

# Groton Daily Independent

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## Groton Community Calendar

### Monday, May 29

Memorial Day Program at Groton Cemetery, noon.

### Tuesday, May 30

Senior Menu: Creamed chicken, buttermilk biscuit, winter blend vegetables, cookie, apricots.

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

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

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

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

Legion Baseball: at Watertown (DH), 5 p.m.

Jr. Teeners: Huron at Groton, DH, 5 p.m.

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



"Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime."

*-Adlai Stevenson II*

### Wednesday, May 31

Senior Menu: Ham, au gratin potatoes, cauliflower, tropical fruit, whole wheat bread.

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

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

Jr. Legion Baseball: Mobridge at Groton (DH), 5 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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# Groton Daily Independent

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## "Big Pharma has gone fishing"

You are probably familiar with drug commercials. There are all sorts of them showing people being active and smiling as they attend a birthday party, go biking, go surfing, or shopping at a flower shop. At some point they start listing some of the side effects and precautions, including some obvious and some scary statements. "Do not take this medication if you take nitrates for chest pain, do not take this medication if you do not suffer from a disease, or do not take his medication if you are allergic to this medication. Stop taking this medication if you experience headache, dizziness, sudden death, or body odor."



Based on Science, Built on Trust



**Andrew Ellsworth, MD.**

If you think there are more of these commercials now than there used to be, you are correct. In 1997, the FDA relaxed some of the requirements such as listing all possible side effects, as long as they provide a phone number or website to obtain that information. Thus, direct to consumer advertisements have been on the rise ever since. Now, instead of focusing on the education of physicians and other prescribers, the drug companies have greatly increased their budgets on advertising and lobbying. Often they spend more on advertisements than they do on research and development, let alone the actual product.

The research behind how these companies share this information is fascinating. For instance, they know it helps to "water down" bad side effects, such as stroke, with minor side effects, such as body odor. If the list of side effects ends with sudden death, it sounds worse than if it ends with flatulence, so they invest heavily in the research and psychology behind every word in the commercial.

The benefits of direct to consumer advertisements may include increasing public awareness of diseases and treatments, empowering patients to know more about their options. However, these advertisements can lead to increased prescriptions of unnecessary medications, expensive medications, or the preference for an expensive medication over a cheaper one that may be comparable or better. This in turn increases healthcare costs. Meanwhile, the high costs of these advertisements also end up being passed along to people in rising drug prices. Given these concerns, New Zealand and the United States are the only two industrialized nations which allow for direct to consumer marketing by the pharmaceutical industry.

The goal of the weekly Prairie Doc Perspective and the Healing Words Foundation are to enhance health and diminish suffering by communicating useful information, based on honest science, provided in a respectful and compassionate manner. We do not accept any money from the pharmaceutical industry. When hearing about drugs, diets, supplements, or other health information, please consider the source, and talk to your doctor about the risks, benefits, and alternatives.

Andrew Ellsworth, M.D. is part of The Prairie Doc® team of physicians and currently practices family medicine in Brookings, 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 based on science, built on trust for 21 seasons, broadcast on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.

## Weekly Vikings Recap - Seasons the Vikings Failed to Meet Expectations

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

### Minnesota Vikings Seasons that Failed to Meet Expectations

Discuss Vikings' news

After looking at the Minnesota Vikings' teams that exceeded preseason expectations, last week, let's now look at the Vikings' seasons that greatly failed to live up to the expectations they had going into their respective season.

#### 1990 Minnesota Vikings

The 1990 Minnesota Vikings' season was a continuance of failed expectations for the Vikings from the prior season when the team became "Super Bowl favorites" after making the Herschel Walker trade on October 12, 1989, and yet failed to make it to even the NFC Championship game. Coming off the hype in 1989, the team was predicted to win 10 games and finish 1st in the NFC Central.

The Vikings never even had a chance to meet those expectations as the team started 1-6 in their first seven games. After climbing back to a 6-6 record in week 13, the Vikings folded completely, losing their final four games to finish 6-10 and in last place in the NFC Central. The disappointing season would see Mike Lynn lose his position as general manager. Thankfully, for Vikings fans, the disappointment would not last for a while as the Vikings would win at least 8 games every season for the remainder of the 1990s decade.

#### 2001 Minnesota Vikings

After losing in two of the previous three NFC Championship games, the Vikings came into the 2001 season with the expectation to compete once again for a chance to play in the NFC Championship game. Before the season, the Vikings were predicted to win nine games and finish tied for 2nd in the NFC Central.

The 2001 season for the Vikings is one everyone would like to forget. During training camp that season, the team had to deal with the sad death of Vikings' offensive tackle, Korey Stringer, caused by a heat stroke during practice. The team was just never the same after that as they went a measly 5-11, after double-digit victory seasons in the prior three seasons. The 2001 season would also see the departure of Dennis Green and Cris Carter, two Vikings legends who led the team to such success in the decade prior.

#### 2010 and 2011 Minnesota Vikings

I thought I would combine the 2010 and 2011 Minnesota Vikings since those seasons happened back-to-back. Both seasons were oddly similar as the Vikings had two old quarterbacks who were past their prime leading their team with Brett Favre in 2010, and Donovan McNabb in 2011.

The 2010 season was one with high expectations. The team had lost a heartbreaker in the NFC Championship game the year prior and brought back virtually the same roster as the year prior. In 2010, the Vikings were expected to win between nine and 10 games but only amassed a 6-10 record, which caused head coach, Brad Childress, to get fired. To make things worse, that was the same season as the Metrodome roof collapse, which happened to be a good representation of how the season went.

The 2011 season did not have the same expectations as 2010, but it had many of the same players. In 2011, the Vikings were predicted to win only seven games. Sadly, the team did not even come close to that as they finished with a 3-13 record, the worst record the Vikings had had since 1984. Surprisingly, the Vikings led the NFL in sacks that season with 50 sacks, thanks to Jared Allen's franchise record of 22 sacks. However, it was not enough as the Vikings still managed to put together the worst season in Vikings' history for the last four decades.



**MEMORIAL DAY**  
— HONORING ALL WHO SERVED —

**Memorial Day Services  
Columbia American  
Legion**

**Monday, May 29, 2023, 1 p.m.**  
**Guest Speaker: Troy McQuillen**  
**Owner of McQuillen Creative Group,**  
**Publisher of Aberdeen Magazine &**  
**The Aberdeen Insider**

**Legion Memorial Services:**  
**Bath at 9 a.m.**  
**Westport at 10 a.m.**  
**Houghton at 11 a.m.**  
**Columbia Lutheran at 11:30 a.m.**  
**Columbia at noon.**

**Potluck lunch at the Legion will  
begin after the services at  
the cemetery with our  
guest speaker at 1 p.m.**



**GDILIVE.COM**



**Groton Memorial Day Program at Noon  
on Monday, May 29th**

**Free Viewing Sponsored by Groton  
American Legion Post #39**



## MEMORIAL DAY

HONORING ALL WHO SERVED



### **Groton Post #39 Memorial Day Schedule**

**Hufton at 7:30 a.m.**

**James at 8:15 a.m.**

**Verdon at 8:45 a.m.**

**Bates-Scotland at 9:15 a.m.**

**Ferney at 10 a.m.**

**Andover Union at 11 a.m.**

**Groton at Noon**  
**Guest speaker at Groton**  
**is Donald Pasch.**

**Lunch to follow at the Groton Post #39  
home served by the Legion Auxiliary.**

**In the event of inclement weather,  
the ceremony will be held at the  
Post home.**

**Groton Post #39 is sponsoring  
the FREE viewing of the broadcast  
at**

**GDILIVE.COM**

**People in their vehicles can listen  
on the radio at 89.3 FM.**

## JAMES VALLEY TELECOMMUNICATIONS 66<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, June 1st  
Groton Area High School Arena  
11:30am Registration & Lunch  
12:30pm Meeting

- Membership Gift
- Lunch catered by Ken's SuperFair Foods
- Door Prizes, including a \$500 JVT credit
- Call 605-397-2323 to reserve a free bus ride to the meeting
- JVT's Office will be closed 11am-2pm



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## Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion Can't Catch Up To Clark/Willow Lake

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion watched the game slip away early and couldn't recover in a 9-6 loss to Clark/Willow Lake Jr. Legion on Sunday. Clark/Willow Lake Jr. Legion scored on a single by Emmerson Larson, a wild pitch during Collin Gaikowski's at bat, and a groundout by Ernie Garcia in the first inning.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion collected 11 hits and Clark/Willow Lake Jr. Legion had five in the high-scoring affair.

Clark/Willow Lake Jr. Legion got things moving in the first inning, when Emmerson Larson singled on the first pitch of the at bat, scoring one run.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion scored four runs in the third inning. Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion batters contributing to the big inning included Gavin Englund, Korbin Kucker, and Caden Mcinerney, all sending runners across the plate with RBIs in the inning.

Josh Kannegieter took the win for Clark/Willow Lake Jr. Legion. The righthander surrendered four runs on nine hits over three and a third innings, striking out six and walking zero. Cooper Pommer threw one and two-thirds innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Nicholas Morris took the loss for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Morris allowed four hits and six runs over one and one-third innings, striking out two and walking one.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion racked up 11 hits on the day. Jarrett Erdmann, Mcinerney, and Morris each racked up multiple hits for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Morris, Mcinerney, and Erdmann each managed two hits to lead Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion.

Clark/Willow Lake Jr. Legion saw the ball well today, racking up five hits in the game. Conner Mudgett and Emmerson Larson each had multiple hits for Clark/Willow Lake Jr. Legion. Clark/Willow Lake Jr. Legion tore up the base paths, as two players stole at least two bases. Will Hovde led the way with three.



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Groton Post 39 Jr.  
Legion

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Clark/Willow Lake Jr.  
Legion

📍 Away 📅 Sunday May 28, 2023

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
GRTN	0	0	4	0	2	6	11	4
CLRK	4	2	2	1	X	9	5	3

## BATTING

Groton Post 39 Jr.	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
T Diegel (CF)	4	0	1	0	0	2
B Imrie (2B, P, LF)	3	0	0	0	0	1
B Flihs (3B)	3	1	1	0	0	0
G Englund (1B)	3	1	1	1	0	1
N Morris (P, 2B)	3	1	2	0	0	0
K Kucker (SS)	2	2	1	2	0	1
C Mcinerney (LF, P)	3	1	2	0	0	0
K Flihs (C)	3	0	1	0	0	1
J Erdmann (RF)	3	0	2	2	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>

**2B:** T Diegel, J Erdmann, **3B:** K Kucker, **TB:** K Flihs, B Flihs, K Kucker 3, C Mcinerney 2, T Diegel 2, J Erdmann 3, G Englund, N Morris 2, **HBP:** K Kucker, **SB:** B Flihs, C Mcinerney, **LOB:** 7

## PITCHING

Groton Post 39 Jr.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
N Morris	1.1	4	6	3	1	2	0
B Imrie	1.2	0	3	3	4	3	0
<b>C Mcinerney</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>

**L:** N Morris, **P-S:** C Mcinerney 9-6, B Imrie 41-17, N Morris 43-27, **WP:** B Imrie 3, N Morris 3, **HBP:** B Imrie, N Morris, **BF:** C Mcinerney 4, B Imrie 10, N Morris 12

Clark/Willow Lake Jr.	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Jakob Steen (C, S...)	3	2	0	0	0	0
Max Bratland (2B)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Conner Mudgett (...)	2	2	2	1	1	0
Emmerson Larson...	2	1	2	1	0	0
Collin Gaikowski (...)	2	1	0	0	0	1
E Garcia (LF)	3	0	0	1	0	1
Cooper Pommer (...)	2	1	0	0	1	0
Josh Kannegieter...	0	1	0	0	2	0
Damien Severson	2	0	0	0	0	1
Will Hovde (2B, 3B)	1	1	1	0	1	0
Ky Vandersnick (C)	2	0	0	0	0	2
<b>Totals</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>

**2B:** Emmerson Larson, Conner Mudgett, **TB:** Emmerson Larson 3, Conner Mudgett 3, Will Hovde, **HBP:** Emmerson Larson, Collin Gaikowski, **SB:** Conner Mudgett 2, Will Hovde 3, **LOB:** 5

Clark/Willow Lake Jr.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Josh Kanne...	3.1	9	4	0	0	6	0
Cooper Po...	1.2	2	2	2	0	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>

**W:** Josh Kannegieter, **P-S:** Josh Kannegieter 77-53, Cooper Pommer 24-15, **WP:** Josh Kannegieter 2, **HBP:** Cooper Pommer, **BF:** Josh Kannegieter 20, Cooper Pommer 8

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## Five RBI Day for Bradin Althoff Brings in Win For Groton Legion Post 39 Over Clark/Willow Lake Senators

Five runs batted in from Bradin Althoff helped lead Groton Legion Post 39 past Clark/Willow Lake Senators 19-2 on Sunday. Althoff drove in runs on a home run in the third, a double in the fourth, and a single in the fifth.

Groton Legion Post 39 secured the victory thanks to 11 runs in the third inning. Ryan Groeblichhoff, Logan Ringgingberg, Cade Larson, Colby Dunker, Dillon Abeln, and Groeblichhoff each drove in runs during the inning.

Groton Legion Post 39 put up 11 runs in the third inning. The offensive firepower by Groton Legion Post 39 was led by Groeblichhoff, Ringgingberg, Larson, Dunker, Abeln, and Groeblichhoff, all knocking in runs in the inning.

Althoff was the winning pitcher for Groton Legion Post 39. The lefty went five innings, allowing two runs on six hits and striking out four.

Lucas Kannegieter took the loss for Clark/Willow Lake Senators. The righthander surrendered 12 runs on nine hits over two and two-thirds innings, striking out one.

Groton Legion Post 39 socked one home run on the day. Althoff put one out in the third inning.

Groton Legion Post 39 totaled 18 hits in the game. Groeblichhoff, Larson, Althoff, Brevin Flihs, Tate Larson, and Ringgingberg all managed multiple hits for Groton Legion Post 39. Groeblichhoff led Groton Legion Post 39 with four hits in five at bats.

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## Groton Legion Post 39 19 - 2 Clark/Willow Lake Senators

📍 Away 📅 Sunday May 28, 2023

	1	2	3	4	5	R	H	E
GRTN	0	1	11	2	5	19	18	1
CLRK	0	0	0	2	0	2	6	5

### BATTING

Groton Legion Post	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
B Flihs (CF)	3	4	2	0	1	0
R Groeblinghoff (...)	5	4	4	4	0	1
T Larson (1B)	3	3	2	2	2	0
B Althoff (P)	4	3	3	5	0	0
L Ringgingberg (R...)	4	1	2	4	0	1
C McInerney (RF)	0	0	0	0	0	0
C Larson (C)	4	1	3	1	1	0
C Dunker (LF)	4	1	1	1	0	0
T Diegel (LF)	1	0	0	0	0	1
D Abeln (3B)	4	1	0	1	0	0
B Imrie (2B)	4	1	1	0	0	0
K Kucker (2B)	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>

**2B:** B Althoff, R Groeblinghoff 2, T Larson, **HR:** B Althoff, **TB:** C Dunker, B Imrie, B Althoff 7, R Groeblinghoff 6, T Larson 3, L Ringgingberg 2, B Flihs 2, C Larson 3, **HBP:** B Althoff, L Ringgingberg, B Flihs, **SB:** T Larson, **LOB:** 9

### PITCHING

Groton Legio	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
B Althoff	5.0	6	2	1	2	4	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>

**W:** B Althoff, **P-S:** B Althoff 81-51, **BF:** B Althoff 23

Clark/Willow Lake	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
Jakob Steen (C)	3	0	1	0	0	0
Conner Mudgett (...)	2	0	0	0	1	2
Mitchell Larson (1...)	3	0	0	0	0	2
Jack Bratland (3B...)	3	0	1	0	0	0
Lucas Kannegiete...	3	1	1	0	0	0
Collin Gaikowski (...)	2	1	1	0	0	0
Owen Spieker (RF)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waylan Olson (LF)	2	0	0	1	0	0
Cooper Pommer (...)	2	0	1	0	0	0
Emmerson Larson...	1	0	1	1	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>

**3B:** Jakob Steen, **TB:** Emmerson Larson, Collin Gaikowski, Jakob Steen 3, Cooper Pommer, Lucas Kannegieten, Jack Bratland, **SB:** Conner Mudgett, **LOB:** 6

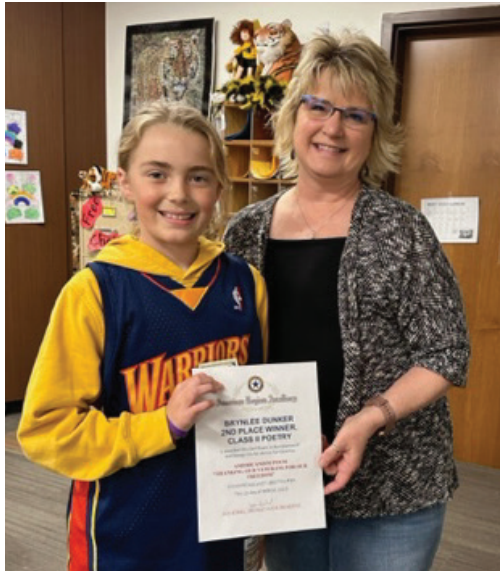
Clark/Willow	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
Lucas Kann...	2.2	9	12	11	2	1	1
Mitchell Lar...	1.1	3	2	2	2	1	0
Conner Mu...	1.0	6	5	5	0	1	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>

**L:** Lucas Kannegieten, **P-S:** Mitchell Larson 24-15, Lucas Kannegieten 72-45, Conner Mudgett 20-17, **HBP:** Lucas Kannegieten 3, **BF:** Mitchell Larson 9, Lucas Kannegieten 25, Conner Mudgett 9

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## District Level Winners of the American Legion Auxiliary Poem and Essay Contest



**Brynlee Dunker**

(Photo courtesy Jan Seibel)



**Andi Iverson**

(Photo courtesy Jan Seibel)



**Kaylee Sippel**

(Photo courtesy Jan Seibel)

Congratulations to the American Legion Auxiliary Essay and Poem winners representing the Columbia and Groton American Legion Auxiliaries at the district level. This year's theme for the essay is "What does patriotism mean to you?" and the poems theme is "Thanking our Veterans for our freedom."

Representing Groton American Legion Auxiliary Unit #39 are Brynlee Dunker, 2nd place Class II poem and Kaylee Sippel, 1st place Class I essay. Representing Columbian American Legion Auxiliary Unit #58 is Andi Iverson, 1st place Class II poem. The first place winners now move onto state level competition. ALA Americanism chairman from the Groton Unit is Jerrie Vedei awarding the winners with a certificate and money.



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## Columbia Fourth Grade Poems

The Columbia Legion Auxiliary presented the awards for the fourth grade poems. Pictured are Lillian Davis, second place; Andi Iverson, first place; and Mya Moody, third place. Presenting the award is Columbia Legion Auxiliary junior member, Ellie Weismantel.

(Photo courtesy Cara Dennert)

## Columbia Third Grade Essays

The Columbia Legion Auxiliary presented the awards for the third grade essays. Jernie Weig, honorable mention; Giedon Rix, honorable mention; not pictured is Hudson McGannon, first place. Presenting the award is Columbia Legion Auxiliary junior member, Ellie Weismantel.

(Photo courtesy Cara Dennert)







## SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

### **Congressional Roundup: Johnson seeks a fix for tribal mortgages**

**BY: SEARCHLIGHT STAFF - MAY 27, 2023 2:15 PM**

Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-South Dakota, introduced legislation this week to streamline the approval process for mortgages on tribal land.

Some tribal land is held in trust by the federal government, and mortgages involving property on trust land must be reviewed and approved by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The BIA Mortgage Handbook establishes timelines for BIA offices to process and approve mortgages, but Johnson said those timelines are not always met.

The bill is the Tribal Trust Homeownership Act. Johnson said it would:

- Seek to cut BIA red tape and provide timely processing of mortgages.
- Create timelines in which the BIA would be required to process and approve mortgages for property located on tribal trust land.
- Require the BIA to notify lenders upon receipt of documentation and perform a preliminary review of documents not later than 10 days afterward, and approve or disapprove of the documents within 20 or 30 days, depending on the type of application.
- Require the BIA to notify the lender once the proposed residential leasehold mortgage, business leasehold mortgage, or right-of-way document has been received.
- Enhance the ability of certain federal agencies to operate their tribal housing programs and improve communication between the BIA and tribes, tribal members, and lenders through the establishment of a realty ombudsman within the BIA who can communicate with relevant parties.

"Housing availability is lacking across the country," Johnson said in a news release. "It's no different on tribal lands. Without proper timelines or accountability, the BIA is creating a longer and more difficult process for those trying to purchase tribal trust land."

The bill is endorsed by the South Dakota Native Homeownership Coalition and Mortgage Bankers Association.

Companion legislation has been introduced in the U.S. Senate by a bipartisan group including Sen. John Thune and Mike Rounds, both Republicans from South Dakota.

#### **Urging a focus on China**

Rounds and Sen. Joe Manchin, D-West Virginia, led a group of their colleagues in sending a letter to the leadership of the Appropriations Subcommittees on Defense, urging them to continue to invest in the Marine Corps Force Design 2030 initiatives.

Force Design 2030 is the Marine Corps' restructuring plan to modernize and prepare its forces to counter threats from China.

Force Design 2030 requires the Marine Corps to restructure its organization in the western Pacific, shifting to a naval expeditionary force.

#### **Johnson bills pass committee**

A House committee has passed two of Johnson's measures that address shipping and trucking.

The Ocean Shipping Reform Implementation Act would strengthen provisions from Johnson's earlier Ocean Shipping Reform Act, which became law in 2022. The new bill would prohibit U.S. ports from using Chinese state-sponsored LOGINK software, allow the Federal Maritime Commission to investigate foreign shipping exchanges like the Shanghai Shipping Exchange to preempt improper business practices, and authorize the commission to streamline data standards for maritime freight logistics.

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The 91,000-pound Weight Exemption Pilot Program, a provision in Johnson's SHIP It Act, would establish a voluntary 10-year pilot program for states to increase truck weights on federal interstates up to 91,000 pounds on six axles.

"My bills strengthen our supply chain, allowing products to reach consumers faster and fighting against China's unfair trade practices," Johnson said in a news release.

The U.S. House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee passed both bills, sending them to the full House of Representatives.

## How they voted

The House passed and sent to the Senate the HALT Fentanyl Act, which would permanently categorize lab-made substances with similar chemical structures to fentanyl among the most strictly regulated drugs under U.S. law; the vote was 289-133 with a yes from Johnson.

The House voted to overturn the Biden administration's one-time student debt relief plan that is currently on hold awaiting a Supreme Court decision expected within weeks; the vote was 218-203 with a yes from Johnson, and the resolution now goes to the Senate.

## COMMENTARY

### Rounds, Thune show courage with Scott endorsement

DANA HESS

At this point in the presidential election cycle, all we have is speculation. With eight months before the first caucus in Iowa and nine months until the first primary in New Hampshire, all any of us can do is read tea leaves if we're trying to predict the political future. Fortunately, tea leaves abound.

Plenty of those tea leaves are floating around former President Donald Trump and his bushel basket of legal troubles. Despite being heavily invested in lawyers, the former president still has a comfortable lead in Republican presidential polls. His followers, it seems, are the forgiving type because, let's be honest now, who among us hasn't paid hush money to a porn star or instigated an attempt to overthrow the government?

There's an ever-growing field of candidates who are counting on the president's legal troubles and bombastic nature to cause Republican primary voters to search for an alternative. The Republican field gets more crowded by the day, so far sporting Trump, former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley, former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, businessman Vivek Ramaswamy, radio host Larry Elder and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. There are some heavy hitters waiting in the wings, including former Vice President Mike Pence.

Another candidate appeared recently in the person of South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott. News reports about Scott's announcement noted his upbeat message, religious faith and conservative values. Scott, the Senate's only Black Republican, must have something special, because he has the endorsement of both of South Dakota's senators.

According to Politico, Mike Rounds was the first sitting senator this cycle to endorse a Republican presidential candidate other than Trump. At this writing, Trump has the support of 11 Senate Republicans. Some, like Tommy Tuberville of Alabama and J.D. Vance of Ohio, he helped elect. Others, like Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and Mike Braun of Indiana, have been longtime acolytes.

Rounds, who has compared Scott to Ronald Reagan, has not always had a pleasant relationship with former President Trump. Last January, Rounds had the temerity to say that Joe Biden won the presidential election. He also asserted that there was no indication of widespread fraud in the election.

This got under Trump's skin, causing the former president to publicly say that the only reason Rounds felt comfortable making such comments was because Trump helped get him re-elected in 2020. He went on to call the South Dakota senator a "jerk."

South Dakota's senior senator, John Thune, has also endorsed Scott's presidential aspiration, leading a prayer for Scott at his announcement event. Thune said that Scott has a message of hope and optimism. Like Rounds, Thune has also been in Trump's crosshairs.

When Thune didn't fall in line with Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election, Trump called him a

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RINO (Republican in name only) and dubbed him "Mitch's boy" since Thune serves as second in command to Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell.

So, getting back to those tea leaves, what does it mean when two veteran senators from the same state, well-liked within their caucus, popular in a state that twice voted for Trump, choose to endorse someone other than Donald Trump in the Republican presidential primary?

Well, it probably doesn't mean much in the primary. Those endorsements cause some early headlines for Scott and that's just what his longshot campaign needs. Endorsements, however, don't always turn into votes. In Trump's first run for the GOP nomination, he didn't start to rack up endorsements until he began to win primaries and elected officials could tell which way the wind was blowing. In that election cycle, Sen. Rand Paul of Kentucky had the endorsement of Mitch McConnell and ended up dropping out of the race after the Iowa caucuses.

For South Dakota, the early endorsement of Scott by the state's two senators means that he may be worth taking a look at during the primary. Maybe he is a viable alternative for Republicans worn down by Trump's sketchy ethics and bullying tactics. There must be something there if Rounds and Thune are already fans.

For South Dakota's senators, however, their endorsement of Tim Scott is an act of courage. Trump is known to carry a grudge and punish his enemies. By throwing their support to the South Carolina senator, Rounds and Thune set themselves up for long years of torment should Trump be elected in 2024.

*Dana Hess spent more than 25 years in South Dakota journalism, editing newspapers in Redfield, Milbank and Pierre. He's retired and lives in Brookings, working occasionally as a freelance writer.*

## Western lands fight erupts over Bureau of Land Management's conservation proposal

**BY: JACOB FISCHLER - MAY 29, 2023 12:30 AM**

One thing opponents and proponents of a recently proposed U.S. Bureau of Land Management rule agree on: It would be a major shift in how the agency manages nearly 250 million acres of federal lands.

The rule would allow for conservation leases, similar to how the agency auctions off parcels of land for mining, livestock grazing or oil and gas development. Supporters say the proposal would lift conservation to the level of extractive uses, a responsible move to protect lands affected by climate change.

