 p.m. Sunday and said they would keep working.

McCarthy said after his call with Biden that "I think we can solve some of these problems if he understands what we're looking at."

The speaker added: "We have to spend less money than we spent last year."

Biden, for his part, said at a press conference in Japan before departing: "I think that we can reach an agreement."

But reaching an agreement is only part of the challenge. Any deal will also have to pass the House and Senate with significant bipartisan support. Many expect that buy-in from the White House and GOP leadership will be enough to muscle it over the finish line.

## WHAT ARE THE HANGUPS?

Republicans want to roll back spending to 2022 levels and cap future spending for the next decade.

Democrats aren't willing to go that far to cut federal spending. The White House has instead proposed holding spending flat at the current 2023 levels.

There are also policy priorities under consideration, including steps that could help speed the construction and development of energy projects that both Republicans and some Democrats want.

Democrats have strenuously objected to a Republican push to impose stiffer work requirements on people who receive government aid through food stamps, Medicaid health care and the cash assistance programs.

Biden, though, has kept the door open to some discussion over work requirements.

## WHAT HAPPENS IF THEY DON'T RAISE THE DEBT CEILING?

A government default would be unprecedented and devastating to the nation's economy. Yellen and economic experts have said it could be "catastrophic."

There isn't really a blueprint for what would happen. But it would have far-reaching effects.

Yellen has said it would destroy jobs and businesses and leave millions of families who rely on federal government payments to "likely go unpaid," including Social Security beneficiaries, veterans and military families.

More than 8 million people could lose their jobs, government officials estimate. The economy could nosedive into a recession.

"A default could cause widespread suffering as Americans lose the income that they need to get by," she said. Disruptions to federal government operations would impact "air traffic control and law enforcement, border security and national defense, and food safety."

## IS THERE A BACKUP PLAN IF TALKS FAIL?

Some Democrats have proposed that they could raise the debt ceiling on their own, without help from Republicans.

Progressives have urged Biden to invoke a clause in the Constitution's 14th Amendment that says the validity of the public debt in the United States "shall not be questioned." Default, the argument goes, is therefore unconstitutional.

Supporters of unilateral action say Biden already has the authority to effectively nullify the debt limit



if Congress won't raise it, so that the validity of the country's debt isn't questioned. The president said Sunday that it's a "question that I think is unresolved," as to whether he could act alone, adding he hopes to try to get the judiciary to weigh in on the notion for the future.

In Congress, meanwhile, House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries has launched a process that would "discharge" the issue to the House floor and force a vote on raising the debt limit.

It's a cumbersome legislative procedure, but Jeffries urged House Democrats to sign on to the measure in hopes of gathering the majority needed to trigger a vote.

The challenge for Democrats is that they have only 213 members on their side — five short of the 218 needed for a majority.

Getting five Republicans to cross over and join the effort won't be easy. Signing onto a "discharge" petition from the minority is seen as a major affront to party leadership, particularly on an issue as important as the debt ceiling. Few Republicans, if any, may be willing to suffer the consequences.

## Death of 8-year-old girl in Border Patrol custody highlights challenges providing medical care

By ELLIOT SPAGAT Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The recent deaths of an 8-year-old Panamanian girl and 17-year-old boy from Honduras who were under U.S. government supervision have again raised questions about how prepared authorities are to handle medical emergencies suffered by migrants arriving in the U.S., especially as agencies struggle with massive overcrowding at facilities along the southern border.

Anadith Tanay Reyes Alvarez became unresponsive on a what was at least a third visit to medics Wednesday at a Border Patrol station in Harlingen, Texas, and died later in a hospital, U.S. Customs and Protection said. The girl had complained that day of vomiting and stomach pains.

She died on her family's ninth day in custody; the most time allowed is 72 hours under agency policy.

The family told agents that the girl had a history of heart problems and sickle cell anemia, CBP acknowledged in its second statement on the death. She was diagnosed with influenza on the family's sixth day in custody, which prompted them to be move to another station.

CBP published a detailed account on Sunday, confirming key aspects of what the girl's mother said two days earlier in an interview with The Associated Press. It initially published only a brief statement.

Mabel Alvarez Benedicks told the AP 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. She said the daughter was finally taken in ambulance after falling limp and unconscious and bleeding from the mouth.

Agents said her daughter's diagnosis of influenza did not require hospital care, according to the mother.

The girl's death came a week after 17-year-old Ángel Eduardo Maradiaga Espinoza of Honduras died in U.S. Health and Human Services Department custody. He was traveling alone.

WHY ARE SO MANY PEOPLE IN BORDER PATROL CUSTODY?

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 into custody a day the second week of May, 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.

Those who qualify to be released from custody to pursue asylum are processed for immigration court, which takes 90 minutes to two hours for a single adult and longer for families and creates severe bottlenecks.

By contrast, it takes only 20 minutes to release someone with instructions to report to an immigration

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office in 60 days, a common practice in 2021 and 2022. A federal judge in Florida who ordered an end to quick releases in March also blocked the administration's attempt to resume them last week in what officials described as an necessary emergency response to overcrowding.

Amid this month's surge, hundreds of migrants slept on the ground, many for days, on U.S. soil between two border walls in San Diego as hundreds more holed up in a remote mountainous area east of the city in huts made of tree branches. The agency provided a limited diet of water and chips or granola bars. Pedro Rios, director of the American Friends Service Committee's U.S.-Mexico border program, said the Border Patrol told him to call 911 when volunteers encountered an 8-month-old between the walls who was "listless and vomiting."

## WHAT HAPPENS WHEN SOMEONE IS TAKEN INTO CUSTODY?

Border Patrol holding facilities are short-term, with people sleeping on floormats with foil blankets. Thick plastic curtains have replaced chain-link fences to prohibit free movement.

Single adults may be transferred to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to be deported, released in the U.S. with notices to appear in immigration court or held for long-term detention.

ICE had nearly 26,000 people in long-term detention in April. Its facilities resemble prisons and often are prisons, operated by local police agencies or prison companies like CoreCivic and The Geo Group Inc.

The government generally cannot hold families more than 20 days under a 2015 court order. President Joe Biden broke with predecessors Donald Trump and Barack Obama by refusing to detain families at all beyond their initial 72 hours with the Border Patrol. His administration recently adopted curfews with electronic monitoring for families released in four cities until they pass initial asylum screenings.

Children traveling alone are transferred to the U.S. Health and Human Services Department, which generally places them with parents or relatives after short stays in contracted holding facilities. In 2021, the department was unprepared to take children in 72 hours, causing them to languish in Border Patrol care. It eventually contracted for convention centers in California, military bases in Texas and other temporary sites.

The Border Patrol returns some migrants who do not qualify for release in the U.S. to Mexico, including Cubans, Haitians, Nicaraguans and Venezuelans, as well as Mexicans.

To deport non-Mexicans, ICE runs charter flights and, in rare cases, flies commercial. In April, ICE chartered 117 flights, including 33 to Guatemala, 21 to Colombia, 20 to Ecuador and 17 to Honduras, according to Witness at the Border, an advocacy group that relies on flight data. **WHAT MEDICAL CARE IS AVAILABLE AT BORDER PATROL HOLDING FACILITIES?**

The Border Patrol's parent agency, Customs and Border Protection, created a chief medical officer position in 2020 but services are limited. During a tour of a major holding center in McAllen this month, officials said they had about 100 medications on hand and that 23% of detainees had medical needs. The center has a medical booth and a more private exam room with two stethoscopes hanging on the wall.

Medical personnel screen for infectious disease — a critical job during COVID-19. They also ensure detainees have needed medications, deliver babies and respond to any need that can avoid a trip to the hospital.

Its facilities added more than 1,000 "medical contractors" in the last two years, Troy Miller, CBP acting commissioner, said Sunday. He promised "immediate action to review and, where needed, strengthen practices to ensure immediate and appropriate care is being provided to all individuals, especially those who are medically at-risk."

## ARE CURRENT CHALLENGES NEW?

No, and the growing presence of families and unaccompanied children at the border over the last decade has presented U.S. authorities with enormous responsibilities for medical care.

At least six children died during a roughly yearlong period from 2018 to 2019 during the Trump administration; they were held in either Border Patrol or Health and Human Services custody. In March, a 4-year-old "medically fragile" Honduran girl who was in the care of the Health and Human Services died in a Michigan hospital three days after cardiac arrest.

In 2019, amid a previous surge of border crossings, the Homeland Security Department's internal watch-

dog observed 750 adults crammed in a space for 125 in El Paso, Texas. People stood on toilets for space to breathe. Another watchdog report in 2019 from Rio Grande Valley found that men were held in standing-room only for a week and some children under 7 were in overcrowded conditions more than two weeks.

Associated Press writer Rebecca Santana in Washington contributed.

## Tim Scott set to announce launch of his 2024 GOP presidential campaign

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

NORTH CHARLESTON, S.C. (AP) — As he launches his presidential campaign on Monday, Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina is officially wading into a GOP primary battle already largely dominated by two commanding figures: former President Donald Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Scott, the only Black Republican senator, will make his campaign announcement in his hometown of North Charleston after making it official last week with the Federal Election Commission. The late morning event is taking place at Charleston Southern University, Scott's alma mater and a private school affiliated with the Southern Baptist Convention.

Then he'll spend Tuesday with donors in Charleston before a whirlwind, two-day campaign swing to Iowa and New Hampshire.

Like others in the GOP race, including former United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley, former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson and "Woke, Inc." author Vivek Ramaswamy, Scott will have to find a way to stand out in a field led by Trump and DeSantis, the latter of whom could announce his own bid as early as this week.

But Scott's senior advisers note that political environments can shift over the course of a primary campaign, pointing to early in the 2016 race when Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush were seen as the top GOP candidates before Trump became the party's nominee.

One way Scott, 57, hopes to make his mark is by leaning into more optimistic rhetoric than his conservative rivals. With his Christian faith an integral part of his political and personal story, Scott often quotes Scripture at his campaign events, weaving his reliance on spiritual guidance into his stump speech and even bestowing the name "Faith in America" on his pre-launch listening tour.

In terms of Scott's political strength, his team points to his most recent Senate reelection in November, when Scott defeated his Democratic opponent by more than 20 percentage points. Such overwhelming support in a state that votes early in the GOP's presidential nominating calendar bodes well for Scott's electability on a larger scale, his advisers say.

There's also the matter of money. He will enter the 2024 race with more cash on hand than any other presidential candidate in U.S. history. He had \$22 million left in his campaign bank account at the end of his 2022 campaign and plans to immediately transfer that to his presidential coffers.

It's enough money, his team says, to keep Scott on the air with continuous TV ads in early voting states until the first round of votes next year.

On many issues, Scott aligns with mainstream GOP positions. He wants to reduce government spending and restrict abortion, saying he would sign a federal law to prohibit abortions after 15 weeks of pregnancy if elected president.

But Scott has pushed the party on some policing overhaul measures since the killing of George Floyd, and he has occasionally criticized Trump's response to racial tensions. Throughout their disagreements, though, Scott has maintained a generally cordial relationship with Trump, saying in his book that the former president "listened intently" to his viewpoints on race-related issues.

When he was appointed to the Senate by then-Gov. Nikki Haley in 2012, Scott became the first Black senator from the South since just after the Civil War. Winning a 2014 special election to serve out the remainder of his term made him the first Black candidate to win a statewide race in South Carolina since the Reconstruction era.

He has long said his current term, which runs through 2029, would be his last.

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Scott rejects the notion that the country is inherently racist and has repudiated the teaching of critical race theory, an academic framework that presents the idea that the nation's institutions maintain the dominance of white people.

"Hear me clearly: America is not a racist country," Scott has said. "It's backwards to fight discrimination with different types of discrimination. And it's wrong to try to use our painful past to dishonestly shut down debates in the present."

If Scott is successful, he would be the first Black person to win the Republican presidential nomination and the second elected to the presidency, following Barack Obama in 2008.

In a video announcing his exploratory committee earlier this year, Scott positioned himself as the antidote to the "radical left: a self-made success story as the son of a single mother who overcame poverty. He also bemoaned Democratic leaders as needlessly dividing the country by fostering a "culture of grievance."

Other Republicans are still deciding whether to wade into the presidential race, including former Vice President Mike Pence, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and Miami Mayor Francis Suarez.

President Joe Biden is seeking reelection, a decision that has largely cleared the Democratic field.

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

## What to stream this week: 'American Born Chinese,' John Wick,'SmartLess On the Road' and dinosaurs

By The Associated Press undefined

Sure, lots of folks are eagerly anticipating this Sunday's "Succession" finale. But what if you haven't followed the Roy family drama? There's plenty of don't miss new television, movies, music and games headed to a device near you.

