

Groton Daily Independent

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There are no Sunday Extras today due to technical issues with the provider's web site.

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- [4- Nehls Moving Sale Flyer](#)
- [5- Jr. Legion drops pair at Brookings](#)
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Sunday, July 16

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

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

United Methodist: Conde worship at 8:30 a.m., coffee hour 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship at 10:30 a.m. Amateurs host Miller, 6 p.m.

Monday, July 17

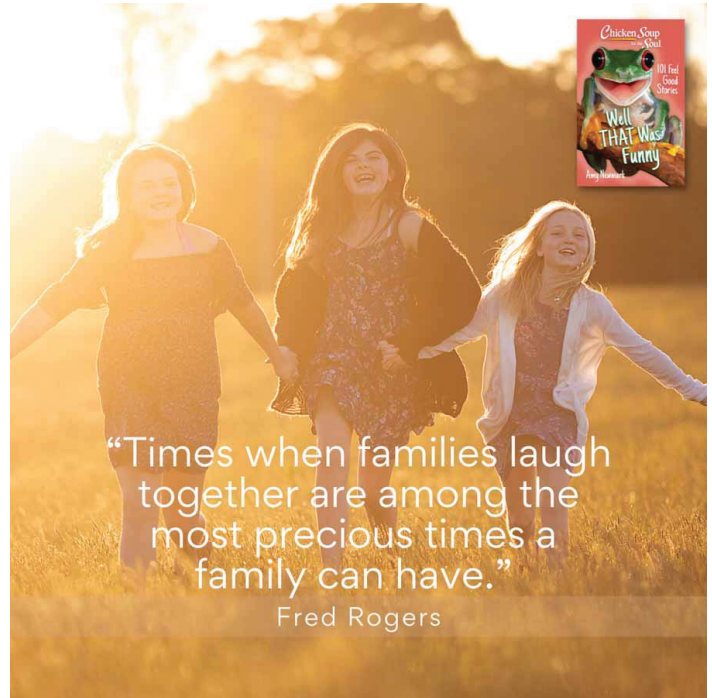
Senior Menu: Chicken Tetrastine, mixed vegetables, honey fruit salad, whole wheat bread.

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

Food Pantry open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Groton Community Center

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

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



Senior Citizens Meet at the Groton Community Center, 1 p.m.

Softball at Mellette (U10 at 5:30 p.m. DH, U12 at 7:30 p.m. (DH)

Tuesday, July 18

Senior Menu: Scalloped potatoes with ham, green beans, sunset salad, whole wheat bread.

Food Pantry open 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Groton Community Center

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

Olive Grove: Ladies League at 6 p.m.

Region 6B Legion Tournament in Groton

T-Ball B&G Scrimmage, 6 p.m.

City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 19

Senior Menu: Meatloaf, baked sweet potato, creamed peas, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Movie night, 7 p.m.

United Methodist: Community Coffee Hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton Ad Council, 7 p.m.

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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Groton's Women's Softball Team Wins State Title

The Groton Women's Softball Team won the South Dakota State slow pitch softball tournament held over the weekend. The team is sponsored by K & H Electric, Lager's Inn and Dominos. Pictured in back, left to right, are Tasha Dunker, Chelsea Hanson, Sue Fjeldheim, Krystina McCollum and Rylee Dunker; in front, left to right, are Anna Fjeldheim, Aspen Johnson, Jackie Iverson, Tonya Senger, Alyssa Thaler and Stacy Kramer; not pictured is Rachael Crank. (Photo courtesy Craig Dunker)

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Come join us at

St. John's Lutheran Church- Groton (308 N 2nd St)

From 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM

July 25th, 26th, and 27th

For kids entering pre-school to 6th grade

EVERYONE WELCOME!

(Any kids who bring a friend with them will receive a prize)

Attendance forms can be found in the narthex of the church or they are also available at Lori's Pharmacy

Join us for 3 days of games, crafts, songs and learning about Jesus. We will be serving supper from 5:30 to 6 PM each night for the kids.

✚ On July 27th- everyone is invited to join us for a program at 6:00 PM with fellowship and an ice cream social afterwards! Also- bring clothes you don't mind getting wet in- each child who attends will be allowed to throw a water balloon at Pastor Yeadon! ☺

Any questions call or text Emily Kappes- 605-237-3333 or Anje Hinkelman- 605-377-3891



Yard and Moving Sale

Saturday, July 15th

Sunday, July 16th

8AM to 4PM

40801 134th St, Groton

3/4 mile east of County Dumpster Site
at Junction of US Hwy 12 & County Hwy 12E.

Alot of items!

- Household items
- Yard & Garage Items
- Fishing equipment
- Men's, Women's and Girl's Clothing
- Purses, Shoes
- Herb Books
- New Tupperware
- Canning jars

Most items - just make a reasonable offer.

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Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion Loses Despite Out Hitting 16U Maroon

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion fell 10-4 to 16U Maroon on Saturday despite out-hitting them 11 to six.

16U Maroon got on the board in the bottom of the first inning after Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion committed an error, P Hlein hit a sacrifice fly, and Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion committed an error, each scoring one run.

16U Maroon added to their early lead in the bottom of the second inning after N Flom doubled, Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion committed an error, and 16U Maroon scored on a passed ball, each scoring one run.

A Huizenga earned the win for 16U Maroon. The starting pitcher surrendered 11 hits and four runs (three earned) over seven innings, striking out seven and walking none. Korbin Kucker took the loss for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. The starting pitcher went two innings, surrendering six runs (three earned) on three hits, striking out one and walking six.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion tallied 11 hits in the game. Brevin Fliehs and Braxton Imrie were tough to handle back-to-back in the lineup, as each drove in one run for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Kucker and Teylor Diegel each collected multiple hits for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion.

Jared Hawthorne and Flom were a force together in the lineup, as they each collected two hits for 16U Maroon while hitting back-to-back. Hawthorne, Flom, Hlein, and D Evan each drove in one run for 16U Maroon. 16U Maroon had patience at the plate, amassing 13 walks for the game. Hawthorne, Chris Simunek, and Huizenga led the team with three free passes each. Hawthorne and Simunek each stole multiple bases for 16U Maroon. 16U Maroon stole seven bases in the game. 16U Maroon turned one double play in the game.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion Stymied By Brookings Junior Legion

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion had trouble keeping up with Brookings Junior Legion in a 15-0 loss on Saturday.

Brookings Junior Legion got on the board in the bottom of the first inning after #42 doubled, scoring two runs, #19 doubled, scoring one run, #10 singled, scoring one run, #11 singled, scoring one run, and a passed ball scored one run.

Brookings Junior Legion added to their early lead in the bottom of the second inning after #10 walked, and #5 singled, each scoring one run.

Brookings Junior Legion scored seven runs on four hits in the bottom of the third inning. #23 drew a walk, scoring one run, #17 drew a walk, scoring one run, #42 drew a walk, scoring one run, #19 drew a walk, scoring one run, and #5 singled, scoring two runs.

#11 earned the win for Brookings Junior Legion. They surrendered zero hits and zero runs over three innings, striking out one and walking none. Nicholas Morris took the loss for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. The starting pitcher went one and two-thirds innings, surrendering seven runs (six earned) on five hits, striking out two and walking three.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion were sure-handed in the field and didn't commit a single error. Braxton Imrie had the most chances in the field with three.

Brookings Junior Legion tallied 10 hits in the game. #11, #2, and #5 each collected two hits for Brookings Junior Legion. #5, the number seven hitter for Brookings Junior Legion, led the way with three runs batted in. The infielder went 2-for-2 on the day. #19 led Brookings Junior Legion with two walks. Overall, the team had a strong eye at the plate, amassing eight walks for the game. #10 stole two bases. Brookings Junior Legion were sure-handed and didn't commit a single error. #42 made the most plays with two.



New, low-cost jail education program debuts in South Dakota

Bart Pfankuch

South Dakota News Watch

RAPID CITY, S.D. – A new education program for jail inmates in Pennington County aims to break the cycle of repeated incarceration among people who are addicted, have mental health challenges or lack the skills to function in society.

Pennington County Sheriff Brian Mueller recently announced the coming launch of the IGNITE program, which will make South Dakota the latest state to implement the effort.

It requires a relatively small public investment and relies largely on strong community support to create education programs to help former inmates gain confidence, learn new skills, get a job, find stability and stay out of jail, he said.

“We’re exploring to see what type of out-of-the-box solutions we can bring to help the people that are in our jails, and the homeless people in our community, change the trajectory of their lives,” Mueller said.

In a nutshell, IGNITE uses motivational techniques to encourage inmates to sign up for education, counseling and job training run by a paid coordinator but provided in person or virtually by educators and experts within the local community.

IGNITE, which stands for Inmate Growth Naturally and Intentionally Through Education, originated in 2020 in Genesee County, Michigan. It allows for flexibility in what training, coursework or skills training are offered to inmates.

The program adds new rehabilitation and reform elements to adult jail populations, which have often fallen behind juvenile jails in regard to educational program funding and options.

‘I was sitting in here hopeless’

In Genesee County, inmates get two hours of educational programming each day. As of August 2022, the program had 15 graduation ceremonies, 2,250 inmate participants and a total of 190,000 teaching hours provided.

At a graduation ceremony in June 2022, former jail inmate Charvel Sims, 56, spoke about how he had been in jail 33 times and in prison five times since 1997.

“Nine months ago, I was sitting in here hopeless,” Sims said. “I had nothing out there to go back to.”

After taking classes in jail in 2021 and 2022, he entered a bricklayer apprenticeship program and landed a job paying \$20 an hour plus full union benefits.

“It’s opportunity,” he said. “It’s going to be hard, but don’t give up because there is help out there.”

In addition to promoting self-confidence and self-worth in inmates, the training in the trades and other



Inmates at the Genesee County Jail in Michigan attend courses taught by community members either in person or remotely during their incarceration as part of the first IGNITE program to launch in the U.S. (Photo:

Courtesy of Genesee County)

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Part of the IGNITE effort in Pennington County will be to infuse more educational programming at the Western South Dakota Juvenile Services Center, which already offers GED programs to help youths get a high school equivalency degree while incarcerated. In this photo, JSC Commander Joe Guttierrez provides a diploma to a youth who completed the GED program in 2023. (Photo: Courtesy Pennington

County Sheriff's Office)

high-demand skills have helped reduce the labor shortage that plagues South Dakota and many other states.

Officials from other states also report that IGNITE reduces violence in jails, raises morale among inmates and officers and has lowered recidivism rates.

Researchers from Harvard University and the University of Michigan are undergoing in-depth analysis and study of IGNITE to further quantify results.

South Dakota is eighth state to have an IGNITE program

Jails in eight states are using the program. Pennington County will be the first to launch IGNITE in South Dakota.

Mueller and sheriff's office staff members visited jails in North Dakota and Michigan, and Mueller went to Washington to meet with officials who are already using IGNITE.

The visits persuaded Mueller to believe that it had great potential for inmate reform and was worth the effort to implement it in Pennington County. Upon return, Mueller said he discussed the program with numerous stakeholders in the Rapid City area and was met with overwhelming support.

ideas for partnership that can have a positive impact moving forward," he said.

"This is truly a partnership of our community, to come together and talk to what basic skills we can give to our inmate and homeless population to improve their trajectory in life, and so those of us in public safety can focus on those individuals who aren't willing to change their behavior and we can hold them more accountable."

IGNITE will launch in Pennington County as soon as a program coordinator can be hired and community partnerships are firmly in place, said Helene Duhamel, spokeswoman for the sheriff's office.

The program will likely include drug and alcohol counseling and educational programming through the Rapid City school system and Western Dakota Technical College, Duhamel said.

The anticipated costs, the largest piece being the coordinator's annual salary of \$60,000 to \$70,000, will be funded through use of open sheriff's office positions that are already budgeted as well as some federal opioid funding, Duhamel said.



Minnehaha County Sheriff Mike Milstead

Possible blueprint for other South Dakota counties

By launching IGNITE first, Pennington County hopes to provide other South Dakota counties with a replicable model and provable results that could benefit communities across the state, Duhamel said.

Minnehaha County Sheriff Mike Milstead said he is aware of the effort in Pennington County and is watching to see what results it might generate, especially since the two county jails are similar in size and population.

Milstead said he appreciates that Mueller is trying to innovate, especially since the necessary public funding level is low and he already has the money in his approved annual budget.

Yet Milstead said he isn't sure if IGNITE would be a good fit in Minnehaha County now because of the nature of the current jail population and existing pre-trial intervention and assistance programs to aid inmates upon re-entry to society.

Due to recent reforms in managing people facing criminal charges and new efforts to improve sentencing of low-level offenders, most inmates serve a short time behind bars and spend more time being monitored outside the jail, Milstead said.

In an effort to provide low-risk defendants a better chance to maintain stability in their jobs, homes and families, judges have become more willing to provide pre-trial release to low-risk offenders, he said.

Inmates spending less time in jail due to technology and accountability

To further reduce the jail population and costs, Minnehaha County has implemented several high-tech monitoring and testing programs to keep track of pre-trial or low-level offenders without keeping them in jail. Those include ankle monitors and a 24/7 drug and alcohol testing program that requires twice-daily testing in most cases.

"We put in a lot of effort into working with the courts, working with the judges and the judicial system to make sure that the people who are in our jail need to be in our jail," he said. "Over time, we have transitioned into 24/7 and other out-of-custody programs to keep low-risk offenders out of jail."

As a result, the jail typically has about 500 inmates, about 80% of whom are on pre-trial status, so only a small portion of the roughly 20,000 people who are booked on criminal charges each year spend any significant time locked up, Milstead said.

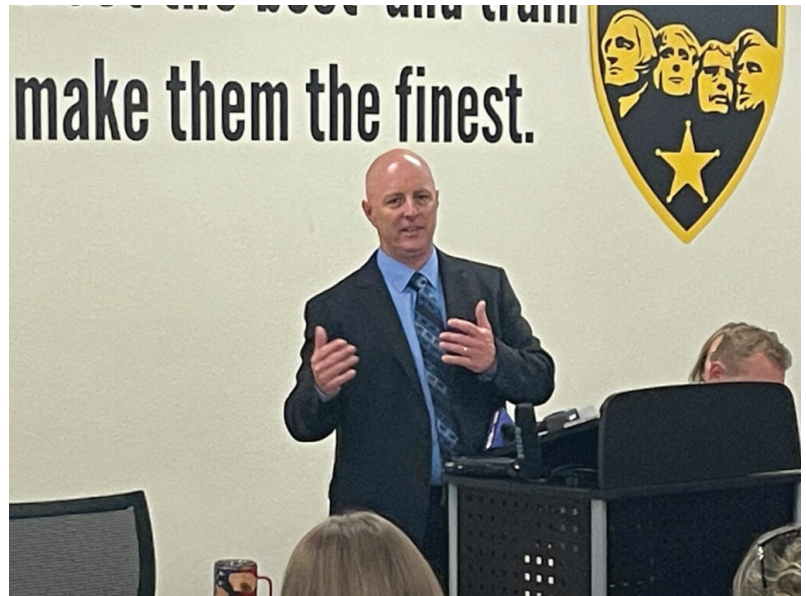
Additionally, as more low-level offenders have been removed from lockup, the people who are in jail tend to be charged with more serious crimes and have exhibited more dangerous behaviors, Milstead said.