Outraged opponents — including many congressional Republicans — view the rule as a drastic overreach that violates existing law. Fears that conservation leases would evict grazing permittees and others have only been stoked by Republican rhetoric on the issue.

"The BLM has time and again shown their aim is to drastically reduce, or even eliminate, grazing on public lands, and this proposed rule is the latest iteration of this effort," Washington Republican U.S. Rep. Dan Newhouse said in a May 22 statement announcing a bill to block the proposed rule.

But the rule would have little to no impact on existing users of federal lands, the proposal's supporters say.

They say opponents have been led astray by an inherent distrust of President Joe Biden's administration, apprehension about a big change in the agency that manages their livelihoods, or fed misinformation by oil and gas allies.

"There has been a lot of confusion around the proposed rule," Danielle Murray, senior legal and policy director with the advocacy group Conservation Lands Foundation, said on a press call. "There's false claims that this rule would kick ranchers off their land, it would mean the end of oil and gas development, it would lock the public out.

"The facts are that the proposed rule explicitly states it does not undermine or impact any valid existing rights."

John Gale, the vice president of policy and government relations with the nonpartisan conservation group Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, said he was surprised at the immediacy of the opposition.

"It feels a little knee-jerk," he said in an interview. "It's premature to lob judgments like that or leap to

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dramatic conclusions that are drowning in hyperbole. That seems to be what's going on right now, and it's, of course, political in nature."

## **'Everything in my power to stop this proposal'**

Republicans in Congress responded quickly and indignantly to the proposed rule, calling it a violation of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act that governs how the BLM is supposed to manage public lands.

"The Biden Administration's extreme unilateral action will kill multiple use," Wyoming Republican John Barrasso, the ranking member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, said in a statement the day BLM published the proposed rule. "This is a clear violation of the law. I will do everything in my power to stop this proposal."

Republican Montana U.S. Rep. Matt Rosendale accused Interior Secretary Deb Haaland of violating federal public lands law by proposing the rule during an April 19 U.S. House Natural Resources hearing.

"Public lands are multi-use," Haaland said at the hearing. "It's putting all of those uses on equal footing."

"They're not supposed to be on equal footing," Rosendale responded. "And we need to abide by the law, not the rule."

Rosendale raised more objections to the rule at a May 24 hearing.

Opponents say the law requires the agency to manage land for multiple uses, including extractive industries like oil and gas, mining and grazing. Conservation is not a "use," as defined in the law, they say.

But the law also explicitly tasks the agency with managing the land for conservation purposes, advocates and legal experts say — though the BLM has rarely put conservation on the same level as extractive uses.

The law directs the agency to manage for several uses, including oil and gas, grazing, but also to protect lands' historic, ecological, environmental and other values, Bailey Brennan, a public lands attorney with the advocacy group National Wildlife Federation, said in an interview.

"BLM has historically over the last 40 years managed public lands with an emphasis on the more extractive uses: grazing, mining, oil and gas development," she said. "This is bringing conservation to the forefront on par with those other extractive uses, consistent with FLPMA ... Congress was very deliberate about including language to the effect of conservation."

Other opponents have said the rule does not add value to the BLM's existing work. The agency already does conservation work, partnering with states to conduct "meaningful conservation projects," Nevada Director of Agriculture Dr. J.J. Goicoechea said at the May 24 hearing.

"Do we need them on public land? Absolutely," he said. "I don't think we need to reinvent the wheel. I think we have the tools we have now. The agency is overburdened. They can't do the work they're challenged with now and (if) we're going to put another level on top of that, we're going to see other things slide."

## **Difficult relationship**

The Biden administration does lack credibility with extractive industries — especially oil and gas producers — that use public lands and their mostly Republican political allies following the president's day one executive order to pause oil and gas leasing on public lands, Gale said

The pause was good policy, Gale said, but it tanked Biden's relationship with the industry.

"That set them off right out of the gate, and they've never come back from that moment," he said. "Now, there's the assumption that they're trying other ways to accomplish what they wanted in the beginning. And so they're looking for nefarious intent behind every blade of grass and every piece of sagebrush on BLM land."

The rhetoric over the new proposal was reminiscent of an earlier Biden administration initiative of protecting 30% of U.S. lands and waters by 2030.

"We're seeing some of those similar arguments to 30x30," Murray said.

Conservatives, especially in Western states, used that initiative as a symbol of government overreach, inspiring conspiracy theories about seizures of private property.

Such fears can happen when people don't have enough information about a policy that could drastically affect their livelihoods. The agency has not been as explicit as it could be in the proposal that other uses

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will remain, Gale said. That has left a vacuum for those users to imagine worst-case scenarios, he said.

"In the absence of information and knowledge, sometimes people make dramatic conclusions on their own," he said. "That's kind of what's happening here. And I'm hoping they'll engage in the actual public meetings to clarify some of these things."

Brennan, who has lived in Wyoming her whole life, said she understood why ranchers and others whose livelihoods depend on access to public lands would worry about a major change to how that access is managed.

She encouraged people with concerns to become involved in the conversation to shape the proposal.

*Jacob covers federal policy as a senior reporter for States Newsroom. Based in Oregon, he focuses on Western issues. His coverage areas include climate, energy development, public lands and infrastructure.*



## EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: Do nature, plants and animals have legal rights? – Tom C., Raleigh, NC

The question of whether nature, encompassing plants and animals, should possess rights is a complex and contentious one. Humans have long exerted dominance over the natural world, but a growing movement argues for recognizing the inherent value and rights of nature. Advocates of this view, known as the Rights of Nature movement, say that ecosystems and non-humans should have legal protection akin to human rights. However, this notion challenges and raises philosophical, ethical and legal questions.

Proponents of granting rights to nature argue that its essential to address the current ecological crisis and protect the planet's delicate balance. By recognizing nature's rights, they say, we would establish a legal framework to prevent environmental degradation and hold individuals, corporations and governments accountable for their actions. The approach aims to shift the perspective from viewing nature solely as a resource for human exploitation to recognizing its intrinsic worth and inherent rights to exist and thrive.

Opponents, however, assert that the concept of granting rights to nature is misguided, arguing that only beings capable of rational thought and moral agency can bear rights, which are typically regarded as a social contract based on reciprocal duties and responsibilities, concepts that seem irrelevant when considering non-human entities. Critics argue that conferring rights upon nature could lead to impractical and unenforceable legal obligations that would hinder human progress and economic development.

The recognition of nature's rights faces practical challenges, too. Defining the scope of these rights and identifying appropriate legal protections are daunting tasks. Humans have a shared understanding of human rights based on our capacity for reason and empathy, but determining the rights of ecosystems or individual species is far more complex. For example, would granting rights to nature imply equal consideration for all organisms, or would priority be given to keystone species or vulnerable ecosystems?

Moreover, implementing and enforcing the rights of nature would require a considerable restructuring of legal systems worldwide. It would necessitate changes to statutes, regulations and governance structures, which could prove challenging and time-consuming. Additionally, the issue of representation arises: Who would litigate on nature's behalf and adequately represent its interests poses yet another hurdle.

While the Rights of Nature movement faces hurdles, it has gained traction in recent years. Several countries, including Ecuador, Bolivia and New Zealand, have recognized legal rights for rivers, forests or specific species. These efforts reflect a growing awareness of the interconnectedness of ecosystems and the urgent need to protect them. However, it is essential to strike a balance between protecting nature and ensuring human well-being. Critics worry that a rights-based approach to nature may unintentionally undermine human rights and impede socioeconomic progress. Ultimately, the question of whether nature should possess rights is a deeply philosophical and ethical one, challenging us to reconsider our relationship with nature and recognize the inherent value of all living beings. While these challenges and philosophical debates persist, it is clear that the dialogue surrounding the rights of nature will continue to evolve as we grapple with the urgent need to protect our planet.



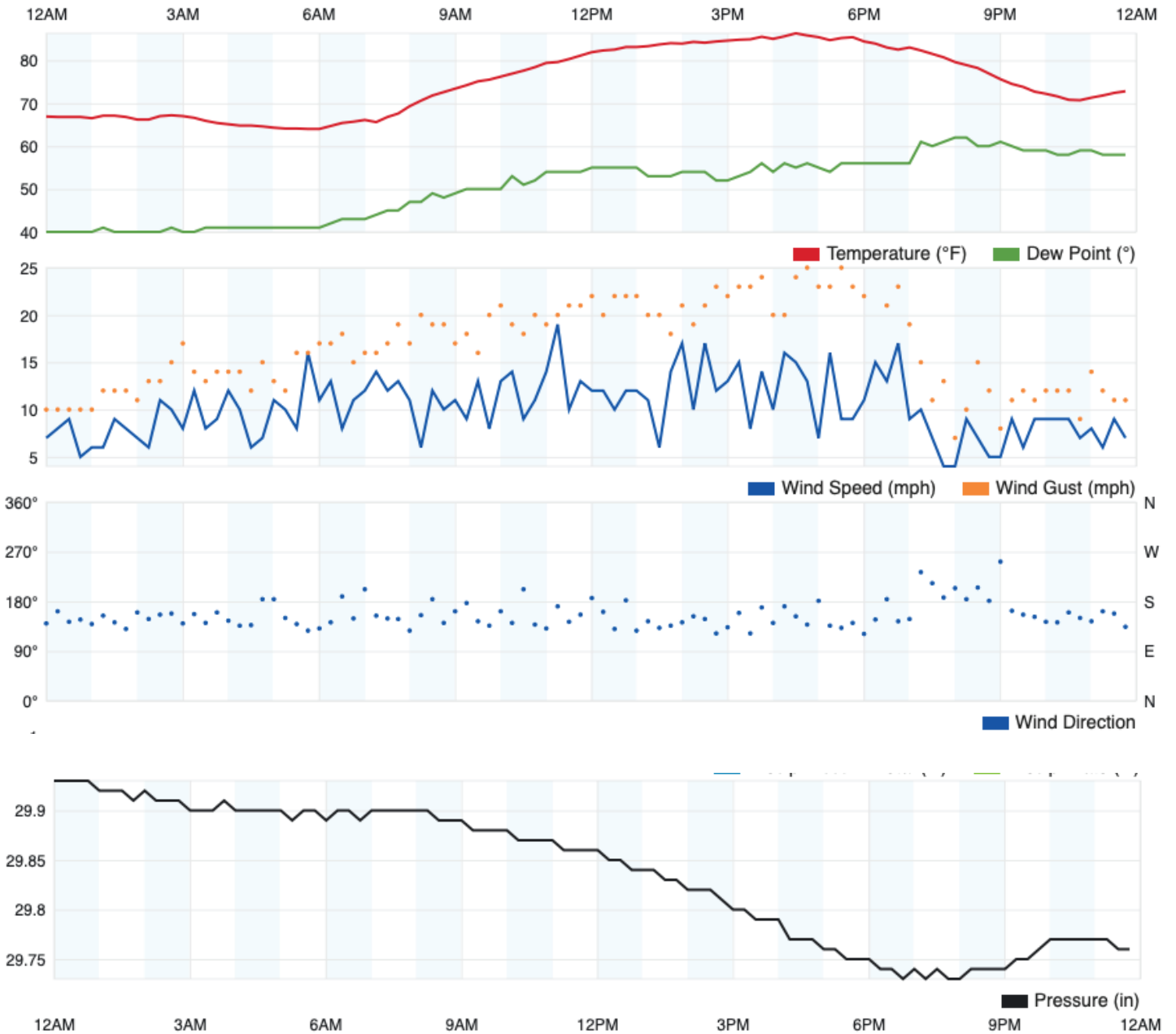
**Whether or not plants and animals have legal rights like humans depends on who you ask.** Credit:

Roddy Scheer.

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## Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Memorial Day	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
 20%	 50%			 20%	 40%	 20%   40%
Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms then Chance Showers
High: 85 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 87 °F	Low: 59 °F	High: 88 °F	Low: 62 °F	High: 89 °F



## Severe Weather Threat Today

May 29, 2023  
6:16 AM

this afternoon & evening

**Tornado Potential**

Very Low **Low** Medium High

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**Max Hail Size**

Dimes **Quarters** Golfball Baseball

---

**Max Wind Speed**

< 60 mph **60-70 mph** 70-80 mph > 80mph

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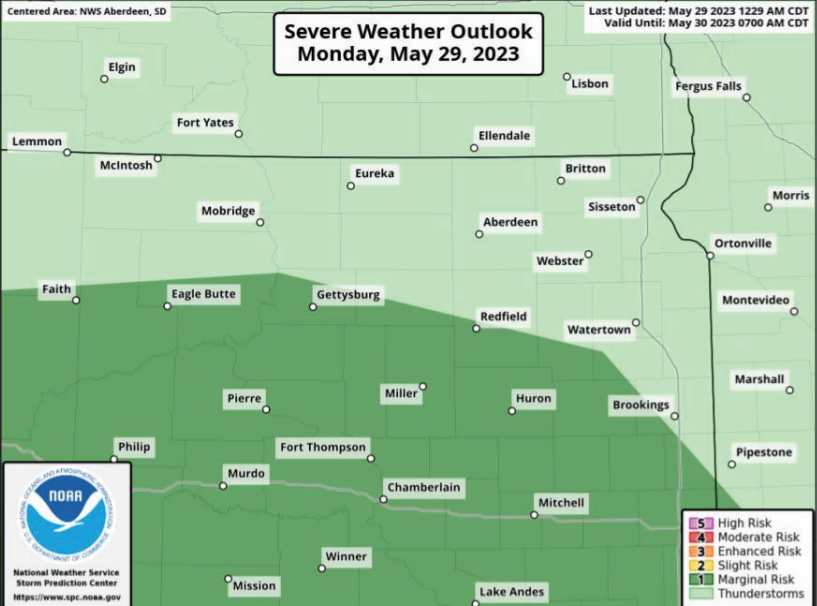
**Heavy Rain/Flooding Potential**

Very Low **Low** Medium High


Centered Area: NWS Aberdeen, SD

**Severe Weather Outlook**  
Monday, May 29, 2023

Last Updated: May 29 2023 12:29 AM CDT  
Valid Until: May 30 2023 07:00 AM CDT



**5** High Risk  
**4** Moderate Risk  
**3** Enhanced Risk  
**2** Slight Risk  
**1** Marginal Risk  
 Thunderstorms



National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
U.S. Department of Commerce

**National Weather Service**  
Aberdeen, SD



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## Warm With Rain Chances This Week

May 29, 2023  
3:10 AM

### Rain Chance Through Wednesday

	5/29 Mon						5/30 Tue						5/31 Wed						6/1 Thu				
	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am	3am	6am	9am	12pm	3pm	6pm	9pm	12am
<b>Aberdeen</b>	15	15	15	15	35	50	25	20	10	5	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	5	20	20	40	40	40
Britton	10	25	25	25	40	55	35	15	15	5	15	15	25	25	25	15	15	5	25	25	30	30	30
Brookings	25	15	25	35	45	45	45	45	45	25	55	55	55	45	45	30	30	15	45	45	45	30	30
Chamberlain	10	10	20	30	50	50	50	20	20	5	15	15	35	35	35	30	30	5	20	20	40	40	40
Clark	15	10	15	20	20	45	40	30	10	5	15	15	30	30	30	20	20	10	25	25	30	30	30
Eagle Butte	5	0	0	15	30	15	5	0	0	0	5	5	15	15	20	20	20	5	25	25	40	40	45
Ellendale	15	20	15	20	30	50	35	20	15	5	10	10	20	20	20	10	10	5	25	25	35	35	35
Eureka	15	10	5	20	40	40	30	15	5	0	5	5	5	5	10	10	10	5	20	20	35	35	35
Gettysburg	5	5	5	10	40	35	20	5	5	0	5	5	15	15	20	20	20	5	25	25	40	40	40
Huron	20	10	25	35	55	55	55	30	30	15	30	30	35	35	35	25	25	10	25	25	35	35	35
Kennebec	5	0	5	15	25	25	15	0	0	0	10	10	15	15	25	25	25	5	30	30	50	50	50
McIntosh	15	5	5	35	50	30	5	0	0	0	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	0	20	20	35	35	35
<b>Milbank</b>	20	15	25	40	35	50	55	30	10	5	30	30	30	20	20	15	15	10	40	40	40	35	35
Miller	10	10	5	10	30	45	20	15	5	5	10	10	30	30	30	25	25	10	25	25	40	40	40
<b>Mobridge</b>	10	5	5	10	35	35	20	5	0	0	5	5	5	5	10	10	10	0	20	20	35	35	35
Murdo	5	0	0	15	30	15	5	0	0	0	5	5	25	25	25	25	25	5	25	25	45	45	45
<b>Pierre</b>	5	0	0	10	35	25	10	0	0	0	5	5	10	10	20	20	20	5	25	25	50	50	50
Redfield	10	10	10	10	30	45	30	15	10	5	10	10	15	15	15	15	15	10	25	25	45	45	45
Sisseton	20	20	45	35	30	50	50	25	10	5	25	25	25	15	15	10	10	5	30	30	35	35	35
<b>Watertown</b>	15	10	15	30	25	55	50	35	10	5	25	25	35	35	35	20	20	15	40	40	40	30	30
Webster	15	20	25	25	20	50	45	25	10	5	20	20	30	30	30	15	15	10	25	25	35	35	35
Wheaton	30	20	40	55	40	50	55	25	5	5	25	25	25	15	15	5	5	5	35	35	35	30	30

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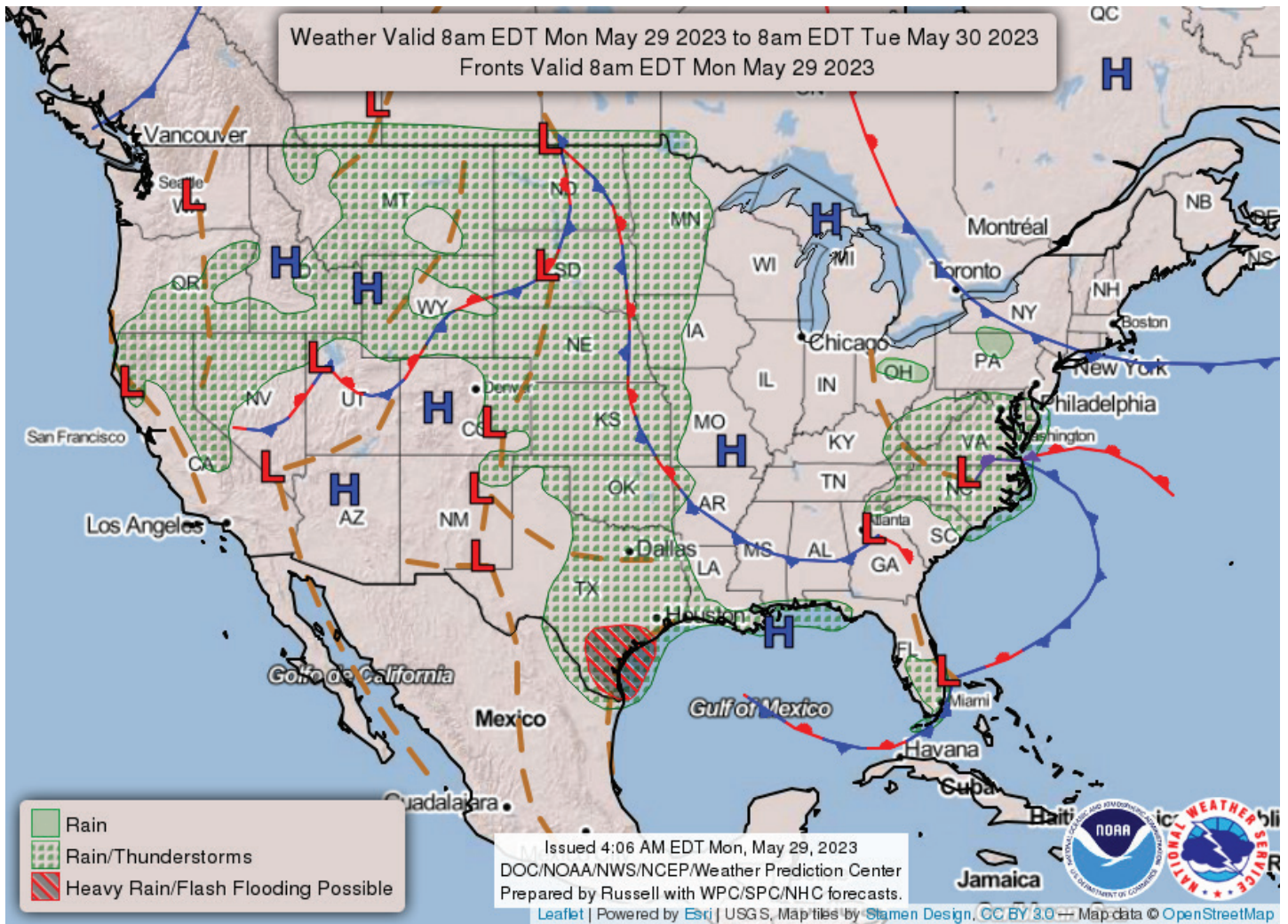
## Yesterday's Groton Weather

**High Temp: 86 °F at 4:29 PM**  
**Low Temp: 64 °F at 5:54 AM**  
**Wind: 26 mph at 6:32 PM**  
**Precip: : 0.00**

Day length: 15 hours, 25 minutes

## Today's Info

Record High: 99 in 1934  
Record Low: 23 in 1947  
Average High: 75  
Average Low: 50  
Average Precip in May.: 3.07  
Precip to date in May.: 2.19  
Average Precip to date: 7.04  
Precip Year to Date: 7.91  
Sunset Tonight: 9:12:24 PM  
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:46:35 AM





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## Today in Weather History

May 29, 1953: An auditorium was almost entirely unroofed, and barns, along with outbuildings were destroyed in McLaughlin by a tornado. Seven businesses and two homes were also damaged. Estimate of property damage at \$100,000. This tornado was estimated to have F2 strength.

May 29, 2004: Hail, with the largest a quarter sizes, fell in many parts of north-central South Dakota. Lightning struck a house in Veblen and caused some damage. Glass from a broken window hit a man, and some debris from the ceiling hit a woman. They were taken to the hospital and treated for minor injuries. The torrential rains of 3 to 6 inches fell between Westport and Columbia with cropland and many roads flooded. Also, some basements were flooded. Four, weak F0 tornadoes, also were reported. The first two touched down near Bath causing no damage. The other two occurred near Ipswich, also causing no damage.

1947: An unprecedented late-spring snowstorm blasts portions of the Midwest from eastern Wyoming to eastern Upper Michigan. The heavy snow caused severe damage to power and telephone lines and the already-leafed-out vegetation.

1951 - A massive hailstorm, from Wallace to Kearney County in Kansas, caused six million dollars damage to crops. (David Ludlum)

1953 - A tornado, 600 yards wide at times, killed two persons on its 20 mile path from southwest of Fort Rice ND into Emmons County. Nearly every building in Fort Rice was damaged. The Catholic church was leveled, with some pews jammed four feet into the ground. (The Weather Channel)

1982: Two significant tornadoes ripped through southern Illinois. The most severe was an F4 that touched down northeast of Carbondale, Illinois then moved to Marion. The twister had multiple vortices within the main funnel. Extensive damage occurred at the Marion Airport. A total of 10 people were killed, and 181 were injured. 648 homes and 200 cars were damaged or destroyed, with total damages around \$100 million.

1986: Hailstones over 3 inches in diameter pounded South Shore in Montreal, Quebec Canada causing over \$65 million in damage.

1987 - Thunderstorms in West Texas produced softball size hail at Lamesa, and hail up to twelve inches deep east of Dimmitt. Thunderstorms also spawned seven tornadoes in West Texas, including one which injured three persons at Wolfforth. Thunderstorms deluged the Texas Hill Country with up to eleven inches of rain. Severe flooding along the Medino, Hondo, Seco, Sabinal and Frio rivers caused more than fifty million dollars damage. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - A powerful cold front brought snow and high winds to parts of the western U.S. Austin, NV, was blanketed with ten inches of snow, and winds gusted to 75 mph at the Mojave Airport in California. Strong southerly winds and unseasonably warm weather prevailed in the north central U.S. Glasgow, MT, equalled their record for the month of May with a high of 102 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Wintry weather gripped parts of the northwestern U.S. for the second day in a row. Great Falls, MT, was blanketed with 12 inches of snow, which pushed their total for the winter season to a record 117.4 inches. Six inches of snow whitened the Cascade Mountains of Oregon. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1990 - Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather from north central Colorado to the northern half of Texas. Severe thunderstorms spawned four tornadoes, and there were seventy reports of large hail or damaging winds. Midday thunderstorms produced wind gusts to 90 mph at Hobart, OK, and produced up to three and a half inches of rain in eastern Colorado in four hours. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Daily Devotionals

## Seeds of Hope

### GOOD FOR EVIL

A truck driver went into a café and ordered a hamburger, French fries, a piece of pie, and a cup of coffee. Shortly after he placed his order, a group of bikers came in and surrounded him. When he was served, they ate his food and drank his coffee. Quietly, the trucker stood up, walked to the cash register, paid his bill, said nothing, walked past them, and out the door.

"He's really not much of a man," said one of the bikers.

"And he's really not much of a driver either," said the cashier. "He just ran over three bikes in the parking lot."

In Romans 12 Paul describes the central values for Christian living. In particular, he said that if we have truly experienced God's grace, we will want to share it with others. Forgiveness is a good example of sharing and showing God's grace to others.

Often we say that we forgive others for the wrongs they have done to us. But, forgiveness is much more than quietly offering kind words under our breath that only God hears. Forgiveness is active, not passive. If we have trouble forgiving someone and the hate remains lodged in our heads and hearts and not expressed with our hands by showing forgiveness, we need to do something that reflects forgiveness - like offering them a small gift. That would certainly demonstrate forgiveness.

And, when we do so, we can begin to think of - in some very small way - the tremendous gift of forgiveness that God gave to us in and through His Son: our salvation!

Prayer: Help us, Father, to be forgiving and loving of those who harm us. We see examples of this in Your Son, even when on His cross. May we follow His example. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone. Romans 12:17-21



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 following will be used for your log-in information.

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## WINNING NUMBERS

### MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:  
05.26.23

12 20 37 41 64 1

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$187,000,000**

NEXT 1 Days 15 Hrs 12  
DRAW: Mins 8 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:  
05.27.23

2 23 28 40 50 8

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$3,200,000**

NEXT 15 Hrs 12 Mins 8  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:  
05.28.23

2 10 21 36 44 9

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

NEXT 14 Hrs 42 Mins 7  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:  
05.27.23

3 8 11 17 22

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$77,000**

NEXT 2 Days 15 Hrs 12  
DRAW: Mins 7 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:  
05.27.23

21 28 31 48 49 18

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

NEXT 15 Hrs 11 Mins 8  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

### POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:  
05.27.23

24 38 39 48 56 4

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:  
**\$226,000,000**

NEXT 15 Hrs 11 Mins 8  
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)



## News from the Associated Press

### Russia strikes Kyiv in daylight after hitting Ukrainian capital with a more common nighttime barrage

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Explosions rattled Kyiv during daylight Monday as Russian ballistic missiles took aim at the Ukrainian capital, hours after a more common nighttime barrage of the city by drones and cruise missiles.