Among the offerings worth your time as selected by The Associated Press' entertainment journalists are streaming arrival of the latest "John Wick" film, the end of a long drought of new Matchbox Twenty music, a video game that lets you play one of Middle Earth's most recognizable characters and a television adaptation of the graphic novel "American Born Chinese."

### NEW MOVIES TO STREAM

— It can be hard to believe when corporate folks make genuinely altruistic gestures, especially involving their fortunes, but neither Kris McDivitt Tompkins, the first CEO of Patagonia, nor her late husband, Doug Tompkins, the founder the North Face and Esprit, were ones to play by the rules. "Wild Life," a new documentary from the Oscar-winning "Free Solo" filmmakers, tells the story of this couple, their love of the outdoors, their adventurous spirits and how they funneled their fortunes to "rewilding" conservation efforts by buying up roughly 2.2 million acres in Argentina and Chile. "Wild Life" starts streaming on Disney+ and Hulu on Friday, May 26.

— It's a robust week for Sundance documentaries on streaming as "Victim/Suspect" debuts on Netflix on Tuesday. This film from director Nancy Schwartzman follows reporter Rae de Leon's investigation into a disturbing pattern: That in the United States, women reporting sexual assaults often become suspects. The film delves into possible flaws and loopholes in the system that may be enabling the chilling trend.

— For more escapism, Keanu Reeves' tireless assassin John Wick returns for a fourth film, which makes its way to video on demand on Tuesday. This time, Wick goes to Paris. He's still being hunted but has also gone on the offensive. AP's Mark Kennedy wrote in his review that this installment elevates and expands the franchise. "The fourth installment is more stylish, more elegant and more bonkers — kind of like Paris itself," Kennedy said. It also serves as a bittersweet farewell to the Continental Hotel concierge Charon, played by Lance Reddick, who died shortly before the film came out.

— AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr

### NEW MUSIC TO STREAM

— Pop-rockers Matchbox Twenty end over a decade away with their fifth studio album, "Where The Light Goes," out Friday, May 26. It's an upbeat collection, opening with a horn-drenched, sing-along "Friends"



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— the chorus goes “All my friends are here” and the song features the vocals from bandmember Paul Doucette’s son — and other highlights include singer-songwriter Amanda Shires’ duet with frontman Rob Thomas on the cheerful “No Other Love” and the single “Wild Dogs (Running In a Slow Dream),” which captures that time in your youth when you finally find your people.

— Go to your local movie theater to catch Roger Waters live on his “This Is Not a Drill” tour from the Czech Republic on Thursday. The concert will include 20 Pink Floyd and Waters classics, including: “Us & Them,” “Comfortably Numb,” “Wish You Were Here” and “Is This The Life We Really Want?” Waters will also debut his new song, “The Bar.” The show will be broadcast to 1,500 cinemas across more than 50 countries.

— Celebrate the end of “The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel” by singing along with an album of the fifth and final season’s music. The album features songs like “Relax Max” by Dinah Washington, “I Love The Way You Say Goodnight” by Doris Day with The Page Cavanaugh Trio, Barbra Streisand’s “Who’s Afraid of the Big Bad Wolf” and Tony Bennett’s “I Wanna Be Around.” Fans will appreciate actor Hank Azaria doing “Nancy (With The Laughing Face)” and the cast belting out “Everything Grows!”

— AP Entertainment Writer Mark Kennedy

## NEW SERIES TO STREAM

— Dinosaurs once again come to life in the second season of “Prehistoric Planet” on Apple TV+. Executive produced by Jon Favreau and the team behind “Planet Earth,” the docuseries uses the latest technology to not only create dinosaurs that look real, but also to immerse viewers into their habitat. Sir David Attenborough returns to narrate. “Prehistoric Planet” season two is presented as an event series, debuting Monday followed by a new episode each day that week.

— Each episode of the “SmartLess” podcast hosted by Jason Bateman, Sean Hayes and Will Arnett features an entertaining conversation with a guest, but one of the best parts about the trio is their banter with each other. These longtime friends bicker and rib one another like family. The guys took their show on the road in 2022 to six cities, hosting conversations in front of a live, sold-out audience with surprise guests. If you weren’t one of the lucky ones to see them live, it turns out cameras were rolling. “Smartless: On the Road” debuts Tuesday on Max.

— The new action-comedy series “American Born Chinese” is based on the graphic novel by Gene Luen Yang. It stars Ben Wang as a high schooler trying to survive the daily life as a first generation American in a Chinese family. He meets an exchange student from Taiwan and finds himself caught up in a war of ancient Chinese Gods. The series strikes a balance between a coming-of-age story and mythology with the spirit of the graphic novel. It also boasts a cast that includes Oscar winners Ke Huy Quan and Michele Yeoh, plus Chin Han and Daniel Wu. Recurring cast members include Stephanie Hsu, Ronnie Chieng and Jimmy O. Yang. “American Born Chinese” premieres Wednesday on Disney+.

— Alicia Rancilio

## NEW VIDEO GAMES TO PLAY

— You’re off to visit Middle-Earth. Which character do you want to be? Frodo? Gandalf? Legolas? Daedalic Entertainment is betting on a more conflicted protagonist with The Lord of the Rings: Gollum. Instead of wielding cool weapons and flashy spells, Gollum has to rely on stealth and spiderlike climbing skills to survive. He also has to put up with kibitzing from his alter ego, Smeagol, the kindhearted hobbit Gollum was before being corrupted by his “precioussss” One Ring. The German studio Daedalic is best known for story-heavy adventures like its Deponia series, so it could be interesting to see how it tackles a tale set in J.R.R. Tolkien’s sprawling world. Gollum’s journey begins Friday, May 26, on Xbox X/S/One, PlayStation 5/4 and PC.

— In a typical post-apocalyptic video game like Fallout or The Last of Us, there are still plenty of people wandering the planet. Private Division’s After Us isn’t messing around — in its future, human beings have been wiped off the face of the Earth. You play as Gaia, the “spirit of life,” and your mission is to gather the lost souls of all the species that have been driven to extinction. Oil-drenched monsters called Devourers are out to stop any hope of revival. Despite the grim setting, After Us looks gorgeous, evoking the haunted wasteland of the 2012 classic Journey. And Barcelona-based Piccolo Studio says it’s a story of “sacrifice

and hope," so Earth may not be done just yet. It arrives Tuesday on Xbox X/S, PlayStation 5 and PC.  
— Lou Kesten

Catch up on AP's entertainment coverage here: <https://apnews.com/apf-entertainment>.

## Heat roll past Celtics 128-102, take 3-0 lead in Eastern Conference finals

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — Erik Spoelstra had his team fully expecting that Game 3 of the Eastern Conference finals would be extremely difficult, that the Miami Heat were going to have to take the best shot that a desperate bunch of Boston Celtics could muster.

He was wrong.

It was a Heat romp — and a team that had to pull off a frantic rally just to make the playoffs is now one win from the NBA Finals.

Gabe Vincent scored a career-high 29 points, Duncan Robinson added 22 and the eighth-seeded Heat rolled past the Celtics 128-102 on Sunday night. Miami leads the series 3-0, with a chance to finish off a stunning sweep on Tuesday night at home in Game 4,

"That was a solid, mature, professional approach," said Spoelstra, now on the brink of a sixth trip to the NBA Finals as Miami's coach. "There's a lot of pent-up stuff here and we're getting closer, but we still have to finish this off."

Caleb Martin scored 18, Jimmy Butler finished with 16, Bam Adebayo had 13 and Max Strus added 10 for Miami. Every team in NBA history that has won the first three games of a best-of-seven has ultimately prevailed; the Heat are 8-0 in that situation.

"The rim was as big as the ocean for everybody," Adebayo said, after Miami shot 57%.

Jayson Tatum scored 14 and Jaylen Brown added 12 for the second-seeded Celtics, who won three times on Miami's floor on the way to winning last season's East finals — but simply never had a chance in this one and basically emptied the bench for the fourth quarter.

"I just didn't have them ready to play," said Boston coach Joe Mazzulla, who has been the subject of tons of criticism in this series — and will surely face more going into Tuesday. "Whatever it was, whether it was the starting lineup or an adjustment, I have to get them in a better place, ready to play. That's on me."

Grant Williams and Payton Pritchard each added 12 for Boston.

"To their credit, they're playing well above their means," Brown said. "They're ballin' right now and I've got to give them respect. Gabe Vincent, Martin, Strus, Duncan Robinson, guys that we should be able to keep under control are playing their (butt) off."

The NBA Finals start June 1, and the way things are going, that might mean the league is about to go a few days without games. The Western Conference finals could end Monday; Denver leads that series against the Los Angeles Lakers 3-0. And now, the East finals could end Tuesday.

"It's the first to four games," Vincent said. "We're not satisfied with three."

There's never been a season where both conference finals ended in sweeps; it happened in 1957 in the division finals immediately preceding the title series, when Boston beat Syracuse 3-0 and St. Louis beat Minneapolis 3-0.

Of all the 3-0 series leads in NBA history, this one might be the most unexpected — a No. 8 seed in the Heat, a team that struggled just to get into the playoffs, a team that was less than 3 minutes away from being eliminated in the play-in tournament, getting past top-seeded Milwaukee in five games, then fifth-seeded New York in six, and now on the brink of denying the Celtics a second consecutive East crown.

And the Heat let Boston know how much they were enjoying this one.

Mindful that Boston's Al Horford directed a timeout signal toward the Miami bench during Game 1 when the Celtics were on a second-quarter spurt to build a comfortable lead, Butler did the same to Horford as

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the Heat were running away in the third quarter of Game 3.

Besides, the Heat rallied to win Game 1 anyway. There was no rally required in Game 3 by the Heat. There was barely one attempted by the Celtics, for that matter.

"I don't even know where to start," Brown said. "It's an obvious letdown. I feel like we let our fan base, organization down. We let ourselves down. And it was collective. We can point fingers, but in reality, it was just embarrassing."

Boston got within 61-49 when Marcus Smart had a three-point play on the opening possession of the second half. The rest was all Miami, which immediately answered with a 28-7 run to open a 33-point lead at 89-56, which had the building rolling. The lead was so big, and there was so much time left, that the sellout crowd of 20,088 actually was subdued a bit by the time it was over.

They might have been yelled-out. Or maybe they were saving it for hockey on Monday night, when the Florida Panthers — another No. 8 seed on a magical playoff run in South Florida — will try to take a 3-0 lead in their East finals series against the Carolina Hurricanes.

"We'll decompress tomorrow," Spoelstra said, "but we'll really get our minds right to finish this thing off."

## TIP-INS

Celtics: Robert Williams made his first shot, meaning he made 12 straight to start the series. He missed his second attempt. ... The Heat encourage fans to wear white to playoff games, and Tatum also arrived in an all-white suit.

Heat: Robinson made five 3-pointers and now has 124 in his Heat postseason career, passing LeBron James (123) for the most in Miami history. ... Butler's steal with 7:17 left in the first quarter was the 2,000th in Heat postseason history. ... Vincent's previous career best was 28, set in a Jan. 12 win over Milwaukee.

## LOVE HURT

Miami's Kevin Love checked out 4:47 into the game after what the Heat said was an undisclosed ankle injury. He went to the Heat locker room for evaluation, returned to the bench area later in the first half, but did not return to the game.

## QUOTABLE

"The lack of mental toughness. It's embarrassing ... that was an embarrassment for the Celtics." — TNT's Charles Barkley at halftime, with Boston trailing 61-46 and after being down by as many as 22 points.

AP NBA: <https://apnews.com/hub/NBA> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## On debt ceiling, Biden, McCarthy to meet Monday as negotiators 'keep working' to resolve standoff

By STEPHEN GROVES, ZEKE MILLER and JOSH BOAK Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House and House Republicans wrapped up another round of debt ceiling talks Sunday as Washington races to strike a budget compromise along with a deal to raise the nation's borrowing limit and avert an economy-wrecking federal default.

President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy spoke by phone Sunday while the president was returning home on Air Force One after the Group of Seven summit in Japan. They plan to meet Monday at the White House.

"It went well, we'll talk tomorrow," Biden said of the phone call as he arrived back in Washington late in the evening.

Upbeat, McCarthy, R-Calif., told reporters at the Capitol that the call was "productive" and that the on-again, off-again negotiations between his staff and White House representatives are focused on spending cuts.