Violent histories make those inmates unsuitable for work-release programs, in-house or even virtual education or training programs, especially those that might involve a volunteer teacher from the community, which is the norm in some IGNITE training programs.

"As our makeup of inmates has changed, we have more and more people in jail who are dangerous," Milstead said. "We have a lot of people in jail who are classified as maximum security. And obviously I'm not going to send a teacher in to sit down with them and do bookwork."

'Trying to set them up for success instead of failure'

Milstead said he believes Minnehaha County is doing a good job of preparing jail inmates for success upon release.



Pennington County Sheriff Brian Mueller speaks in late May while announcing the launch of the IGNITE education program for the county jail in Rapid City.

(Photo: Bart Pfankuch, South Dakota News Watch)



Inmates participate in educational programs at the jail in Genesee County, Michigan, where the IGNITE program was created and launched to help inmates prepare for success upon release.

(Photo: Courtesy of Genesee County)

County at some point.

Ohio program reduced staff time and increased safety

Sheriff Chris Hilton of Sandusky County, Ohio, implemented IGNITE earlier this year and said he saw "immediate success."

Inmates must first take courses in addiction and mental health before venturing to a wide range of IGNITE programming options that include literacy, financial literacy, music education, and training in the ironwork, electrical and carpenter trades that is provided by local union leaders looking for workers.

His program benefited early on from a \$90,000 one-time donation made by a local mental health board and uses limited public funds beyond the cost of the program coordinator.

IGNITE has reduced the time correctional officers spend managing inmates and made the jail a safer place for all, Hilton said.

"What do inmates in a jail have the most of? Time," he said. "They have lots and lots of time. And if that time isn't used effectively, you're going to have problems."

Hilton said IGNITE uses a simple "meritocracy" system to encourage inmate participation: "If you do X, you'll get Y." Incentives are as basic as a compliment, a pat on the back or attendance at Friday movie nights.

Providing inmates with education is important because unlike prisons, the overwhelming majority of jail inmates will be released back into their communities.

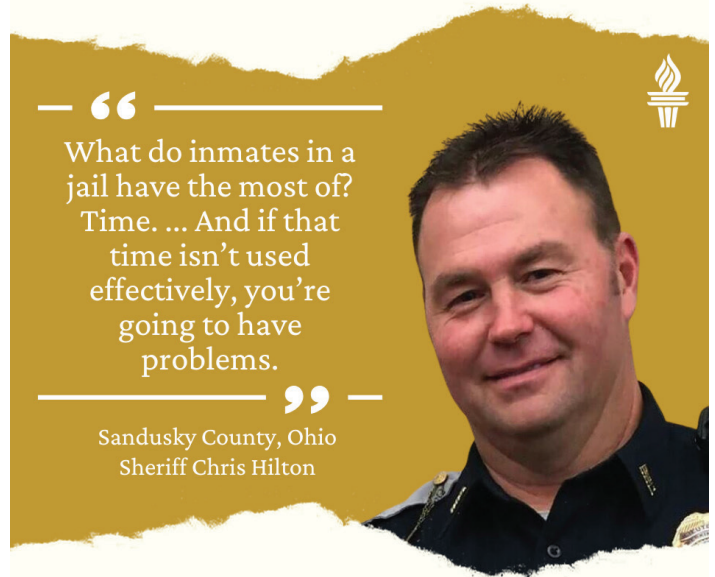
"They're going to be your neighbors, they're going to be living in your community," Hilton said.

The sheriff's office has a voluntary intensive case management program called Alliance in which the jail partners with the county human services department to provide pre-release services to help inmates land on their feet upon release.

The program offers inmates access to a range of existing community services that can provide them with food, clothing, housing, identification documents, transportation, job assistance or post-release case management. Inmates also can be directed to post-release alcohol and drug treatment or mental health services, Milstead said.

"We try to help them find the resources that can help them re-enter society," he said. "It's not always an easy step, so we're trying to set them up for success instead of failure."

Milstead said that over the past 25 years, he has had close working relationships with every Pennington County sheriff and added that he hopes the IGNITE program can show positive results that could make it replicable in Minnehaha



— “ —
What do inmates in a jail have the most of? Time. ... And if that time isn't used effectively, you're going to have problems.

— ” —
Sandusky County, Ohio
Sheriff Chris Hilton



Rapid City Police Chief Don Hedrick

Police chief hopeful the program will help break negative cycles

Rapid City Police Chief Don Hedrick said he supports any reform effort that can help break the “cycles of violence and victimization” that police officers see every day.

New options are needed for people who cannot on their own break the pattern of criminal activity and repeated visits to the county jail, he said.

“We’re out there encountering folks who are continually involved in the system, and we’re not applying enough intervention points to that cycle,” Hedrick said. “Simply allowing someone to serve their time, get out and be right back in the next day means we’re not investing enough into those intervention points.”

Hedrick said he wouldn’t support IGNITE if it felt like “a soft on crime approach” because dangerous people need to be locked up to keep the public safe. But he is encouraged that it gives inmates a new opportunity to find post-release success.

“This is trying to get help to the folks that want it to get out of this cycle,” Hedrick said. “Give them a chance, give them the resources they need to break that cycle and break the revolving door.”

National Sheriff’s Association endorses program

IGNITE has the endorsement of the National Sheriff’s Association, which represents sheriffs across the country and has helped Pennington County and other agencies with implementation.

Jessica Vanderpool, director of grants for the NSA, said the association sees the program as a way to provide new opportunities to prevent jail recidivism that increases jail population and costs.

“Too often our jails fail to provide inmates with the tools necessary to reenter society and avoid future criminal behavior,” Vanderpool said.

“IGNITE does not just educate. IGNITE also identifies the skills these individuals need for potential employers to engage them and most importantly instills the motivation and self worth to better themselves, which in turn makes society better for all of us.”

Prosecutor and educator support IGNITE

Pennington County State’s Attorney Laura Roetzel said her agency supports the program as a potential way to provide new opportunities for inmates that can make the public safer in the long run.

“We can all agree that there were bad choices that led people to be incarcerated in the Pennington County Jail,” Roetzel said. “We don’t know how their lives might have been different if they had been presented with good options. ... And this provides incarcerated people with good options that could create a brighter future for not only that individual but for our entire community.”



How IGNITE program works



The IGNITE program is set to launch in Pennington County

It originated in Genesee County, Michigan in 2020

It creates programs to help inmates learn new job skills

Inmates can get two hours of education per day

The program can also help workforce shortage in state

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Roetzel said she will support any program that adds value to the time pre-trial and convicted criminals spend behind bars.

"The jail should be about safety, and it should be about accountability, but it should never be about wasted time," she said.

Ann Bolman, director of Western Dakota Technical College in Rapid City, said the school is eager to partner with the sheriff's office to provide job skills training for inmates.

WDT has already seen strong success in a previous "second chance" program that provided training to inmates.

IGNITE could help ease tight county budgets

Hughes County Sheriff Patrick Callahan said he's intrigued by any effort to engage in adult inmate training. Adult inmates aren't provided education or job training in the Hughes County Jail in Pierre, which has 164 beds and houses roughly 125 to 130 inmates a day, according to county records.

"I'd call it innovative and exciting, and we're monitoring it very closely," Callahan said. "I could see this developing into something that others can use."

Callahan said jails in South Dakota operate on very tight budgets. Finding a way to implement a new program with little public funding would be welcomed, especially in less-populated or rural counties that often operate with fewer resources.

Several South Dakota sheriffs told a legislative summer study committee on county funding that inmate populations are high and budgets are tight across the state, he said.

Providing education and support services is slightly easier at the juvenile jail level because there's more state and federal money available for those programs compared with adult jails, Callahan said.

"Every jail in South Dakota is struggling right now with limited funds," he said. "And if this is a way we can offer better, more coordinated services with limited financial impact to the counties, I think it's exciting stuff."

— This article was produced by South Dakota News Watch, a non-profit journalism organization located online at sdnewswatch.org.



ABOUT BART PFANKUCH

Bart Pfankuch, Rapid City, S.D., is the content director for South Dakota News Watch. A Wisconsin native, he is a former editor of the Rapid City Journal and also worked at newspapers in Florida. Bart has spent more than 30 years as a reporter, editor and writing coach.

South Dakota Governor

Kristi Noem



South Dakota: *Under God, the People Rule*

Too Close to Home: Combating the Prescription Drug Shortage

"Kristi, he's turning blue!"

Those were the words of my mom when my son, Booker, was just four years old. I was helping out with the

annual picnic at our church when she came racing over to me saying she was taking him to the hospital. Booker had breathing problems ever since he was born, but this time my son was quite literally turning blue because he could not breathe. Ten minutes later, we had him checked into the hospital receiving life-saving medication.

Throughout much of Booker's childhood, he relied on the prescription drug Albuterol on almost a daily basis. Without it, he wouldn't have been able to breathe. I can only imagine how helpless I would have felt if I couldn't get my son the medication he so desperately needed – but that's exactly what so many parents are experiencing right now.

The entire country is facing a shortage of essential prescription drugs. Even Amoxicillin – the most used antibiotic in the country – has face widespread shortages with no good explanation for why.

Families in South Dakota are being hit hard. Doctors, pharmacists, and other healthcare professionals are having to tell patients that they don't have the medicine they need. Nobody should have to experience that kind of worry, especially not in the United States of America.

What's worse, these shortages are being driven by nations that do not have America's best interest at heart. China and India have taken control of more than 70% of generic drug manufacturing. As I have said many times before, when another country controls our critical resources, they will control us.

In the past, when China threatened our way of life, South Dakota stood up. We will do so again.

We're taking action to combat this nationwide shortage of prescription drugs. The South Dakota Department of Health manages an inventory of medications to stockpile them in case of key shortages. We are expanding this medical cache to five additional cities across the state. We're also diversifying the types of medications that are stored.

Expanding this medical cache will help us to be prepared for the colder months when respiratory illnesses become far more common. We're doing everything that we can as a state to address this challenge, but Washington, D.C. needs to step up.

I have urged Congress and the FDA to take swift action in the following areas:

Increase transparency in the supply chain;

Increase diversity in manufacturing;

Create a more favorable regulatory environment to boost U.S. manufacturing; and

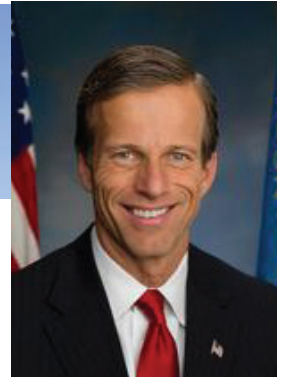
Allow waivers so that we can purchase medicine from countries like Canada.

South Dakota can act – and believe me, we are – but we can't fix this on our own. We need decisive action from Congress and the FDA. It's time for them to provide long-term policy solutions that will address the prescription drug shortage in America.

I'm grateful that we were able to treat Booker's breathing problems efficiently and effectively. And now, seeing what so many of our families are going through, I know how lucky we truly were. Mothers should never have to worry about whether or not the life-saving medication their child needs will be available.

This is a crisis that hits too close to home for us to ignore. Together with Congress and the FDA, South Dakota will keep on combatting the prescription drug shortage.

John Thune
U.S. SENATOR - SOUTH DAKOTA



Prioritizing South Dakota in the Farm Bill

Farmers and ranchers face a lot of uncertainty in their profession – few jobs are subject to markets and weather like agriculture. That’s why farmers and ranchers depend on the resources available to them through the farm bill. Agriculture is the lifeblood of South Dakota, and as a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, South Dakota’s farmers and ranchers are always a top priority of mine.

It’s no overstatement that work on the next farm bill begins almost as soon as the last one is signed into law. For each of the four farm bills I’ve helped craft, that process begins and ends with farmers and ranchers in South Dakota. I’ve held roundtables with producers throughout South Dakota, and the input I receive from them is invaluable. As Congress continues to draft the next farm bill, I’m working to ensure that South Dakota’s priorities are reflected in the final bill.

One of the things that farmers and ranchers have made clear is the critical role of the farm safety net. Crop insurance is the cornerstone of the farm safety net, and I’m working to maintain and strengthen it in the next farm bill. Producers also depend on the Agriculture Risk Coverage and Price Loss Coverage programs to help offset losses when the price of agriculture products drop. But payments from these programs are not always sufficient to cover producers’ losses, especially amid high inflation. I’m working to ensure the farm safety net is strong and sufficient to address the needs of farmers and ranchers.

I’m also working to secure improvements to the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) in this year’s bill. CRP plays an important role in improving soil health and water quality, as well as providing wildlife habitat, but the program’s current structure limits potential forage benefits for producers. Among other improvements, I’m working to make the program a more working lands-oriented option for producers and landowners through greater haying and grazing flexibilities.

Another priority is addressing some of the challenges livestock producers have faced in getting their products to Americans’ tables. Early pandemic closures of some meat processing plants led to bottlenecks in processing livestock and empty cases at the grocery store. It became clear that producers need more processing options, and I’m working to include my Strengthening Local Processing Act in this year’s farm bill to help smaller processors expand.

And I’m also working to advance my bill to reinstate mandatory country of origin labeling for beef. Our current labeling system, which allows beef that is only finished in the United States to be labeled “Product of the U.S.A.,” is unfair to livestock producers and misleading to consumers. I’ll continue working to ensure consumers can be confident that any beef labeled “Product of the U.S.A.” really came from American cattle producers.

Producing the food that fills Americans’ dinner tables is no easy task. Farmers and ranchers work hard every day, overcome weather conditions, and face uncertain markets. The farm bill provides certainty that the programs many producers depend on will be there for them. Farmers and ranchers’ priorities are my priorities, and I will keep working hard to advance the next farm bill.