Debris from missiles intercepted by Ukrainian air defenses fell in Kyiv's central and northern districts during the morning, landing in the middle of traffic on a city road and also starting a fire on a building's roof, the Kyiv military administration said. At least one civilian was reported hurt.

The blasts unnerved some locals, already under strain after being awakened by the night attack.

"After what happened last night, I react sharply to every siren now. I was terrified, and I'm still trembling," shared Alina Ksenofontova, a 50-year-old woman who took refuge in the Kyiv subway with her dog Bublik. The central station, Tetatralna, was crowded with sheltering locals.

Artem Zhyla, a 24-year-old who provides legal services abroad, took his laptop with him and kept working underground.

"I heard two or three explosions, went to the bathroom, and then I heard five or seven more explosions. That's when I realized something terrible was happening," he said.

Like many others in the capital, he feels exhausted and stressed. However, he has no intentions of giving up and plans to attend his yoga class to recharge.

"This is certainly not enough to break us," he said.

Russia used Iskander short-range missiles in the morning attack, the spokesman for Ukraine's air force said on local television.

The missiles were fired from north of Kyiv, Yuriy Ihnat said without clarifying if he meant Russian territory. Kyiv lies around 380 kilometers (236 miles) from the Russian border.

During the previous night, air defenses brought down more than 40 targets as Russian forces bombarded Kyiv with a combination of drones and cruise missiles in their 15th nighttime attack on the capital so far this month, said Serhii Popko, the head of Kyiv's military administration.

On Saturday night, Kyiv was subjected to the largest drone attack since the start of Russia's war. At least one person was killed, local officials said.

Kremlin's strategy of long-range bombardment has brought many sleepless nights for Ukrainians.

Over the winter, Russian forces aimed their missiles and drones at power plants and other infrastructure. The apparent goal was to weaken Ukraine's resolve and compel the Ukrainian government to negotiate peace on Moscow's terms, but Ukrainians swiftly and defiantly repaired the damage.

In recent months, Ukraine has been receiving advanced air defense systems from its Western allies, improving its ability to fend off bombardments by the Kremlin's forces.

Across the country, the Ukrainian air force said that over Sunday night it shot down 37 out of 40 cruise missiles and 29 out of 35 drones launched by the Kremlin's forces.

At least three civilians were wounded nationwide in the latest wave of attacks, the Ukrainian presidential office said.

Russian missiles slammed into a military airport in the western Khmelnytskyi region of Ukraine, destroying five aircraft and damaging the runway, local Gov. Serhyi Hamaliy said on television.

The strike sparked fires at nearby warehouses storing fuel and military equipment, he added.

Russian shelling and airstrikes also targeted nine localities in the eastern Donetsk region, including the city of Kramatorsk which houses the local Ukrainian army headquarters, local Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said on Ukrainian TV.

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Yuras Karmanau contributed to this report from Tallinn, Estonia.

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

## Turkey's Erdogan retains power, now faces challenges over the economy and earthquake recovery

By SUZAN FRASER and ZEYNEP BILGINSOY Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has a mandate to rule until 2028, securing five more years as leader of a country at the crossroads of Europe and Asia that plays a key role in NATO. He must now confront skyrocketing inflation that has fueled a cost-of-living crisis and rebuild in the aftermath of a devastating earthquake that killed more than 50,000 people.

Erdogan secured more than 52% of the vote in Sunday's presidential runoff, two weeks after he fell short of scoring an outright victory in the first round. His opponent, Kemal Kilicdaroglu, had sought to reverse Erdogan's increasingly authoritarian leanings, promising to return to democratic norms, adopt more conventional economic policies and improve ties with the West. But in the end, voters chose the man they see as a strong, proven leader.

Erdogan thanked the nation for entrusting him with the presidency again in two speeches he delivered in Istanbul and Ankara.

"The only winner today is Turkey," Erdogan said outside the presidential palace in Ankara, promising to work hard for Turkey's second century, which he called the "Turkish century." The country marks its centennial this year.

Kilicdaroglu said the election was "the most unjust ever," with all state resources mobilized for Erdogan.

"We will continue to be at the forefront of this struggle until real democracy comes to our country," he said in Ankara.

Supporters of Erdogan, a divisive populist and masterful orator, took to the streets to celebrate, waving Turkish or ruling party flags, honking car horns and chanting his name. Celebratory gunfire was heard in several Istanbul neighborhoods.

Leaders across the world sent their congratulations, highlighting Turkey's, and Erdogan's, enlarged role in global politics. His next term is certain to include more delicate maneuvering with fellow NATO members over the future of the alliance and the war in Ukraine.

Western politicians said they are ready to continue working with Erdogan despite years of sometimes tense relations. Most imminently, Turkey holds the cards for Sweden's hopes to join NATO. The bid aims to strengthen the military alliance against Russia. Turkey is also central to the continuity of a deal to allow Ukrainian grain shipments and avert a global food crisis.

In his victory remarks, Erdogan said rebuilding the quake-struck cities would be his priority. He also said a million Syrian refugees would go back to Turkish-controlled "safe zones" in Syria as part of a resettlement project being run with Qatar.

Erdogan has retained the backing of conservative voters who remain devoted to him for lifting Islam's profile in Turkey, which was founded on secular principles, and raising the country's influence in international politics.

Erdogan's rival was a soft-mannered former civil servant who has led the pro-secular Republican People's Party, or CHP, since 2010. The opposition took months to unite behind Kilicdaroglu. He and his party have not won any elections in which Erdogan ran.

In a frantic outreach effort to nationalist voters in the runoff, Kilicdaroglu had vowed to send back refugees and ruled out peace negotiations with Kurdish militants if he was elected.

Erdogan and pro-government media portrayed Kilicdaroglu, who received the backing of the country's pro-Kurdish party, as colluding with "terrorists" and supporting what they described as "deviant" LGBTQ rights.

In his victory speech, Erdogan repeated those themes, saying LGBTQ people cannot "infiltrate" his ruling

party or its nationalist allies.

Erdogan transformed the presidency from a largely ceremonial role to a powerful office through a narrowly won 2017 referendum that scrapped Turkey's parliamentary system of governance. He was the first directly elected president in 2014 and won the 2018 election that ushered in the executive presidency.

Erdogan is now serving his second term as president under the executive presidency. He could run again for another term if parliament — where his ruling party and allies hold a majority — calls early elections. The number of terms was a point of contention ahead of the elections when critics argued Erdogan would be ineligible to run again since he had also held the office before the system change but he pointed to the constitutional amendments that brought in the executive presidency as justification.

The first half of Erdogan's tenure included reforms allowing the country to begin talks to join the European Union, as well as economic growth that lifted many out of poverty.

But he later moved to suppress freedoms and the media and concentrated more power in his own hands, especially after a failed coup attempt that Turkey says was orchestrated by the U.S.-based Islamic cleric Fethullah Gulen. The cleric denies involvement.

Bilginsoy reported from Istanbul. Bela Szandelszky in Ankara, Turkey; Mucahit Ceylan in Diyarbakir, Turkey; and Cinar Kiper in Bodrum, Turkey, contributed to this report.

## Uganda's president signs into law tough anti-gay legislation with death penalty in some cases

By RODNEY MUHUMUZA Associated Press

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — Uganda's president has signed into law tough new anti-gay legislation supported by many in this East African country but widely condemned by rights activists and others abroad.

The version of the bill signed by President Yoweri Museveni doesn't criminalize those who identify as LGBTQ, a key concern for campaigners who condemned an earlier draft of the legislation as an egregious attack on human rights.

But the new law still prescribes the death penalty for "aggravated homosexuality," which is defined as cases of sexual relations involving people infected with HIV as well as with minors and other categories of vulnerable people.

A suspect convicted of "attempted aggravated homosexuality" can be imprisoned for up to 14 years, according to the legislation.

Parliamentary Speaker Anita Among said in a statement that the president had "answered the cries of our people" in signing the bill.

"With a lot of humility, I thank my colleagues the Members of Parliament for withstanding all the pressure from bullies and doomsday conspiracy theorists in the interest of our country," the statement said.

Museveni had returned the bill to the national assembly in April, asking for changes that would differentiate between identifying as LGBTQ and actually engaging in homosexual acts. That angered some lawmakers, including some who feared the president would proceed to veto the bill amid international pressure. Lawmakers passed an amended version of the bill earlier in May.

Homosexuality was already illegal in Uganda under a colonial-era law criminalizing sexual activity "against the order of nature." The punishment for that offense is life imprisonment.

The U.S. has warned of economic consequences over legislation described by Amnesty International as "draconian and overly broad."

The leaders of the U.N. AIDS program, the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief and the Global Fund in a joint statement Monday said they "are deeply concerned about the harmful impact" of the legislation on public health and the HIV response.

"Uganda's progress on its HIV response is now in grave jeopardy," the statement said. "The Anti-Homosexuality Act 2023 will obstruct health education and the outreach that can help end AIDS as a public health threat."

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That statement noted that "stigma and discrimination associated with the passage of the Act has already led to reduced access to prevention as well as treatment services" for LGBTQ people.

Anti-gay sentiment in Uganda has grown in recent weeks amid news coverage alleging sodomy in boarding schools, including a prestigious one for boys where a parent accused a teacher of abusing her son.

The February decision of the Church of England's national assembly to continue banning church weddings for same-sex couples while allowing priests to bless same-sex marriages and civil partnerships inflamed many in Uganda and elsewhere in Africa.

Homosexuality is criminalized in more than 30 of Africa's 54 countries. Some Africans see it as behavior imported from abroad and not a sexual orientation.

## Sleepless in Kyiv: Nighttime Russian air campaign terrorizes citizens in Ukrainian capital

By SAMYA KULLAB Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The attacks come at night, when most in Kyiv are sound asleep. The sirens wail across the Ukrainian capital, rousing bleary-eyed residents, who, after 15 months of war, have customized individual routines to cope with Russia's latest air campaign.

In the recent escalation of Russian attacks, Olha Bukhno, 65, a cleaner, says a prayer every night. "Please," she asks, closing her eyes and addressing the heavens, "Let it be quiet."

By her bedside is a bag packed full of essentials: documents, dry foods and water. At the sound of the alarm, she dashes downstairs to her building's basement and takes shelter. Nearly two weeks ago, debris from a shot-down missile landed on the roof of a building next to hers in Kyiv's Darnytsia district, causing a large fire.

"Every night, we are afraid," she said, tearing up.

When the alarm blares, some in the city are consumed by fear, imagining the worst-case scenarios that could unfold; displacement, being trapped under rubble, being killed. Others embrace apathy, lying awake in bed, as the sounds of explosions ricochet across the skies.

But in the past month, when Russian air attacks escalated to near-nightly raids, most people are complaining of sleeplessness. In the war-defying bustle of Kyiv's cafes, restaurants and salons, business goes on despite the ongoing war, but everyone has a story about how tired they feel.

"What is there to say? Everyone is exhausted," said Oleksandr Chubienko, a pharmacist in Darnytsia, describing the recent temper of his customers.

Russia launched another wave of attacks on Kyiv in the early hours of Monday using a combination of drones and cruise missiles. More than 40 air targets were brought down in what was the 15th nighttime attack on the capital in May, head of the Kyiv Military Administration Serhii Popko said in a Telegram update. Falling debris broke through the roof of a residential building in the Podlisk district but there were no immediate reports of casualties.

"One more difficult night for the capital," said Kyiv Mayor Vitali Klitschko.

Often the explosions are the sounds of Ukraine's air defense systems successfully targeting the deadly cocktail of missiles and drones Russia has sent into Ukraine. On May 16, Russia launched an exceptionally intense bombardment, sending 18 missiles Ukraine's way, 14 of which targeted Kyiv according to Ukraine's air force spokesman. Ukraine said it shot down six hypersonic Kinzhal missiles that night, a capability it did not have last year.

On Saturday night, local officials in Kyiv said that Ukraine's capital was subjected to the largest drone attack since the start of Russia's war. At least one person was killed. It came on the eve of Kyiv Day, which marks the anniversary of the city's founding.

The increasingly regular series of strikes are part of a new Russian air campaign targeting Ukrainian counteroffensive capabilities, experts and Ukrainian officials said. The uptick was noticed after April 19, right after Ukraine announced it had received American-made Patriot missiles, a long-sought new shield against Russian airstrikes. Observers said the renewed intensity of Russian attacks appears to be aiming



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to overwhelm and target these new systems.

The May 16 attack caused “minor” damage to one Patriot air defense system near Kyiv, U.S. officials said, adding that it was still operational.

The latest string of attacks also come after a previous winter-time escalation in air raids this year targeted critical infrastructure, including power stations and military logistics facilities. Ukrainian forces have become more effective in shooting down Russian missiles compared to earlier in the year, with many crediting the American systems.

But the defense systems can’t shield civilians from every harm. The debris from destroyed Russian missiles have rained down on civilians, causing fires and injuries.

For many in the city, the sound of the air raid alarm is accompanied by the constant ring of Telegram, the preferred app in Ukraine for sharing updates about the airstrikes. With every update — “Another coming from East,” “More launched from sea! Take cover!” — people respond with an emoji expressing expletives.

But the calculations that civilians make about what to do next is often very different across all walks of life, with some staying at home, resigned to their fate and others speeding toward safer spaces.

In Darnitsya, leftover debris from the fire was piled inside a large garbage can. Charred pieces of wood and insulation lie under the springtime sun, as parents stroll by with their children and neighbors exchange the latest gossip.

Pavlo Chervinskyi, 45, tells his 4-year-old daughter that it’s all a game when their apartment windows rattle with the distant boom of the nighttime explosions. Every time there is an air raid, he carries her to the corridor and waits for the all-clear.

With every bang, he tells her “Putin is making a racket again,” referring to Russian President Vladimir Putin. It’s better than to try to explain to her what is really going on, he said, watching her make sand castles in the family’s neighbourhood playground. It’s not exactly a lie, he explained. “We are being subjected to a game of Russian roulette every night.”

But still, it’s better to avoid telling his child the whole truth. “It’s better that it’s a joke between us,” he said. “Now she is used to it, and she isn’t afraid.”

She slept right through the weekend attacks, the businessman said. “At least someone is getting rest,” he added, with a weary smile.

Mariana Yavolina, a physical therapist, had the misfortune of moving to the residential compound in Darnitsya the day of the attack. She returned to her new apartment after midnight that night. The air raid alarm was blazing, but Yavolina had had enough.

She lay on her sofa and looked up at the ceiling; her first moment’s rest from the long day. In the distance, explosions resounded.

One, then another. She looked at her Telegram app for updates.

“I try not to take it so seriously,” Yavolina said. “It’s so annoying, and if you want to live yourself you can’t be consumed by it all the time.”

Bit by bit that night, she convinced herself that it was ok to sleep.

The next blast shook the entire apartment, jolting her awake. Outside, plumes of smoke clouded the view as flames raged from the roof of the building beside her. The stench of burning was overwhelming.

Soon firefighters and police arrived at the scene, forbidding anyone to take video of the wreckage. But Yavolina filmed anyway and sent the footage to a friend serving in the army.

“Just flowers,” he responded — a local idiom meaning it could have been much worse.

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



## Nepal honors Sherpa guides, climbers to mark 70th anniversary of Mount Everest conquest

By BINAJ GURUBACHARYA Associated Press

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Nepal's government honored record-holding climbers Monday during celebrations of the first ascent of Mount Everest 70 years ago.

The celebrations come amid a growing concern about temperatures rising, glaciers and snow melting, and weather being harsh and unpredictable on the world's tallest mountain.

Hundreds of people from the mountaineering community, Sherpa guides and officials attended a rally in Kathmandu to mark the anniversary. Participants waved celebratory banners and walked in the center of Kathmandu to tunes played by military bands.

Among those honored were Sherpa guides Kami Rita, who climbed Everest twice this season for a record 28 times overall, and Sanu Sherpa, who has climbed all of the world's 14 highest peaks twice.

Hari Budha Magar, who became the first double above-the-knee amputee to climb Everest, was also honored by the country's Tourism Minister Sushila Sirpali Thakuri.

"May 29 is a day when we all always remember and be proud of when Edmund Hillary and Tenzing (Norgay) Sherpa reached the top of Everest and it is the day the Sherpas became known," Sanu Sherpa said.

Hillary and his Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay reached the summit on May 29, 1953. Nepal began celebrating the anniversary as Everest Day after Hillary's death in 2008.

Since their ascent, thousands of people have scaled the 8,849-meter (29,032-foot) peak and hundreds have also lost their lives on the unpredictable slopes.

During the 2023 climbing season, hundreds of climbers and their guides scaled the peak, and 17 either died or went missing.

The popular Himalayan climbing season begins in March and ends in May after which monsoon winds and melting temperatures make the mountains too hazardous for climbing.

Deteriorating conditions on Everest are raising concerns for mountaineers and others whose livelihoods depend on the flow of visitors coming to climb the mountain each year. Warmer conditions mean climbers who made their way across snow and ice are now crossing bare rock.

Recent research found that Mount Everest's glaciers have lost 2,000 years of ice in just the past 30 years.

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

## China plans to land astronauts on moon before 2030, another step in what looks like a new space race

BEIJING (AP) — China plans to land astronauts on the moon before 2030, in what would be another advance in what's increasingly seen as a new space race pitting the Asian autocracy against the United States and its democratic allies.

The U.S. aims to put astronauts back on the lunar surface by the end of 2025.

Deputy Director of the Chinese Manned Space Agency Lin Xiqiang confirmed China's goal at a news conference Monday but gave no specific date.

China is first preparing for a "short stay on the lunar surface and human-robotic joint exploration," Lin said.

"We have a complete near-Earth human space station and human round-trip transportation system," complemented by a process for selecting, training and supporting new astronauts, he said. A schedule of two crewed missions a year is "sufficient for carrying out our objectives," Lin said.

China's space agency also introduced the new crew heading to its orbiting space station in a launch scheduled for Tuesday and said the station will be expanded. The Tiangong space station was said to have been finished in November when the third section was added.

The fourth module will be added "at an appropriate time to advance support for scientific experiments and provide the crew with improved working and living conditions," Lin said.

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The trio being launched aboard the Shenzhou 16 craft will overlap briefly with the three astronauts who have lived on the station for the previous six months conducting experiments and assembling equipment inside and outside the vehicle.

The fresh crew includes a civilian for the first time. All previous crew members have been in the People's Liberation Army, the military wing of the country's ruling Communist Party.

Gui Haichao, a professor at Beijing's top aerospace research institute, will join mission commander Jing Haipeng and spacecraft engineer Zhu Yangzhu as the payload expert.

Speaking to media at the launch site outside the northwestern city of Jiuquan, Jing said the mission marked "a new stage of application and development," in China's space program.

"We firmly believe that the spring of China's space science has arrived, and we have the determination, confidence, and ability to resolutely complete the mission," said Jing, a major general who has made three previous space flights.

China's first manned space mission in 2003 made it the third country after the former Soviet Union and the U.S. to put a person into space.

China built its own space station after it was excluded from the International Space Station, largely due to U.S. objections over the Chinese space programs' intimate ties to the PLA.

Space is increasingly seen as a new area of competition between China and the United States — the world's two largest economies and rivals for diplomatic and military influence. The astronauts NASA sends to the moon by the end of 2025 will aim for the south pole where permanently shadowed craters are believed to be packed with frozen water.

Plans for permanent crewed bases on the moon are also being considered by both countries, raising questions about rights and interests on the lunar surface. U.S. law tightly restricts cooperation between the two countries' space programs and while China says it welcomes foreign collaborations, those have thus far been limited to scientific research.

In addition to their lunar programs, the U.S. and China have also landed rovers on Mars and Beijing plans to follow the U.S. in landing a spacecraft on an asteroid.

Other countries and organizations ranging from the India and the United Arab Emirates to Israel and the European Union are also planning lunar missions.

The U.S. sent six crewed missions to the moon between 1969 and 1972, three of which involved the use of a drivable lunar rover that China says it is now developing with tenders in the private sector.

While America currently operates more spaceports and has a far wider network of international and commercial partners than China, the Chinese program has proceeded in a steady and cautious manner reflecting the country's vast increase in economic power and global influence since the 1980s.

## Historic acquittal in Louisiana fuels fight to review 'Jim Crow' verdicts

By KEVIN MCGILL Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Evangelisto Ramos walked out of a New Orleans courthouse and away from a life sentence accompanying a 10-2 jury conviction, thanks in large part to the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision bearing his name.

Ramos v. Louisiana outlawed nonunanimous jury convictions as unconstitutional, with justices on the 6-3 majority acknowledging the practice as a vestige of racism from the era of "Jim Crow" laws enforcing racial segregation.

The 2020 ruling meant a new trial for Ramos, who was acquitted in March — this time by a unanimous jury — after defense lawyers highlighted weakness in the investigation leading to his prosecution.

"I knew my case was important because a lot of people were going to get their freedom back," Ramos, a Black immigrant from Honduras, told The Associated Press, answering emailed questions about his time in prison and his pursuit of a new trial.

But prospects for freedom remain murky for hundreds of people convicted on 10-2 or 11-1 jury votes

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whose appeals were exhausted before the Ramos case was decided. The advocacy group Promise of Justice Initiative estimates there are more than 1,500 such people locked up in Louisiana.

In Oregon, the only other state that allowed nonunanimous verdicts for convictions before the Ramos case, the state Supreme Court granted new trials. But the U.S. Supreme Court and the Louisiana Supreme Court rejected arguments to apply the ruling retroactively.

Louisiana advocates also have turned to the Legislature in recent years. But the latest potential remedy stalled in the House and appears dead after representatives voted 50-38 against the measure Thursday. It is unlikely supporters can revive the bill with two weeks left in the legislative session.

The proposal drew criticism from some prosecutors who didn't want to revisit old cases, as well as advocates for people it was meant to benefit.

Instead of retroactively granting new trials, the legislation would establish a commission with three retired state appellate or Supreme Court judges empowered to decide whether the verdict "resulted in a miscarriage of justice," and whether parole is warranted.

Backers of the bill by Rep. Randal Gaines, a Democrat from LaPlace, cast it as a compromise. Prosecutors had argued mandatory new trials would strain the court system, renew emotional pain for crime victims and their families and burden prosecutors with years-old evidence and, in some cases, witnesses who have died or cannot be found.

Even the compromise failed to win over some state prosecutors, according to Loren Lampert, director of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, which was officially neutral on the bill. Meanwhile, criminal justice advocates were unhappy with the compromise measure's lack of a path for exoneration.

"It has to be true relief — release from being considered guilty," said Hardell Ward, a Promise of Justice Initiative attorney whose client's case led to a state high court ruling barring older, appeal-exhausted convictions from the ban on nonunanimous verdicts.

Ramos was arrested in 2014 and tried on a second-degree murder charge in the stabbing death of a woman found in a trash can outside her home. All but two jurors found him guilty in 2016. Retrial defense attorneys noted DNA from two people, neither of them Ramos, was found under the victim's fingernails. There was no blood recovered from the floor of Ramos' apartment, where prosecutors argued she was killed.

"You can't overstate the significance of what this verdict signals about how deeply problematic these nonunanimous juries were," said Sarah Chervinsky, one of Ramos' retrial lawyers.

Nonunanimous jury policies were rooted in post-Civil War policy and designed to make conviction of Black defendants easier, even with one or two Black jurors.

In 2018, Louisiana voters prohibited nonunanimous verdicts for crimes committed after Jan. 1, 2019. The vote followed a Pulitzer Prize-winning series of stories in *The Advocate* analyzing the law's racist origins and the racial disparities in verdicts.

The 2020 Ramos decision affected active cases even for crimes committed before 2019. But progress stalled when the high courts refused to make the Ramos decision retroactive.

Some prosecutors have taken it upon themselves to review cases involving Jim Crow verdicts.

Jason Williams established a civil rights division when he took over New Orleans' district attorney's office in 2021 on a reform platform. His office says more than 100 of an estimated 230 such cases have been reviewed. Cases were dismissed against 10 wrongfully convicted people and dozens of sentences or charges have been reduced.

It's not clear how many verdicts have come out differently after Ramos. The Louisiana District Attorneys Association is not compiling those statistics, Lampert said in an email.

New trials do not always lead to new verdicts. A jury in Jefferson Parish unanimously convicted a man of second-degree murder whose nonunanimous 2018 conviction had been overturned. Jefferson prosecutors obtained a similar result in a retrial last August.

But a retrial requiring a unanimous verdict can mean a case with room for doubt gets a more thorough look, Chervinsky said.

"It is not a technicality, it is not an insignificant difference, when the prosecutor has to convince all 12

people to unanimously agree on a verdict," Chervinsky said. "That encourages more vigorous debate and discussion. It requires them to really take into account all of the potential reasonable doubt in the case in a way that I think jurors can ignore if they're permitted to ignore the voices of two people in that room."

## **Drought-struck Barcelona quenches thirst with costly desalination**

By JOSEPH WILSON Associated Press

EL PRAT DE LLOBREGAT, Spain (AP) — Where once the population of Barcelona drank mostly from its rivers and wells, Spain's second city now relies upon a labyrinth-like mesh of green, blue and purple pipes inside an industrial plant to keep it from going thirsty amid a prolonged drought.

Water is pumped from two kilometers (1.2 miles) into the Mediterranean Sea to where the Llobregat desalination plant sits on an isolated stretch of beach. After journeying through several cleaning and filtering systems it reaches its final stop: the twisting and turning multi-colored channels that squeeze every drop of water free of its salt.

Barely used after being built in 2009, Europe's largest desalination plant for drinking water is running at full throttle to help the greater Barcelona area and some five million people adapt to the impact of climate change, which has contributed to the drying up of southern Europe's fresh water reserves through heat waves and drought.

In April 2021, before the drought, rivers provided 63% of Barcelona's drinking water, wells provided 34% and desalination just 3%. Two years later desalination makes up 33% of Barcelona's drinking water, while wells provide 23% and its shrinking rivers just 19%, according to Barcelona's municipal water company.

With the reservoirs fed by Catalonia's northern river basins at just 25% capacity, limits have been placed on the amount of water available for agriculture, industry and some municipal uses. But authorities have not had to take drastic action like during the 2006-2008 drought when tanker vessels shipped in drinking water.

"We knew that sooner or later a drought would come," Carlos Miguel, plant manager, told The Associated Press during a recent visit to the Llobregat plant.

"As long as the drought continues the plant will keep running. That is clear."

While the building of the Llobregat plant is the result of authorities heeding warnings from climate experts and planning ahead, it comes at high economic and environmental costs.

