

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 1 of 92

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- Newsweek Bulletin](#)
- [3- D.A.R.E. Photos](#)
- [5- Transit Fundraiser Ad](#)
- [6- Jr. Legion beats Mobridge twice](#)
- [7- Drought Monitor](#)
- [8- SD Average Gas Prices](#)
- [9- SD News Watch: Lack of action on immigration is 'holding SD back,' dairy farmers say](#)
- [11- SD News Watch: Group seeks to unlock mysteries surrounding South Dakota monument](#)
- [14- SD Search Light: Questions and answers about Trump's indictment on federal criminal charges](#)
- [16- SD Search Light: The indictment is unsealed: Trump faces 37 felony counts in classified documents probe](#)
- [19- Weather Pages](#)
- [23- Daily Devotional](#)
- [24- 2023 Community Events](#)
- [25- Subscription Form](#)
- [26-- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [27- News from the Associated Press](#)

Groton Community Calendar

Saturday, June 10

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

Legion hosts Milbank, 2 p.m. (2)

U12BB at Sisseton Tourney

U8 R/B Groton Tourney

U10BB W/B at Columbia, 6:30 p.m. (2)

Sunday, June 11

United Methodist: Pastor Brandon and Ashley going away party. Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.

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

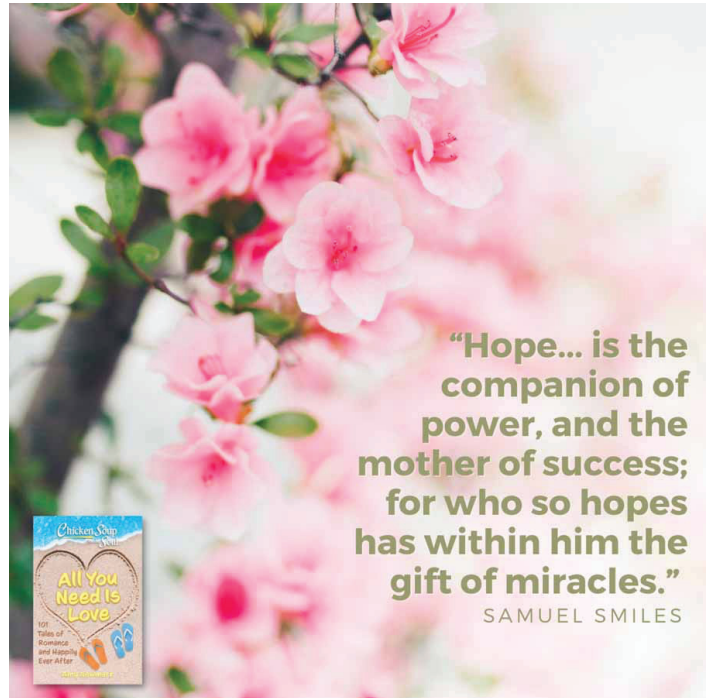
Catholic: SEAS Confession, 7:45-8:15 a.m., SEAS Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Turton Confession, 10:30-10:45 a.m.; Turton Mass, 11 a.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship, 9 a.m.

St. John Lutheran worship, 9 a.m.; Zion at 11 a.m.

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

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



Monday, June 12

School Board Meeting, 7 p.m.

Senior Menu: Meatballs, mashed potatoes with gravy, peas and carrots, tropical fruit, whole wheat bread.

United Methodist: PEO meeting (outside group), 7 p.m.

The Pantry, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., community center
1 p.m.: Senior Citizens Meet at the Groton Community Center.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.

Legion vs. W.I.N. at Northville, 5 p.m. (1)

Jr. Legion vs. W.I.N. at Northville, 7 p.m. (1)

Jr. Teener hosts W.I.N., 5:30 p.m., (2)

U10BB R/B hosts Webster, 6 p.m. (2)

U8 Blue hosts Webster, 6 p.m. (2)

Tuesday, June 13

Senior Menu: Scalloped potato with ham, beets, sunset salad, cookie, whole wheat bread.

Olive Grove: Ladies League, 6 p.m.; Bridge.

United Methodist: Bible Study with Amanda, 10 a.m.

© 2023 Groton Daily Independent

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 2 of 92

The Bulletin

by Newsweek

JANUARY 24, 2023

World in Brief

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has arrived in Kyiv as Ukraine steps up its major counteroffensive against Russian forces. After landing Saturday morning Trudeau paid his respects at a memorial site to Ukrainian soldiers killed fighting pro-Russian forces.

At least nine people were shot on Friday in San Francisco in what police believe was a "targeted and isolated incident." All victims are expected to survive the shooting that took place during "some sort of block party" in the Mission District neighborhood, according to the San Francisco Police Department.

Mexico's Foreign Ministry condemned recent flights transporting migrants from Florida to Sacramento and said officials will assess possible legal and diplomatic responses.

The U.S. announced a new \$2.1 billion aid package for Ukraine that includes air defense and ammunition assistance.

Joran van der Sloot, the main suspect in the 2005 disappearance of American student Natalee Holloway, pleaded not guilty to extortion and wire fraud charges in Alabama following his extradition from Peru to the U.S.

Warring factions in Sudan will on Saturday morning begin a 24-hour ceasefire brokered by the U.S. and Saudi Arabia. However, analysts have warned that the temporary truce may be violated, as numerous previous attempts to halt the fighting have been.

Washington, D.C. now has "moderate" air quality as healthier conditions slowly return to cities along the East Coast following days of disruption caused by drifting smoke from Canadian wildfires.

The White House has revealed intelligence allegedly showing that Iran is providing Russia with materials to build a drone manufacturing plant near Moscow.

In the ongoing war in Ukraine, Ukraine's security service claims it has intercepted a phone call proving that a Russian "sabotage group" is to blame for the destruction of the Kakhovka dam in southern Ukraine, and has posted audio of the call on messaging app Telegram. .

WHAT TO WATCH IN THE DAY AHEAD

Some of the top 2024 Republican presidential candidates will appear at the North Carolina GOP Convention in Greensboro this weekend. Former President Donald Trump and former Vice President Mike Pence are each scheduled to deliver remarks today.

Georgia is hosting its state GOP Convention today in Columbus, as well. GOP 2024 presidential candidates Vivek Ramaswamy and former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson are expected to attend. Former President Donald Trump is expected to address the convention this afternoon.

The Western Conservative Summit is also taking place this weekend in Denver, Colorado. The speaker list for this year's event includes GOP presidential candidates Larry Elder, the conservative radio host from California, and former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson.

A White House Pride celebration initially postponed due to poor air quality is now expected to happen today on the South Lawn. President Joe Biden will host the event with singer Betty Who.

The 2023 Belmont Stakes takes place today at Belmont Park in Elmont, New York. The race is scheduled to begin shortly after 7 p.m. ET.

A federal indictment that lists 37 counts against former President Donald Trump over the alleged mishandling of classified documents has been unsealed; he is set to appear in court on Tuesday. Read the full indictment here.

Former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson resigned from Parliament following an investigation into comments he made about government parties held during COVID-19 lockdowns. Johnson was told he will be sanctioned for those misleading comments, according to The Associated Press.



DARE Essay Winners

The Groton fifth grade class participated in the D.A.R.E. (Drug Abuse Resistance Education) program taught by Groton Police Chief Stacy Mayou. Groton Police Chief Stacy Mayou is pictured with the essay winners of the D.A.R.E. program this year. On Janel Lone's side, the winners from left to right are Amelia Ewalt, third place; Axel Abeln, second place; and Illyanna Dallaire, first place. On Shelby Hendrickson's side, from left to right to the right of Mayou are Ryder Schwan, first place; Gavin Hanten, second place; and Trayce Schelle, third place. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 4 of 92



Pictured in front, left to right, are Brantley Belden, Isabella Daly, Dawson Feist, Sophia Flihs, Kinzleigh Furman and Andi Gauer; in the middle row, left to right, are Gavin Hanten, Jace Hofer, Xzavier Klebsch, Aubrie Lier, Liam Lord and Wyatt Morehouse; in back, left to right, are Shelby Hendrickson, Jameson Penning, Trayce Schelle, Ryder Schwan, Trey Tietz, Chloe Witchey, Ashley Zimmerman and Groton Police Chief Stacy Mayou. Not pictured is Haden Harder. (Photo by Paul Kosel)



Pictured in front, left to right, are Axel Abeln, Nolan Bahr, Peyton Castles, Illyanna Dallaire, Rachel Dobbins and Major Dolan; in the middle row, left to right, are area Hudson Eichler, Amelia Ewalt, Elias Heilman, Gracelynn Hubbs-Mullner, Liam Johnson and Dacey Kampa; in back, left to right, are Janel Lone, Keegan Kucker, Kyson Kucker, Tucker Leicht, Kamryn McKane, Rowan Patterson, Jaclyn Rudbusch, Owen Tewksbury and Groton Police Chief Stacy Mayou. Not pictured is Gavin Younger. (Photo by Paul Kosel)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 5 of 92



Groton Transit Fundraiser

Thursday, June 15, 2023

5 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Groton Community Center

*** Groton Transit Fundraiser will be held at the

Groton Community Center
109 N. 3rd St. - one block east of
Groton Transit ***

Let us do the cooking for you!
Burgers, Brats, Beans, Watermelon,
Chips and the famous Mini Donuts!!

* Food * Fund * Door Prizes *

FREE WILL OFFERING

*Please join us and help
support the Groton Transit!*

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 6 of 92

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion Defeats Mobridge Legion - 2023 On Heels Of Englund's No-Hitter

Gavin Englund was brilliant on the pitcher's mound on Friday, as Englund threw a no-hitter to lead Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion past Mobridge Legion - 2023 11-1.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion opened up scoring in the first inning, when Braxton Imrie singled on a 1-1 count, scoring one run.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion pulled away for good with two runs in the second inning. In the second Brevin Fliehs grounded out, scoring one run and an error scored one run for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion tallied five runs in the third inning. Caden Mcinerney, Carter Simon, and Fliehs all moved runners across the plate with RBIs in the inning.

Englund earned the victory on the mound for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Englund lasted five innings, allowing zero hits and one run while striking out four.

Kellen Pfitzer took the loss for Mobridge Legion - 2023. Pfitzer allowed four hits and three runs over two innings, striking out three and walking zero.

Imrie went 2-for-4 at the plate to lead Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion in hits.

Collin Tisdall went 0-for-2 at the plate as Tisdall led the team with one run batted in.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion Overcomes Mobridge Legion - 2023 In Face Of Early 4-Run Inning

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion claimed a 15-7 victory on Saturday, despite a big push by Mobridge Legion - 2023 in the third inning. Mobridge Legion - 2023 big bats were led by Easton Eisemann, Taylon Carmody, Peter Fried, and Mack Saxon, all sending runners across the plate with RBIs in the inning.

Both pitching staffs had their hands full, frequently dealing with runners on base. Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion collected six hits and Mobridge Legion - 2023 had four.

In the first inning, Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion got their offense started when Nicholas Morris drew a walk, scoring one run.

Caden Mcinerney took the win for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Mcinerney allowed two hits and four runs over two and a third innings, striking out three and walking one. Carter Simon threw two and two-thirds innings in relief out of the bullpen.

Andrew Ulmer took the loss for Mobridge Legion - 2023. The pitcher went two innings, allowing one run on two hits, striking out two and walking zero.

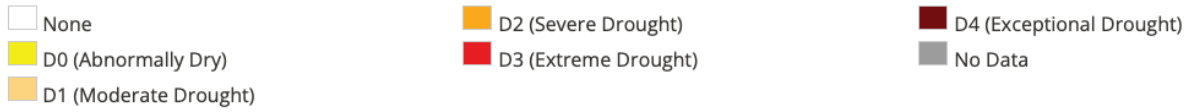
Fried started the game for Mobridge Legion - 2023. The righthander

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion racked up six hits. Jarrett Erdmann and Karsten Fliehs all had multiple hits for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Fliehs and Erdmann each managed two hits to lead Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion.

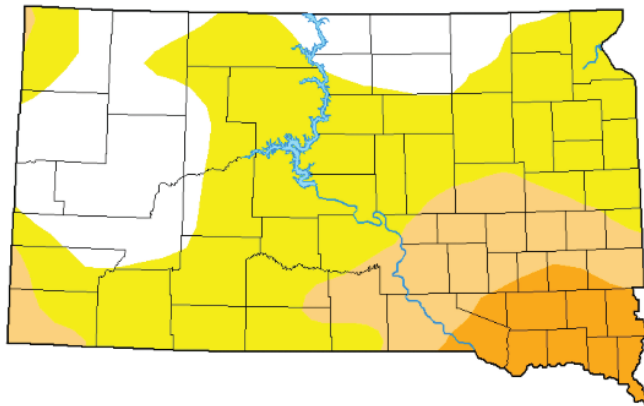
Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 7 of 92

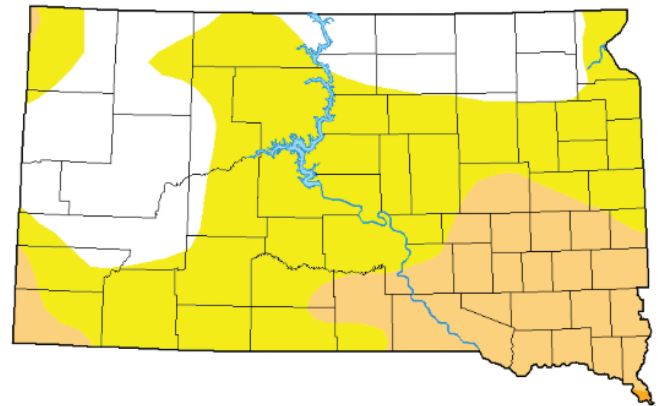
Drought Classification



Drought Monitor



June 6



May 30

Heavy rains fell over parts of the Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and southeast Wyoming plains again this week, leading to widespread one-category improvements in areas with increasing soil moisture and lessening precipitation deficits. After recent heavy rains, some improvements were also made in north-east and east-central Kansas. In eastern Nebraska, some heavier rains fell, but these were quite spotty, so drought areas remained mostly unchanged. Conditions improved in a small area southeast of Lincoln where rainfall amounts locally exceeded 4 inches. North of Omaha, extreme drought expanded slightly, as soil moisture and precipitation deficits worsened alongside poor streamflow. During May, Lincoln and Omaha both received much less than an inch of rainfall, and much of Saunders County received less than an inch of rain as well. Omaha's May total of 0.17 inches of rain came in as the driest May on record there. In South Dakota, moderate and severe drought increased in coverage in the southeast, where short-term precipitation deficits mounted amid decreased streamflow and soil moisture. Rolling corn was reported north of Mitchell, and very dry soils were reported in far southeast South Dakota, where impacts to agriculture and need for irrigation are quickly ramping up.

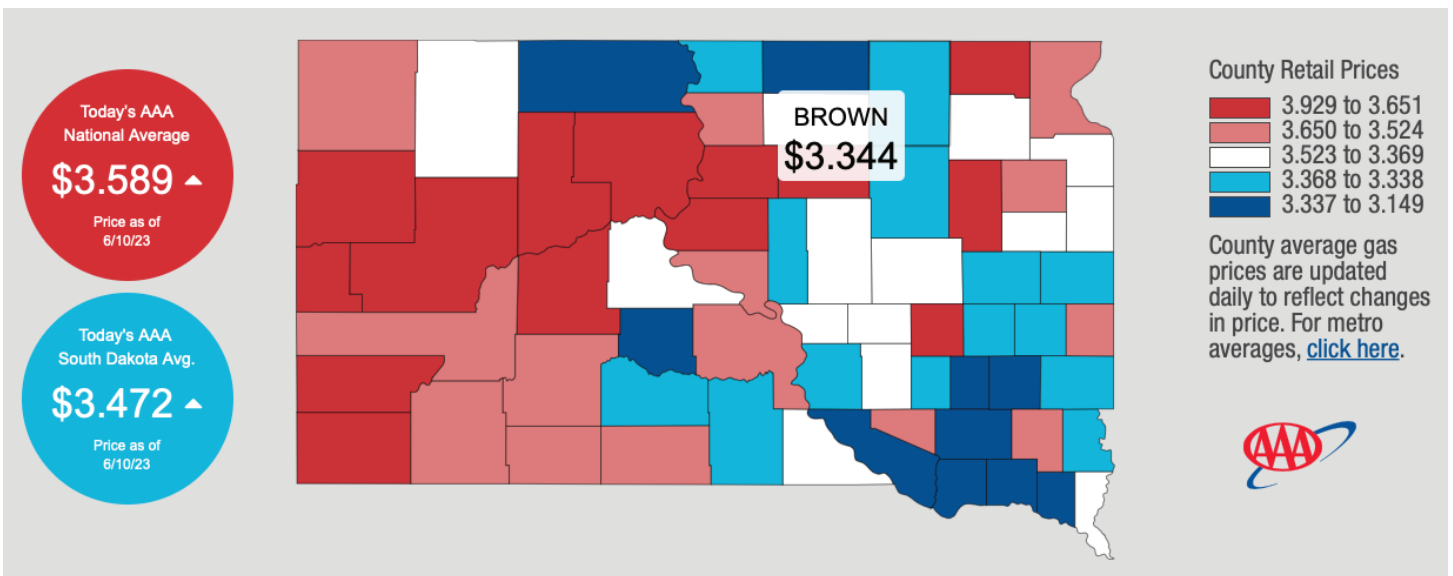
Broton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 8 of 92

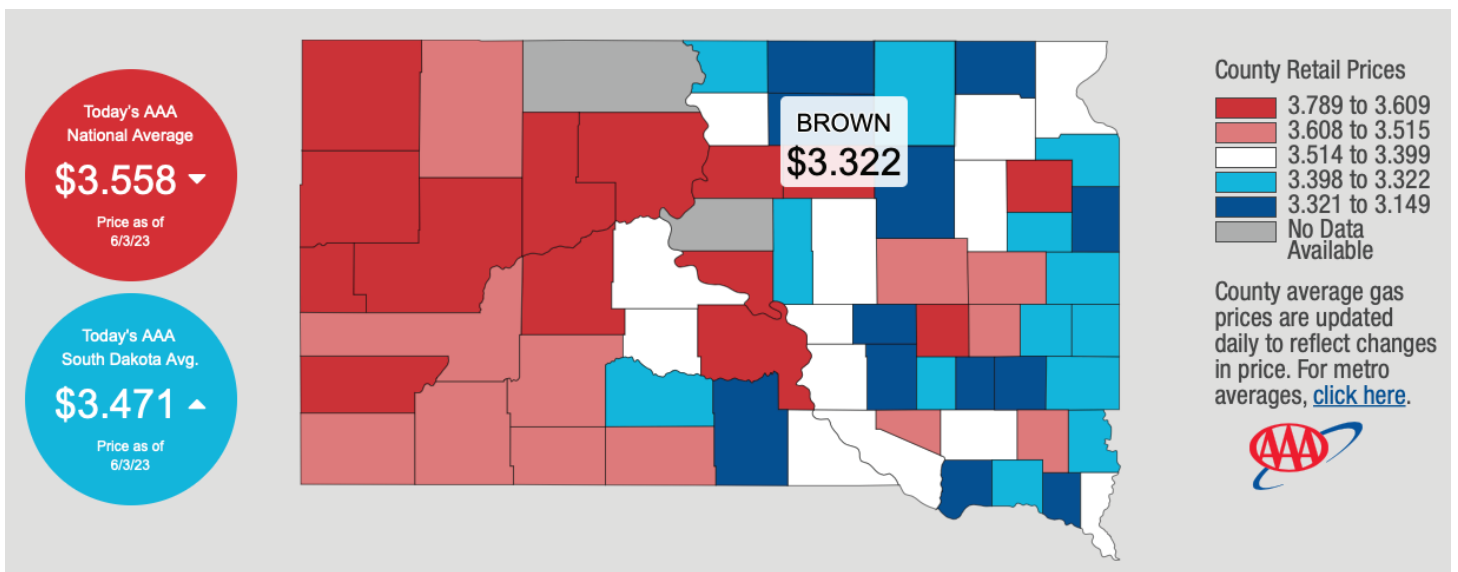
South Dakota Average Gas Prices

	Regular	Mid-Grade	Premium	Diesel
Current Avg.	\$3.472	\$3.623	\$4.109	\$3.752
Yesterday Avg.	\$3.466	\$3.628	\$4.105	\$3.754
Week Ago Avg.	\$3.471	\$3.594	\$4.059	\$3.748
Month Ago Avg.	\$3.464	\$3.604	\$4.052	\$3.824
Year Ago Avg.	\$4.696	\$4.817	\$5.213	\$5.319

This Week



Two Weeks Ago





SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Lack of action on immigration is 'holding SD back,' dairy farmers say

BY: MAKENZIE HUBER - JUNE 9, 2023 4:23 PM

EDITOR'S NOTE: This story on dairy farmers is the second of two examining the challenges some South Dakota businesses face as they attempt to hire international workers. The first story examined problems in the tourism industry.

The Department of Homeland Security wanted to do a routine work authorization audit of the Turner County Dairy more than a decade ago.

Walt Bones, who co-owns the dairy and was the state secretary of agriculture at the time, complied with the obligation, sending the official documents employers must have on hand for employees: driver's licenses, Social Security cards, or migrant-worker visas.

About 10 employees had falsified documents, the audit found, and were working illegally. Some of them had been working for years with Bones, who said he did not know their actual legal status; he'd invested in them and trained them.

He had to let them go. At the same time, Bones couldn't find new employees to hire as dairy workers – a near constant problem in the agriculture industry – so he contracted with another firm to temporarily fill in the gaps.

"You'll never guess who they hired. The same people we just let go," Bones said. "That is case in point how screwed up our system is."

Rep. Dusty Johnson voted against the act, saying it was a "special deal for California" and other vegetable and fruit-producing states while cutting out the processing industry — meat, cheese and biofuel processing — important to the agriculture industry in South Dakota and other Midwestern states. Johnson said Democratic leadership wouldn't accommodate requests to include processing. The American Farm Bureau opposed a provision of the bill that would allow farmworkers to sue employers when conditions of employment are not met.

While the bill did have special relief for dairies, it wasn't enough to sway Johnson.

"We need to be strategic enough to understand whether a minor victory moves us closer toward a broader solution or moves us further away from that solution," Johnson said. "Had we given California and other vegetable and fruit-producing states everything they needed, it would have made getting relief related to ag processing a lot less likely — I think it would have doomed the middle of the country into a serious workforce shortage."

Dairy operations already find it increasingly difficult to obtain labor to meet South Dakota's growing dairy industry needs.

Since the Farm Workforce Modernization Act was first introduced in 2019, South Dakota's inventory of dairy cows has risen by 53%, producing 4.16 billion pounds of milk worth over \$1 billion in 2022.

The increase in milking cows over the past couple decades came from expansions of longstanding dairies, diversification of existing farms, the relocation of dairy operations to South Dakota from states such as California, and the expansion of milk-processing capacities with the state's growing cheese industry.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 10 of 92

Aurelio Garcia, a 40-year-old father of three from Aguascalientes in Mexico, has been an H-2A worker with Boadwine Farms since 2021, where he focuses on the farm piece of the operation – raising alfalfa or other crops. He sends roughly \$2,000 home a month, or about 75% of his monthly income.

That money allowed him to pay tuition for his children to go to school, build a house for his family and help his father financially – all of which has improved his family's quality of life. He can more easily afford to send his children and wife to the doctor when they're sick or pay for their eyeglasses or braces.

It's eight months away from home each year for three years, but it's worth the sacrifice, he said through a translator. He lives in free housing provided by Boadwine Farms while working in South Dakota.

Garcia applied for the H-2A program in 2013 but "wasn't one of the lucky ones" then.

"The people who were only able to eat two tortillas a day can now eat four tortillas per meal with this money," Garcia said through a translator. "Sometimes we were only able to eat meat once a week, and now we can eat meat every day. I believe the majority of people in Mexico would like to come work in the U.S. to be able to afford that."

Immigration, foreign programs improve U.S. industries, farmers say

The United States' largest market for dairy products is Mexico. That's because the more money guest workers earn and send home, the more costly food and produce families can afford, which only further benefits South Dakota, Boadwine said.

"Guest workers and immigrant workers isn't 'money leaving the country,' but expanding the incomes of countries that are evolving and will become our customers," said Boadwine, whose workforce is over two-thirds foreign-born.

But immigration debates have corrupted ideas about foreign labor in the country, especially for critical roles in agriculture, Elliott added.

"The average American says they don't want people to come into the country without any kind of scrutiny or security, but at the same time most Americans are quite happy not having to do the jobs the border hoppers are doing," Elliott said. "They turn a blind eye to the issue when it suits them and then get up and shout about it without doing anything to fix it otherwise."

Nearly 95% of Elliott's workforce is foreign labor, with about half domestic hires with immigrant backgrounds and the other half made up of J-1 or TN workers. The Elliots are planning to expand with a neighbor for another 5,000-cow dairy.

Elliott and her husband had lived in Ireland for years raising a family and farming, but were persuaded by state officials and marketing efforts to move to South Dakota and establish a dairy farm. Elliott was born in the United States and their children were easily naturalized, but it took her husband another eight years to gain citizenship.

Even though the process was difficult for her family, Elliott said it was a breeze compared to the process of seeking proper documentation or visas for most people seeking work in the industry.

Bones said he's seen others experience the same.

"Those folks that are here, that we've trained, want to get citizenship or their visas," Bones said. "Our system is so overwhelmed even those who want to do it right can't succeed in a timely manner."

Status quo could lead to higher prices, 'national security issue'

Bones has been proposing immigration changes since he was secretary of agriculture to give implementation and enforcement power to states based on their own industries and needs.

Those suggestions have "obviously gone nowhere," Bones said.

Rep. Johnson said the nation's southern border needs to be secured before Congress and the executive branch pass meaningful immigration or work-visa reform. Until President Joe Biden takes steps to partner with Republicans and secure the border, Johnson said, bipartisan solutions will remain elusive.

"There are clearly improvements that need to be made on both sides of the ledger. We need an executive and legislative branch that are mature enough to address those together," Johnson said.

But Boadwine thinks Congress should "take the smaller bite" first.

"Fix the one problem in the dairy industry, improve guest worker programs and let that be a template

for how you go forward with immigration policy as a whole," Boadwine said. "You've got to do something sometime or it just stays the same."

Elliott is skeptical politicians will ever find an immigration solution. Instead, she's turning to robotics.

One of her barns uses technology to milk the cows. That milk is the most expensive milk she produces because of the cost to purchase the equipment and because the robots are less efficient than humans.

She fears if technology is the route farms have to take, the higher costs could be passed on to milk and cheese consumers. Or the country could shift to a reliance on overseas production.

If that happens, it could cause worse price fluctuations and supply problems due to natural disasters or geopolitical situations, like the vehicle shortage caused by chip manufacturing shortages, or Russia's invasion of Ukraine, which has threatened a major source of the world's cereal grain production. That would be a "national security issue," Bones said.

"We could buy all of our food from overseas," Bones said, adding sarcastically: "That seems to be working so well with other consumer items."

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

Group seeks to unlock mysteries surrounding South Dakota monument

BY: PAUL HAMMEL - JUNE 9, 2023 10:26 AM

On the windswept plains of South Dakota lies a lonely, century-old historical monument holding a literary mystery and wrapped up in a legal conundrum.

The concrete capsule honors mountain man Hugh Glass, who crawled, limped and rafted 200 miles after being mauled by a grizzly bear and left for dead by his colleagues in 1823 near modern-day Lemmon.

The amazing story of survival and forgiveness was made into a Hollywood movie, "The Revenant," starring Leonardo DiCaprio, and was immortalized in the 1915 epic poem by John Neihardt, "The Song of Hugh Glass."

But the monument, inscribed as an "altar to courage," holds many unanswered questions.

A challenge is issued

Could a valuable, undiscovered literary work from Neihardt be hidden inside it, or just a handwritten copy of his epic poem?

Did flooding decades ago destroy the "original manuscript" he left?

Will the block of poured concrete have to be destroyed to unlock the time capsule inside?

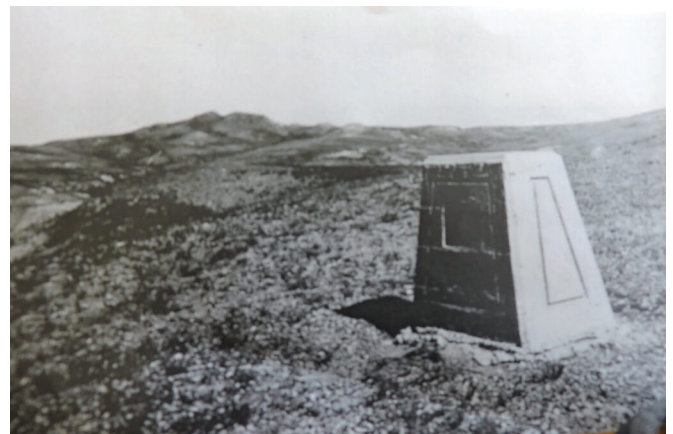
Who now owns the monument and could the entity give permission to do that?

And who would have rights to anything that might remain inside?

A group of students led by Wayne State College history professor Joseph Weixelman is aiming to find answers and is en route to the lonely monument site this week.

The monument was erected in 1923 by Neihardt and members of a Neihardt Club from the Nebraska Normal College, now Wayne State College.

The writer, in a special edition of the college newspaper, said he left an "original manuscript" in the



The Hugh Glass monument was originally placed on private ranchland near Lemmon, at the confluence of two forks of the Grand River. But it was later moved to make way for construction of a Bureau of Reclamation dam. The Bureau now controls the property. (Courtesy of Joseph Weixelman)

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 12 of 92



The monument to Hugh Glass, as seen today, at its new location.

(Courtesy of Joseph Weixelman)

“bosom” of the monument. Neihardt also issued a challenge to the college to return to the monument and “commemorate the bicentennial of Hugh Glass as he (Neihardt) celebrated the centennial,” Weixelman said.

So the professor and three students in a special summer course called “Neihardt and the American West” have embarked on a quest to do that.

‘Mountain man yell’

Weixelman said that Neihardt, who paid tribute to the mountain man’s excruciating crawl in his epic poem, gave some specific instructions on how to mark the bicentennial.

“He gave us page numbers from his poem to read. We have to start a fire with flint and steel — not a match — and we have to give the ‘mountain man yell,’ whatever that is,” Weixelman said.

The group will meet Friday morning with a local sculptor, John Lopez, whose depiction of Glass and the attacking grizzly stands at a state recreation area near Lemmon, a northwest South

Dakota town that holds a Hugh Glass Rendezvous every August.

In the afternoon, the students will place a new time capsule near the site of a South Dakota State Historical Marker which commemorates Glass’ “adventure.” Weixelman said that they will also play some games, maybe cards and a foot race, activities that would have been common at a fur trade rendezvous.

A major objective for the class, he said, will be to answer the question: “Is history an art or a science?”

“Historians talk about this all the time: Is the purpose of history to tell a good story, or is the purpose of history to get the story correct?” Weixelman said.

Neihardt’s poem dramatizes the horror of the mauling, Glass’ struggle to survive and his eventual decision to not kill the men who left him behind.

Some cast doubt

But Weixelman said there have also been accounts that cast doubt on whether Glass crawled all the way to the Missouri River, suggesting that he was picked up by local Indians.

But what about the time capsule placed 100 years ago by Neihardt and his party inside the monument? This is where the story gets a little sticky:

The monument was moved sometime around 1951 when the Bureau of Reclamation acquired the private ranch where it was originally placed. It now sits on the shore of Shadehill Reservoir, at a state recreation area established there.

Weixelman said that raises a question about who owns the monument now, and who could grant permission to break into it to search for the time capsule and “original manuscript” Neihardt left.

A Bureau of Reclamation spokeswoman said Thursday that while the agency supports what the Wayne State group is doing, it is still researching who owns the monument and its contents and what needs to be done to crack into a historical monument.

“It is difficult to say how long this process will take,” said Elizabeth Smith of the Bureau’s Billings regional office.

So, the 100-year-old time capsule, for now, will keep its secrets.

Weixelman speculated that Wayne State might have a claim since it was a college club — though now long gone — that erected it.

The Neihardt family might also own the manuscript, he said, or the Neihardt State Historic Site in Bancroft, a repository of Neihardt works and artifacts.

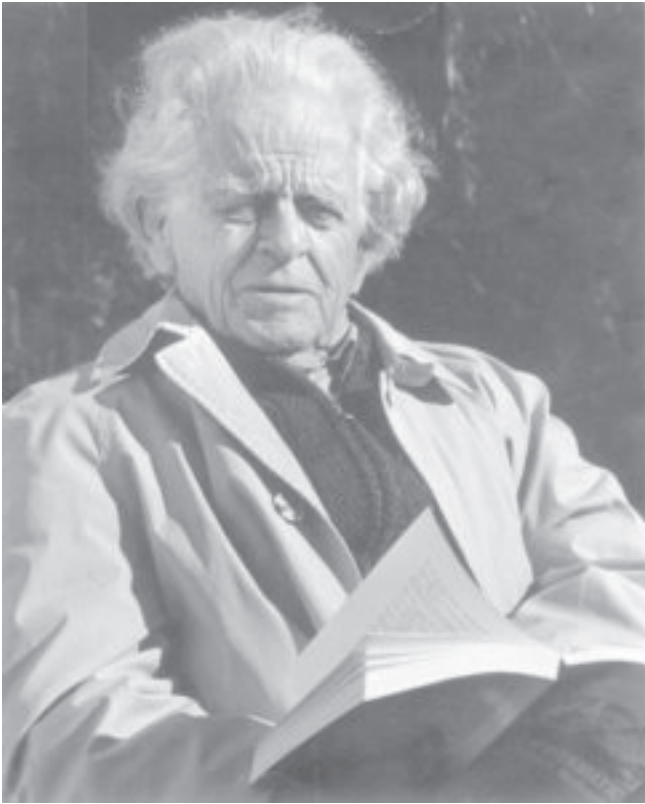
Did the manuscript survive?