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



A Focus on Military Readiness

Our nation's military is our first line of defense. They protect us in ways we don't know and can't see. Their round-the-clock monitoring of our adversaries such as China and Russia, boots-on-the-ground fighting, and cyber warfare protection deserve our utmost gratitude so we can live freely. This week, House Republicans secured major wins in the House-passed NDAA to give our military the resources necessary to do their jobs.

In recent years, we've seen a political ideology pushed on the military from COVID-19 to abortion. I want to be clear – I will always prioritize the mission of military readiness over partisan politics.

The annual defense bill:

Gives servicemembers the largest pay raise in over 20 years.

Counters the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).

Authorizes funds for Ellsworth construction projects and B-21 procurement.

Bans funding for distractions to military readiness, like critical race theory and drag shows.

Prohibits taxpayer dollars to be used in allowing military members access to abortion services.

Funds the National Guard's southern border deployment account.

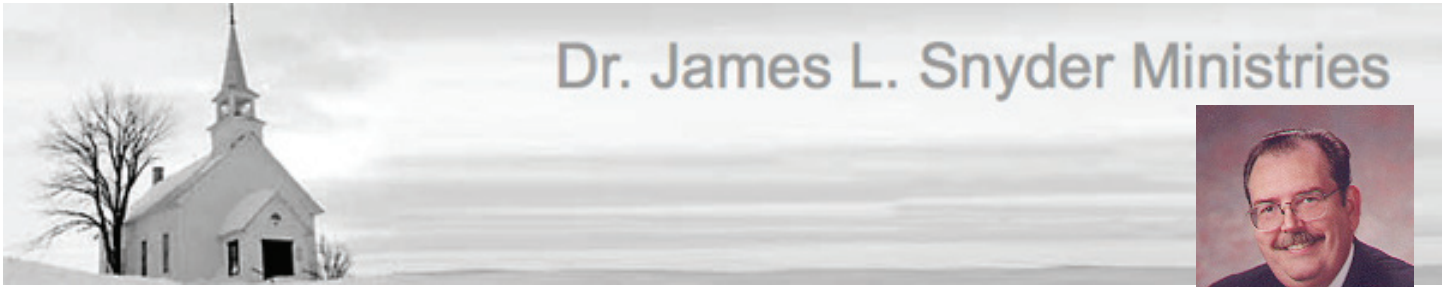
One of the provisions in the bill is an amendment I offered to prohibit China's spying on American exports and ocean shipments. China is our biggest threat. I'm glad the defense bill is packed with policies to counter CCP aggression and strengthen partnerships with our allies in the Pacific region.

Taxpayer dollars invested in the Department of Defense are being spent efficiently to keep you safe, deter our adversaries, and maintain our technological advantage. In fact, we cut \$40 billion worth of programs that weren't meeting high enough standards and reallocated those dollars to their best possible uses.

The House of Representatives passed the defense bill today, and now it heads to the Senate. I'm proud of the work House Republicans have done to ensure America's military remains the best of the best.

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Our Summer Vacation Jamboree



After months and months of planning, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage finalized our vacation plans for the summer.

Because of our busy lifestyle, something like this cannot be done with just a snap of a finger, especially since the great-granddaughter invaded our family circle. If my wife does not see her every day, something is wrong. It took her a long time to plan a whole week, so she would not have to see the great-granddaughter.

The time, however, had come, and we were on our way to a well-deserved vacation in St. Augustine.

I remembered why we were here on our first day in St. Augustine. Silly me, I thought it was vacation time, but then I remembered we were at the capital of thrift store shops. I'm not sure how many thrift store shops are in the area, but I know The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage knows exactly how many are open. She knows when a thrift store shop opens two months before it opens.

I knew part of my vacation time would be spent at some thrift stores. I am not a thrift store shopper connoisseur to any degree at all. They all look the same, and I can't remember the last time I found something in one that I wanted.

Not only does The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage know where the shops are, but she knows what the shop has and where they are located in that shop.

I remember going to one thrift store shop with her, and when we entered, I went one way, and she went the other way. I was lost for the next 90 minutes and did not know how to get out or even where my wife was. Fortunately, she found me and led me outside. It's been several years since that experience.

One day we were at one of her favorite shops, and she was talking to one of the managers. They had known each other for many years, so they had much to catch up on.

In the middle of their conversation, a customer approached the manager and asked if they had a certain item and where she could find it.

Before the manager could answer, The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage spoke up and said, "That product is down the aisle there, and turn left at the fourth aisle. You will find it on the top of the shelf."

She thanked her and walked off after the product.

The manager looked at my wife and asked, "How did you know where to find that product?"

"I saw it the last time I was here," my wife replied.

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Being one of the managers, she offered my wife a job. Fortunately for me, she did not take the job.

It's something when my wife knows where things are in the shop more than the shop manager.

We visited a few thrift stores during the days that we were there.

One day my wife asked if I wanted to go to the shopping mall with her. It's been a long time since I was at a shopping mall, so I agreed to accompany her.

As we arrived at the shopping mall I looked at my wife and said, "You do remember our rule for going into a shopping mall, don't you?"

She nodded, took my hand, and we walked into the shopping mall together.

We walked around for almost an hour, and then two older ladies approached us, smiled, and said, "That is so sweet. Both of you at your age, are holding hands as you walk around the mall."

I smiled and replied, "If I let go of her hand, she will go off shopping, and I will not be able to find her for hours."

The ladies looked at me, smiled and then kept walking.

Towards the end of the week, something happened that I totally wasn't expecting and it could change my life.

The toilet in our bathroom was jammed and couldn't be flushed.

My wife went down to the main office and got a plunger. She worked and worked at it, but could not get the toilet to flush.

I'm not sure what came over me, but I walked in and said, "Do you want me to try?"

She gave me the plunger, and without much thought, I started plunging away, and within a few minutes, the toilet was working. At first, I smiled, then I realized what had just happened.

My wife has a reputation for fixing everything and anything. In contrast, I have a reputation for not being able to fix anything. I've enjoyed that reputation, and it has a lot of benefits. But now, I fixed something that The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage could not fix. My reputation is ruined.

As we were driving home in The Gracious Mistress of the Parsonage's Sissy Van, she looked at me and said, "That was a wonderful vacation, wasn't it?" I just smiled.

A verse of Scripture came to my mind as we were driving.

Isaiah 55:11, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

It's God's word that really makes a difference in my life. The Bible is absolutely true to God's heart and will.

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: You hear a lot about shark sightings and attacks nowadays; does this mean that sharks are more abundant than ever and doing well overall—or the opposite?

—R.W., Wellfleet, MA

It's tough to accurately document shark sightings, but shark attacks are documented every year. There are two classifications of shark bites: provoked and unprovoked. Provoked bites occur after a person has initiated interaction with the shark, like attempting to touch or feed it. But, according to Gavin Naylor, director of the Florida Program for Shark Research, "Unprovoked bites give us significantly more insight into the biology and behavior of sharks. Changing the environment such that sharks are drawn to the area in search of their natural food source might prompt them to bite humans when they otherwise wouldn't."

Globally, unprovoked attacks in 2022 were 57. In 2021, there were 73. During the pandemic, many beaches shut down, but looking at the years preceding 2020, we can more accurately deduce changes in shark attack frequency. Using data from The University of Florida's International Shark Attack File, the average number of annual unprovoked attacks from 2015 to 2019 was 79.4. Comparing this to 2022, it can be seen that the frequency of shark attacks has not risen significantly, if at all, in the past few years.

In spite of this, due to increasing ocean temperatures sharks are more inclined to travel into coastal waters where tourist activity is common. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, these waters are typically cooler than waters offshore. Warmer waters have higher concentrations of chlorophyll which attracts plankton growth. Many species of fish, rays and crabs feed on plankton. As ocean temperatures rise, northern and coastal waters grow warmer, attracting plankton, fish and other shark bait prey. As a result, sharks are more attracted to these regions than before.

Although the number of unprovoked shark attacks around the world has not increased, regions along the United States' East Coast have seen upticks in shark incidents. In 2022, there were eight shark attacks in New York after three consecutive years of zero cases. In 2021, Florida experienced 28 shark attacks following a three-year-average of 17.67 annual incidents. Because of these increases, there may be more media coverage on shark attacks, leading people to believe that there are more sharks overall.

Though shark sightings may be becoming more frequent, shark numbers are dwindling. Many shark species are struggling in their native coral reefs and marine ecosystems. According to the journal *Science*, "Five of the most common reef shark species have experienced a decline of up to 73 percent." In addition, *The Washington Post* states that "a third of all sharks, rays and related species are at risk of going extinct." As a result, scientists are concerned that species lower on the food chain will overpopulate without the presence of sharks as natural predators.

Humans are responsible for many factors that may be causing a decline in shark populations. Overfishing deprives sharks of one of their primary food sources. Millions of sharks get entangled in fishing nets and longlines every year. Plus, some 73 million sharks are killed for the shark fin and meat industry.



Though shark sightings may be becoming more frequent, shark numbers are dwindling.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Congressional Roundup: Foreign ownership, culture wars in the military, child tax credit, and more

BY: SEARCHLIGHT STAFF - JULY 15, 2023 8:00 AM

Rep. Dusty Johnson, R-South Dakota, is supporting another effort to limit foreign ownership of U.S. land. The House Select Committee on the Chinese Communist Party recently introduced the Protecting U.S. Farmland and Sensitive Sites From Foreign Adversaries Act, with the support of Johnson, who's a member of the committee.

The bill would expand the jurisdiction of the existing Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, which can make recommendations for the president to block transactions. Johnson's news release said the bill would give the committee jurisdiction over "all non-urban, non-single 'housing unit' land purchases by foreign adversary entities." The bill says those adversaries are China, Cuba, Iran, North Korea, Russia, and Venezuela – as long as Nicholas Maduro is Venezuela's president.

"We know China poses a significant threat to America in more ways than one," Johnson said in a news release. Referencing the Chinese Communist Party, he added, "Allowing the CCP close access to our food supply and military is a major red flag."

The bill would require reports on foreign adversaries making land purchases near "sensitive sites." The list of sensitive sites would be expanded to include all military facilities, acknowledged intelligence sites, national laboratories, defense-funded university-affiliated research centers and similar locations.

Additionally, the bill would require the committee to consider U.S. food security, including biotechnology acquisition, as a factor in its national security reviews. And the secretary of agriculture would be given a vote in committee reviews of transactions that involve farmland or agriculture technology.

Heightened concern about foreign acquisitions of U.S. land date to last year, when a Chinese company was on the verge of building a corn milling plant near an Air Force base in North Dakota. People concerned about national security wondered why the federal government hadn't already stopped it; as it turned out, the Committee on Foreign Investment lacked jurisdiction over the area around Grand Forks Air Force Base.

After Congress passed a law in 2018 empowering the committee to review foreign purchases of real estate near sensitive government facilities, the committee went through a rulemaking process to craft a list of those facilities.

The resulting list didn't include the base in Grand Forks, or Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota, or some other military installations.

A pending rule change, separate from the new legislation, would add those bases and six other military installations to the list of sensitive facilities.

Johnson also co-sponsors legislation that would prohibit China, Russia, Iran and North Korea from purchasing U.S. agricultural land and agricultural companies.

Elections bill

On a party-line vote, the U.S. Committee on House Administration passed a bill this week that would enact strict new voting laws for states, such as requiring copies of IDs for voting by mail, and set penalties for states that allow voting by noncitizens in local elections.

The 224-page bill, H.R. 4563, was approved 8-4, and contains provisions similar to those passed in many Republican-led states since the 2020 election.

The top Democrat on the committee, Rep. Joe Morelle of New York, slammed the bill for "catering to

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the demands of election deniers," and said it will not increase voter access to the ballot.

"Americans can take solace in the fact that this bill will never become law," Morelle said.

While the overhaul has a chance of passage in the Republican-controlled House, it's likely to die in the Senate, where Democrats hold a slim majority.

Johnson co-sponsors the bill and said it incorporates his District of Columbia Tribal Voter Identification Act, which would require Washington, D.C., to accept a tribal ID for the purposes of registering and voting. The bill would also require D.C. to adopt election security measures, including prohibiting same-day voter registration and requiring valid photo ID to vote in person or request an absentee ballot.

"We must have an election system worthy of the public's trust," Johnson said in a news release. "Part of that goal is allowing voters to use a valid ID, including ones issued by a tribal government. I'm proud to support this bill that strengthens election integrity while also respecting the Constitution."

Rounds rails against 'woke' military policies

Sen. Mike Rounds, R-South Dakota, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, questioned the nominee for chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff this week.

Rounds pursued a topic his later press release described as "woke" Department of Defense policies. His office said in the news release that those policies "forced an 18-year-old female member of the South Dakota National Guard to shower and sleep next to biological males who had yet to undergo sex change surgery."

During the hearing, Rounds said, "She was sleeping in open bays and showering with biological males who had not had gender reassignment surgery, but were documented as females because they had begun the drug therapy process. This 18-year-old girl was uncomfortable with her situation but had limited options on how to deal with it."

The nominee is Gen. C.Q. Brown, current chief of staff of the Air Force. He responded, "Senator, one of the things I've thought about throughout my career is, as you're being inclusive, you also don't want to make other individuals uncomfortable. And so, there are areas, when we look at our policies and approaches and get feedback like this, we have to take a look to see if we can improve on how we approach situations like this."

In response to a South Dakota Searchlight question about the incident, South Dakota National Guard Col. Scott Linquist said in a statement, "Senator Rounds' statement speaks for itself, and we have nothing further to add."

Susan Williams is the executive director of The Transformation Project, which advocates for transgender people. She said the organization is disappointed Rounds promoted the line of questioning "in a press release titled in such a provocative manner, as it can contribute to divisiveness and sensationalism."

The press release was titled, "Rounds Questions Top General About Woke DOD Policies that Forced Young Female SD National Guard Recruit to Shower with Biological Males."

Defense bill

The U.S. House approved an annual defense authorization bill Friday that includes GOP rollbacks of Pentagon policies on abortion, transgender health care and efforts to boost racial equity.

Republican amendments targeting social policy issues turned a typically bipartisan measure preserving the nation's military security into another front for the culture wars, similar to those that have gripped many state legislatures. The bill passed 219-210, with mostly GOP support, including a yes vote from Johnson.

The bill is called the National Defense Authorization Act, or NDAA.

"The NDAA is necessary to ensure our nation's military remains the strongest in the world," Johnson said in a news release after the vote. "This bill gives our nation's defense the resources it needs and cuts unnecessary programs that distract from the goal of our military to protect and defend. The NDAA's passage is a huge win for America."