Negotiators for the Democratic president and Republican speaker met for 2 1/2 hours at the Capitol as talks appear to be narrowing on a 2024 budget year cap that would be key to resolving the standoff. "We'll keep working," said Steve Ricchetti, counselor to the president, as the White House team exited. The Republicans were not seen leaving the speaker's office and offered no immediate comment after the talks.

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They all face a deadline, as soon as June 1, when the government could run out of cash to pay its bills. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Sunday that June 1 is a "hard deadline."

McCarthy said after his call with Biden that "I think we can solve some of these problems if he understands what we're looking at." The speaker added, "But I've been very clear to him from the very beginning. We have to spend less money than we spent last year."

McCarthy emerged from that conversation sounding optimistic and was careful not to criticize Biden's trip, as he had before. He did caution, "There's no agreement on anything."

"We're looking at, how do we have a victory for this country?" McCarthy said. He said he did not think the final legislation would remake the federal budget and the country's debt, but at least "put us on a path to change the behavior of this runaway spending."

The White House confirmed the Monday meeting and late Sunday talks but did not elaborate on the leaders' call.

Earlier, Biden used his concluding news conference in Hiroshima, Japan, to warn House Republicans that they must move off their "extreme positions" over raising the debt limit and that there would be no agreement to avoid a catastrophic default only on their terms.

Biden said "it's time for Republicans to accept that there is no deal to be made solely, solely, on their partisan terms." He said he had done his part in attempting to raise the borrowing limit so the government can keep paying its bills, by agreeing to significant cuts in spending. "Now it's time for the other side to move from their extreme position."

Biden had been scheduled to travel from Hiroshima to Papua New Guinea and Australia, but cut short his trip in light of the strained negotiations with Capitol Hill.

Even with a new wave of tax revenue expected soon, perhaps giving both sides more time to negotiate, Yellen said on NBC's "Meet the Press" that "the odds of reaching June 15, while being able to pay all of our bills, is quite low."

GOP lawmakers are holding tight to demands for sharp spending cuts with caps on future spending, rejecting the alternatives proposed by the White House for reducing deficits in part with revenue from taxes.

Republicans want to roll back next year's spending to 2022 levels, but the White House has proposed keeping 2024 the same as it is now, in the 2023 budget year. Republicans initially sought to impose spending caps for 10 years, though the latest proposal narrowed that to about six. The White House wants a two-year budget deal.

A compromise on those topline spending levels would enable McCarthy to deliver for conservatives, while not being so severe that it would chase off the Democratic votes that would be needed in the divided Congress to pass any bill.

Top Republican negotiator Rep. Garret Graves of Louisiana, speaking alongside McCarthy at the Capitol, said the numbers "are the foundation" of any agreement.

Republicans also want work requirements on the Medicaid health care program, though the Biden administration has countered that millions of people could lose coverage. The GOP additionally 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 in IRS money and, by sparing Defense and Veterans accounts from reductions, would shift the bulk of spending reductions to other federal programs.

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.

All sides have been eyeing the potential for the package to include a framework that would speed energy project developments.

And despite a push by Republicans for the White House to accept parts of their proposed immigration overhaul, McCarthy indicated the focus was on the House's previously approved debt and budget package.

"I think that we can reach an agreement," Biden said, though he added this about Republicans: "I can't



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guarantee that they wouldn't force a default by doing something outrageous."

Republicans had also rejected various White House revenue proposals. Among the proposals the GOP objects to are policies that would enable Medicare to pay less for prescription drugs. Republicans also have refused to roll back Trump-era tax breaks on corporations and wealthy households as Biden's own budget has proposed.

For months, Biden had refused to engage in talks over the debt limit, contending that Republicans in Congress were trying to use the borrowing limit vote as leverage to extract administration concessions on other policy priorities.

But with the June 1 potential deadline looming 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.

Biden's decision to set up a call with McCarthy came after another start-stop day with no outward signs of progress.

The president tried to assure leaders attending the meeting of the world's most powerful democracies that the United States would not default. U.S. officials said leaders were concerned, but largely confident that Biden and American lawmakers would resolve the crisis.

The president, though, said he was ruling out the possibility of taking action on his own to avoid a default. Any such steps, including suggestions to invoke the 14th Amendment as a solution, would become tied up in the courts.

"That's a question that I think is unresolved," Biden said, adding he hopes to try to get the judiciary to weigh in on the notion for the future.

Miller and Boak reported from Hiroshima, Japan. Associated Press writers Lisa Mascaro, Farnoush Amiri, Colleen Long and Will Weissert contributed to this report.

## Brooks Koepka delivers another major performance to win PGA

By DOUG FERGUSON AP Golf Writer

PITTSFORD, N.Y. (AP) — Confidence was never an issue for Brooks Koepka until the injuries piled up, the doubts crept in and he began to wonder if he still belonged among golf's elite.

Koepka answered every question at the PGA Championship with a performance that ranks among his best. His fifth major title was the sweetest of them all. No doubt about that, either.

"It feels damned good. Yeah, this one is definitely special," Koepka said. "I think this one is probably the most meaningful of them all with everything that's gone on, all the crazy stuff over the last few years."

One knee injury kept him from the Masters, another from the Presidents Cup in Australia. Two years ago, he tried to pop his knee back into place and shattered his knee cap. And then last summer, uncertain about his future, he decided to leave the PGA Tour for the guaranteed Saudi riches of LIV Golf, bringing a mixture of criticism and skepticism.

And there he was Sunday at Oak Hill, looking good as new, dominant as ever, against the best collection of golfers in the world on a punishing golf course.

Koepka ran off three quick birdies early, never lost the lead amid a gritty fight from Viktor Hovland, and closed with a 3-under 67 for a two-shot victory.

He held up his index finger as he posed next to the Wanamaker Trophy, but he may as well have held up all five.

With three PGAs and two U.S. Opens, he became the 20th player with five or more majors. He won his third Wanamaker Trophy — only Jack Nicklaus and Walter Hagen with five and Tiger Woods with four have won the PGA Championship more times — and captured his first major in what felt like four years.

And to think that over the last few years, Koepka was so wounded he felt he couldn't compete, a decision that might have led to him leaving the PGA Tour for Saudi-funded LIV Golf in a shocking move last June after the U.S. Open.

In the Netflix series "Full Swing" that began aired earlier this year, he was quoted as saying his confi-

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dence had given way to doubt. "I'm going to be honest with you, I can't compete with these guys week in and week out."

Give him good health and a clear head, and good luck taking down Koepka in the majors. He now has won five of his last 22 majors, a rate exceeded only by Woods, Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer, Nick Faldo and Ben Hogan in the last 75 years.

He is the first player from LIV Golf to win a major, and it hits back at the notion that 54-hole events and guaranteed money would take the edge off the rival league's best players.

"I definitely think it helps LIV, but I'm more interested in my own self right now, to be honest with you," Koepka said. "Yeah, it's a huge thing for LIV, but at the same time I'm out here competing as an individual at the PGA Championship. I'm just happy to take this home for the third time."

Koepka is in pretty heady company just about everywhere he looks. His five majors are as many as Seve Ballesteros and Byron Nelson. Among active players, only Woods (15) and Phil Mickelson (6) have more.

"I'm not even sure I dream of it as a kid, that I'd win that many," he said.

Koepka left little doubt about his place in the game with his two-shot win over hard-luck Hovland (68) and Scottie Scheffler, who closed with a 65 and returned to No. 1 in the world.

"To look back to where we were two years ago, I'm so happy right now," Koepka said. "This is just the coolest thing."

The victory moves Koepka to No. 13 in the world and No. 2 in the Ryder Cup standings. The top six automatically qualify, and it would be hard to fathom leaving Koepka off the American team. He can only earn two more points in the majors, and two more are still to come.

Koepka had to share the loudest cheers with California club pro Michael Block, who put on an amazing show over four days. Block made a hole-in-one on the 15th hole while playing with Rory McIlroy, and then made two tough par putts at the end for a fourth straight 70.

He tied for 15th, giving him a return date to the PGA Championship next year at Valhalla. It was the best finish by a club pro since Lonnie Nielsen tied for 11 in 1986 at Inverness.

"The most surreal moment I've ever had in my life," Block said. "I'm living a dream and making sure I'm enjoying the moment. Not getting any better than this — no way in hell."

Block charges \$125 a lesson at Arroyo Trabuco in Mission Viejo, California. He earned just short of \$290,000 at Oak Hill.

A month ago at the Masters, Koepka lost a two-shot lead in the final round by playing tentatively and was overrun by Jon Rahm. He vowed he would not do that again, and Koepka delivered in a major way, just like he used to.

Hovland made it easy for him at the end. Koepka was one shot ahead on the 16th hole when Hovland hit his 9-iron from a bunker that plugged into the lip in front of him — the same shot that stopped Corey Connors on Saturday — and made double bogey.

Koepka gouged out a shot from the rough to 5 feet for birdie and suddenly was leading by four shots when Hovland made double bogey.

Scheffler started four shots behind and never got closer than two. His 65 matched the best score of the tournament, posted by four other players on a day that was set up for scoring.

"I gave the guys on top of the leaderboard something to think about, and I kind of made a little bit much a move, but Brooks just played some fantastic golf this week," Scheffler said. "He played too good this weekend for me to catch up to him."

Koepka was determined to restore his reputation as a major force, and he wasted no time. He stuffed a wedge to 4 feet on the second and third holes, and rolled in an 8-foot birdie down the hill on the par-5 fourth.

But he drove into the water on the sixth hole and did well to make bogey, and another bogey from the rough on the seventh trimmed his lead to Hovland to one shot.

It was tight the rest of the way until the 16th. Hovland hit 9-iron from the bunker and could hear the awful thud of it rocketing into the turf at the edge of the sand. He knew immediately what happened,

covered his mouth with a closed fist. After a drop into nasty rough, it took two more to get to the green and led to double bogey.

"Brooks is a great player, and now he has five majors. I mean, that's a hell of a record right there. It's not easy going toe-to-toe with a guy like that," Hovland said. "He is not going to give you anything, and I didn't really feel like I gave him anything either until 16."

Bryson DeChambeau, who began the PGA with a 66, made too many mistakes in his round of 70. He stuck around to clasp hands with Koepka, two players from LIV Golf who used to get under each other's skin.

LIV had three players in the top 10 for the second straight major.

Koepka, who finished at 9-under 271, received \$3.15 million and the heaviest trophy among the four majors. Nothing felt more valuable than that.

AP golf: <https://apnews.com/hub/golf> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## Vinicius Junior says Spanish league 'now belongs to racists' after enduring more abuse

By TALES AZZONI AP Sports Writer

MADRID (AP) — Vinicius Júnior was subjected to racist abuse yet again on Sunday with the Brazil star saying the Spanish league "now belongs to racists."

The latest abuse against Vinicius came in Real Madrid's 1-0 loss at Valencia, a match that had to be temporarily stopped after the Brazil forward said he was insulted by a fan behind one of the goals at Mestalla Stadium.

"It wasn't the first time, or the second or the third. Racism is normal in LaLiga. The competition thinks it's normal, as does the federation, and the opponents encourage it," Vinicius said on Instagram and Twitter. "The league that once belonged to Ronaldinho, Ronaldo, Cristiano (Ronaldo) and (Lionel) Messi now belongs to racists ... But I'm strong and I will fight until the end against the racists. Even if far from here."

The 22-year-old Vinicius, who is Black, has been subjected to racist abuse since moving to Spain five years ago.

Real Madrid coach Carlo Ancelotti considered replacing the star forward after Vinicius said fans at Mestalla chanted "monkey" toward him. He said Vinicius initially didn't want to continue playing.

"What happened today shouldn't happen," Ancelotti said. "When a stadium yells 'monkey' to a player, and the coach considers taking him out of the field because of that, it means that there is something bad in this league."

The veteran coach refused to talk about the game after what happened, saying his team's loss meant nothing.

"The game should have been stopped," Ancelotti said. "This shouldn't happen. It wasn't only one person, as it has happened in several stadiums. Here, it was a stadium racially insulting a player, the game had to stop. I would have said the same thing if it was 3-0 for us. You have to stop the game, there was no way around it."

Ancelotti said he asked the referee to stop the match, but was told that the protocol was to first make an announcement to fans, then take other action if the problem continued.

Ancelotti said Vinicius didn't want to keep playing but he told the player that he wasn't guilty of anything and that he was the victim. Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois said he would have left the field with Vinicius if his teammate had decided to stop playing.

"Vinicius is upset, obviously, but more than upset, he is sad," Ancelotti said.