But there’s also a question about whether the manuscript has survived the decades.

Weixelman said that 20 years ago or so, the reservoir flooded, inundating the monument. Whether or

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 13 of 92



Author/poet John Neihardt, the Nebraska poet laureate in perpetuity (courtesy

of John Neihardt State Historic Site)

not a paper manuscript inside a tin time capsule would have been destroyed is a good question, he said.

"We may open it up and we'll find nothing in there that's worth anything," Weixelman said.

The professor said that on a recent trip to the Glass monument, he found a local resident who said he had lifted and moved the monument, with a backhoe, to its current location.

Weixelman said he learned that behind the monument's plaque is solid concrete — so it's not a "door" leading to the time capsule — and that the monument sounds like it is hollow.

That means it will have to be broken into to access the time capsule, which leads to another question: How would you do that without destroying its historic value?

Coralie Hughes, one of Neihardt's granddaughters, said she can't remember her grandfather talking about a time capsule or literary work he might have left in the monument. But, she said, she's intrigued by the current quest.

Tim Anderson, Neihardt's biographer and a retired University of Nebraska-Lincoln journalism professor, said that 20-30 people attended the dedication of the monument in 1923, including the head of the South Dakota State Historical Society and Julius House, a history professor at the college in Wayne.

Water had to be hauled four miles to the site of the construction by the Neihardt Club of Wayne, Anderson said, citing a 1939 letter about the event.

"By the light of the fire, House read passages from *The Song of Hugh Glass* to an audience huddled in army blankets; the wail of a coyote just as he read the line about 'antiphony chants' of wolves brought the program to a fitting close," stated Lucile F. Aly, in her 1977 biography of Neihardt.

From the "Song of Hugh Glass"

... And when they lifted him,
His moan went treble like a song of pain,
He was so tortured. Surely it were vain
To hope he might endure the toilsome ride
Across the barrens. Better let him bide
There on the grassy couch beside the spring.
And, furthermore, it seemed a foolish thing
That eighty men should wait the issue there;
For dying is a game of solitaire
And all men play the losing hand alone.
— John Neihardt

Anderson said that Neihardt was fascinated by stories of "striving" and overcoming difficulties, so a 200-mile crawl of survival would have fit.

Another Neihardt scholar, retired Minden schoolteacher Joe Green, said that the author was enamored with Glass because he considered him a mountain man "hero" of "my river," the Missouri River.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 14 of 92

Likely a copy of the poem

Both Anderson and Green cited past accounts indicating that the manuscript was a copy of "Hugh Glass." But Neihardt's own account of the erection of the monument in the student newspaper doesn't name the work.

Wiexelman said the students in his class will write letters to be left in the new time capsule, and decide what else to leave for students to discover in the 22nd Century.

The professor said he hopes to eventually get permission to explore what's inside the Hugh Glass monument.

Weixelman said it's hard for his students to imagine being mauled by a bear and then crawling 200 miles, but it's also hard to imagine what students will be like in 100 years.

"To me, that's what makes history interesting," he said. "We're part of his long story, and the story never has an end."

Hugh Glass timeline

1783 — Born in Scranton, Pennsylvania

1822 — Joined a Missouri River fur trading venture headed by Gen. William Henry Ashley

1823 — Mauled by a bear in northwest South Dakota, left for dead, then crawled to a nearby river, fashioned a raft and floated to Fort Kiowa on the Missouri River

1833 — Died near present-day Williston, North Dakota

1915 — Writer/poet John Neihardt publishes "The Song of Hugh Glass"

1923 — Neihardt and members of the Neihardt Club of the state college in Wayne erect a monument honoring Glass; leave an unnamed manuscript in a time capsule, to be opened in 100 years

1951 — A reservoir is built, requiring that the Glass monument be moved a few hundred yards

About 20 years ago — Monument is flooded

2023 — A Wayne State College class, led by professor Joseph Wiexelman, returns to commemorate the bicentennial of the Glass story

Editor's note: Paul Hammel is vice president of the Neihardt Foundation when he's not writing stories for the Examiner.

This story was originally published by the Nebraska Examiner, which like South Dakota Searchlight is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Nebraska Examiner maintains editorial independence. Contact Editor Cate Folsom for questions: info@nebraskaexaminer.com. Follow Nebraska Examiner on Facebook and Twitter.

Paul Hammel is the senior reporter for the Nebraska Examiner. He has covered the Nebraska Legislature and Nebraska state government for decades. He started his career reporting for the Omaha Sun and was named editor of the Papillion Times in 1982. He later worked as a sports enterprise reporter at the Lincoln Journal-Star. He joined the Omaha World-Herald in 1990, working as a legislative reporter, then roving state reporter and finally Lincoln bureau chief. Paul has won awards from organizations including Great Plains Journalism, the Associated Press and Suburban Newspapers of America. A native of Ralston, Nebraska, he is vice president of the John G. Neihardt Foundation and secretary of the Nebraska Hop Growers.

Questions and answers about Trump's indictment on federal criminal charges

BY: JACOB FISCHLER - JUNE 9, 2023 5:52 PM

A federal judge in Florida unsealed an indictment that accuses former President Donald Trump of hiding classified national security documents after he left the White House, improperly storing them and sharing sensitive information with people who lacked security clearance.

Though he's not the only former federal official to improperly take classified documents with him after

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 15 of 92

leaving office, federal prosecutors allege Trump did so on purpose and went to great lengths to conceal his possession of them.

It's the second indictment this year for the former president, who is also facing state business records fraud charges in New York.

Trump is running for the Republican nomination for president.

News of the indictment, which Trump delivered himself on social media Thursday evening, sparked divided reactions among members of Congress and Trump's fellow contenders for the GOP nomination.

Why was Trump indicted?

According to a 37-count indictment, Trump brought boxes of classified documents with him from Washington to his Florida estate, Mar-a-Lago, when he left office.

When pressed by the National Archives and Records Administration — and, later, by the Florida federal grand jury — he did not return all the documents with classified material.

Many documents were marked top secret and contained highly sensitive information about U.S. and foreign military capabilities. Trump knew the materials were classified and went to great lengths to conceal his possession of them, even after the grand jury subpoenaed them, according to the indictment.

The FBI searched Trump's Mar-a-Lago club and residence in South Florida in August 2022 and discovered classified material Trump had failed to turn over.

What did Trump say about the indictment?

In written statements and a video posted to his social media platform, Truth Social, on Thursday, Trump called himself "an innocent man" and painted himself as the victim of political attacks.

Trump also noted his successor, President Joe Biden, had also improperly stored classified material after Biden's tenure as vice president.

What is the next step?

Trump said he will make an appearance at a federal courthouse in Miami on Tuesday.

That would be an arraignment, where the charges against him are formally presented and he enters a plea.

In the meantime, Trump has continued posting on Truth Social. He has not indicated any disruption to his schedule, which includes an appearance at the Georgia Republican Convention on Saturday.

How are Republicans in Congress reacting?

They're mostly defending Trump, with House members more united in that effort.

"Today is indeed a dark day for the United States of America," House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said in a Thursday post to Twitter. "It is unconscionable for a President to indict the leading candidate opposing him."

McCarthy pledged to "stand with President Trump against this grave injustice."

U.S. House Judiciary Chairman Jim Jordan of Ohio tweeted, "Sad day for America. God Bless President Trump."

"This sham indictment is the continuation of the endless political persecution of Donald Trump," U.S. House Majority Leader Steve Scalise of Louisiana said.

"A sitting president arresting his political opponent is the ultimate weaponization of government," Kentucky's Thomas Massie said.

In the Senate, Republicans were quieter and one, Utah's Mitt Romney, criticized Trump.

"Mr. Trump brought these charges upon himself by not only taking classified documents, but by refusing to simply return them when given numerous opportunities to do so," Romney said in a statement.

The top two Senate Republicans, Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky and Whip John Thune of South Dakota, had not released statements by Friday afternoon. Thune has already endorsed South Carolina U.S. Sen. Tim Scott for president.

The Senate's No. 3 Republican, Conference Chairman John Barrasso of Wyoming, said the indictment "certainly looks like an unequal application of justice."

What about Democrats?

Congressional Democrats have for years sought to prosecute Trump for various alleged misdeeds.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 16 of 92

Thursday and Friday, many implored Trump to be prosecuted without any regard for his former position. "Today's federal grand jury indictment tells us that former President Donald Trump put our national security in grave danger as he pursued yet another lawless personal agenda by pilfering and hoarding government documents," House Oversight Committee ranking Democrat Jamie Raskin of Maryland said Thursday.

Trump "will have his day in court, in Miami and Manhattan and Atlanta too if it comes to it," House Judiciary ranking Democrat Jerry Nadler of New York tweeted. "But I am grateful to live in a nation where no man is above the law."

Sen. Sheldon Whitehouse, a Rhode Island Democrat and member of the Judiciary Committee, tweeted that Trump should be treated like any other defendant.

"Due process and rule of law are essential American virtues, upon which politics must never intrude," he wrote. "This case will play out under established law and judicial supervision."

Will this affect Trump's campaign?

We don't know.

Conventional wisdom in pre-Trump American politics was that a criminal investigation would sink a candidate. And the indictment contains damning details alleging Trump jeopardized national security.

But Trump has routinely harnessed potentially damaging news stories to feed a narrative that media and government elites unfairly target him. He broke the news of the indictment himself and sent a fundraising email to supporters within hours.

Trump could hold the office of president even with a criminal record, National Public Radio has reported. The Constitution requires only that an individual be at least 35 years old, and a natural born citizen who has lived in the country for at least 14 years.

Senior Washington reporter Jennifer Shutt contributed to this report.

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.

The indictment is unsealed: Trump faces 37 felony counts in classified documents probe

BY: JACOB FISCHLER - JUNE 9, 2023 3:29 PM

Donald Trump has been indicted by a federal grand jury, making him the first former president to face federal criminal charges.

The 37-count indictment in the Southern District of Florida, handed up by a grand jury there, was unsealed Friday. According to the indictment, Trump schemed with an aide to keep possession of top secret and other sensitive national security documents from his presidency and concealed those documents even from his own lawyers, who sought to comply with a federal order to return them.

Special Counsel Jack Smith, who has headed the investigation, said during a brief appearance Friday at the Department of Justice that his office plans to "seek a speedy trial in this matter, consistent with the public interest and the rights of the accused."

Smith said Americans should read the full indictment in order to "understand the scope and the gravity of the crimes charged."

Trump, who disclosed news of his indictment on his Truth Social platform on Thursday night, also said he would be arraigned on Tuesday in Miami.

Trump took dozens of boxes of records, some of which held highly classified material, to his Mar-a-Lago estate in South Florida when he moved out of the White House in 2021.

He knowingly held onto documents that he wasn't supposed to have and shared classified information he knew he wasn't supposed to share, according to the indictment, which was first obtained by CNN.

Trump has denied any wrongdoing.

"I'm an innocent man," he said in the video he posted to Truth Social on Thursday.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 17 of 92

'This is secret information'

The first 31 counts of the indictment charge Trump with withholding 31 individual classified documents. Those documents were seized during an Aug. 8, 2022, FBI raid on Trump's home that turned up 102 total documents with classification markings.

Most of the 31 documents cited in the indictment were marked top secret, the highest level of classification and one that indicates disclosure "reasonably could be expected to cause exceptionally grave damage to the national security," according to the indictment.

The classified documents Trump took with him to Florida contained information about defense and weapons capabilities — including nuclear capabilities — of the U.S. and foreign governments, military vulnerabilities of the U.S. and allies and plans for possible retaliation to a foreign attack, according to the indictment.

Trump was careless about storing the documents and cavalier about sharing classified information, the indictment says.

He stored boxes throughout Mar-a-Lago, his South Florida private club and primary residence, prosecutors say. The indictment included a photo of boxes of presidential records stacked at one point on a ballroom stage.

Trump took boxes of documents to his Trump National Golf Club Bedminster in New Jersey, and at least twice shared some of their contents with people who lacked security clearance, prosecutors alleged. He knew he was improperly sharing confidential information, the indictment says, citing Trump's private conversations.

In a July 2021 interview with a writer and publisher who are unnamed in the indictment, Trump pulled out a document he said showed a military official's plan to attack a country identified in the indictment as "Country A."

The New Yorker magazine had published a story that month that reported Joint Chiefs Of Staff Chairman General Mark Milley dissuaded Trump from attacking Iran. The indictment identifies neither the military official nor the foreign country, but it quotes Trump as saying the military official, not he, was the one who advocated for attacking another country.

"This totally wins my case, you know," Trump said, according to the indictment. "Except it is, like, highly confidential ... Secret. This is secret information."

Later in the conversation, Trump said he could have declassified the document as president, but lacked the power at the time of the interview.

In September 2021, Trump showed a classified map of another unidentified country with an ongoing military operation to a representative of his political action committee, the indictment says.

Trump told the representative that he "should not be showing the map," according to the indictment.

Allegations of concealment

The final six counts of the indictment relate to allegations Trump directed Waltine Nauta, a former Navy valet to Trump during his presidency and an executive assistant to the former president, to conceal classified documents from the FBI and from Trump's own lawyers who sought to comply with directives to return the documents.

The National Archives and Records Administration began demanding presidential records from Trump in May 2021, according to the indictment.

Trump sent the archives 15 boxes of documents containing 197 documents with classification markings in January 2022.

The FBI opened an investigation in March 2022 into potential criminal retention of classified documents. A federal grand jury convened in April and issued a subpoena in May for all documents with classification markings. Trump produced 38 more documents in June.

But Trump interfered with that document production and secretly kept more than 100 responsive documents, the indictment says.

He asked his attorneys if it would be better to just claim they had no responsive documents, according to the indictment. The indictment does not say how his attorneys responded, but said that an attorney

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 18 of 92

planned to search for documents responsive to the subpoena in early June 2022.

Before that search, Trump directed Nauta to move dozens of boxes out of a storage room to hide them from the attorney, according to the indictment. Nauta removed 64 boxes from a Mar-a-Lago storage room to Trump's residence, and moved 30 boxes back into the storage room, according to the indictment. Trump's attorney searched only the storage room.

Trump later directed another attorney, who had no role in the search, to certify that a diligent search to find all responsive documents was conducted, and those documents were turned over. That was a false certification, the indictment says.

Trump sent only 38 documents responsive to the subpoena, the indictment says.

The FBI found 102 more in its August 2022 search of his property.

Smith seeks 'speedy trial'

"Our laws that protect national defense information are critical to the safety and security of the United States and they must be enforced," Smith, the special counsel, said. "Violations of those laws put our country at risk."

One of the bedrock principles of the United States justice system, Smith said, is that there is one set of laws that apply to everyone.

"Applying those laws, collecting facts, that's what determines the outcome of an investigation," Smith said. "Nothing more and nothing less."

Smith spoke for less than three minutes and did not take questions from reporters.

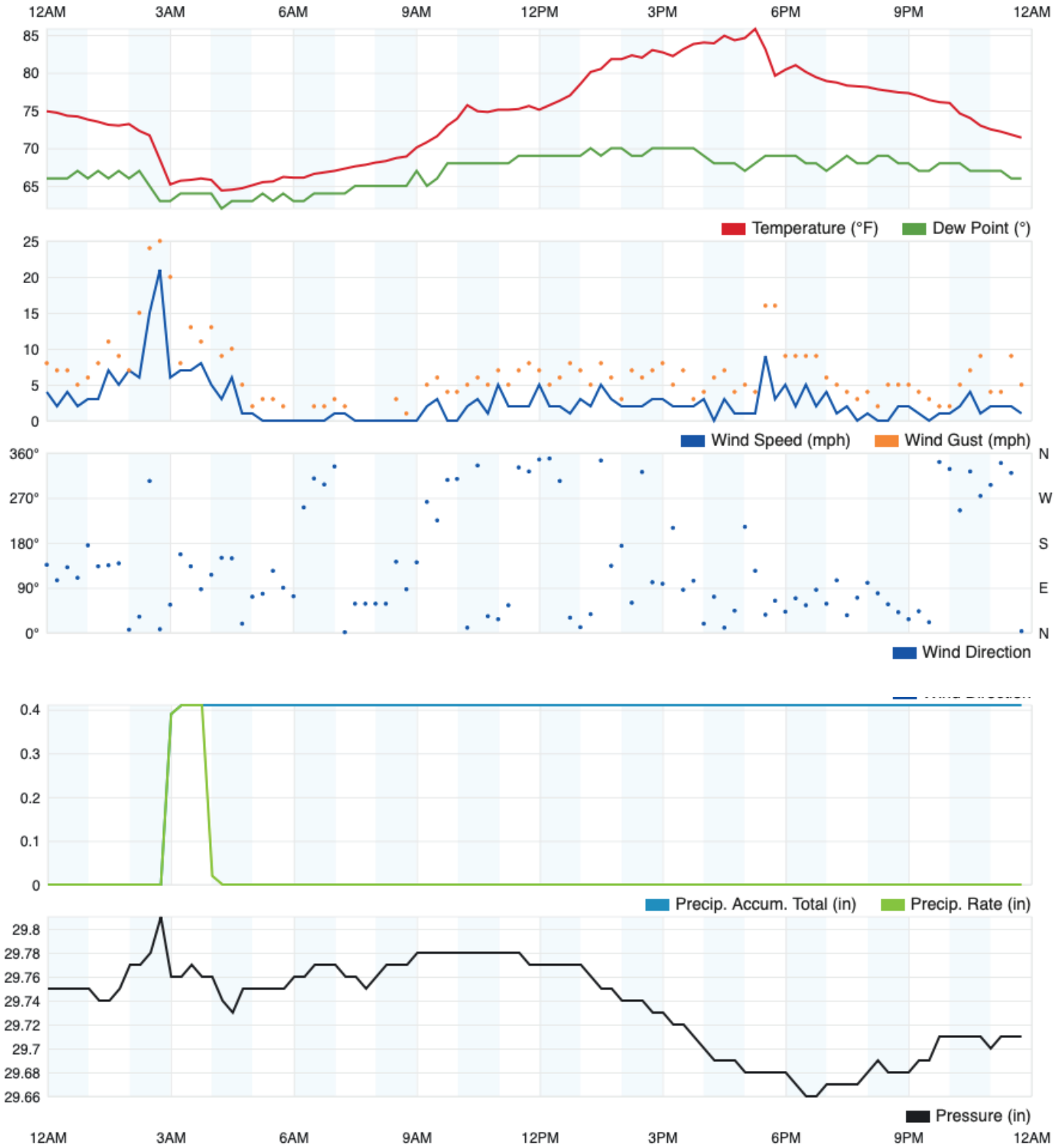
Senior Washington reporter Jennifer Shutt contributed to this report.

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.

Groton Daily Independent








Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 19 of 92

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Groton Daily Independent

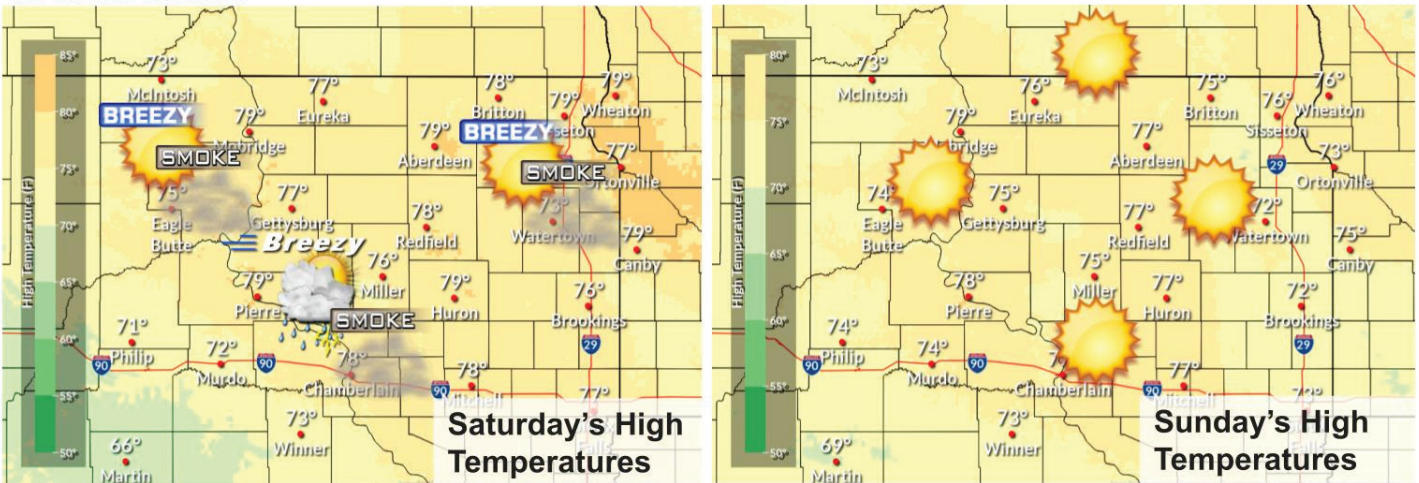
Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 20 of 92

Today	Tonight	Sunday	Sunday Night	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday
						
Mostly Cloudy and Breezy	Partly Cloudy and Breezy then Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Clear	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 80 °F	Low: 51 °F	High: 77 °F	Low: 49 °F	High: 82 °F	Low: 54 °F	High: 88 °F

Seasonable Through The Weekend

Behind a cold front dropping south through the region, look for breezy to windy northeast winds and much cooler and drier conditions. Isolated to widely scattered showers and thunderstorms will continue to possible today, mainly down along and south of U.S. Highway 14.

There will be about a 24 to 36 hour window of time today into Sunday when Canada wildfire smoke will be present, both near the surface and aloft.



National Weather Service Aberdeen, SD

Updated: June 10, 2023 4:16 AM

As high pressure builds into the region, expect breezy to windy northeast winds. Isolated to widely scattered showers and thunderstorms will become confined mainly to portions of central and south central South Dakota through early this evening. Otherwise, the region should dry out for the weekend, with temperatures much closer to normal for early to mid June.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 21 of 92

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 86 °F at 5:09 PM

Low Temp: 64 °F at 4:17 AM

Wind: 26 mph at 2:31 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 39 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 101 in 2021

Record Low: 37 in 1964

Average High: 79

Average Low: 54

Average Precip in June.: 1.15

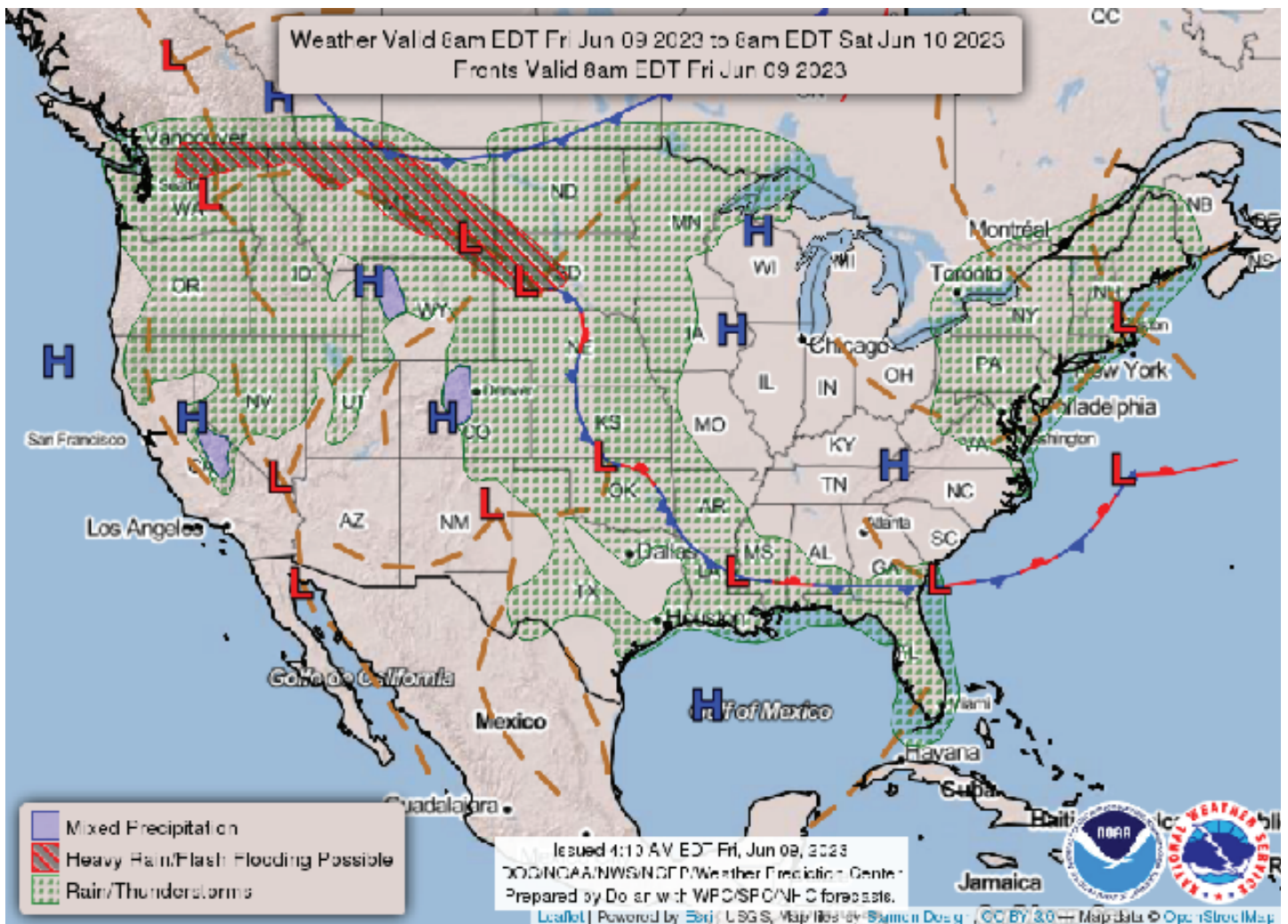
Precip to date in June.: 0.52

Average Precip to date: 8.40

Precip Year to Date: 8.42

Sunset Tonight: 9:21:47 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:41:45 AM



Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 22 of 92

Today in Weather History

June 10, 1998: Torrential rains of two to three inches in a short period caused flash flooding on the Crow Creek, near Gann Valley. As a result, some dams and roads were washed out.

June 10, 2004: An F1 tornado damaged 3 barns and numerous other buildings on a farm located 22 miles west of Ft. Pierre. This tornado also downed power lines and broke windows out of a home. There were no injuries reported.

June 10, 2008: A strong low-level jet impinging on a frontal surface boundary extending across southern South Dakota brought many severe thunderstorms to central and northeast South Dakota. Large hail and high winds brought some tree damage, trees down, along with some structural damage. Eighty mph winds blew down a 46 by 100 foot Quonset with tin strewn over a quarter-mile. Several trees were also uprooted in Hosmer in Edmunds County. An EF1 tornado touched down briefly and downed a power pole, snapped off a road sign, and blew a metal shed 100 yards destroying it. The tornado also broke off several large tree branches. This tornado occurred eight miles east-northeast of Eden in Marshall County.

1752: It is believed that this was the day Benjamin Franklin narrowly missed electrocution while flying a kite during a thunderstorm to determine if lightning is related to electricity.

1957 - A dust devil at North Yarmouth, ME, lifted a 600 to 1000 pound chicken shelter into the air and carried it 25 feet. It landed upright with only slight damage. It is unknown whether any eggs were scrambled. (The Weather Channel)

1958 - A woman was sucked through the window of her home in El Dorado, KS, by a powerful tornado, and was carried sixty feet away. Beside her was found a broken phonograph record entitled Stormy Weather . (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Thunderstorms produced 2 to 4 inch rains in southern Texas. Two and a half inches of rain at Juno TX caused flooding and closed a nearby highway. Flooding on the northwest side of San Antonio claimed one life as a boy was swept into a culvert. Thunderstorms in the north central U.S. produced an inch and a half of small hail at Monida Pass MT. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Three dozen cities, mostly in the eastern U.S., reported record low temperatures for the date, including Elkins, WV, with a reading of 33 degrees. Unseasonably hot weather continued in the Northern High Plains Region. The record high of 105 degeees at Williston, ND, was their seventh in eight days. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Thunderstorms produced severe weather through the day and night across much of the southern half of the Great Plains Region. Thunderstorms spawned 14 tornadoes, and there were 142 reports of large hail and damaging winds. Hail three inches in diameter caused three millions dollars damage at Carlsbad, NM. Hail four inches in diameter was reported at Estelline TX and Stinnett, TX. Thunderstorm winds gusted to 80 mph at Odessa TX. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1997: Flash Flooding occurred in many locations in Mississippi. Highway 80 and many other streets were flooded in and around Vicksburg. Water engulfed one person's car, but the person was rescued. This event caused \$300,000 in property damages. Over 6 inches of rain fell in Lexington in a little over 3 hours. The torrential rains caused Bear Creek to overflow and flood much of the town of Lexington. 45 businesses were affected by the flooding and 30 of these suffered major losses. As many as 300 homes had water damage. This event caused 10 million dollars in property damages. Portions of Jones County experienced flash flooding as 3 inches of rain fell in just 1.5 hours over saturated ground.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 23 of 92

Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

GIVE IT TO GOD!

A farmer was walking down a long, winding mountain road in Mexico carrying a heavy sack. Without realizing it, a man with a mule-drawn wagon was suddenly beside him and offered him a ride. He climbed on the back of the wagon and breathed a long sigh of relief.

After traveling for some time, the man driving the wagon turned around, and to his amazement, saw that the man was still holding his sack. "Why don't you drop it next to you?" asked the wagon driver.

"Oh, no," came the reply. "You are kind enough to carry me. You do not have to carry my load as well."

Many of us are like that farmer with the sack. God pleads with us to give Him our burdens. Yet, we needlessly and continuously carry them on our backs rather than setting them down at His feet. We say that we trust Him and talk of turning to Him in times of need, but we refuse to "let go and let God" do what He wants to do: completely take the weight from our shoulders and place it in His loving, caring hands.

If we can trust Him for our salvation, surely we can trust Him with every care or concern we have. Most assuredly, His strength will sustain us, always.

Prayer: Lord, help us to be willing to believe that You are able to relieve us of life's burdens if we truly trust You. In the words of Your disciple, "Help our unbelief!" In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Give your burdens to the LORD, and he will take care of you. He will not permit the godly to slip and fall. Psalm 55:22



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

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 24 of 92

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

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 25 of 92

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

- Black & White \$48.99/year
- Colored \$79.88/year
- Colored \$42.60/6 months
- E-Weekly* \$31.95/year

* The E-Weekly is a PDF file emailed to you each week. It does not grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Daily Independent

www.397news.com

Subscription Form

This option will grant you access to the GDI/Video Archives.

- 1 Month \$15.98
- 3 Months..... \$26.63
- 6 Months..... \$31.95
- 9 Months..... \$42.60
- 12 Months..... \$53.25

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

The following will be used for your log-in information.

E-mail _____

Password _____

Pay with Paypal. Type the following into your browser window:

paypal.me/paperpaul



Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 26 of 92



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.09.23

3 19 53 60 68 13

MegaPlier: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$260,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.07.23

9 12 21 22 26 9

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$3,700,000

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 43 Mins
39 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.09.23

3 15 17 21 35 15

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 13 Mins 39
Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.07.23

1 19 20 22 24

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$90,000

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 43 Mins
39 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.07.23

29 44 55 62 66 7

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 42 Mins
39 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
06.07.23

16 21 29 53 66 2

Power Play: 5x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$308,000,000

NEXT DRAW: 14 Hrs 42 Mins
39 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

Montana gas power plant can resume construction, judge rules

By MATTHEW BROWN Associated Press

BILLINGS, Mont. (AP) — NorthWestern Energy will resume construction of a natural gas power plant along Montana's Yellowstone River following a two-month delay, a company spokesperson said Friday, after a state judge revived a pollution permit for the project despite lingering concerns over its planet-warming emissions.

Work on the \$250 million plant near the town of Laurel was largely halted in April when Judge Michael Moses cancelled its permit and said officials had failed to adequately consider the 23 million tons of greenhouse gases it would emit over several decades.

But Moses reversed his earlier order late Thursday while an appeal from NorthWestern is pending before the Montana Supreme Court. The judge cited a "changing legal landscape" that includes a new state law that eliminated a requirement for state officials to look at climate impacts from emissions.

Anne Hedges with the Montana Environmental Information Center said the group was considering its next steps.

Many utilities across the U.S. have replaced coal power with less-polluting natural gas plants in recent years. But the industry remains under pressure to abandon fossil fuels altogether as climate change worsens.

The Montana plant would produce up to 175 megawatts of electricity. Its air permit was challenged in a 2021 lawsuit from the Montana Environmental Information Center and the Sierra Club.

Moses said restoring the permit could also help avoid future cost increases to customers of Sioux Falls, South Dakota-based NorthWestern, which had warned that the construction delay would drive up the project's price.

A spokesperson for the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, Rebecca Harbage, said the agency was pleased the judge recognized his earlier ruling's potential negative impacts on customers.

Steve Krum, a Laurel resident who's opposed to the plant, said he wasn't surprised by the judge's ruling after Montana legislators excluded climate change from permitting decisions.

Lawmakers are "looking out for NorthWestern Energy," Krum said. "They are giving them what they want."

A legal challenge by plant opponents is still pending, he said, regarding the decision to build the plant close to town.

"Why would they put a major source of hazardous air pollution right in a populated area?" Krum asked.

The plant is expected to begin serving customers sometime next year, said Jo Dee Black, a spokesperson for NorthWestern.

"We need that additional capacity in Montana, dedicated to serving our Montana customers, for both reliability and affordability," said Black, adding that the plant would ensure enough electricity is available at times of high demand, such as on hot days or cold nights.

To prevent the worst of climate change's future harms, including even more extreme weather, the head of the United Nations recently called for rich countries to quit coal, oil and gas by 2040.

Intense fighting reported in Ukraine as last nuclear reactor is shut down amid flooding

By JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukraine's military reported intense fighting with Russian forces on Saturday, while the country's nuclear energy agency said it put the last operating reactor at Europe's largest nuclear power plant into a "cold shutdown" for safety as Russia's war on Ukraine drags on through its 16th month.