Johnson said the bill's many provisions include a 5.2% increase in servicemember basic pay, the largest pay raise in over 20 years; \$395 million for Ellsworth Air Force Base construction projects; and \$2.33 billion for B-21 bomber procurement.

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Pandemic policy questioned

Johnson urged the Department of Defense to abandon a remnant of COVID-19 pandemic policy that restricts enlistees of the National Guard from having family present at swearing-in ceremonies.

"This restrictive policy did not exist prior to the pandemic, and since the Commander in Chief fully ended the national emergency in April 2023, the MEPS [Military Entrance Processing Command] previous policy to accommodate all guests should be restored," Johnson said in his letter to the department.

Rushmore bill

The National Park Service, which manages the preservation and upkeep of Mount Rushmore in the Black Hills, testified in opposition to Johnson's "Mount Rushmore Protection Act" on Thursday — not because the agency disagrees with the bill's intent, but because the agency views the bill as "unnecessary."

NPS Deputy Director for Congressional and External Relations Michael Reynolds testified in front of the House Committee on Natural Resources, adding that the bill's language, which is meant to protect the national memorial from being altered, changed, destroyed or removed, could unintentionally threaten the agency's ability to care for the memorial.

"We share the goals of what's happening with the protection of Mount Rushmore in perpetuity," Reynolds said.

The bill awaits action by the committee.

Child tax credit

Sen. John Thune, R-South Dakota, ranking member of the Finance Subcommittee on Taxation and Internal Revenue Service Oversight, held a hearing last week assessing the effect of the child tax credit over the course of its 25-year history.

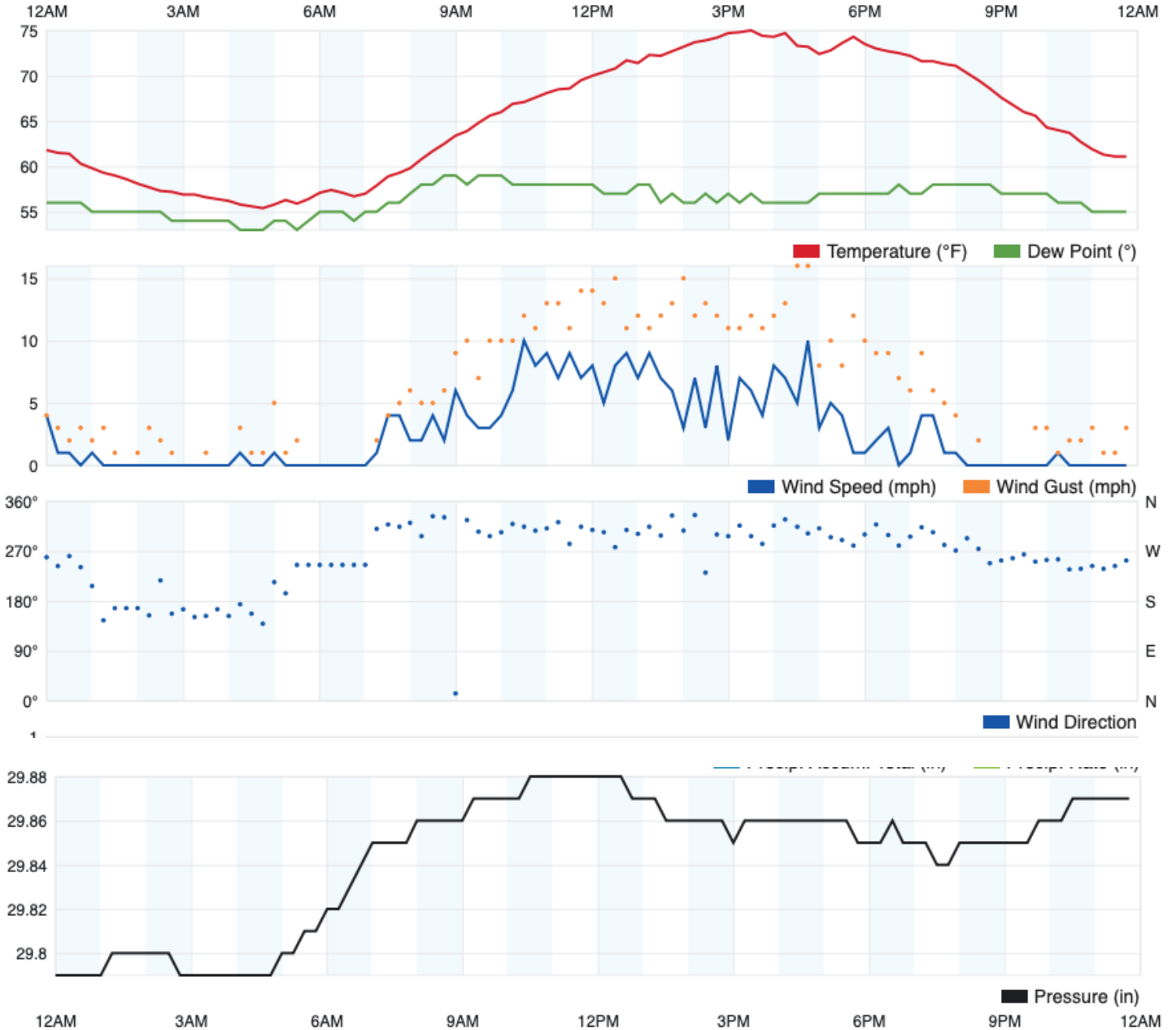
The Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 doubled the maximum credit amount, Thune said, providing qualifying families with a maximum \$2,000 credit per dependent child, up to the age of 16. The expanded credit is set to expire and revert back to prior levels beginning in 2026 if Congress does not act.

"Therefore, it is my hope that my colleagues on the Finance Committee and in the Senate see the necessity for this expanded child tax credit to not be allowed to simply expire in just a few short years," Thune said.

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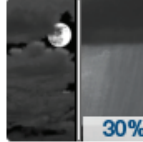

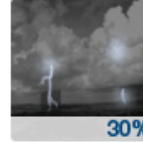

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs

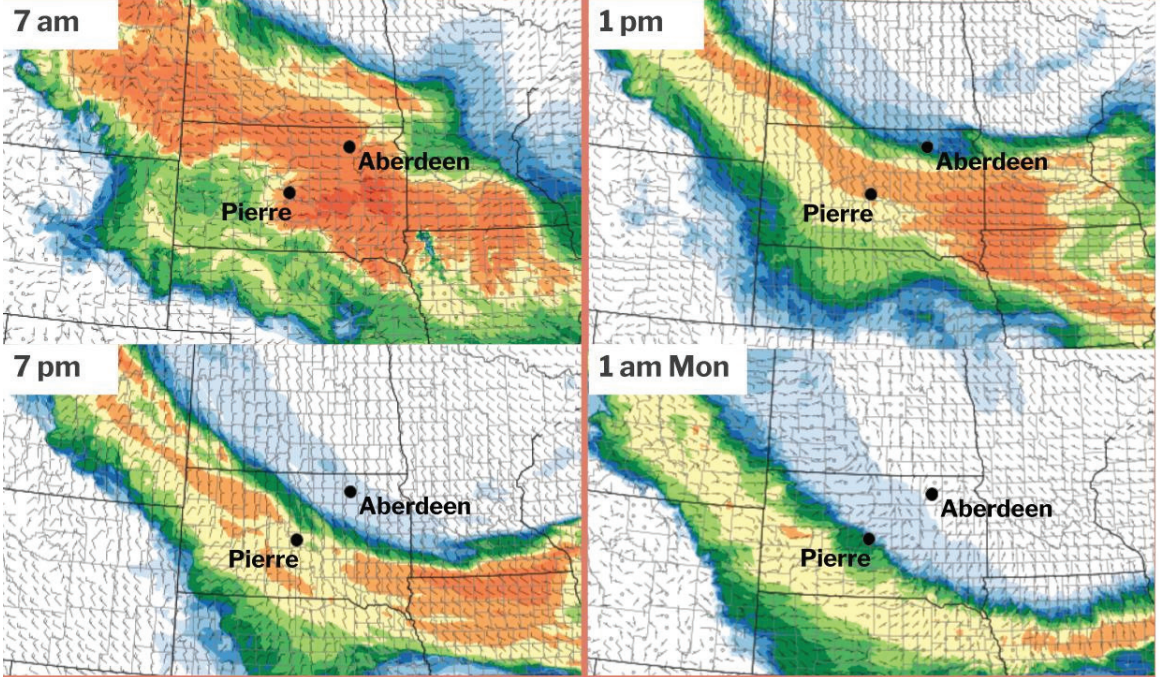


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Today	Tonight	Monday	Monday Night	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday
						
Areas Smoke then Mostly Sunny	Mostly Clear	Mostly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Chance Showers	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Sunny
High: 76 °F	Low: 50 °F	High: 78 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 85 °F

What's the Smoke Forecast through today, Sun July 16, 2023



Map Key

- *This map shows modeled near-surface smoke
- *Reds, oranges and yellows represent higher concentrations of low-level smoke
- *Greens and blues represent lower concentrations of low-level smoke
- *White represents no low-level smoke
- *This does not indicate total smoke through the atmosphere - skies may still appear milky white if no near-surface smoke is forecast

NOAA's HRRR-NCEP-Smoke Model

A cold front this morning will bring more northerly winds today and help clear out the near surface smoke that has been in place over the last couple of days. This will lead to increasing visibilities and improved air quality through the day today and into the evening hours.

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Severe Weather Threat Monday Night

July 16, 2023
4:02 AM

Mainly late Monday night/early Tuesday morning in the yellow area

Timing/Location

Scattered storms are possible from late Monday evening through early Tuesday morning, with the highest chances for severe storms across central and south central SD

Tornado Potential

Very Low Low Medium High

Max Hail Size

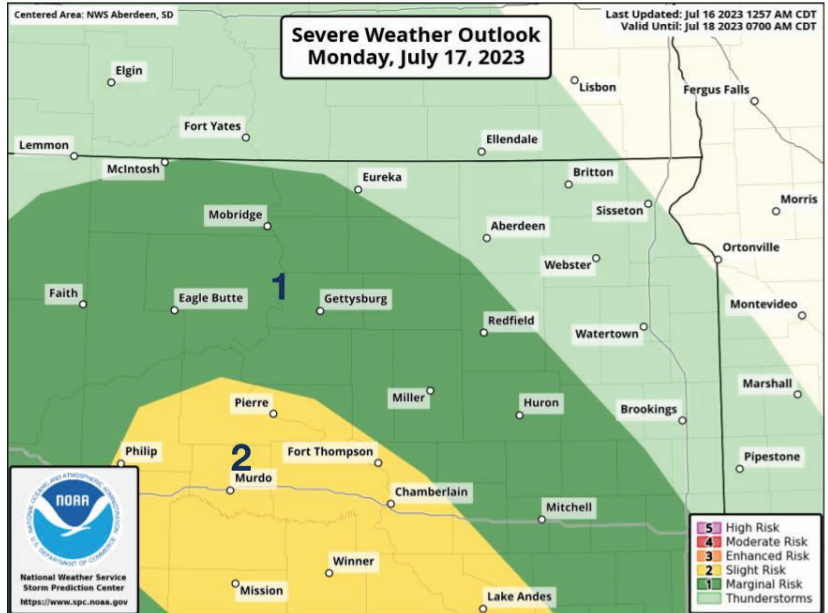
Dimes Quarters **Golfball** Baseball

Max Wind Speed

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

Heavy Rain/Flooding Potential

Very Low **Low** Medium High



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

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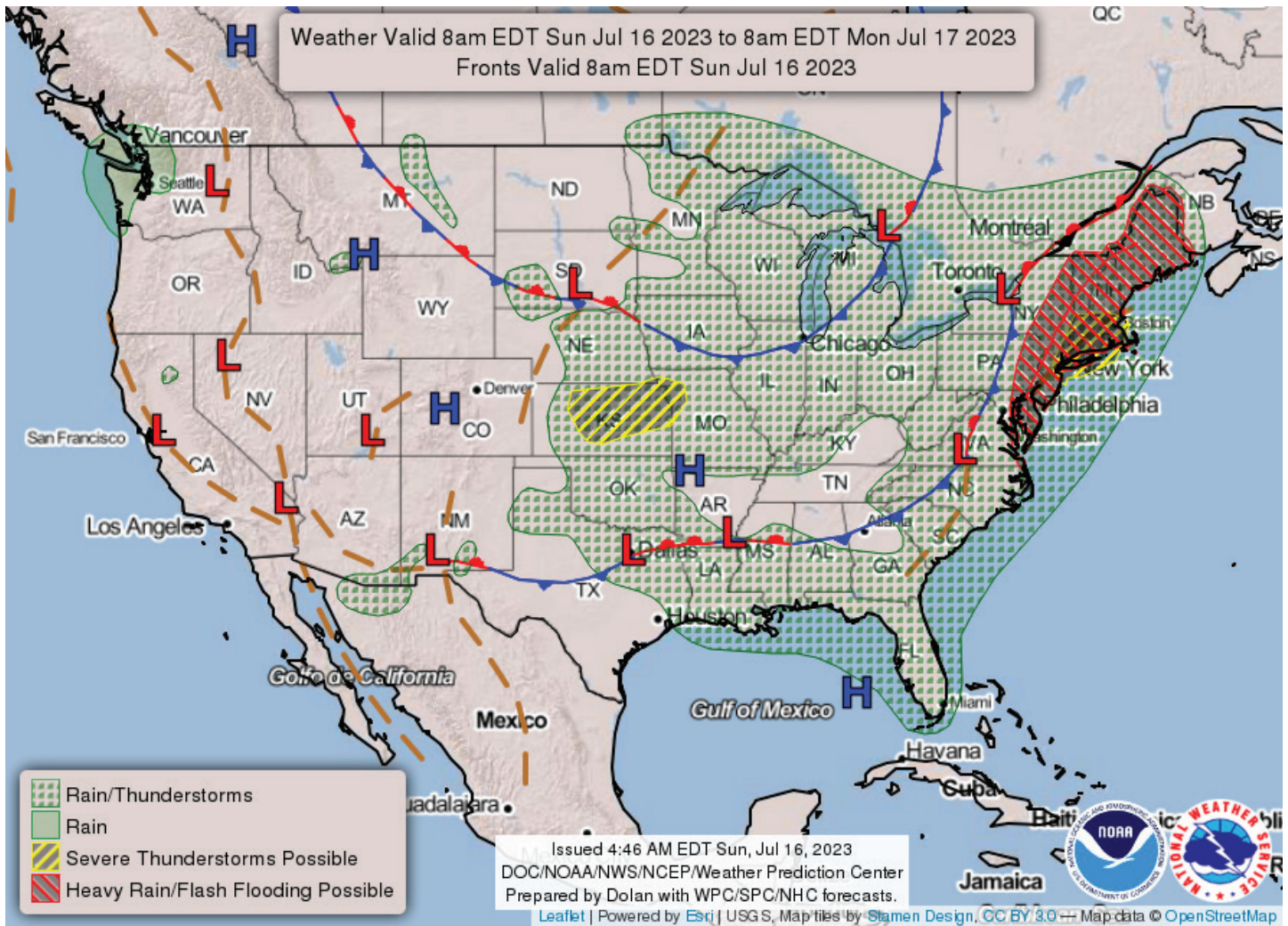
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 75 °F at 3:02 PM
Low Temp: 55 °F at 4:23 AM
Wind: 16 mph at 4:29 PM
Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 21 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 112 in 1936
Record Low: 42 in 1976
Average High: 85
Average Low: 60
Average Precip in July.: 1.80
Precip to date in July.: 1.32
Average Precip to date: 12.81
Precip Year to Date: 12.67
Sunset Tonight: 9:19:12 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:58:45 AM



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Today in Weather History

July 16, 1993: Thunderstorms, dumping two to seven inches of rain caused flooding problems in north-eastern South Dakota. Several dams and many roads were washed out. Most of the damage was in Marshall County. Six families were evacuated about six miles southeast of Britton as two private earthen dams broke. Winds, as high as 70 mph were also reported in a couple of locations in Marshall County. The torrential rains resulted in flooded farmland, roads, and basements in northeast South Dakota through July 21st. In Groton and Claremont at least 90 percent of the homes had water in the basements. Some storm total rainfall amounts include 3.20 inches in Leola; 3.14 in Ipswich; 3.13 in Britton; and 2.77 in Eureka.