According to Spanish media reports, Valencia has identified two fans who allegedly insulted Vinicius behind one of the goals.

Some comments on social media claimed fans were saying the Spanish word "tonto" (silly) instead of "mono" (monkey).

Valencia later said it expected Ancelotti to apologize to Valencia fans for accusing them of racism after

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misunderstanding what was said. The coach told a news conference that the referee wouldn't have started the racism protocol if he didn't think there was racism in the stadium.

Vinícius was later sent off after an altercation with Valencia players, and gestured to home fans about their team's fight against relegation as he left the field. Valencia took a huge step toward avoiding the drop with the 1-0 victory opening a five-point gap to the bottom three teams entering the final three rounds.

"The reward for the racists was my ejection!" Vinícius said on Instagram, along with the Spanish league's slogan "It's not soccer, it's LaLiga."

Vinícius had called the referee around the 70th minute and started pointing to a person sitting among the Valencia supporters. The player went near the stands and confronted the fans while players from both teams tried to restore calm.

Police eventually arrived in the stands to deal with the supporters. An announcement was made asking fans to behave.

The match at Mestalla was stopped for about seven minutes, and not long after it resumed Vinícius clashed with Valencia players and was sent off for pushing one of his opponents away with a hand to his face.

After the decision of his ejection was made following a video review, Vinícius started applauding ironically. As he was leaving the field, he made a "going down" gesture over relegation. That upset players on the Valencia bench and some charged toward Vinícius as he left the field, causing the game to be temporarily stopped again.

Valencia coach Rubén Baraja condemned the behavior of Valencia fans but also criticized Vinícius, saying he should have respected the club and its supporters.

Vinícius' teammate Dani Ceballos criticized the fans but said he also expected Vinícius to apologize for his gestures after being sent off.

Ancelotti said Vinícius' reaction was normal considering what he had gone through moments earlier.

The Spanish league said it has requested images from the game to investigate what happened. It will also probe possible insults against Vinícius outside Mestalla, when a large group of fans also allegedly called the player a monkey as the Madrid bus arrived.

League president Javier Tebas criticized Vinícius for attacking the league without fully understanding what it has done recently to combat racism, and saying the player didn't show up for talks on the subject that he had requested himself.

The league has made nine formal complaints over racist abuse against Vinícius over the last two seasons, with many of the cases being shelved. A Mallorca fan may end up going on trial after allegedly racially insulting the Brazilian during a game.

President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva joined a wave of Brazilian politicians, players and clubs coming out to support Vinícius and criticize racism in the Spanish league.

Lula told a news conference in Japan on the sidelines of a G7 meeting that he hopes FIFA, the Spanish League and other soccer bodies "take measures so we don't allow racism and fascism to take over" in the sport.

The first trial against a fan accused of racial abuse in Spanish professional soccer is expected to happen at some point this year in a case involving Athletic Bilbao forward Iñaki Williams, who was insulted by an Espanyol supporter in a match in 2020.

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Tales Azzoni on Twitter: <http://twitter.com/tazzoni>

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## SpaceX sends Saudi astronauts, including nation's 1st woman in space, to International Space Station

By MARCIA DUNN AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Saudi Arabia's first astronauts in decades rocketed toward the International Space Station on a chartered multimillion-dollar flight Sunday.

SpaceX launched the ticket-holding crew, led by a retired NASA astronaut now working for the company that arranged the trip from Kennedy Space Center. Also on board: a U.S. businessman who now owns a sports car racing team.

The four should reach the space station in their capsule Monday morning; they'll spend just over a week there before returning home with a splashdown off the Florida coast.

Sponsored by the Saudi Arabian government, Rayyanah Barnawi, a stem cell researcher, became the first woman from the kingdom to go to space. She was joined by Ali al-Qarni, a fighter pilot with the Royal Saudi Air Force.

They're the first from their country to ride a rocket since a Saudi prince launched aboard shuttle Discovery in 1985. In a quirk of timing, they'll be greeted at the station by an astronaut from the United Arab Emirates.

"Hello from outer space! It feels amazing to be viewing Earth from this capsule," Barnawi said after settling into orbit.

Added al-Qarni: "As I look outside into space, I can't help but think this is just the beginning of a great journey for all of us."

Rounding out the visiting crew: Knoxville, Tennessee's John Shoffner, former driver and owner of a sports car racing team that competes in Europe, and chaperone Peggy Whitson, the station's first female commander who holds the U.S. record for most accumulated time in space: 665 days and counting.

"It was a phenomenal ride," Whitson said after reaching orbit. Her crewmates clapped their hands in joy.

It's the second private flight to the space station organized by Houston-based Axiom Space. The first was last year by three businessmen, with another retired NASA astronaut. The company plans to start adding its own rooms to the station in another few years, eventually removing them to form a stand-alone outpost available for hire.

Axiom won't say how much Shoffner and Saudi Arabia are paying for the planned 10-day mission. The company had previously cited a ticket price of \$55 million each.

NASA's latest price list shows per-person, per-day charges of \$2,000 for food and up to \$1,500 for sleeping bags and other gear. Need to get your stuff to the space station in advance? Figure roughly \$10,000 per pound (\$20,000 per kilogram), the same fee for trashing it afterward. Need your items back intact? Double the price.

At least the email and video links are free.

The guests will have access to most of the station as they conduct experiments, photograph Earth and chat with schoolchildren back home, demonstrating how kites fly in space when attached to a fan.

After decades of shunning space tourism, NASA now embraces it with two private missions planned a year. The Russian Space Agency has been doing it, off and on, for decades.

"Our job is to expand what we do in low-Earth orbit across the globe," said NASA's space station program manager Joel Montalbano.

SpaceX's first-stage booster landed back at Cape Canaveral eight minutes after liftoff — a special treat for the launch day crowd, which included about 60 Saudis. "It was a very, very exciting day," said Axiom's Matt Ondler.

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## 8-year-old girl sought medical help 3 times on day she died, US immigration officials say

HARLINGEN, Texas (AP) — An 8-year-old girl who died last week in Border Patrol custody was seen at least three separate times by medical personnel on the day of her death — complaining of vomiting, a stomachache and later suffering what appeared to be a seizure — before she was taken to a hospital, U.S. immigration officials said Sunday.

The girl's mother had previously told The Associated Press that agents had repeatedly ignored her pleas to hospitalize her medically fragile daughter, who had a history of heart problems and sickle cell anemia. Anadith Tanay Reyes Alvarez, whose parents are Honduran, was born in Panama with congenital heart disease.

"She cried and begged for her life, and they ignored her. They didn't do anything for her," Mabel Alvarez Benedicks, the mother of Anadith, had previously told The Associated Press during an interview Friday.

In a statement, U.S. Customs and Border Protection said it knew about the girl's medical history when personnel began treating her for influenza four days before her death on May 17.

CBP Acting Commissioner Troy Miller said in a statement that while his agency awaits the results of an internal investigation, he has ordered several steps be taken to ensure appropriate care for all medically fragile people in his agency's custody.

These actions include reviewing cases of all known medically fragile individuals currently being held to ensure their time in custody is limited and examining medical-care practices at CBP facilities to see if more personnel are needed.

"We must ensure that medically fragile individuals receive the best possible care and spend the minimum amount of time possible in CBP custody," Miller said, adding his agency is "deeply saddened" by the girl's "tragic death."

Anadith's death has raised questions about whether the Border Patrol properly handled the situation. It was the second child migrant death in two weeks in U.S. government custody after a rush of illegal border crossings amid the expiration of pandemic-related asylum limits known as Title 42 severely strained holding facilities.

According to a CBP statement, Anadith had first voiced complaints of abdominal pain, nasal congestion, and cough on the afternoon of May 14. She had a temperature of 101.8 degrees Fahrenheit (38.7 Celsius)

After a test showed she had influenza, Anadith was given acetaminophen, ibuprofen, medicine for nausea and Tamiflu, a flu treatment, according to CBP.

The family was then transferred from a facility in Donna, Texas, to one in Harlingen, Texas.

She continued to be given Tamiflu for the next two days. She was also given ibuprofen, according to CBP. Alvarez Benedicks had told the AP her daughter's health got progressively worse during those days and that doctors at the station denied her repeated requests for an ambulance to take the girl to a hospital.

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

On May 17, the girl and her mother went to the Harlingen Border Patrol Station's medical unit at least three times, CBP said. In the first visit, Anadith complained of vomiting. In the second, she child complained of a stomachache. By the third visit at 1:55 p.m., "the mother was carrying the girl who appeared to be having a seizure, after which records indicate the child became unresponsive," according to CBP.

Medical personnel began performing CPR before she was taken to a hospital in Harlingen, where she was pronounced dead at 2:50 p.m.

A medical examiner is waiting for additional tests before determining a cause of death.

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.

## World summits' 'family photos' show Putin's isolation

By The Associated Press undefined

They're known as "family photos," the images of world leaders posed in faux relaxation during global summits.

And like portraits of a family that has isolated a dysfunctional member, recent "family photos" from the G7 and G8 — the world's most industrialized nations — show how Russian President Vladimir Putin has been outcast.

The Russian president has faced unprecedented international isolation since his nation invaded Ukraine in February 2022. An International Criminal Court arrest warrant hangs over his head and clouds his prospects of traveling to many destinations, including those viewed as Moscow's allies.

It was only 10 years ago when Putin stood proudly among his peers at the time — former U.S. President Barack Obama, former German Chancellor Angela Merkel and former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe — at a Group of Eight summit in Northern Ireland. But Russia has since been kicked out of the group, which consists of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Britain and the United States, for illegally annexing Crimea in 2014.

Images from the G7 summit this year show leaders of the same governments, minus Putin.

## Angry fans crash through gate at El Salvador soccer match in stampede that kills 12, injures dozens

By MARCOS ALEMÁN Associated Press

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — Fans angry at being blocked from entering a Salvadoran soccer league match despite having tickets knocked down a small access gate to the stadium, creating a crush that killed 12 people and injured dozens, officials and witnesses said Sunday.

Diego Armando, 14, said he went with this father to watch Saturday night's quarterfinals match between clubs Alianza and Fas at Monumental Stadium in Cuscatlan in southern San Salvador, the nation's capital.

He recalled being in the crowd when the tragedy struck. "There were so many people that the small gate couldn't support them and it went down," he told Channel 12 television.

"I fell and my body from my waist to my feet was crushed. Five people pulled me free and saved me by a miracle. Two people in front of me died. I spoke to one and he didn't move," the boy said.

His father, Hectór Rivas, said the crush occurred because there were only two small gates open and the rest were closed.

"People began to push and I couldn't even breathe," he 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 onto the field.

Local television transmitted live images of the aftermath of the stampede, which appeared to mainly involve Alianza fans. Dozens made it onto the field where they received medical treatment. Fans who escaped the crush furiously waved their shirts attempting to revive people lying on the grass barely moving.

"El Salvador is in mourning," said a statement from the press office of Salvadoran President Nayib Bukele, which confirmed that at least 12 people were dead.

Alianza fan José Ángel Penado said the game was scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m. but they closed the gate at 7 p.m. and "left us outside (the stadium) with our tickets in our hands."

Sections of the stadium are often reserved for fans of one team to avoid clashes with rivals, so those fans would have to enter through the indicated gate.

"People got angry. We asked them to let us in, but no. So they knocked the gate down," Penado said.

Civil Protection director Luis Amaya said about 500 people had been tended to at the stadium and about 100 were taken to hospitals. At least two of the injured transported to hospitals were reported in critical condition.

"It was a night of terror. I never thought something like this would happen to me," sAlianza fan Tomas

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Renderos said as he left a hospital where he had received medical attention. "Fortunately I only have a few bruises ... but not everyone had my luck."

Pedro Hernández, president of El Salvador soccer's first division, said the preliminary information he had was that the stampede occurred because fans pushed 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.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino said Sunday in a speech at a World Health Organization meeting in Geneva, "I simply would like to express, of course, my condolences to all the people of El Salvador for this tragic incident."

## **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, sleeping 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



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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.

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.

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Weber reported from Los Angeles.

## In Cannes, Scorsese and DiCaprio turn spotlight toward Osage Nation

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

CANNES, France (AP) — It was well into the process of making “Killers of the Flower Moon” that Martin Scorsese realized it wasn’t a detective story.

Scorsese, actor Leonardo DiCaprio and screenwriter Eric Roth had many potential avenues in adapting David Grann’s expansive nonfiction history, “Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI.” The film that Scorsese and company premiered Saturday at the Cannes Film Festival, however, wasn’t like the one they initially set out to make.