In the desalination process at the Llobregat plant, for every 0.45 liters of fresh water, around 0.55 liters of extremely salty brine is produced as waste. The reverse osmosis process, where high pressure forces seawater through membranes which separates the salt, also requires a lot of energy that doesn't yet come entirely from renewable energy sources.

The Mediterranean region is heating up at a faster rate than many other areas of the globe, leading to a record-hot 2022 in Spain and a widespread drought that is hurting agriculture. The lack of water is particularly acute in northeast Catalonia, whose water agency forecasts that its water resources will shrink by 18% before 2050.

Water authorities predict that the Barcelona area is heading for an official "drought emergency", which will imply tighter restrictions, by September.

"We forecast that for the rest of May rainfall will be above average, but that does not make up for 32 months of drought," Samuel Reyes, head of the Catalan Water Agency, said recently.

Desalination has formed a key part of Spain's water policy for over half a century. The island of Lanzarote in Spain's Canary Islands archipelago installed Europe's first desalination plant back in 1964, and the industry has kept growing in the southern European country prone to long, dry summers. The development and spread of the reverse osmosis technique in the 1980s and 90s, along with reduced costs, led to its buildout across many areas of mainland Spain.

Spain is now fourth in the world for its desalination capacity, about 5% of the global total, behind Saudi Arabia, the United States and the United Arab Emirates, according to the Spanish Association of Desalina-



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tion and Water Re-utilization. Desalination capacity has steadily gone up worldwide in the past decade, with the technology seeing a bigger uptick in Europe and Africa.

Spain has some 800 desalination plants that can produce 5 million cubic liters a day of water for drinking, agriculture, and industry. If that were dedicated solely for human consumption, it would quench the thirst of 34 million people — over 70% of Spain's population.

As part of a 2.2-billion euro (\$2.4-billion) drought response package, Spain's national government said this week that it was setting aside 220 million euros (\$238 million) to expand another desalination plant north of Barcelona, plus another 200 million euros (\$216 million) for a plant on Spain's southern coast. It also pledged to spend 224 million euros (\$242 million) on improving water purification systems in southern Spain.

This small miracle of scientific innovation, however, includes even more costs.

According to the public company that runs the Llobregat plant, a thousand liters of desalinated water costs 0.70 euros to produce, compared to 0.20 euros for the same quantity of water pulled from the Llobregat river and purified for drinking. That means a heavier tax burden and, possibly, higher water bills.

Xavier Sánchez-Vila, professor of civil engineering and groundwater expert for the Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, said that while desalination plants like the one in Barcelona have provided a lifeline in a time of crisis, authorities should continue to diversify their strategies and focus on improving water purification and reuse.

"Of course, with climate change we know that droughts are going to be more frequent and therefore there is this need (for desalination)," he said. "But in economic terms, I am not completely sure whether it makes sense to keep building them. A few more maybe, but knowing that these are a really expensive solution."

Instead, Sánchez-Vila applauds the boost in Barcelona's use of treated sewage water in a separate treatment plant sitting next to the Llobregat desalination facility. This treated water that is reintroduced upstream and then available to be pulled back into the city's supply now accounts for 25% of Barcelona's water.

The more pressing problem for the planet is the energy-intensive processes involved in desalination.

Spain generated 42% of its electricity from renewable energy sources in 2022 and it hopes to reach 50% this year, but it still uses large amounts of planet-warming natural gas. The electricity generated by the solar panels on the Llobregat plant goes into the electrical grid, not directly to the site's operations.

Julio Barea, water expert for Greenpeace in Spain, insists that desalination is not a panacea.

Barea cited the steady increase of water use in Spain over past decades to support two of the country's economic pillars: agriculture and tourism. Some 80% of Spain's water goes to agriculture, Greenpeace calculates, while coastal areas including Barcelona are huge tourist magnets, many offering hotels with swimming pools that need filling. Soon-to-be implemented water restrictions in Catalonia will prohibit the filling of private pools, while hotels will still be able to fill theirs.

And then there is the impact of dumping the brine waste product into the sea, where its super salty load can hurt the ecosystem.

"(Authorities) have to provide drinking water for people, but desalination plants have an impact because they are essentially water factories that need a lot of energy," Barea said. "It should be a last resource, and we should ask ourselves how we have gotten into this situation."

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## Pay per wave: Native Hawaiians divided over artificial surf lagoon in the birthplace of surfing

By JENNIFER SINCO KELLEHER Associated Press

EWA BEACH, Hawaii (AP) — Brian Keaulana is the quintessential Native Hawaiian waterman, well-known in Hawaii and beyond for his deep understanding of the ocean, gifted with surfing and lifeguarding skills passed down from his big-wave rider father.

Now, as one of the islands' standard-bearers of surfing, Keaulana wants to further boost the sport in his homeland by building an artificial wave pool just down the road from the beach — a spot where competitive surfers could always be guaranteed the perfect breaks that are sometimes elusive in nature.

The bold proposal has made waves in Hawaii, particularly among some Native Hawaiians, and raised questions about how a modern-day sport followed by millions worldwide fits into the cultural legacy of islanders who have been riding waves for millennia.

The project has landed in court and reflects the unease some Native Hawaiians feel about the commercialization of what long has been a cultural touchstone.

"They're profiting off a cultural practice by controlling it by making these wave pools, which are going to destroy the actual beach that is nearby," said Healani Sonoda-Pale, a plaintiff in a civil case seeking to stop the wave pool. "I cannot speak for other Hawaiians. All I can I say is as a Hawaiian ... it goes against my culture."

Surfer and writer Mindy Pennybacker said the controversy highlights a struggle over how to balance tradition with a booming sport. In researching her book, "Surfing Sisterhood Hawai'i: Women Reclaiming the Waves," she learned of creative ways Hawaiians compensated when there was no surf, including finding standing river waves or sledding down hillsides.

She also sees how wave pools help athletes improve, noting a World Surf League championship tour competition over Memorial Day weekend at a California wave pool developed by pro surfer Kelly Slater.

"The beauty of surfing, and the frustration of surfing at the recreational and competitive level, remains the unpredictability and how surfers have to have the reflexes to deal with changing conditions," she said.

The lawsuit — filed in state environmental court by a group of Hawaiians and residents near the proposed site — alleges the 7 million-gallon (26-million liter) artificial pool would damage nearshore limu, or seaweed, and desecrate iwi kupuna, or ancient Hawaiian remains.

Bidding to halt the project, the lawsuit challenges the Hawaii Community Development Authority's approval and finding that it will have no significant environmental impacts. The development authority and the state attorney general's office declined to comment on the lawsuit, which seeks a new environmental review.

A hearing is set for July and it's not clear when a judge might rule.

Sonoda-Pale pointed out that the artificial lagoon would be 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) from a beach called White Plains, long a popular surf spot.

A wave pool recently opened nearby and opponents say another one is unnecessary and a waste of water. But Keaulana remains committed, noting ocean conditions aren't always ideal for learning how to surf or save lives.

One recent afternoon, no one was surfing at Makaha beach in west Oahu, where Keaulana grew up. Conditions were too calm despite Makaha's world-famous reputation for its ferocious shore break.

"The ocean is the greatest treasure that we have," he said, but "it can be flat. It can be big. It can be dirty. It can have, you know, sharks here and there."

He worries Hawaii's Olympic surfing hopefuls are at a disadvantage to competitors who can easily train at one of several surf parks worldwide. A wave pool allows for more time on a surfboard in an hour than most surfers get in the ocean in a week, he said.

"You see these surfers going to these surf parks and catching wave after wave and they are honing their skills and then they go into the ocean when there's a swell," he said. "Boom. They're already primed and ready."

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building was a concern following secondary collapses while rescuers were at the scene, Carlsten said.

"Our focus is rescue right now," Davenport Mayor Mike Matson said at a news conference.

"This is an active scene. We will continue to work, continue to evaluate, with the whole purpose of trying to find people and trying to get them out," Matson said, adding that he spoke with Gov. Kim Reynolds, who offered assistance.

The Davenport Police Department asked people to avoid downtown after the collapse.

A reunification area established at St. Anthony's Church on Main Street was being serviced by Red Cross personnel, Carlsten said.

The cause of the collapse was not immediately known.

Rich Oswald, City of Davenport director of development and neighborhood services, said at a news conference that work was being done on the building's exterior at the time of the collapse.

Reports of bricks falling from the building earlier this week were part of that work and the building's owner had a permit for the project, Oswald said.

The Quad-City Times reported Robert Robinson, a second-floor resident, had gone outside and returned as alarms went off in the building.

"When we started to go back in the lights went out," he told the newspaper. "All of a sudden everybody started running out saying the building collapsed. I'm glad we came down when we did."

Robinson and his girlfriend were able to take the elevator down just in time, he said.

"This is horrible," he said. "We don't have anywhere to go. Nothing to eat."

Tadd Machovec, a Davenport contractor, told the newspaper he was inside putting up a support beam when the building came down.

Some people in the area said the building has had problems. City officials said Sunday that they had several complaints from residents about needed repairs.

Jennifer Smith, co-owner of Fourth Street Nutrition, said she learned of the explosion from her husband, who works for Mid-American Energy.

"He was on call and got called in for a building explosion downtown. We had no idea it was our building," she said. "It sounds bad, but we have been calling the city and giving complaints since December. Our bathroom caved in December."

Smith said water damage has been apparent since they moved into their space in the winter. The company's co-owner, Deonte Mack, said fire crews were in the building as recently as Thursday for an inspection.

"The tenants told us the building was going to collapse," Smith said.

The Quad-City Times reported the building is owned by Andrew Wold. A working phone number for Wold was not immediately available Sunday night and attempts to reach him for comment were unsuccessful.

Nearly 20 permits were filed in 2022 for building repairs, mainly for plumbing or electrical issues, according to the county assessor's office.

## As rising oceans threaten NYC, study documents another risk: The city is sinking

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — If rising oceans aren't worry enough, add this to the risks New York City faces: The metropolis is slowly sinking under the weight of its skyscrapers, homes, asphalt and humanity itself.

New research estimates the city's landmass is sinking at an average rate of 1 to 2 millimeters per year, something referred to as "subsidence."

That natural process happens everywhere as ground is compressed, but the study published this month in the journal *Earth's Future* sought to estimate how the massive weight of the city itself is hurrying things along.

More than 1 million buildings are spread across the city's five boroughs. The research team calculated that all those structures add up to about 1.7 trillion tons (1.5 trillion metric tons) of concrete, metal and

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glass — about the mass of 4,700 Empire State buildings — pressing down on the Earth.

The rate of compression varies throughout the city. Midtown Manhattan's skyscrapers are largely built on rock, which compresses very little, while some parts of Brooklyn, Queens and downtown Manhattan are on looser soil and sinking faster, the study revealed.

While the process is slow, lead researcher Tom Parsons of the U.S. Geological Survey said parts of the city will eventually be under water.

"It's inevitable. The ground is going down, and the water's coming up. At some point, those two levels will meet," said Parsons, whose job is to forecast hazardous events from earthquakes and tsunamis to incremental shifts of the ground below us.

But no need to invest in life preservers just yet, Parsons assured.

The study merely notes buildings themselves are contributing, albeit incrementally, to the shifting landscape, he said. Parsons and his team of researchers reached their conclusions using satellite imaging, data modeling and a lot of mathematical assumptions.

It will take hundreds of years — precisely when is unclear — before New York becomes America's version of Venice, which is famously sinking into the Adriatic Sea.

But parts of the city are more at risk.

"There's a lot of weight there, a lot of people there," Parsons said, referring specifically to Manhattan. "The average elevation in the southern part of the island is only 1 or 2 meters (3.2 or 6.5 feet) above sea level — it is very close to the waterline, and so it is a deep concern."

Because the ocean is rising at a similar rate as the land is sinking, the Earth's changing climate could accelerate the timeline for parts of the city to disappear under water.

"It doesn't mean that we should stop building buildings. It doesn't mean that the buildings are themselves the sole cause of this. There are a lot of factors," Parsons said. "The purpose was to point this out in advance before it becomes a bigger problem."

Already, New York City is at risk of flooding because of massive storms that can cause the ocean to swell inland or inundate neighborhoods with torrential rain.

The resulting flooding could have destructive and deadly consequences, as demonstrated by Superstorm Sandy a decade ago and the still-potent remnants of Hurricane Ida two years ago.

"From a scientific perspective, this is an important study," said Andrew Kruczkiwicz, a senior researcher at Columbia University's Climate School, who was not involved in the research.

Its findings could help inform policy makers as they draft ongoing plans to combat, or at least forestall, the rising tides.

"We can't sit around and wait for a critical threshold of sea level rise to occur," he said, "because waiting could mean we would be missing out on taking anticipatory action and preparedness measures."

New Yorkers such as Tracy Miles can be incredulous at first.

"I think it's a made-up story," Miles said. He thought again while looking at sailboats bobbing in the water edging downtown Manhattan. "We do have an excessive amount of skyscrapers, apartment buildings, corporate offices and retail spaces."

New York City isn't the only place sinking. San Francisco also is putting considerable pressure on the ground and the region's active earthquake faults. In Indonesia, the government is preparing for a possible retreat from Jakarta, which is sinking into the Java Sea, for a new capital being constructed on the higher ground of an entirely different island.



## 'He's home': Missing 73 years, Medal of Honor recipient's remains return to Georgia

By RUSS BYNUM Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. (AP) — Soldiers of the 9th Infantry Regiment made a desperate retreat as North Korean troops closed in around them. A wounded, 18-year-old Army Pfc. Luther Herschel Story feared his injuries would slow down his company, so he stayed behind to cover their withdrawal.

Story's actions in the Korean War on Sept. 1, 1950, would ensure he was remembered. He was awarded the Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military honor, which is now displayed alongside his portrait at the National Infantry Museum, an hour's drive from his hometown of Americus, Georgia.

But Story was never seen alive again, and his resting place long remained a mystery.

"In my family, we always believed that he would never be found," said Judy Wade, Story's niece and closest surviving relative.

That changed in April when the U.S. military revealed lab tests had matched DNA from Wade and her late mother to bones of an unidentified American soldier recovered from Korea in October 1950. The remains belonged to Story, a case agent told Wade over the phone. After nearly 73 years, he was coming home.

A Memorial Day burial with military honors was scheduled Monday at the Andersonville National Cemetery. A police escort with flashing lights escorted Story's casket through the streets of nearby Americus on Wednesday after it arrived in Georgia.

"I don't have to worry about him anymore," said Wade, who was born four years after her uncle went missing overseas. "I'm just glad he's home."

Among those celebrating Story's return was former President Jimmy Carter. When Story was a young boy, according to Wade, his family lived and worked in Plains on land owned by Carter's father, James Earl Carter Sr.

Jimmy Carter, 98, has been under hospice care at his home in Plains since February. Jill Stuckey, superintendent of the Jimmy Carter National Historical Park, said she shared the news about Story with Carter as soon as she heard it.

"Oh, there was a big smile on his face," Stuckey said. "He was very excited to know that a hero was coming home."

Story grew up about 150 miles (241 kilometers) south of Atlanta in Sumter County, where his father was a sharecropper. As a young boy, Story, who had a keen sense of humor and liked baseball, joined his parents and older siblings in the fields to help harvest cotton. The work was hard, and it didn't pay much.

"Momma talked about eating sweet potatoes three times a day," said Wade, whose mother, Gwendolyn Story Chambliss, was Luther Story's older sister. "She used to talk about how at night her fingers would be bleeding from picking cotton out of the bolls. Everybody in the family had to do it for them to exist."

The family eventually moved to Americus, the county's largest city, where Story's parents found better work. He enrolled in high school, but soon set his sights on joining the military in the years following World War II.

In 1948, his mother agreed to sign papers allowing Story to enlist in the Army. She listed his birthdate as July 20, 1931. But Wade said she later obtained a copy of her uncle's birth certificate that showed he was born in 1932 — which would have made him just 16 when he joined.

Story left school during his sophomore year. In the summer of 1950 he deployed with Company A of the 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment to Korea around the time the war began.

On Sept. 1, 1950, near the village of Agok on the Naktong River, Story's unit came under attack by three divisions of North Korean troops that moved to surround the Americans and cut off their escape.

Story seized a machine gun and fired on enemy soldiers crossing the river, killing or wounding about 100, according to his Medal of Honor citation. As his company commander ordered a retreat, Story rushed into a road and threw grenades into an approaching truck carrying North Korean troops and ammunition. Despite being wounded, he continued fighting.

"Realizing that his wounds would hamper his comrades, he refused to retire to the next position but

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remained to cover the company's withdrawal," Story's award citation said. "When last seen he was firing every weapon available and fighting off another hostile assault."

Story was presumed dead. He would have been 18 years old, according to the birth certificate Wade obtained.

In 1951, his father received Story's Medal of Honor at a Pentagon ceremony. Story was also posthumously promoted to corporal.

About a month after Story went missing in Korea, the U.S. military recovered a body in the area where he was last seen fighting. The unidentified remains were buried with other unknown service members at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific in Hawaii.

According to the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency, more than 7,500 Americans who served in the Korean War remain missing or their remains have not been identified. That's roughly 20% of the nearly 37,000 U.S. service members who died in the war.

Remains of the unknown soldier recovered near Agok were disinterred in 2021 as part of a broader military effort to determine the identities of several hundred Americans who died in the war. Eventually scientists compared DNA from the bones with samples submitted by Wade and her mother before she died in 2017. They made a successful match.

President Joe Biden announced the breakthrough April 26 in Washington, joined by South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol.

"Today, we can return him to his family," Biden said of Story, "and to his rest."

## Struggles continue for thousands in Florida 8 months after Hurricane Ian as new storm season looms

By CURT ANDERSON Associated Press

FORT MYERS BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Eight months ago, chef Michael Cellura had a restaurant job and had just moved into a fancy new camper home on Fort Myers Beach. Now, after Hurricane Ian swept all that away, he lives in his older Infiniti sedan with a 15-year-old long-haired chihuahua named Ginger.

Like hundreds of others, Cellura was left homeless after the Category 5 hurricane blasted the barrier island last September with ferocious winds and storm surge as high as 15 feet (4 meters). Like many, he's struggled to navigate insurance payouts, understand federal and state assistance bureaucracy and simply find a place to shower.

"There's a lot of us like me that are displaced. Nowhere to go," Cellura, 58, said during a recent interview next to his car, sitting in a commercial parking lot along with other storm survivors housed in recreational vehicles, a converted school bus, even a shipping container. "There's a lot of homeless out here, a lot of people living in tents, a lot of people struggling."

Recovery is far from complete in hard-hit Fort Myers Beach, Sanibel and Pine Island, with this year's Atlantic hurricane season officially beginning June 1. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is forecasting a roughly average tropical storm season forecast of 12 to 17 named storms, five to nine becoming hurricanes and one to four powering into major hurricanes with winds greater than 110 mph (177 kph).

Another weather pattern that can suppress Atlantic storms is the El Nino warming expected this year in the Pacific Ocean, experts say. Yet the increasingly warmer water in the Atlantic basin fueled by climate change could offset the El Nino effect, scientists say.

In southwest Florida, piles of debris are everywhere. Demolition and construction work is ongoing across the region. Trucks filled with sand rumble to renourish the eroded beaches. Blank concrete slabs reveal where buildings, many of them once charming, decades-old structures that gave the towns their relaxed beach vibe, were washed away or torn down.

Some people, like Fort Myers Beach resident Jacquelyn Velazquez, are living in campers or tents on their property while they await sluggish insurance checks or building permits to restore their lives.

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"It's, you know, it's in the snap of the finger. Your life is never going to be the same," she said next to her camper, provided under a state program. "It's not the things that you lose. It's just trying to get back to some normalcy."

Ian claimed more than 156 lives in the U.S., the vast majority in Florida, according to a comprehensive NOAA report on the hurricane. In hard-hit Lee County — location of Fort Myers Beach and the other seaside towns — 36 people died from drowning in storm surge and more than 52,000 structures suffered damage, including more than 19,000 destroyed or severely damaged, a NOAA report found.

Even with state and federal help, the scale of the disaster has overwhelmed these small towns that were not prepared to deal with so many problems at once, said Chris Holley, former interim Fort Myers Beach town manager.

"Probably the biggest challenge is the craziness of the debris removal process. We'll be at it for another six months," Holley said. "Permitting is a huge, huge problem for a small town. The staff just couldn't handle it."

Then there's battles with insurance companies and navigating how to obtain state and federal aid, which is running into the billions of dollars. Robert Burton and his partner Cindy Lewis, both 71 and from Ohio, whose mobile home was totaled by storm surge, spent months living with friends and family until finally a small apartment was provided through the Federal Emergency Management Agency. They can stay there until March 2024 while they look for a new home.

Their mobile home park next to the causeway to Sanibel is a ghost town, filled with flooded-out homes soon to be demolished, many of them with ruined furniture inside, clothes still in closets, art still on the walls. Most homes had at least three feet of water inside.

"No one has a home. That park will not be reopened as a residential community," Lewis said. "So everybody lost."

The state Office of Insurance Regulation estimated the total insured loss from Ian in Florida was almost \$14 billion, with more than 143,000 claims still open without payment or claims paid but not fully settled as of March 9.

With so many people in limbo, places like the heavily damaged Beach Baptist Church in Fort Myers Beach provide a lifeline, with a food pantry, a hot lunch stand, showers and even laundry facilities for anyone to use. Pastor Shawn Critser said about 1,200 families per month are being served at the church through donated goods.

"We're not emergency feeding now. We're in disaster recovery mode," Critser said. "We want to see this continue. We want to have a constant presence."

In nearby Sanibel, the lingering damage is not quite as widespread although many businesses remain shuttered as they are repaired and storm debris is everywhere. Seven local retail stores have moved into a shopping center in mainland Fort Myers, hoping to continue to operate while awaiting insurance payouts, construction permits, or both before returning to the island.

They call themselves the "Sanibel Seven," said Rebecca Binkowski, owner of MacIntosh Books and Paper that has been a Sanibel fixture since 1960. She said her store had no flood insurance and lost about \$100,000 worth of books and furnishings in the storm.

"The fact of the matter is, we can get our businesses back up and running but without hotels to put people in, without our community moving back, it's going to be hard to do business," she said. "You hope this is still a strong community."

Yet, the sense among many survivors is one of hope for the future, even if it looks very different.

Cellura, the chef living in his car, has a new job at another location of the Nauti Parrot restaurant on the mainland. Insurance only paid off the outstanding loan amount on his destroyed camper and he didn't qualify for FEMA aid, leaving him with virtually nothing to start over and apartment rents rising fast.

But, after 22 years on the island, he's not giving up.

"I believe that things will work out. I'm strong. I'm a survivor," he said. "Every day I wake up, it's another day to just continue on and try to make things better."

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Using the latest technology, the facility would simulate ideal conditions needed to keep top surfers competitive and serve as a "life-saving lab" for teaching safety skills in a controlled setting, he said.

His business partner, Keno Knieriem, said waves can be customized with a tap on a tablet, noting an electromechanical system would use panels to generate up to 1,000 waves per hour, mimicking ocean swells up to 8 feet (2.4 meters) high. Some 80 surfers could work different waves simultaneously: barreling waves, big waves, kid-friendly waves, Knieriem said.

"That would be sick," professional surfer Sheldon Paishon said of the details. He grew up surfing at Makaha and now surfs all over the world, and has trained at the Slater wave pool and a Texas one. "When the waves are small ... we could go there and do our thing."

Ikaika Kaulukukui, surf operations manager for the existing wave pool at a facility called Wai Kai, said it has improved his surfing.

"Everyone comes to Hawaii for you know, big winter waves, like we're ... the mecca for big-wave surfing ... but that's not gonna be here ... every day," he said.

Sonoda-Pale, who calls herself a water protector, questioned whether a wave pool is really necessary to excel at surfing. While she surfed in her youth, she's no longer an active surfer.

"I know as a cultural practice that from our histories, when the surf was up, families would drop everything they're doing and go out and surf," she said. "So, the timeline of when to surf, when it is a good time to surf ... was made by nature, was made by Kanaloa," she added, referring to the Hawaiian ocean god.

Knieriem said the project would incorporate water conservation and off-the-grid electricity and feature native plants in its landscaping. Keaulana said a vacant tract in an area outside Honolulu known as Kaeloaloa was selected because it wasn't pristine and had been used as an aircraft engine test site for the U.S. military.

Besides a surf lagoon, the 19-acre (7.6-hectare) site also would feature rock climbing, beach volleyball, skateboarding and other activities. The proposed facility is eyeing a summer 2024 opening, though it's not clear how the lawsuit could affect the timeline.

"We've met with a number of Hawaiian cultural advisors and conducted extensive archaeological and environmental studies to ensure that we protect and mālama the site," said a company statement online, using the Hawaiian word that can mean "to take care of."

Keaulana said he's hopeful differences can be worked out with hooponopono, a traditional, culture-based form of mediation. Project opponents say they are open to such a meeting.

"I'm more disappointed in myself. I felt — and we felt — that we've pretty much tried to do everything possible," Keaulana said of concerns about the project. "I just feel to be Hawaiian is to meet up and work your differences and problems out."

## Rescue operations underway after apartment building partially collapses in Davenport, Iowa

DAVENPORT, Iowa (AP) — Rescue operations were underway Sunday evening after part of an apartment building collapsed in the eastern Iowa city of Davenport. Authorities have not said whether anyone was killed.

Authorities said people were treated for injuries at the scene but did not detail how many.

Rescuers were called to the scene shortly before 5 p.m. Sunday. Fire crews rescued seven people and escorted more than a dozen others from the building in their initial response, Davenport Fire Chief Michael Carlsten said at a news conference.

Carlsten said the back of the six-story apartment complex collapsed and had separated from the building, which houses apartments on the upper floors and businesses on the ground level.

Authorities found a gas leak after the collapse, Carlsten said, while water also had leaked throughout the floors of the structure.

First responders were still searching for people who were unaccounted for Sunday. The stability of the



AP visual journalist Laura Bargfeld and photographer Rebecca Blackwell contributed to this story.

## Trump's welcome of Scott into 2024 race shows his calculus: The more GOP rivals, the better for him

By JILL COLVIN and STEVE PEOPLES Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When Republican Sen. Tim Scott of South Carolina launched his campaign for the White House last week, the notoriously prickly former President Donald Trump welcomed his new competitor with open arms.

There were no accusations of disloyalty or nasty nicknames from the GOP front-runner like the barrage he unleashed when Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, considered his leading rival, joined the race two days later with a bungled Twitter announcement.

"Good luck to Senator Tim Scott in entering the Republican Presidential Primary Race," Trump said. "It is rapidly loading up with lots of people, and Tim is a big step up from Ron DeSanctimonious, who is totally unelectable."

The contrast underscores not only the fact that Trump sees DeSantis as his most formidable rival, but also basic math: He and his team have long believed the more candidates who enter the Republican primary contest, the better for Trump. They are operating under the assumption that no other candidate will be able to consolidate enough of the anti-Trump vote to take him down. Other candidates who enter the race, they argue, are competing for DeSantis' share of the vote.

And the field is growing by the day.