After Russian forces pummeled Ukraine with missiles and drones overnight resulting in deaths and damage to a military airfield, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau arrived in Kyiv Saturday for an previ-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 28 of 92

ously unannounced visit, his second trip to Ukraine since Russia's invasion in February last year. He was accompanied by Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland.

Ukraine's General Staff said Saturday that "heavy battles" were ongoing, with 34 clashes over the previous day in the country's industrial east. It gave no details but said Russian forces were "defending themselves" and launching air and artillery strikes in Ukraine's southern Kherson and Zaporizhzhia regions.

A day earlier, Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed his view that Ukrainian troops have started a long-expected counteroffensive and were suffering "significant" losses.

At the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, Europe's largest, which is occupied by Russian forces, five out of six reactors were already in a state of cold shutdown, That's a process in which all control rods are inserted into the reactor core to stop the nuclear fission reaction and generation of heat and pressure.

Energoatom, the Ukrainian nuclear agency, said in a statement late Friday that there was "no direct threat" to the Zaporizhzhia plant due to the breach of the Kakhovka dam further down the Dnieper River, which has forced thousands of people to flee flooding and also sharply reduced water levels in a reservoir used to help cool the facility.

Energoatom said it shut down the final reactor due to that, and also because of shelling near the site that has damaged overhead lines connecting the plant to Ukraine's energy system.

With all nuclear reactions stopped, temperatures and pressure inside reactors gradually decline, reducing the required intensity of water cooling of the radioactive fuel. This is a nuclear power plant's safest operating mode. Energoatom employees are still working at the power plant, although it remains controlled by the Russians.

The site's power units have not been operating since September last year. The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency is due to visit Ukraine in the coming days.

Also on Saturday morning, Ukrainian authorities reported that at least four civilians have died across the country as Russian forces launched Iranian-made Shahed drones, missiles, and artillery and mortar strikes.

Ukraine's State Emergency Service reported that three people were killed and more than two dozen wounded overnight in an attack targeting the Black Sea port of Odesa. A spokesperson for Ukraine's southern operational command, Natalia Humeniuk, said two children and a pregnant woman were among those wounded.

In Ukraine's northeast, a 29-year-old man was killed as more than 10 drones targeted the Kharkiv region, its governor, Oleh Syniehubov, reported Saturday. He added that at least three other civilians were wounded.

In the Poltava region further west, there was damage to a military airfield struck overnight during a Russian drone and missile attack, local Gov. Dmytro Lunin reported. Lunin said no one was hurt. As of Saturday morning, there was no additional comment from the Ukrainian army or officials on the extent of the damage.

The Ukrainian air force said that during the night, it had shot down 20 out of 35 Shahed drones and two out of eight missiles "of various types" launched by Russian forces.

The fighting and civilian casualties took renewed attention as authorities in southern Ukraine said water levels have been declining in a vast area beneath the ruptured dam.

Nearly one-third of protected natural areas in the Kherson region could be obliterated by flooding following the breach of the Kakhovka dam, the Ukrainian environment minister warned Saturday.

In a Facebook post, Ruslan Strilets said that the dam's collapse left one national park completely submerged, drained rivers and lakes in other protected areas, and could lead to groundwater rising in parts of the Dnieper delta occupied by Moscow, creating the risk of further flooding.

In the city of Kherson, whose outskirts were among the flood-hit areas, the average water level decreased by 31 centimeters (12 inches) during the night, but remained over 4.5 meters (15 feet) higher than usual, regional Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin reported Saturday.

Prokudin warned that meteorologists predicted heavy rainfall in the area over the weekend, complicating rescue efforts.

The U.N.'s humanitarian aid chief, Martin Griffiths, said in an Associated Press interview Friday that an "extraordinary" 700,000 people were in need of drinking water.

In other developments:

On Saturday, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz says he wants to continue speaking with Putin — whose order for Russia's invasion of Ukraine has been criticized by many Western leaders — and plans to do so again "soon." Scholz has spoken several times by phone with Putin since the invasion.

The chancellor said the basis for a "fair peace" between Russia and Ukraine is the withdrawal of Russian troops. "That's needs to be understood," he said.

Jon Gambrell in Kyiv, Joanna Kozłowska in London and Frank Jordans in Berlin contributed to this story.

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

Your garden doesn't like the wildfires, either. Here's how to help plants handle smoke and ash

By JESSICA DAMIANO Associated Press

Smoke from hundreds of wildfires burning in Canada drove down air quality across swaths of the Eastern U.S. this week, a problem all too familiar in many Western states. In the New York City suburbs where I live, the air became smoggy and orange, categorized for a time by monitoring agencies as "hazardous."

During the worst of it, I wore a mask inside my house and kept my dog mostly indoors.

But my plants stood in the garden with no choice but to breathe the toxic air through the tiny pores in their leaves.

If your area is heavily affected by smoke or ash, the first priorities should, of course, be human, home and pet safety. But after securing those, you might find your plants need a little help, too.

"When they're exposed to smoke particles for a short amount of time, plants will bounce back, but a heavy amount of smoke is different than a passing event," according to Oregon State University Extension community horticulturist Brooke Edmunds, who also is a plant pathologist.

"It depends on how close you are," she said. "There also could be a localized effect, where one garden is covered in ash, and a half-mile away, there's nothing because that's the way the wind was moving things around."

Pollutants and small particulate matter landing on your plants can block sunlight, which is essential for photosynthesis. Reduced photosynthesis translates to reduced energy, and weaker plants will display slow growth and diminished vigor.

Additionally, with prolonged exposure, volatile organic compounds found in smoke can affect leaves and other plant parts and disrupt the ability of plants to take up nutrients. The damage, if any, won't be noticeable right away.

The best thing home gardeners can do is "keep an eye on plants for the rest of the summer and give them TLC because these events can add to the general stress of plants," Edmunds advised, adding that "most will pull through."

Wash smoke residue off plants with a gentle spray from a hose, then give them a long, slow drink to help rehydrate them. Don't fertilize until the air clears and plants fully recover.

If there are ashes, Edmunds cautions against using a leaf blower to remove them, which would raise the risk of inhalation.

"Always protect yourself as the gardener," she said.

Ash deposits can affect soil chemistry, raising pH levels and diminishing the availability of nutrients to some plants, particularly those requiring acidic growing conditions. If you find more than a dusting of ashes in your garden after a wildfire, bring a soil sample to your local extension service for testing and advice.

And if you live in a region prone to wildfires, plant less-vulnerable species that will better withstand future exposures. Native plants tend to be more resilient than exotics. Your extension service, botanical garden or horticultural society can offer guidance for selecting appropriate plants for your area.

"A lot of times, people are concerned about edible plants, but smoke doesn't actually penetrate into

fruits or vegetables," Edmunds said. If there's a coating of ash on them, she advises washing them with a solution of 1 part vinegar and 9 parts water, or peeling them.

"It's really early in the season, though, so there won't likely be any issues," Edmunds said.

Got questions about spring gardening? Please send them to Jessica Damiano at jessica@jessicadamiano.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line. She'll answer selected questions in a future AP gardening column. Damiano writes regular gardening columns for the AP and publishes the award-winning Weekly Dirt Newsletter. You can sign up here for weekly gardening tips and advice.

For more AP gardening stories, go to <https://apnews.com/hub/gardening>.

4 children survived a plane crash and 40 days alone in the Amazon jungle. The youngest is a baby

By MANUEL RUEDA Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Four Indigenous children survived an Amazon plane crash that killed three adults and then wandered on their own in the jungle for 40 days before being found alive by Colombian soldiers.

The announcement of their rescue on Friday brought a happy ending to a saga that had captivated many Colombians, a watch with highs and lows as searchers frantically combed through the rainforest hunting for the youngsters.

President Gustavo Petro celebrated the news upon returning from Cuba, where he signed a cease-fire with representatives of the National Liberation Army rebel group. He said he hoped to talk with them Saturday, and officials said late Friday that the youngsters were being brought to Bogota to be checked at a hospital.

An air force video showed a helicopter using lines to pull the youngsters up because it couldn't land in the dense rainforest where they were found. The craft flew off in the fading light, the air force said it was going to San Jose del Guaviare, a small town on the edge of the jungle.

No details were released on how the four siblings aged 13, 9, 4 and 11 months managed to survive on their own for so long, though they belong to an Indigenous group that lives in the remote region.

Petro called them an "example of survival" and predicted their saga "will remain in history."

The military tweeted pictures showing a group of soldiers and volunteers posing with the children, who were wrapped in thermal blankets. One of the soldiers held a bottle to the smallest child's lips.

The crash happened in the early hours of May 1, when the Cessna single-engine propeller plane with six passengers and a pilot declared an emergency due to an engine failure.

The small aircraft fell off radar a short time later and a frantic search for survivors began. Two weeks after the crash, on May 16, a search team found the plane in a thick patch of the rainforest and recovered the bodies of the three adults on board, but the small children were nowhere to be found.

Sensing that they could be alive, Colombia's army stepped up the hunt and flew 150 soldiers with dogs into the area. Dozens of volunteers from Indigenous tribes also helped search.

During the search, in an area where visibility is greatly limited by mist and thick foliage, soldiers on helicopters dropped boxes of food into the jungle, hoping that it would help sustain the children. Planes flying over the jungle fired flares to help search crews on the ground at night, and rescuers used speakers that blasted a message recorded by the siblings' grandmother, telling them to stay in one place.

Rumors also emerged about the childrens' whereabouts and on May 18 the president tweeted that the children had been found. He then deleted the message, claiming he had been misinformed by a government agency.

The group of four children were travelling with their mother from the Amazonian village of Araracuara to San Jose del Guaviare when the plane crashed.

They are members of the Huitoto people, and officials said the oldest children in the group had some

knowledge of how to survive in the rainforest.

On Friday, after confirming the children had been rescued, the president said that for a while he had believed the children were rescued by one of the nomadic tribes that still roam the remote swath of the jungle where the plane fell and have little contact with authorities.

But Petro added that the children were first found by one of the rescue dogs that soldiers took into the jungle.

Officials did not say how far the children were from the crash site when they were found. But the teams had been searching within a 4.5-kilometer (nearly 3-mile) radius from the site where the small plane nosedived into the forest floor.

As the search progressed, soldiers found small clues in the jungle that led them to believe the children were still living, including a pair of footprints, a baby bottle, diapers and pieces of fruit that looked like it had been bitten by humans.

"The jungle saved them" Petro said. "They are children of the jungle, and now they are also children of Colombia."

Can a chatbot preach a good sermon? Hundreds attend experimental Lutheran church service to find out

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER Associated Press

FUERTH, Germany (AP) — The artificial intelligence chatbot asked the believers in the fully packed St. Paul's church in the Bavarian town of Fuerth to rise from the pews and praise the Lord.

The ChatGPT chatbot, personified by an avatar of a bearded Black man on a huge screen above the altar, then began preaching to the more than 300 people who had shown up on Friday morning for an experimental Lutheran church service almost entirely generated by AI.

"Dear friends, it is an honor for me to stand here and preach to you as the first artificial intelligence at this year's convention of Protestants in Germany," the avatar said with an expressionless face and monotonous voice.

The 40-minute service — including the sermon, prayers and music — was created by ChatGPT and Jonas Simmerlein, a theologian and philosopher from the University of Vienna.

"I conceived this service — but actually I rather accompanied it, because I would say about 98% comes from the machine," the 29-year-old scholar told The Associated Press.

The AI church service was one of hundreds of events at the convention of Protestants in the Bavarian towns of Nuremberg and the neighboring Fuerth, and it drew such immense interest that people formed a long queue outside the 19th-century, neo-Gothic building an hour before it began.

The convention itself — Deutscher Evangelischer Kirchentag in German — takes place every two years in the summer at a different place in Germany and draws tens of thousands of believers to pray, sing and discuss their faith. They also talk about current world affairs and look for solutions to key issues, which this year included global warming, the war in Ukraine — and artificial intelligence.

This year's gathering is taking place from Wednesday to Sunday under the motto "Now is the time." That slogan was one of the sentences Simmerlein fed ChatGPT when he asked the chatbot to develop the sermon.

"I told the artificial intelligence 'We are at the church congress, you are a preacher ... what would a church service look like?'" Simmerlein said. He also asked for psalms to be included, as well as prayers and a blessing at the end.

"You end up with a pretty solid church service," Simmerlein said, sounding almost surprised by the success of his experiment.

Indeed, the believers in the church listened attentively as the artificial intelligence preached about leaving the past behind, focusing on the challenges of the present, overcoming fear of death, and never losing trust in Jesus Christ.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 32 of 92

The entire service was “led” by four different avatars on the screen, two young women, and two young men.

At times, the AI-generated avatar inadvertently drew laughter as when it used platitudes and told the churchgoers with a deadpan expression that in order “to keep our faith, we must pray and go to church regularly.”

Some people enthusiastically videotaped the event with their cell phones, while others looked on more critically and refused to speak along loudly during The Lord’s Prayer.

Heiderose Schmidt, a 54-year-old who works in IT, said she was excited and curious when the service started but found it increasingly off-putting as it went along.

“There was no heart and no soul,” she said. “The avatars showed no emotions at all, had no body language and were talking so fast and monotonously that it was very hard for me to concentrate on what they said.”

“But maybe it is different for the younger generation who grew up with all of this,” Schmidt added.

Marc Jansen, a 31-year-old Lutheran pastor from Troisdorf near the western German city of Cologne, brought a group of teenagers from his congregation to St. Paul. He was more impressed by the experiment.

“I had actually imagined it to be worse. But I was positively surprised how well it worked. Also the language of the AI worked well, even though it was still a bit bumpy at times,” Jansen said.

What the young pastor missed, however, was any kind of emotion or spirituality, which he says is essential when he writes his own sermons.

Anna Puzio, 28, a researcher on the ethics of technology from the University of Twente in The Netherlands, also attended the service. She said she sees a lot of opportunities in the use of AI in religion — such as making religious services more easily available and inclusive for believers who for various reasons may not be able experience their faith in person with others in houses of worship.

However, she noted there are also dangers when it comes to the use of AI in religion.

“The challenge that I see is that AI is very human-like and that it’s easy to be deceived by it,” she said.

“Also, we don’t have only one Christian opinion, and that’s what AI has to represent as well,” she said.

“We have to be careful that it’s not misused for such purposes as to spread only one opinion.”

Simmerlein said it is not his intention to replace religious leaders with artificial intelligence. Rather, he sees the use of AI as a way to help them with their everyday work in their congregations.

Some pastors seek inspiration in literature, he says, so why not also ask AI for ideas regarding an upcoming sermon. Others would like to have more time for individual spiritual guidance of their parishioners, so why not speed up the process of writing the sermon with the help of a chatbot to make time for other important duties.

“Artificial intelligence will increasingly take over our lives, in all its facets,” Simmerlein said. “And that’s why it’s useful to learn to deal with it.”

However, the experimental church service also showed the limits to implementing artificial AI in church, or in religion. There was no real interaction between the believers and the chatbot, which wasn’t able to respond to the laughter or any other reactions by the churchgoers as a human pastor would have been able to do.

“The pastor is in the congregation, she lives with them, she buries the people, she knows them from the beginning,” Simmerlein said. “Artificial intelligence cannot do that. It does not know the congregation.”

Associated Press religion coverage receives support through the AP’s collaboration with The Conversation US, with funding from Lilly Endowment Inc. The AP is solely responsible for this content.

A timeline of events leading to Donald Trump's indictment in the classified documents case

By MICHAEL R. SISAK, JILL COLVIN and LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press

The 49-page federal indictment of former President Donald Trump lays out a stunning timeline of events, detailing allegations that he not only mishandled sensitive material, but also took steps to hide records and impede investigators.

Here are some key of the key events leading to the 37 criminal charges against Trump, according to the indictment:

Jan. 20, 2021: As Trump leaves the White House, he directs the movement of dozens of storage boxes to Mar-a-Lago, prosecutors say. The boxes, packed by Trump and his White House staff, contain newspaper clippings, letters, photos and other mementos from his time in office, but also hundreds of classified documents that, as a former president, he wasn't authorized to have.

Under the Presidential Records Act, presidential records are considered federal, not private property and must be turned over to the National Archives and Records Administration. Multiple federal laws govern the handling of classified and sensitive documents, including statutes making it a crime to remove such material and keep it at an unauthorized location.

After Jan. 20, 2021: Some boxes brought from the White House are stored on a stage in one of Mar-a-Lago's gilded ballrooms. A photo in the indictment shows boxes stacked on a stage.

March 15, 2021: Boxes are moved from the ballroom to the business center at Mar-a-Lago.

April 2021: Some boxes are moved into a bathroom and shower. A photo included in the indictment shows them stacked next to a toilet, a vanity and a trash can.

May 2021: Trump directs employees to clean out a storage room in a highly accessible area on Mar-a-Lago's ground floor so it can be used to store his boxes, the indictment says. Trump also directs that some boxes be brought to his Bedminster, New Jersey, summer residence.

On or about May 6, 2021: Realizing that some documents from Trump's presidency may be missing, the National Archives asks that he turn over any presidential records he may have kept upon leaving the White House. The agency makes subsequent, repeated demands.

June 2021: The National Archives warns Trump through his representatives that it will refer the matter to the Justice Department if he does not comply.

June 24, 2021: Boxes are moved to the storage room. More than 80 boxes are kept there.

July 21, 2021: Trump allegedly shows a military "plan of attack" that he says is "highly confidential" to a writer interviewing him at his Bedminster property. Trump remarks, "as president I could have declassified it. ... Now I can't, you know, but this is still a secret," according to the indictment, citing a recording of the interview.

August or September 2021: Trump allegedly shows a classified map relating to a foreign military operation to a representative of his political action committee at his Bedminster golf course, the indictment says. Trump tells the person that he shouldn't be showing anyone the map and that the person shouldn't get too close.

November 2021: Trump directs his executive assistant and "body man" Walt Nauta and another employee to start moving boxes from a storage room to his residence for him to review. Nauta is charged in the indictment as Trump's co-conspirator.

Dec. 7, 2021: Nauta finds that several of Trump's boxes have fallen, spilling papers onto the storage room floor, the indictment says. Among them is a document with a "SECRET" intelligence marking. According to the indictment, Nauta texts another Trump employee, "I opened the door and found this," to which the other employee replies, "Oh no oh no."

Late December 2021: The National Archives continues to demand that Trump turn over missing records from his presidency. In late December 2021, a Trump representative tells the agency that 12 boxes of records have been found and are ready to be retrieved.

January 17, 2022: Trump turns over 15 boxes to the National Archives. According to the indictment,

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 34 of 92

Nauta and another Trump employee load them into Nauta's car and take them to a commercial truck for delivery to the agency.

The boxes are found to contain 197 documents with classified markings, including 69 marked confidential, 98 secret and 30 top secret. Some documents have markings suggesting they include information from highly sensitive human sources or the collection of electronic "signals" authorized by a court under the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

Feb. 9, 2022: The National Archives refers the matter to the Justice Department after a preliminary review finds the boxes contain numerous classified documents. The special agent in charge of the agency's Office of the Inspector General writes, "Of most significant concern was that highly classified records were unfolded, intermixed with other records" and otherwise improperly identified.

Feb. 10, 2022: Trump's Save America PAC releases a statement insisting the return of the documents had been "routine" and "no big deal." Trump insists the "papers were given easily and without conflict and on a very friendly basis," and adds, "It was a great honor to work with" the National Archives "to help formally preserve the Trump Legacy."

Feb. 18, 2022: In a letter to a congressional oversight committee, the National Archives reveals the boxes contained classified information and confirms the Justice Department referral. Trump's Save America PAC releases another statement insisting, "The National Archives did not 'find' anything," but "were given, upon request, Presidential Records in an ordinary and routine process to ensure the preservation of my legacy and in accordance with the Presidential Records Act."

March 30, 2022: The FBI opens its investigation.

April 12, 2022: The National Archives informs Trump that, at the Justice Department's request, it intends to provide the FBI with the 15 boxes he turned over on Jan. 17, 2022. Trump's representative asks for an extension until April 29.

April 26, 2022: The grand jury investigation begins.

April 29, 2022: The Justice Department asks Trump's lawyers for immediate access to the 15 boxes, citing national security interests and the need for "an assessment of the potential damage resulting from the apparent manner in which these materials were stored and transported." Trump's lawyers again ask for an extension, saying they need to review the material to "ascertain whether any specific document is subject to privilege."

May 10, 2022: The National Archives informs Trump's lawyers that it will provide the FBI access to the boxes as soon as May 12.

May 11, 2022: A grand jury issues a subpoena to Trump and his office requiring that they turn over all classified materials in their possession.

May 23, 2022: Trump's lawyers advise him to comply with the subpoena, but Trump balks, telling them, "I don't want anybody looking through my boxes." Prosecutors, citing notes from one of the lawyers, say Trump wondered aloud about dodging the subpoena, asking his counsel, "Wouldn't it be better if we just told them we don't have anything here?" and "isn't it better if there are no documents?"

May 26, 2022: Nauta is interviewed by the FBI and, according to prosecutors, repeatedly lies about his knowledge of the movement of boxes at Mar-a-Lago. Nauta claims he wasn't aware of boxes being brought to Trump's residence for his review and says he didn't know how boxes turned over to the National Archives got to Trump's residence.

Nauta also lies when asked whether he knew where Trump's boxes were stored before they went to his residence and whether they'd been in a secured or locked location, prosecutors say. His reply, according to the indictment: "I wish, I wish I could tell you. I don't know. I don't — I honestly just don't know."

June 2, 2022: One of Trump's lawyers returns to Mar-a-Lago to search boxes in the storage room and finds 38 additional classified documents — five documents marked confidential, 16 marked secret and 17 marked top secret. After the search, prosecutors say, Trump asks: "Did you find anything? ... Is it bad? Good?" and makes a plucking motion that the lawyer takes to mean that he should take out anything "really bad" before turning over the papers.

Prior to the search, prosecutors say, Trump had Nauta move 64 boxes from the storage room to his

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 35 of 92

residence. Of those, 30 were moved back to the storage room, leaving 34 boxes in Trump's residence and out of the lawyer's sight.

June 3, 2022: FBI agents and a Justice Department lawyer visit Mar-a-Lago to collect the 38 classified documents from Trump's lawyer. They are in a single accordion folder, double-wrapped in tape. While there, investigators are allowed to go to the storage room, but are "explicitly prohibited" from looking inside boxes, "giving no opportunity" for them "to confirm that no documents with classification markings remained," according to a court filing.

Trump tells investigations he's "an open book," according to the indictment. Another Trump lawyer, acting as his custodian of records, provides investigators a sworn certification that prosecutors say falsely claimed they had conducted a "diligent search" of boxes moved from the White House and "any and all responsive documents" were turned over.

Earlier in the day, prosecutors say, some boxes were loaded onto a plane so Trump could take them to Bedminster for the summer.

June 8, 2022: The Justice Department sends Trump's lawyer a letter asking that the storage room be secured, and that "all of the boxes that were moved from the White House to Mar-a-Lago (along with any other items in that room) be preserved in that room in their current condition until farther notice."

July 2022: The grand jury is shown surveillance video of boxes being moved at Mar-a-Lago.

Aug. 5, 2022: The Justice Department applies for a warrant to search Mar-a-Lago, citing "probable cause" that additional presidential records and classified documents were being stored there. U.S. Magistrate Judge Bruce Reinhart approves the application the same day.

Aug. 8 2022: The FBI searches Mar-a-Lago, seizing 102 classified documents — 75 in the storage room and 27 in Trump's office, including three found in office desks.

The Justice Department says in a subsequent court filing that the results call "into serious question" earlier representations by Trump's legal team that they had conducted a "diligent search" and that no classified documents remained.

Aug. 12, 2022: Reinhart makes public the warrant authorizing the Mar-a-Lago search. The document reveals that federal agents are investigating potential violations of three federal laws, including the Espionage Act.

Aug. 26, 2022: A highly redacted version of the affidavit laying out the FBI's rationale for searching Mar-a-Lago is made public.

Aug. 30, 2022: After Trump's lawyers request a special master to review the documents for possible executive privilege, the Justice Department responds with a filing that reveals new details about the investigation and a photo of seized documents with marking like "TOP SECRET//SCI" splayed out on a Mar-a-Lago carpet.

June 8, 2023: A grand jury in Miami indicts Trump and Nauta. Trump announces the indictment on his Truth Social platform, calling it "a DARK DAY for the United States of America." In a video post, he says, "I'm innocent and we will prove that very, very soundly and hopefully very quickly."

June 9, 2023: The indictment is made public. It shows that Trump is charged with 37 felony counts, including conspiracy to obstruct justice, corruptly concealing a document or record and willful retention of national defense information. Nauta is charged with six counts, including conspiracy to obstruct justice.

Special counsel Jack Smith, who brought the case, makes a brief public statement at his office in Washington, saying: "Our laws that protect national defense information are critical to the safety and security of the United States and they must be enforced. Violations of those laws put our country at risk."

June 13, 2023: Trump is scheduled to make an initial court appearance at 3 p.m. Tuesday at the federal courthouse in Miami.

More on Donald Trump-related investigations: <https://apnews.com/hub/donald-trump>

Blue Jays cut pitcher Anthony Bass after latest anti-LGBTQ+ comments

TORONTO (AP) — The Toronto Blue Jays cut pitcher Anthony Bass on Friday, one day after the right-handed reliever said he didn't think an anti-LGBTQ+ social media post he shared last month was hateful. The team now has seven days to trade Bass or put him on waivers.

The move came hours before Bass was set to catch a ceremonial first pitch from Toronto LGBTQ+ activist leZlie Lee Kam before Friday's game against Minnesota as the Blue Jays begin their fourth annual Pride Weekend celebration.

The Blue Jays said pitcher Kevin Gausman would catch the first pitch instead of Bass.

Bass apologized before a May 30 game against Milwaukee, one day after sharing a post on his Instagram calling for boycotts of Target and Bud Light over support they showed for the LGBTQ+ community. Both companies are dealing with fallout from those campaigns, which have included hostile and homophobic criticisms and calls from LGBTQ+ activists not to cave to the pressure.

Bass, who was booed by Toronto fans in his two home appearances since the apology, spoke to a group of media before Thursday's win over Houston, saying he stood by his "personal beliefs."

He also said he is "working hard" to educate himself, including meeting with the executive director of activist group Pride Toronto.

Before Friday's game, Blue Jays general manager Ross Atkins said the decision to cut Bass was primarily motivated by performance and not by the pitcher's off-the-field circumstances.

"There's a myriad of variables," Atkins said. "Performance is usually the driving one and performance was a large aspect of this decision. Distraction was a small part of it and something we had to factor in."

Atkins refused to say whether Bass would still be on the team if his performance had been better.

"We're trying to build the best possible team we can build," Atkins said. "This was a baseball decision to make our team better."

Atkins also said it was not "a realistic option" for Bass to land in Toronto's minor league system.

"We won't stand in his way to be with another organization," Atkins said.

Bass, 35, is a 12-year veteran who has also played in Japan. He was 0-0 with a 4.95 ERA in 22 games. To replace Bass, Toronto activated right-hander Mitch White (right elbow) from the 60-day injured list.

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

As Biden visits renamed N.C. military base, DeSantis slams 'political correctness run amok'

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

FORT LIBERTY, N.C. (AP) — President Joe Biden traveled to the recently renamed Fort Liberty in North Carolina on Friday to sign an executive order that aims to bolster job opportunities for military and veteran spouses whose careers are often disrupted by their loved ones' deployments.

Less than 100 miles away at the state's Republican Party convention, GOP presidential contender, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, vowed to restore the former name of the base that until last week was called Fort Bragg in honor of a Confederate general, if voters elect him president.

"It's an iconic name and iconic base, and we're not gonna let political correctness run amok in North Carolina," DeSantis said at the convention in Greensboro hours after Biden's speech and signing ceremony at Fort Liberty.

The installation's former name honors Gen. Braxton Bragg, a North Carolinian, who was known for owning slaves and losing key Civil War battles that contributed to the Confederacy's downfall. Biden made no mention in his remarks before hundreds of soldiers and their spouses about the renaming of the base which was formally done by military officials last week.

The renaming of the base was part of a broader effort by the U.S. military to confront racial injustice in

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 37 of 92

the aftermath of the May 2020 police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis. An independent commission last year recommended new names for Bragg and eight other Army posts that commemorate Confederate officers.

The installation is the largest U.S. Army base by population, with roughly 47,000 active-duty soldiers. The recent renaming didn't play a role in selecting the base to serve as a backdrop for Biden to announce his executive order, according to an administration official who was not authorized to comment and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

The Biden campaign did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

In addition to DeSantis, former Vice President Mike Pence and former President Donald Trump, the current GOP front-runner, are scheduled to address delegates on Saturday at the state convention in Greensboro. Trump, who has been indicted on charges of mishandling classified documents at his Florida estate, is also slated to speak on Saturday to the Georgia Republican Party's convention.

The order Biden signed on Friday directs agencies to develop a federal government-wide strategic plan on hiring and job retention for military spouses; bolster child care options; improve the collection of data on military and veteran spouses, caregivers and survivors in the federal workforce; and more than a dozen additional actions.

In remarks shortly before signing the order, Biden noted that the U.S. next month will mark 50 years of the all-volunteer force, which the president proclaimed the "greatest fighting force in the history of the world, bar none."

"The reason we've been able to sustain that force year after year, decade after decade, is because military spouses, caregivers and survivors have answered the call as well," Biden said. "You have your loved ones' backs, just like they have the country's back."

Biden was accompanied by first lady Jill Biden, whose "Joining Forces" initiative focuses on aiding military families. She said that while the new executive order is a step forward, employers must also do their part by hiring military spouses and offering their families support.

"Spouses bring experience and adaptability that really can't be taught," Jill Biden said. "And when they get the opportunities that they deserve, our service members can do their duty knowing that those they love most are able to thrive"

The order was largely framed by conversations through the first lady's initiative, which looks to support families, caregivers and survivors of members of the U.S. military, Jill Biden said on a call with reporters previewing the order.

With nearly one in five military families citing challenges with spousal employment as a reason for considering leaving active-duty service, the issue is no small matter for the military's recruitment and training efforts, according to the White House. More than 16,000 military spouses work within the federal government.

"We're asking agencies to make it easier for spouses employed by the federal government to take administrative leave, telework and move offices," the first lady said. "We're creating resources to support entrepreneurs. And the executive order helps agencies and companies retain military spouses through telework or when they move abroad."

Before their visit to Fort Liberty, the Bidens took a tour and met with students at Nash Community College in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. The school is part of a coalition that received \$23.7 million to train students for clean energy jobs from Biden's \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package.

Biden said the job training effort is part of a strategy to "make us once again the most competitive nation in the world."

Associated Press writer Meg Kinnard in Greensboro, N.C., and Seung Min Kim in Washington contributed to this report.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 38 of 92

\$750 a month.”

Village Property Management did not return requests for comment.

City officials had known about crumbling bricks and bulging walls at The Davenport since at least 2021 and threatened to close some units unless owner Andrew Wold made repairs, but documents show the owner initially appeared to take no action.

In February 2023, utility MidAmerican Energy also told the city about deteriorating brick on the building's west wall and said its workers would stay away from the site until dangerous conditions were fixed.

Soon after, Wold hired Select Structural Engineering to make an emergency inspection and recommend needed work. In a report dated Feb. 8, Engineer David Valliere noted an area of brick “cracked and crumbling” that needed repairs but determined it was not an “imminent threat to the building or its residents.”

In a report later in February, Valliere described “a large void space” where brick had collapsed within the wall, putting pressure on the façade. “This will soon cause a large panel of façade to also collapse, creating a safety problem and potentially destabilizing the upper areas of brick façade,” the report states.

And in a report dated May 24, four days before the collapse, Valliere referred to several problems, including large patches of bricks that “appear ready to fall imminently, which may create a safety hazard to cars or passersby.” The engineer recommended techniques to stabilize the building with a steel column and other supports, but the report's tone wasn't overly alarming.

The company on Thursday said it had no comment. Robert Lampe, executive director of Iowa's engineering licensing board, also declined to comment about the company or the engineer's involvement, pointing to the state's regulation that all complaint or investigative files related to licensee discipline are privileged and confidential.

In the days before the collapse, no one seemed more concerned than Ryan Shaffer, a masonry company co-owner who said the building owner asked him for a quote on the building.

Shaffer said Wold rejected the quote as too costly, in part because Shaffer had estimated the need to spend about \$50,000 on shoring and supporting the building. Without those protections, Shaffer told the Quad-City Times, he wouldn't let his workers on the site.

Shaffer was left shaken by what he saw and said that on Friday, only two days before the collapse, he told workers at the building, “Get away. You're going to die.”

Shaffer didn't return a message left by The Associated Press.

That comment about the potentially dangerous structure filtered up the next day to Tony Behncke, operations director for the Downtown Davenport Partnership, part of the Chamber of Commerce focused on the downtown's appearance. Behncke received a call Saturday, the day before the collapse, from a worker cleaning up trash in an alley beside the building who said Shaffer had warned him about the danger.

Behncke called 911 and passed along the concern to a dispatcher, prompting a visit by firefighters that lasted only minutes and didn't result in any action. City officials didn't respond to messages seeking details about the firefighters' trip to the building.

“It's very strange and sad that it happened at all,” Behncke told the AP. “It's a very sad situation and I feel horrible about it.”

Days after the collapse, Rich Oswald, the city's director of development and neighborhood services, confirmed the city's chief building official, Trishna Pradhan, resigned. Oswald didn't accuse Pradhan of any culpability in the collapse but said her decision followed an administrative error that wrongly categorized an inspection of the building.

Oswald said Pradhan resigned because of the “magnitude of the situation and the error that was made.”

Pradhan didn't respond to calls and text messages to a listed number.