July 16, 2001: Very heavy rains of 3 to 7 inches fell across north central Corson County causing flash flooding. Oak Creek along with several other streams washed out several roads and damaged some fences from Watauga to McIntosh to McLaughlin and north. Travel stopped for a while on the Highway north of McLaughlin.

1920 - A severe hailstorm over parts of Antelope and Boone counties in Nebraska stripped trees of bark and foliage, ruined roofs, and broke nearly every window facing north. (The Weather Channel)

1946 - The temperature at Medford, OR, soared to an all-time high of 115 degrees to begin a two week heat wave. During that Oregon heat wave the mercury hit 100 degrees at Sexton Summit for the only time in forty years of records. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1975 - An early afternoon thunderstorm raked the east side of Tucson, AZ, with gale force winds, heavy rain, and numerous lightning strikes. A thirteen year old boy was swept through a forty foot long culvert by raging waters before being rescued. (The Weather Channel)

1979: The most damaging tornado in Wyoming history touched down 3 miles west-northwest of the Cheyenne airport. This strong tornado moved east or east-southeast across the northern part of Cheyenne, causing \$22 million in damage and one fatality. 140 houses and 17 trailers were destroyed. 325 other homes were damaged. Four C-130 aircraft and National Guard equipment sustained \$12 million damage. Municipal hangars and buildings suffered \$10 million in losses.

1987 - Showers and thundestorms in the southwestern U.S. ended a record string of thirty-nine consecutive days of 100 degree heat at Tucson, AZ. A thunderstorm at Bullhead City, AZ, produced wind gusts to 70 mph reducing the visibility to near zero in blowing dust. Southerly winds gusting to 40 mph pushed temperature readings above 100 degrees in the Northern Plains. Rapid City, SD, reported a record high of 106 degrees, following a record low of 39 degrees just three days earlier. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - Thirty-seven cities in the eastern U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date. Highs of 96 degrees at Bluefield, WV, and 104 degrees at Charleston WV were all-time records, and afternoon highs of 98 degrees at Binghamton, NY, 99 degrees at Elkins, WV, and 103 degrees at Pittsburgh PA, tied all-time records. Highs of 104 degrees at Baltimore, MD, and 105 degrees at Parkersburg WV were records for July, and Beckley, WV, equalled their record for July with a high of 94 degrees. Martinsburg, WV, was the hot spot in the nation with a reading of 107 degrees. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms raked the northeastern U.S. with large hail and damaging winds. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Showers and thunderstorms developing along a stationary front drenched the Middle Atlantic Coast States with heavy rain, causing flooding in some areas. More than five inches of rain was reported near Madison and Ferncliff, VA. Hot weather prevailed in Texas. San Angelo reported a record high of 106 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

2009: A hailstone, 3.3 inches in diameter, 6.8 inches circumference, and weighing 2.1 ounces fell in Westford, Vermont. This hailstone is the largest ever found in Vermont.

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

WRITING FOR ETERNITY?

Thomas Mann was a widely known and highly regarded novelist. His books were well written, and on one occasion, he won the Nobel Prize. He was also recognized for the length of time it took him to write one of his books. On one occasion it took so long that his publisher complained to him saying, "You have been working on this book for an eternity!"

"After all," he replied, "I am writing it for eternity." Even though his writing skills and insights were known around the world and had great influence, none of them could produce life. There is only one Book that has life-giving power: God's Book - His Word.

Jesus said, "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name." One Word, one Person, one purpose: Life through Christ. Only the living Word has life. All other books will perish and be forgotten.

The writer of Ecclesiastes said, "Of the writing of many books there is no end and much study wearies the body." We read and study, ask questions and think, gain knowledge and insight, learn how to do things, and come to some well-thought-out conclusions. But in the final analysis, life does not come through books - it only comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

Prayer: Father, we accept and believe that You are the Way, the Truth and the Life. May we know You as a Friend, love You with sincerity, and worship You as King. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name. John 20:31



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

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2023 Community Events

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

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.14.23

10 24 48 51 66 15

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$640,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.15.23

5 6 20 42 48 6

All Star Bonus: 3x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$5,840,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.15.23

6 9 20 21 27 4

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT DRAW: 16 Hrs 20 Mins
30 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.15.23

3 9 19 31 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$20,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.15.23

12 21 23 37 52 19

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.15.23

2 9 43 55 57 18

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$900,000,000

NEXT DRAW:

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

Fargo police don't yet have a motive for the shooting that killed 1 officer and injured 2

By JACK DURA Associated Press

FARGO, N.D. (AP) — A gunman opened fire on police and firefighters “for no known reason” as they responded to a traffic crash in North Dakota, killing one officer and wounding two others before another officer killed him, Fargo’s police chief said Saturday.

A 25-year-old woman was also injured in the shooting Friday afternoon, but authorities did not say who shot her. The gunman did not hit any firefighters, Chief David Zibolski said, but a fire truck was struck by gunfire.

Zibolski identified the shooter as Mohamad Barakat, 37, of Fargo, but provided few details about him or the shooting, citing officials’ desire to protect the investigation. He said he was confident authorities would eventually determine the motive.

“The first thing we always want to know in a situation like this is, ‘Why?’” he said. “Why would somebody do this? What happened?”

Authorities were investigating what Zibolski called a “routine traffic accident” on a busy Fargo street when Barakat opened fire. He did not appear to have been involved in the crash police were working, Zibolski said.

Among the drivers who witnessed what happened was Chenoa Peterson. She told The Associated Press on Saturday that the shooter appeared to have ambushed the officers. The gunman was at the rear of a car in a bank parking lot near the traffic crash when he fired on an officer not more than 20 feet (6 meters) away, she said.

“He was holding up the trunk of the car with his arm, and then I see the gun come up, and he set it on his shoulder and just pointed it directly at an officer in front of him,” Peterson said. “It was like 10 shots right away.”

The police weren’t looking in the direction of the gunman when he began shooting, she said.

Peterson’s 22-year-old daughter was with her and said the suspect exchanged simultaneous gunfire with police.

“I saw them firing at each other both at once,” Katriel Peterson said. “But soon as the shooter took a break the cop came walking towards him letting off round after round. There was already an officer down. And a family hiding just on the other side of the vehicle next to the shooter.”

Asked if the shooting was a planned ambush of police, Zibolski told reporters: “The investigation into that is still ongoing.” He said he believed police had previously had some sort of contact with Barakat “but not anything significant.” He did not know what type of gun Barakat used.

He said the state Bureau of Criminal Investigation and the FBI were investigating.

Zibolski said officer Jake Wallin, a military veteran, was killed, and officers Andrew Dotas and Tyler Hawes were wounded. Officer Zach Robinson shot and killed the suspect, Zibolski said.

Peterson, who said she has a bachelor’s degree in nursing, said her first instinct was to get out of her car and help. But her 22-year-old daughter, who was in the passenger seat, yelled that they had to take cover, so she drove around to the back of the bank.

At the time of the shooting, Wallin, 23, of St. Michael, Minnesota, was in the field as an officer in training, having become a Fargo police officer less than three months earlier. Wallin previously served in the Minnesota Army National Guard and was deployed to Afghanistan, Zibolski said.

“He served his country, came back here and wanted nothing more but to serve in a position with purpose and meaning – his exact words — and he did that,” Zibolski said.

In video played at a Saturday news conference showing Wallin training with fellow recruits, he spoke of his desire to pursue a career in law enforcement.

"Throughout my entire life, I've always wanted to work in some sort of position that had purpose behind my job and police officer is always what kind of came to me," Wallin said. "I don't want to be sitting in an office wondering why I'm here every day. I want to be out, I want to be doing something that I can tell myself at the end of the day I made a difference somehow."

For nine hours after the shooting, police had called it only a "critical incident." Early details emerged from people who said they witnessed the shooting or heard gunshots. Shortly after the shooting, officers converged on a residential area about 2 miles (3.2 kilometers) away and evacuated residents of an apartment building while gathering what they said was related evidence.

On Saturday, investigators were still at the apartment building, going back and forth from the third floor, where police tape hung across a hallway. Few residents were around and an FBI truck was out front.

Associated Press writers Margery A. Beck in Omaha, Nebraska, and Ed Komenda in Seattle, Washington, contributed to this report.

Russia has 'sufficient stockpile' of cluster bombs, says Putin, as Ukraine gets US cluster bombs

By ELISE MORTON ASSOCIATED PRESS

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview published Sunday that Russia has a "sufficient stockpile" of cluster munitions, and warned that Russia "reserves the right to take reciprocal action" if Ukraine uses the controversial weapons.

In his first comments on the delivery of cluster munitions to Ukraine from the U.S., Putin said that Russia has not used cluster bombs in its war in Ukraine so far.

"Until now, we have not done this, we have not used it, and we have not had such a need," he said, although the use of cluster bombs by both Russia and Ukraine has been widely documented, including by The Associated Press and international humanitarian organizations.

Rossiia TV reporter Pavel Zarubin published excerpts of the interview to his Telegram channel Sunday ahead of a scheduled broadcast Sunday night.

The Pentagon said Thursday that cluster munitions provided by the United States had arrived in Ukraine.

The munitions, which are bombs that open in the air and release scores of smaller bomblets, are seen by the U.S. as a way to get Kyiv critically needed ammunition to help bolster its offensive and push through Russian front lines. U.S. leaders debated the thorny issue for months, before President Joe Biden made the final decision last week.

Cluster bombs have long been criticized by humanitarian groups, and some U.S. allies, because those used in previous conflicts have had a high "dud rate," meaning that they often leave behind unexploded bomblets that can harm civilians long after a battle has ended.

Proponents argue that Russia has already been using cluster munitions in Ukraine and that the weapons the U.S. is providing have been improved to leave behind far fewer unexploded rounds. Ukraine has promised to use them only away from densely populated areas.

On the ground, the Ukrainian military said in a regular update Sunday morning that over the previous 24 hours Russia had launched two Iranian-made Shahed exploding drones, two cruise missiles and two anti-aircraft guided missiles, in addition to 40 airstrikes and 46 attacks from multiple rocket launchers.

The Ukrainian General Staff wrote that Russia continues to concentrate on offensive operations in Ukraine's industrial east. Donetsk regional Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said Sunday that two residents of the region were killed on Saturday, and one other person was wounded.

Elsewhere in the country, the governor of Ukraine's partly occupied southern Zaporizhzhia region, Yurii Malashko, said Russia had attacked 13 populated areas in the region, wounding seven people in the town of Stepanivka.

In the neighboring Kherson province, regional Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin said that Russia had launched 69 shelling attacks against the region. A 59-year-old man died on Saturday when attempting to disarm a

round in the regional capital, also called Kherson.

Moscow-installed authorities in Russian-occupied Crimea on Sunday reported "a massive and prolonged" drone attack overnight targeting Sevastopol, the peninsula's largest port, which hosts Russia's Black Sea Fleet. According to Moscow-installed Sevastopol governor Mikhail Razvozhayev, air defense shot down all of the drones and there was no damage.

Vyacheslav Gladkov, the governor of Russia's Belgorod region, said that a woman was killed Sunday by shelling in the town of Shebekino near the border with Ukraine.

Morton reported from London. AP Journalist Felipe Dana contributed to this report.

Earthquake off the coast of Alaska triggers brief tsunami advisory

By The Associated Press undefined

A 7.2 magnitude earthquake triggered a brief tsunami advisory for southern Alaska, monitoring bodies reported late Saturday.

The earthquake was felt widely throughout the Aleutian Islands, the Alaskan Peninsula and Cook Inlet regions, according to the Alaska Earthquake Center.

In Kodiak, Alaska, sirens warned of a possible tsunami and sent people driving to shelters late at night, according to video posted to social media.

The United States Geological Survey wrote in a social media post that the earthquake occurred 106 kilometers (65.8 miles) south of Sand Point, Alaska, at 10:48 p.m. Saturday.

The U.S. National Weather Service sent a tsunami advisory saying the quake occurred at a depth of 13 miles (21 kilometers). About an hour after the initial alert, it was updated to cancel the advisory.

The Hawaii Emergency Management Agency said there was no threat to the islands.

7 bodies pulled from flooded road tunnel in South Korea as rains cause flash floods and landslides

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean rescue workers pulled seven bodies from a flooded tunnel where around 15 vehicles were trapped in muddy water, as days of heavy rain triggered flash floods and landslides and destroyed homes across the country. Flooding and landslides have killed at least 33 people in Korea and forced thousands to evacuate, officials said Sunday.

Nearly 400 rescue workers, including divers, were searching the tunnel in the central city of Cheongju, where the vehicles, including a bus, were swamped by a flash flood Saturday evening, Seo Jeong-il, chief of the city's fire department, said in a briefing.

Fire officials estimated that the tunnel filled with water in as little as two or three minutes.