In the coming weeks, at least four additional candidates are expected to launch their own campaigns, joining a field that already includes DeSantis, Scott, former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, tech billionaire Vivek Ramaswamy and several longer-shots like conservative talk radio host Larry Elder.

Former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie's entry into the race is "imminent," according to a person familiar with his thinking who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss his plans. Former Vice President Mike Pence is expected to launch his campaign next month, and North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum is eyeing June 7 as a launch date. Miami Mayor Francis Suarez told The Associated Press last week that he's "strongly considering" running, as is New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu.

Even former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who has run for president twice already, recently said on CNN that he hadn't taken a third campaign off the table. And Axios reported that Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, who had previously said his focus is on state elections, is reconsidering his plans after earlier dismissing speculation.

"This is an indictment of DeSantis' disastrous announcement and his dismal poll numbers," said Trump spokesperson Steven Cheung of the coming announcements. "DeSantis' blood is in the water and every candidate sees how feeble and weak he is."

Indeed, several of the declared and would-be candidates have been escalating their attacks against DeSantis as they compete for second place.

Republicans once warned about a repeat of 2016, when the sprawling GOP field failed to coalesce around a Trump alternative, giving him the nomination. But much of the urgency that once existed among Trump's GOP rivals to limit the field has faded in recent months.

"The important point is not how many candidates start the race, it's how many stay in after they no longer have a chance of getting the nomination," said Whit Ayres, a veteran Republican pollster and strategist. "We learned that from the Democratic nomination in 2020. There were many candidates who started the race. But once it became clear that Joe Biden was going to win the nomination, within hours the rest of them all dropped out and endorsed him."

It is still far too early, Ayers said, to know who the strongest non-Trump candidate will be.

"The idea that you're going to decide before the race even starts which one to rally behind is very premature," he said. "There's so many shoes that could still drop."

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Among them are the ongoing investigations into Trump, including the Justice Department's probe into his handling of classified documents and state and federal investigations into his efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election. Trump has already been indicted in New York and additional criminal charges would create an unprecedented situation with unknown consequences.

New York-based Republican donor Eric Levine, a fierce Trump critic, earlier in the year warned of dire consequences should the GOP primary field grow too large. This week, however, Levine played down the significance of the growing number of candidates, noting many of Trump's rivals are only polling in the low single digits.

The only "serious candidates" beyond Trump, Levine said, are DeSantis, Haley, Scott, Pence (if he runs) and perhaps Sununu and Youngkin, should they get in.

Still, Levine said: "I'd rather there'd be fewer people, no question."

Meanwhile, Trump has been trying to project a sense of inevitability and dominance of the field. He told reporters during a golf tournament Thursday that he's not sure there's any point in debating given his current poll numbers.

"Unless he gets close, why would anyone debate?" he said of DeSantis.

He also urged the party to rally behind him. Democrats, he said, "are hoping for a long, drawn-out Republican primary."

"That's why the Republican Party needs to unite behind the standard-bearer of the MAGA movement," he said in a video message, referring to his "Make America Great Again" slogan.

Many Republicans seem to believe the party will eventually rally around its strongest Trump challengers, with other candidates stepping aside once they realize they can't win. But it remains unclear how exactly that will happen, given the political aspirations of those involved. If DeSantis does maintain his standing in second place, some worry his chilly relationships with the other candidates will make it even less likely the party will unite behind him.

In the meantime, candidates like Haley have been stepping up their attacks against DeSantis, while others prepare to join the race. They include Suarez, who would be the only Hispanic candidate in the 2024 field.

The 45-year-old Republican is not well known nationally but has begun meeting voters in key primary states like South Carolina and is believed to be sitting on millions of dollars in the bank.

Suarez avoided any criticism of Trump during a recent interview, saying only that the former president "without a doubt is in the pole position."

But he was more willing to highlight what he called DeSantis' "structural" liabilities, pointing to the Florida governor's struggle to build relationships with many Republican officials in the state, including him. He also noted DeSantis' recent conservative legislative accomplishments and his battle with Disney.

"There are things that, at least what I've heard from the donor class, are something that has made them second-guess their support for him," he said.

## What to stream this week: Foo Fighters, 'The Idol,' LeBron James and 'American Gladiators' doc

By The Associated Press undefined

There's new music from Foo Fighters, the buzzy HBO series "The Idol" starring Lily-Rose Depp and The Weeknd and a documentary about the breakthrough TV show "American Gladiators" among the 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 a LeBron James's origin story and a TV show where contestants compete to transform nostalgia cars into life-sized Hot Wheels.

### NEW MOVIES TO STREAM

— LeBron James's origin story is dramatized in the new film "Shooting Stars," debuting exclusively on Peacock on Friday, June 2. Based on the 2009 book, written by James and "Friday Night Lights" author

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Buzz Bissinger, the film looks at how he and his childhood friends (the self-anointed "fab four") rose to basketball prominence on their high school team in Akron, Ohio. He and his friends would help lead their St. Vincent-St. Mary's team to three state championships in four years. James is played by newcomer Marquis "Mookie" Cook, who co-stars with "Stranger Things" Caleb McLaughlin as Lil Dru, Avery S. Willis Jr. as Willie McGee and Khalil Everage as Sian Cotton in the Chris Robinson-directed film.

— Sydney Sweeney, of "Euphoria" and "The White Lotus," takes a starring role in "Reality," coming to HBO and Max on Monday, May 29. She plays former U.S. Air Force member and NSA contractor Reality Winner who was accused of leaking classified documents about Russian interference in the 2016 presidential election. The film is based on actual dialogue between Winner and the FBI agents (Josh Hamilton and Marchant Davis) who showed up at her doorstep to interrogate her in 2017. It's the directorial debut of Tina Satter, who adapted her 2019 play "Is This a Room?" and has gotten rave reviews since its debut at the Berlin Film Festival.

— Method acting is in the spotlight in a new series debuting on The Criterion Channel on Thursday, along with a conversation between Ethan Hawke, Vincent D'Onofrio and Isaac Butler, who wrote a book on the matter ("The Method: How the Twentieth Century Learned How to Act.") The films feature performances by noted disciples like Sidney Poitier, Montgomery Clift, Marilyn Monroe and Marlon Brando. Included among the 25 titles are George Stevens' "A Place in the Sun," Sidney Lumet's "12 Angry Men," Elia Kazan's "Splendor in the Grass," Mike Nichols' "The Graduate" and "Carnal Knowledge," Bob Rafelson's "Five Easy Pieces" and Warren Beatty's "Reds."

— AP Film Writer Lindsey Bahr

## NEW MUSIC TO STREAM

— Foo Fighters have a new album, the first since the death of the band's drummer, Taylor Hawkins. The rockers say the 10-track "But Here We Are" is "a brutally honest and emotionally raw response to everything Foo Fighters endured over the last year." The lead, driving single is "Rescued," with the lyrics "I'm just waiting to be rescued/Bring me back to life. Kings and queens and in-betweens/We all deserve the right." The new album, out Friday, June 2, is produced by Greg Kurstin and Foo Fighters. Hawkins died last year during a South American tour.

— Bob Dylan's re-recordings of old songs, which first premiered on Alma Har'el's 2021 film "Shadow Kingdom: The Early Songs of Bob Dylan," will be released on audio formats for the first time on Friday, June 2. The collection includes "Forever Young," "It's All Over Now, Baby Blue," "I'll Be Your Baby Tonight" and "When I Paint My Masterpiece." The 14 tracks include "Watching the River Flow," a bluesy jewel. The full-length "Shadow Kingdom feature" film will also be available for download and rental on June 6. (Columbia Records and Legacy Recordings)

— The Revivalists return with their fifth full-length album, promising more of their spicy gumbo of horn-accented alt-rock, blues, folk and gospel. "Pour It Out Into the Night" is out Friday, June 2 and the New Orleans-based band offers three very different takes on their sound, with the driving anthem "Kid," the folky "Down in the Dirt" and the political protest tune "The Long Con," with the lyrics "Every day they take away/A little piece of you/a little piece of me." The band this summer are performing at Bonnaroo and Lollapalooza. (Concord Records)

— This week will offer a chance to honor Kenny Rogers with some rare songs he left behind. The 10-track "Life Is Like a Song" features eight never-before-heard recordings, spanning 2008-2011, including covers of Eric Clapton's "Wonderful Tonight" and Lionel Richie's "Goodbye," as well as his duet with Dolly Parton, "Tell Me That You Love Me." The collection is curated and executive produced by the late Country Music Hall of Famer's widow, Wanda Rogers. Two bonus tracks include a cover of the Mack Gordon/Henry Warren standard, "At Last" and the Buddy Hyatt-penned "Say Hello to Heaven." (UMe)

— AP Entertainment Writer Mark Kennedy

## NEW SERIES TO STREAM

— "Euphoria" creator Sam Levinson has a new gritty HBO series called "The Idol" starring Lily-Rose Depp and Abel Tesfaye, also known as the recording artist The Weeknd, who is a co-writer and co-exec-

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utive producer. Depp plays a recording artist in LA who, after a nervous breakdown, enters a disturbing relationship with a self-help guru/cult leader played by Tesfaye. "The Idol" has already garnered a lot of buzz for an alleged toxic work environment off camera and reportedly gratuitous sex scenes that are also violent, which the cast and Levinson have denied. The show premiered at the Cannes Film Festival where Levinson acknowledged at a press conference that while it is a "provocative" story, the media coverage has convinced him "we're about to have the biggest show of the summer." "The Idol" premieres Sunday, June 4 on HBO.

— A new miniseries offers a history lesson on the 32nd president, Franklin D. Roosevelt, who was elected to four terms in office. Co-executive produced by Bradley Cooper and biographer Doris Kearns Goodwin, "FDR" delves into some of the most pivotal times in Roosevelt's life including when he contracted Polio disease and was permanently paralyzed from the waist down, when U.S. forces stormed the beaches of Normandy, France on D-Day, June 6, 1944, and his marriage to Eleanor Roosevelt who became a champion for human rights. The three-night miniseries premieres its first episode Monday, May 29 on History.

— ESPN's award-winning "30 for 30" series returns with "The American Gladiators Documentary," a two-part film examining the history of the former syndicated reality-competition show. It also reveals "American Gladiators" had a dark underbelly, involving greed, addiction and blackmail. Former contenders and crew members are interviewed. It premieres Tuesday.

— Gearheads will rev up for "Hot Wheels: Ultimate Challenge," where contestants compete to transform nostalgia cars into life-sized Hot Wheels. Hosted by auto expert Rutledge Wood and featuring celebrity guests including Anthony Anderson, Joel McHale and Terry Crews, the winner of each episode gets a \$25,000 prize. Jay Leno, known for his own love of automobiles and rare car collection, appears in the finale episode where the winner is awarded \$50,000 and have their creation turned into an actual Hot Wheels diecast model that the public can purchase. "Hot Wheels: Ultimate Challenge" debuts Tuesday on NBC.

— Alicia Rancilio

## NEW VIDEO GAMES TO PLAY

— As Mick Jagger once sang, summer's here and the time is right for fighting in the street. For aficionados of Capcom's venerable Street Fighter series, that time can't come soon enough. Street Fighter 6 — the franchise's first release since 2016 — brings back 18 fan-favorite brawlers for more one-on-one punching and kicking. The new edition also lets you create your own avatar from scratch and go cruisin' for a bruisin' in cities all over the world. And there's a battle hub where you and your friends can start fight clubs, compete in tournaments and play old-school Capcom arcade games. The fists and feet start flying Friday, June 2, on PlayStation 5/4, Xbox X/S and PC.

— Lou Kesten

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

## Biden and McCarthy reach a final deal to avoid US default and now must sell it to Congress

By LISA MASCARO, ZEKE MILLER, FARNOUSH AMIRI and MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press  
WASHINGTON (AP) — With days to spare before a potential first-ever government default, President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy reached final agreement Sunday on a deal to raise the nation's debt ceiling and worked to ensure enough support in Congress to pass the measure in the coming week.

The Democratic president and Republican speaker spoke late in the day as negotiators rushed to draft and post the bill text for review, with compromises that neither the hard-right or left flank is likely to support. Instead, the leaders are working to gather backing from the political middle as Congress hurries toward votes before a June 5 deadline to avert a damaging federal default.

"Good news," Biden declared Sunday evening at the White House.

"The agreement prevents the worst possible crisis, a default, for the first time in our nation's history," he said. "Takes the threat of a catastrophic default off the table."



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The president urged both parties in Congress to come together for swift passage. "The speaker and I made clear from the start that the only way forward was a bipartisan agreement," he said.

The final product includes spending cuts but risks angering some lawmakers as they take a closer look at the concessions. Biden told reporters at the White House upon his return from Delaware that he was confident the plan will make it to his desk.

McCarthy, too, was confident in remarks at the Capitol: "At the end of the day, people can look together to be able to pass this."

The days ahead will determine whether Washington is again able to narrowly avoid a default on U.S. debt, as it has done many times before, or whether the global economy enters a potential crisis.

In the United States, a default could cause financial markets to freeze up and spark an international financial crisis. Analysts say millions of jobs would vanish, borrowing and unemployment rates would jump, and a stock-market plunge could erase trillions of dollars in household wealth. It would all but shatter the \$24 trillion market for Treasury debt.

Anxious retirees and others were already making contingency plans for missed checks, with the next Social Security payments due soon as the world watches American leadership at stake.

McCarthy and his negotiators portrayed the deal as delivering for Republicans though it fell well short of the sweeping spending cuts they sought. Top White House officials were briefing Democratic lawmakers and phoning some directly to try to shore up support.

One surprise was a provision important to influential Sen. Joe Manchin, D-W.Va., giving congressional backing for the controversial Mountain Valley Pipeline, a natural gas project, that is certain to raise questions.

Negotiators also agreed to some Republican demands for increased work requirements for food stamps recipients that Democrats had called a nonstarter.

McCarthy told reporters at the Capitol on Sunday that the agreement "doesn't get everything everybody wanted," but that was to be expected in a divided government. Privately, he told lawmakers on a conference call that Democrats "got nothing."

Weeks of negotiations came together when Biden and McCarthy spoke by phone Saturday evening and agreed in principle to the deal, finishing it up Sunday with the 99-page legislative text made public.

Support from both parties will be needed to win congressional approval before the projected June 5 government default on U.S. debts. Lawmakers are expected to return Tuesday from the Memorial Day weekend, and McCarthy has promised lawmakers he will abide by the rule to post any bill for 72 hours before voting in the House, as soon as Wednesday.

The package would next go to the Senate, where Republican leader Mitch McConnell said senators "must act swiftly and pass this agreement without unnecessary delay."

Central to the compromise is a two-year budget deal that would essentially hold spending flat for 2024, while boosting it for defense and veterans, and capping increases at 1% for 2025. That's alongside raising the debt limit for two years, pushing the volatile political issue past the next presidential election.

Driving hard to impose tougher work requirements on government aid recipients, Republicans achieved some of what they wanted. It ensures people ages 49 to 54 with food stamp aid would have to meet work requirements if they are able-bodied and without dependents. Biden was able to secure waivers for veterans and homeless people.

The deal puts in place changes in the landmark National Environmental Policy Act designating "a single lead agency" to develop environmental reviews, in hopes of streamlining the process.

It halts some funds to hire new Internal Revenue Service agents as Republicans demanded, and rescinds some \$30 billion for coronavirus relief, keeping \$5 billion for developing the next generation of COVID-19 vaccines.

The deal would suspend the debt limit until January 2025. It came together after Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen told Congress that the United States could default on its debt obligations by June 5 — four days later than previously estimated. Lifting the nation's debt limit, now at \$31 trillion, allows more borrowing to pay bills already incurred.

McCarthy commands only a slim Republican majority in the House, where hard-right conservatives may

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resist any deal as insufficient as they try to slash spending. By compromising with Democrats, he risks angering his own members, setting up a career-challenging moment for the new speaker.

"I think you're going to get a majority of Republicans voting for this bill," McCarthy said on "Fox News Sunday," adding that because Biden backed it, "I think there's going to be a lot of Democrats that will vote for it, too."

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries of New York said on CBS' "Face the Nation" that he expected there will be Democratic support but he declined to provide a number. Asked whether he could guarantee there would not be a default, he said, "Yes."

A 100-strong group of moderates in the New Democratic Coalition gave a crucial nod of support Sunday, saying in a statement it was confident that Biden and his team "delivered a viable, bipartisan solution to end this crisis."

The coalition could provide enough support for McCarthy to make up for members in the right flank of his party who have expressed opposition before the bill's wording was even released.

It also takes pressure off Biden, facing criticism from progressives for giving into what they call hostage-taking by Republicans.

Democratic Rep. Pramila Jayapal of Washington state, who leads the Congressional Progressive Caucus, told CBS that the White House and Jeffries should worry about whether caucus members will support the agreement.

Price reported from New York. Associated Press writers Seung Min Kim and Stephen Groves contributed to this report.

## Debt ceiling deal: What's in, what's out of the bill to avert US default

By KEVIN FREKING, FARNOUSH AMIRI and STEPHEN GROVES Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The details of the deal between President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy were released Sunday in the form of a 99-page bill that would suspend the nation's debt limit through 2025 to avoid a federal default while limiting government spending.

The Democratic president and Republican speaker are trying to win over lawmakers to the plan in time to avert a default that would shake the global economy. But Congress will be scrutinizing and debating the legislation, which also includes provisions to fund medical care for veterans, change work requirements for some recipients of government aid and streamline environmental reviews for energy projects.

McCarthy said the House will vote on the legislation Wednesday, giving the Senate time to consider it before June 5, the date when Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said the United States could default on its debt obligations if lawmakers did not act in time.

Some hardline conservatives have expressed early concerns that the compromise does not cut future deficits enough, while Democrats have been worried about proposed changes to work requirements in programs such as food stamps.

With the details of the deal now clear, here's what's in and out:

**TWO-YEAR DEBT LIMIT SUSPENSION, SPENDING LIMITS**

The agreement would keep nondefense spending roughly flat in the 2024 fiscal year and increase it by 1% the following year, as well as suspend the debt limit until January 2025 -- past the next presidential election.

For the next fiscal year, the bill matches Biden's proposed defense budget of \$886 billion and allots \$704 billion for nondefense spending.

The bill also requires Congress to approve 12 annual spending bills or face a snapback to spending limits from the previous year, which would mean a 1% cut.

The legislation aims to limit federal budget growth to 1% for the next six years, but that provision would not be enforceable starting in 2025.

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Overall, the White House estimates that the plan would reduce government spending by at least \$1 trillion, but official calculations have not yet been released.

## VETERANS CARE

The agreement would fully fund medical care for veterans at the levels included in Biden's proposed 2024 budget blueprint, including a fund dedicated to veterans who have been exposed to toxic substances or environmental hazards. Biden sought \$20.3 billion for the toxic exposure fund in his budget.

## UNSPENT COVID MONEY

The agreement would rescind about \$30 billion in unspent coronavirus relief money that Congress approved through previous bills. It claws back unobligated money from dozens of federal programs that received aid during the pandemic, including rental assistance, small business loans and broadband for rural areas.

The legislation protects pandemic funding for veterans' medical care, housing assistance, the Indian Health Service, and some \$5 billion for a program focused on rapidly developing the next generation of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.

## IRS FUNDING

Republicans targeted money that the IRS was allotted last year to crack down on tax fraud. The bill bites into some IRS funding, rescinding \$1.4 billion.

## WORK REQUIREMENTS

The agreement would expand work requirements for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps — a longtime Republican priority. But the changes are pared down from the House-passed debt ceiling bill.

Work requirements already exist for most able-bodied adults between the ages of 18 and 49. The bill would phase in higher age limits, bringing the maximum age to 54 by 2025. But the provision expires, bringing the maximum age back down to age 49 five years later, in 2030.

Democrats also won some new expanded benefits for veterans, homeless people and young people aging out of foster care. That would also expire in 2030, according to the agreement.

The agreement would also make it slightly harder for states to waive work requirements for SNAP for certain individuals. Current law allows states to issue some exemptions to the work rules on a discretionary basis, but limits how many people can be exempted. The agreement would lower the number of exemptions that a state can issue and curb states' ability to carry over the number of exemptions they can hand out from month to month.

The agreement would also make changes to the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families program, which gives cash aid to families with children. While not going as far as the House bill had proposed, the deal would make adjustments to a credit that allows states to require fewer recipients to work, updating and readjusting the credit to make it harder for states to avoid.

## SPEEDING UP ENERGY PROJECTS

The deal puts in place changes in the National Environmental Policy Act for the first time in nearly four decades that would designate "a single lead agency" to develop and schedule environmental reviews, in hopes of streamlining the process. It also simplifies some of the requirements for environmental reviews, including placing length limitations on environmental assessments and impact statements.

Agencies will be given one year to complete environmental reviews, and projects that are deemed to have complex impacts on the environment will need to be reviewed within two years.

The bill also gives special treatment to the Mountain Valley Pipeline — a West Virginia natural gas pipeline championed by Sens. Joe Manchin and Shelley Moore Capito — by approving all its outstanding permit requests.

## STUDENT LOANS

Republicans have long sought to reel back the Biden administration's efforts to provide student loan relief and aid to millions of borrowers during the coronavirus pandemic. While the GOP proposal to rescind the White House's plan to waive \$10,000 to \$20,000 in debt for nearly all borrowers failed to make it into the package, Biden agreed to put an end to the pause on student loan repayment.

The pause in student loan repayments would end in the final days of August.

The fate of student loan relief, meanwhile, will be decided at the Supreme Court, which is dominated 6-3 by its conservative wing. During oral arguments in the case, several of the justices expressed deep skepticism about the legality of Biden's plan. A decision is expected before the end of June.

#### WHAT'S LEFT OUT

House Republicans passed legislation last month that would have created new work requirements for some Medicaid recipients, but that was left out of the final agreement. The idea faced stiff opposition from the White House and congressional Democrats, who said it would lead to fewer people able to afford food or health care without actually increasing the number of people in the workforce.

Also absent from the final deal is the GOP proposal to repeal many of the clean energy tax credits Democrats passed in party-line votes last year to boost the production and consumption of clean energy. McCarthy and Republicans have argued that the tax breaks "distort the market and waste taxpayer money."

The White House has defended the tax credits as resulting in hundreds of billions of dollars in private-sector investments, creating thousands of manufacturing jobs in the U.S.

## Suspect arrested in 5 separate shootings in Phoenix metro area that left 4 dead

MESA, Ariz. (AP) — A suspect has been arrested in connection with five separate shootings in the Phoenix metro area that left four people dead and a woman wounded, authorities said Sunday.

Mesa police said 20-year-old Iren Byers was taken into custody Sunday on suspicion of four counts of first-degree murder and one count of attempted first-degree murder.

A motive for the shootings wasn't immediately clear, but police said Byers took responsibility for the shootings and told officers where they could find the clothes and gun used in the crimes.

Police said video surveillance footage showed the suspect wearing the clothing reported by witnesses at multiple shooting scenes.

The names of the victims were being withheld Sunday until relatives could be notified. It was unclear Sunday if Byers has a lawyer yet who could speak on his behalf.

Police said officers were dispatched around 10:30 p.m. Friday to a Mesa park and found a 41-year-old man dead at the scene.

While still at the park, police reported hearing shots being fired nearby and searched the area and later found a 36-year-old woman with serious injuries. She remains in stable condition at a hospital.

Police said they received a call about a body near a Mesa bus station around 1 a.m. Sunday.

They said officers discovered a 41-year-old man dead at the scene and then another dead man just after 2 a.m.

Authorities said all of the victims had gunshot wounds. They also said shell casings recovered from the shooting scenes were all linked to the same 9mm handgun, including a fatal shooting Friday afternoon in Phoenix.

Details of the Phoenix shooting haven't been released yet.

## Fight still ahead for Texas' Ken Paxton after historic impeachment deepens GOP divisions

By ACACIA CORONADO, JIM VERTUNO and JAKE BLEIBERG Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The historic impeachment of Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton was just the first round of a Republican brawl over whether to banish one of their own in America's biggest red state after years of criminal accusations.

Paxton and his allies, from former President Donald Trump to hard-right grassroots organizations across Texas, now wait to fight back in what Paxton hopes will be a friendlier arena: a trial in the state Senate.

It was still unclear Sunday when this will take place. The Republican-led Senate met to pass bills in the



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final days of the legislative session. But the chamber's presiding officer, Republican Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, did not immediately address the Paxton impeachment.

Late Sunday, the House of Representatives investigating panel that initiated Paxton's impeachment issued a dozen new subpoenas for testimony and records from Paxton associates, businesses, banks and financial trusts. It was unclear how quickly those records and testimony could be collected ahead of a Senate trial.

Paxton has said he has "full confidence" as he awaits a Senate trial. His conservative allies there include his wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton, who has not said whether she will recuse herself from the proceedings to determine whether her husband will be permanently removed from office.

For now, Texas' three-term attorney general is immediately suspended after the state House of Representatives on Saturday impeached Paxton on 20 articles that included bribery and abuse of public trust.

The decisive 121-23 vote amounted to a clear rebuke from the GOP-controlled chamber after nearly a decade of Republican lawmakers taking a mostly muted stance on Paxton's alleged misdeeds, which include felony securities fraud charges from 2015 and an ongoing FBI investigation into corruption accusations.

He is just the third sitting official in Texas' nearly 200-year history to have been impeached.

"No one person should be above the law, least not the top law officer of the state of Texas," said Republican state Rep. David Spiller, who was part of a House investigative committee that this week revealed it had quietly been looking into Paxton for months.

Republican Texas Gov. Greg Abbott has remained silent about Paxton all week, including after Saturday's impeachment. Abbott, who was the state's attorney general prior to Paxton's taking the job in 2015, has the power to appoint a temporary replacement pending the outcome in the Senate trial.

Final removal of Paxton would require a two-thirds vote in the Senate, where Republican members are generally aligned with the party's hard right. Patrick, the presiding officer, has served as state chairman for Trump's campaigns in Texas.

A group of Senate Republicans issued identical statements late Saturday and Sunday saying they "welcome and encourage communication from our constituents." But the group also said they now consider themselves jurors and will not discuss the Paxton case.

Before the vote Saturday, Trump and U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz came to Paxton's defense, with the senator calling the impeachment process "a travesty" and saying the attorney general's legal troubles should be left to the courts.

"Free Ken Paxton," Trump wrote on his social media platform Truth Social, warning that if House Republicans proceeded with the impeachment, "I will fight you."

Paxton, 60, decried the outcome in the House moments after scores of his fellow partisans voted for impeachment. His office pointed to internal reports that found no wrongdoing.

"The ugly spectacle in the Texas House today confirmed the outrageous impeachment plot against me was never meant to be fair or just," Paxton said. "It was a politically motivated sham from the beginning."

Lawmakers allied with Paxton tried to discredit the investigation by noting that hired investigators, not panel members, interviewed witnesses. They also said several of the investigators had voted in Democratic primaries, tainting the impeachment, and that Republican legislators had too little time to review evidence.