Reporters have repeatedly asked city officials why they didn't demand that tenants leave The Davenport or at least warn them of concerns. They have expressed their sorrow for victims and promised to examine their inspection process, but they also have repeated that a certified engineer vouched that the building was safe, so the city had no reason to think it wasn't.

“That's their professional career to make those decisions,” Oswald said. “So, an engineer's report, stamped

by that engineer is a qualified report. They have state licensing. That's their job."

Less than 48 hours after the partial collapse, the city fined Wold \$300 for failing to maintain his building in a sound, sanitary or safe condition. Wold declined to appear in court Friday to enter a plea and the judge denied lawyers appearing on his behalf, according to court documents. He will not appear at a rescheduled hearing either, his lawyers say in a court document, and will accept a judgement against him entered by default.

Hollingsworth reported from Mission, Kansas.

Trump set for first public appearances since federal indictment, speaking in Georgia, North Carolina

By BILL BARROW Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Former President Donald Trump will make his first public appearances since his federal indictment, speaking on Saturday to friendly Republican audiences in Georgia and North Carolina as he seeks to rally supporters to his defense.

Trump, who remains the front-runner for the 2024 GOP nomination despite his mounting legal woes, is expected to use his scheduled speeches at state party conventions in the two states to deliver a full-throated rebuke of the charges and amplify his assertions that he is the victim of a politically motivated "witch hunt" by Democratic President Joe Biden's Justice Department.

His appearances will come a day after the unsealing of an indictment charging him with 37 felony counts in connection with his hoarding of classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago estate. The indictment accuses the former president of willfully defying Justice Department demands to return classified documents, enlisting aides in his efforts to hide the records and even telling his lawyers that he wanted to defy a subpoena for the materials stored at his estate. The indictment includes allegations that he stored documents in a ballroom and bathroom at his resort, among other places.

The most serious charges against him carry potential prison sentences of up to 20 years each, but first-time offenders rarely get anywhere near the maximum sentence and the decision would ultimately be up to the judge.

For all that, Trump can expect a hero's welcome this weekend as he rallies his fiercest partisans and seeks to cement his status as Republicans' leading 2024 presidential candidate.

"Trump is a fighter, and the kinds of people that attend these conventions love a fighter," said Jack Kingston, a former Georgia congressman who supported Trump in 2016 and 2020.

With former Vice President Mike Pence also slated to address North Carolina Republicans, Saturday will be the first time the former running mates have appeared at the same venue since Pence announced his campaign against his old boss.

For his part, Trump has insisted he committed no wrongdoing, saying, "There was no crime, except for what the DOJ and FBI have been doing against me for years."

The indictment arrives at a time when Trump is continuing to dominate the Republican presidential primary. Other GOP candidates have largely attacked the Justice Department — rather than Trump — for the investigation, although the indictment's breadth of allegations and scope could make it harder for Republicans to rail against than an earlier New York criminal case that many legal analysts had derided as weak.

A Trump campaign official described the former president's mood as "defiant" Friday ahead of his trip. But aides were notably more reserved after the indictment's unsealing as they reckoned with the gravity of the legal charges and the threat they pose to Trump beyond the potential short-term political gain.

The federal charging document alleges that Trump not only intentionally possessed classified documents but also boastfully showed them off to visitors and aides. The indictment is built on Trump's own words and actions as recounted to prosecutors by lawyers, close aides and other witnesses, including his professing to respect and know procedures related to the handling of classified information.

The indictment includes 37 counts — 31 of which pertain to the willful retention of national defense in-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 40 of 92

formation, with the balance relating to alleged conspiracy, obstruction and false statements — that, taken together, could result in a yearslong prison sentence.

Trump is due to make his first federal court appearance Tuesday in Miami. He was charged alongside Walt Nauta, a personal aide whom prosecutors say moved boxes from a storage room to Trump's residence for him to review and later lied to investigators about the movement. A photograph included in the indictment shows several dozen file boxes stacked in a storage area.

The case adds to deepening legal jeopardy for Trump, who has already been indicted in New York in a hush money scheme and faces additional investigations in Washington and Atlanta that also could lead to criminal charges. But among the various investigations he has faced, the Mar-a-Lago probe has long been considered the most perilous threat and the one most ripe for prosecution. Campaign aides had been bracing for the fallout since Trump's attorneys were notified that he was the target of the investigation, assuming it was not a matter of if charges would be brought, but when.

Trump's continued popularity among Republican voters is evident in how gingerly his primary rivals have treated the federal indictment, which comes less than three months after he was charged in New York in a hush-money scheme stemming from payouts made to a porn actor during his 2016 campaign.

Pence, campaigning in New Hampshire on Friday, said he was "deeply troubled" that Trump had been federally indicted because he believes it will further divide the nation.

Pence urged his audience to pray for Trump, his family and all Americans, and promised to uphold the rule of law and "clean house at the highest level" of the Department of Justice, if elected.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, Trump's leading GOP rival, unabashedly echoed the former president, decrying the "weaponization of federal law enforcement" and "an uneven application of the law." Without offering any specific allegation, DeSantis took aim at two favorite Republican targets — Hillary Clinton and Biden's son, Hunter — and suggested they have escaped federal accountability because of such "political bias."

During his own remarks at the North Carolina GOP convention on Friday night, DeSantis didn't mention Trump by name but again made the comparison to Clinton.

"Is there a different standard for a Democratic secretary of state versus a former Republican president?" DeSantis asked. "I think there needs to be one standard of justice in this country. ... At the end of the day, we will once and for all end the weaponization of government under my administration."

Among the declared Republican contenders, only Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson had explicitly called for Trump to end his comeback bid.

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin, Meg Kinnard and Hannah Schoenbaum in Greensboro, N.C.; Eric Tucker in Washington; Thomas Beaumont in Marshalltown, Iowa; and Holly Ramer in Derry, N.H., contributed to this report.

Trump's GOP defenders in Congress leap into action on charges after months of preparation

By MARY CLARE JALONICK and FARNOUSH AMIRI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former President Donald Trump's indictment on charges of mishandling classified documents is set to play out in a federal court in Florida. But hundred of miles away, part of Trump's defense is well underway in a different venue — the halls of Congress, where Republicans have been preparing for months to wage an aggressive counter-offensive against the Justice Department.

The federal indictment against Trump, unsealed Friday, includes 37 counts, including allegations that the former president intentionally possessed classified documents, showed them off to visitors, willfully defied Justice Department demands to return them and made false statements to federal authorities about them. The evidence details Trump's own words and actions as recounted by lawyers, close aides and other witnesses.

The Republican campaign to discredit federal prosecutors skims over the substance of those charges,

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 41 of 92

which were brought by a grand jury in Florida. GOP lawmakers are instead working, as they have for several years, to foster a broader argument that law enforcement — and President Joe Biden — are conspiring against the former president and possible Republican nominee for president in 2024.

"Today is indeed a dark day for the United States of America," tweeted House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, soon after Trump said on his social media platform Thursday night that an indictment was coming. McCarthy blamed Biden, who has declined to comment on the case and said he is not at all involved in the Justice Department's decisions.

McCarthy called it a "grave injustice" and said that House Republicans "will hold this brazen weaponization of power accountable."

Republican lawmakers in the House have already laid extensive groundwork for the effort to defend Trump since taking the majority in January. A near constant string of hearings featuring former FBI agents, Twitter executives and federal officials have sought to paint the narrative of a corrupt government using its powers against Trump and the right. A GOP-led House subcommittee on the "weaponization" of government is probing the Justice Department and other government agencies, while at the same time Republicans are investigating Biden's son Hunter Biden.

"It's a sad day for America," Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan of Ohio, a leading Trump defender and ally in the House, said in a statement on Thursday evening. "God bless President Trump."

Arizona Rep. Andy Biggs was more strident. "We have now reached a war phase," he tweeted. "Eye for an eye."

Democrats say the Republicans are trafficking in conspiracy theories, with potentially dangerous consequences. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, both Democrats from New York, issued a joint statement Friday urging calm around the Trump case, saying everyone should "let this case proceed peacefully in court."

Recent Republican rhetoric "not only undermines the Department of Justice but betrays the essential principle of justice that no one is above the commands of law, not even a former President or a self-proclaimed billionaire," said Rep. Jamie Raskin, the top Democrat on the House Oversight Committee.

Key elements of the GOP strategy are to discredit the prosecutors and investigate the investigators — a playbook that Republicans employed during Trump's presidency as his own Justice Department probed his connections to Russia, and also used in April when Trump was charged in a hush money investigation in New York.

In the days leading to the New York indictment, House Republicans laid out a full-on campaign against Alvin Bragg, the Democratic district attorney in Manhattan who brought the case against the former president.

Charging that the prosecution was "pure politics," Jordan held a field hearing near Bragg's New York offices to examine what they said were his "pro-crime, anti-victim" policies. Jordan is also the top Republican on the weaponization subcommittee.

As special counsel Jack Smith was preparing this week to release the indictment, Trump's allies on Capitol Hill were working overtime to prepare the defense of the former president. Jordan issued a series of letters to the Justice Department, demanding documents related to his investigation into Trump's handling of classified records. Jordan cited the recent report by special counsel John Durham that found that the FBI rushed into its investigation of ties between Russia and Donald Trump's 2016 campaign and routinely ignored or rationalized evidence that undercut its premise.

In the June 1 letter to Attorney General Merrick Garland, Jordan requested information about the ongoing investigation in order to "ensure any ongoing investigations are not poisoned by this same politicization."

Just as the indictment was unsealed on Friday, Jordan sent another letter to Garland, this time laying out testimony from a former FBI official who testified to the committee about the raid at Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate. The Ohio Republican wrote that Steven D'Antuono, a former assistant director at the FBI's Washington Field Office, told the committee the Justice Department "was not following the same principles" as previous raids.

Defending Trump also has the potential to ease tensions among House Republicans as they face their

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 42 of 92

own troubles on Capitol Hill, after a conservative-led revolt over the recent debt ceiling deal divided the party this week and halted most legislation from passing on the floor.

But even if Republicans are able to shape public perception of the probes, there is one thing they cannot do — control the outcome of Trump’s trial. The former president is at great legal risk, no matter what the public believes, under two indictments — and potentially more as prosecutors in Georgia and Washington investigate his actions leading up to the Jan. 6 insurrection.

Still, some Republicans maintain that the multiple indictments could help Trump improve his standing in polls of Republican voters and solidify the impression that the government is conspiring against him.

Republican Rep. Nancy Mace of South Carolina told CNN she believes the indictment “handed Donald Trump the nomination” in the 2024 GOP primary.

And as the House panel has ramped up its efforts to defend the former president, the word “weaponization” has taken root among Trump’s Republican allies. Nearly every GOP lawmaker used the term — as did a member of Trump’s legal team hours before the charges were unsealed to the public.

“It puts a stamp of reality on something that really is unreal in terms of the weaponization of the Department of Justice,” said James Trusty, one of Trump’s lawyers, on ABC Friday morning. Trump announced later in the day that Trusty was leaving his team.

Republican Sen. Ted Cruz of Texas tweeted that “the weaponization of our Department of Justice against enemies of the Biden admin. will do enormous damage to the rule of law & have a lasting impact.”

Cruz’s GOP colleagues in the Senate were more muted, with Republican Leader Mitch McConnell and others who have criticized the former president declining to weigh in on the indictment.

Republican Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah, the only GOP senator to vote to convict Trump in both of his impeachment trials, was a rare voice of criticism. While Romney stressed that Trump is entitled to presumption of innocence, he said he believes the charges are serious and Trump brought them on himself.

“These allegations are serious and if proven, would be consistent with his other actions offensive to the national interest,” Romney said.

New voting districts could change again in some states before the 2024 elections

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

The 2022 elections marked the first using new voting districts drawn from updated census data. Those districts typically last for a decade, but they could be short-lived in some states.

Court challenges could force lawmakers or special commissions to draw yet another set of maps before the 2024 elections for representatives in Congress and state capitols.

That means voters who were just shifted into new U.S. House or state legislative districts could be grouped with different communities when they go to vote the next time.

Here’s a look at some places where voting districts could change, and the reasons why.

RACE IN REDISTRICTING

The U.S. Supreme Court on Thursday upheld a lower court ruling that Alabama’s congressional districts likely violated the federal Voting Rights Act by diluting the political power of Black voters.

The ruling means the state’s Republican-led Legislature and GOP governor likely will have to draw new U.S. House districts in which Black voters comprise a majority — or close to it — in two of Alabama’s seven districts, instead of only one.

The ruling also could lead to new U.S. House districts in Louisiana, and potentially Georgia.

While considering the Alabama case, the Supreme Court had put a hold on a similar lower court ruling that Louisiana’s districts must be redrawn to create a second majority-Black district. That’s likely to be lifted. A federal judge in Georgia last year also said some of its congressional and state legislative districts likely violated the Voting Rights Act, but no final decision has been issued.

The Alabama decision is “breathing new life” into similar cases around the country, said attorney Mark Gaber, senior redistricting director at the nonprofit Campaign Legal Center.

Cracked floors, bowed walls: Many warnings but no action at Iowa building before deadly collapse

By SCOTT McFETRIDGE, HEATHER HOLLINGSWORTH and HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press
DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — So many people knew something wasn't right at the 116-year-old Davenport apartment building.

The structural engineer who documented the shaky wall. The head of a masonry company who wouldn't let his workers onto the site. The city inspector who threatened to close some units. A downtown official who called 911 and asked firefighters to take a look. And tenants who told of cracks in their floors and walls.

But no one ordered residents out, and it was only when a section of the six-story brick, steel and concrete building tumbled to the ground on the afternoon of May 28 that everyone seemed to connect the dots. Three men were dead, about 50 tenants were left homeless without their possessions and the city was faced with one of its taller buildings at risk of crumbling in the heart of its downtown.

Asked days after the collapse why residents hadn't been warned, Davenport Mayor Mike Matson said, "I don't know that anyone can anticipate a building collapsing."

Tenants have begun filing lawsuits over the collapse, and they argue no one should be surprised by what happened.

"The owner of this building was aware, the city of Davenport was aware, the engineering companies and construction people were aware. This was a completely preventable tragedy," said lawyer Andrew M. Stroth, who is part of a team who filed one of the first lawsuits on behalf of tenants Lexus Berry and Peach Berry, whose leg was amputated when she was trapped in rubble.

The lawsuit says that "perhaps worst of all is that they did nothing to warn the tenants at The Davenport that the intended comfort of their own homes was, in reality, hanging by a proverbial thread."

A request for an interview with Matson went unanswered.

Some tenants certainly had concerns.

Shauna Dixon recalled issues around the wall of her apartment, which was on the side of the building that ultimately collapsed. The wall was bowing, the window frame was pulling away from the wall and the floor was uneven.

She messaged her leasing agent, questioning if the wall was "safe as far as structure? Just asking because the floor and wall is really soft. I don't want to fall out the side of the building one day," a remark followed by the rolling on the floor laughing emoji.

Messages from the leasing agent and management office said maintenance would be sent to address the issues. Dixon said there was no progress over weeks.

Dixon was told she could pull up her carpet and, when she did, she found "very big cracks in the cement" and a crumbling foundation, which concerned her the most. "I had brought that to their attention – to the management office – and nothing came from it. They more or less just didn't care," Dixon said in an interview.

Dixon asked to break her lease or be transferred to another apartment building. Management moved her to a building across the street, and within a couple of weeks she would step outside and be face-to-face with the rubble of her former apartment, where some of her belongings remained.

"It was gut-wrenching," she said. "My jaw dropped, and I just – I cried instantly. My body was literally shaking."

Trent Fuessel, 21, and his 20-year-old girlfriend, Aurea Monet, moved out of apartment 311 — the apartment above Dixon's — on May 20 because they were concerned for their safety. They had detailed the reasons why in an email to Village Property Management, saying they would be breaking their lease and leaving.

The response on May 4 was "there are no structural deficiencies within the building," a screenshot of the email shows. "We have had the building approved by a structural engineer."

"Personally I feel blessed that we were able to get out of there, and I also feel really, really angry that it wasn't taken seriously," Fuessel said. "It almost just seemed like a disregard for human life for a petty

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 44 of 92

Voting Rights Acts challenges are in the early stages in Texas. Lawsuits also allege that state legislative districts dilute the voting strength of Hispanic residents in Washington and Native Americans in North Dakota.

Though based on different legal theories, other lawsuits allege districts were drawn to the detriment of minority votes in Arkansas and Florida. The Supreme Court also has agreed to review a lower court ruling that a South Carolina congressional district discriminates against Black voters.

A NEW LOOK FOR A NEW ELECTION

New Assembly districts also are on tap in New York. The state's highest court last year struck down maps approved by the Democratic-led legislature for the U.S. House, state Senate and state Assembly. It ordered a lower court to impose new U.S. House and state Senate districts for the 2022 elections. But judges determined it was too late to come up with new Assembly districts before the last election.

The courts instead said that the state's Independent Redistricting Commission should draw new districts. The commission in April endorsed a revised Assembly map, which received quick approval from the legislature and governor to take effect for the 2024 elections.

A pending lawsuit asks that the independent commission also be allowed to draw new U.S. House maps before the 2024 elections.

In North Carolina, a Democratic majority of the state Supreme Court ruled last year that congressional districts drawn by the Republican-led General Assembly were an illegal partisan gerrymander and instead allowed a map drawn by judges to be used for the 2022 elections. While that case was on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, voters elected a Republican majority to the state Supreme Court. Those judges in April reversed the previous ruling and declared there was no constitutional prohibition on partisan gerrymandering.

Whatever the U.S. Supreme Court does with the original appeal, state lawmakers are planning to redraw congressional districts before the next election — giving Republicans a chance at winning more seats than the current 7-7 split.

In Ohio, the state Supreme Court rejected multiple maps drawn by Republican officials for U.S. House, state Senate and state House districts. But courts allowed the 2022 elections to go forward anyway using those maps, directing new districts to be drawn before the next elections.

Republican state lawmakers have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear an appeal of the congressional map rejection. If they lose, they will have to draw new maps. Meanwhile, a Republican-led commission responsible for drawing state legislative maps is expected to meet later this year to make another attempt.

MORE PARTISAN CHALLENGES

Cases are pending before the top courts in New Mexico and Utah claiming that their congressional districts are illegal partisan gerrymanders — in New Mexico's case benefitting Democrats, and in Utah's aiding Republicans.

The New Mexico Supreme Court heard arguments in January but has not ruled on whether to dismiss the lawsuit brought by Republicans. The lawsuit contends Democratic lawmakers illegally divided up the southeastern corner of the state — an oil-producing Republican stronghold — into three districts "for raw political gain." Democrats won all three districts in the 2022 elections.

The Utah Supreme Court is to hear arguments in July on whether a trial can go forward in a lawsuit contending Republican lawmakers engaged in illegal partisan gerrymandering by splitting Salt Lake County — the most politically competitive area — among four congressional districts. Republicans won all four districts in last year's elections.

In Kentucky, a trial court last November rejected a partisan gerrymandering claim brought by Democrats against congressional and state House maps adopted by the Republican-led Legislature. That case has been appealed to the state Supreme Court.

WISCONSIN, TOO?

Though there is no current redistricting challenge in Wisconsin, there could be by the end of the summer. That could open the potential for new districts before the 2024 elections.

Voters in April elected a new Democrat-backed judge to the Wisconsin Supreme Court, ensuring that liberals will take over majority control when Judge Janet Protasiewicz officially joins the court in August.

Protasiewicz said during the campaign that she thought the current maps were “rigged” and she wanted to revisit them.

That’s raised hopes among Democrats that the high court could be more receptive to a lawsuit alleging that the current state legislative and congressional districts provide an unfair advantage for Republicans. Though the current districts were approved by the court, they were modeled after previous Republican-drawn districts that gave the GOP a strong edge over the past decade.

Jeff Mandell, a Madison attorney, said he and others opposed to the maps plan to file a legal challenge shortly after Protasiewicz joins the court.

“We think the people of Wisconsin deserve a chance for this new court to take a fresh look at this issue,” Mandell said.

Nebraska Legislature as reality TV, featuring filibuster and culture war drama

By MARGERY A. BECK Associated Press

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Mention televised legislative debates, and what may come to mind are stuffy, policy-wonk discussions broadcast by C-SPAN. This year’s Nebraska Legislature was more like a reality TV show, with culture-war rhetoric, open hostility among lawmakers, name-calling, yelling and more.

Many Nebraskans couldn’t get enough of it.

“It was addictive,” said Jamie Bonkiewicz, 41, of Omaha. “If I wasn’t there, I was streaming it every day, just to hear what would come out of those senators’ mouths.”

Watching on television, streaming on computers and phones, following along in their cars, Nebraskans seemed captivated by what was easily one of the body’s most acrimonious sessions on record.

“Watching the Nebraska Legislature is like watching the worst train wreck that won’t end and the hits just keep coming,” Megan Moslander of Omaha tweeted when lawmakers triggered a constitutional challenge by combining restrictions on abortion and transgender health care into a single bill.

Many viewers tuned in as national media attention focused on a filibuster by Omaha Sen. Machaela Cavanaugh. They stayed for the surrounding turmoil.

Cavanaugh, 44, and a handful of other progressive lawmakers vowed to block every bill — even ones they supported — in an attempt to derail a proposed ban on gender-affirming care for minors. Conservative lawmakers dug in on other hot-button bills to restrict abortions, loosen gun laws and divert public money to private school scholarships.

So much for Nebraska nice: Again and again during the 90-day session, lawmakers called each other “trash” and “garbage,” accused each other of unethical behavior and angrily swore retribution for various offenses. Cavanaugh amplified the protesters’ chants and accused fellow lawmakers of pursuing genocide against trans kids.

There were silly moments, too: To hold the floor, she offered a recipe for pesto and deliberated over her favorite Girl Scout cookies and Omaha’s best doughnuts.

Art and Carolyn Wagner, retirees in Pleasant Dale, tuned in constantly.

“When we heard about the filibuster, that’s when we started watching it on TV,” he said. “We had it on almost every day, probably for four to six hours a day. Some days, we watched it all day until the end — 10 hours or more.”

As with most state legislatures, Nebraska’s floor debate can be viewed live on public television or streamed online. But unlike most others, it doesn’t make an archive available. A group following the Legislature began posting debates to its YouTube channel, but it hasn’t been widely publicized and the footage can take more than a day to appear.

That wasn’t soon enough for many who wanted to catch what would happen next.

Bonkiewicz had little interest in the legislative process until she discovered last year that a family member had founded the far-right Nebraskans for Founders’ Values group. She vowed to become more involved

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 46 of 92

in confronting what she sees as growing extremism and, when she wasn't protesting or meeting with lawmakers, she streamed the action live.

"It was chaos. It was like reality TV," she said. "I've watched 'Real Housewives' and other reality shows, and it's addictive like that, the drama of it."

Nebraska Public Media, which televises and streams the debates, said technology privacy policies make gauging viewership difficult, but it appeared to be up based on how many people called seeking help to tune in.

Nebraska lawmakers took notice as citizens weighed in on both sides.

"I mean, you should see our emails," said Sen. Lou Ann Linehan, a conservative who authored the successful scholarship bill. "We've gotten thousands and thousands of people commenting on legislation and debate. And they say they're watching it all."

Cavanaugh said family members and friends in New York, Los Angeles, St. Louis and Nashville, Tennessee, told her their friends and family were watching after her filibuster made national news. She's been overwhelmed with the response.

"The number of people reaching out saying they've been watching is astounding," Cavanaugh said. "It's been thousands of people. I've been in the Legislature five years now, and stayed pretty anonymous for four of them. Now I have people stopping me at the grocery store. People stop me at Lowe's. They stop me at my kids' games."

For years on the chamber floor, lawmakers mostly ignored the stationary cameras. This year, many began looking directly into the lenses and appealing to "those watching live."

The Legislature has seen its share of drama in years past, but much of it came before livestreaming was available, said Ari Kohen, a professor of political theory and philosophy at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

The pandemic changed the dynamic, with people turning to streaming to combat boredom. Then came the filibuster, as conservatives nationwide pushed culture war attacks on abortion rights and transgender identity, Kohen said.

As the country's only officially nonpartisan, single-chamber legislative body, the unique makeup of the Nebraska Legislature also helped viewers track what was going on. There are only 49 seats, all held by part-time, citizen-lawmakers who tend to use everyday language in their debates, Kohen said.

"There are the characters you're rooting for and the characters you don't like," he said.

The drama peaked when Sen. Julie Slama of Dunbar, who at 27 has become one of the body's most conservative members, hobbled in from a hospital, two other lawmakers keeping her vertical, to cast the final vote needed to pass the abortion-transgender bill. The chamber echoed with the howls of protesters in the rotunda, just outside the doors.

Kohen compared it to watching a reality cooking show — you don't need to know your way around the kitchen to get hooked.

Nebraskans now have to wait until January 2024 for the next installment, featuring conservatives pushing for more abortion restrictions and progressives vowing to thwart them, along with rule changes to stymie another epic filibuster.

"They very clearly told people they would be back for season two," Kohen said.

Analysis: What makes a fair election? Recent redistricting the most politically balanced in years

By DAVID A. LIEB Associated Press

Democrats have for years bemoaned partisan redistricting plans that helped Republicans win far more congressional seats than expected. But that advantage has disappeared.

In the first elections held with 2020 census data, Democrats battled back with their own gerrymandering that shaped districts to their advantage and essentially evened the outcome. Though Republicans won control of the House from Democrats, the closely divided chamber more accurately reflects the ratio of

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 47 of 92

Republicans to Democrats among voters nationally than at any time in recent years, according to a new Associated Press analysis.

"On the one hand, we have fairer, more representative outcomes. But it looks like we have more gerrymandering happening," said Doug Spencer, a law professor at the University of Colorado Boulder who administers the All About Redistricting website.

The AP's analysis found that Republicans won just one more U.S. House seat in 2022 than would have been expected based on the average share of the vote they received nationwide — an insignificant edge in determining the GOP's 222-213 seat majority.

A similar situation played out in state capitols in the 2022 elections. The AP found that Democrats and Republicans notched a nearly equal number of states with House or Assembly districts tilted in their favor — a sharp contrast to the sizable Republican edge during the previous decade.

The difference is not just that Republicans gerrymandered less but that "more Democrats picked up the practice," Spencer said.

A lot is at stake. Districts drawn to the advantage of one party can help it win, maintain or expand majorities, which in turn can affect the types of laws enacted on divisive topics such as abortion, guns, taxes and transgender rights. That's evident this year, as Republican- and Democratic-led states move in opposite directions on many of those issues.

The dissatisfaction once voiced most loudly by Democrats in states gerrymandered by Republicans is now also rising from Republicans in such places as rural Macoupin County, Illinois. A Republican represented the former coal mining county in Congress during the past decade. But a Democrat won the redrawn district in 2022 after it got transformed into a slender snake-like shape — with a head in the twin university cities of Champaign and Urbana and a new tail in the Democratic suburbs of St. Louis.

Republican-leaning Macoupin County resembles a bulge in the middle — the only entire county remaining in the 13th District.

"We're tied now to people — boat anchors up to the north and boat anchors in the south — that we have very little in common with, and we're not happy," said Tom Stoecker, the Macoupin County GOP chairman.

Illinois' congressional districts had the largest partisan slant nationally, helping Democrats win three more seats than expected based on their percentage of votes, according to the AP's analysis. Among statehouse chambers, the largest partisan tilt was in the Nevada Assembly — again favoring Democrats.

Republicans still reaped rewards in some places. Texas Republicans won about two more U.S. House seats than would have been expected based on their percentage of votes. A long-running GOP tilt also continued in the Wisconsin Assembly.

The AP analyzed the effect of redistricting on the 2022 elections using an "efficiency gap" formula intended to spot cases of potential gerrymandering. The test — designed by Eric McGhee, a researcher at the nonpartisan Public Policy Institute of California, and Harvard Law School professor Nick Stephanopoulos — identifies states where one party is extraordinarily efficient at translating votes into victories. That can occur when politicians in charge of redistricting pack voters for their opponents into a few heavily concentrated districts or spread them among multiple districts to dilute their voting strength.

Previous AP analyses found that Republicans benefited from a strong edge under districts drawn after the 2010 census. The GOP won about 22 more U.S. House seats than expected based on its share of the votes in 2016 — about 16 extra seats in 2018 and about 10 excess seats in 2020. By comparison, the one-seat GOP tilt in the 2022 election was essentially a political wash.

"By many metrics, we had the fairest congressional map and the fairest state legislative map in decades, and that's a truly great thing for democracy," said John Bisognano, president of the National Democratic Redistricting Committee, which has challenged Republican-drawn maps in court.

Bisognano attributes the change primarily to four states — Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania and Virginia. Under congressional maps drawn by Republicans, those states combined in 2016 to elect 39 Republicans and just 17 Democrats — about nine more Republicans than expected based on their share of the votes. But in 2022, under maps adopted by courts and Michigan's new independent commission, those states combined to elect 26 Republicans and 29 Democrats. In a reversal, Democrats carried about

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 48 of 92

one more seat than expected based on their share of the votes.

In each of the two most recent midterm elections, the AP's analysis identified 15 states where a political party won at least one more congressional seat than would have been expected based on its votes. Twelve of those favored Republican in 2018.

But the redistricting gains were more evenly split last year. Democrats gained at least one more congressional seat than expected from their vote percentage in eight states — California, Connecticut, Illinois, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico and Washington. Meanwhile, Republicans gained at least one extra seat in seven states — Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, New York, Texas and Wisconsin.

The new Illinois districts were drawn by the Democratic-dominated state Legislature and signed into law by Democratic Gov. J.B. Pritzker, despite a pledge during his 2018 campaign to veto any maps drawn by politicians. Pritzker said the maps — which added a second predominantly Latino district while maintaining three predominantly Black districts — would “ensure all communities are equitably represented.”

Under the new districts, Illinois Democrats widened their 13-5 congressional advantage to a 14-3 majority — flipping one Republican seat and merging others. The state lost one seat due to declining population.

Republican Rep. Rodney Davis was drawn out of the 13th District he represented for a decade and placed in the heavily Republican 15th District. He lost in a GOP primary to Rep. Mary Miller, who was endorsed by former President Donald Trump. The reshaped 13th District was won by Democrat Nikki Budzinski, a former aide to Pritzker and President Joe Biden.

“That district was drawn in a very gerrymandered way to maximize the Democrat turnout,” Davis told the AP.

Numerous more politically neutral alternatives could have been drawn, said Sheldon H. Jacobson, director of the Institute for Computational Redistricting at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

“This was just a horrendous situation and really doesn't represent the people of Illinois,” Jacobson said.

Fair representation also has been called into question in Nevada, where the Democratic advantage from redistricting was so large that it could have swayed control of the state Assembly. Though Republican candidates received more total votes, Democrats won a 28-14 majority last fall — seven more Democratic seats than would have been expected, according to the AP's analysis.

A lawsuit brought by affected residents and several Republican elected officials alleged the new districts were “an intentional extreme partisan gerrymander” that illegally diluted votes. But a judge said there was no clear standard to weigh partisan gerrymandering claims under the Nevada Constitution — echoing a 2019 U.S. Supreme Court ruling that federal courts also have no business deciding partisan gerrymandering claims.

The Reno area's Somerset golf community had been part of a Republican-controlled Assembly district, but the new maps split it into two. A Democrat now represents part of the subdivision while the rest was placed in a rural Republican-led district that stretches hundreds of miles to the Oregon and Idaho borders.

“It was really bad for our community,” said Jacob Williams, president of the Somerset Owners Association, who ran unsuccessfully in a Republican primary for the state Assembly. “It was quite deflating.”

Pride is back in Boston as parade returns after quarrel over inclusivity

By STEVE LeBLANC Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — The biggest Pride parade in New England returns to Boston after a three-year hiatus Saturday, with a fresh focus on social justice and inclusion rather than corporate backing.

About 10,000 marchers signed up before registration was shut down, according to organizers. Employee groups are welcome to march, but corporations aren't. “We really did start by looking forward to how we could best serve the LGBTQ community in greater Boston and really all across New England,” said Jo Triglio, vice president of Boston Pride for the People.

One of the oldest Pride events in the country, this year's parade will travel a bit shorter route than in past years, beginning at Copley Square and ending at Boston Common with a festival for families, teens

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 49 of 92

and older community members. A second event for the over-21 crowd will take place on City Hall Plaza and include alcohol, a disc jockey and dancing.

This marks Boston's first Pride parade since 2019. The hiatus began with COVID-19, but extended through 2022 because the organization that used to run the event, Boston Pride, dissolved in 2021 under criticism that it excluded racial minorities and transgender people.

The return comes amid growing hostility to members of the LGBTQ+ community in parts of the country. Some states have limited drag shows, restricted gender-affirming medical care and banned school library books for their LGBTQ content.

Boston Pride for the People, the new group formed to plan Boston's parade, came together last September to create a more inclusive, less corporate festival, Trigilio said.

The group centers empowerment, celebration, commemoration and education, and seeks to counter Pride parades and celebrations nationwide that have become too commercial and too focused on appealing to people with privilege, said Trigilio, who uses the pronouns they and them.

"The more you have corporations involved, the more they are looking for money and that caters to the privileged," Trigilio added. "When you have a Pride that is too commercial, it becomes a party and you lose the social justice aspect to it."

They said Boston Pride for the People reviewed corporate funders using a number of criteria, including whether they donated to anti-LGBTQ lawmakers.

"When you're under attack, you don't want to be treated as a market, you want to be treated as an ally," Trigilio said, adding that this year's organizers wanted to make sure the parade welcomes LGBTQ people of color, trans people and those facing multiple forms oppression.

Gov. Maura Healey, one of the nation's first two openly lesbian governors, said she is excited to participate.

"This is a particularly special one to be marching in this year and at this time where we see states and some governors going backward, taking away equality, taking away freedoms, demonizing members of the LGBTQ community, hurting them, banning books, banning shows, banning access to even health care," Healey said.

Despite being the first state to legalize same-sex marriage, Massachusetts isn't immune to attacks on the LGBTQ community, according to Janson Wu, executive director of GLBTQ Legal Advocates and Defenders, or GLAD.