The film, which will open in theaters in October, chronicles the series of killings that took place throughout the Osage Nation in 1920s Oklahoma. The Osage were then enormously rich from oil on their land, and many white barons and gangsters alike sought to control and steal their money. Dozens of Osage Native Americans were killed before the FBI, in its infancy, began to investigate.

DiCaprio had originally been cast to star as FBI agent Tom White. But after mulling the project over, Scorsese decided to pivot.

“I said, ‘I think the audience is ahead of us,’” Scorsese told reporters in Cannes on Sunday. “They know it’s not a whodunit. It’s a who-didn’t-do-it.”

The shift, filmmakers said, was largely driven from collaboration with the Osage. Osage Nation Chief Standing Bear, who consulted on the film, praised the filmmakers for centering the story instead on Mollie (Lily Gladstone) and her husband Ernest Burkhart (DiCaprio), the tragic romance at the heart of Scorsese’s epic of insidious American ethnic exploitation.

“Early on, I asked Mr. Scorsese, ‘How are you going to approach the story? He said I’m going to tell a story about trust, trust between Mollie and Ernest, trust between the outside world and the Osage, and the betrayal of those trusts,’” said Chief Standing Bear. “My people suffered greatly and to this very day those effects are with us. But I can say on behalf of the Osage, Marty Scorsese and his team have restored trust and we know that trust will not be betrayed.”

“Killers of the Flower Moon,” the most anticipated film to debut at this year’s Cannes, instead became about Ernest, who Scorsese called “the character the least is written about.”

DiCaprio, who ceded the character of White to Jesse Plemons, said “Killers of the Flower Moon” reverberates with other only recently widely discussed dark chapters of American history.

“This story, much like the Tulsa massacre, has been something that people have started to learn about and started to understand is part of culture, part of our history,” said DiCaprio. “After the screenplay, from almost an anthropological perspective — Marty was there everyday — we were talking to the community, trying to hear the real stories and trying to incorporate the truth.”

“Killers of the Flower Moon” premiered Saturday to largely rave reviews and thunderous applause nearly 50 years after Scorsese, as a young filmmaker, was a sensation at Cannes. His “Taxi Driver” won the Palme d’Or in 1976.

Among the most-praised performances has been that of Gladstone, the actor of Blackfeet and Nimiipuu heritage.

“These artistic souls on this stage here cared about telling a story that pierces the veil of what society tells us we’re supposed to care about and not,” said Gladstone, who singled out Scorsese. “Who else is going to challenge people to challenge their own complicity in white supremacy in such a platform except as this man here?”

“We’re speaking of the 1920s Osage community. We’re talking about Black Wall Street and Tulsa. We’re talking about a lot in our film,” she continued. “Why the hell does the world not know about these things? Our communities always have. It’s so central to everything about how we understand our place in the world.”

In the film, Robert De Niro plays a wealthy baron who’s particularly adept at plundering the Osage. Speaking on Sunday, De Niro was still mulling his character’s motivations.

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"There's a kind of feeling of entitlement," said De Niro. "It's the banality of evil. It's the thing that we have to watch out for. We see it today, of course. We all know who I'm going to talk about but I won't say the name. Because that guy is stupid. Imagine if you're smart?"

A minute later, De Niro resumed: "I mean, look at Trump," referring to former President Donald Trump.

With a running time well over three hours and a budget from Apple of \$200 million, "Killers of the Flower Moon" is one of Scorsese's largest undertakings. Asked where he gets the gumption for such risks, the 80-year-old director didn't hesitate.

"As far as taking risks at this age, what else can I do?" said Scorsese. "No, let's go do something comfortable.' Are you kidding?"

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

## **Celebration at California dance ballroom a sign of healing following Lunar New Year shooting**

ALHAMBRA, Calif. (AP) — A weekend celebration at a Southern California dance ballroom was hailed by organizers as the latest sign of healing within the Asian American community following the Lunar New Year shooting that killed 11 people at a nearby dance studio.

One of the hosts of Saturday's event at Lai Lai Ballroom in Alhambra was Brandon Tsay, who on Jan. 21 famously wrestled a semi-automatic weapon away from the gunman who had earlier shot up Star Ballroom Dance Studio in neighboring Monterey Park.

Tsay, whose family has owned Lai Lai Ballroom for years, said the celebration is an example of the community standing strong and moving forward after the tragedy.

"If you have these strong connections with one another, you'll be able to support each other, lift each other up, even through times of crisis such as what happened earlier this year," Tsay said, according to ABC 7.

The event, part of Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month, featured dancing, live music performances and traditional food. It was organized by the legal-aid nonprofit Asian Americans Advancing Justice Southern California.

Investigators haven't determined a motive for the massacre at Star Ballroom, which also left nine mostly elderly people wounded. The 72-year-old gunman later killed himself in a van he used to flee the Lai Lai Ballroom after being disarmed by Tsay.

The carnage, during what should have been joyful Lunar New Year celebrations, sent ripples of fear through Asian American communities in the neighborhoods east of Los Angeles.

## **Civil rights groups warn tourists about Florida in wake of 'hostile' laws**

By MIKE SCHNEIDER Associated Press

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — The NAACP over the weekend issued a travel advisory for Florida, joining two other civil rights groups in warning potential tourists that recent laws and policies championed by Gov. Ron DeSantis and Florida lawmakers are "openly hostile toward African Americans, people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals."

The NAACP, long an advocate for Black Americans, joined the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), a Latino civil rights organization, and Equality Florida, a gay rights advocacy group, in issuing travel advisories for the Sunshine State, where tourism is one of the state's largest job sectors.

The warning approved Saturday by the NAACP's board of directors tells tourists that, before traveling to Florida, they should understand the state of Florida "devalues and marginalizes the contributions of, and the challenges faced by African Americans and other communities of color."

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An email was sent Sunday morning to DeSantis' office seeking comment. The Republican governor is expected to announce a run for the GOP presidential nomination this week.

Florida is one of the most popular states in the U.S. for tourists, and tourism is one of its biggest industries. More than 137.5 million tourists visited Florida last year, marking a return to pre-pandemic levels, according to Visit Florida, the state's tourism promotion agency. Tourism supports 1.6 million full-time and part-time jobs, and visitors spent \$98.8 billion in Florida in 2019, the last year figures are available.

Several of Florida's Democratic mayors were quick to say Sunday that their cities welcomed diversity and inclusion.

"EVERYONE is always welcome and will be treated with dignity and respect," tweeted Mayor Ken Welch of St. Petersburg in a message echoed by the mayor across the bay in Tampa.

"That will never change, regardless of what happens in Tallahassee," tweeted Mayor Jane Castor of Tampa.

The NAACP's decision comes after the DeSantis' administration in January rejected the College Board's Advanced Placement African American Studies course. DeSantis and Republican lawmakers also have pressed forward with measures that ban state colleges from having programs on diversity, equity and inclusion, as well as critical race theory, and also passed the Stop WOKE Act that restricts certain race-based conversations and analysis in schools and businesses.

In its warning for Hispanic travelers considering a visit to Florida, LULAC cited a new law that prohibits local governments from providing money to organizations that issue identification cards to people illegally in the country and invalidates out-of-state driver's licenses held by undocumented immigrants, among other things. The law also requires hospitals that accept Medicaid to include a citizenship question on intake forms, which critics have said is intended to dissuade immigrants living in the U.S. illegally from seeking medical care.

"The actions taken by Governor DeSantis have created a shadow of fear within communities across the state," said Lydia Medrano, a LULAC vice president for the Southeast region.

Recent efforts to limit discussion on LGBTQ topics in schools, the removal of books with gay characters from school libraries, a recent ban on gender-affirming care for minors, new restrictions on abortion access and a law allowing Floridians to carry concealed guns without a permit contributed to Equality Florida's warning.

"Taken in their totality, Florida's slate of laws and policies targeting basic freedoms and rights pose a serious risk to the health and safety of those traveling to the state," Equality Florida's advisory said.

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Follow Mike Schneider on Twitter at @MikeSchneiderAP

## **Back in hoodies and gym shorts, Fetterman tackles Senate life after depression treatment**

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and MARC LEVY Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Before Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman checked himself in to the hospital for clinical depression in February, he walked the halls of the Senate stone-faced and dressed in formal suits. These days, he's back to wearing the hoodies and gym shorts he was known for before he became a senator.

Male senators are expected to wear a jacket and tie on the Senate floor, but Fetterman has a workaround. He votes from the doorway of the Democratic cloakroom or the side entrance, making sure his "yay" or "nay" is recorded before ducking back out. In between votes this past week, Fetterman's hoodie stayed on for a news conference with four Democratic colleagues in suits, the 6-foot-8 Fetterman towering over his colleagues.

People close to Fetterman say his relaxed, comfortable style is a sign that the senator is making a robust recovery after six weeks of inpatient treatment at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, where his clinical depression was treated with medication and he was fitted for hearing aids for hearing loss that had made it harder for him to communicate. His hospitalization came less than a year after he had a stroke



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during his Senate campaign that he has said nearly killed him, and from which he continues to recover. "He's setting a new dress code," jokes Vermont Sen. Peter Welch, who is the only other newly elected Democrat in the Senate and spent a lot of time with Fetterman during their orientation at the beginning of the year. "He was struggling. And now he's a joyful person to be around."

Senators do occasionally vote in casual clothing — Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas, for example, is known for sometimes arriving in gym clothes. But Fetterman's regular attire is redefining fashion in the stuffy Senate. He's turning heads on a daily basis as he walks the halls in his signature baggy Carhartt sweatshirts and saggy gym shorts, his hulking figure surrounded by much more formally dressed Washington types buzzing around the Capitol.

The senator's staff had originally asked him to always wear suits, which he famously hates. But after a check with the Senate parliamentarian upon his return, it became clear that he could continue wearing the casual clothes that were often his uniform back at home in Pennsylvania, as long as he didn't walk on to the Senate floor.

Welch said Fetterman was quiet and withdrawn when he first came to Washington, and often sat in the back of closed-door caucus meetings. Now he's standing up and talking, sometimes joking and ribbing Pennsylvania's senior senator, Democrat Bob Casey.

Fetterman, Welch and Republican Sen. Katie Britt of Alabama became friends at the orientation, and those two colleagues stayed close with him through his recovery. Britt says that in those early days, Fetterman would only really engage if she started the conversation, but they bonded over having children of a similar age and the fact that Britt's former football player husband, Wesley, is the same height as the Pennsylvania senator. When Fetterman checked into the hospital, Britt's staff brought food to his office next door.

Britt later visited him at Walter Reed, at his request, and found Fetterman to be totally changed. "When I walked in that day, his energy and demeanor was totally different," Britt said in an interview.

Now, he's loud and outgoing, she says — even yelling "Alabama!" at her down a hallway when he caught sight of her last week, giving her fist bumps and asking about her husband and family.

"That shows you the difference that treatment can make," Britt says. "It's just incredible to see."

Fetterman's decision to seek treatment won bipartisan praise from his colleagues, a sharp turn from his bruising Senate race against Republican Mehmet Oz that was the most expensive in the country.

Joe Calvello, a spokesman for Fetterman who has worked for him since the beginning of his campaign and before the stroke, said his boss is more back to his old self after a difficult year. Fetterman is getting to know all his staff after his return to the Senate on April 17, making friends with his Senate colleagues and speaking out on progressive issues on which he campaigned.

"It's good to be on the other side of that," Calvello said.

Last week, Fetterman stood alongside the other senators in suits to urge President Joe Biden to raise the debt ceiling on his own under a clause in the 14th Amendment instead of negotiating with Republicans. He also questioned bank executives at a hearing — dressed in a suit, as he does for committee meetings — and asked whether they should be subject to work requirements like those Republicans have proposed for food aid recipients in the debt ceiling negotiations.

Fetterman's words are still halting and sometimes hard to understand, due to his stroke. He has auditory processing disorder, which makes it harder to speak fluidly and quickly process spoken conversation into meaning. He uses iPads in conversations, meetings and congressional hearings that transcribe spoken words in real time, and when he speaks publicly he often appears to be reading closely off a sheet of paper. He rarely speaks with reporters in the hallways.

While questioning the bank executives his words were occasionally jumbled, due to his auditory processing difficulties. "Shouldn't you have a working requirement after we sail your bank, put billions in your bank?" Fetterman asked.

The senator's conservative critics have frequently jumped on his stumbles, mocking them in television spots.

But his chief of staff, Adam Jentleson, tweeted that the moment at the banking hearing was unscripted

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-- and a surprise to even him.