"I perceive it could be political weaponization," Rep. Tony Tinderholt, one of the House's most conservative members, said before the vote. Republican Rep. John Smithee compared the proceeding to "a Saturday mob out for an afternoon lynching."

Rice University political science professor Mark P. Jones said the swift move to impeach kept Paxton from rallying significant support and allowed quietly frustrated Republicans to come together.

"If you ask most Republicans privately, they feel Paxton is an embarrassment. But most were too afraid of the base to oppose him," Jones said. By voting as a large bloc, he added, the lawmakers gained political cover.

To Paxton's longstanding detractors, however, the rebuke was years overdue.

In 2014, he admitted to violating Texas securities law, and a year later was indicted on securities fraud charges in his hometown near Dallas, accused of defrauding investors in a tech startup. He pleaded not

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guilty to two felony counts carrying a potential sentence of five to 99 years.

He opened a legal defense fund and accepted \$100,000 from an executive whose company was under investigation by Paxton's office for Medicaid fraud. An additional \$50,000 was donated by an Arizona retiree whose son Paxton later hired to a high-ranking job but soon was fired after displaying child pornography in a meeting. In 2020, Paxton intervened in a Colorado mountain community where a Texas donor and college classmate faced removal from his lakeside home under coronavirus orders.

But what ultimately unleashed the impeachment push was Paxton's relationship with Austin real estate developer Nate Paul.

In 2020, eight top aides told the FBI they were concerned Paxton was misusing his office to help Paul over the developer's unproven claims about an elaborate conspiracy to steal \$200 million of his properties. The FBI searched Paul's home in 2019, but he has not been charged and denies wrongdoing. Paxton also told staff members he had an affair with a woman who, it later emerged, worked for Paul.

The impeachment accuses Paxton of attempting to interfere in foreclosure lawsuits and issuing legal opinions to benefit Paul. The bribery charges included in the impeachment allege Paul employed the woman with whom Paxton had an affair in exchange for legal help and that he paid for expensive renovations to the attorney general's home. A senior lawyer for Paxton's office, Chris Hilton, said Friday that the attorney general paid for all repairs and renovations.

Other charges, including lying to investigators, date back to Paxton's still-pending securities fraud indictment.

Four aides who reported Paxton to the FBI later sued under Texas' whistleblower law, and in February he agreed to settle the case for \$3.3 million. The House committee said the probe was sparked by Paxton seeking legislative approval for the payout.

"But for Paxton's own request for a taxpayer-funded settlement over his wrongful conduct, Paxton would not be facing impeachment," the panel said.

Bleiberg reported from Dallas.

## George Maharis, star of TV's 'Route 66' in the 1960s, dies at 94

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — George Maharis, a stage-trained actor with rough-hewn good looks who became an icon to American youth in the 1960s as he cruised the country in a Corvette convertible in the hit television series "Route 66," has died.

Maharis' friend and caretaker Marc Bahan said in a Facebook post that he died Wednesday. Bahan told the Hollywood Reporter, which first reported Maharis' death, that he died at his home in Beverly Hills, California, after contracting hepatitis. He was 94.

On "Route 66," Maharis played Buz Murdock, a hardened survivor of New York City's Hell's Kitchen. His co-star Martin Milner, who died in 2015, was Tod Stiles, a young man raised in wealth who upon his father's death was left with nothing but a shiny new Corvette.

The pair decided to travel the highway author John Steinbeck had dubbed "The Mother Road." Each week brought a new adventure in a new city, and audiences tuned in in droves.

"Route 66" was the rare series at the time that was filmed on location, moving to new towns and cities for each new episode. It featured as guest stars future stars including Robert Redford, James Caan, Robert Duvall and Alan Alda in some of their earliest roles.

The storied highway itself was as much a star of the show as Maharis and Milner. Since bypassed in favor of bigger, faster interstates, it stretched unbroken from Chicago to the Pacific Ocean and was venerated as a driving force behind the country's 20th century westward migration.

"Route 66" was said to have been inspired by Jack Kerouac's novel "On the Road," and it spawned its own hit song, an instrumental composed by Nelson Riddle. The more familiar tune, "(Get Your Kicks On) Route 66," was not connected to the series.

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Maharis left the show after the third season — it would continue for one more without him — and never again achieved the same fame.

He got a name check that introduced him to subsequent generations in director Quentin Tarantino's 2019 "Once Upon a Time in Hollywood," when fictional actor Rick Dalton, played by Leonardo DiCaprio, says he was considered for the Steve McQueen role in "The Great Escape" along with three Georges: "Peppard, Maharis and Chakiris."

A native New Yorker, one of seven children born to Greek immigrants, Maharis really was raised in Hell's Kitchen. His parents ran a successful restaurant, and they wanted George to join the family business.

"Growing up in Hell's Kitchen, at least for me, was all about 'I'm not gonna stay here,'" he said in a 2007 interview. "Life is all about the journey, the going. I had to get out."

He hoped to be a singer but damaged his vocal cords, so he switched to acting. After training under Lee Strasberg and Sanford Meisner at the Actors Studio, he began appearing in off-Broadway plays.

Excellent notices for his work in Edward Albee's play "Zoo Story," and in appearances on the television drama "Naked City," attracted attention. After a small role in the 1960 film "Exodus" and a few other parts, he landed "Route 66."

After leaving the series, Maharis was cast as a star in such films as "Quick Before It Melts," "The Satan Bug," "Sylvia," "A Covenant with Death," "The Happening," "The Desperadoes" and "Land Raiders."

In 1970, he returned to weekly television, playing a criminologist in "The Most Deadly Game," but the show lasted only one season.

Maharis kept acting in the ensuing decades, appearing in such TV movies as "Escape to Mindanao" and "Murder on Flight 502," "Disaster in the Sky," "Crash of Flight 401," "Death in Space" and on TV series including "Fantasy Island," "The Bionic Woman" and "Murder, She Wrote."

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The late AP Entertainment writer Bob Thomas provided biographical material for this story.

## Turkey's Erdogan wins another term as president, extends rule into 3rd decade

By SUZAN FRASER and ZEYNEP BILGINSOY Associated Press

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan won reelection Sunday, extending his increasingly authoritarian rule into a third decade as the country reels from high inflation and the aftermath of an earthquake that leveled entire cities.

A third term gives Erdogan, a polarizing populist, an even stronger hand domestically and internationally, and the election results will have implications far beyond the capital of Ankara. Turkey stands at the crossroads of Europe and Asia, and it plays a key role in NATO.

With more than 99% of ballot boxes opened, unofficial results from competing news agencies showed Erdogan with 52% of the vote, compared with 48% for his challenger, Kemal Kilicdaroglu. The head of Turkey's electoral board confirmed the victory, saying that even after accounting for outstanding votes, the result was another term for Erdogan.

In two speeches — one in Istanbul and one in Ankara — Erdogan thanked the nation for entrusting him with the presidency for five more years.

"We hope to be worthy of your trust, as we have been for 21 years," he told supporters on a campaign bus outside his home in Istanbul in his first comments after the results emerged.

He ridiculed his challenger for his loss, saying "bye bye bye, Kemal," as supporters booed. He said the divisions of the election are now over, but he continued to rail against his opponent as well as the former co-leader of the pro-Kurdish party who has been imprisoned for years over alleged links to terrorism.

"The only winner today is Turkey," Erdogan said to hundreds of thousands gathered outside the presidential palace in Ankara, promising to work hard for Turkey's second century, which he calls the "Turkish century." The country marks its centennial this year.

Kilicdaroglu campaigned on promises to reverse Erdogan's democratic backsliding, to restore the economy

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by reverting to more conventional policies and to improve ties with the West. He said the election was "the most unjust ever," with all state resources mobilized for Erdogan.

"We will continue to be at the forefront of this struggle until real democracy comes to our country," he said in Ankara. He thanked the more than 25 million people who voted for him and asked them to "remain upright."

The people have shown their will "to change an authoritarian government despite all the pressures," he said.

Supporters of Erdogan took to the streets to celebrate, waving Turkish or ruling party flags, honking car horns and chanting his name. Celebratory gunfire was heard in several Istanbul neighborhoods.

Erdogan's government vetoed Sweden's bid to join NATO and purchased Russian missile-defense systems, which prompted the United States to oust Turkey from a U.S.-led fighter-jet project. But Turkey also helped broker a crucial deal that allowed Ukrainian grain shipments and averted a global food crisis.

"No one can look down on our nation," Erdogan said in Istanbul.

Steven A. Cook, a senior fellow at the Washington-based Council on Foreign Relations, said Turkey was likely to "move the goal post" on Sweden's membership in NATO as it seeks demands from the United States.

He also said Erdogan, who has spoken about introducing a new constitution, was likely to make an even greater push for it to lock in changes overseen by his conservative and religious Justice and Development Party, or AKP.

Erdogan, who has been at Turkey's helm for 20 years, came just short of victory in the first round of elections on May 14. It was the first time he failed to win an election outright, but he made up for it Sunday.

Congratulations poured in from world leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy, whose countries are at war in Ukraine.

Putin said Erdogan's victory was "clear evidence" that the Turkish people support his efforts to "strengthen state sovereignty and pursue an independent foreign policy."

Zelenskyy said he was counting on building the partnership between the two countries and strengthening cooperation "for the security and stability of Europe."

U.S. President Joe Biden said he looked forward "to continuing to work together as NATO allies on bilateral issues and shared global challenges."

The two candidates offered sharply different visions of the country's future, and its recent past.

Critics blame Erdogan's unconventional economic policies for skyrocketing inflation that has fueled a cost-of-living crisis. Many also faulted his government for a slow response to the earthquake that killed more than 50,000 people in Turkey.

In his victory remarks, Erdogan said rebuilding the quake-struck cities would be his priority, and he said a million Syrian refugees would go back to Turkish-controlled "safe zones" in Syria as part of a resettlement project being run with Qatar.

Erdogan has retained the backing of conservative voters who remain devoted to him for lifting Islam's profile in Turkey, which was founded on secular principles, and for raising the country's influence in world politics.

In Ankara, Erdogan voter Hacer Yalcin said Turkey's future was great. "Of course Erdogan is the winner ... Who else? He has made everything for us," Yalcin said. "God blesses us!"

Erdogan, a 69-year-old Muslim, is set to remain in power until 2028.

He transformed the presidency from a largely ceremonial role to a powerful office through a narrowly won 2017 referendum that scrapped Turkey's parliamentary system of governance. He was the first directly elected president in 2014, and won the 2018 election that ushered in the executive presidency.

The first half of Erdogan's tenure included reforms that allowed the country to begin talks to join the European Union, and economic growth that lifted many out of poverty. But he later moved to suppress freedoms and the media and concentrated more power in his own hands, especially after a failed coup attempt that Turkey says was orchestrated by the U.S.-based Islamic cleric Fethullah Gulen. The cleric



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denies involvement.

Erdogan's rival was a soft-mannered former civil servant who has led the pro-secular Republican People's Party, or CHP, since 2010.

In a frantic effort to reach out to nationalist voters in the runoff, Kilicdaroglu vowed to send back refugees and ruled out peace negotiations with Kurdish militants if he is elected.

In Kurdish-majority Diyarbakir, 37-year-old metalworker Ahmet Koyun said everyone would have to accept the results.

"It is sad on behalf of our people that a government with such corruption, such stains, has come into power again. Mr. Kemal would have been great for our country, at least for a change of scene," he said.

Sunday also marked the 10th anniversary of the start of mass anti-government protests that broke out over plans to uproot trees in Istanbul's Gezi Park. The demonstrations became one of the most serious challenges to Erdogan's government.

Erdogan's response to the protests, in which eight people were convicted, was a harbinger of a crack-down on civil society and freedom of expression.

Erdogan and pro-government media portrayed Kilicdaroglu, who received the backing of the country's pro-Kurdish party, as colluding with "terrorists" and of supporting what they described as "deviant" LGBTQ rights.

In his victory speech, he repeated those themes, saying LGBTQ people cannot "infiltrate" his ruling party or its nationalist allies.

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Bilginsoy reported from Istanbul. Bela Szandelszky in Ankara, Turkey; Mucahit Ceylan in Diyarbakir, Turkey; and Cinar Kiper in Bodrum, Turkey, contributed to this report.

## Josef Newgarden wins his first Indy 500, gives Roger Penske his 19th victory

By JENNA FRYER AP Auto Racing Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indianapolis 500 is the one race Josef Newgarden desperately wanted to win. It's basically the only race that matters to his boss.

Coming up empty for 11 consecutive years had become personal for the two-time IndyCar champion.

Newgarden finally broke through Sunday, though, winning the Indy 500 to extend team owner Roger Penske's record to 19 victories — and the first since he bought Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Newgarden did it with an audacious pass of defending race winner Marcus Ericsson during a frantic, controversial 2.5-mile sprint to the finish.

"We've had a tough go here the last three, four years, and we've had a lot of questions to answer every day, after every qualifying weekend. We've had to come out and put on a brave face," Newgarden said. "It's just not an easy place to succeed at. I don't necessarily subscribe to the fact that if you don't win the 500, your career is a failure.

"But I think a lot of people view this race and this championship with that lens," Newgarden continued. "The 500 stands alone and if you are not able to capture one, the career really is a failure."

After the race was red-flagged for the third time in the final 16 laps, Newgarden was moved from fourth to second by race control following a review of the running order at the time the yellow flag waved.

He took advantage of his improved position to slingshot around Ericsson on the restart and hold him off from there.

Newgarden brought his Chevrolet-powered car to a stop on the front stretch, jumped out and found a hole in the fence, diving into part of a crowd estimated at more than 300,000 to celebrate. Then, Newgarden climbed the fence to mimic longtime Team Penske driver and four-time Indy 500 winner Helio Castroneves.

The 32-year-old from Nashville is the first American to win the Indy 500 since Alexander Rossi in 2016. He led five of the 200 laps and beat Ericsson in the fourth-closest finish in 107 years with a margin of victory of .0974 seconds.

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"I'm just so thankful to be here. I started out as a fan in the crowd, and this place is amazing, regardless of where you're sitting," Newgarden said after pouring a bottle of whole milk over his head. "Everyone kept asking why I hadn't won this race, and they look at you like you're a failure if you haven't won it. I knew I was capable. I knew I could."

Ericsson finished second in a Honda for Chip Ganassi Racing, and he immediately criticized IndyCar's decision to hold a one-lap shootout to the checkered flag. The Swede believed the race should have ended under caution, with him the winner, rather than having the green flag fly on the first lap out of the pits.

"I think it wasn't enough laps to go to do what we did. I don't think it's safe to go out of the pits on cold tires for a restart when half the field is sort of still trying to get out on track when we go green," Ericsson said. "I can't agree with that."

Newgarden and Ericsson were followed by Santino Ferrucci, who gave 88-year-old A.J. Foyt his team's best finish in the iconic race that Super Tex won four times since Kenny Bräck reached victory lane in 1999.

Alex Palou, the pole sitter and race favorite for Chip Ganassi Racing, finished fourth after recovering from a crash on pit road, and Rossi was fifth on what was an otherwise disappointing day for Arrow McLaren.

What was on pace to be the fastest Indy 500 in history ended with three red flags in the final 16 laps.

The first came for a crash involving Felix Rosenqvist and Kyle Kirkwood, who were near the front of the lead pack. Kirkwood went upside down into the catch fence, beginning a terrifying, spark-filled ride through the short chute.

One of Kirkwood's wheels sailed over the fencing and narrowly cleared the packed grandstand. Nobody was injured. His tire smashed the hood of a Chevrolet in a parking lot next to the grandstand.

"All I know is I was up in the fence, which is never a good thing in IndyCar. Thank God these cars are so safe," Kirkwood said. "I saw sparks flying everywhere. That's the scary part. You're upside-down and you're kind of stuck at that point."

On the restart, Pato O'Ward — who already had a restart called off for setting too slow of a pace — was shuffled from first to third as Newgarden shot to the lead. O'Ward and Ericsson were then side by side entering Turn 3 and touched wheels, and O'Ward slid into the wall and out of the race in another disappointment for Arrow McLaren.

Agustin Canapino did a 360-spin behind him, snapping a break line. He was unable to stop and collided with O'Ward's car.

"I was a little too nice there," O'Ward said. "I just feel so bummed for the team. ... I got onto the apron to give (Ericsson) room. I got squeezed. Yeah, I won't forget that."

Suddenly, the race had its second red flag with six laps to go.

Last year's race was red-flagged with five to go, when Ericsson was leading O'Ward to the finish. Ericsson held him off the rest of the way, and many criticized O'Ward for not making a more aggressive move for the win.

Newgarden didn't make the same mistake with Ericsson out in front of him.

As Newgarden crossed the yard of bricks, Penske and his entire executive committee jumped up and down in celebration on an elevated platform near the start-finish line. And for a moment, the 86-year-old team owner looked like a child filled with joy.

"The last two laps, I forgot about being the track owner and said 'Let's go for it,'" said Penske, who joined Newgarden in an open-top Chevy Camaro for a victory lap around the speedway. It was the first Indy win for a Team Penske driver since 2019, the year before Roger Penske bought the track.

"We always want to win this place, but 2019 was the last time that we had won and somebody else owned the place before," Penske president Tim Cindric said. "I apologize it's taken four years."

Roger Penske's parking spot inside the speedway has been marked simply 18 for the last four years. Newgarden was still doing postrace media obligations and the spot had already been changed to 19.

"I think back about coming here in 1951 with my dad to see the first race of my own with him, and of course never realized that many, many years would pass and I would be here today, our family as the steward of the track, and also to have 19 wins," Penske said.

AP Sports Writer Dave Skretta contributed to this report.

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

## 'The Little Mermaid' makes box office splash with \$95.5 million opening

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — "The Little Mermaid" made moviegoers want to be under the sea on Memorial Day weekend.

Disney's live-action remake of its 1989 animated classic easily outswam the competition, bringing in \$95.5 million on 4,320 screens in North America, according to studio estimates Sunday.

And Disney estimates the film starring Halle Bailey as the titular mermaid Ariel and Melissa McCarthy as her sea witch nemesis Ursula will reach \$117.5 million by the time the holiday is over. It ranks as the fifth biggest Memorial Day weekend opening ever.

It displaces "Fast X" in the top spot. The 10th installment in the "Fast and Furious" franchise starring Vin Diesel has lagged behind more recent releases in the series, bringing in \$23 million domestically for a two-week total of \$108 million for Universal Pictures.

In its fourth weekend, Disney and Marvel's "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3" made an estimated \$20 million in North America to take third place. It's now made \$299 million domestically.

The performance of "The Little Mermaid" represents something of a bounce-back for Disney's animated-to-live-action remakes, and makes it likely they will keep coming indefinitely. Poor reception and the pandemic had some recent reboots either performing poorly or skipping theatrical releases for Disney +, including "Dumbo," "Mulan" and "Pinocchio."

"It works as long as the movies deliver," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for Comscore. "It's great for Disney to be able to go to their archive by reviving these titles that started off as huge hits in the animated realm."

The opening puts it in the top tier of Disney's remakes, with a similar performance to 2019's "Aladdin," though it was well short of 2017's "Beauty and the Beast," which opened to more than \$170 million, and 2019's "The Lion King," which brought in more than \$190 million in its first weekend.

Audiences thought it delivered. The film had an A CinemaScore, and according to exit polling had more ticket buyers between ages 25 and 34 than children, suggesting nostalgic adults were essential.

"The multi generational component of this cannot be overstated," Dergarabedian said.

Critics were more lukewarm. The movie is currently at 67% on Rotten Tomatoes. In her review, Lindsey Bahr of The Associated Press called it "a somewhat drab undertaking with sparks of bioluminescence" that like too many of the Disney remakes "prioritized nostalgia and familiarity over compelling visual storytelling."

She said Bailey, half of the sister R&B duo Chloe x Halle, still shone with a "lovely presence" and "superb voice."

Directed by Rob Marshall with a reported budget of \$250 million before marketing, "The Little Mermaid" tells the story of a yearning, wayward daughter who cuts a devil's deal to swap her fins for a pair of legs. It features the songs from Alan Menken and Howard Ashman, including "Part of Your World" and "Under the Sea," that helped the original film spark a Disney animation renaissance in the 1990s.

Fourth place went to Universal's "The Super Mario Bros. Movie," which keeps reaching new levels in its eighth weekend. Now available to rent on VOD, it still earned \$6.3 million in theatres. Its cumulative total of \$559 million makes Mario and Luigi the year's biggest earners so far.

Comics couldn't stand up to Ariel as the week's other new releases sank.

"The Machine," an action comedy starring stand-up comedian Bert Kreischer, finished fifth with \$4.9 million domestically. And "About My Father," the broad comedy starring stand-up Sebastian Maniscalco and Robert De Niro, was sixth with \$4.3 million.

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It's not clear whether "The Little Mermaid" will have legs — or fins — going forward. Next week brings the release of animated "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse," with "Transformers: Rise of the Beasts" arriving the following week.

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

1. "The Little Mermaid," \$95.5 million.
2. "Fast X," \$23 million.
3. "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 3," \$20 million.
4. "The Super Mario Bros. Movie," \$6.3 million.
5. "The Machine," \$4.9 million.
6. "About My Father," \$4.3 million.
7. "Kandahar," \$2.4 million.
8. "You Hurt My Feelings," 1.4 million.
9. "Evil Dead Rise," \$1 million.
10. "Book Club, The Next Chapter," \$920, 000.

Follow AP Entertainment Writer Andrew Dalton: <https://twitter.com/andyjamesdalton>

## Mpox is down, but US cities could be at risk for summertime outbreaks

By MIKE STOBBE AP Medical Writer

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The mpox health emergency has ended, but U.S. health officials are aiming to prevent a repeat of last year's outbreaks.

Mpox infections exploded early in the summer of 2022 in the wake of Pride gatherings. More than 30,000 U.S. cases were reported last year, most of them spread during sexual contact between gay and bisexual men. About 40 people died.

With Pride events planned across the country in the coming weeks, health officials and event organizers say they are optimistic that this year infections will be fewer and less severe. A bigger supply of vaccine, more people with immunity and readier access to a drug to treat mpox are among the reasons.

But they also worry that people may think of mpox as last year's problem.

"Out of sight, out of mind," said Dr. Demetre Daskalakis, who is advising the White House on its mpox response. "But we are beating the drum."

Last week, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a health alert to U.S. doctors to watch for new cases. On Thursday, the agency published a modeling study that estimated the likelihood of mpox resurgence in 50 counties that have been the focus of a government campaign to control sexually transmitted diseases.

The study concluded that 10 of the counties had a 50% chance or higher of mpox outbreaks this year. The calculation was based largely on how many people were considered at high risk for infection and what fraction of them had some immunity through vaccination or previous infection.

At the top of the list are Jacksonville, Florida; Memphis, Tennessee; and Cincinnati — cities where 10% or fewer of the people at highest risk were estimated to have immunity. Another 25 counties have low or medium immunity levels that put them at a higher risk for outbreaks.

The study had a range of limitations, including that scientists don't know how long immunity from vaccination or prior infections lasts.

So why do the study? To warn people, said Dr. Chris Braden, who heads the CDC's mpox response.

"This is something that is important for jurisdictions to promote prevention of mpox, and for the population to take note — and take care of themselves. That's why we're doing this," he said.

Officials are trying to bring a sense of urgency to a health threat that was seen as a burgeoning crisis last summer but faded away by the end of the year.



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Formerly known as monkeypox, mpox is caused by a virus in the same family as the one that causes smallpox. It is endemic in parts of Africa, where people have been infected through bites from rodents or small animals, but was not known to spread easily among people.

Cases began emerging in Europe and the U.S. about a year ago, mostly among men who have sex with men, and escalated in dozens of countries in June and July. The infections were rarely fatal, but many people suffered painful skin lesions for weeks.

Countries scrambled to find a vaccine or other countermeasures. In late July, the World Health Organization declared a health emergency. The U.S. followed with its own in early August.

But then cases began to fall, from an average of nearly 500 a day in August to fewer than 10 by late December. Experts attributed the decline to several factors, including government measures to overcome a vaccine shortage and efforts in the gay and bisexual community to spread warnings and limit sexual encounters.

The U.S. emergency ended in late January, and the WHO ended its declaration earlier this month.

Indeed, there is a lower sense of urgency about mpox than last year, said Dan Dimant, a spokesman for NYC Pride. The organization anticipates fewer messages about the threat at its events next month, though plans could change if the situation worsens.

There were long lines to get shots during the height of the crisis last year, but demand faded as cases declined. The government estimates that 1.7 million people — mostly men who have sex with men — are at high risk for mpox infection, but only about 400,000 have gotten the recommended two doses of the vaccine.

"We're definitely not where we need to be," Daskalakis said, during an interview last week at an STD conference in New Orleans.

Some see possible storm clouds on the horizon.

Cases emerged this year in some European countries and South Korea. On Thursday, U.K. officials said an uptick in mpox cases in London in the last month showed that the virus was not going away.

Nearly 30 people, many of them fully vaccinated, were infected in a recent Chicago outbreak. (As with COVID-19 and flu shot, vaccinated people can still get mpox, but they likely will have milder symptoms, officials say.)

Dr. Joseph Cherabie, associate medical director of the St. Louis County Sexual Health Clinic, said people from the area travel to Chicago for events, so outbreaks there can have ripple effects elsewhere.

"We are several weeks behind Chicago. Chicago is usually our bellwether," Cherabie said.

Chicago health officials are taking steps to prevent further spread at an "International Mr. Leather" gathering this weekend.

Event organizers are prominently advising attendees to get vaccinated. Chicago health officials put together social media messages, including one depicting three candles and a leather paddle that reads: "Before you play with leather or wax get yourself the mpox vax."

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## Liz Cheney urges graduates not to compromise with the truth in commencement speech

By SAM METZ Associated Press

Former U.S. Rep. Liz Cheney implored new college graduates to not compromise when it comes to the truth, excoriating her House Republican colleagues for not doing enough to combat former President Donald Trump's lies that the 2020 election was stolen.

In a commencement speech at Colorado College, the Wyoming Republican repeated her fierce criticisms of Trump but steered clear of talking about his 2024 reelection campaign or her own political future.

Cheney, who graduated from Colorado College in 1988, recalled being a political science student walking

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into a campus building where a Bible verse was inscribed above the entrance that read, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

"After the 2020 election and the attack of January 6th, my fellow Republicans wanted me to lie. They wanted me to say the 2020 election was stolen, the attack of January 6th wasn't a big deal, and Donald Trump wasn't dangerous," Cheney said Sunday in Colorado Springs, connecting her experiences as a student to her work in the U.S. House of Representatives. "I had to choose between lying and losing my position in House leadership."

In three terms in office, Cheney rose to the No. 3 GOP leadership position in the House, a job she lost after voting to impeach Trump for the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection at the Capitol and then not relenting in her criticism of the former president.