He pointed to protests targeting drag shows and harassment against children's hospitals and physicians that provide gender-affirming health care.

"The return of Boston Pride with new and grassroots leadership is incredibly important, especially now with rising attacks against the LGBTQ community," Wu said.

Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, a Democrat, welcomed the parade's return, saying it's important for Massachusetts and Boston to be "a bulwark on the frontlines in a moment of rising hate."

Neon Calypso, 30, a Boston drag queen and trans woman of color who performed Tina Turner's "Proud Mary" at a Statehouse raising of the Pride flag Wednesday, said she's baffled by those trying to marginalize drag performers.

"It's unfortunate that there are states and politicians that people empower that see something that's so welcoming and accepting as something that's negative," she said. "A lot of those people who are protesting the shows, if they went, they would actually see that it's not what they say."

Nuggets now in full command of NBA Finals, top Heat 108-95 for 3-1 lead

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Basketball Writer

MIAMI (AP) — The mission for the Denver Nuggets was clear: Come to Miami, get two wins and head back home with a chance to finally become NBA champions.

It's officially there for the taking.

The 47-year wait for Denver might be over as soon as Monday, with Nikola Jokic and his Nuggets now

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 50 of 92

just one win away from getting the title that he's wanted for so long. Aaron Gordon scored 27 points, Jokic added 23 and the Nuggets beat the Miami Heat 108-95 on Friday night to take a 3-1 lead in the NBA Finals.

"We haven't done a damn thing yet," Nuggets coach Michael Malone said. "We have to win another game to be world champions."

Bruce Brown scored 21 off the bench for the Nuggets, who won their fifth straight road game to grab complete command. They'll have three chances to win one game for a title, two of those in Denver, the first in what's sure to be a raucous atmosphere for Game 5.

Jamal Murray had 15 points and 12 assists — his fourth consecutive double-digit assist game — for Denver.

"Today was a team effort," Murray said. "I can't even name one person. Everybody locked in. We've got one more to go."

Jimmy Butler scored 25 points for Miami, which has now fallen into 3-1 holes in each of its last three finals appearances — this one joining 2014 and 2020. Bam Adebayo had 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Heat, while Kyle Lowry added 13 points.

The Heat walked off the floor in silence, fully aware of how much trouble they're in now.

"Now we're in a must-win situation, every single game — which we're capable of," Butler said. "It's not impossible."

The Nuggets were overwhelming favorites to start the series, for obvious reasons. Denver was the Western Conference's No. 1 seed; Miami was the Eastern Conference's No. 8 seed. The Nuggets had won nine of the last 10 regular-season meetings between the teams, and their run of success over the Heat has continued through four games of the finals.

"Our guys are locked in, man," Malone said. "We're focused."

Denver led by 13 going into the fourth, and Miami came out for the final quarter with appropriate desperation. The Heat scored the first eight points, Jokic committed his fifth foul and had to go to the bench with 9:24 left — and it was down to 86-81 when Butler converted a three-point play with 8:42 remaining.

But the Nuggets — who fell apart in the fourth quarter of Game 2 for their lone loss of the series — didn't fold, even with their two-time MVP still out. Murray made a 3-pointer to stop Miami's 8-0 spurt, and Jeff Green made a huge corner 3 from near the Heat bench for a 94-85 edge with 6:21 left.

"We have guys that can step up, night in and night out," Gordon said.

Jokic checked out with Denver up 10. He came back with the Nuggets up nine. Miami didn't take advantage of that chance, and now finds itself on the wrong end of history. A team that had to scramble just to make the playoffs now needs to pull off the ultimate scramble to win a championship.

"This is what this year's been all about for this group, so definitely not going to hang our heads or quit," Heat guard Duncan Robinson said. "That's not an option. It's not going to happen. So we'll band together and get on this flight tomorrow and find a way to figure it out."

Teams that take a 3-1 lead in the NBA Finals have won 35 out of 36 previous times, and the Heat will have to buck that trend to keep Denver from winning its title.

"We have an incredibly competitive group," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We've done everything the hard way and that's the way it's going to have to be done right now — again. And all we're going to focus on is getting this thing back to the 305. Get this thing back to Miami. And things can shift very quickly."

TIP-INS

Nuggets: Jokic tweaked his right ankle when he landed on the back of Max Strus' foot midway through the opening quarter. He briefly retreated to the Denver locker room before the start of the second quarter and played the rest of the way with no evident issues. ... Murray played with tape protecting the bottom of his left hand, thanks to a nasty floor burn he got in Game 3. ... It was Denver's 25th win on the road this season, tying a franchise record set last season. ... Michael Porter Jr. scored 11.

Heat: It was retiring 20-year veteran Udonis Haslem's 43rd birthday and rookie Nikola Jovic's 20th birthday. Jovic was 58 days old when Haslem signed his first Heat contract. ... If it was Miami's home finale this season, then the Heat went 613-299 in its home arena during his career. ... Miami started the playoffs 6-0 at home. The Heat are 0-4 on their home floor since. ... Robinson and Kevin Love each scored 12, and Caleb Martin scored 11.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 51 of 92

SLOW START

Miami led 21-20 after one quarter. The 41 combined points were the fewest in the first quarter of the last 24 finals games; the first quarter of Game 4 of the Toronto-Golden State series in 2019 had 40 points.

CELEB WATCH

Kentucky coach John Calipari was in the crowd, as was Academy Award winner Forest Whitaker, two-time WNBA MVP A'ja Wilson of the Las Vegas Aces, Chicago Bears quarterback Justin Fields and twins Haley and Hanna Cavinder — who helped the Miami Hurricanes make the Elite Eight in this year's NCAA women's tournament.

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

Indictment takeaways: Trump's alleged schemes and lies to keep secret papers

By ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — The federal indictment against Donald Trump accuses the former president of illegally hoarding classified documents at his Florida estate after leaving the White House in 2021, and then scheming and lying to thwart government efforts to recover them.

Justice Department prosecutors brought 37 felony counts against Trump in the indictment, relying upon photographs from Mar-a-Lago, surveillance video, text messages between staffers, Trump's own words, those of his lawyers, and other evidence.

"It comes across as obviously a very strong case, if it can be proven," said Mark Zaid, a Washington, D.C.-based lawyer who works on national security issues. "I'm surprised as to how personally involved it alleges Trump was with respect to the documents," he added.

An aide to Trump, Walt Nauta, was charged as a co-conspirator with six felony counts.

Trump says he is innocent and has decried the criminal case — the second indictment against him in a matter of months — as an attempt by his political opponents to hinder his 2024 campaign. He is expected to make his first court appearance on Tuesday in Miami.

Here are key takeaways from the indictment unsealed Friday:

WHAT ARE THE CHARGES?

Trump faces 31 counts of willful retention of national defense information under the Espionage Act. Other charges include: conspiracy to obstruct justice; corruptly concealing a document or record; concealing a document in a federal investigation; and making false statements.

Each of the willful retention counts pertains to a specific classified document found at Mar-A-Lago marked "SECRET" or "TOP SECRET." Topics addressed in the documents include details about U.S. nuclear weapons, the nuclear capabilities of a foreign country and the military activities or capabilities of other countries.

The conspiracy charges deal with Trump's alleged attempts to hide documents from his lawyer or federal investigators. The false statement charges stem from Trump causing his lawyer to tell the FBI that no more classified documents were at Mar-a-Lago — but then the FBI later found more than 100 documents during an August 2022 search.

The most serious charges carry potential prison sentences of up to 20 years each. But judges have discretion and, if convicted, first-time offenders rarely get anywhere near the maximum sentence. Being a former president would also likely be a major consideration in any sentencing.

WHAT IS THE ALLEGED CONSPIRACY TO OBSTRUCT JUSTICE?

The indictment accuses Trump and Nauta of conspiring to hide the secret documents from the grand jury, which in May 2022 issued a subpoena for him to turn them over.

The conspiracy allegation included a suggestion from Trump that his lawyer falsely tell investigators that the former president didn't have any more classified documents at Mar-a-Lago. It also involved moving boxes to hide the secret documents from Trump's lawyer, and suggesting that Trump's lawyer hide or destroy documents that investigators were seeking.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 52 of 92

The indictment says that, at Trump's direction, Nauta moved about 64 boxes of documents from a Mar-a-Lago storage room to the former president's residence in May 2022. He then returned "approximately 30 boxes" to the storage room on June 2 — the same day Trump's legal team came to examine the boxes and search for classified documents to return to the government, the indictment says.

Nauta had a brief phone call with Trump before returning those boxes, the indictment says. Neither Trump nor Nauta told the former president's lawyers that Nauta had moved any of the storage room contents, the indictment says.

IS TRUMP ACCUSED OF SHARING CLASSIFIED INFORMATION?

The indictment alleges Trump showed classified documents to people who didn't have security clearances on two occasions.

The court papers detail a meeting Trump had in July 2021 with a writer and publisher about an upcoming book. Trump told the pair "look what I found" and showed them what he described as a senior military official's "plan of attack," according to an audio recording of that conversation obtained by investigators.

Trump acknowledged during that meeting that the document was "highly confidential" and "secret information," the indictment says. He also says that he could have declassified the document if he was still president.

"Now I can't, you know, but this is still a secret," he said, according to the indictment.

A few months later, Trump showed a representative of his political action committee a classified map of a foreign country while discussing a military operation in the country that was not going well, the indictment says. Trump acknowledged that he shouldn't be showing the map to the person and told him not to get too close, prosecutors allege.

WHAT EVIDENCE DO PROSECUTORS HAVE?

In addition to the audio recording, prosecutors also relied upon text messages between Trump employees, photos of boxes of documents stored in various rooms throughout Mar-a-Lago and details about conversations between Trump and his lawyers that were memorialized by one of them.

In one conversation with his lawyers, Trump said: "I don't want anybody looking through my boxes." Trump also asked one of his lawyers if it would be better "if we just told them we don't have anything here," the indictment says.

Photographs in the indictment show boxes stacked on a stage in a ballroom as well as in a bathroom. Another shows boxes that spilled over in a storage room, including a document marked "SECRET/REL TO USA, FVEY," which means information releasable only to members of the "Five Eyes" intelligence alliance of Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States.

WHERE WILL THE CASE BE HEARD?

While Trump's first court appearance on Tuesday is expected to be in front of a magistrate judge in Miami, the case was filed in West Palm Beach — about 70 miles to the north. The case was assigned to Judge Aileen Cannon, a Trump appointee, who issued rulings favorable to him last year and expressed repeated skepticism of Justice Department positions.

Cannon was broadly criticized last year for granting the Trump legal team's request for a special master to conduct an independent review of the hundreds of classified documents seized from his Florida property last year. The move, which temporarily halted core aspects of the Justice Department's investigative work, was overturned months later by a three-judge panel of a federal appeals court.

Associated Press reporters Michael R. Sisak in New York, Bill Barrow in Atlanta and Gary Fields in Washington contributed.

Florida center says 'Grey Team' technology, exercise help veterans overcome PTSD and other ailments

By TERRY SPENCER Associated Press

BOCA RATON, Fla. (AP) — Before Fred Kalfon began exercising at the Grey Team veterans center a couple months ago, the 81-year-old rarely left his Florida home.

Parkinson's disease, an inner ear disorder and other neurological problems, all likely caused by the Vietnam vet's exposure to the infamous defoliant Agent Orange, made it difficult for him to move. His post-traumatic stress disorder, centering on the execution of a woman who helped his platoon, was at its worst.

Treatment through the federal Department of Veterans Affairs didn't work, he said.

"I felt stupid the way I walk around and stumble," said Kalfon, who led a medical aid unit as a first lieutenant in 1964-65. "I was depressed."

But after months in a veteran-specialized gym and recovery program, the retired pharmaceutical researcher and sales manager is socializing and has thrown aside his walker for a cane.

He's among the latest of 700 veterans of all ages working with the Grey Team, a 7-year-old organization combining personalized workouts, camaraderie, community outings and an array of machines in a 90-day program targeted at improving physical and mental health.

"It's the machines, sure. It's the therapy you are taking. It's the (staff's) encouragement — they are there all the time for you. They are caring. Caring makes a difference," Kalfon said.

The nonprofit center, located in a converted warehouse in Boca Raton, Florida, gets its name, in part, from the brain's nickname: "gray matter." Many of the vets who apply and are accepted into the free program suffered head trauma in battle or have PTSD.

"What we have created here is really magical," said Grey Team co-founder Cary Reichbach, 62, a physical trainer and former Army police officer. The goal, he said, is to get the vets off medications for their mental and physical ailments when possible. Even after completing the program, participants can still workout, hang out and participate in outings.

With the government saying vets are 50% more likely to kill themselves than non-veterans, Reichbach is proud the center helps combat that statistic.

"We want to tackle the suicidal ideation before it even starts," he said.

He concedes suicide prevention is easier because the center doesn't accept clients who are homeless or have uncontrolled addictions.

"I wish we had the funding to tackle" those issues, he said.

The Grey Team's program features an array of machines using infrared light, lasers and sound waves meant to relieve stress, heal mental and physical wounds and help the vets sleep without the use of pharmaceuticals. The program is run by a primary team of seven, including a medical director.

Drugs are overutilized in other veteran programs, such as those in VA hospitals, often because "they have a budget and they have to spend it," Reichbach said.

Ohio State University psychologist Craig Bryan, a former executive director of the National Center for Veterans Studies, said the successes of the Grey Team program are not surprising given the selective participant pool.

"They are selecting from a subgroup with less severe problems," said Bryan, a former Air Force captain who now works with the VA.

His skepticism also extends to the effectiveness of the machines.

"To my knowledge, they've never been rigorously studied so it's hard to know if they have any benefit at all and/or if they have side effects or cause harms," Bryan said. "Exercise is a common feature of many therapies and treatments that have demonstrated efficacy for PTSD, depression and suicide risk."

University researchers are collecting data that Reichbach said he believes will show his program's treatments work.

Reichbach's 93-year-old father, Ed, offers hugs and back slaps to everyone entering the Grey Team lobby. Sometimes the Army vet and former university professor drops to give 10 rapid-fire pushups — a

demonstration to give older vets a jolt on their first visit.

"We have to get them in here, that's the difficult part," he said.

Upstairs in the center's "safe space" community area, Navy vet Bill Tolle discussed his service as a meteorologist and oceanographer from 1983 to 1990. As a petty officer second-class stationed in Puerto Rico, Hawaii and Antarctica, he never experienced combat.

But in 1988, Tolle witnessed a plane crash at his Antarctic base that killed two people. A year later, he sustained a back injury in a helicopter crash. The back-to-back traumas left him with PTSD. He worked as a firefighter and then a registered nurse in an inner-city emergency room. His PTSD led to alcoholism.

"I really wasn't familiar with what PTSD was. I always thought it was combat-related," Tolle said. "For years I went untreated and it got progressively worse."

He finally was diagnosed in 2016 but didn't get treatment until 2020 through a residential VA program. He then lived at the Salvation Army, which introduced him to the Grey Team.

Tolle is a believer in the center's machines.

"My thinking was foggy, at best. A lot of short-term memory stuff. I would forget. I can now think things through, resolve things," he said. "My whole cognitive function is sharper."

In the center's gym, Kalfon talked about walking through Vietnam jungles still wet with Agent Orange, the herbicide sprayed by the U.S. from planes to kill the brush where enemy soldiers hid. It has been linked to veterans' health problems.

His health began failing about seven years ago. First, a heart attack and quintuple bypass. Then the neurological problems. His health insurance agent told him about the Grey Team and he applied, seeing it as a last hope.

For about two months, Kalfon has been coming to the center three times weekly. He can now walk up stairs and has set a goal to jog 3 miles (5 kilometers).

"When I can do that," he said, "I think I will have accomplished everything I need."

4 Indigenous children lost in jungle for 40 days after plane crash are found alive in Colombia

By MANUEL RUEDA Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Four Indigenous children who disappeared 40 days ago after surviving a small plane crash in the Amazon jungle were found alive Friday, Colombian authorities announced, ending an intense search that gripped the nation.

The children were alone when searchers found them and are now receiving medical attention, President Gustavo Petro told reporters upon his return to Bogota from Cuba, where he signed a cease-fire agreement with representatives of the National Liberation Army rebel group.

The president said the youngsters are an "example of survival" and predicted their saga "will remain in history."

No details were immediately released on how the youngsters managed to survive on their own for so many days.

The crash happened in the early hours of May 1, when the Cessna single-engine propeller plane with six passengers and a pilot declared an emergency due to an engine failure.

The small aircraft fell off radar a short time later and a frantic search for survivors began. Two weeks after the crash, on May 16, a search team found the plane in a thick patch of the rainforest and recovered the bodies of the three adults on board, but the small children were nowhere to be found.

Sensing that they could be alive, Colombia's army stepped up the hunt for the children and flew 150 soldiers with dogs into the area to track the group of four siblings, ages 13, 9, 4 and 11 months. Dozens of volunteers from Indigenous tribes also helped search.

On Friday, the military tweeted pictures showing a group of soldiers and volunteers posing with the children, who were wrapped in thermal blankets. One of the soldiers held a bottle to the smallest child's lips.

The air force later shared a video on Twitter showing soldiers using a line to load the children onto a

helicopter that then flew off in the dark. The tweet said the aircraft was headed to the town of San Jose del Guaviare, but gave no further details.

"The union of our efforts made this possible" Colombia's military command wrote on its Twitter account.

During the search, in an area where visibility is greatly limited by mist and thick foliage, soldiers on helicopters dropped boxes of food into the jungle, hoping that it would help sustain the children. Planes flying over the jungle fired flares to help search crews on the ground at night, and rescuers used megaphones that blasted a message recorded by the siblings' grandmother, telling them to stay in one place.

Rumors also emerged about the childrens' whereabouts and on May 18, President Petro tweeted that the children had been found. He then deleted the message, claiming he had been misinformed by a government agency.

The group of four children had been travelling with their mother from the Amazonian village of Araracuara to San Jose del Guaviare, a small city on the edge of the Amazon rainforest.

They are members of the Huitoto people, and officials said the oldest children in the group had some knowledge of how to survive in the rainforest.

On Friday, after confirming the children had been rescued, the president said that for a while he had believed the children were rescued by one of the nomadic tribes that still roam the remote swath of the jungle where the plane fell and have little contact with authorities.

authorities.

But Petro added that the children were first found by one of the rescue dogs that soldiers took into the jungle.

Officials did not say how far the children were from the crash site when they were found. But the teams had been searching within a 4.5-kilometer (nearly 3-mile) radius from the site where the small plane nosedived into the forest floor.

As the search progressed, soldiers found small clues in the jungle that led them to believe the children were still living, including a pair of footprints, a baby bottle, diapers and pieces of fruit that looked like it had been bitten by humans.

"The jungle saved them" Petro said. "They are children of the jungle, and now they are also children of Colombia."

Black teen shot by officer during struggle was armed with pellet gun, not handgun, police say

By COLLEEN SLEVIN Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A Black teen fatally shot by an officer was armed with a pellet gun and not a semiautomatic handgun, police in suburban Denver revealed Friday.

Jor'Dell Richardson, 14, was shot June 2 after a struggle on the ground with officers who chased him from a store in Aurora, where he and a group of other teens were suspected of stealing vaping cartridges, according to authorities.

Police had originally said that the teen had a semiautomatic, but Chief Art Acevedo corrected that during a press conference held to release body camera video of the shooting.

The video does not clearly show what was happening right before the teen is shot. However, his words and the officers' can be heard during the struggle.

Within a matter of a few seconds, an officer tackles Richardson, and the teen says, "Stop, please, you got me."

"Gun, gun, let go of the ... gun," an officer says, using an expletive. He then says he is going to fire, and a gunshot is heard.

"They made me do it," a wounded Richardson says. "I didn't know who they were. They made me do it."

Later the officer who shot him, Roch Gruszeczk, is heard saying a prayer for him: "God, please be with that kid."

Acevedo said that as part of their investigation, authorities are looking into where the pellet gun was

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 56 of 92

when the officer fired and whether Richardson was pointing it at them.

He said that the weapon looked like an HK USP 9 mm handgun and that during the alleged robbery, Richardson had raised up his sweatshirt to reveal it in his waistband to the store's clerk.

"That is not a toy. That is a weapon," Acevedo said. He said he confirmed on Thursday that it was a pellet gun.

Richardson's family and lawyers viewed the video with police Tuesday but were not told that it was a pellet gun until a few minutes before Friday's news conference, attorney Siddhartha Rathod said.

Police would have known right away after picking it up and trying to unload it that it was not a handgun, he said, accusing officers of withholding the information to avoid angering the community.

Rathod said the video showed Richardson was surrendering and it did not make sense that he would have been reaching for a pellet gun.

"They didn't tell the community because the entire city of Aurora would be here," he said of a rally and march after the news conference that drew about 200 people.

Richardson's mother, Laurie Littlejohn, told those gathered on the steps of city hall that the teen was the "light" of their home and she is afraid to have her 19-year-old son leave the house.

Police did not "think twice" about her son being a child and "didn't give him a chance to redeem himself," she said.

The rally ended with a prayer and prolonged sobbing by Richardson's brother.

Police chased Richardson after a member of the city's gang unit who happened to be driving by saw a group of teens in hoodies and medical masks approaching a convenience store. Some of them left in a stolen minivan afterward, while Richardson and another teen who was later arrested ran in different directions, police said.

Acevedo said police released the body camera video to the public Friday afternoon because it was the soonest they could do so under state law, which requires a wait of at least 72 hours after a video of a fatal incident is shown to family members.

UN peacekeeper killed, 8 seriously injured in northern Mali attack

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Attackers killed one U.N. peacekeeper and seriously injured eight others Friday in Mali's northern Timbuktu region, an area where extremists continue to operate, the United Nations said.

The peacekeepers, all from Burkina Faso, were part of a security patrol that was targeted first by an improvised explosive device and then by direct small arms fire seven kilometers (four miles) from their base in the town of Ber, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

The U.N. Security Council, Secretary General Antonio Guterres and the head of the U.N. peacekeeping mission in Mali, El-Ghassim Wane, strongly condemned the attack.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on Mali's transitional authorities to identify the perpetrators of the attack and bring them to justice swiftly, noting that "attacks targeting U.N. peacekeepers may constitute war crimes under international law," Dujarric said.

The Security Council also called for a swift investigation and accountability, and underlined that attacking peacekeepers may not only be a war crime but that involvement in planning, directing, sponsoring or conducting such an attack can lead to sanctions.

Mali has been ruled by a military junta since a 2020 coup against an elected president, Ibrahim Bouba-car Keita. It has faced destabilizing attacks by armed extremist groups linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group since 2013.

In 2021, France and its European partners engaged in the fight against extremists in Mali's north withdrew from the country after the junta brought in mercenaries from Russia's Wagner Group.

The Security Council expressed concern about Mali's security situation "and the transnational dimension of the terrorist threat in the Sahel region." It urged the Malian parties to fully implement a 2015 peace agreement.

The United States warned Mali's military government in April that it would be "irresponsible" for the United

Nations to continue deploying its more than 15,000 peacekeepers unless the western African nation ends restrictions, including on operating reconnaissance drones, and carries out political commitments toward peace and elections in March 2024.

The warning came as the U.N. Security Council considers three options proposed by Secretary-General António Guterres for the peacekeeping mission's future: increase its size, reduce its footprint, or withdraw troops and police and turn it into a political mission. Its current mandate expires on June 30.

Dujarric said the peacekeeper killed on Friday was the ninth to die in Mali this year. The secretary-general paid tribute to "the determination and courage" of peacekeepers in Mali who work "in extremely challenging circumstances," he said.

"This tragic loss is a stark reminder of the risks that peacekeepers in Mali and other places around the world face while tirelessly working to bring stability and peace to the people of Mali," he said.

Donald Trump stored, showed off and refused to return classified documents, indictment says

By ERIC TUCKER, JILL COLVIN, ALANNA DURKIN RICHER and LINDSAY WHITEHURST Associated Press MIAMI (AP) — Donald Trump improperly stored in his Florida estate sensitive documents on nuclear capabilities, repeatedly enlisted aides and lawyers to help him hide records demanded by investigators and cavalierly showed off a Pentagon "plan of attack" and classified map, according to a sweeping felony indictment that paints a damning portrait of the former president's treatment of national security information.

The conduct alleged in the historic indictment — the first federal case against a former president — cuts to the heart of any president's responsibility to safeguard the government's most valuable secrets. Prosecutors say the documents he stowed, refused to return and in some cases showed to visitors risked jeopardizing not only relations with foreign nations but also the safety of troops and confidential sources.

"Our laws that protect national defense information are critical to the safety and security of the United States and they must be enforced," Jack Smith, the Justice Department special counsel who filed the case, said in his first public statements. "Violations of those laws put our country at risk."

Trump, currently the leading contender for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, is due to make his first court appearance Tuesday afternoon in Miami. In a rare bit of welcome news for the former president, the judge initially assigned to the case is someone he appointed and who drew criticism for rulings in his favor during a dispute last year over a special master assigned to review the seized classified documents. Meanwhile, two lawyers who worked the case for months announced Friday that they had resigned from Trump's legal team.

All told, Trump faces 37 felony counts — 31 pertaining to the willful retention of national defense information, the balance relating to alleged conspiracy, obstruction and false statements — that could result in a substantial prison sentence in the event of a conviction. A Trump aide who prosecutors said moved dozens of boxes at his Florida estate at his direction, and then lied to investigators about it, was charged in the same indictment with conspiracy and other crimes.

Trump responded to the indictment Friday by falsely conflating his case with a separate classified documents investigation concerning President Joe Biden. Though classified records were found in a Biden home and office, there has been no indication that the president, unlike Trump, sought to conceal them or knew they were there.

"Nobody said I wasn't allowed to look at the personal records that I brought with me from the White House. There's nothing wrong with that," Trump said in a post on his Truth Social platform.

The case adds to deepening legal jeopardy for Trump, who has already been indicted in New York and faces additional investigations in Washington and Atlanta that also could lead to criminal charges. But among the various investigations he has faced, legal experts — as well as Trump's own aides — had long seen the Mar-a-Lago probe as the most perilous threat and the one most ripe for prosecution. Campaign aides had been bracing for the fallout since Trump's attorneys were notified that he was the target of the investigation, assuming it was not a matter of if charges would be brought, but when.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 58 of 92

The indictment arrives at a time when Trump is continuing to dominate the Republican presidential primary. A Trump campaign official described the former president's mood as "defiant" and he is expected to deliver a full-throated rebuke of the filing during a speech before Republican Party officials in Georgia Saturday afternoon and will also speak in North Carolina in the evening.

Aides were notably more reserved after the indictment's unsealing as they reckoned with the gravity of the legal charges and the threat they pose to Trump beyond the potential short-term political gain.

The document's startling scope and breadth of allegations, including a reliance on surveillance video and an audio recording, will almost certainly make it harder for Republicans to rail against than an earlier New York criminal case that many legal analysts had derided as weak.

The document's case is a milestone for a Justice Department that had investigated Trump for years — as president and private citizen — but had never before charged him with a crime. The most notable investigation was an earlier special counsel probe into ties between his 2016 campaign and Russia, but prosecutors in that probe cited Justice Department policy against indicting a sitting president. Once he left office, though, he lost that protection.

The inquiry took a major step forward last November when Attorney General Merrick Garland, a soft-spoken former federal judge who has long stated that no person should be regarded as above the law, appointed Smith, a war crimes prosecutor with an aggressive, hard-charging reputation, to lead both the document's probe as well as a separate investigation into efforts to subvert the 2020 election. That investigation remains pending.

The 49-page indictment centers on hundreds of classified documents that Trump took with him from the White House to Mar-a-Lago upon leaving office in January 2021. Even as "tens of thousands of members and guests" visited Mar-a-Lago between the end of Trump's presidency and August 2022, when the FBI obtained a search warrant, documents were recklessly stored in spaces including a "ballroom, a bathroom and shower, and office space, his bedroom, and a storage room."

The indictment claims that, for a two-month period between January and March 15, 2021, some of Trump's boxes were stored in one of Mar-a-Lago's gilded ballrooms. A picture included in the indictment shows boxes stacked in rows on the ballroom's stage.

Prosecutors allege that Trump, who claimed without evidence that he had declassified all the documents before leaving office, understood his duty to care for classified information but shirked it anyway. It details a July 2021 meeting in Bedminster in which he boasted about having held onto a classified document prepared by the military about a potential attack on another country.

"Secret. This is secret information. Look, look at this," the indictment quotes him as saying, citing an audio recording. He also said he could have declassified the document but "Now I can't, you know, but this is still a secret," according to the indictment.

Using Trump's own words and actions, as recounted to prosecutors by lawyers, aides and other witnesses, the indictment alleges both a refusal to return the documents despite more than a year's worth of government demands but also steps that he encouraged others around him to take to conceal the records.

For instance, prosecutors say, after the Justice Department issued a subpoena for the records in May 2022, Trump asked his own lawyers if he could defy the request and said words to the effect of, "I don't want anybody looking through my boxes."

"Wouldn't it be better if we just told them we don't have anything here?" one of his lawyers described him as saying.

But before his own lawyer searched the property for classified records, the indictment says, Trump directed aides to remove from the Mar-a-Lago storage room boxes of documents so that they would not be found during the search and therefore handed over to the government.

Weeks later, when Justice Department officials arrived at Mar-a-Lago to collect the records, they were handed a folder with only 38 documents and an untrue letter attesting that all documents responsive to the subpoena had been turned over. That day, even as Trump assured investigators that he was "an open book," aides loaded several of Trump's boxes onto a plane bound for Bedminster, the indictment alleges.

But suspecting that many more remained inside, the FBI obtained a search warrant and returned in August to recover more than 100 additional documents. The Justice Department says Trump held onto more than 300 classified documents, including some at the top secret level.

Walt Nauta, one of the personal aides alleged to have transported the boxes around the complex, lied to the FBI about the movement of the boxes and faces charges that he conspired to hide them, according to the indictment. His lawyer declined to comment.

Associated Press writers Bill Barrow in Atlanta, Michael R. Sisak in New York, Meg Kinnard in Greensboro, North Carolina, and Gary Fields and Zeke Miller in Washington contributed to this report. Tucker and Whithurst reported from Washington. Colvin reported from Greensboro, North Carolina.

UN aid chief says Ukraine faces 'hugely worse' humanitarian situation after the dam rupture

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The humanitarian situation in Ukraine is "hugely worse" than before the Kakhovka dam collapsed, the U.N.'s top aid official warned Friday.

Undersecretary-General Martin Griffiths said an "extraordinary" 700,000 people are in need of drinking water and warned that the ravages of flooding in one of the world's most important breadbaskets will almost inevitably lead to lower grain exports, higher food prices around the world, and less to eat for millions in need.

"This is a viral problem," he said in an interview with The Associated Press. "But the truth is this is only the beginning of seeing the consequences of this act."

The rupture of the Kakhovka hydroelectric dam and emptying of its reservoir on the Dnieper River on Wednesday added to the misery in a region that has suffered for more than a year from artillery and missile attacks.

Ukraine holds the Dnieper's western bank, while Russian troops control the low-lying eastern side, which is more vulnerable to flooding. The dam and reservoir, essential for fresh water and irrigation in southern Ukraine, lies in the Kherson region that Moscow illegally annexed in September and has occupied for the past year.

Griffiths said the United Nations, working mainly through Ukrainian aid groups, has reached 30,000 people in flooded areas under Ukrainian control. He said that so far Russia has not given access to areas it controls for the U.N. to help flood victims.

Griffiths said he met with Russia's U.N. ambassador, Vassily Nebenzia, on Wednesday to ask Russian authorities "for access for our teams in Ukraine to go across the front lines to give aid, to provide support for ... Ukrainians in those areas."

"We're providing them with details as we speak, to enable Moscow to meet what we hope will be a positive decision on this," he said. "I hope that will come through."

The emergency response is essential to save lives, he said, "but behind that you've got a huge, looming problem of a lack of proper drinking water for those 700,000 people" on both the Ukrainian-controlled and Russian-controlled sides of the river.

There is also the flooding of important agricultural land and a looming problem of providing cooling water for the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, Europe's largest, which had been supplied from the dam, he added.

In addition, Griffiths noted that waters also have rushed over areas with land mines from the war "and what we are bound to be seeing are those mines floating in places where people don't expect them," threatening adults and especially children.

"So it's a cascade of problems, starting with allowing people to survive today, and then giving them some kind of prospects for tomorrow," he said.

Griffiths said that because of the wide-ranging consequences "it's almost inevitable" that the United

Nations will launch a special appeal for more aid funds for Ukraine to deal with "a whole new order of magnitude" from the dam's rupture. But he said he wants to wait a few weeks to see the economic, health and environmental consequences before announcing the appeal.

Griffiths said he and U.N. trade chief Rebeca Grynspan are also working to ensure the extension of the Black Sea Grain Initiative, which Turkey and the U.N. brokered with Ukraine and Russia last July to open three Black Sea ports in Ukraine for its grain exports.

More than 30,000 metric tons of wheat and other foodstuff has been shipped under the deal, leading to a decline in global food prices that skyrocketed after Russia's Feb. 24, 2022, invasion of Ukraine. It has been extended three times and is due to expire July 17.

Part of the deal was a memorandum signed by Russia and the U.N. aimed at overcoming obstacles to Russian food and fertilizer shipments that Moscow has repeatedly complained are not being fulfilled.

A key Russian demand has been the reopening of a pipeline between the Russian port of Togliatti on the Volga River and the Black Sea port of Odesa that has been shut down since Russia's attack on Ukraine. It carried ammonia, a key ingredient of fertilizer.

"Opening that pipeline and delivering ammonia across the Black Sea to the global south is a priority for all of us," Griffiths said. "Ammonia is an essential ingredient for global food security."

A rupture in the pipeline was reported from shelling late Tuesday, but Griffiths said the U.N. couldn't confirm it because the pipeline is in the middle of a war zone.

"We, of course, are very, very strongly of the view that we need that repaired as quickly as possible," he said. "So let's hope it's not too badly damaged." He said the Ukrainians have told the U.N. they will get to the pipeline, which is on their territory, "as soon as they can."