"John Fetterman just asked the Silicon Valley Bank CEO if there should be work requirements for CEOs who crash banks and dear reader, I almost fell out of my chair," Jentleson wrote.

Constituents he has met with say it can take a moment to get used to his speaking difficulties.

The president of the Pennsylvania Farmers Union, Michael Kovach, said Fetterman unexpectedly popped in when Kovach was meeting with the senator's staff in Washington. It was only Fetterman's second day back, but he stayed for a half hour, using a transcription device to read Kovach's responses in their discussion about helping farmers who keep good conservation practices on their land.

Kovach said Fetterman asked thoughtful questions, made thoughtful comments and joked about beard envy with Kovach, who sports a long graying goatee.

"It's the same Fetterman that I recall as lieutenant governor, it's just difficult for him to communicate, so the elephant in the room obviously is the screen that he's reading from," Kovach said. "It's a bit of a distraction, but something I got quickly used to."

Fetterman is also back to social media, which was a staple of his campaign before the stroke. This past week he posted a photo of himself and Welch on Twitter sitting in a Senate courtyard and wearing hoodies.

Welch is hosting Fetterman and Britt at his house for dinner soon. Fetterman is "on his game" these days, Welch said.

Another Democratic colleague, Illinois Sen. Tammy Duckworth, said she noticed that Fetterman was "inwardly focused" when he arrived in Washington. But he's now gregarious and cracking jokes.

"It's really, really great to see, it's a good message to send to people to seek help," Duckworth said. "It makes a difference."

Levy reported from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

## 'Exhaust them': Why Ukraine has fought Russia for every inch of Bakhmut, despite high cost

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The nine-month battle for Bakhmut has destroyed the 400-year-old city in eastern Ukraine and killed tens of thousands of people in a mutually devastating demonstration of Ukraine's strategy of exhausting the Russian military.

The fog of war made it impossible to confirm the situation on the ground Sunday in the invasion's longest battle: Russia's defense ministry reported that the Wagner private army backed by Russian troops had seized the city. President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, meanwhile, said Bakhmut was not being fully occupied by Russian forces.

Regardless, the small city has long had more symbolic than strategic value for both sides. The more meaningful gauge of success for Ukrainian forces has been their ability to keep the Russians bogged down. The Ukrainian military has aimed to deplete the resources and morale of Russian troops in the tiny but tactical patch of the 1,500-kilometer (932-mile) front line as Ukraine gears up for a major counteroffensive in the 15-month-old war.

"Despite the fact that we now control a small part of Bakhmut, the importance of its defense does not lose its relevance," said Col.-Gen. Oleksandr Syrskyi, the Commander of Ground Forces for the Ukrainian Armed Forces. "This gives us the opportunity to enter the city in case of a change in the situation. And it will definitely happen."

About 55 kilometers (34 miles) north of the Russian-held regional capital of Donetsk, Bakhmut was an important industrial center, surrounded by salt and gypsum mines and home to about 80,000 people before the war, in a country of more than 43 million.

The city, named Artyomovsk after a Bolshevik revolutionary when Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union, was known for its sparkling wine produced in underground caves. It was popular among tourists for its broad tree-lined avenues, lush parks and stately downtown with imposing late 19th century mansions. All

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are now reduced to a smoldering wasteland.

Fought over so fiercely by Russia and Ukraine in recent months has been the urban center itself, where Ukrainian commanders have conceded that Moscow controlled more than 90%. But even now, Ukrainian forces are making significant advances near strategic roads through the countryside just outside, chipping away at Russia's northern and southern flanks by the meter (yard) with the aim of encircling Wagner fighters inside the city.

"The enemy failed to surround Bakhmut. They lost part of the heights around the city. The continuing advance of our troops in the suburbs greatly complicates the enemy's presence," said Hanna Maliar, Ukraine's deputy defense minister. "Our troops have taken the city in a semi-encirclement, which gives us the opportunity to destroy the enemy."

Ukrainian military leaders say their months-long resistance has been worth it because it limited Russia's capabilities elsewhere and allowed for Ukrainian advances.

"The main idea is to exhaust them, then to attack," Ukrainian Col. Yevhen Mezhevikin, commander of a specialized group fighting in Bakhmut, said Thursday.

Russia has deployed reinforcements to Bakhmut to replenish lost northern and southern flanks and prevent more Ukrainian breakthroughs, according to Ukrainian officials and other outside observers. Russian President Vladimir Putin badly needs to claim victory in Bakhmut city, where Russian forces have focused their efforts, analysts say, especially after a winter offensive by his forces failed to capture other cities and towns along the front.

Some analysts said that even Ukraine's tactical gains in the rural area outside urban Bakhmut could be more significant than they seem.

"It was almost like the Ukrainians just took advantage of the fact that, actually, the Russian lines were weak," said Phillips O'Brien, a professor of strategic studies at the University of St. Andrews. "The Russian army has suffered such high losses and is so worn out around Bakhmut that ... it cannot go forward anymore."

Ukrainian forces in the outskirts of Bakhmut and in the city bore relentless artillery attacks until a month ago. Then, Ukrainian forces positioned south of the city spotted their chance for a breakthrough after reconnaissance drones showed the southern Russian flank had gone on the defensive, Col. Mezhevikin said.

After fierce fighting for weeks, Ukrainian units had made their first advance in the vicinity of Bakhmut since it was invaded nine months ago.

In all, nearly 20 square kilometers (eight square miles) of territory were recaptured, Maliar said in an interview last week. Hundreds of meters (yards) more have been regained almost every day since, according to Serhii Cherevatyi, spokesman for Ukraine's Operational Command East.

"Previously we were only holding the lines and didn't let Russians advance further into our territory. What has happened now is our first advance (since the battle started)," Maliar said.

Victory in Bakhmut does not necessarily bring Russia any closer to capturing the Donetsk region — Putin's stated aim of the war. Rather, it opens the door to more grinding battles in the direction of Sloviansk or Kostiantynivka, 20 kilometers (12 miles) away, said Kateryna Stepanenko, a Russia analyst at the U.S.-based think tank Institute for the Study of War.

Satellite imagery released this week shows infrastructure, apartment blocks and iconic buildings reduced to rubble.

In the last week, days before Russia announced that the city had fallen into their control, Ukrainian forces retained only a handful of buildings amid constant Russian bombardment. Outnumbered and outgunned, they described nightmarish days.

Russia's artillery dominance is so overwhelming, accompanied by continuous human waves of mercenaries, that defensive positions could not be held for long.

"The importance of our mission of staying in Bakhmut lies in distracting a significant enemy force," said Taras Deiak, a commander of a special unit of a volunteer battalion. "We are paying a high price for this."

The northern and southern flanks regained by Ukraine are located near two highways that lead to Chasiv Yar, a town 10 kilometers (6 miles) from Bakhmut that serves as a key logistics supply route, one dubbed

the "road of life."

Ukrainian forces passing this road often came under fire from Russians positioned along nearby strategic heights. Armored vehicles and pickup trucks driving toward the city to replenish Ukrainian troops were frequently destroyed.

With the high plains now under Ukrainian control, its forces have more breathing room.

"This will help us design new logistic chains to deliver ammunition in and evacuate the injured or killed boys," said Deiak, speaking from inside the city on Thursday, two days before Russia claimed it controlled the city. "Now it is easier to deliver supplies, rotate troops, (carry out) evacuations."

Danica Kirka in London 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 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."



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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

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."

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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.

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.

## **Peace, food and fertilizer: African leaders' challenge heading to talks with Moscow, Kyiv**

By GERALD IMRAY Associated Press

A delegation of six African leaders set to hold talks with Kyiv and Moscow aim to "initiate a peace process," but also broach the thorny issue of how a heavily-sanctioned Russia can be paid for the fertilizer exports Africa desperately needs, a key mediator who helped broker the talks said in an interview with The Associated Press.

Jean-Yves Ollivier, an international negotiator who has been working for six months to put the talks together, said the African leaders would also discuss the related issue of easing the passage of more grain shipments out of Ukraine amid the war and the possibility of more prisoner swaps when they travel to both countries on what they've characterized as a peace mission.

The talks will likely be next month, Ollivier said.

He arrived in Moscow on Sunday and will also go to Kyiv for meetings with high-level officials to work out "logistics" for the upcoming talks. For one, the six African presidents would likely have to travel to Kyiv by night train from Poland amid the fighting, he said.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy have both agreed to separately host the delegation of presidents from South Africa, Senegal, Egypt, Republic of Congo, Uganda and Zambia.

The talks also have the approval of the United States, the European Union, the United Nations, the African Union and China, Ollivier said in a video call with the AP on Friday.

Neither side in the war appears ready to stop fighting, though.

The talks were announced last week by President Cyril Ramaphosa of South Africa just as Russia launched an intense air attack on Kyiv. On Sunday, Russia claimed to have taken the key eastern Ukrainian city of Bakhmut after fierce fighting, a claim denied by Ukraine.

"We are not dreamers," Ollivier said on the chances the African leaders will achieve an immediate breakthrough with regard to stopping the 15-month conflict. "Unless something happens, I don't think we are going to finish our first mission with a ceasefire."

The aim was to make a start, said Ollivier, a 78-year-old Frenchman who brought opposing sides together in high-stakes negotiations in the late 1980s that helped end apartheid in South Africa.

"It starts with signs. It starts with dialogue. And this is what we are going to try to do," Ollivier said. "No guarantee that we are going to succeed but, for the time being, Russia and Ukraine have accepted ... a delegation coming specifically to their countries to talk about peace."

A key starting point for Africa is grain and fertilizers.

The war has severely restricted the export of grain from Ukraine and fertilizers from Russia, exacerbating global food insecurity and hunger. Africa has been one of the hardest-hit continents. Last week, Russia

agreed to a two-month extension of a deal brokered by Turkey and the U.N. that allows Ukraine to ship grain through the Black Sea and out to the world, and the six African presidents would like to see that extended further.

But they also need to broach ways of making it easier for African nations to receive shipments and pay Russia for fertilizers, Ollivier said. Russian fertilizer is not under international sanctions but the U.S. and some Western nations have targeted Russian cargo ships for sanctions. Russia's access to the SWIFT global financial transaction system also has been restricted by the sanctions, leaving African nations struggling to order and pay for critical fertilizers.

"We will need to have a window whereby SWIFT will be authorized for this specific point," Ollivier said. "That will be on the table and we hope that in that case we will gain the support of the Russians for the grains from Ukraine, and we will gain the support of the Ukrainians to find payments and shipments possible for the Russian fertilizer."

The African mission is not the only mediation effort. China offered its own peace proposal in February and a Chinese envoy has been in discussions with Ukrainian officials. But China's plan has largely been dismissed by Ukraine's Western allies and is clouded by Beijing's political support for Moscow.

Ukraine and Russia are far apart in terms of any agreements that might form the base of a peace deal. The African delegation still had a wide cross-section of backing, Ollivier said, after China also "came to us and offered support" on the basis it would be a "parallel effort" to Beijing's plan.

"More support, more weight will be put on the negotiation (with Moscow and Kyiv)," said Ollivier, the founding chairman of the London-based Brazzaville Foundation, an organization that deals with conflict resolution. "If one party says no, they will consider to who they are saying no. Are they saying no only to Jean-Yves Ollivier? To the Brazzaville Foundation? To the six (African) heads of state?"

"Or are they saying no to the United Nations, or to the Chinese, or to the Americans. To the British? To the European Union?"

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More AP news on the war in Ukraine: <https://apnews.com/hub/russia-ukraine>

## **Martina Navratilova says she's doing 'OK' after being diagnosed with cancer**

ROME (AP) — Martina Navratilova is doing "OK" after being diagnosed with throat cancer and breast cancer.

"I've gone through a very difficult year but now I'm OK," the 18-time Grand Slam singles champion and member of the International Tennis Hall of Fame said at the Italian Open on Sunday after receiving the "Racchetta d'Oro" (Golden Racket) award for her contributions to the sport.

The 66-year-old Navratilova said in January that her prognosis was good and that she was going to start treatment that month. She said then that she noticed an enlarged lymph node in her neck while attending the season-ending WTA Finals in Fort Worth, Texas, in November, and a biopsy showed early stage throat cancer.

While Navratilova was undergoing tests on her throat, she said, the unrelated, early stage breast cancer was discovered.

Navratilova returned to her work as a TV analyst at Tennis Channel in March, when in an interview with TalkTV's Piers Morgan, she said she was told by doctors that, "as far as they know, I'm cancer-free," and she should be "good to go" after some additional radiation treatment.