Cheney's speech touched on themes similar to those she has promoted since leaving office in January: addressing her work on the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 2021 attack on the U.S. Capitol and standing up to the threat she believes Trump poses to democracy. She also encouraged more women to run for office and blasted one of the election-denying attorneys who worked for Trump after the 2020 election for recent remarks about college students voting.

"Cleta Mitchell, an election denier and adviser to former President Trump, told a gathering of Republicans recently that it is crucially important to make sure that college students don't vote," Cheney said. "Those who are trying to unravel the foundations of our republic, who are threatening the rule of law and the sanctity of our elections, know they can't succeed if you vote."

In an audio recording of Mitchell's presentation from a recent Republican National Committee retreat, she warns of polling places on college campuses and the ease of voting as potential problems, the Washington Post reported.

Most students and parents in the audience applauded throughout Cheney's remarks, yet some booed. Some students opposing the choice of Cheney as speaker turned their chairs away from the stage as she spoke.

Cheney's busy speaking schedule and subject matter have fueled speculation about whether she may enter the 2024 GOP presidential primary since she left office. Candidates ranging from Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis to former South Carolina Gov. Nikki Haley have calibrated their remarks about Trump, aiming to counter his attacks without alienating the supporters that won him the White House seven years ago.

Though some have offered measured criticisms, no declared or potential challenger has embraced anti-Trump messaging to the same extent as Cheney. She did not reference her plans on Sunday but has previously said she remains undecided about whether she wants to run for president.

Though she would face an uphill battle, Cheney's fierce anti-Trump stance and her role as vice chairwoman of the House committee elevated her platform high enough to call on a national network of donors and Trump critics to support a White House run.

A super PAC organized to support of her candidacy has remained active, including purchasing attack ads on New Hampshire airwaves against Trump this month.

After leaving office and being replaced by a Trump-backed Republican who defeated her in last year's primary, Cheney was appointed to a professorship at the University of Virginia and wrote "Oath and Honor," a memoir scheduled to hit shelves in November.

Two of Cheney's five children as well as her mother are also graduates of the liberal arts college.

Cheney's speaking tour appears to be picking up. She is scheduled to appear Thursday at the Mackinac Policy Conference in Michigan.

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Metz reported from Salt Lake City.

## Ukraine's Kostyuk booed at French Open after no handshake with Belarus' Sabalenka because of war

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

PARIS (AP) — Unable to sleep the night before her first-round match at the French Open against Aryna Sabalenka of Belarus, the Grand Slam tournament's No. 2 seed, Marta Kostyuk of Ukraine checked her phone at 5 a.m. Sunday and saw disturbing news back home in Kyiv.

At least one person was killed when the capital of Kostyuk's country was subjected to the largest drone attack by Russia since the start of its war, launched with an invasion assisted by Belarus in February 2022.

"It's something I cannot describe, probably. I try to put my emotions aside any time I go out on court. I think I'm better than before, and I don't think it affects me as much on a daily basis, but yeah, it's just — I don't know," Kostyuk said, shaking her head. "There is not much to say, really. It's just part of my life."

That, then, is why Kostyuk has decided she will not exchange the usual postmatch pleasantries with opponents from Russia or Belarus. And that is why she avoided a handshake — avoided any eye contact, even — after losing to Australian Open champion Sabalenka 6-3, 6-2 on Day 1 at Roland Garros.

What surprised the 20-year-old, 39th-ranked Kostyuk on Sunday was the reaction she received from the spectators in Court Philippe Chatrier: They loudly booed and derisively whistled at her as she walked directly over to acknowledge the chair umpire instead of congratulating the winner after the lopsided result. The negative response grew louder as she gathered her belongings and walked off the court toward the locker room.

"I have to say," Kostyuk said, "I didn't expect it. ... People should be, honestly, embarrassed."

Kostyuk is based now in Monaco, and her mother and sister are there, too, but her father and grandfather are still in Kyiv. Perhaps the fans on hand at the clay-court event's main stadium were unaware of the backstory and figured Kostyuk simply failed to follow usual tennis etiquette.

Initially, Sabalenka — who had approached the net as if anticipating some sort of exchange with Kostyuk — thought the noise was directed at her.

"At first, I thought they were booing me," Sabalenka said. "I was a little confused, and I was, like, 'OK, what should I do?'"

Sabalenka tried to ask the chair umpire what was going on. She looked up at her entourage in the stands, too. Then she realized that while she is aware Kostyuk and other Ukrainian tennis players have been declining to greet opponents from Russia or Belarus after a match, the spectators might not have known — and so responded in a way Sabalenka didn't think was deserved.

"They saw it," she surmised, "as disrespect (for) me."

All in all, if the tennis itself was not particularly memorable, the whole scene, including the lack of the customary prematch photo of the players following the coin toss, became the most noteworthy development on Day 1 in Paris.

The highest-seeded player to go home was No. 7 Maria Sakkari, who lost 7-6 (5), 7-5 to 42nd-ranked Karolina Muchova in what wasn't necessarily that momentous of an upset. Both have been major semifinalists, and Muchova has won her past four Slam matches against players ranked in the top 10 — including beating Sakkari at the French Open last year. Also out: No. 21 Magda Linette, a semifinalist at the Australian Open, who lost 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 to 2021 U.S. Open runner-up Leylah Fernandez, and No. 29 Zhang Shuai.

The first seeded men to bow out were No. 20 Dan Evans and No. 30 Ben Shelton, an Australian Open quarterfinalist and 2022 NCAA champion from Florida making his French Open debut. No. 11 Karen Khachanov, a semifinalist at the past two majors, came all the way back after dropping the opening two sets to beat Constant Lestienne, a French player once banned for gambling, by a 3-6, 1-6, 6-2, 6-1, 6-3 score in front of a boisterous crowd at Court Suzanne Lenglen. Two-time Slam finalist Stefanos Tsitsipas came within a point of being forced to a fifth set, too, but got past Jiri Vesely 7-5, 6-3, 4-6, 7-6 (7). No. 24 Sebastian Korda, who missed three months after hurting his wrist at the Australian Open, was a straight-set winner in an all-American matchup against Mackenzie McDonald, the last player to face — and beat — Rafael Nadal. The 14-time French Open champion has been sidelined with a hip injury since that match in January.

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Sabalenka called Sunday “emotionally tough” — because of mundane, tennis-related reasons, such as the nerves that come with any first-round match, but more significantly because of the unusual circumstances involving the war.

“You’re playing against (a) Ukrainian and you never know what’s going to happen. You never know how people will — will they support you or not?” explained Sabalenka, who went down an early break and trailed 3-2 before reeling off six consecutive games with powerful first-strike hitting. “I was worried, like, people will be against me, and I don’t like to play when people (are) so much against me.”

A journalist from Ukraine asked Sabalenka what her message to the world is with regard to the war, particularly in this context: She can overtake Iga Swiatek at No. 1 in the rankings based on results over the next two weeks and, therefore, serves as a role model.

“Nobody in this world, Russian athletes or Belarusian athletes, support the war. Nobody. How can we support the war? Nobody — normal people — will never support it. Why (do) we have to go loud and say that things? This is like: ‘One plus one (is) two.’ Of course we don’t support war,” Sabalenka said. “If it could affect anyhow the war, if it could like stop it, we would do it. But unfortunately, it’s not in our hands.”

When a portion of those comments was read to Kostyuk by a reporter, she responded in calm, measured tones that she doesn’t get why Sabalenka does not come out and say that “she personally doesn’t support this war.”

Kostyuk also rejected the notion that players from Russia or Belarus could be in a tough spot upon returning to those countries if they were to speak out about what is happening in Ukraine.

“I don’t know why it’s a difficult situation,” Kostyuk said with a chuckle.

“I don’t know what other players are afraid of,” she said. “I go back to Ukraine, where I can die any second from drones or missiles or whatever it is.”

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

## Diverse Republican presidential primary field sees an opening in 2024 with voters of color

By STEVE PEOPLES and GARY FIELDS Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — During Donald Trump’s first visit as president to Chicago, a frequent target in his attacks on urban violence, he disparaged the nation’s third largest city as a haven for criminals and a national embarrassment.

At a recent town hall, Republican presidential contender Vivek Ramaswamy sat alongside ex-convicts on the city’s South Side and promised to defend Trump’s “America First” agenda. In return, the little-known White House hopeful, a child of Indian immigrants, found a flicker of acceptance in a room full of Black and brown voters.

The audience nodded when Ramaswamy said that “anti-Black racism is on the rise,” even if they took issue with his promise to eliminate affirmative action and fight “woke” policies.

“Yes, we criticize the Democratic Party, and for good reason, for talking a big game about helping Black Americans without doing very much to actually show up and help on the ground,” he said later. “But we on our side also talk a big game about America First without actually bringing all of America along with us.”

Race has emerged as a central issue — and a delicate one — in the 2024 presidential contest as the GOP’s primary field so far features four candidates of color, making it among the most racially diverse ever.

South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, the first Black senator in the South since Reconstruction, entered the contest earlier in the month. He joined Nikki Haley, a former South Carolina governor and U.N. ambassador who is of Indian descent, and Larry Elder, an African American raised in Los Angeles’ South Central neighborhood who came to national attention as a candidate in the failed effort two years ago to recall California Gov. Gavin Newsom. Miami Mayor Francis Suarez, who is of Cuban descent, says he may enter the race in the coming days.

Most of the candidates of color are considered underdogs in a field currently dominated by Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.



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Yet the party's increasingly diverse leadership, backed by evolving politics on issues such as immigration, suggest the GOP may have a real opportunity in 2024 to further weaken the Democrats' grip on African Americans and Latinos. Those groups have been among the most loyal segments of the Democratic coalition since Republican leaders fought against the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The Republican presidential contenders of 2024 walk a fine line when addressing race with the GOP's overwhelmingly white primary electorate.

In most cases, the diverse candidates in the Republican field play down the significance of their racial heritage. They all deny the existence of systemic racism in the United States even while discussing their own personal experience with racial discrimination. They oppose policies around policing, voting rights and education that are specifically designed to benefit disadvantaged communities and combat structural racism.

The NAACP recently issued a travel advisory for the state of Florida under DeSantis' leadership, warning of open hostility "toward African Americans, people of color and LGBTQ+ individuals." The notice calls out new policies enacted by the governor that include blocking public schools from teaching students about systemic racism and defunding programs aimed at diversity, equity and inclusion.

The Republican presidential candidates of color largely support DeSantis' positions.

Marc Morial, president and CEO of the National Urban League, said the GOP's policies are far more important than the racial and ethnic diversity of their presidential candidates. He noted there also were four Republican candidates of color in 2016, the year Trump won the White House after exploiting tensions over race and immigration.

"White nationalists, insurrectionists and white supremacists seem to find comfort in the (Republican) Party," Morial said. "I think we're beyond the politics of just the face of a person of color by itself appealing to people of color. What do you stand for?"

With few exceptions, the Republican candidates who have entered the presidential primary field have embraced the GOP's "anti-woke" agenda, which is based on the notion that policies designed to address systemic inequities related to race, gender or sexuality are inherently unfair or even dangerous.

DeSantis this past week described such policies as "cultural Marxism."

Still, the GOP's diverse field is not ignoring race. Indeed, some candidates are making their race a central theme in their appeal to Republican primary voters even as they deny that people of color face systemic challenges.

Scott insisted that America is not a racist country in his recent announcement speech.

"We are not defined by the color of our skin. We are defined by the content of our character. And if anyone tells you anything different, they're lying," he said.

In her announcement video, Haley noted that she was raised in a small town in South Carolina as "the proud daughter of Indian immigrants — not black, not white, I was different." Like Scott, she has defended the GOP against charges of racism.

"Some think our ideas are not just wrong, but racist and evil," Haley said. "Nothing could be further from the truth."

Elder is quick to criticize the Democrats' "woke" agenda, Black Lives Matter and the notion of systemic racism.

Critics say such messages are actually designed to win over suburban white voters more than to attract voters of color. But on the South Side of Chicago on a recent Friday afternoon, there were signs that some Black voters were open to the GOP's new messengers, given their frustration with both political parties.

One attendee at Ramaswamy's town hall waved a flyer for a "Biden boycott" because the Democratic president has not signaled whether he supports reparations for the descendants of slaves, although Biden did back a congressional effort to study the issue. None of the GOP's presidential candidates supports reparations, either.

Others condemned Democrats, in Chicago and in Washington, for working harder to help immigrants who are in the country illegally than struggling African American citizens.

Federal officials were preparing to relocate hundreds of migrants from the U.S.-Mexico border to the

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South Side, even as many local residents struggled with violence and difficult economic conditions.

"It is certainly true that there are multiple shades of melanin in this Republican race," Ramaswamy said in an interview before the event. "I think that in some ways dispels the myth that much of the left will perpetuate that this is somehow you know, a racist party or whatever drivell."

He added: "But personally, I could care less what someone's skin color is. I think what matters is, what are they going to accomplish? What's their vision?"

As of now, the GOP does not have any Hispanic candidates in the 2024 contest. But Suarez, the Miami mayor, said he may change that in the coming days.

"I think it's important the field does have candidates that can connect with and motivate Hispanics to continue a trend that's already happening," he said in an interview, noting that he's "very strongly" considering a White House bid. "Democrats have failed miserably to connect with Hispanics."

A majority of Latino voters supported Biden in the 2020 presidential contest, according to AP VoteCast, an extensive national survey of the electorate. But Trump cut into that support in some competitive states, including Florida and Nevada, revealing important shifts among Latinos from many different cultural backgrounds.

In last fall's midterm elections, support grew for Republican candidates among Black voters, although they remained overwhelmingly supportive of Democrats, AP Votecast found. Overall, Republican candidates were backed by 14% of Black voters, compared with 8% in the midterm elections four years earlier.

While the shifts may be relatively small, strategists in both parties acknowledge that any shift is significant given how close some elections may be in 2024.

In Chicago, Tyrone Muhammad, who leads Ex-Cons for Social Change, lashed out at Republicans for being "losers" for not seizing a very real opportunity to win over more African Americans. While sitting next to Ramaswamy on stage, he also declared that the Republican Party is racist.

Later, he said he actually voted for Trump in 2020 because Trump enacted a criminal justice bill that aimed to shorten prison sentences for nonviolent drug offenders and address racial inequalities in the justice system. While the GOP has since embraced tough-on-crime rhetoric, Muhammed noted that Biden as a senator helped pass the 1994 crime bill that led to the mass incarceration of Black people.

Muhammad said he might vote Republican again in 2024, despite the party's shortcomings. He pointed to the GOP's fight against illegal immigration as a core reason for support.

"I may not like you as an individual, but I like your issues, I like your policies," he said.

Fields reported from Washington. Associated Press writer Thomas Beaumont in Des Moines, Iowa, contributed to this report.

The Associated Press receives support from several private foundations to enhance its explanatory coverage of elections and democracy. See more about AP's democracy initiative here. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

## Why Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton's impeachment fight isn't finished yet

By JIM VERTUNO and JAKE BLEIBERG Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — The Texas Legislature already made one historic move with its impeachment of Republican state Attorney General Ken Paxton. Another one is coming.

The GOP-led House of Representatives on Saturday approved 20 articles of impeachment on sweeping allegations of wrongdoing that have trailed the state's top lawyer for years, including abuse of office and bribery. The vote immediately suspended Paxton from office.

But the intraparty brawl in the nation's largest conservative state, one that even drew political punches Saturday from former President Donald Trump, is far from over. The Republican-controlled Senate will hold

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a trial of Paxton next, and he and his allies hope conservatives there will save him.

One member of that chamber is his wife, state Sen. Angela Paxton, and she could cast a vote on her husband's political future, which is now in jeopardy in part because of bribery allegations linked to his extra-marital affair.

## THE SENATE

Impeachment in Texas is similar to the process on the federal level: After the House action, the Senate holds its trial.

It is yet to be scheduled.

The House needed just a simple majority of its 149 members to impeach Paxton, and the final 121-23 vote was a landslide. But the threshold for conviction in the Senate trial is higher, requiring a two-thirds majority of its 31 members.

If that happens, Paxton would be permanently barred from holding office in Texas. Anything less means Paxton is acquitted and can resume his third term as attorney general.

Paxton bitterly criticized the chamber's investigation as "corrupt," secret and conducted so quickly that he and his lawyers were not allowed to mount a defense. He also called Republican House Speaker Dade a "liberal."

The Senate is led by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick. Like Paxton, he is a Republican who has closely allied himself with Trump, and he has driven Texas' right-wing political and policy push for the last decade. Patrick has yet to comment on the impeachment or the House's allegations.

The Senate will set its own trial rules, including whether to take witness testimony and what reports and documents to consider. It could also consider whether to excuse Angela Paxton from voting due to conflict of interest.

The impeachment charges include bribery related to one of Paxton's donors, Austin real estate developer Nate Paul, allegedly employing the woman with whom he had the affair in exchange for legal help.

Another Republican senator with a potential conflict is Sen. Bryan Hughes. The House impeachment articles accuse Paxton of using Hughes as a "straw requestor" for a legal opinion used to protect protect Paul from foreclosure on several properties.

State law requires all senators to be present for an impeachment trial.

## REPUBLICAN ON REPUBLICAN

Paxton's impeachment has been led from the start by his fellow Republicans, in contrast to America's most prominent recent examples of impeachment.

Trump's impeachments in 2020 and 2021 were driven by Democrats who had majority control of the U.S. House. In both cases, the charges they approved failed in the Senate, where Republicans had enough votes to block conviction.

In Texas, Republicans have large majorities in both chambers, and the state's GOP leaders hold all levers of influence.

Paxton called for Republicans to rally to his defense during Saturday's vote in a peaceful protest at the Capitol. That echoed Trump's call for protests of his electoral defeat on Jan. 6, 2021, when a mob violently stormed the U.S. Capitol in Washington. Paxton spoke at the rally in Washington that day before the insurrection.

Trump joined the fray in Texas on Saturday, posting on social media a warning to House members that "I will fight you" if they voted to impeach. A few hundred Paxton supporters came to watch from the gallery.

House Republicans didn't seem to care. Sixty of them, 71% of the chamber's GOP caucus, voted to impeach.

Republican Party Chairman Matt Rinaldi, a Paxton ally, said the party would have to rely on the "principled leadership of the Texas Senate to restore sanity and reason."

The move to the Senate could give Paxton's grass-roots supporters and national figures like Trump time to apply more pressure.

## YEARS IN THE MAKING

The impeachment reaches back to 2015, when Paxton was indicted on securities fraud charges for

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which he still has not stood trial. The lawmakers charged Paxton with making false statements to state securities regulators.

But most of the articles of impeachment stem from his connections to Paul and a remarkable revolt by Paxton's top deputies in 2020.

That fall, eight senior aides reported their boss to the FBI, accusing him of bribery and abusing his office to help Paul. Four of them later brought a whistleblower lawsuit. The report prompted a federal criminal investigation that in February was taken over by the U.S. Justice Department's Washington-based Public Integrity Section.

The impeachment charges cover myriad accusations related to Paxton's dealings with Paul. The allegations include attempts to interfere in foreclosure lawsuits and improperly issuing legal opinions to benefit Paul, as well as firing, harassing and interfering with staff who reported what was going on. The bribery charges stem from the affair, as well as Paul allegedly paying for expensive renovations to Paxton's Austin home.

The fracas took a toll on the Texas attorney general's office, long one of the primary legal challengers to Democratic administrations in the White House.

In the years since Paxton's staff went to the FBI, the state attorney general's office has become unmoored by the disarray. Seasoned lawyers have quit over practices they say aim to slant legal work, reward loyalists and drum out dissent.

In February, Paxton agreed to settle the whistleblower lawsuit brought by the former aides. The \$3.3 million payout must be approved by the Legislature, and Phelan has said he doesn't think taxpayers should foot the bill.

Shortly after the settlement was reached, the House investigation began.

## TEXAS HISTORY

Paxton was already likely to be noted in history books for his unprecedented request that the U.S. Supreme Court overturn Biden's defeat of Trump in 2020. He now is one of just three sitting officials to have been impeached in Texas.

Gov. James "Pa" Ferguson was removed in 1917 for misapplication of public funds, embezzlement and the diversion of a special fund. State Judge O.P. Carrillo was forced from office in 1975 for personal use of public money and equipment and filing false financial statements.

Bleiberg reported from Dallas.

## Right-wing populist Javier Milei gains support in Argentina by blasting 'political caste'

By DANIEL POLITI Associated Press

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — He believes selling human organs should be legal, climate change is a "socialist lie," sex education is a ploy to destroy the family and that the Central Bank should be abolished. He also could be Argentina's next president.

Javier Milei, an admirer of former U.S. President Donald Trump, is the latest example of how right-wing populists are making inroads in Latin America, appealing to a citizenry angry with politics as usual and eager for outsiders to shake up the system.

A libertarian economist and self-described "anarcho capitalist," Milei made a name for himself by shouting against the "political caste" on television. His presidential candidacy looked like a sideshow until recently. Polls show his popularity rising, and his proposals dominate discussions ahead of October elections.

"Today no one can say that Milei isn't someone who could get to the presidency," said Luis Tonelli, a political scientist at University of Buenos Aires.

Milei jumped from talking head to politician in 2021 when he won a seat in Argentina's lower house of Congress. Since then, he's had little legislative activity, but 2.7 million people have signed up for his monthly raffle to give away his salary.



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On a recent Sunday, fans lined up at the Buenos Aires Book Fair to see him talk about his latest book, "The End of Inflation," on addressing Argentina's most pressing economic issue : inflation running at an annual rate of more than 100%. The book calls for cutting spending, abolishing the Central Bank and moving to the dollar.

Many of his fans never made it inside. They're mostly young men who treat the 52-year-old politician like a rock star and affectionately refer to him as "the wig" because of his signature unkempt hair.

"The caste is afraid," Milei said, and his followers chanted along.

Afraid or not, the country's political leaders now see him as real competition in an election that until recently seemed like a contest between two electoral coalitions that have dominated for years.

Analysts have drawn parallels between Milei and Trump, because they both espouse socially conservative views and vow to return the country to an unspecified period of greatness.

Federico Finchelstein, an Argentine historian at New School for Social Research in New York, said Milei is "a Trump who fancies himself an academic."

Milei has tapped frustration over Argentina's triple-digit inflation, which makes many feel like they're constantly falling behind. Seven out of 10 Argentines say they struggle to make ends meet, noted Roberto Bacman, director of the Center for Public Opinion Studies

Francisco Beron, 21, a tech worker who listened to Milei from outside the book fair auditorium, said his starting salary last year was the equivalent of \$700 a month. Despite two raises since then, Beron now earns less in dollar terms, or about \$500.

"It's absolute helplessness," Beron said.

Finchelstein depicted Milei as the kind of candidate who appears "with magical solutions" when people see traditional politicians as failing to meet their demands.

Milei sprinkles his economic messages with a heavy dose of conservative policies, such as opposition to abortion, which the country legalized in 2020.

Milei's running mate, Victoria Villaruel, the founder of a group that defends former military officers tried for human rights violations during the country's bloody 1976-1983 dictatorship, has spoken against same-sex marriage, which Argentina legalized in 2010.

Milei has cut against the grain on many issues. He dismisses current concern over global warming by noting that "10 or 15 years ago there was a discussion that the planet was going to freeze." He calls sex education a post-Marxist program to destroy "the most important social core within society, which is the family." He's proposed "market mechanisms" to deal with long waiting lists for organ transplants, arguing that organs are a person's property to sell.

For many of Milei's supporters, though, what he proposes takes a back seat to how he proposes it.

"It's about vengeance," Tonelli said. "It's the vote of 'these people deserve it because they screwed me over, and now I'm going to screw them over'."

Ricardo Poledo, a 51-year-old doctor, said Milei's appeal is that he calls out politicians as power-hungry kleptocrats. "The last thing they're concerned about is the people."

Poledo listened to Milei at the book fair while wearing the Gadsden flag as a cape. The yellow flag with a rattlesnake and the words "don't tread on me" is a U.S. symbol often associated with the libertarian right and which Milei and his supporters have adopted.

Milei's ascendance is part of a regional change arriving in Argentina later than elsewhere in the hemisphere, Finchelstein said. In Brazil, former President Jair Bolsonaro, often called the tropical Trump, ruled from 2019 to 2022. Elsewhere, right-wing populists are making inroads with a tough-on-crime message.

In Chile, the right-wing Republican Party recently won the majority of seats in a commission to re-write the country's constitution. In Paraguay, populist outsider Paraguayo Cubas came in an unexpectedly strong third place in presidential elections last month. And in El Salvador, President Nayib Bukele has seen his popularity soar amid a severe crackdown on gangs that has led to human rights abuses.

Some analysts have questioned whether Milei can win without a national structure to mobilize votes. For now his popularity has failed to help his allies win elections in provincial races. But Argentina's presidential election includes a runoff, which means that squeaking by to the second round could be enough for Milei

to ultimately win.

"Milei is a new phenomenon in politics that is difficult to predict," said Mariel Fornoni of the consultancy Management & Fit. "There is a void, and anything can happen."

Associated Press journalist Almudena Calatrava contributed to this report.

## More businesses require teens to be chaperoned by adults, curbing their independence

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO AP Retail Writer

PARAMUS, N.J. (AP) — Jennifer Sepulveda used to drop off her 14-year-old son, Jorden, at the local mall on a Friday or Saturday night, where he would catch a movie with his friends and then hang out afterwards at the food court or elsewhere.

Not anymore.

Starting April 18, Garden State Plaza in Paramus, New Jersey — the second largest mall in the state — is requiring anyone under 18 years old to be accompanied by a chaperone at least 21 or older on Fridays and Saturdays after 5 p.m.

The move, according to the mall, follows "an increase in disruptive behavior by a small minority of younger visitors." That included a reported brawl in the food court last year and a fight in March that brought swarms of policemen to the center but ended up being a smaller altercation than initially reported.

Sepulveda of Passaic, New Jersey said she was fine with the new policy.

"On Friday and Saturdays, it's just been a madhouse," she said on a recent Friday night while shopping for Mother's Day gifts with Jorden and her 4-month-old daughter.

Jorden, on the other hand, was disappointed. Although he acknowledged the frequent mall fights, he lamented, "It was the main place to go and roam around and hang out with my friends, and I am sad."

Requiring an adult chaperone at malls, at least for certain times of the day, is not new. Mall of America, the nation's largest shopping mall, imposed a chaperone policy back in 1996 and has been increasingly tightening it as recently as 2020 when it mandated that teens be accompanied by adults after 3 p.m. daily.

But experts say Garden State Plaza joins a growing number of shopping centers, amusement parks and even a few restaurants that have implemented similar policies in the last few months ahead of the summer season. And they all cite increased incidents of bad behavior among teens as the reason, some of it inspired by social media like TikTok.

Even a Chik-fil-A franchise in southeast Pennsylvania caused a stir with its social media post earlier this year that announced its policy of banning kids under 16 without an adult chaperone, citing unruly behavior.