Griffiths said the Ukrainians see opening the pipeline as part of a package that would also include Russian agreement to open a fourth Black Sea port at Mykolaiv to export more grain.

Negotiations have been taking place in recent weeks, including at a meeting Friday in Geneva between U.N. trade chief Grynspan and Russia's deputy foreign minister Sergey Vershinin.

"We're not there yet," Griffiths said. "I hope that we'll make it."

Florida's 'Dr. Deep' resurfaces after a record 100 days living underwater

KEY LARGO, Fla. (AP) — A university professor who spent 100 days living underwater at a Florida Keys lodge for scuba divers resurfaced Friday and raised his face to the sun for the first time since March 1.

Dr. Joseph Dituri set a new record for the longest time living underwater without depressurization during his stay at Jules' Undersea Lodge, submerged beneath 30 feet (9.14 meters) of water in a Key Largo lagoon.

The diving explorer and medical researcher shattered the previous mark of 73 days, two hours and 34 minutes set by two Tennessee professors at the same lodge in 2014.

"It was never about the record," Dituri said. "It was about extending human tolerance for the underwater world and for an isolated, confined, extreme environment."

Dituri, who also goes by the moniker "Dr. Deep Sea," is a University of South Florida educator who holds a doctorate in biomedical engineering and is a retired U.S. Naval officer.

Guinness World Records listed Dituri as the record holder on its website after his 74th day underwater last month. The Marine Resources Development Foundation, which owns the lodge, will ask Guinness to certify Dituri's 100-day mark, according to foundation head Ian Koblick.

Dituri's undertaking, dubbed Project Neptune 100, was organized by the foundation. Unlike a submarine, which uses technology to keep the inside pressure about the same as at the surface, the lodge's interior is set to match the higher pressure found underwater.

The project aimed to learn more about how the human body and mind respond to extended exposure to extreme pressure and an isolated environment and was designed to benefit ocean researchers and astronauts on future long-term missions.

During the three months and nine days he spent underwater, Dituri conducted daily experiments

and measurements to monitor how his body responded to the increase in pressure over time.

He also met online with several thousand students from 12 countries, taught a USF course and welcomed more than 60 visitors to the habitat.

"The most gratifying part about this is the interaction with almost 5,000 students and having them care about preserving, protecting and rejuvenating our marine environment," Dituri said.

He plans to present findings from Project Neptune 100 at November's World Extreme Medicine Conference in Scotland.

American Airlines, JetBlue seek to keep some ties despite losing antitrust case

By DAVID KOENIG AP Airlines Writer

American Airlines and JetBlue said Friday they should be allowed to keep selling tickets on each other's flights in the Northeast and link their frequent-flyer programs despite losing an antitrust trial over their partnership.

The Justice Department said if the airlines get their wish, travelers would miss out on the benefits of restoring competition between the carriers.

In separate filings, the airlines and the government told a federal judge in Boston how he should carry out his ruling last month to break up the partnership. American's CEO has said his airline will appeal the verdict.

The Justice Department proposed a final judgment that would order American and JetBlue to end most parts of the deal immediately. The government said the airlines should honor existing tickets to avoid hurting travelers, but then quickly wind down their sharing of airport gates and takeoff and landing slots at key airports.

The airlines want to keep selling tickets on each other's flights — called code-sharing — and offering reciprocal frequent-flyer benefits because those practices "are common in the airline industry." American and JetBlue also objected to the Justice Department's request that they be barred from any deals involving revenue-sharing or coordinating routes with each other for 10 years, and with any other U.S. airline for two years.

The airlines call their partnership in New York and Boston the Northeast Alliance, or NEA.

The Justice Department said that by asking to keep elements of the deal, the airlines are trying "to craft a new 'NEA Lite' on the fly."

The airlines launched their partnership after getting approval from the outgoing Trump administration in January 2021. They argued it helped them compete against Delta Air Lines and United Airlines in the Northeast.

The Biden administration sued the airlines in September 2021, arguing that their deal would reduce competition and raise prices for consumers. After a non-jury trial last fall, U.S. District Judge Leo Sorokin ruled that the NEA violated federal antitrust laws.

This story has been updated to correct that the Trump administration approved the partnership in January 2021, not 2020.

New Mexico reaches \$500M settlement with Walgreens in opioid case

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — New Mexico has settled with Walgreens for \$500 million over the pharmacy chain's role in distributing highly addictive prescription painkillers.

The agreement was signed in March, and state officials confirmed that a confidentiality provision on the agreement was lifted Friday.

The settlement is in addition to \$274 million in settlements obtained in the case last fall from Albertsons,

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 62 of 92

CVS, Kroger and Walmart. Attorneys representing the state say that, in all, New Mexico's opioid litigation has brought in more than \$1 billion.

They argued at trial last year that Walgreens failed to recognize suspicious prescriptions and refuse to fill them.

"I'm optimistic this will help in the fight against the opioid crisis and provide the treatment New Mexicans so desperately need," Luis Robles, one of the attorneys who worked on the case, told the Santa Fe New Mexican.

Over the past few years, drug manufacturers, distribution companies, pharmacies and other companies with roles in the opioid business have reached settlements totaling more than \$50 billion with local, state and tribal governments.

In May, West Virginia announced its settlement with Kroger, bringing that state's total opioid litigation dollars to more than \$1 billion. West Virginia state has lost more lives to opioid overdoses per capita than any other.

Most of the settlement money from the opioid litigation is required to be used to fight the crisis, which has been linked to more than 560,000 deaths in the U.S. over the past two decades, including more than 70,000 a year recently.

In recent years, most of the deaths have been connected to fentanyl and other illicit synthetic opioids, not prescription painkillers, according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

In finally competitive Stanley Cup Final, Vegas may still have edge on Florida

By STEPHEN WHYNO AP Hockey Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — The sour taste in the aftermath of their Stanley Cup Final Game 3 loss is gone for the Vegas Golden Knights, who quickly moved on to enjoying the nearby ocean breeze.

They're breathing easily up 2-1 on the Florida Panthers in the series, knowing fully they've been the better team so far. Taking a day away off the ice and away from the rink — but not too far away from hockey on this big a stage — the Golden Knights are calm, cool and confident going into Game 4 Saturday night with another chance to move toward hoisting the Cup.

"We're not going to change a lot. We don't need to," coach Bruce Cassidy said from his team's beachfront hotel Friday morning. "We're not going to beat ourselves up over (Game 3). We're going to do what we've always done. We're going to work to get better and keep growing our game and hopefully be better."

The Golden Knights have only lost consecutive games once on this playoff run, when they were up 3-0 on Dallas in the Western Conference final. What followed was their best performance of the entire season.

That's still the blueprint, which could come in handy since that was also a road game. But there are still elements of what Vegas is doing entirely within this series that give players confidence, everything from going a surprising 6 of 17 on the power play and a perfect 12 of 12 on the penalty kill to solving Sergei Bobrovsky early and even Ivan Barbashev hitting the post late in the third period Thursday.

"We certainly feel the first three games there's been way more good than bad," Cassidy said. "The guys know what's at stake. It'll be predominantly what we've been doing, 90% of how we want to play."

The other 10%, the adjustments that make up the chess match during any playoff series, is also easy to identify. Forward Keegan Kolesar, whose crunching hit on Matthew Tkachuk knocked Florida's leading scorer out for a big stretch of Game 3 because of concussion protocol, pointed to the Golden Knights giving up three goals at even strength as an anomaly.

"That's not like us," Kolesar said. "That's something that we're going to have to clean up. We're not going to beat ourselves down on it. We know we'll be better from it next game, but there's just little critiques that we can probably do to help ourselves out."

They can also go back to making it a priority to create South Florida rush hour-like traffic in front of Bobrovsky, who returned to his second- and third-round form in a major bounce back from getting pulled in Game 2, stopping 25 of 27 shots.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 63 of 92

Bobrovsky's brilliance is just one reason the Panthers are riding high after Carter Verhaeghe's goal got them back in the series and made them 7-0 in overtime this postseason. There's also Tkachuk's latest playoff heroics: setting up new dad Brandon Montour's goal early in Game 3, scoring with 2:17 left in regulation to tie it and screening Vegas goalie Adin Hill to pave the way for Verhaeghe to find the net.

Coach Paul Maurice said the win gave his team a chance, and that's enough for him right now. He shook off any notion the Panthers might have found control of the series — saying they didn't even feel that way when they were on the way to beating Toronto in five games and sweeping Carolina.

"The picture that just came into my head was a frog reaching up and choking an alligator or something, 'I've got him where I want him,'" Maurice said. "No, we're scratching and clawing shift by shift. We're not looking for control."

Veteran Vegas defenseman Brayden McNabb agreed with the notion that he and his teammates have control after establishing it earlier in the series.

"Go win Game 4, it's 3-1: That's a pretty big lead," McNabb said. "They got a little momentum off winning last game. It ends after the game. Both teams have a chance to regroup. We know what's at stake for Game 4, and it's a big game for us."

AP Sports Writer Tim Reynolds in Sunrise, Florida, contributed to this report.

Follow AP Hockey Writer Stephen Whyno on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/SWhyno>

AP NHL playoffs: <https://apnews.com/hub/stanley-cup> and https://twitter.com/AP_Sports

Key moments in Trump indictment: Flaunting classified material, stowing boxes in Mar-a-Lago bathroom

By MICHELLE L. PRICE Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department detailed stunning allegations against former President Donald Trump in a criminal indictment unsealed Friday, including allegations he stored classified documents in a bathroom and shower at his Florida club, flaunted the documents to people without security clearances and at times tried to conceal material from his own lawyers as well as investigators.

In the indictment, prosecutors spell out the types of classified material the Republican presidential candidate is accused of keeping at his Florida beach club after he left office in 2021, along with where he is said to have kept them and what he did with them.

A look at key moments as described in the indictment:

FLAUNTING DOCUMENTS

In July 2021 at Trump's Bedminster, New Jersey, golf course, the former president showed a writer, a publisher and two of his staff members — none of whom had a security clearance — a "plan of attack" that had been prepared by the Defense Department and a senior military official. In the meeting, which prosecutors said was recorded on audio, Trump told them the plan was "highly confidential." "As president, I could have declassified it," he said. "Now I can't, you know, but this is still a secret."

In August or September 2021, more than six months after he was no longer president, Trump showed a classified map of a military operation in a foreign country to someone working for his political action committee who also did not have a security clearance. Trump acknowledged that he should not be showing the staffer the map and warned the staffer not to get too close.

DOCUMENTS STORED IN BATHROOM AND SHOWER

Trump, known for keeping mementos, kept hundreds of classified documents, along with newspapers, press clippings, notes and cards in cardboard boxes at his Mar-a-Lago club in Florida, according to the indictment.

Although "tens of thousands of members and guests" visited the club between the time that Trump left office and that federal agents retrieved the documents in August 2022, Trump had documents stored in various places around the resort, including a ballroom, a bathroom and shower, an office space, his

bedroom and a storage room.

The documents included "information regarding defense and weapons capabilities of both the United States and foreign countries, United States nuclear programs, potential vulnerabilities of the United States and its allies to military attack, and plans for possible retaliation in response to a foreign attack," the indictment said.

'I DON'T WANT ANYBODY LOOKING THROUGH MY BOXES'

When a grand jury in May 2022 issued a subpoena for classified records at Mar-a-Lago, Trump sought to defy the order, telling his attorneys, "I don't want anybody looking through my boxes," according to notes from a lawyer detailed in the indictment. The former president asked his attorneys if it would be better "if we just told them we don't have anything here," according to the lawyer's recollection.

DIRECTING LAWYERS TO 'PLUCK IT OUT'

One of Trump's lawyers in June 2022 identified 38 documents with "classified" markings and put them in a folder, which he sealed with duct tape. He then went to see Trump, who asked the attorney: "Did you find anything? Is it bad? ... Is it good?"

The attorney told federal investigators that he discussed the folder with Trump and the former president made a gesture that suggested he wanted the attorney to identify "anything really bad" and "you know, pluck it out." The attorney clarified that Trump did not articulate such instructions beyond making that "plucking motion." The attorney said he did not "pluck" anything from the folder but instead immediately contacted the FBI and another Trump attorney.

KEEPING DOCUMENTS FROM HIS LAWYERS

Trump told his valet Walt Nauta "to move boxes of documents to conceal them" from the FBI, the grand jury and one of his own lawyers, according to the indictment.

The former president agreed at a May 23, 2022, meeting with his lawyers that one of them would return at a later date to look through storage boxes at Mar-a-Lago for classified documents. Before the lawyer could return, prosecutors said, Trump directed Nauta to remove 64 boxes from the storage room and bring them to his residence. He had Nauta return 30 boxes just before the lawyer showed up to look for documents, the indictment said.

Trump's lawyers turned over some records to authorities on June 3, 2022. Trump told his attorneys that he was "an open book," even though earlier in the day, Nauta had loaded "several of Trump's boxes ... on aircraft that flew Trump and his family north for summer," the indictment said.

Associated Press writers Bill Barrow in Atlanta, Michael R. Sisak in New York, Meg Kinnard in Greensboro, North Carolina, and Gary Fields in Washington contributed to this report.

More on Donald Trump-related investigations: <https://apnews.com/hub/donald-trump>

Judge in FTX bankruptcy rejects media challenge, says customer names can remain secret

By RANDALL CHASE AP Business Writer

DOVER, Del. (AP) — The names of individual customers of collapsed cryptocurrency exchange FTX Trading can be permanently shielded from public disclosure, a Delaware bankruptcy judge ruled Friday.

Following a two-day hearing, Judge John Dorsey rejected arguments from lawyers for several media outlets and for the U.S. bankruptcy trustee, which serves as a government watchdog in Chapter 11 reorganization cases, challenging FTX's request to keep the names of customers and creditors secret.

Dorsey ruled that customer identities constitute a trade secret. He also said FTX customers need to be protected from bad actors who might target them by scouring the internet and the "dark web" for their personal information.

"It's the customers that are the most important issue here," he said. "I want to make sure that they are

protected and they don't fall victim to any types of scams that might be happening out there."

Katie Townsend, an attorney for the media outlets, had argued that the press and the public have a "compelling and legitimate interest" in knowing the names of those affected by the stunning collapse of FTX.

"That collapse sent shock waves not just through the cryptocurrency industry, but the entire financial industry," Townsend said. "And at this point, we don't even know where the shock waves, both individually and institutionally, have hit the hardest, and what institutions may have the largest, or no, exposure as a result."

But lawyers for FTX and its official committee of unsecured creditors argued that its customer list is both a valuable asset and confidential commercial information. They contend that secrecy is needed to protect FTX customers from theft and potential scams, and to ensure that potential competitors do not "poach" FTX customers. FTX believes its customer list could prove valuable as part of any sale of assets, or as part of a reorganization.

"The debtors are in a position to realize value from these customer lists," said FTX attorney Brian Glueckstein.

FTX entered bankruptcy in November when the global exchange ran out of money after the equivalent of a bank run. Founder Sam Bankman-Fried has pleaded not guilty to charges that he cheated investors and looted customer deposits to make lavish real estate purchases, campaign contributions to politicians, and risky trades at Alameda Research, his cryptocurrency hedge fund trading firm. Three former FTX executives have pleaded guilty to fraud charges and are cooperating with investigators.

In January, Dorsey ruled that FTX could redact the names of all customers, and the addresses and email addresses of non-individual customers, from court filings for 90 days. He also authorized FTX to permanently keep secret the addresses and email addresses of individual creditors and equity holders.

On Friday, the judge approved the permanent sealing of individual customer names and extended the secrecy regarding the names of institutional customers for another 90 days.

Dorsey refused, however, to continue to allow FTX to shield the names of individual creditors or equity holders who are citizens of the United Kingdom or European Union nations and covered under a consumer protection program known as the General Data Protection Regulation, or GDPR. FTX sought similar treatment for individuals covered under Japanese data privacy laws.

Dorsey said that, in response to an objection from the U.S. trustee, FTX had presented no evidence to show that those foreign individuals might be harmed, or that FTX might be sanctioned, if their names are disclosed.

Dorsey also rejected a request by attorneys for an ad hoc committee of non-U.S. customers to keep the names of its members secret. If the committee wants to participate in the case, then the names of its members must be disclosed, he said.

According to redacted court filings, the ad hoc committee currently has 35 members, with estimated economic interests in FTX ranging from \$64,434 to \$1.5 billion. Dorsey noted that some members may decide to drop out based on his ruling.

With GM and Ford embracing Tesla's EV charging technology, here's what it means for consumers

By TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Starting next year, owners of electric vehicles made by General Motors and Ford will be able to charge their EVs at many of Tesla's charging stations, the largest such network in the country.

As part of their move, both Detroit-area automakers have decided to adopt Tesla's EV charging connector, the plug that links an electric vehicle to a charging station.

With GM and Ford joining Tesla's charging system, the rest of the auto industry may be forced follow suit. If so, it would provide a major victory to Tesla, which would be assured a new and guaranteed revenue stream for years to come.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 66 of 92

At present, two main types of EV charging plugs exist: Tesla's North American Charging Standard and CCS, used by nearly all other automakers. It's not yet clear which other automakers might join Ford and GM.

WHAT'S GOING TO CHANGE?

With 17,000 charging plugs, Tesla commands the largest network in the United States. Its stations can charge faster than most others. They're often more reliable, too, and exist in safer locations closer to prime travel corridors. Under the new agreements with GM and Ford, EVs from those companies will be able, starting next year, to charge at 12,000 Tesla Supercharger plugs. Tesla is the top seller of EVs in the U.S., with GM No. 2 and Ford No. 3. Because those three companies control so much of the EV market, analysts say other automakers are likely to sign up with Tesla to avoid being left at a competitive disadvantage. "Do I want to have my customers not have access to Superchargers, and I'm going to charge them \$100,000 for a vehicle?" said Gary Silberg, global head of automotive for KPMG.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I OWN A NON-TESLA EV?

If it's made by GM or Ford, you will likely need to buy an adapter so you can hook into Tesla chargers. It's unclear how much those will cost. You can also continue to charge on networks with CCS connectors. If your car is made by some other manufacturer, at this point you won't have access to Tesla's chargers. But there is a growing network of public stations equipped with CCS connectors — up to nearly 54,000 locations, with roughly 139,000 plugs, the Energy Department says. Still, only 7,400 such stations are DC fast chargers, which can provide a significant charge in just minutes.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I BUY A NON-TESLA EV IN THE FUTURE?

In 2025, GM and Ford say they will start installing ports in their new EVs that will be compatible with Tesla chargers. To use a CCS charger instead, you would need to have an adapter or find a charging station that can accommodate both technologies. Though other automakers will likely make the switch to Tesla's system as well, for at least a few years, you'd probably need that adapter. "My guess is that what we will see is by 2027, there will probably be no more new EVs built for North America with CCS ports," said Sam Abuelsamid, an analyst at Guidehouse Insights.

WHO IS THE BIG WINNER HERE?

GM and Ford didn't release a lot of detail about the financial arrangements. But it's clear that Tesla will enjoy a boost in revenue as more Ford and GM vehicles charge up. GM said it isn't spending anything on the deal; its customers will pay Tesla to charge. GM and Ford EV owners also win because they will gain access to double the number of chargers that they had before.

WHO LOSES?

If other automakers go with Tesla, companies that are developing their own charging networks, such as ChargePoint, EVgo or Electrify America, would feel squeezed. They would have to make sure that all their fast chargers can work with the Tesla plug — or become more competitive by, for example, adding stations in better locations and making them more reliable. "Up to this point, they basically didn't have to compete with Tesla for owners of CCS-equipped vehicles," Abuelsamid noted. Because Tesla's network is open to more vehicles, Silberg said, the other companies might struggle to attract investors. Yet as they adapt, consumers should gain more charging options. "It will light a fire under those companies," he said.

WHAT DO OTHER AUTOMAKERS SAY ABOUT JOINING TESLA?

It varies. Kia, Nissan and Toyota declined to comment. Hyundai said it continues to evaluate its technology but has nothing to announce. Stellantis said it's working on a response. Volkswagen says it's committed to the CCS standard. Electrify America, which was established with money from a VW emissions cheating settlement, plans to double its number of chargers by 2026. It now has 840 stations and about 4,000 plugs.

From dizzying heights to tumultuous lows, UK's political showman Boris Johnson steps down

LONDON (AP) — He was the mayor who reveled in the glory of hosting the 2012 London Olympics, and the man who led the Conservatives to a whopping election victory on the back of his mission to "get Brexit done."

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 67 of 92

But Boris Johnson's time as prime minister was marred by his handling of the coronavirus pandemic and a steady stream of ethics allegations, from alcohol-fueled government parties that broke lockdown rules. Here is a timeline of events relating to Johnson's political career:

2001-2008: Serves as a member of Parliament in the House of Commons representing the constituency of Henley.

2008-2016: Serves as London mayor, overseeing 2012 London Olympics.

2016: Co-leader of the campaign to take Britain out of the European Union, in opposition to then-Prime Minister David Cameron, a fellow Conservative. Cameron resigns after voters approve Brexit in a national referendum on June 23, 2016.

2016-2018: Serves as Foreign Secretary under Cameron's successor, Prime Minister Theresa May. Johnson resigns in July 2018 in opposition to May's strategy for a "soft" Brexit that would maintain close ties with the EU.

June 7, 2019: Theresa May resigns as Conservative Party leader over her failure to persuade Parliament to back the Brexit agreement she negotiated with the EU. The party is split between those who back May and hard-liners, led by Johnson, who are willing to risk a no-deal Brexit in order to wring concessions from the EU.

July 23, 2019: Johnson is elected Conservative Party leader in a vote by party members. He takes office as prime minister the next day, inheriting a minority government that relies on votes from Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party to pass legislation. Johnson insists Britain will leave the EU on Oct. 31, with or without a deal.

Aug. 28, 2019: Johnson announces he will shut down Parliament until mid-October, giving opponents less time to thwart a no-deal Brexit.

Sept. 3, 2019: Twenty-one rebel Conservative Party lawmakers support legislation requiring the government to seek an extension of Brexit negotiations if it can't negotiate an agreement with the EU. The measure passes and the rebels are expelled from the party.

Sept. 5, 2019: Johnson asserts he would rather be "dead in a ditch" than ask the EU for another extension.

Sept. 24, 2019: U.K. Supreme Court rules government's suspension of Parliament was unlawful.

Oct. 19, 2019: Johnson asks the EU to delay Brexit again. New deadline set for Jan. 31.

Nov. 6, 2019: Parliament is dissolved and early elections are set for mid-December as Johnson seeks a mandate for his Brexit strategy.

Dec. 12, 2019: Johnson wins an 80-seat majority in the general election, giving him the backing to push through Brexit legislation. The victory makes Johnson the most electorally successful Conservative leader since Margaret Thatcher.

Jan. 23, 2020: The Brexit deal becomes law after approval by U.K. Parliament. European Parliament approves the deal six days later.

March 23, 2020: Johnson places U.K. in first lockdown due to COVID-19.

April 5, 2020: Johnson hospitalized and later moved to intensive care with COVID-19. He is released from the hospital on April 12, thanking the nurses who sat with him through the night to make sure he kept breathing.

Nov. 3-4, 2021: Johnson's government orders Conservative lawmakers to support a change in ethics rules to delay the suspension of Owen Paterson, a Johnson supporter who had been censured for breaching lobbying rules. The measure passes. A day later, facing an angry backlash from lawmakers of all parties, Johnson reverses course and allows lawmakers to vote on Paterson's suspension. Paterson resigns.

Nov. 30, 2021: Allegations surface that government officials attended parties in government offices during November and December 2020 in violation of COVID-19 lockdown rules. The scandal grows to reports of more than a dozen parties. Johnson denies the allegations, but opposition leaders criticize the government for breaking the law as people across the country made sacrifices to combat the pandemic.

Dec. 8, 2021: Johnson authorizes investigation into the scandal, dubbed "Partygate." Pressure builds for a leadership challenge, but fizzles.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 68 of 92

Feb. 3, 2022: Johnson's longtime aide, Munira Mirza, quits Downing Street, followed by three other top aides.

March 23: The government announces a mid-year spending plan that's criticized for doing too little to help people struggling with the soaring cost of living. Then-Treasury chief Rishi Sunak refuses to delay a planned income tax increase or impose a windfall profits tax on oil and gas companies benefiting from rising energy prices.

April 9: Johnson meets Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv, pledging a new package of military and economic support. The move helps bolster Johnson and his supporters, who argue the government should not focus on domestic political squabbles.

April 12: Johnson is fined 50 pounds (\$63) for attending one of the lockdown parties. Opposition parties characterize him as the first U.K. prime minister in history shown to have broken the law while in office. Johnson apologizes but insists he didn't know he was breaking the rules.

May 22: Findings of the "Partygate" investigation are published, detailing 16 gatherings at Johnson's home and office and other government offices between May 2020 and April 2021. The report details excessive drinking among some of Johnson's staff, at a time when millions of people were unable to see friends and family.

May 26: The government reverses course on its tax decision on oil and gas companies and announces plans for a 25% windfall profits levy.

June 6: Johnson narrowly wins a vote of no confidence, with Conservative lawmakers voting 211—148 to back him. But the scale of the revolt — some 41% voted against him — shakes his grip on power.

June 15: Christopher Geidt quits as ethics adviser to Johnson, accusing the Conservative government of planning to flout conduct rules.

June 24: Johnson's Conservatives lose two former strongholds to opposition parties in special elections.

June 29: Parliament's cross-party Privileges Committee issues a call for evidence for a probe into whether Johnson misled Parliament over lockdown parties.

June 30: Chris Pincher resigns as Conservative deputy chief whip amid allegations he assaulted two guests at a private members' club in London. Previous sexual misconduct allegations emerge about Pincher. Questions swirl about whether Johnson knew about the claims when Pincher was given the job.

July 5: Johnson apologizes for his handling of the Pincher scandal and says he had forgotten about being told of the allegations. Two of Johnson's most senior Cabinet ministers, Sunak and Health Secretary Sajid Javid, quit the government.

July 6: Some three dozen junior ministers resign from the government, attacking Johnson's leadership.

July 7: Johnson resigns as Conservative Party leader, but plans to remain as prime minister while the leadership contest is held.

November 2022: Johnson begins stepping up speaking engagements that take him around the world from India to Nigeria to Singapore to the United States. During the current parliamentary term, he reports 2.7 million pounds (\$3.4 million) for speaking engagements.

March 3, 2023: A U.K. parliamentary committee says evidence suggests Johnson repeatedly misled Parliament about his knowledge of lockdown-breaking parties at his Downing Street office.

March 22: Johnson insists "hand on heart" that he never lied to lawmakers about rule-breaking government parties, mounting a robust defense at a hearing that could damage or even end his tumultuous political career.

June 9, 2023: Johnson resigns his parliamentary seat after receiving report on lockdown plans.

Boris Johnson quits as UK lawmaker after being told he will be sanctioned for misleading Parliament

By JILL LAWLESS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Former U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson shocked Britain on Friday by quitting as a lawmaker after being told he will be sanctioned for misleading Parliament. He departed with a ferocious

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 69 of 92

tirade at his political opponents — and at his successor, Rishi Sunak — that could blast open tensions within the governing Conservative Party.

Johnson resigned after receiving the results of an investigation by lawmakers into misleading statements he made to Parliament about “partygate,” a series of rule-breaking government parties during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a lengthy resignation statement, Johnson accused opponents of trying to drive him out — and hinted that his rollercoaster political career might not be over yet.

“It is very sad to be leaving Parliament — at least for now,” he said.

Johnson, 58, said he had “received a letter from the Privileges Committee making it clear — much to my amazement — that they are determined to use the proceedings against me to drive me out of Parliament.”

He called the committee investigating him — which has members from both government and opposition parties — a “kangaroo court.”

“Their purpose from the beginning has been to find me guilty, regardless of the facts,” Johnson said.

The resignation will trigger a special election to replace Johnson as a lawmaker for a suburban London seat in the House of Commons.

Johnson, whose career has seen a series of scandals and comebacks, led the Conservatives to a landslide victory in 2019 but was forced out by his own party less than three years later.

He had been awaiting the outcome of an investigation by a House of Commons standards committee over misleading statements he made to Parliament about a slew of gatherings in government buildings in 2020 and 2021 that breached pandemic lockdown rules.

Police eventually issued 126 fines over the late-night soirees, boozy parties and “wine time Fridays,” including one to Johnson, and the scandal helped hasten the end of his premiership.

Johnson has acknowledged misleading Parliament when he assured lawmakers that no rules had been broken, but he said he didn’t do so deliberately.

He told the committee he “honestly believed” the five events he attended, including a send-off for a staffer and his own surprise birthday party, were “lawful work gatherings” intended to boost morale among overworked staff members coping with a deadly pandemic.

The committee had been expected to publish its report in the next few weeks, and Johnson could have faced suspension from the House of Commons if he was found to have lied deliberately.

By quitting, he avoids a suspension that could have seen him ousted from his Commons seat by his constituents, leaving him free to run for Parliament again in future. His resignation statement suggested he was mulling that option. It was highly critical of Sunak, who served as Treasury chief in Johnson’s government before jumping ship with many other colleagues in July 2022 — resignations that forced Johnson out.

Johnson took aim at Sunak, who was chosen by the Conservatives in October to steady the government after the terms of Johnson and his briefly serving successor Liz Truss, who stepped down after six weeks when her tax-slashing policies caused financial turmoil.

Johnson claimed that “when I left office last year the government was only a handful of points behind in the polls. That gap has now massively widened.”

Conservative poll ratings went into decline during the turbulent final months of Johnson’s term and have not recovered. Opinion polls regularly put the opposition Labour Party 20 points or more ahead. A national election must be held by the end of 2024.

“Just a few years after winning the biggest majority in almost half a century, that majority is now clearly at risk,” Johnson said. “Our party needs urgently to recapture its sense of momentum and its belief in what this country can do.”

Johnson resigned hours after King Charles III rewarded dozens of his loyal aides and allies with knight-hoods and other honors, a political tradition for former prime ministers that drew cries of cronyism from opponents of the ousted leader.

Johnson’s dramatic exit is the latest — but maybe not the last — chapter in a career of extremes. The ruffled, Latin-spouting populist with a mop of blond hair had held major offices, including London mayor, but also spent periods on the political sidelines before Britain’s exit from the European Union propelled

him to the top.

Johnson's bullish boosterism helped persuade 52% of Britons to vote to leave the EU, and he was elected prime minister in 2019 on a vow to "get Brexit done."

He was less suited to the hard work of governing, and the pandemic — which landed Johnson in intensive care with COVID-19 — was a major challenge. Johnson's government won plaudits for its rapid vaccine rollout, but the U.K. also had one of the highest coronavirus death tolls in Europe, and some of the longest lockdowns.

The final straw came when details emerged of parties held in Johnson's Downing Street office and home while the country was in lockdown. "Partygate" caused outrage and finally pushed the Conservative Party to oust its election-winning but erratic leader.

Angela Rayner, deputy leader of the opposition Labour Party, responded to Johnson's resignation with: "enough is enough."

"The British public are sick to the back teeth of this never ending Tory soap opera played out at their expense," she said.

In this youth baseball league, fans who mistreat umpires are sentenced to do the job themselves

By DAN GELSTON AP Sports Writer

DEPTFORD, N.J. (AP) — Back in Mudville, when mighty Casey took an unheeded pitch for a strike, there went up a muffled roar: "Kill him! Kill the umpire!" shouted someone on the stand."

Even in 1888, well before pitch clocks, \$17 beers and instant replay, a common thread for the fans in baseball's most epic poem was how much they loved to threaten umpires.

These days, 135 or so years after writer Ernest Lawrence Thayer's renowned verse, one Little League in New Jersey is taking a hands-on approach. Its target: those watching 10- and 11-year-olds play baseball who curse at the volunteers behind the plate.

You want some of this? they're saying. Well, come get some. In Deptford, the umpire recruiting slogan sign may as well read: If you can't berate them, join them.

The April Facebook post hardly seemed like national news at the time for league president Don Bozzuffi. He'd lost patience when two umpires resigned after persistent spectator abuse. So he wrote an updated code of conduct.

It specified: Any spectator deemed in violation would be banned from the complex until three umpiring assignments were completed. If not, the person would be barred from any Deptford youth sports facilities for a year.

In G-rated terms (unlike the ones that will get you tossed), the mandate just wants helicopter parents to calm the heck down. No 9-year-old will remember, as an adult, being safe or out on a bang-bang play at first. But how deep would be the cut of watching dad get tossed out of the game and banished for bad behavior?

The league doesn't want to find out. "So far, it's working like I'd hoped and just been a deterrent," the 68-year-old Bozzuffi said.

The problem, though, isn't limited to Deptford and its handful of unruly parents.

Outbursts of bad behavior at sporting events for young people have had frightening consequences for officials at all youth levels. Pick a town, any town, and there are adults assaulting referees or chasing umpires into parking lots looking for a fight, all available on the social feed of your choice.

The videos pop up almost weekly: inane instances of aggressive behavior toward officials. Like in January, when a Florida basketball referee was punched in the face after one game. Or last month, when an enraged youth baseball coach stormed a baseball field in Alabama and wrestled an umpire to the ground. Other adults and kids tried to break up the melee that took place in a game — at an 11-and-under tournament.

Jim McDevitt has worked as a volunteer Deptford umpire for 20 years. But he turns 66 this month and

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 71 of 92

won't call games much longer. He wonders where the next generation of officials will come from, especially when the job description includes little pay and lots of crap.

Youth officiating is in crisis. According to a 2017 survey of by the National Association of Sports Officials, nearly 17,500 referees surveyed said parents caused the most problems with sportsmanship at 39%. Coaches came in at 29% and fans at 18%.

Barry Mano founded the association four decades ago to advocate for youth officials. Mano, whose brother Mark was an NBA referee, has watched fan conduct become "far worse" than he could have imagined.