Navratilova made her acceptance speech in Italian to the Campo Centrale crowd.

"Tennis gave me a surprising life for which I am very grateful," she said. "I always tried to give something back when I played, and also in retirement."

Navratilova was a four-time runner-up in singles at the Foro Italico and a three-time champion in doubles — with her last Rome title coming in 2003 with partner Svetlana Kuznetsova at the age of 46.

She won 59 Grand Slam titles overall, including 31 in women's doubles and 10 in mixed doubles. The



last was a mixed doubles championship with Bob Bryan at the 2006 U.S. Open, a month shy of her 50th birthday.

Navratilova originally retired in 1994, after a record 167 singles titles and 331 weeks at No. 1 in the WTA rankings. She returned to the tour to play doubles in 2000 and occasionally competed in singles, too.

AP Tennis: <https://apnews.com/hub/tennis> and [https://twitter.com/AP\\_Sports](https://twitter.com/AP_Sports)

## China tells tech manufacturers to stop using Micron chips, stepping up feud with United States

By JOE McDONALD AP Business Writer

BEIJING (AP) — Stepping up a feud with Washington over technology and security, China's government on Sunday told users of computer equipment deemed sensitive to stop buying products from the biggest U.S. memory chipmaker, Micron Technology Inc.

Micron products have unspecified "serious network security risks" that pose hazards to China's information infrastructure and affect national security, the Cyberspace Administration of China said on its website. Its six-sentence statement gave no details.

"Operators of critical information infrastructure in China should stop purchasing products from Micron Co.," the agency said.

The United States, Europe and Japan are reducing Chinese access to advanced chipmaking and other technology they say might be used in weapons at a time when President Xi Jinping's government has threatened to attack Taiwan and is increasingly assertive toward Japan and other neighbors.

Chinese officials have warned of unspecified consequences but appear to be struggling to find ways to retaliate without hurting China's smartphone producers and other industries and efforts to develop its own processor chip suppliers.

An official review of Micron under China's increasingly stringent information security laws was announced April 4, hours after Japan joined Washington in imposing restrictions on Chinese access to technology to make processor chips on security grounds.

Foreign companies have been rattled by police raids on two consulting firms, Bain & Co. and Capvision, and a due diligence firm, Mintz Group. Chinese authorities have declined to explain the raids but said foreign companies are obliged to obey the law.

Business groups and the U.S. government have appealed to authorities to explain newly expanded legal restrictions on information and how they will be enforced.

Sunday's announcement appeared to try to reassure foreign companies.

"China firmly promotes high-level opening up to the outside world and, as long as it complies with Chinese laws and regulations, welcomes enterprises and various platform products and services from various countries to enter the Chinese market," the cyberspace agency said.

Xi accused Washington in March of trying to block China's development. He called on the public to "dare to fight."

Despite that, Beijing has been slow to retaliate, possibly to avoid disrupting Chinese industries that assemble most of the world's smartphones, tablet computers and other consumer electronics. They import more than \$300 billion worth of foreign chips every year.

Beijing is pouring billions of dollars into trying to accelerate chip development and reduce the need for foreign technology. Chinese foundries can supply low-end chips used in autos and home appliances but can't support smartphones, artificial intelligence and other advanced applications.

The conflict has prompted warnings the world might decouple, or split into separate spheres with incompatible technology standards that mean computers, smartphones and other products from one region wouldn't work in others. That would raise costs and might slow innovation.

U.S.-Chinese relations are at their lowest level in decades due to disputes over security, Beijing's treatment of Hong Kong and Muslim ethnic minorities, territorial disputes and China's multibillion-dollar trade

surpluses.

## 'They're opposed to government. But now they are the government.' One county's hard-right shift

By CHRISTINA A. CASSIDY Associated Press

GALLATIN, Tenn. (AP) — Shortly after being sworn in last fall, the new majority of the Sumner County Commission in Tennessee acted to update one of its official documents. The new version said county operations would not only be orderly and efficient, but “most importantly reflective of the Judeo-Christian values inherent in the nation’s founding.”

It was an important moment for the 14 commissioners who had campaigned under the banner of the Sumner County Constitutional Republicans. The group had waged a political war on fellow Republicans they viewed as insufficiently conservative in this fast-growing region north of Nashville during a bitter primary a few months before.

Since taking control, that majority has halted plans for a new building, rejected federal grants and tried to give away a historical property, actions it said were in line with its commitment to fiscal responsibility, protecting property owners and managing growth. The group also has been involved in an escalating feud with the county’s election commission in ways that have prompted concerns about whether preparations for the 2024 presidential electin will be affected.

Those early moves have been cheered by their supporters. But some Republicans and community members say the commissioners are operating outside political norms, inviting lawsuits and jeopardizing elections and other county operations.

“What’s happened here is the Sumner County constitutional conservative Republican group, they don’t believe in government,” said Baker Ring, a Republican who is serving his fourth term on the county commission and is not aligned with the new majority. “They’re opposed to government. But now they are the government.”

The tensions are similar to those playing out in communities across the United States where conservative groups have been running candidates for local offices in recent years and sometimes winning majorities, upending the way local governments operate.

They have been motivated by pandemic restrictions, false claims related to the 2020 presidential election, disagreements over race and gender education, or a desire to reign in what they see as unaccountable bureaucracies, with a goal of taking control of school and library boards, county commissions and city councils.

With millions of Republican Party voters continuing to believe former President Donald Trump’s lies that the 2020 presidential election was rigged, many of the new majorities overseeing county governments are considering changes to how elections are run, from getting rid of voting machines to removing ballot drop boxes.

The pressure has led some local election officials around the country to quit. In a few cases, they have been replaced by people who promoted election conspiracy theories.

While their success at winning office has varied, the consequences when they do are becoming apparent in places such as Sumner County, where they can wield power — such as budgeting authority — that could have implications for how elections are run and votes are tallied.

“If we don’t fund it, you don’t get to do it,” one county commissioner, Jeremy Mansfield, told the election administrator and chair of the election commission during a contentious meeting last fall.

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Sumner County is just northeast of Nashville, where urban sprawl meets open land. Horse and cow pastures give way to planned communities with bucolic names like Durham Farms and The Retreat at Norman Farm that surround the main cities of Gallatin and Hendersonville.

Census figures show the county’s population, now nearly 204,000, grew 22% between the 2010 and 2020, driven in part by transplants from California and Texas who were lured by a mix of conservative

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politics, lower housing prices and no state income tax. The county is dominated by Republicans and backed Trump with 69% of the vote in 2020.

The growth has led to a need for more government services, including schools and teachers, while providing an opportunity for a right-wing element within the local Republican Party to gain power.

"They appeal to people who moved here from other states saying, 'If we don't get elected, our Sumner County will become like your county that you came from, and you don't want us to become like you, so you need to vote for our people,'" said Ring, a semiretired high school government teacher. "And that works in a lot of parts of the county."

Eight Republican commissioners were defeated in the May 2022 primary by challengers aligned with the Constitutional Republicans. That paved the way for the group to form the majority after an August general election in which less than 15% of registered voters cast ballots. Helping fuel the group's rise were two property tax increases approved by the county commission over the past decade or so.

Ring did not have a primary challenger and has found himself called a "RINO" — Republican In Name Only — even though "for most of my life, I've been the most conservative person in the room." He is among more than two dozen current and former local officials featured on a "Wall of Shame" that the Constitutional Republicans created on their website.

The group's social media activity includes regular updates on what the commission is doing, along with frequent swipes against others in their party.

"The Republican party (GOP) is not your friend! They do not like us!" read one recent post.

"We exist to smoke out these Rinocrats," said another.

Patrick Flowers, a Democrat who is on the board of a few Sumner County nonprofit organizations, said he was saddened by the discourse. He has seen lifelong conservative friends labeled as "left-wing Democrats" by the Constitutional Republicans group.

"The newly elected folks have this war mentality," he said. "It's not, 'Let's listen and talk.' They think they have instructions from God, and there is no one who can change their opinion."

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When the county's election administrator came before the commission last fall seeking money to pay election workers for the November midterms, commissioners refused and pointed to money she still had in the bank.

The election administrator, Lori Atchley, has continued to ask, warning the commission that she is operating at a deficit because the workers had to be paid. Commissioners have not budged.

It was at that meeting that Mansfield, in his second term on the commission and an influential member of the Constitutional Republicans group, said two weeks of early voting, as required by state law, "just seems excessive for this county." He has expressed support for changes to how elections are conducted, including using paper ballots filled out by hand that would be hand-counted in local polling places only on Election Day.

When a fellow commissioner said the county would soon be adding vote centers — polling places where anyone in the county can vote — Mansfield replied, "Well, we can always change that, too."

Whether the county uses vote centers or has multiple early voting locations falls under the authority of the five state-appointed members of the county election commission, which hires the local election administrator. But county commissioners control funding, and the newly elected conservatives say the election budget is higher than comparable counties and that changes such as vote centers are hard to justify without proof they will increase turnout.

The election commission's desire to move its operations to a larger building is at the center of another dispute between election officials and those now leading the county commission who say the move was never authorized and they want the space for other uses. Election officials say they only needed approval from the county mayor, which they received before the current commission took office. They say they already have been using the new location for storage, training sessions and meetings, and are asking the county for \$300,000 to cover the costs of the move and the vote centers.

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The election commission says the larger space and additional security it provides are needed to store the county's new voting machines, which are larger and heavier than the current ones. Nevertheless, county commissioners voted in March to require the election operations to vacate the building.

The election commission responded by filing a lawsuit against the county, arguing the dispute and forced move "threaten the integrity of the 2024 election before a single vote has been cast."

Mansfield said he would not describe elections in the United States as secure or trustworthy and that he believes the local election administrator has contributed to an erosion of confidence in the community. Among other things, he pointed to a recent misdemeanor citation issued to Atchley over a private property dispute unrelated to her job.

"Elections should be about integrity and trust," he said.

Atchley referred questions about the lawsuit to the election commission's attorney and did not respond to a message seeking comment about the citation and Mansfield's criticism. Tom Lee, the election commission's lawyer, said members regard the citation as a "private matter." There have been no reports of large-scale election problems in the county, and the state recently reappointed members of the election commission.

Commissioner Matthew Shoaf, one of the Constitutional Republicans elected last year, said concerns stem from election officials making purchases and signing contracts associated with the move to the larger building without authorization from the commission. He said he was surprised to see the election commission hire a lawyer and threaten a lawsuit before they had a chance to work through the disagreement.

Lee, the election commission's lawyer, said election staff continues to work with the county as it seeks clarity from the court and prepares for the state's presidential primary early next year.

"We filed our lawsuit because frankly we have plenty to do right now that is pressing business, and we need to be about that business," Lee said. "We have a job to do, it's an important job and we're intent on doing it well."

Shoaf would not talk specifically about the election commission's lawsuit but said the elections department was not being treated any differently from other county departments when asked to justify their budget requests.

"Everybody says, 'I'm fiscally conservative,'" said Shoaf. "Saying and doing are two different things."

Both he and Mansfield described what they said were frustrations in the community with those who sat on the previous county commission.

"People want small government and government they can trust," Mansfield said. "But they feel like they can't trust government because locally they don't feel the government has been responsible with the tax dollars they have been entrusted with."

Charlena Aumiller never imagined she would be attending so many meetings of the Sumner County Commission and its committees.

A lawyer who previously worked for the Tennessee Attorney General's Office, Aumiller has become a local government watchdog. She has chronicled the county commission's actions with regular posts on a public social media page and filed a lawsuit against the commission that claimed, in part, violations of the state's open meetings law.

A Republican and mother of two, Aumiller said she became concerned about the rise of the Constitutional Republicans group during the pandemic and attempts to push their agenda in local schools.

"At one point, I was ignorant, totally oblivious with what is going on -- whoever is in office, it's all interchangeable. That's because I believed there were safeguards," she said. "What I am seeing, they don't care about laws. They don't care about rules. I have never seen anything so fragile as our government."

Elected to his first term last year, County Commissioner Wes Wynne is a Republican and Christian, but he's not part of the Constitutional Republican bloc and is concerned by the majority's actions, citing the filing of four lawsuits since the new commissioners took office.



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Wynne said he has been pushed aside, assigned to just one committee when others typically serve on three. He said he also has been targeted with an ethics complaint after questioning the qualifications of a person nominated to serve on a local board.

Wynne said he has been disheartened to see Christian values invoked by commissioners only to be followed by actions he views as questionable. He said he struggled over how he would vote on the Judeo-Christian question, seeing it as an unnecessary legal risk.