Photos and video from the scene showed rescue workers establishing a perimeter and pumping brown water out of the tunnel as divers used rubber boats to move in and out of the area.

Yang Chan-mo, an official from the North Chungcheong provincial fire department, said it could take several hours to pump out all the water from the tunnel, which was still filled with 4 to 5 meters (13 to 16.4 feet) of water dense with mud and other debris. Workers were proceeding slowly with the work to prevent any victims or survivors from being swept out, Yang said.

Nine survivors were rescued from the tunnel and 11 others were believed to be missing based on reports by families or others, but the exact number of passengers trapped in vehicles wasn't immediately clear, Seo said.

South Korea has been pounded by heavy rains since July 9. The rainfall had forced more than 6,100 people to evacuate and left 27,260 households without electricity in the past several days while flooding or destroying dozens of homes, the Ministry of the Interior and Safety said. At least 22 people were being treated for injuries.

President Yoon Suk Yeol, who is on a trip to Europe, discussed the rain-related casualties and damages

during an emergency meeting while traveling to Poland on a train after visiting Ukraine on Saturday, according to his office. Yoon called for officials to mobilize all available resources to respond to the disaster.

Palestinian gunman opens fire on a car in the occupied West Bank wounding 3, including 2 girls

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — A Palestinian gunman opened fire on a car in the occupied West Bank on Sunday wounding three Israelis, including two girls, before fleeing, Israeli authorities said.

The bloodshed was the latest in a relentless cycle of violence that has gripped the region, driving up the death toll and sparking the worst fighting between Israel and the Palestinians in the West Bank in nearly two decades.

The Israeli military said the gunman opened fire on a car from a passing vehicle. Israel's rescue service MDA said three Israelis were wounded, including a 35-year-old with gunshot wounds in serious but stable condition. Two girls, aged 9 and 14, were lightly wounded by flying debris.

The military said forces were on the lookout for the assailant.

Fighting between Israel and the Palestinians in the West Bank intensified early last year when Israel launched near-nightly raids into Palestinian areas in the West Bank in response to a spate of Palestinian attacks against Israelis.

The violence has spiked this year, with more than 150 Palestinians killed by Israeli fire since the start of 2023 in the West Bank and east Jerusalem, according to a tally by The Associated Press.

Israeli says most of those killed have been militants, but stone-throwing youths protesting the raids and others not involved in the confrontations have also been killed.

At least 26 people have been killed in Palestinian attacks against Israelis during that time.

Israel says the raids are essential to dismantle militant networks and thwart future attacks. The Palestinians see the violence as a natural response to 56 years of occupation, including stepped-up settlement construction by Israel's government and increased violence by Jewish settlers.

Israel captured the West Bank in the 1967 Mideast war, along with the Gaza Strip and east Jerusalem. Palestinians seek those territories for their hoped-for independent state.

Powerball prize grows to \$900 million after no jackpot winner drawn

The Associated Press undefined

Another Powerball drawing ended with no winner Saturday night, sending the jackpot soaring to an estimated \$900 million.

No ticket for Saturday's drawing matched the winning combination: white balls 2, 9, 43, 55, 57 and red Powerball 18. The jackpot was estimated at \$875 million.

Ticket buyers for Monday's drawing have a chance at either \$900 million paid out in yearly increments or a \$465.1 million, one-time lump sum before taxes.

The top prize is the third biggest Powerball jackpot and the seventh largest in U.S. lottery history, Powerball said in a statement early Sunday.

While there was no jackpot winner, Powerball said three tickets that matched all five white balls Saturday are eligible to claim \$1 million prizes, including two in Texas and one in Colorado.

The jackpot will keep growing until someone wins.

The game's abysmal odds of 1 in 292.2 million are designed to build big prizes that draw more players. The largest Powerball jackpot was \$2.04 billion in November.

The last time someone won the Powerball jackpot was April 19 for a top prize of nearly \$253 million. Since then, no one has won the grand prize in the past 37 consecutive drawings.

Powerball is played in 45 states, as well as Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Yellen visits India again to promote closer ties and tackle global economic problems

By AJIT SOLANKI and FATIMA HUSSEIN Associated Press

GANDHINAGAR, India (AP) — On the heels of a trip to Beijing, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is back in India for the third time in nine months, this time to meet finance ministers from the Group of 20 nations about global economic challenges like the increased threat of debt defaults facing low-income countries.

Yellen told reporters in Gandhinagar, the capital of the western Indian state of Gujarat, on Sunday that she was trying to foster warming relations between the U.S. and India. She also plans a stop in Hanoi, Vietnam, to address supply chain reliability, clean energy transition and other matters of economic resilience.

Yellen said her goals for her time in India were to press for debt restructuring in developing countries in economic distress, push to modernize global development banks to make them more climate-focused and deepen the ever-growing U.S.-India relationship.

Yellen's frequent stops in the country signal the importance of that relationship at a time of tension with China.

India's longstanding relationship with Russia has also loomed as the Kremlin's invasion of Ukraine continues despite U.S. and allied countries' efforts to sanction and economically bludgeon Russia's economy. India has not taken part in the efforts to punish Russia and maintains energy trade with that country despite a Group of Seven agreed-upon price cap on Russian oil, which has seen some success in slowing Russia's economy.

Yellen said ending the war in Ukraine "is first and foremost a moral imperative. But it's also the single best thing we can do for the global economy."

She added the U.S. would continue to cut off Russia's access to the military equipment and technologies that it needs to wage war against Ukraine.

"One of our core goals this year is to combat Russia's efforts to evade our sanctions. Our coalition is building on the actions we've taken in recent months to crack down on these efforts," Yellen said.

The U.S. increasingly relies on India and has courted its leaders.

She said the U.S. sees India as an indispensable partner in its friend-shoring strategy for increasing the resilience of supply chains.

She added private U.S. firms see India as an excellent place for producing goods and exporting to the United States.

She also noted that slowing growth in China has impacted growth in many other countries.

"It is something I discussed with my Chinese counterparts. I think the Chinese are anxious to communicate that their business environment is open. There is a desire certainly to see foreign investment," Yellen said.

President Joe Biden hosted a White House state visit honoring Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in June, designed to highlight and foster ties. The two leaders pronounced the U.S.-India relationship never stronger and rolled out new business deals between the nations.

Raymond Vickery Jr., a policy expert on U.S.-India relations at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said Yellen's coming to India shortly after visiting China is meaningful in that Indian officials "are going to want to know in great detail what happened in the meetings with her Chinese counterparts and see where it fits with their perspective on economic relations with China."

"They're going to want to know whether or not the United States is serious about moving some of its sourcing activity from China to India."

A senior Treasury official, speaking on condition of anonymity to preview Yellen's trip, said there was hope that debt treatments for Ghana and Sri Lanka will be discussed and completed quickly at the meetings.

Sri Lanka and Ghana defaulted on their international debts last year, roughly two years after Zambia defaulted. And more than half of all low-income countries face debt distress, which hurts their long-term ability to function and develop.

Last month, Zambia and its government creditors, including China, reached a deal to restructure \$6.3 billion in loans, on the sidelines of a global finance summit in Paris.

The agreement covers loans from countries such as France, the U.K., South Africa, Israel and India as well as China — Zambia's biggest creditor at \$4.1 billion of the total. The deal may provide a roadmap for how China will handle restructuring deals with other nations in debt distress.

Yellen's trip comes shortly after she spent a week in China, meeting the nation's finance ministry and discussing mutual trade restrictions and national security concerns.

Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth, a senior fellow at the Hudson Institute, said Yellen's trip to India "is a reflection of a naturally developing alliance."

"India has a great deal of tension with China — they have constant border disputes," he said. "And India wants to develop and has developed into sort of an Indian Ocean naval power, which is also a region that China wants to develop."

Ukraine bides its time in its counteroffensive, trying to stretch Russian forces before striking

By The Associated Press undefined

The first phase of Ukraine's counteroffensive to recapture Russian-occupied territory began weeks ago without fanfare. Apart from claiming that its troops are edging forward, Kyiv has not offered much detail on how it's going.

Taking place mostly out of sight of impartial observers, the fighting in eastern and southern Ukraine pits troops equipped with new Western-supplied weapons against Kremlin forces that spent months digging formidable defenses and honing tactics.

Here's a look at what's happening after more than 16 months of war:

WHAT ARE UKRAINE'S TACTICS?

Fighting has intensified at multiple points along the 1,500-kilometer (930-mile) front line. Ukrainian forces are making steady progress along the northern and southern flanks of the wrecked city of Bakhmut, which Russian forces have been occupying since May.

Battles are also raging along the southern front in Zaporizhzhia, where Ukrainian forces are making minimal gains and coming up against formidable Russian fortifications.

Hanna Maliar, Ukraine's deputy minister of defense, recently claimed that Kyiv's forces had destroyed six Russian ammunition depots in the space of 24 hours, a remark that hinted at Ukrainian tactics.

"We inflict effective, painful and precise blows and bleed the occupier, for whom the lack of ammunition and fuel will sooner or later become fatal," she said.

Britain's top military officer says that is Ukraine's first goal: starve Russian units of supplies and reinforcements by attacking logistic and command centers in the rear, including with U.K.-supplied Storm Shadow missiles. Ukraine is also trying to stretch Russia's resources by simultaneously badgering multiple points along the front line, said Admiral Tony Radakin, chief of the U.K. defense staff, earlier this month.

Ukraine's full-scale offensive will come, he said, when one point on the front line collapses. Kyiv's reserve troops can then pour through the breach.

"I would describe it as a policy of starve, stretch and strike," Radakin told a British parliamentary committee.

He noted that Ukraine lacks vital air cover for its attacks. Kyiv has won pledges from its Western allies of F-16 fighter jets, but they aren't expected to be seen over the battlefield until next year. Ukraine is also asking for long-range weapons and more ammunitions.

The U.S. sent Ukraine cluster munitions this week to help bolster its offensive. President Joe Biden said he hoped the controversial bombs will provide a temporary fix to help stop Russian tanks because "the Ukrainians are running out of ammunition."

WHAT ARE RUSSIA'S TACTICS?

The Kremlin's forces are using large numbers of anti-tank mines to slow Ukraine's armored counteroffensive operations in southern Ukraine. That puts exposed Ukrainian attackers at the mercy of Russian drones, helicopters and artillery.

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Even when entrenched behind many kilometers (miles) of trenches, anti-tank ditches and other obstacles, reportedly up to 20 kilometers (12 miles) deep in some places, Russian forces face plenty of difficulties.

Battlefield attrition has diminished Moscow's military heft. The war has also exposed incompetence and a lack of initiative in Russian ranks, as well as poor coordination.

Radakin, Britain's commander in chief, said Russia has lost about half its combat strength since its full-scale invasion in February 2022. Also, Russian factories aren't able to supply enough munitions to replace those lost on the battlefield, he said.

For example, Russia has used about 10 million shells in Ukraine, while producing only 1 million new ones, according to Radakin. Similarly, it has lost more than 2,000 tanks but manufactured just 200 replacements, he said.

Russians are reportedly conducting offensive operations and making minimal gains in the northern Kremenina forest area.

WHAT NEXT?

The Ukrainian counteroffensive will be "very long" and "very bloody," U.S. Army Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said recently.

Ukrainian soldiers say the sheer weight of Russian shelling of their positions has been surprising and is slowing Kyiv's advance.

In the open fields of Zaporizhzhia in particular, where finding cover is difficult, commanders are exposing fewer soldiers in order to limit the number of casualties from heavy artillery.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy acknowledged last week that the counteroffensive "isn't going fast."

It started later than many expected, apparently as Kyiv waited for the delivery of Western arms and the arrival of Western-trained soldiers. That delay meant that the operation began in the summer instead of the spring.

Military planners have to bear in mind that the Ukrainian winter brings muddy conditions that bog down armor and troops. The notorious mud season even has its own name: "rasputitsa."

Once the weather deteriorates, the warring sides will have to take stock and get ready for what could be another round of attritional warfare over the coming winter.

Western analysts say the counteroffensive, even if it prospers, won't end the war. But it could prove to be a decisive episode and strengthen Kyiv's hand in any negotiations. Ukraine is also keen to show the West that sending aid was worthwhile.

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

Novak Djokovic and Carlos Alcaraz meet in the Wimbledon final

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Novak Djokovic is bidding for his record-tying eighth Wimbledon singles championship and fifth in a row.

Carlos Alcaraz is trying for his first trophy at the All England Club.

Djokovic wants his 24th Grand Slam title. Alcaraz wants his second.

There is plenty on the line when Djokovic and Alcaraz meet each other at Centre Court in the Wimbledon final on Sunday.

There's also this: Alcaraz, a 20-year-old from Spain, is ranked No. 1, and Djokovic, a 36-year-old from Serbia, is ranked No. 2. In addition to the Wimbledon trophy, the winner will have the top ATP ranking.

This is a rematch of the showdown between Alcaraz and Djokovic in the French Open semifinals last month.

The first two sets were terrific, and each man won one. But then Alcaraz was overcome by cramping — he said later he thought nerves were the main cause — and Djokovic took the anticlimactic last two sets 6-1, 6-1.

Marketa Vondrousova won her first Grand Slam title on Saturday by defeating Ons Jabeur 6-4, 6-4 in

the women's final.

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

Farm fields don't just feed us. They store carbon. But a big question is how much

By MELINA WALLING Associated Press

DYSART, Iowa (AP) — When Al Schafbuch cut back on plowing his Iowa fields decades ago and later began growing cover crops, he was out to save money on fertilizer and reduce erosion. He got those benefits and saw his soil change for the better, too: dark, chunky, richly organic matter that he said feels like “chocolate cake.”

There's one more big payoff that benefits everyone: tilling the soil less, and growing more cover crops, can help farmers store more planet-warming carbon in fields. More plants take in more carbon dioxide, and soil microbes breathe out less carbon when undisturbed. That can mean money for participating farmers in the form of carbon offsets — payments that companies can make that support carbon storage in farms and, in theory, balance out their emissions elsewhere.

“The more carbon you store from the atmosphere with your crops, and the more crops grown throughout the year, you offset some of your waste, your wasted energy,” said Shalamar Armstrong, an associate professor of agronomy at Purdue University. “Because you've stored carbon that would have been emitted (into) the atmosphere.”

It's an area getting more attention from lawmakers, researchers and industry professionals. The U.S. Department of Agriculture this week announced a \$300 million investment to monitor agricultural emissions, including by creating a research network to monitor carbon in soil. And U.S. Sens. Tina Smith, D-Minn., and Todd Young, R-Ind., introduced a bill that Smith said would support the research needed to “properly credit soil carbon storage.”