"Sports is simply life with the volume turned up," Mano says. "We've become louder and brasher. We always want a second opinion on things. That's where the culture has gone. I don't think we're as civil as we used to be toward each other, and it plays out in the sporting venues."

In Deptford, things seem to be working — at least in attracting non-mandatory umps. Bozzuffi says that since his rule grabbed national headlines, three umpires have joined the league. More volunteers want to be trained.

And those who might get sentenced to umping? McDevitt puts it less delicately. "We'll see how their sphincter feels when they have to make a tight call and the parents are all screaming and hollering at them."

The Deptford Little League playoffs, a time when tensions rise, are under way, and Bozzuffi has urged his umps to show restraint. Bozzuffi, who has served as league president for 14 years and been connected to the league for 40, doesn't want any fan to get ejected. He just wants to get them thinking.

Because in a culture where violence visits schools, churches, movie theaters, clubs and many social gathering spots, the irate fan pressed against the fence spewing four-lettered tirades at the ump could easily escalate.

"People are just a little bit more sensitive to it," said Sherrie Spencer, a lifelong Deptford resident who had two sons and grandsons play. She has noticed an uptick in abusive language to umpires through the years. "Now," she says, "you have things that are going on in our world that people are more fearful when you see someone getting upset like that."

Part of the problem is this: Thanks to technological advances, perfection in baseball can sometimes seem more attainable than ever.

In the major leagues, computers and their precision have become a vital part of baseball's fabric. Gone are the days when a manager like Billy Martin or Earl Weaver would burst out of the dugout and kick up a cloud of dirt, curse a blue streak and maybe even walk away with a base or chuck one into the outfield over a missed call.

Blow one now? The manager barely reacts, asking for a replay review while a command center makes the dispassionate final call. Oh, and robo umps are coming. They're already calling the shots in the minor leagues, with computerized strike zones that leave no room for argument. Where's the messiness, the fallibility, the human emotion steeped in baseball tradition? Where's the fun of baseball in umpire perfection?

That's not the way some parents see it. For many, every "safe!" when the tag is missed, every called strike on a pitch below the knees is another reason to blow a fuse in a youth sports culture full of hefty fees and travel teams that have already heightened financial and emotional attachment and encouraged a sense of parents as constituents who have a right to be heeded.

That's why Deptford is experimenting with its attempt at preventative medicine. This is interdicting the parents before the kids get older. This is, at its core, potential assault prevention.

It's getting attention all the way up the youth baseball chain. Little League President Stephen D. Keener had this to say: "We applaud the volunteers at Deptford Township Little League for coming up with a creative, fun solution to shine a light on the importance of treating everyone with respect, on and off the Little League field."

OK. But here's the fine print.

Beyond the headlines that suggest Fuming Father No. 1 is going to get the call from the bleachers and suddenly start ringing up strike three, there's this: It's too much effort. The risks! The potential safety

problems! The insurance!

Bozzuffi and the town's mayor teach a three-hour safety certification class each offender must complete before receiving an assignment. Rookie umpers must pass a background check and complete an online concussion course. After all that, a qualified umpire would be stationed next to the replacement ump to ensure accuracy and fairness.

It hasn't happened — yet.

"The first person that we have to do this to, nobody is else is going to challenge this," Bozzuffi said. "Nobody wants to go through all this."

So for now, at least on a recent weeknight in Deptford, parents, grandparents and friends, were on their best behavior. They cheered. They clapped. They caught up with neighbors.

They grouched a bit, too. While other Little League officials across America reached out to Bozzuffi for input into their own policies, some fans in Deptford are sick of the perception that's it's a town full of baseball bullies.

One fan waved off an interview request because he "didn't want to hear anymore about how bad we all are." Parent Dawn Nacke found it unfair that the town was labeled as "obnoxious parents when we're just caring about our kids."

"We know that they ump for free," she said, "but sometimes bad calls are made and they cost us the game."

Has she ever been guilty of popping off too much?

"Mouthy, yes. But we all have to bite our tongues over here because of the new rule," she said. "I just have to keep my mouth shut more. Scared me straight. I'm more angry that they call us obnoxious parents. That really upset me when I read it in the news. But this is their rule and I'm going to follow it."

Just the way Deptford drew it up.

Follow Philadelphia-based AP Sports Writer Dan Gelston on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/apgelston>

Chelsea Peretti on her directorial debut 'First Time Female Director,' premiering at Tribeca

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Chelsea Peretti plays a first-time director in her directorial debut: "First Time Female Director."

The film premiering at the Tribeca Film Festival takes an acutely meta premise in lampooning the tumultuous experience of an inexperienced woman brought in to direct a play at a small, local theater in Glendale, California, after its original male director is accused of misconduct.

In one scene, while Peretti's character bangs a trash can lid and shouts "Learn your blocking," a cast member grumbles, "We replaced a predator with a female disaster."

Things went far smoother for Peretti, the 45-year-old comedian and "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" star, during her first time behind the camera. "First Time Female Director," which is up for sale at Tribeca, brings together a cast of funny people, including Megan Mullally, Kate Berlant, Andy Richter and Megan Stalter, along with cameos from Amy Poehler (a producer) and Peretti's husband, Jordan Peele.

"It was like a crazy summer camp as an adult," Peretti says.

"First Time Female Director" takes a satire of small-town theater and puts it in the context of a post-#MeToo entertainment world. For Peretti, it was a way to make something unabashedly silly with a little commentary on some of the shifts she's experienced in recent years in Hollywood, she told The Associated Press in an interview.

AP: Where did the idea for this begin?

PERETTI: Weirdly, it started from me as sort of challenging myself to come up with something by booking a UCB slot years ago, and just forcing myself. I wanted to do a fake excerpt from a play. And I thought it would be funny to then have like a pretentious Q&A about it with the cast, and act like we're a theater

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 73 of 92

group and this is part of a real play. I went to so much theater as a young person. I was very intimately a lover of theater. But also, anything I love is also fair game to make fun of.

AP: In the upheaval of the entertainment industry in the wake of #MeToo, were there things in how Hollywood responded that struck you as funny?

PERETTI: Well, 100%. I think some things have felt like they moved so fast. Most of my career there was an absolute misogynistic tone in the response to what I was doing. And then one day all of a sudden there was shock and pearl clutching that these things are happening. And I'm like: "Where were you for the last 20 years? Where were you for all my YouTube comments that I've endured?" It's been such a whirlwind that I was trying to process it in this project.

AP: A few years ago on "Conan," you joked about noticing an uptick in the audience for your stand-up special because viewers were looking for comedy from "people who aren't rapists."

PERETTI: I do remember saying that. There were so many comedians that were outed for varying levels of horrific misogyny that I started really contemplating the last 20 years of my life, going: "Wow, I was trying to get a pat on the head from a lot of these people. I was being told to emulate half these people." It was a revelation and it's been so inspiring, people like Megan Stalter who are this younger generation. I was told never dress sexy when you're doing stand-up. I'm watching all these younger women break all these rules and having the time of their lives. That's the way to do it, you know? So it's been such a period of reflection. And obviously the pandemic was this pause button in which you could really reflect on, "Wow, I was on a sitcom! That's cool." And: "Whoa, my stand-up life was tumultuous in many ways."

AP: You kind of hold a funhouse mirror up that tumult in "First Time Film Director." Even what the audiences in the film cheer for is kind of a joke.

PERETTI: When I started stand-up, I was told the audience is never wrong. And I have to say I disagree. I think the audience is wrong sometimes. I remember going to Carolines on Broadway and having a joke that I was really excited to work on and going up and just absolutely bombing. Now, probably that was my fault. But then I remember a guy going up after me and doing a bit about double-sided dildos and just destroying. I was going: "I don't know if they are right." Andy Warhol was right that everyone's famous now. All these comedians have podcast empires. Everyone is preaching to their own choir in a way.

AP: Yet instead of skewering some of the male comedians you were thinking about, you mostly make fun of yourself in the film.

PERETTI: (Laughs) Well, this is a recurring theme for me. Like, it's not fun satirizing Trump. It's more fun satirizing people that you know intimately and love. I would have a really hard time like writing about a businessman. Speaking of another adage, write what you know. I know self-doubt. I know failure. I know feeling like people don't like me.

AP: But I gather your experience directing went better than your character's?

PERETTI: I really loved it. I often feel that, when you're being directed as a comedy actor, that directors try to keep you in line a little bit. Like, if you have a big idea, they almost want you to rein it in. When some of these actors on this movie had ideas, I was like: "Let's do it!" And so many of them were brilliant. As a rule, every comedian I know holds these strange obsessions. Heather Lawless was like: "Can I have Band-aids on my finger when I'm driving?" And Jermaine Fowler was like, "Can I roll around in a pile of cords?" And I'm like, "Yeah!" I just love saying yes to people.

AP: You seem quite game to try new things, like film directing, or making a coffee-themed concept album.

PERETTI: Sometimes before doing standup, I get really anxious a lot of times, especially in new venues. And I would be backstage and I just go, "F--- it." I feel like you just have to have this part of you that says, "F--- it." I always want to be like trying new things and I always want to be growing. That's the fun of being creative to me. And that doesn't mean that all these ideas work. But I love spontaneity and following inspiration and seeing what happens.

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

Putin asserts Ukrainian counteroffensive has begun, while drones strike within Russia

By JAMEY KEATEN and JOANNA KOZLOWSKA Associated Press
KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin asserted Friday that Ukrainian troops have started a long-expected counteroffensive and were suffering “significant” losses. His comments came just hours after a string of drone strikes inside Russian territory.

It was Putin’s latest effort to shape the gut-wrenching narrative of the invasion he ordered more than 15 months ago, sparking widespread international condemnation and reviving Cold War-style tensions.

The conflict entered a complex new phase this week with the rupture of a Dnieper River dam that sent floodwaters gushing through a large swath of the front in southern Ukraine. Tens of thousands of civilians already facing the misery of regular shelling fled for higher ground on both sides of the swollen and sprawling waterway.

Kyiv has played down talk of a counteroffensive, reasoning that the less said about its military moves the better. Speaking after he visited flood zones on Thursday, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he was in touch with Ukrainian forces “in all the hottest areas” and praised an unspecified “result” from their efforts.

Putin said Russian forces have the upper hand.

“We can clearly say the offensive has started, as indicated by the Ukrainian army’s use of strategic reserves,” Putin told reporters in Sochi, where he was meeting with heads of other states in the Eurasian Economic Union. “But the Ukrainian troops haven’t achieved their stated tasks in a single area of fighting.”

Kyiv has not specified whether reservists have been mobilized to the front, but its Western allies have poured firepower, defensive systems, and other military assets and advice into Ukraine, raising the stakes for the expected counteroffensive.

“We are seeing that the Ukrainian regime’s troops are suffering significant losses,” Putin said, without providing details. “It’s known that the offensive side suffers losses of 3 to 1 — it’s sort of classic — but in this case, the losses significantly exceed that classic level.”

On Friday, Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar said Russia was on the defensive in the southeastern Zaporizhzhia province, though the epicenter of fighting remained in the east, particularly in the Donetsk region. She described “heavy battles” in Lyman, Bakhmut, Avdiivka and Marinka.

Valerii Shershen, a spokesperson for Ukraine’s armed forces in Zaporizhzhia, told Radio Liberty that they were searching for weaknesses in Russia’s defense, which Moscow was trying to strengthen by deploying mines, constructing fortifications and regrouping.

Earlier, regional authorities in southwest Russia near the Ukrainian border reported the latest flurry of drone strikes. The strikes have exposed the vulnerabilities of Moscow’s air defense systems.

The regional governor of Voronezh, Alexander Gusev, said on the Telegram app that a drone crashed into a high-rise apartment building in the city of the same name, injuring three residents who were hit by shards of glass. Russian state media published photos of windows blown out and damage to the facade.

Gusev said the drone was targeting a nearby airbase but veered off course after its signal was jammed. The city lies some 250 kilometers (155 miles) north of Ukraine’s Luhansk region, most of which is occupied by Russia.

Separately, Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov of the neighboring Belgorod region, which also borders Ukraine, said air defenses had shot down two unspecified targets overnight. An apartment building and private homes were damaged, he said, without saying by what. He also said a drone fell on the roof of an office building in the city of Belgorod. It failed to detonate but caught fire on impact, causing “insignificant damage,” he wrote.

The leader of a third region of Russia, Kursk Gov. Roman Starovoit, said a drone crashed to the ground outside an oil depot and near water reservoirs in the local capital, causing no casualties or damage.

Ukrainian authorities have generally denied any role in attacks inside Russia. Such drone strikes — there was even one near the Kremlin — along with cross-border raids into southwestern Russia have brought

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 75 of 92

the war home to Russians.

In Ukraine, the governor of the Kherson region, Oleksandr Prokudin, said Friday that water levels had decreased by about 20 centimeters (8 inches) overnight on the western bank of the Dnieper, which was inundated starting Tuesday after the breach of the Nova Kakhovka dam upstream.

Officials on both sides indicated that about 20 people have died in the flooding. The United Nations' humanitarian coordinator in Ukraine, Denise Brown, visited the flood-hit town of Bilozerka on Friday, U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said.

"Ms. Brown said that although initial estimates indicate that 17,000 people are being impacted in the areas controlled by Ukraine alone, it is important to understand that the crisis has not stopped and continues to evolve rapidly," Dujarric said.

Kyiv accused Russia of blowing up the dam and its hydropower plant, which Russian forces controlled, while Moscow said Ukraine bombarded it.

The Norwegian earthquake center NORSAR said Friday that a seismological station in neighboring Romania recorded tremors in the vicinity of the dam at 2:54 a.m. Tuesday, around the time Zelenskyy said the breach occurred.

"What we can see from our data is that there was an explosion in the area of the dam at the same time as the dam broke," NORSAR head of research Volker Oye told The Associated Press.

The Norwegian center is part of a global monitoring system that helps verify compliance with the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

Experts predicted the consequences of the dam's collapse would last for months. Continued fighting in the region was bound to slow recovery efforts.

Viktor Vitovetskyi, a representative of Ukraine's Emergency Service, said 46 municipalities in the Kherson region have flooded, 14 of them along the Russian-occupied eastern bank of the river.

Even as efforts were underway to rescue civilians and supply them with fresh water and other services, he said Russian shelling over the last day killed two civilians and injured 17 in the region.

In other developments Friday:

1. Air raid sirens and alert systems went off across Ukraine overnight warning of more Russian long-range strikes by drones and missiles. Falling debris from a downed Russian missile killed one civilian and injured three others in the western city of Zviahel, the regional governor said.

2. Gladkov, the governor of Russia's Belgorod region, said Ukrainian shelling wounded three civilians in the border town of Shebekino.

3. The Institute for the Study of War, a Washington-based think tank, said a "variety of indicators" suggested Ukraine's counteroffensive had begun. It said the new phase of the war "may also see the highest Ukrainian losses."

4. Andriy Yermak, head of Zelenskyy's office, said two hospital workers, a nurse and a plumber were killed and two other people injured in Russian shelling of a hospital in Huliaipole, in the Zaporizhzhia region.

Kozłowska reported from London. Jon Gambrell in Kyiv; Hanna Arhirova in Warsaw, Poland; Edit M. Lederer at the United Nations; and David Keyton in Stockholm, Sweden, contributed to this report.

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

Trump faces unprecedented legal peril, but will it hurt his standing with Republican voters?

By JILL COLVIN and STEVE PEOPLES Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — In March, when Donald Trump became the first former president in U.S. history indicted on criminal charges, his reelection campaign saw a huge surge in donations. Even political rivals rushed to support him. There was no dent in his front-runner status after the state charges in New York.

Thursday's news that Trump has been indicted again, this time on federal charges related to his handling

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 76 of 92

of classified documents, may offer a repeat.

A 37-count felony indictment unsealed Friday accuses Trump of willful retention and improper sharing of national defense information, conspiracy to obstruct justice and corruptly concealing a document or record, among other charges. The top counts carry a penalty of up to 20 years in prison upon conviction.

But soon after he was indicted, there were clear signs that Republican voters may be willing to entrust him again with access to the nation's biggest secrets and authority over the very laws prosecutors say he defied.

Republican pollster Neil Newhouse said the indictment would not fundamentally change Trump's standing in the GOP or his advantage in the crowded 2024 Republican primary.

"In any other decade, this would be more than enough to kill a presidential contender in the crib. That's no longer the case — particularly for Donald Trump," Newhouse said. He argued Trump has been effectively setting expectations for more charges for months.

"This comes as a surprise to very few Republicans," Newhouse said. "Trump's been saying he'd get indicted. He got indicted. The sense from many Republican voters is that this is all about politics."

The prospect that someone under indictment — twice — could somehow still be considered a viable presidential candidate underscores Trump's grip on the Republican Party and the ways that he has fundamentally transformed democratic norms in America.

It also illustrates just how effective he has become at inoculating himself against political fallout by setting expectations and controlling the narrative. And it reflects growing Republican hostility toward the federal government and particularly the Justice Department, which Trump has now spent the better part of a decade maligning.

But even if the indictment doesn't hurt Trump's standing with Republican primary voters, it's far from certain that the broader set of general election voters, which includes independents and moderates in both parties, will be as forgiving next fall in a prospective matchup against President Joe Biden.

The Democratic president beat Trump in 2020 with a promise to restore a sense of normalcy to Washington after Trump's drama-filled presidency. With these new charges, Trump's baggage is only growing heavier.

The former president faces the possibility of still more indictments in Georgia and Washington, D.C., a prospect that could see him facing trial in four separate jurisdictions while running to return to the highest office in the land.

For now, the new indictment throws Trump back into the spotlight, dominating every news cycle and denying his rivals space to break through to voters, just as many have formally launched their campaigns.

Republican strategist Sarah Longwell, a fierce Trump critic and founder of the Republican Accountability Project, acknowledged the indictment might ultimately help Trump seize the GOP nomination.

"I've certainly seen a 'rally around Trump effect' every time Trump is impeached or indicted," she said, adding that much depends on the reaction of his Republican 2024 challengers.

"Does anyone have the political talent to seize this as an opportunity? Or will they all line up behind Trump?" she said. "Because if they all defend him, they will relegate themselves to bit players in Trump's drama and never get around to making an affirmative case for themselves."

Still, Doug Heye, another Republican strategist, said Trump's primary opponents do have a major opportunity to argue that the former president cannot win in 2024 because of his baggage.

"This should be gold for Republican presidential candidates, should they choose to use it," Heye said.

So far Trump's rivals instead seem to be rallying to his side — an acknowledgement of his enduring popularity with the GOP voters they need to win over in order to snag the nomination.

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who received backlash after he briefly knocked Trump over the New York case, lashed out at the Justice Department in a tweet Thursday night. "The weaponization of federal law enforcement represents a mortal threat to a free society," he wrote.

South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott used similar language in an appearance on Fox News, decrying "the weaponization of the Department of Justice against the former president."

Former Vice President Mike Pence said he was "deeply troubled" that Trump had been indicted because he believed it would further divide the nation.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 77 of 92

Only former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, a long-shot candidate and frequent Trump critic, offered a rebuke. "This reaffirms the need for Donald Trump to respect the office and end his campaign," he said.

Republican leaders in Congress, as they have time after time, sprang to Trump's defense as if in choreographed unison.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy said the indictment marked "a dark day for the United States of America" and a "grave injustice."

House Majority Leader Steve Scalise accused President Biden of "weaponizing his Department of Justice against his own political rival" with a "sham indictment" that was "the continuation of the endless political persecution of Donald Trump."

Trump and his allies had been bracing for a federal indictment since the president's lawyers were informed he was a target of the investigation, believing it was a matter of when — not if — charges would be brought.

Trump received word of the indictment Thursday evening while huddled with advisers at his club in Bedminster, New Jersey, where he is spending the summer. He broke the news to the world himself on his Truth Social platform.

His team — well practiced in crisis response — had already asked allies to have supportive statements at the ready, and quickly reacted with a fundraising solicitation and opposition research targeting special counsel Jack Smith. As political donations poured in, Trump ended the night playing DJ at dinner with a mix that included songs from Elvis Presley, Pavarotti and James Brown.

Trusty said on CNN that Trump would appear in court Tuesday, as requested.

"He's not shrinking from the fight," he said Thursday. "You're not going to see him hide in Scotland. He's going to be ready to handle this case and help his attorneys fight it."

Trusty and another Trump attorney resigned from the case on Friday.

People close to Trump have long seen the Mar-a-Lago case as far more serious than the charges he faces in New York in connection to hush money payments made to women who accused him of affairs. Conviction of the federal charges would be expected to carry far steeper legal consequences, and Smith is generally viewed as more difficult to malign than Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg, an elected Democrat.

Trump's first indictment failed to hurt his support, and polls suggest his position among Republicans has, if anything, grown stronger in the months since.

An April poll from The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that nearly half of Americans (47%) said they believe Trump did something illegal in the classified documents case, slightly more than the 41% who said he did something illegal in the New York hush money case.

New York-based Republican donor Eric Levine, who has emerged as a vocal Trump critic in recent months, acknowledged that, regardless of how serious the charges may be, the Trump faithful will rally behind the former president no matter what.

"But for people who were on the fence about Trump, this may push them away," he said. "Enough of the chaos and craziness."

___ Peoples reported from New York. Associated Press polling director Emily Swanson contributed to this report from Washington.

More on Donald Trump-related investigations: <https://apnews.com/hub/donald-trump>

Mexico sets new work-from-home rules, including that employers pay internet

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Mexico's Labor Department issued new rules Friday requiring employers to pay for internet and provide ergonomic chairs for employees working from home.

The new rules also mandate a "right to disconnect" for employees who work at least 40% of their time

from remote locations. Remote workers often complain that, because they are constantly reachable at home, they are also constantly asked to work.

Mexico, like many other countries, saw a big increase in remote working during the coronavirus pandemic in 2020 and 2021. While office space occupancy is inching back up, remote work seems to be a trend that has caught on.

The trend is so pronounced that some office buildings on bustling downtown boulevards are being converted into apartments, hospitals and stores.

The Labor Department said bosses are responsible for paying for the electricity, printers and other equipment used when working at home. According to the new rules, if an employee's home isn't safe, well-lit and well-ventilated, they can't be forced to work there.

Inspectors can visit a worker's home, or employees may be asked to take pictures of their home, to prove that it meets labor requirements.

Remote workers cannot be paid less than those who go to an office, and they must have set work hours.

According to the commercial real estate firm Newmark, Mexico City's office market has shown slight signs of recovery since the pandemic. In a first-quarter 2023 research report, it said the city's office vacancy rate had declined to 23.4%, from 24.5% one year ago.

As in many parts of the world, some employers have adopted a "mixed" or hybrid model in which workers come into the office only part of the week. The new rules apply only to those who work remotely at least 40% of the week.

Businessman linked to Texas AG Ken Paxton's impeachment charged with lying to get \$172M in loans

By JAKE BLEIBERG, PAUL J. WEBER and JIM VERTUNO Associated Press

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — A Texas businessman at the center of the scandal that led to the historic impeachment of state Attorney General Ken Paxton was charged Friday with making false statements to mortgage lenders to obtain \$172 million in loans.

The federal indictment of real estate developer Nate Paul is the result of a yearslong FBI investigation — a probe Paxton involved his office in, setting off a chain of events that led to a separate federal probe of the attorney general and his impeachment and suspension from office last month.

Paul was charged with eight counts of making false statements while seeking loans from mortgage lenders in the U.S. and Ireland. There was no mention of Paxton or the attorney general's office during the hearing.

Paul, 36, who entered the federal courtroom shackled and wearing jeans, a blue shirt and Nikes, did not enter a plea during his initial appearance in an Austin court nor visibly react as the charges were read. He was released ahead of trial but ordered to surrender his passport and inform the court of any travel outside Texas.

Following the hearing, Paul left through a back door and climbed into a car in a gated area outside the courthouse.

Paul is "adamant that he is not guilty," defense attorney Gerry Morris said after hearing, adding that he did not know when his client last spoke with Paxton. An attorney for Paxton, Dan Cogdell, speculated Thursday evening that prosecutors might use the charges against Paul to try to get him to "flip" and cooperate in the investigation of the attorney general.

Paul is accused of overstating his assets and understating his liabilities while seeking loans in 2017 and 2018, including by giving financial institution false and counterfeit records. In one case, prosecutors said, Paul told banks he had \$18 million in an account when he had less than \$13,000. In another case laid out in the 23-page indictment, Paul is accused of telling a credit union he had around \$3 million in liabilities when he actually owed more than \$28 million at the time.

A grand jury handed up the indictment Tuesday but a judge sealed the document until after the court

hearing, which took place just a few blocks from Paul's downtown Austin offices.

Prosecutors said each count of making false statements carries a penalty of up to 30 years in prison and a fine up to \$1 million.

FBI agents examining Paul's troubled real estate empire searched his Austin offices and palatial home in 2019. The next year, eight of Paxton's top deputies reported the attorney general to the FBI on allegations of bribery and abuse of office, including for hiring an outside lawyer to examine the developer's claims of wrongdoing by federal agents.

The allegations by Paxton's staff prompted an FBI investigation that in February was taken over by the Justice Department's Washington-based Public Integrity Section. They are also central to 20 articles of impeachment overwhelmingly approved by the GOP-led state House of Representatives. They include abuse of public trust, unfitness for office and bribery.

The impeachment accuses Paxton of using his office to help Paul over his unproven claims of an elaborate conspiracy to steal \$200 million of the developer's properties. The bribery counts say that in return the developer employed a woman with whom Paxton had an extramarital affair and paid for expensive renovations to the attorney general's million-dollar Austin home.

Paxton's lawyers sought to rebut the latter claim this week by releasing a bank statement that included a 2020 wire transfer purportedly showing Paxton, and not a donor, paying more than \$120,000 for a home renovation. But the document raised new questions about the men's dealings.

The wire transfer was dated Oct. 1, 2020 — the same day Paxton's deputies signed a letter informing the head of human resources at the Texas attorney general's office that they had reported their boss to the FBI. The \$121,000 payment was to Cupertino Builders, whose manager had done work for Paul and had an email address with his company, state corporation and court records show.

Paul has faced numerous lawsuits from creditors and business partners over the years, with several of his companies filing for bankruptcy or being placed under the supervision of court-appointed overseers. Last year, one of those receivers wrote in a report that Cupertino Builders was used for "fraudulent transfers" from Paul's business.

Paul has denied bribing Paxton. The attorney general has also broadly denied wrongdoing and said he expects to be acquitted during an impeachment trial in the state Senate, where his wife is a member.

The Senate will set its own rules for a trial that has little precedent, given that Paxton is just the third sitting official in Texas history to be impeached. The proceeding is set begin no later than Aug. 28.

Paxton was separately indicted on securities fraud charges in 2015, though he has yet to stand trial.

Bleiberg reported from Dallas.

How 'The Flash,' many years in the works and beset by turmoil, finally reached the finish line

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

There were many stressful things about making "The Flash" and getting it to theaters. It was shot in the middle of a pandemic. There was isolation from friends and family for the 138-day shoot. There were A-list schedules to coordinate for cameos. There was a star in Ezra Miller who, after it wrapped, made headlines for legal run-ins amid a mental health crisis. And behind it all, a studio undergoing leadership changes and rethinking the whole DC Comics strategy.

But first, they had to figure out how to transport a two-ton Batmobile from Los Angeles to the U.K. amid a worldwide shortage of shipping containers in 2021.

This was not just any Batmobile, mind you. It was one of the originals from the Tim Burton movies that was needed for the grand return of Michael Keaton's caped crusader after 30 years — a major production that also involved building, from scratch, a life-size replica of the Batcave.

Director Andy Muschietti and his sister, producer Barbara Muschietti, waited nervously for its arrival wor-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 80 of 92

ried whether it would make it in time or just be stuck in the middle of the ocean. They breathed a sigh of relief when it made it ashore, briefly celebrated and moved on to the next problem: how to get it into the Batcave at Warner Bros. Studios Leavesden. Ultimately it involved a loading it onto a modified airport cargo truck that was lifted 20 feet (6 meters) in the air and "gently rolled" onto set.

"Everything came with a little adventure," Barbara Muschietti said with a laugh in a recent interview with The Associated Press.

It's an apt if intentionally understated description of getting "The Flash" into theaters on June 16. Movie versions of the lightning quick comic book character have been in various stages of development since the late 1980s. One scenario had Ryan Reynolds starring and David S. Goyer directing; another had George Miller setting the stage for spinoffs and standalones with Adam Brody.

Then in 2014, things started taking shape as Warner Bros. plotted out a shared universe of DC Comics films, including a standalone Flash starring Miller as Barry Allen, who would first appear in "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice," "Suicide Squad" and "Justice League."

But even that wasn't so straightforward, with disagreements over tone and scheduling conflicts making things complicated. Several writers and directors cycled in and out of developing "The Flash," including Phil Lord and Christopher Miller, Seth Grahame-Smith, Rick Famuyiwa, Robert Zemeckis and John Francis Daley and Jonathan Goldstein, and release dates were pushed back. Ezra Miller even worked on their own treatment of a script.

The Muschiettis were finishing "It Chapter Two" when the studio approached them about "The Flash." They didn't concern themselves with the messy, marathon development history — they just wanted to figure out if this was worth several years of their life. In the story, Andy Muschietti found a compelling emotional core: The relationship between Barry Allen and his mother, who was killed when he was a child and whom he wants to go back in time to save. "Back to the Future," which is referenced quite a bit in "The Flash," was one of their favorite movies, too. They were in.

"Birds of Prey" screenwriter Christina Hobson had taken a crack at the story and come out with something that was both fun and emotional and introduced the multiverse to the DC cannon. In Barry Allen's quest to save his mother, he accidentally gets tossed into another timeline and meets a younger, different version of himself who gets swept up in the journey. It allowed for lots of possibilities, including bringing Keaton back in a movie that also had Ben Affleck's "Zack Snyder Batman."

"We all got very excited about the prospect of having Michael Keaton come back after 30 years of not knowing what Batman was up to," Andy Muschietti said. "The multiverse allowed this to happen and combine the existing characters, the existing universe, with something that seemed to have been buried in the past."

They told Keaton, who jogged to their lunch meeting in Brentwood, they wouldn't be able to do the film without him. They wanted to find his Bruce Wayne in a place people wouldn't expect. By the end of lunch, Keaton had agreed and jogged off.

"I didn't want him to be sitting near the fireplace, like staring out of a glass of whiskey," Andy Muschietti said. "I knew he was going to transform back into Batman so I needed him to be in a place that made that transformation possible in the tradition of a reluctant hero."

Keaton's Batman was also due to make a return in the standalone "Batgirl" movie which was ultimately shelved close to completion.

"The Flash" has other nostalgic nods, including an army of cameos best left unspoiled, that helps set the stage for a "universe reboot." While making the film, big leadership changes were afoot at Warner Bros. and, specifically, DC Studios, where new co-chairs and CEOs James Gunn and Peter Safran were tasked with plotting the future of the DC Universe characters, from Superman to Batman. That new vision won't officially begin until Gunn's new Superman in 2025, but he's also said that "The Flash," though technically from a previous regime, "resets the entire DC universe."

But then during the extensive post-production on "The Flash," star Ezra Miller, also started making headlines for a string of arrests and reports of erratic behavior last year. They were arrested twice last year in

Hawaii, including for disorderly conduct and harassment at a karaoke bar. In January, they pleaded guilty to a charge stemming from a break-in and theft of alcohol at a neighbor's home in Vermont. They avoided jail time but paid a \$500 fine and got a year of probation, agreeing to abide by a number of conditions including continued mental health treatment.

Though some questioned whether "The Flash" should be shelved, the studio remained committed to releasing it on June 16 even without their star on the promotional circuit.

"We're in contact with them. They love the movie. They support the movie. And they're taking their treatment very seriously," said Barbara Muschietti of Miller. "We want everybody to see this. It's great and it's special. And it has all our hearts and guts."

While early hyperbole abounded with people like Gunn calling it one of the best superhero movies he'd ever seen, reviews have indeed been mostly very positive with lots of praise for Miller's dual roles.

"What you get is this delicious odd couple," Barbara Muschietti. "You forget that they're the same actor."

There are even rumors that the Muschiettis' DC relationship will continue with future films. But right now, the focus is "The Flash."

"Let's just wait and see," Andy Muschietti said.

Philly cops fired over offensive Facebook posts can pursue First Amendment claim, court rules

By MICHAEL RUBINKAM Associated Press

A dozen Philadelphia police officers who were fired or suspended for racist and violent social media posts can pursue a lawsuit against the city claiming their First Amendment rights were violated, a federal appeals court ruled.

The officers' social media accounts were included in a database, published in 2019, that catalogued thousands of bigoted or violent posts by active-duty and former police officers in several states.

In Philadelphia, nearly 200 officers were disciplined, including 15 who were forced off the job. Twelve officers subsequently filed a federal civil rights lawsuit against the city, asserting the police department had retaliated against them for exercising their First Amendment rights.

A federal judge dismissed the suit last year, agreeing with the city's argument that the officers' posts had undermined public trust in the department and violated the city's social media policy.

The plaintiffs "played racist bingo, mocking as many ethnic or religious groups as possible," U.S. District Judge Petrese Tucker wrote last year.

In a ruling Thursday, the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals said it agreed the content was "offensive, racist and violent," adding it does not "condone the officers' use of social media to mock, disparage, and threaten the very communities they were sworn to protect."

"Posts like the officers' have the capacity to confirm the community's worst fears about bias in policing," the three-judge panel wrote.

But the court said Tucker's decision to throw out the case was premature, given what it said was a lack of clarity over the provenance of some of the posts, which posts were the subject of discipline by the police department, and the "unadorned speculation" about the posts' impact.

The court sent the case back to the lower court, saying the officers could continue to pursue their claims while noting they "undoubtedly face a steep uphill climb in ultimately proving their case."

The Facebook posts, all of which were public, were uncovered by a team of researchers who spent two years looking at the personal accounts of police officers from Arizona to Florida. They found officers bashing immigrants and Muslims, promoting racist stereotypes, identifying with right-wing militia groups and, especially, glorifying police brutality.