"You know, I'm sworn to do the business of the county but also I'm called, too, to follow the direction of God," said Wynne, who ultimately abstained. "That was one that I felt was more of a gotcha-type of vote. If you support it, great. If you don't, then we're going to use that against you later."

Wynne said he doesn't understand why there's been so much animosity between the county commission and election officials. He offered a motion that presented a compromise on using the larger building, but said it was ignored.

"So far, our commission has done a fabulous job at grinding every ax that they can find against people they don't like," Wynne said.

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## **G7 ends with Ukraine in focus as Zelenskyy meets world leaders and Russia claims disputed gains**

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 battlefield victory that was quickly disputed by Ukraine.

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.

Hosting Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said the group was committed to "strong backing for Ukraine from every possible dimension."

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 spoke one-on-one with several leaders.

Hanging over Sunday's talks was the Russian claim that forces of the Wagner private army and 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.

Comments by Zelenskyy earlier in the day in English suggested that the Russians had finally taken the city. But he and other Ukrainian officials later cast doubt on that assessment, with Zelenskyy telling reporters in Ukrainian that "Bakhmut is not occupied by the Russian Federation as of today."

U.S. President Joe Biden announced new military aid worth \$375 million for Ukraine, saying the U.S. would provide ammunition and armored vehicles. That 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.

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

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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.

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

The Russian Foreign Ministry on Sunday denounced the G7 as "fixated on comprehensive confrontation with Russia ... The leaders of the G7 countries brought to their meeting the chief of the Kyiv regime, who is controlled by them, and ultimately turned the Hiroshima event into a propaganda show."

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.

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

"We're not looking to decouple from China, we're looking to de-risk and diversify," Biden said.

He also vowed to help Taiwan defend itself against a potential attack by China, saying that there is an understanding by the U.S. and its allies that "if China were to act unilaterally, there would be a response."

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 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 in a program meant to offer countries an alternative to China's investment dollars.

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

## Stepping into Spielberg's shoes, James Mangold takes Indiana Jones on one last adventure

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

CANNES, France (AP) — When the lights came up after a screening on the Walt Disney lot of "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny," Steven Spielberg was incredulous.

"Damn!" he said. "I thought I was the only one who knew how to make one of these!"

"Dial of Destiny," which premiered Thursday at the Cannes Film Festival, is the first Indiana Jones film without Spielberg behind the camera. After years of development, Spielberg and Lucasfilm decided to pass the reigns to James Mangold, the "Ford vs. Ferrari" filmmaker, who was 18 years old when he saw "Raiders of the Lost Ark" in a Hudson Valley theater on opening day in 1981.

"When I got over my initial hesitation of just: holy s--- this is a big challenge to step into these very big shoes that Steven Spielberg is leaving, the opportunity, on a very selfish level, to collaborate and learn and have the tools and the resources to play on this level was hard to resist," Mangold said.

Mangold was being tasked with not only restoring the luster of one of the most beloved film series after a disappointing fourth film in 2008's "Indiana Jones and the Crystal Skull," but giving Harrison Ford a poignant send-off in his last performance as the character.

While no one is saying "Dial of Destiny" matches "Raiders of the Lost Ark," the consensus in Cannes was that it betters "Crystal Skull" by a wide margin. Mangold certainly has Ford's endorsement.

"He more than filled the shoes," Ford told reporters. "He made, for me, a beautiful movie."

Before "Dial of Destiny" opens in theaters June 30, Mangold spoke about the challenges of capturing "Indiana Jones" tradition and carrying it forward. After a 1940s-set opening with a de-aged Ford, "Dial of Destiny" moves to the '60s and finds an aged Jones weary and on the cusp of retirement. The space race has made him a relic of a bygone era.

And the notion of who Indiana — an Errol Flynn-like hero forged in the moral clarity of WWII — would be in a more complicated time, without the spryness of youth, factored heavily into Mangold's thinking on "Dial of Destiny." Remarks have been lightly edited for clarity and brevity.

AP: How did you respond when this opportunity arose?

Mangold: When Harrison and Kathy (Kennedy) and Steven came to me about this — you're talking about just heroes of my life. George Lucas. John Williams, too. The idea of being invited to not only play in an all-star game with that kind of team, but also take the mound and be the pitcher, is beyond. So you flash forward to this moment where I'm kind of stepping in to the director's chair, and it's a chance for me to both try and carry forward what I feel like I've been learning all my life from Steven's work. And at the same time carrying my own voice, but wanting very much to work within the same kind of golden-age vernacular that he's operating in. It's pressure because you can't be playing at a higher level with a headier crowd of luminaries around you. You either have to rise to the occasion or not.

AP: Were you surprised the job was even open? During the film's long development, it was long assumed

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that Spielberg would direct.

Mangold: I don't think directing an Indiana Jones film is a job. It is a lifetime commitment. There's too many luminaries and too much involved. When they came to me they were very laser focused on me stepping in. The idea for me was that I wanted to write a script that I could get behind. I wanted to really retool the existing script pretty aggressively, almost entirely. But when they first came to me? It was a complete shock. I was numb. But I'm also not new at this. There's a kid in me that's tickled and flattered — the romantic in me. And then there's the rational person who's survived these movies up to this and knows how to make a picture like this.

AP: And so much of the what defines "Indiana Jones" is the ingenuity of the filmmaking: the clever reveals, the ingenious blocking.

Mangold: These are love letters to Golden Age cinema. You're making a narrative and you're making a movie about characters who have to feel real, but you're also making a movie that in and of itself is about enjoying the sheer beautiful spectacle of movie making. The way shots move together, the way sequences are constructed, the way you kind of unwind the onion of a revelation in the movie. These are all things where you're taking your guidance from the classics.

AP: You've described wanting to make "Dial of Destiny" about "a hero at sunset." How did age relate to your intentions for the film?

Mangold: When they approached me, I immediately found myself faced with making an Indiana Jones with a hero in his late 70s. There's no way around the fact that the audience is going to be confronted with Harrison's age. They're going to see a man they've grown up with in his late 70s. To me, it's not about what I'm doing, it's about what I'm not doing. I'm not going to allow myself to be in denial that this is going to be a huge factor in the audience's mind.

AP: So even though you begin with a de-aged Indiana, you wanted to embrace who Ford, 80, is today.

Mangold: The movie becomes about the very thing that is undeniable. What is it like to be a hero, to be a kind of swashbuckling, mischievous, demanding, fearless, but also fearful? What I thought about, even in relation to some of the struggles they had with "Crystal Skull," was that it's very challenging to carry a kind of golden-age character forward past the dividing line after modernism arrived. The optimism and clarity of purpose with which characters operated in the '30s or '40s is not the same environment that they're operating in in the '50s, '60s and '70s. The arrival of modernism has brought realpolitik and a kind of lack of clarity about who are enemies and who our heroes are. It's brought a kind of cynicism into the world about easy heroes. Science has replace mysticism, and we're landing on the moon where nuclear weapons are all around us.

AP: Was it moving to shoot Ford's last scene as Indiana?

Mangold: We shot his last shot and everyone applauded and we all drank champagne. And it is very moving. But you've been through almost a year of making this movie together. To do a good job making a movie like this, you can never sink completely into that way of thinking. Because if you did, you'd be lost in kind of the symbolism of each moment. Indiana Jones is a part of Harrison, so in a way, I don't think he's ever saying goodbye to the character because he carries this character. It's very close to who he is.

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

## Today in History: May 22, Johnson's 'Great Society'

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, May 22, the 142nd day of 2023. There are 223 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 22, 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson, speaking at the University of Michigan, outlined the goals of his "Great Society," saying that it "rests on abundance and liberty for all" and "demands an end to poverty and racial injustice."



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On this date:

In 1939, the foreign ministers of Germany and Italy, Joachim von Ribbentrop and Galeazzo Ciano, signed a "Pact of Steel" committing the two countries to a military alliance.

In 1960, an earthquake of magnitude 9.5, the strongest ever measured, struck southern Chile, claiming some 1,655 lives.

In 1962, Continental Airlines Flight 11, en route from Chicago to Kansas City, Missouri, crashed after a bomb apparently brought on board by a passenger exploded, killing all 45 occupants of the Boeing 707.

In 1967, a fire at the L'Innovation department store in Brussels killed 322 people. Poet and playwright Langston Hughes died in New York at age 65.

In 1968, the nuclear-powered submarine USS Scorpion, with 99 men aboard, sank in the Atlantic Ocean. (The remains of the sub were later found on the ocean floor 400 miles southwest of the Azores.)

In 1969, the lunar module of Apollo 10, with Thomas P. Stafford and Eugene Cernan aboard, flew to within nine miles of the moon's surface in a dress rehearsal for the first lunar landing.

In 1985, U.S. sailor Michael L. Walker was arrested aboard the aircraft carrier Nimitz, two days after his father, John A. Walker Jr., was apprehended; both were later convicted of spying for the Soviet Union. (Michael Walker served 15 years in prison and was released in 2000.)

In 1992, after a reign lasting nearly 30 years, Johnny Carson hosted NBC's "Tonight Show" for the final time. (Jay Leno took over as host three days later.)

In 2006, The Department of Veterans Affairs said personal data, including Social Security numbers of 26.5 million U.S. veterans, was stolen from a VA employee after he took the information home without authorization.

In 2011, a tornado devastated Joplin, Missouri, with winds up to 250 mph, claiming at least 159 lives and destroying about 8,000 homes and businesses.

In 2020, "Full House" star Lori Loughlin and her fashion designer husband, Mossimo Giannulli, pleaded guilty to paying half a million dollars into the University of Southern California as part of a college admissions bribery scheme. (Loughlin would spend two months behind bars; Giannulli began a five-month sentence in November 2020 and was released to home confinement in April 2021.)

Ten years ago: Lois Lerner, an Internal Revenue Service supervisor whose agents had targeted conservative groups, swore to a House committee she did nothing wrong, then refused to answer further questions, citing her Fifth Amendment right not to incriminate herself. In a brutal daylight attack in London, two al-Qaida-inspired extremists with butcher knives hacked to death an off-duty British soldier, Lee Rigby, before police wounded them in a shootout. (The attackers were later sentenced to prison.)

Five years ago: Stacey Abrams won Georgia's Democratic gubernatorial primary, making her the first woman nominee for Georgia governor from either major party. (Abrams, seeking to become the nation's first black female governor, was defeated in November by Republican Brian Kemp.) Novelist Philip Roth, whose books included "Portnoy's Complaint" and the Pulitzer Prize-winning "American Pastoral," died in New York at the age of 85. A judge in upstate New York ordered a 30-year-old man to move out of his parents' house after they went to court to have him ejected.

One year ago: Polish President Andrzej Duda became the first foreign leader to address the Ukrainian parliament since Russia invaded the country. He traveled to Kyiv to support Ukraine's goal of becoming a candidate for European Union membership. Leaders of the Southern Baptist Convention, America's largest Protestant denomination, stonewalled and denigrated survivors of clergy sex abuse over almost two decades while seeking to protect their own reputations, according to a scathing 288-page investigative report. Kate McKinnon and Pete Davidson departed from "Saturday Night Live," leaving the sketch institution without arguably its two most famous names after its 47th season finale.

Today's Birthdays: Conductor Peter Nero is 89. Actor-director Richard Benjamin is 85. Actor Frank Converse is 85. Actor Barbara Parkins is 81. Retired MLB All-Star pitcher Tommy John is 80. Songwriter Bernie Taupin is 73. Actor-producer Al Corley is 68. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, R-Alaska, is 66. Singer Morrissey is 64. Actor Ann Cusack is 62. Country musician Dana Williams (Diamond Rio) is 62. Rock musician Jesse Valenzuela

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is 61. Actor Mark Christopher Lawrence is 59. R&B singer Johnny Gill (New Edition) is 57. Rock musician Dan Roberts (Crash Test Dummies) is 56. Actor Brooke Smith is 56. Actor Michael Kelly is 54. Model Naomi Campbell is 53. Actor Anna Belknap is 51. Actor Alison Eastwood is 51. Singer Donell Jones is 50. Actor Sean Gunn is 49. Actor A.J. Langer is 49. Actor Ginnifer Goodwin is 45. R&B singer Vivian Green is 44. Actor Maggie Q is 44. Olympic gold medal speed skater Apolo Anton Ohno is 41. Actor Molly Ephraim (TV: "Last Man Standing") is 37. Tennis player Novak Djokovic is 36. Actor Anna Baryshnikov (TV: "Superior Donuts") is 31. Actor Camren Bicondova is 24.