The USDA announcement and the legislation are both aimed at the difficult question of how to quantify carbon stored in soil. It's an obstacle to overcome if the young and booming soil carbon market is to avoid the scrutiny, and skepticism, directed at carbon credit markets.

“The science piece (of carbon credits) has really lagged behind, particularly when it comes to things like monitoring, reporting and verification,” said Cristel Zoebisch, deputy director of policy at climate organization Climate 180. “These are huge obstacles for not just soil carbon sequestration, but really any land-based carbon removal solution.”

Armstrong has been trying to help fix that problem. He runs a lab where researchers are investigating how farming management affects the amount of carbon in soil across different landscapes. He and others at Purdue have been studying soil samples that date back more than 40 years, comparing different types of tilling and cover crops to determine their long-term effects on carbon storage. It can take years of fieldwork, careful chemistry in the lab and lots of expensive equipment to puzzle that out.

He hopes his precise calculations will help farmers make decisions that allow them to receive worthwhile incentives for sequestering carbon while maintaining their existing profits.

But other academics worry that even if farmers do get paid for storing soil carbon, it won't solve a bigger problem: that carbon markets often don't work.

For offsets to be legitimate, they have to meet four criteria. They have to store carbon that would otherwise be emitted; they have to be verifiable in data; they have to be immediate (planting a tree that might grow up in 20 years doesn't cut it); and they have to be long-lasting, said John Stermann, a professor of management at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Better quantifying soil carbon storage through research might make the offsets more verifiable, but it doesn't address other factors. For example, many farmers rent the land they work, and can't guarantee that carbon stored on their land will stay put in several decades if someone else is working the land.

Barbara Haya, director of the Berkeley Carbon Trading Project at University of California, Berkeley, has

worked on research that she said shows the effects of carbon offset projects are commonly overestimated, sometimes vastly so.

"Carbon trading is a mechanism that has failed miserably over the last 20 years that we really need to be moving away from," Haya said.

U.S. Rep. Jared Huffman, D-Calif., last month introduced a bipartisan bill to support farmers in improving soil health, with incentives that don't necessarily involve the carbon market. He said farmers in his district have also described the benefits of regenerative practices, and that many would be interested in participating in carbon markets with "robust" accounting systems. But he added that those hoping for serious climate action shouldn't rely only on offsets.

"In my opinion, it's really not the silver bullet," Huffman said. "I think offsets are inherently sketchy."

Some farmers are moving cautiously.

Brad Wetli, an Indiana farmer who collaborates with Armstrong, has been trying techniques that use less tilling and has been planting cover crops like rye for a few years now. He's happy with the way his current fields look — "It feels like you're doing something" to contribute to sustainability, he said — but he's still weighing his options with possible carbon credit contracts, doing the math and waiting to see whether the price will be right, since many offset agreements can last for several years.

"I'm going to do maybe a field or two at a time, and as I learn more, I'll hopefully incorporate the carbon or carbon credits more into the operation," he said.

Schafbuch, for his part, is skeptical of carbon credits but would have been enthusiastic about regenerative farming no matter the upfront costs. He said he was an early adopter in the face of neighbors who laughed and suggested he would "end up being broke" — but he's proved them wrong.

"I'm convinced that if you do it right, anybody can do it," he said.

Associated Press journalist Joshua Bickel contributed to this report from Fowler, Indiana.

Follow Melina Walling on Twitter @MelinaWalling.

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

Arrest of suspect in Long Island serial killings brings both pain and relief to victims' families

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The trail had gone cold as clues suddenly dwindled. For a time, doubts swirled about whether a killer who dumped the remains of his female victims along remote stretches of coastline on New York's Long Island would ever be caught.

Then finally, after more than a dozen long years, bereaved families of the victims were provided with a whiff of relief Friday when authorities announced the arrest of a 59-year-old architect who they believe is responsible for their deaths.

The arrest rekindled anger and grief — but also brought the prospect of closure — for family members including Amy Brotz, whose cousin, Melissa Barthelemy, was the first of the victims to be discovered, found accidentally during a search for another woman.

"I can't wrap my head around this," Brotz said, just hours after being startled by the unexpected news of an arrest. "God has brought peace to the families," she said. "Maybe we can start the healing."

The yearslong ordeal was especially unnerving for Brotz and her family because prosecutors say the suspect used Barthelemy's cellphone to torment her relatives with calls soon after her disappearance, including one in which he said he'd killed her.

To accelerate the search for Barthelemy's remains, her family hired a psychic who provided tantalizing

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clues that would prove prophetic: She would be found in a shallow grave along the shore, near a sign with the letter G.

Gilgo Beach would become the focal point of the long-stalled investigation into the discovery of 11 sets of remains, including that of a toddler, all discarded along the parkway that cuts the length of a thin strip of white sand, dirt, brambles and marshes known as Jones Beach Island. The toddler and three other victims have yet to be identified. All 10 adult victims, including the toddler's mother, were sex workers, police said.

But investigators say the suspect, Rex Heuermann, 59, might not be responsible for all of the deaths. In addition to the Barthelemy case, he has so far only been accused of killing two others, Megan Waterman and Amber Costello, who were reported missing in 2010. He is also the prime suspect in the death of a fourth woman who disappeared that same year, Maureen Brainard-Barnes. Heuermann says he is innocent, according to his lawyer.

Barthelemy, who grew up in Buffalo, New York, was found on December 11, 2010, more than a year after she went missing. Two days later, the bodies of three other young women were found nearby.

The killer provided clues, including strands of hair, the burlap used to wrap the bodies and a belt embossed with possible initials.

And there were the phone calls, including one made from Barthelemy's cellphone on the day she was last seen alive that would be traced to the Long Island town of Massapequa, about 20 miles (32 kilometers) from where her body would later be found, not far from Heuermann's house.

"I'd like him to suffer at the hands of other inmates," the victim's mother, Lynn Barthelemy, told NBC News. "Death is too good for him," she said.

But she also expressed relief that a suspect was finally in custody.

A key question lingers, however: Why did it take so long? That was a question the suspect apparently had too, when prosecutors say he went online to ask, "Why hasn't the long island serial killer been caught?"

Waterman was found near Gilgo Beach in December 2010, six months after she boarded a bus from Maine to New York. But her mother, Lorraine Ela, died last year never knowing if her daughter's killer would ever be found.

Ela's hopes were buoyed three years ago when investigators discovered new evidence: a belt embossed with two letters that might have belonged to the suspect.

"I can only be positive about it all," she told Portland TV station WGME in January 2020.

Nicole Haycock, one of Waterman's longtime friends and her brother's former girlfriend, was surprised by the announcement of Heuermann's arrest Friday. At first, she thought it was a hoax.

"There's so many questions I still have," she said, including, "Why her?"

Seven of the 11 victims whose remains were found on Jones Beach Island were not mentioned in the charging documents for Heuermann. Among them: Jessica Taylor, a 20-year-old Washington, D.C., woman who went missing in New York in July 2003.

Outside the courthouse where Heuermann was arraigned Friday, her cousin Jasmine Robinson remarked that "full justice" will be achieved only when all the cases are solved.

Robinson also said that she hoped Taylor would be "remembered as a beautiful young woman, not what her occupation was at that time."

Another unmentioned victim was Valerie Mack, who was 24 when she last left her family's home in Port Republic, New Jersey.

Initially known as "Jane Doe No. 6," some of her remains were first discovered in 2000 in Manorville, New York, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) east of where more of her remains were discovered on Gilgo Beach more than 10 years later. She remained unidentified until genetic testing revealed her identity just three years ago.

The family tried to report her as missing, but police convinced them that she probably ran off and didn't want to be found.

"As far as we knew, she was still missing," said her sister Danielle Mack. "We knew that something was wrong because ... we just don't believe she would have never come back after 20 years."

Mack said the family was stunned by the news of an arrest.

"It's a lot to process," she said, adding that she doesn't know what to make of the fact that Heuermann wasn't charged in Valerie's death.

"I'm just waiting for all the other facts to come out for us to really understand what happened and who's responsible, she said, "and hopefully the right person is being brought to justice."

There have been conflicting theories about whether Shannan Gilbert, another 24-year-old sex worker, was killed or drowned in a marsh while running away from a beachfront home.

Her frantic call to police before her disappearance in May 2010 triggered a search that by chance led to the discovery of the first four bodies, known as the Gilgo Four, and other remains soon after.

Although all of the cases have not been solved, New York Gov. Kathy Hochul said many affected communities would be "sleeping a lot easier" after Heuermann's capture.

"A lot of families whose lives have been just turned upside down, always wondering, questioning what happened and will the perpetrator ever be brought to justice — hopefully ... the answer will be yes," she said Friday at an unrelated event on Long Island.

While closure could be near for Brotz and her family, the ordeal is not yet over. She worries that prosecutors won't be able to prove their case beyond a reasonable doubt, and she is wary of the emotional toll and relived trauma that is still to come should the case go to trial.

"The fact that my family is going to have to sit and listen to all this, to every specific, tiny little detail is making me sick," Brotz said.

Washington legal marijuana farms get back to work after pesticide concerns prompted restrictions

By GENE JOHNSON Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — A big mound of fresh dirt sits at Terry Taylor's marijuana farm in the high desert of north-central Washington state. Each hole for a new plant gets filled with the clean soil.

Large swaths of recently installed landscape fabric cover the ground, and soon the dirt roads on his property will be covered in crushed rock to keep contaminated dust from covering the crops.

Taylor's pot farm is one of several getting back to business after state regulators halted their operations in April, citing product testing that turned up unacceptable levels of chemicals related to DDT, a synthetic pesticide banned half a century ago.

The affected growers haven't used the pesticide themselves, but they are located on a 5-mile (8-kilometer) stretch of former fruit orchards along the Okanogan River where it was applied heavily and remains in the soil.

The Washington Liquor and Cannabis Board announced last week it had lifted the holds on the businesses, which are now taking steps with state financial support to keep the residual pesticide at bay and rebuild their brands. The board said it will increase pesticide testing for cannabis from the area.

"I haven't sold any product since April," said Taylor, who operates two licensed cannabis producer-processors, Okanogan Gold and Kibble Junction. "It's just destroyed us. No one wants to buy it."

Taylor, 58, said he's been living off savings since April. His income has been about one-tenth of what it was previously. He normally has about six full time employees and 20 seasonal workers, but now has only two.

Pesticides in cannabis are a concern for regulators and consumers in legal pot states around the country, especially because the plant is typically smoked or concentrated, a process that can intensify the levels of pesticides in the final product.

Regulators in Vermont early this year pulled pesticide-contaminated pot from five retail stores after a customer reported feeling sick, and Nevada officials issued an advisory about widely available products possibly tainted with an unapproved pesticide.

Due to marijuana's illegal status under federal law, states have written their own rules about pesticides in cannabis. There is wide variety about which are regulated and how much of a trace can remain in

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The group, made up of largely Venezuelan migrants, walked along a highway in southern Mexico, led by a Venezuela flag with the phrase "Peace, Freedom. SOS." The men, women, children and teenagers were followed by Mexican National Guard patrols.

Migrants told The Associated Press they crossed into Mexico illegally through a river dividing the two countries. They said they decided to organize the group and start out because many had been sleeping on the street and had run out of money to buy food.

"We just want to move forward, to fulfill our American dream and work, because we're all workers here," one Venezuelan, Roseli Gloria said while taking a brief rest along the highway.

She carried a backpack and a piece of rolled up foam for sleeping. She said she had been in Mexico for a week before joining the group.

Participants in the group said that they received little aid from Mexican immigration authorities and that they were given mixed and confusing instructions about how to move forward or seek asylum in the U.S.

The formation of the latest migrant group in southern Mexico comes amid a record migratory flow to the United States from countries across Latin America. In the 12 months through May 2023, U.S. authorities reported nearly 2.5 million encounters with migrants on its southern border, an uptick from the year before.

The journey is not an easy one, with migrants often targeted by kidnappings, extortion and other violence from armed groups in the region. As a result, migrants often travel in groups of hundreds to stay safe.

Migrants from Venezuela previously sought refuge in other South American nations like Colombia and Peru, but increasingly they are making the perilous journey through the jungles of the Darien Gap between Colombia and Panama in an attempt to reach the U.S.

US Rep. George Santos repays himself \$85K raised from lackluster reelection fundraising

By BOBBY CAINA CALVAN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Embattled freshman U.S. Rep. George Santos, a Republican from New York charged with a host of financial crimes, including embezzling money from his campaign, withdrew \$85,000 from his campaign to help repay hundreds of thousands of dollars he loaned himself to get elected in 2022.

Congressional campaign records released Friday show Santos raised a relatively paltry \$138,000 during the last three months for a reelection bid that is expected to be one of the country's most-watched and hotly contested races in 2024.

The records show he spent nearly \$118,000, the bulk of it to begin repaying the more than \$700,000 he loaned himself for his successful but surprising victory last year.

The underwhelming fundraising suggests potential struggles in fending off a challenge from fellow Republican Kellen Curry, an Afghanistan war veteran and former J.P. Morgan banker, who raised more than \$200,000 and spent \$36,000 during the same period.

Meanwhile, the top Democrat vying for New York's Third Congressional District, Nassau County legislator Joshua Lafazan, has raised more than \$345,000, with much of it still in the bank.

Santos pleaded not guilty in May to a 13-count federal indictment charging him with looting his campaign coffers, fraudulently receiving unemployment and lying to Congress about being a millionaire. He faces up to 20 years in prison if convicted.

A day later, he signed an agreement with Brazilian officials that allowed him to avoid prosecution for forging two stolen checks in 2008.

Despite his legal woes, Santos has vowed to fight to keep his congressional seat, which mostly encompasses the western suburbs of Long Island but also straddles parts of the Queens borough in New York City.

Fellow Republicans in his home district and elsewhere, including some fellow GOP members in the state's congressional delegation, have urged him to abandon his reelection plans.

Complicating matters is whether congressional districts will again have to be redrawn, which could mean trouble for some Republican incumbents if congressional lines are moved to make districts more favorable

to Democrats.

Santos announced his reelection bid in April, despite a steady drumbeat calling for his resignation because of his many deceptions during his last campaign, including lying about his education, Wall Street pedigree and other resume fabrications.

Serious questions about his finances also surfaced — including the source of what appears to be a quickly amassed fortune despite recent financial problems, including evictions and owing thousands in back rent.

Santos is also facing investigation by the House Ethics Committee, as well as by local authorities looking into whether he has violated any laws during his previous campaign.