White House says Iran is helping Russia build a drone factory east of Moscow for the war in Ukraine

By AAMER MADHANI Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iran is providing Russia with materials to build a drone manufacturing plant east of Moscow as the Kremlin looks to lock in a steady supply of weaponry for its ongoing invasion of Ukraine, according to a U.S. intelligence finding released by the White House on Friday.

National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said U.S. intelligence officials believe a plant in Russia's Alabuga special economic zone could be operational early next year. The White House also released satellite imagery taken in April of the industrial location, several hundred miles east of Moscow, where it believes the plant "will probably be built."

President Joe Biden's administration publicly stated in December that it believed Tehran and Moscow were considering standing up a drone assembly line in Russia for the Ukraine war. The new intelligence suggests that the project, in the Yelabuga region of Tatarstan, has moved beyond conception.

Iran has said it provided drones to Russia before the start of the war but not since.

Kirby said that U.S. officials also have determined that Iran continues to supply the Russian military with one-way attack drones made in Iran: The drones are shipped via the Caspian Sea, from Amirabad in Iran to Makhachkala, Russia, and then are used by Russian forces against Ukraine.

As of May, Russia had received hundreds of one-way attack drones, as well as drone production-related equipment, from Iran, according to the White House.

"This is a full-scale defense partnership that is harmful to Ukraine, to Iran's neighbors, and to the international community," Kirby said. "We are continuing to use all the tools at our disposal to expose and disrupt these activities including by sharing this with the public — and we are prepared to do more."

The Biden administration on Friday issued an advisory meant to help businesses and other governments put in place measures to ensure they are not inadvertently contributing to Iran's drone program.

The notice from the departments of Commerce, State, Justice and Treasury said it was "critical that private industry be aware of its legal obligations" to abide by U.S. export controls and sanctions.

The United States, the European Union and the United Kingdom in recent months all have issued rules designed to cut off the flow of drone components to Russia and Iran.

The Biden administration has repeatedly publicized intelligence findings that detail how Iran is assisting the Russian invasion.

The persistent drip of intelligence findings from the administration is intended to detail what U.S. officials say is a deepening defense partnership between Russia and Iran. It's also part of a broader administration effort to spotlight Moscow's prosecution of its war in Ukraine in hopes of further promoting global isolation of Russia.

The White House last month said Russia was looking to buy additional advanced attack drones from Iran after using up most of the 400 drones it had previously purchased from Tehran.

The Biden administration last year first publicized satellite imagery and intelligence findings that it said indicated Iran sold hundreds of attack drones to Russia. For months, officials have said the United States believed Iran was considering selling hundreds of ballistic missiles to Russia, but White House officials have said they do not have evidence a deal was consummated.

The White House has noted that Iran also has weapons flowing its way from Russia.

Iran is seeking to purchase additional military equipment from Russia, including attack helicopters, radars and YAK-130 combat trainer aircraft, according to the White House. In April, Iran announced that it had finalized a deal to buy Su-35 fighter jets from Russia.

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

Rep. Santos says he's protecting family members by seeking to keep bond cosigners secret

By LARRY NEUMEISTER Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Rep. George Santos wants to protect family members by asking the courts to keep his bond cosigners secret as he fights criminal charges, his lawyer told a Long Island federal judge Friday as he asked her to reverse a magistrate judge's decision to make the names public.

Attorney Joseph Murray said in a letter to Judge Joanna Seybert, who is based in Central Islip, New York, that Santos would agree to the disclosure that there is a "family" relationship between the Republican congressman and those who signed his bond.

News media outlets have challenged the sealing of records regarding the cosigners after Santos pleaded not guilty on May 10 to a 13-count indictment charging that he duped donors, stole from his campaign, lied to Congress about being a millionaire and cheated to collect unemployment benefits he didn't deserve.

The New York Times first sought to unseal the names and other news outlets, including The Associated Press, soon followed. Lawyers for the news entities did not immediately comment Friday.

Santos, 34, who represents parts of Queens and Long Island, has refused to resign and plans to seek a second term.

On Tuesday, U.S. Magistrate Judge Anne Shields ordered that the names be revealed but gave Santos until Friday to appeal. Murray had told Shields that Santos would rather go to jail than subject bond cosigners to the kind of threats he has gotten.

Murray filed a letter with Seybert on Friday morning.

In it, he repeatedly decried the "media frenzy" that has surrounded the criminal case, saying that three individuals lined up to cosign his bond "grew very fearful and concerned" on May 10 and one of them had a "change of heart and backed out."

Murray said he publicly notified the House Ethics Committee that those who signed his bond were family members and not lobbyists, donors or others seeking to influence Santos, and he was willing to do the same in court documents.

In asking Seybert to overturn the magistrate judge's decision, Murray wrote that Shields "failed to perceive the importance of the privacy issues" facing the cosigners.

Murray said Santos has faced "hateful attacks" since his arrest and been confronted with individuals who were "extremely angry, anti-gay, anti-Republican and all around anti-social." Prior to Friday, Murray has said he, Santos and Santos' staff have been receiving threatening and harassing calls and messages, including death threats.

If the names of the cosigners are revealed, they too might face attacks, he argued in Friday's letter.

"Moreover, given the political temperature in this Country and acts of political violence that occur, the privacy interests of these suretors are far more concerning, especially considering their ages and respective employment," Murray wrote.

In a May 23 letter requesting release of the names, attorney Dana Green wrote on behalf of the Times that the First Amendment required public access to the identities of those who signed the bond.

She said the signing of the bond "presents an obvious opportunity for political influence," but she also noted that the public has an interest in ensuring that Santos appears in court and in exercising oversight of the effectiveness of the bond.

Associated Press Writer Michael R. Sisak contributed to this report.

Young black bear wanders Washington D.C. neighborhood, sparking a frenzy before being captured

By ASHRAF KHALIL Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A young black bear gave residents of a quiet northeast Washington neighborhood a start Friday morning when they woke to find a furry interloper wandering backyards and sniffing around garbage cans.

Pictures of the bear and its capture touched off a frenzy on social media. It also spurred a healthy online debate as to whether to name it Franklin, for the street where he was captured, or Smokey — for both the iconic cartoon bear and as a testament to this particularly smoky week in Washington weather.

The bear was discovered roaming the Brookland neighborhood, less than 5 miles from the Capitol and White House. It prompted formation of a sort of ursine emergency task force including the Metropolitan Police Department, the local Humane Rescue Alliance, the Maryland Department of Natural Resources and the National Zoo.

Authorities formed a perimeter near the 1300 block of Franklin Street NE to keep curious onlookers away. When the young male bear climbed a tree, police used their sirens to discourage him from climbing down until capture crews were ready.

Undeterred by the noise, the bear came down around 10 a.m. and started wandering area yards. Humane Rescue Alliance staffers were able to tranquilize the approximately 200- pound animal and load it into a huge metal crate. The young male will now receive a medical check and be released back into the wild, "somewhere in Maryland," said Chris Schindler, vice president of field services for the Humane Rescue Alliance.

Wildlife authorities had actually been tracking this particular bear for several weeks, spotting him most recently around nearby Hyattsville, Maryland. But the last bear-related mobilization like this in D.C. was at least five years ago.

"At this age, it's natural for them to explore other areas," said Schindler, who estimated the animal was a little more than a year old, "especially as wildlife continues to be pushed out of their natural areas by human construction."

The bear would mostly likely not have been aggressive unless it was startled by humans or challenged by an particularly brave dog.

"Bears often do not want to engage with people," Schindler said. "As long as people keep their distance and give them their space, it will be fine."

CORRECTS to change Human Rescue Alliance to Humane Rescue Alliance.

'All life should be valued': Volunteers rush to save animals after Ukraine dam collapse

By VASILISA STEPANENKO Associated Press

KHERSON, Ukraine (AP) — The rescue volunteer holds out his hand, but the dog, stranded on a floating island of debris in a southern Ukrainian city inundated by flooding, is too traumatized to approach. Volodymyr Holubnichii offers the scared animal some food; the dog sniffs and relaxes.

"Don't be scared," Holubnichii soothingly tells the animal, which eventually accepts a leash and being carried to safety.

Holubnichii, a volunteer with Animal Rescue Kharkiv, spent days cruising the flooded streets of Kherson city after the Kakhovka dam collapsed on Tuesday and submerged entire towns. He is one among the organization's 70 volunteers determined to rescue as many animals as possible, plucking them from the rooftops and garages of flooded homes before they die of dehydration and hunger.

The flooding has killed civilians, ruined crops, displaced landmines, and caused widespread environmental damage. Kyiv accused Moscow of blowing up the Dnieper River dam and its hydropower plant, which the

Kremlin's forces controlled. Russia in turn blamed Ukraine for the catastrophe.

Bisected by the river, southern Ukraine's Kherson province is an important fault line in the war that started with Russia's invasion of the neighboring country more than 15 months ago. Russian forces withdrew from the western bank, including the regional capital also named Kherson, but part of the eastern side remain under Russian occupation..

Ukrainian authorities scrambled to evacuate stranded residents officials on both sides said at least 14 people died in the flooding and thousands others were homeless, while tens of thousands were without drinking water.

Upon hearing news of the flooding, Holubnichii immediately thought of the animals. "All life should be valued," he said. "It doesn't matter if it's an animal or a person or something else."

Animal Rescue Kharkiv's volunteers, based in northern Ukraine's Kharkiv province, began packing their gear. By Wednesday morning, they were in the Kherson region looking for animals

So far, they have saved 107 animals since the dam's collapse: 45 dogs, 36 cats, five kittens, 18 chickens and three goats that will go to shelters across Ukraine. Many were pets of evacuated civilians, according to Yaryna Vintoniuk, a spokesperson for the non-governmental organization.

From rescue boats, the team reached remote areas of Kherson and extract animals from rooftops, apartments and garages of submerged homes. On Thursday, the volunteers came under Russian shelling as they worked.

The animals, unwillingly abandoned by their panicked owners, were terrified. Some barely had the strength to get up.

Holubnichii picked up a small dog that was trapped under the floating rubble and nearly unconscious. He heard the barking of another dog and made his way to the animal, stuck on a rooftop of a flooded home.

"Don't be afraid, giant," Holubnichii said in a soft voice.

The NGO founded eight years ago is 90-year-old Valentyna Timofeevna's best hope for being reunited with her dog and cat. Timofeevna had to leave her pets behind when she was evacuated from her home. Weeping, she wonders if they will be found alive.

"Maybe they are already dead," the woman wailed. A volunteer tried to comfort her, telling her not to rush to conclusions.

Man who told jurors he had 'fun' at the Capitol riot is sentenced to 6 years in prison

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Virginia man who told his wife — and a federal jury — that he had "fun" at the U.S. Capitol riot was sentenced on Friday to six years in prison for attacking police as he stormed the building.

Markus Maly's prison sentence is significantly lower than the punishment that prosecutors sought for his role in the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection. The Justice Department had recommended a prison sentence of 15 years and eight months for Maly, a flooring installer.

A prosecutor described Maly, 49, as a "lifelong criminal" with 33 prior convictions on his record, including two for battery of a law enforcement officer. But the judge who sentenced Maly noted that most of his crimes date back to his 20s.

Maly told U.S. District Judge Amit Mehta that he regrets traveling to Washington and following the mob of then-President Donald Trump's supporters to the Capitol. But he insisted that he merely "occupied space" in the crowd and denied attacking and pepper-spraying police.

"I went to a rally. That's what I did," he told the judge.

The judge said jurors had ample evidence to convict Maly of assaulting police.

"It's not that you were there and 'occupying space.' It's that you did these things and kept doing them that day," the judge told him.

Prosecutors say Maly is one of many Capitol rioters who have tried to profit from their notoriety, portray-

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 86 of 92

ing themselves as patriots, martyrs or political prisoners as they solicit donations from supporters. While prosecutors acknowledge that defendants have a right to raise money for legal defenses, they're increasingly asking judges to impose fines on top of prison terms to claw back donations used for personal expenses.

Maly has raised more than \$16,500 through a GiveSendGo donation page, referring to himself as a "January 6 P.O.W." Prosecutors asked the judge to fine him an amount commensurate with his fundraising haul, noting that he had a public defender and didn't owe any legal fees.

The judge declined to impose a fine. He said Maly's fundraising activities may have been "unseemly," but he questioned whether there was a legal basis for clawing back the money.

Maly testified at his trial that participating in the Capitol riot was "fun" for him. He also described the events of Jan. 6 as "fun" and "awesome" in messages sent to his wife and others.

"Maly admitted to being proud of what he had done at the Capitol and that he had bragged about it," prosecutor Stephen Rancourt wrote in a court filing. "Despite seeing police officers assaulted, injured, and distressed on January 6, and knowing that it was a bad day for members of Congress and the police officers who had to live through the riot, Maly reiterated that his experience that day was 'fun.'"

The judge at Maly's trial previously handed down the longest sentence for a Capitol riot case: 18 years for Oath Keepers founder Stewart Rhodes, who was convicted of orchestrating a violent plot to keep Trump, a Republican, in the White House after he lost the 2020 presidential election to Joe Biden, a Democrat.

Maly has been jailed since a jury convicted him in December of all eight charges against him, including felony counts of civil disorder and assaulting, resisting or impeding police using a dangerous weapon.

On the morning of Jan. 6, Maly took a bus from his home in Fincastle, Virginia, to Washington to attend Trump's "Stop the Steal" rally. He later joined the mob that attacked police on the Capitol's Lower West Terrace, one of the most violent clashes of the day.

Maly sprayed a chemical, possibly pepper spray, at Metropolitan Police Department Officer Christopher Boyle as he and other officers retreated into a tunnel and guarded an entrance. Maly passed a spray canister from one rioter to another, joined a coordinated "heave ho" push against police and left the tunnel with a stolen riot shield as a "trophy," Rancourt said.

Maly was charged and tried with co-defendants Peter Schwartz and Jeffrey Scott Brown. Schwartz passed the spray canister to Maly, who passed it to Brown. The jurors who convicted Maly also found Schwartz and Brown guilty of related charges.

The judge sentenced Schwartz last month to 14 years and two months in prison, the longest for a Jan. 6 case before Rhodes, and sentenced Brown in April to four years and six months in prison.

Prosecutors say Maly lied on the witness stand when he testified that he only showed a canister to Boyle but didn't spray the officer.

"Maly claimed that the stream of liquid coming out of the canister was actually a piece of fringe on his hat. However, his hat didn't have a fringe," Rancourt wrote.

Defense attorney Benjamin Schiffelbein said Maly believed that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from Trump.

"He fervently believed that he was protesting in the name of liberty and freedom. His motives, however (factually) wrong they may have been, were based in values this country celebrates," Schiffelbein wrote. "What is more American than fervently defending democracy — even from one's own government — and perhaps especially then?"

More than 100 police officers were injured during the riot. More than 1,000 people have been charged with federal crimes related to Jan. 6. Over 500 of them have been sentenced, with more than half getting terms of imprisonment, according to an Associated Press review of court records.

Follow the AP's coverage of the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol insurrection at <https://apnews.com/hub/capitol-siege>.

France hails 'hero with a backpack' who intervened in knife attack on very young children

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

LE PECQ, France (AP) — The attacker slashed at the 24-year-old Catholic pilgrim with the knife that he used to savagely stab one young child after another. But rather than run, Henri held his ground — using a weighty backpack he was carrying to swing at the assailant and fend off his blade.

French media hailed Henri as “the hero with a backpack” Friday after he was shown in a video grappling with the assailant and charging after him during the knife attack that critically wounded four children between the ages of 22 months and 3 years old, and also injured two adults.

Henri, who is on a nine-month walking and hitchhiking tour of France’s cathedrals and happened to be in the Alpine town of Annecy when the attacker rampaged Thursday through its lakeside park, also got personal words of gratitude Friday from President Emmanuel Macron. The French leader toured hospitals to meet victims and their families and thanked medical workers, police, firefighters, civilians — including Henri — and others whose first aid and swift actions helped save lives.

“You experienced very hard moments, traumatizing,” Macron said. “I am very proud of you.”

Henri asked Macron to be invited to the reopening of Notre Dame in Paris next year, following repairs to the cathedral damaged in a fire in 2019.

“I’ll take care of it personally,” the French leader replied.

The president had reassuring news about the victims, expressing hope after speaking to doctors about their injuries that “normally things will continue to improve.” The most critically injured children, two cousins, were stabilized and “doctors were very confident,” Macron said.

A wounded British girl “is awake, she’s watching television,” Macron added, speaking to first responders. A wounded Dutch girl also has improved and a critically injured adult — who was both knifed and wounded by a shot that police fired as they detained the suspected attacker — is regaining consciousness, Macron said. The second injured adult was discharged from a hospital and was among dozens of people that Macron met and thanked, his left elbow still bandaged.

“The first thing doctors told me ... is that these children were saved by the swiftness of the collective intervention,” Macron said. “Thank you immeasurably for your courage.”

Henri had a heavy backpack and was holding another in his hand when the attacker slashed at him. But despite the blade and the attacker’s chilling aggression, Henri continued to harass him, pursuing the man inside a playground — where he repeatedly stabbed a child in a stroller — and then out of the park again, carrying his backpacks all the while. Henri appeared to hurl one at the assailant at one point and then pick it up again to take another swing.

Henri said he was powered by his Catholic faith.

“When you know that you’re loved by God and that he saved our lives, you can act without thinking too much about your own (life) to try and save those of the children,” he told French broadcaster BFMTV.

Henri’s father, François, said he believed that his son’s doggedness helped dissuade the attacker from stabbing more victims before police wrestled him to the ground.

“He took a lot of risks — when he wasn’t armed, with just his backpacks,” the father told The Associated Press. “He didn’t stop running after him for many minutes, to stop him from coming back and massacring the kids even more. I think he prevented carnage by scaring him off. Really very courageous.”

François asked that their last name not be published, expressing concerns about their family being thrust suddenly and inadvertently into the public eye at a time of shock and outrage in France provoked by the attack’s viciousness and the helplessness of its young victims.

The profile of the suspected attacker, a 31-year-old Syrian political refugee, also fueled renewed political debate about French migration policies. Critics on the right and far-right of French politics quickly dusted off arguments that migration controls are too lax.

For his part, Henri rejected the “hero” label. He said he “tried to act as all French people should act, or would act.”

"In that moment, you unplug your brain and react a bit like an animal by instinct," he said.

"I am far from alone in having reacted," he added. "Many other people around started, like me, to run after him to try to scare him, push him away. And other people immediately went over to the children to take care of the injured."

Motives for the attack in and around a children's playground remained unexplained. The suspect, who has refugee status in Sweden, remains in custody. Psychiatrists were evaluating him, government spokesman Olivier Veran said.

Henri's father said his son "told me that the Syrian was incoherent, saying lots of strange things in different languages, invoking his father, his mother, all the Gods."

"In short, he was possessed by who knows what, but possessed by folly, that's certain," the father told the AP.

Henri, who is documenting his pilgrimage around France on social media, said he'd been setting off to hitchhike to another abbey when the horror unfolded in front of him.

After the assailant's arrest, and having seen that first responders were treating victims, Henri said: "I had just one reflex – which was to start to pray."

The 3-year-old British girl and two French cousins — a girl and a boy, both 2 years old — were rushed to a hospital in the French Alpine city of Grenoble. That was the first stop for Macron and his wife on Friday morning.

The Annecy prosecutor's office identified the fourth child as a 22-month-old Dutch girl. She was treated in Geneva, in neighboring Switzerland.

The seriously injured adult was treated in Annecy. Portugal's foreign ministry said he is Portuguese and "now out of danger." He was wounded "trying to stop the attacker from fleeing from the police," it said.

"For this act of courage and bravery, we thank him profoundly," the ministry added.

French authorities said the suspect had recently been refused asylum in France, because Sweden had already granted him permanent residency and refugee status a decade ago.

Lead prosecutor Line Bonnet-Mathis said the man's motives were unknown, but didn't appear to be terrorism-related. He was armed with a folding knife, she said.

Jennifer O'Mahony in Madrid, Armando Franca in Lisbon, Portugal, and Nicolas Vaux-Montagny in Lyon, France, contributed to this report.

GM's electric vehicles will gain access to Tesla's vast charging network

By TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — Electric vehicles made by General Motors will be able to use much of Tesla's extensive charging network beginning early next year.

In addition, GM will adopt Tesla's connector, the plug that links an electric vehicle to a charging station.

GM joins Ford in shifting its electric vehicles to work with about 12,000 of Tesla's roughly 17,000 chargers, and both Detroit automakers are pushing to make Tesla's connector the industry standard. GM CEO Mary Barra and her Tesla counterpart, Elon Musk, made the announcement Thursday during a Twitter Spaces conversation.

Their discussion comes two weeks after Ford CEO Jim Farley joined Musk to announce that Ford's electric vehicles would gain access to much of Tesla's EV-charging network, the largest in the nation. Farley also said Ford would switch to Tesla's connector rather than go with the connector used by the rest of the industry.

At the opening bell Friday, shares of Tesla Inc. jumped 6% to hit a new high for the year. General Motors Co. rose 3%, and Ford Motor Co. rose 2%.

At first, GM and Ford EV owners will need an adapter to hook into the Tesla stations, which have their own connector. But both GM and Ford will switch to Tesla's North American Charging Standard connector

starting with new EVs produced in 2025.

Tesla has about 17,000 Supercharger stations in the U.S. There are about 54,000 public charging stations in the U.S., according to the Department of Energy, but many charge much more slowly than the Tesla stations.

"Like Ford, we see this as an opportunity to expand access to charging," Barra said, adding that GM hopes the rest of the industry will move to the Tesla charging connector, which is different from the CCS connector used on most other EVs.

Musk said that GM and Tesla vehicles would have an even playing field at the charging stations.

"We will provide support equally to both," he said. "The most important thing is we advance the electric vehicle revolution."

Financial details of the agreement between the two companies were not released Thursday, but GM spokesman Darryll Harrison said GM isn't paying Tesla.

"Tesla will get better utilization of their network and all the new charging revenue, which will help them expand the network further," Harrison said. "There are other opportunities both companies can take advantage of as a result of the agreement."

Details of how customers would gain access are still being worked out. GM EV owners may have to pay a monthly charge to access Tesla's charging network, or they could pay for each use. Current GM owners probably will need to buy the adapter, Harrison said.

Tesla's supercharger network is a huge competitive advantage for the company based in Austin, Texas, which sells more EVs than anyone else in the U.S. Chargers often are located near freeways to enable long trips, where most fast-charging plugs are needed, and generally they're more reliable than other networks.

But opening access to EVs from GM and Ford, which rank a distant second and third in U.S. EV sales, will make it easier for those owners to charge while traveling. It also could rankle some Tesla owners who already are jockeying for space at some of the busier Supercharger stations, largely in California.

Barra said joining Tesla's network would almost double the number of chargers available to GM electric vehicle owners.

"At the end of the day, we're looking at what's best for our customers," Barra said. "We aren't the only company that comes up with good ideas."

Mike Austin, an electric vehicles analyst for Guidehouse Insights, said GM joining the Tesla network is a huge step toward making Tesla's connector the industrywide standard.

"It seems like there's a lot of momentum going the way of the North American Charging Standard, for sure," he said.

If other large EV makers such as Hyundai, Kia, Volkswagen and Nissan, also switch connectors, Tesla would get a large amount of revenue from its chargers, Austin said.

Still, Tesla appears to be holding back at least part of its network for use only by Tesla owners, he said. The risk, he said, is that Tesla owners could have to wait for access to a plug.

"Tesla owners are used to not having to wait," he said.

The Tesla connector and cord are much lighter and easier to handle than the CCS system used by the rest of the auto industry, Austin said.

Earlier this year, the White House announced that at least 7,500 chargers from Tesla's Supercharger and Destination Charger network would be available to non-Tesla electric vehicles by the end of 2024. But the rollout thus far has been slow.

Russia claims it blew up advanced Ukrainian tank, but video shows its helicopter attacked a tractor

By MICHAEL BIESECKER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A grainy black-and-white gunsight video Russia released this week to bolster a claim its military blew up some of Ukraine's most fearsome tanks actually documented the destruction of

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 90 of 92

a tractor, according to a visual analysis by The Associated Press.

The Russian Embassy in Washington announced Monday on Twitter its forces had "annihilated" eight German-made Leopard tanks, among the most advanced and powerful weapons NATO countries have provided to Ukraine. The Russian Ministry of Defense then posted a video Tuesday on the social media network Telegram with text saying it showed "footage of the destruction of foreign armored vehicles, including Leopard tanks."

The video was shown extensively by Russian state-controlled broadcasters and news sites, which said it was recorded from the thermal imaging system of a KA-52 Alligator attack helicopter. Several black silhouettes of vehicles can be seen, before the helicopter launches a guided missile that strikes one, causing it to explode. "Direct hit!" says a voice on the recording, speaking in Russian.

Germany announced earlier this year it would provide 18 Leopard 2 main battle tanks to Ukraine, which hopes to receive around 100 donated by various NATO countries over next year. The Leopard 2 is one of the most maneuverable and heavily armored battle tanks in the world, featuring a 120mm gun capable of slicing through Russia's Soviet-era tanks from more than 2.5 miles (4 kilometers) away, according to its manufacturer, Krauss-Maffei Wegmann.

Ukrainian officials declined to comment this week on whether any of their Leopard tanks have been used in battle.

Almost immediately after the Russian video spread online, multiple weapons experts and military bloggers began casting doubt on social media that the helicopter's missile struck a tank, much less a Leopard.

The visual analysis by the AP shows that the vehicles seen in the video, which was recorded at night, appear to be large pieces of stationary farm machinery parked in a field, specifically a self-propelled sprayer and two combines used to harvest corn and wheat.

The vehicle struck by the Russian missile has four large wheels and sits high off the ground. Leopard 2 tanks are low slung and have treads, like a bulldozer.

The Russian Embassy also claimed this week that its forces had destroyed three French-made AMX-10 light tanks, which do have wheels. But the AMX-10 has six wheels, not four.

The silhouette of the vehicle destroyed in the video appears to more closely match a self-propelled sprayer, a type of specialized tractor common on modern farms.

Thermal imaging systems like that on the Russian helicopter detect sources of heat to target enemy tanks and trucks in smoky or low light conditions. The stationary vehicles in the video appear black, meaning their engines were cold.

Tank crews operating at the front lines typically conceal themselves in vegetation or behind buildings, emerging only to move and shoot, two experts in military vehicles told the AP. It would be highly unusual for tanks to be parked in the open, where they make easy targets for enemy gunners, they said.

The two experts, who watched the Russian video, said the vehicle struck by the helicopter's missile was not a Leopard tank nor any other type of armored vehicle.

"The silhouette of that particular vehicle or object did not look commensurate with what I'd be expecting for a Leopard tank," said George Barros, who leads the Geospatial Intelligence Team for Russia and Ukraine at the Institute for the Study of War. "I agree ... that it was probably a piece of heavy farm equipment."

Valentin Châtelet, a research associate at The Atlantic Council's Digital Forensic Research Lab, also said the objects in the video were clearly not Leopard tanks.

"They are pointing their thermal camera at three vehicles that appear to be harvesters," said Châtelet, who is based in Brussels. "And the first target they're hitting is most likely a sprayer."

Though both Ukraine and Russia have at various times sought to downplay their battlefield losses, the analysts said the Russian military was particularly notorious for making claims of great victories later proven to be false.

"If you follow what they post and what they claim, you will find that they've been outrageously wrong about a variety of different things, be it weapons systems hit that had never been delivered into the theater or official announcements of the Russians capturing particular villages or settlements multiple consecutive times without ever having gotten there in the first place," Barros said.

Associated Press writer Lynn Berry contributed.

Follow AP Global Investigative Reporter Michael Biesecker at twitter.com/mbieseck.

Climate activist Greta Thunberg won't be school striking after graduation but vows to still protest

STOCKHOLM (AP) — Swedish environmental activist Greta Thunberg said Friday she will no longer be able to skip classes as a way to draw attention to climate change because she is graduating from high school.

Thunberg, 20, started staging Friday protests outside the Swedish parliament building during school hours in 2018. Teenagers from around the world followed her lead, leading to an international student movement called Fridays for Future.

Because she won't be a student anymore, Thunberg noted that her future Friday activities that "technically" won't be school striking. But in a tweet, she vowed to continue protesting, saying, "The fight has only just begun."

"We are still moving in the wrong direction, where those in power are allowed to sacrifice," Thunberg wrote on Twitter. "We're rapidly approaching potential nonlinear ecological and climatic tipping points beyond our control."

As a teenager Thunberg was invited to speak to political and business leaders at U.N. conferences and the annual World Economic Forum in Davos. She also was named Time magazine's youngest Person of the Year in 2019 and received several nominations for the Nobel Peace Prize.

For her final school strike outside parliament, Thunberg posed with a Swedish-language sign while wearing the cap that high school graduates typically wear in Sweden.

American singer-songwriter and poet Patti Smith, who was in Stockholm for a concert Friday as part of a world tour, showed up at the demonstration and told Swedish newspaper Dagens Nyheter she got tears in her eyes when meeting Thunberg.

"This is Greta Thunberg, faithfully taking her Friday School Strike for Climate Action. She graduates today, and we extend our gratitude and congratulations," Smith wrote on Instagram.

Thunberg has urged the media to focus on other young activists. Fridays for Future participants planned to protest outside U.N. climate talks in Bonn, Germany, on Friday to urge governments to do more to curb global warming.

Follow AP's climate coverage at <https://www.apnews.com/Climate>

Today in History: June 10, Six-Day War ends

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Saturday, June 10, the 161st day of 2023. There are 204 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On June 10, 1967, six days of war in the Mideast involving Israel, Syria, Egypt, Jordan and Iraq ended as Israel and Syria accepted a United Nations-mediated cease-fire.

On this date:

In 1692, the first execution resulting from the Salem witch trials in Massachusetts took place as Bridget Bishop was hanged.

In 1907, eleven men in five cars set out from the French embassy in Beijing on a race to Paris. (Prince Scipione Borghese of Italy was the first to arrive in the French capital two months later.)

In 1935, Alcoholics Anonymous was founded in Akron, Ohio, by Dr. Robert Holbrook Smith and William Griffith Wilson.

Groton Daily Independent

Saturday, June 10, 2023 ~ Vol. 31 - No. 324 ~ 92 of 92

In 1963, President John F. Kennedy signed into law the Equal Pay Act of 1963, aimed at eliminating wage disparities based on gender.

In 1971, President Richard M. Nixon lifted a two-decades-old trade embargo on China.

In 1977, James Earl Ray, the convicted assassin of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., escaped from Brushy Mountain State Prison in Tennessee with six others; he was recaptured June 13.

In 1978, Affirmed, ridden by Steve Cauthen, won the 110th Belmont Stakes to claim horse racing's 11th Triple Crown.

In 1991, 11-year-old Jaycee Dugard of South Lake Tahoe, California, was abducted by Phillip and Nancy Garrido; Jaycee was held by the couple for 18 years before she was found by authorities.

In 2009, James von Brunn, an 88-year-old white supremacist, opened fire in the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, D.C., killing security guard Stephen T. Johns. (Von Brunn died at a North Carolina hospital in January 2010 while awaiting trial.)

In 2016, Muhammad Ali was laid to rest in his hometown of Louisville, Kentucky, after an all-day send-off. "Mr. Hockey" Gordie Howe, who set scoring records that stood for decades, died in Sylvania, Ohio, at 88.

In 2020, protesters pulled down a century-old statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis in Richmond, Virginia, the former capital of the Confederacy.

Ten years ago: Jury selection began in Sanford, Florida, in the trial of neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman, charged with second-degree murder in the fatal shooting of 17-year-old Trayvon Martin. (Zimmerman was acquitted.) Bombs killed at least 70 people across Iraq, following the most deadly month of attacks in the country in five years.

Five years ago: President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un arrived in Singapore, two days ahead of their summit. The musical "The Band's Visit" captured 10 Tony Awards. Rafael Nadal earned his 11th French Open title, and his 17th overall in Grand Slam events, beating Dominic Thiem in the men's final.

One year ago: As Russia's invasion of Ukraine entered its fourth month, officials in Kyiv expressed fears that the specter of "war fatigue" could erode the West's resolve to help the country push back Moscow's aggression. The Washington Post fired reporter Felicia Sonmez, who triggered a vigorous online debate over social media policy and public treatment of colleagues after she criticized a fellow reporter for retweeting an offensive joke. Britney Spears married her longtime partner Sam Asghari at a Southern California ceremony that came months after the pop superstar won her freedom from a court conservatorship.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Alexandra Stewart is 84. Singer Shirley Alston Reeves (The Shirelles) is 82. Actor Jurgen Prochnow is 82. Media commentator Jeff Greenfield is 80. Actor Frankie Faison is 74. Football Hall of Famer Dan Fouts is 72. Country singer-songwriter Thom Schuyler is 71. Former Sen. John Edwards, D-N.C., is 70. Actor Andrew Stevens is 68. Singer Barrington Henderson is 67. Rock musician Kim Deal is 62. Singer Maxi Priest is 62. Actor Gina Gershon is 61. Actor Jeanne Tripplehorn is 60. Rock musician Jimmy Chamberlin is 59. Actor Ben Daniels is 59. Actor Kate Flannery is 59. Model-actor Elizabeth Hurley is 58. Rock musician Joey Santiago is 58. Actor Doug McKeon is 57. Rock musician Emma Anderson is 56. Country musician Brian Hofeldt (The Derailers) is 56. Rapper The D.O.C. is 55. Rock singer Mike Doughty is 53. R&B singer Faith Evans is 50. Actor Hugh Dancy is 48. R&B singer Lemisha Grinstead (702) is 45. Actor DJ Qualls is 45. Actor Shane West is 45. Country singer Lee Brice is 44. Singer Hoku is 42. Actor Leelee Sobieski is 41. Olympic gold medal figure skater Tara Lipinski is 41. Americana musician Bridget Kearney (Lake Street Dive) is 38. Actor Titus Makin is 34. Actor Tristin Mays is 33. Sasha Obama is 22. Actor Eden McCoy is 20.