Violent crime arrests among youth had actually been on the decline for years, falling to a new low in 2020, according to the latest federal data. The number of youth homicide victims, however, increased 30% from 2019 to 2020 — the biggest one-year increase since at least 1980, the report found. In the years since 2020, authorities in some areas report a rise in crime among youth, including New York, Washington, D.C. and Colorado.

Many praise chaperone policies as a way to reduce disruptions to business and create a safer shopping environment. But some critics say the new parental controls hurt teens' independence and social development already curbed by pandemic-induced lockdowns.

Shopping malls, hanging out at amusement parks, grabbing a shake at a fast-food joint and watching a movie at a local theater with friends are still long considered the rites of passage to adulthood even as many teens shift to online games and social media. So the question is: What other public spaces can teens congregate to get away from their tablets and phones — as well as their parents?

"We have to allow spaces for young people to be independent and develop socially beyond the context of the virtual digital environment," said Jake Bjorseth, who runs trndsttrs, an agency helping retailers and brands understand and reach the Gen Z population.

Bjorseth noted the pandemic only further hampered social development for Gen Zers. He called the

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new chaperone measures too extreme and said they could backfire on malls and other traditional physical hangouts by helping to accelerate the shift to online that parents wanted to avoid.

Jorden said he only spends half his free time with his friends at Garden State Plaza and other shopping centers; the rest of the time he plays online games. He said the new policy at the mall will likely push him to another mall that has no chaperone policy — or even more online.

Marshal Cohen, chief industry adviser at market research firm Circana, noted the policies aren't just about enhancing safety but adjusting to post-pandemic times, with teens markedly pulling back on purchases compared with other age groups.

Adults ages 55 and older spent 5% more in 2022 compared to the previous year, with the other age groups combined spending 2% lower, according data from Circana. Meanwhile, spending by those in the 18- to 24-year old category fell by 8%.

Cohen said the restrictions will help boost spending among adults who must now accompany kids but they will also likely reduce the number of trips by teens, so the overall financial impact is unclear.

At Garden State Plaza on a recent Friday night, the chaperone policy was clearly being enforced, with security guards stationed at each entrance and checking IDs of young shoppers they suspected were under 18 and who were not accompanied by an adult chaperone. Some were turned away. A cluster of policemen were also at the gates.

Meanwhile, several amusement parks with chaperone policies are generally requiring teens 15 years old or younger to be accompanied with adult chaperones after 3 p.m. or 4 p.m. every day. The largest group has been amusement park operator Cedar Fair Entertainment Co., which recently implemented adult chaperone policies for at least eight of its 13 parks including Worlds of Fun in Kansas City, Missouri, and King Dominion in Doswell, Virginia.

"Over the past two years, we have seen increasing incidents of unruly and inappropriate behavior across our industry and at other major entertainment venues," said Gary Rhodes, a spokesman for Cedar Fair in a statement. "We believe these changes will help ensure that our parks continue to provide a safe and positive environment."

At Worlds of Fun, for example, a fight involving more than 100 teenagers broke out during the park's opening weekend in early April.

Lauren Stansbury, 14, of Raytown, Missouri, was leaving Worlds of Fun, just before 4 p.m. on a recent Saturday with her cousin. Both are season pass holders.

"I don't really like it," she said, noting that it's hard to find a parent with time to chaperone. "I think that maybe they should just better their search type thing, like the way that they look for weapons and stuff."

Some businesses say the new rules have been effective.

The Mall in Columbia, in Columbia, Md., instituted a chaperone policy at the end of March after a rise in disruptive teen behavior over the past eight months, according senior general manager Mary Williams. She said that the weekend scene has turned into a pleasant family atmosphere because of it.

Noah Peters, district manager at three Capital 8 Theater locations in Missouri and Illinois, said that the chaperone policy implemented in Missouri in October 2021 requires teens under 17 to be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian after 6 p.m. And despite some outcry, it has been a "huge success," citing anywhere from a 80% to 90% reduction in disruptive episodes.

"The reality is that the amount of money we lose turning those without a chaperone away pales to the amount we were losing providing refunds night after night to frustrated guests whose movie going experience was marred by the noise and disruptions," Peters said.

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This story corrects the 27th paragraph to fix style of spelling of the mall.

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Associated Press staff writers Heather Hollingsworth in Mission, Kansas and Lindsay Whitehurst in Washington contributed to this report.

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## Shooting at New Mexico's Red River motorcycle rally kills 3, wounds 5

RED RIVER, N.M. (AP) — Three people were killed and five were wounded in a shooting at an annual motorcycle rally in a New Mexico town late Saturday afternoon.

Red River Mayor Linda Calhoun said in a video posted on Facebook that the shooting around 5 p.m. resulted in three fatalities and five victims were transported to hospitals in Denver, Albuquerque and nearby Taos.

The 41st annual Red River Memorial Motorcycle Rally drew about 20,000 bikers to the town, Calhoun said. The violence occurred between two retail stores and involved members of motorcycle gangs, Calhoun said. "The shooters have all been apprehended," she said. "There is no threat to the community at all."

The New Mexico State Police previously said in a Twitter post that two people were killed and six were wounded in the shooting.

Most of Main Street in Red River, where the shooting occurred, was closed to the public for the investigation and law enforcement requested businesses in the area remain closed on Sunday, Calhoun said in a statement.

"Our number one priority is the safety and wellbeing of our local community," Calhoun said. "We appreciate your cooperation and understanding as we work through this very difficult time together."

Some of the victims were being treated at Holy Cross Hospital in Taos, about 36 miles (58 kilometers) southeast of Red River. The Taos Police Department and the Taos County Sheriff's Office secured the hospital, the state police said on Twitter.

One victim was airlifted to a hospital in Denver, the state police said.

Victims also were transported to the University of New Mexico Hospital, which was secured by the Albuquerque Police Department, KRQE reported.

Taos Mayor Pascual Maestas issued an emergency proclamation placing the town under a curfew from 10 p.m. Saturday until 4 a.m. Sunday with an immediate prohibition on alcohol sales.

## Venice police investigate bright green liquid in Grand Canal

MILAN (AP) — Police in Venice are investigating the source of a phosphorescent green liquid patch that appeared Sunday in the city's famed Grand Canal.

The governor of the Veneto region, Luca Zaia, posted a photo of the green liquid that spread through the water near the arched Rialto Bridge. The patch was reported by residents.

Images on social media show a bright patch of green in the canal along an embankment lined with restaurants.

Zaia said that officials had requested that the police investigate to determine who was responsible. Environmental authorities were also testing the water.

## Jan. 6 rioters are raking in thousands in donations. Now the US is coming after their haul

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

Less than two months after he pleaded guilty to storming the U.S. Capitol, Texas resident Daniel Goodwyn appeared on Tucker Carlson's then-Fox News show and promoted a website where supporters could donate money to Goodwyn and other rioters whom the site called "political prisoners."

The Justice Department now wants Goodwyn to give up more than \$25,000 he raised — a clawback that is part of a growing effort by the government to prevent rioters from being able to personally profit from participating in the attack that shook the foundations of American democracy.

An Associated Press review of court records shows that prosecutors in the more than 1,000 criminal cases from Jan. 6, 2021, are increasingly asking judges to impose fines on top of prison sentences to offset donations from supporters of the Capitol rioters.



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Dozens of defendants have set up online fundraising appeals for help with legal fees, and prosecutors acknowledge there's nothing wrong with asking for help for attorney expenses. But the Justice Department has, in some cases, questioned where the money is really going because many of those charged have had government-funded legal representation.

Most of the fundraising efforts appear on GiveSendGo, which bills itself as "The #1 Free Christian Fundraising Site" and has become a haven for Jan. 6 defendants barred from using mainstream crowdfunding sites, including GoFundMe, to raise money. The rioters often proclaim their innocence and portray themselves as victims of government oppression, even as they cut deals to plead guilty and cooperate with prosecutors.

Their fundraising success suggests that many people in the United States still view Jan. 6 rioters as patriots and cling to the baseless belief that Democrats stole the 2020 presidential election from Donald Trump. The former president himself has fueled that idea, pledging to pardon rioters if he is elected.

Markus Maly, a Virginia man scheduled to be sentenced next month for assaulting police at the Capitol, raised more than \$16,000 from an online campaign that described him as a "January 6 P.O.W." and asked for money for his family. Prosecutors have requested a \$16,000-plus fine, noting that Maly had a public defender and did not owe any legal fees.

"He should not be able to use his own notoriety gained in the commission of his crimes to 'capitalize' on his participation in the Capitol breach in this way," a prosecutor wrote in court papers.

So far this year, prosecutors have sought more than \$390,000 in fines against at least 21 riot defendants, in amounts ranging from \$450 to more than \$71,000, according to the AP's tally.

Judges have imposed at least \$124,127 in fines against 33 riot defendants this year. In the previous two years, judges ordered more than 100 riot defendants to collectively pay more than \$240,000 in fines.

Separately, judges have ordered hundreds of convicted rioters to pay more than \$524,000 in restitution to the government to cover more than \$2.8 million in damage to the Capitol and other Jan. 6-related expenses.

More rioters facing the most serious charges and longest prison terms are now being sentenced. They tend to also be the prolific fundraisers, which could help explain the recent surge in fines requests.

Earlier this month, the judge who sentenced Nathaniel DeGrave to more than three years in prison also ordered him to pay a \$25,000 fine. Prosecutors noted that the Nevada resident "incredibly" raised over \$120,000 in GiveSendGo fundraising campaigns that referred to him as "Beijing Biden's political prisoner" in "America's Gitmo" — a reference to the Guantanamo Bay detention center.

"He did this despite seeking to cooperate with the government and admitting he and his co-conspirators were guilty since at least November 2021," a prosecutor wrote.

Lawyer William Shipley, who has represented DeGrave and more than two dozen other Jan. 6 defendants, said he advises clients to avoid raising money under the auspices of being a political prisoner if they intend to plead guilty.

"Until they admit they committed a crime, they're perfectly entitled to shout from the rooftops that the only reason they're being held is because of politics," Shipley said. "It's just First Amendment political speech."

Shipley said he provided the judge with documentation showing that DeGrave raised approximately \$25,000 more than what he paid his lawyers.

"I've never had to do it until these cases because I've never had clients that had third-party fundraising like this," Shipley said. "There's a segment of the population that is sympathetic toward the plight of these defendants."

GiveSendGo co-founder Heather Wilson said her site's decision to allow legal defense funds for Capitol riot defendants "is rooted in our society's commitment to the presumption of innocence and the freedom for all individuals to hire private attorneys."

The government's push for more fines comes as it reaches a milestone in the largest federal investigation in American history: Just over 500 defendants have been sentenced for Jan. 6 crimes.

Judges aren't rubber-stamping prosecutors' fine requests.

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Prosecutors sought a more than \$70,000 fine for Peter Schwartz, a Kentucky man who attacked police officers outside the Capitol with pepper spray and a chair. U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta sentenced Schwartz this month to more than 14 years in prison — one of the longest so far in a Capitol riot case — but didn't impose a fine.

Prosecutors suspect Schwartz tried to profit from his fundraising campaign, "Patriot Pete Political Prisoner in DC." But his lawyer, Dennis Boyle, said there is no evidence of that.

The judge "basically said that if the money was being used for attorneys' fees or other costs like that, there was no basis for a fine," Boyle said.

A jury convicted romance novel cover model John Strand of storming the Capitol with Dr. Simone Gold, a California physician who is a leading figure in the anti-vaccine movement. Now prosecutors are seeking a \$50,000 fine on top of a prison term for Strand when a judge sentences him on Thursday.

Strand has raised more than \$17,300 for his legal defense without disclosing that he has a taxpayer-funded lawyer, according to prosecutors. They say Strand appears to have "substantial financial means," living in a home that was purchased for more than \$3 million last year.

"Strand has raised, and continues to raise, money on his website based upon his false statements and misrepresentations on the events of January 6," prosecutors wrote.

Goodwyn, who appeared on Carlson's show in March, is scheduled to be sentenced next month. Defense lawyer Carolyn Stewart described prosecutors as "demanding blood from a stone" in asking for the \$25,000 fine.

"He received that amount in charity to help him in his debt for legal fees for former attorneys and this for unknown reasons is bothersome to the government," Stewart wrote.

Associated Press writer Alanna Durkin Richer in Boston contributed to this report.

This story has been corrected to reflect that the sentence for Peter Schwartz was one of the longest so far in a Capitol riot case, not the longest.

## A veggie burger even Memorial Day meat eaters will love

By CHRISTOPHER KIMBALL Christopher Kimball's Milk Street

While meat lovers look forward to a Memorial Day barbecue, many people might be looking for a vegetarian option.

With their high protein content, black beans lend meaty substance to veggie burgers. Too often, though, the patties turn to mush. So for this recipe from our book "Cook What You Have," which draws on pantry staples to assemble easy, weeknight meals, we went looking for ways to improve their texture. The answer was three-fold.

First, we only mash the beans coarsely so that when combined with other ingredients, we're not left with a smooth paste. Second, we incorporate a significant amount of quinoa — two-thirds of a cup to one 15½-ounce can of beans — to vary texture with little pops of the nutty, high-protein grain (though technically it's a seed). And finally, we pan-fry the patties until browned and crisp.

To ensure they don't fall apart, we don't rinse the beans; the starchy liquid clinging to them helps bind the mixture. We also add egg and panko breadcrumbs, and chilling the formed patties in the refrigerator for 15 minutes firmed them up for easier flipping in the hot skillet.

Flavored with scallions, cumin and paprika, these vegetarian burgers are terrific sandwiched between buns with your favorite fixings. But they're also satisfying on their own with a tossed green salad.

White, red or rainbow (tricolor) quinoa all work well, so use whatever you have. If you purchased pre-rinsed quinoa, there's no need to rinse and drain it before cooking.

Quinoa and Black Bean Burgers

<https://www.177milkstreet.com/recipes/quinoa-black-bean-burgers>

Start to finish: 1½ hours (20 minutes active)

Servings: 6

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- cup quinoa (see headnote), rinsed and drained
- Kosher salt and ground black pepper
- 15½-ounce can black beans, drained but not rinsed
- 1 large egg, lightly beaten
- ½ cup panko breadcrumbs
- 2 scallions, finely chopped
- ½ teaspoon ground cumin
- ½ teaspoon smoked paprika OR chipotle chili powder
- 3 tablespoons grapeseed or other neutral oil

In a medium saucepan, stir together the quinoa, a pinch of salt and □ cup water. Bring to a boil over medium-high, then cover, reduce to low, and cook without stirring until the quinoa absorbs the liquid, 13 to 15 minutes. Remove the pan from the heat, then drape a kitchen towel across the pan and re-cover. Let stand for 10 minutes. Fluff the quinoa with a fork, transfer to a small plate and cool to room temperature, stirring once or twice, about 30 minutes.

In a large bowl, using a fork or a potato masher, coarsely mash the black beans. Add the quinoa, egg, panko, scallions, cumin, paprika and ½ teaspoon each salt and pepper; stir until well combined. Form into six 3-inch patties and place on a large plate. Refrigerate, uncovered, to firm up the patties, about 15 minutes.

In a 12-inch nonstick skillet over medium-high, heat the oil until barely smoking. Add the patties and cook until browned and crisp on the bottoms, about 5 minutes. Using a wide spatula, flip the patties and cook until browned and crisp on the second sides, about another 2 minutes.

Optional garnish: Sliced cheese OR sliced tomato OR sliced onion OR lettuce leaves OR sliced pickles OR mayonnaise OR a combination

EDITOR'S NOTE: For more recipes, go to Christopher Kimball's Milk Street at [177milkstreet.com/ap](http://177milkstreet.com/ap)

## China's 1st domestically made passenger plane completes maiden commercial flight

BEIJING (AP) — China's first domestically made passenger jet flew its maiden commercial flight on Sunday, as China looks to compete with industry giants such as Boeing and Airbus in the global aircraft market.

The C919 plane, built by the Commercial Aviation Corporation of China, carried about 130 passengers on the flight, according to state-owned newspaper China Daily. The jet took off Sunday morning from Shanghai Hongqiao Airport and landed less than two hours later in Beijing.

The flight was operated by state-owned China Eastern Airlines and the side of the plane was emblazoned with the words: "The World's First C919."

The inaugural flight comes as COMAC looks to break into the single-aisle jet market in a direct challenge to Airbus and Boeing. Airbus's A320 and Boeing's B737 jets are the most popular aircrafts typically used for domestic and regional flights.

While COMAC designed many of the C919's parts, some of its key components are still sourced from the West, including its engine.

The company plans to build 150 C919 planes each year for the next five years, according to earlier state media reports.

The C919, which had been in development for 16 years, has a maximum range of about 3,500 miles (5,630 kilometers) and is designed to carry between 158 and 168 passengers.

Over 1,200 C919 jetliners have been ordered, COMAC says, with China Eastern Airlines under contract to buy five of them.

## In Nigeria's hard-hit north, families seek justice as armed groups seek control

By CHINEDU ASADU RUNJI, Nigeria

Associated Press (AP) — Christian Jonathan's mother was holding the 9-month-old boy in her arms when she was shot dead during an attack on their village in northwestern Nigeria. The assailants cut off one of Christian's fingers and abandoned him by the side of the road with a bullet wound in his tiny leg.

"They left him on the ground beside his mother's body," said Joshua Jonathan, Christian's father. "They thought the boy was dead."

The late-night attack in April in Runji in Kaduna State left 33 people dead, most of them burned alive or shot dead. Many more have been killed since in the continuing clashes between nomadic cattle herders and farming communities in northwest and central regions of the West African nation, including more than 100 this month in Plateau state.

The decadeslong violence is becoming more deadly, killing at least 2,600 people in 2021, according to the most recent data from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project. Once armed with sticks, the groups now fight with guns that have been smuggled into the country.

Both sides accuse the government of injustice and marginalization, but the clashes have also taken on a religious dimension, giving rise to militias that side with the herders, who are primarily Muslim, or the farmers from Christian communities.

The growing security crisis presents a huge challenge for Nigeria's incoming president, Bola Tinubu, who rose to power in Nigeria — Africa's largest economy and among its top oil producers — promising to improve the lives of affected communities and address the root causes of the crisis by providing jobs and ensuring justice. Tinubu's inauguration is scheduled for Monday.

If the violence isn't reined in, analysts say, it could further destabilize the country and drive more of its 216 million people into poverty. U.N. agencies say the violence affects mostly children, who are already threatened by malnutrition, and women, who are often abducted and forced into marriage.

The response of security forces can be slow and arrests are rare, prompting a growing number of communities to defend themselves when they come under siege.

"There is a substantial loss of confidence in the government as a protector of citizens," said Nnamdi Obasi, the senior adviser for Nigeria at the International Crisis Group. Obasi warned that the failure of the incoming administration to speedily resolve the conflict would lead to "more people seeking their own self-defense, more proliferation of weapons, more criminal groups and a rise in organized armed groups."

In Runji, an agrarian village, The Associated Press spoke to some survivors in hospital beds and others touring a mass grave and their razed houses. They said they were under attack for hours and that the gunmen fled long before security forces arrived.

Every household bears a scar.

Christopher Dauda's family was trying to escape when the gunmen caught up with his wife and four children, killing all five. Danjuma Joshua's two daughters were shot in the back while they tried to flee. In the home of Asabe Philip, who survived but has burns all over her body, the assailants burned five children alive as they cowered in one room.

Christian's aunt has tried to fill the void left by the killing of his mother. His father said Christian cries a lot and barely sleeps, although his physical wounds are gradually healing.

"We try to manage with what we have left," Joshua Jonathan said.

On the other side of the conflict, the herders say they are also under attack. They complain of cattle rustling and extrajudicial killings by local security groups working as community vigilantes.

Abdullahi Bello Bodejo, the president of the national herders' association, denied that anyone in the group was responsible for the violence. Most of the herders belong to the Fulanis, an ethnic group.

"Fulanis are not the killers. Any person carrying out killings is not our member. Sometimes, when communities accuse us of killings, 75% is not true; they have their own crisis but always blame Fulanis," said Bodejo.



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Nigerian security forces say they have arrested dozens of gunmen and recovered their weapons. But the assailants are estimated to number in the thousands and can easily recruit new members, according to Abdulaziz Abdulaziz, a conflict researcher.

"There is a limit to the kinetic (military) operations, as it doesn't address the socioeconomic issue that gave rise to banditry in the region in the first place," said Oluwale Ojewale of the Africa-focused Institute of Security Studies. He said the incoming Tinubu administration must work with state governments to address unemployment, poverty and social injustice.

The recent violence has led to the formation of community, state and regional security outfits that experts say could create bigger problems for Nigeria's security architecture if not properly monitored.

And their recruits are young.

Felix Sunday, a college student in Kaduna, said that he was 16 when he joined a local vigilante group in 2021, and that he struggles to combine the night watch with his studies.

Across much of West and Central Africa, porous national borders facilitate the smuggling of weapons. A survey-based report published in 2021 by the Geneva-based Small Arms Survey in collaboration with the Nigerian government found that at least 6 million firearms may have been in the hands of civilians in the country at the time.

The military and police have recovered hundreds of firearms in Nigeria in the last year, but weapons dealers elsewhere are exacerbating the problem.

"Things have gotten considerably worse. Some are large military weapons imported from other countries," said Confidence MacHarry with the Lagos-based SBM Intelligence security firm.

With sophisticated weapons, the gunmen have launched daring attacks in areas with a heavy security presence, including a military base and an airport in Kaduna, indicating that the problem may be the motivation of the security forces themselves.

Survivors of the attack in Plateau told the AP that the police didn't arrive until the next day, echoing comments from people living in Runji, which has a security checkpoint nearby.

"When we call the soldiers, it is after the attackers have left that the soldiers come. Even if we hear they (the attackers) are coming and we report to the government, they don't take proactive action," said Simon Njam, a vigilante leader near Runji who uses bows, arrows and locally-made guns to secure the area.

Part of the problem is that the security forces are disorganized and unprepared to respond to the attacks, according to Kabir Adamu, the founder of Beacon Consulting, a security firm based in Nigeria's capital, Abuja.

"We don't have a coordinated security sector that identifies and counters threats," he said. "They need to work together to protect lives and currently, we are not seeing enough of that."

The Nigerian military and police didn't respond to written and phone inquiries seeking a response to the claims.

As more families mourn the loss of their loved ones, forced to replace farmland with graveyards, their priority is demanding justice.

"How can people just come and kill and nothing will happen?" asked Dauda in Runji, remembering his life with his wife and four children. "They cannot bring back my lost family, but the government can at least rebuild my home and ensure justice."

## Today in History: May 29, Reagan and Gorbachev meet

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Monday, May 29, the 149th day of 2023. There are 216 days left in the year. This is Memorial Day.

Today's Highlight in History:

On May 29, 1988, President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev opened their historic summit in Moscow.

On this date:

In 1765, Patrick Henry denounced the Stamp Act before Virginia's House of Burgesses.

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In 1790, Rhode Island became the 13th original colony to ratify the United States Constitution.

In 1848, Wisconsin became the 30th state of the union.

In 1914, the Canadian ocean liner RMS Empress of Ireland sank in the St. Lawrence River in eastern Quebec after colliding with the Norwegian cargo ship SS Storstad; of the 1,477 people on board the Empress of Ireland, 1,012 died. (The Storstad sustained only minor damage.)

In 1953, Mount Everest was conquered as Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tensing Norgay of Nepal became the first climbers to reach the summit.

In 1977, Janet Guthrie became the first woman to race in the Indianapolis 500, finishing in 29th place (the winner was A.J. Foyt).

In 1985, 39 people were killed at the European Cup Final in Brussels, Belgium, when rioting broke out and a wall separating British and Italian soccer fans collapsed.

In 2009, a judge in Los Angeles sentenced music producer Phil Spector to 19 years to life in prison for the murder of actor Lana Clarkson. (Spector remained in prison until his death in January 2021.)

In 2014, Starbucks closed thousands of stores for part of the day to hold training sessions for employees on unconscious bias, in response to the arrests of two Black men in Philadelphia at one of its stores.

In 2015, the Obama administration formally removed Cuba from the U.S. terrorism blacklist.

In 2019, in his first public remarks on the Russia investigation, special counsel Robert Mueller said charging President Donald Trump with a crime was "not an option" because of federal rules, but he emphasized that the investigation did not exonerate the president.

In 2020, fired Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin was arrested and charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter in the death of George Floyd. (He would be convicted in April 2021 on those charges as well as second-degree unintentional murder.) Thousands of protesters in Minneapolis angered by Floyd's death ignored a curfew as unrest again overwhelmed authorities; fires burned unchecked in cars and businesses.

Ten years ago: U.S. drone strike killed Waliur Rehman, the No. 2 commander of the Pakistani Taliban. Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann, a conservative firebrand and a favorite of tea party Republicans, said she would not run for another term in the U.S. House. The Rev. Andrew Greeley, 85, an outspoken Roman Catholic priest, best-selling author and longtime newspaper columnist, died in Chicago.

Five years ago: ABC canceled the reboot of "Roseanne," after star Roseanne Barr's tweet that referred to former Obama adviser Valerie Jarrett as a product of the Muslim Brotherhood and the "Planet of the Apes."

One year ago: President Joe Biden sought to comfort a city grieving the killings of 19 elementary school pupils and two teachers at the hands of a lone gunman in Uvalde, Texas. Faced with chants of "do something" as he departed a church service to meet privately with the families, Biden responded: "We will." The Justice Department said it would review the law enforcement response to the shooting. Thousands of Israeli nationalists, some of them chanting "Death to Arabs," paraded through the heart of the main Palestinian thoroughfare in Jerusalem's Old City, in a show of force that risked setting off a new wave of violence in the tense city. Ronnie Hawkins, a brash rockabilly star from Arkansas who became a patron of the Canadian music scene after moving north and recruiting a handful of local musicians later known as the Band, died at age 87.

Today's Birthdays: Former Baseball Commissioner Fay Vincent is 85. Actor Anthony Geary is 76. Actor Cotter Smith is 74. Singer Rebbie (ree-bee) Jackson is 73. Movie composer Danny Elfman is 70. Singer LaToya Jackson is 67. Actor Ted Levine is 66. Actor Annette Bening is 65. Actor Rupert Everett is 64. Actor Adrian Paul is 64. Singer Melissa Etheridge is 62. Actor Lisa Whelchel is 60. Actor Tracey Bregman is 60. Rock musician Noel Gallagher is 56. Actor Anthony Azizi is 54. Rock musician Chan Kinchla (Blues Traveler) is 54. Actor Laverne Cox is 51. Rock musician Mark Lee (Third Day) is 50. Cartoonist Aaron McGruder ("The Boondocks") is 49. Singer Melanie Brown (Spice Girls) is 48. Latin singer Fonseca is 44. Actor Justin Chon (TV: "Deception"; "Dr. Ken") is 42. NBA player Carmelo Anthony is 39. Actor Billy Flynn is 38. Actor Blake Foster is 38. Actor Riley Keough is 34. Actor Brandon Mychal Smith is 34. Actor Kristen Alderson is 32. Actor Lorelei Linklater is 30.