US Southwest swelters under dangerous heat wave, with new records on track

By ANITA SNOW Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — A dangerous heat wave threatened a wide swath of the Southwest with potentially deadly temperatures in the triple digits on Saturday as some cooling centers extended their hours and emergency rooms prepared to treat more people with heat-related illnesses.

"Near record temperatures are expected this weekend!" the National Weather Service in Phoenix warned in a tweet, advising people to follow its safety tips such as drinking plenty of water and checking on relatives and neighbors.

"Don't be a statistic!" the weather service in Tucson advised, noting extreme heat can be deadly. "It CAN happen to YOU!"

Over 110 million people, or about a third of Americans, were under extreme heat advisories, watches and warnings Saturday as the blistering heat wave was forecast to get worse this weekend for Nevada, Arizona and California. Temperatures in some desert areas were predicted to soar past 120 degrees Fahrenheit (48.8 degrees Celsius) during the day, and remain in the 90s F (above 32.2 C) overnight.

Around 200 hydration stations distributing bottles of water and cooling centers where potentially thousands of people can rest in air-conditioned spaces opened Saturday in public spaces like libraries, churches and businesses around the Phoenix area.

Charles Sanders spent Friday afternoon with his Chihuahua mix Babygirl at the air-conditioned Justa Center, which offers daytime services to older homeless people in downtown Phoenix. It's also serving as a hydration station, distributing free bottles of water.

Because of funding and staffing limitations, the center can only stay open until 5:30 p.m., so Sanders, a 59-year-old who uses a wheelchair, has spent the sweltering nights with his pet in a tattered tent behind the building.

"I've been here for four summers now and it's the worst so far," said Sanders, a former welder originally from Denver.

David Hondula, chief heat officer for the City of Phoenix, said Friday that because of the health risks some centers were extending hours that are sometimes abbreviated because of limited volunteers and money.

"This weekend there will be some of the most serious and hot conditions we've ever seen," said Hondula.

He said just one location, the Brian Garcia Welcome Center for homeless people in downtown Phoenix, planned to be open 24 hours and direct people to shelters and other air-conditioned spaces for the night. During especially hot spells in the past, the Phoenix Convention Center has opened some space as a nighttime cooling center, but Hondula said he had not heard of that possibility this year.

Stacy Champion, an advocate for homeless people in Phoenix, took to Twitter this week to criticize the lack of nighttime cooling spaces for unsheltered individuals, saying they are "out of luck" if they have no place to go.

In Las Vegas, casinos offered respite from the heat for many. Air-conditioned libraries, police station lobbies and other places from Texas to California planned to be open to the public to offer relief for at least part of the day.

Emergency room doctors in Las Vegas have been treating more people for heat illness as the heat wave

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threatened to break the city's all-time record high of 117 degrees Fahrenheit (47.2 degrees Celsius) this weekend.

Dr. Ashkan Morim, who works in the ER at Dignity Health Siena Hospital in suburban Henderson, Nevada, spoke Friday of treating tourists this week who spent too long drinking by pools and became severely dehydrated, and a stranded hiker who needed liters of fluids to regain his strength.

In New Mexico's largest city of Albuquerque, splash pads will be open for extended hours and many public pools were offering free admission. In Boise, Idaho, churches and other nonprofit groups were offering water, sunscreen and shelter.

In Southern California, temperatures soared into the triple digits in inland areas, and a ridge of high pressure was expected to keep its hold on the region for a couple of weeks.

By mid Saturday afternoon, it was 122 degrees Fahrenheit (50 degrees Celsius) in Death Valley, California, where forecasters have said the temperature could hit 130 degrees Fahrenheit (54.4 C) this weekend. The hottest temperature recorded at Death Valley was 134 F (56.6 C) in July 1913, according to the National Park Service.

In Lancaster and Palmdale, north of Los Angeles, temperatures hit 108 degrees Fahrenheit (42.2 degrees Celsius), said National Weather Service meteorologist Mike Wofford. In Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, the thermometer cleared triple digits in some areas.

"We are going to be pretty warm for a while," Wofford said, adding that temperatures would be above normal for about two weeks. "There's been a lot of triple digits" across the region.

In Los Angeles, Mayor Karen Bass announced the city was opening cooling centers where residents can escape the heat. "The extreme heat that is forecasted this weekend can pose serious risks," she warned.

The hot, dry conditions sparked a series of blazes in Southern California southeast of Los Angeles, where firefighters Saturday were battling three separate brush fires amid blistering heat and low humidity in sparsely populated, hilly areas. The fires were all within 40 miles (65 kilometers) of each other in Riverside County, where temperatures in some areas spiked into the triple digits.

"Heat is definitely a concern out there," said April Newman of the Cal Fire/Riverside County Fire Department, adding that the blazes were burning through dense, dry brush in rugged terrain.

Phoenix on Saturday saw the city's 16th consecutive day of 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 degrees Celsius) or higher temperatures, hitting that mark before noon and putting it on track to beat the longest measured stretch of such heat. The was record 18 days, in 1974.

By late afternoon, the temperature in Phoenix had hit 118 degrees Fahrenheit (47.8 degrees Celsius), breaking the daily record set on July 15, 1998, of 117 F (47.2 C), the National Weather Service in Phoenix tweeted. The normal high for the date is 107 F (41.6 C).

Emphasizing how dangerous the heat can be, police in the Phoenix suburb of Surprise said Saturday its officers on Friday found two older women sweltering at home in 114 degrees Fahrenheit (45.5 degrees Celsius) with just a tiny, overtaxed unit that failed to cool most of the house. After the women were taken to senior center to cool off, the department's community services team bought and installed an adequate air conditioner and several fans in the home.

Extreme heat is especially dangerous for older people; medications they may take or chronic conditions like heart or kidney disease can make it harder for their bodies to cool down.

Regional health officials in Las Vegas launched a new database Thursday to report "heat-caused" and "heat-related" deaths in the city and surrounding Clark County from April to October.

The Southern Nevada Health District said seven people have died since April 11, and a total of 152 deaths last year were determined to be heat-related.

Arizona's Maricopa County, home to Phoenix, reported this week that so far this year there have been 12 confirmed heat-associated deaths going back to April, half of them people who were homeless. Another 55 deaths are under investigation.

There were 425 confirmed heat-associated deaths in Maricopa County last year, with more than half of them occurring in July and 80% of them happening outdoors.

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Closer to the Pacific coast, temperatures were less severe, but still have made for sweaty days on picket lines in the Los Angeles area, where actors joined screenwriters in strikes against producers.

In Sacramento, the California State Fair kicked off with organizers canceling planned horseracing events due to concerns for animal safety. Pet owners around the Southwest were urged to keep their animals mostly inside.

This story has been updated to correct the number of people under heat advisories, watches and warnings in the U.S. Over 110 million Americans live in those zones, not 110,000.

Associated Press reporters Michael Blood in Los Angeles, Ken Ritter in Las Vegas, and Susan Montoya in Albuquerque, New Mexico, contributed to this report.

Federal judge rules Oregon's tough new gun law is constitutional

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A federal judge has ruled Oregon's voter-approved gun control measure — one of the toughest in the nation — is constitutional.

U.S. District Judge Karin Immergut ruled that banning large capacity magazines and requiring a permit to purchase a gun falls in line with "the nation's history and tradition of regulating uniquely dangerous features of weapons and firearms to protect public safety," Oregon Public Broadcasting reported.

The decision comes after a landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision on the Second Amendment that has upended gun laws across the country, dividing judges and sowing confusion over what firearm restrictions can remain on the books. It changed the test that lower courts had long used for evaluating challenges to firearm restrictions, telling judges that gun laws must be consistent with the "historical tradition of firearm regulation."

Oregon voters in November narrowly passed Measure 114, which requires residents to undergo safety training and a background check to obtain a permit to buy a gun.

The legislation also bans the sale, transfer or import of gun magazines with more than 10 rounds unless they are owned by law enforcement or a military member or were owned before the measure's passage. Those who already own high-capacity magazines can only possess them at home or use them at a firing range, in shooting competitions or for hunting as allowed by state law after the measure takes effect.

Large capacity magazines "are not commonly used for self-defense, and are therefore not protected by the Second Amendment," Immergut wrote. "The Second Amendment also allows governments to ensure that only law-abiding, responsible citizens keep and bear arms."

The latest ruling in U.S. District Court is likely to be appealed, potentially moving all the way up to the U.S. Supreme Court.

The Oregon measure's fate has been carefully watched as one of the first new gun restrictions passed since the Supreme Court ruling last June.

The Iowa caucuses are six months away. Some Republicans worry Trump may be unstoppable

By JILL COLVIN and STEVE PEOPLES Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — He's been indicted twice. Found liable for sexual abuse. And he's viewed unfavorably by about a third of his party. But six months before Republicans begin to choose their next presidential nominee, former President Donald Trump remains the race's dominant front-runner.

Early leaders don't always go on to win their party's nomination, but a growing sense of Trump's inevitability is raising alarms among some Republicans desperate for the party to move on. Some described a sense of panic — or "DEFCON 1," as one put it — as they scramble to try to derail Trump and change the trajectory of the race. But there's no clear plan or strategy on how to do that and Trump's detractors aren't rallying around a single alternative candidate yet.

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"They're very concerned," former Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan said of fellow Republican leaders who share his view that renominating Trump would be a disaster for the party next November. Hogan, who opted out of a campaign of his own in fear that an unwieldy Republican field would only benefit Trump, described a moment of realization that, "Oh my gosh, we really could have Trump as the nominee."

"People expected us to have made more progress than we have at this point," he said as polling finds Trump routinely besting his closest rival by 20 to 30 points or more.

Of course, the six months that remain until the Iowa caucuses can be an eternity in politics, where races can turn in a matter of weeks or days. And Trump faces glaring vulnerabilities, including state and federal investigations into his efforts to overturn the 2020 election and the possibility that he could end up in the unprecedented position of standing trial while simultaneously mounting a campaign.

But even critics acknowledge the outside events that many were counting on to dent Trump's standing — namely his criminal indictments in New York and Florida — have not hurt him. In fact, the charges led some voters who were entertaining an alternative to return to Trump's camp.

"The indictments have actually helped Donald Trump with the Republican primary voters," said Art Pope, a North Carolina GOP donor who is supporting former Vice President Mike Pence, but nonetheless believes the charges, particularly in New York, were unfounded.

Meanwhile, anti-Trump Republicans have yet to coalesce around an alternative, as Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis has struggled to build momentum, leaving many still waiting to see whether another viable alternative might emerge from the pack. South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott has drawn growing attention.

Several groups that oppose Trump's candidacy have begun to spend big money on efforts to weaken his support, even if they have yet to rally around another candidate. Win It Back PAC, a new independent super PAC with ties to the conservative Club For Growth Action, spent \$3.6 million this month on a new ad that features a purported Trump supporter who has grown tired of the former president's antics.

"I love Donald Trump, I love what he did," he begins. But "he's got so many distractions ... and I'm not sure he can focus on moving the country forward."

The conservative Americans for Prosperity Action, which is part of the network founded by the billionaire Koch brothers, has also sought to undermine Trump through door knocking and phone calls. The group says it has found in conversations with voters that Trump's support is softer than most assume and that even some who identify as Trump supporters are concerned about his electability in a general election and open to an alternative.

Their mailers to voters in early states have focused on that message, including one that features photos of Trump and President Joe Biden and asks recipients, "Is it worth the risk?"

While officials with the group acknowledge they are facing pressure to rally around a non-Trump candidate, they say they are focused now on laying "the foundation" for a Trump alternative to emerge.

"That's where most of the people we're talking to are as well," said Drew Klein, the group's state director. "They're not necessarily locked in with a candidate, but they know we've got to move on."

Not everyone, however, agrees with the anti-Trump strategy. Former GOP pollster Frank Luntz, who has been running focus groups in Iowa, warned such messaging "makes it more likely that Trump wins because it turns him into a victim."

He said he's found Republican voters are open to an alternative and that the first GOP debate, scheduled for August 23rd, will be critical.

"The moon and the stars will need to be aligned for Trump to be defeated," he said. "And it will be done by the candidate that supports the Trump agenda but opposes the lack of success."

Political trajectories can change in an instant, particularly after voting begins. During the 2008 campaign, the eventual GOP nominee, Arizona Sen. John McCain, didn't emerge as the race's frontrunner until January 2008. And then-Sen. Hillary Clinton appeared to have a decisive advantage for the Democratic nomination until she was overtaken by Barack Obama.

But no former president has mounted a run after losing reelection in the modern era. And Trump maintains a fervent hold on a portion of the party. Indeed, it was eight years ago this month when the then-reality star and political newcomer began to pull ahead in the polls, surpassing rival Jeb Bush to move into first

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products. It's unclear how many states require cannabis to be tested for legacy pesticides such as DDT. Washington state's recent experience with DDE, a remnant chemical remaining in the soil as DDT breaks down, suggests such regulations only go so far in protecting public health.

A chemist for the Liquor and Cannabis Board in March noticed several high test results for DDE and traced them to a single growing area. The companies — Okanogan Gold, Bodie Mine, Kibble Junction and Walden Cannabis — immediately issued recalls when asked in April, but by then much of the products had already been sold.

There were 108 samples tested from the companies and 59 came back with unapproved levels of DDE, the board said.

DDT was used heavily in the decades following World War II to control mosquitoes as well as insects that can damage fruit or other crops, but it also killed birds. Rachel Carson's 1962 book "Silent Spring" documented its effects on nature, which sparked the environmental movement and helped bring about a national ban on the use of DDT in agriculture in 1972.

Studies have shown women with high amounts of DDE in their blood were more likely to give birth prematurely or have a baby with a wheeze, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The chemical is considered a possible carcinogen.

Christopher Simpson, deputy director of the Pacific Northwest Agricultural Safety and Health Center at the University of Washington, said the risk from DDE in cannabis is probably low, though possibly more of a concern for anyone using the marijuana medicinally, since they already may have health issues.

"To my knowledge, nobody has done a really good risk assessment for that," Simpson said. "You would have to be able to figure out how much cannabis people would consume and how much of that DDT would be deposited in the body. There just isn't experimental data available."

Many of the problematic samples of cannabis foliage or oil tested at about 0.2 parts per million, which is above the 0.1 ppm limit in state law but still only about half of what federal authorities tolerate for DDT contamination in tobacco. One sample of cannabis oil or resin came back at 1.7 ppm, the board said.

Given a lack of scientific evidence about what constitutes a dangerous level of DDE in cannabis, Taylor and other affected growers argued that regulators had overreacted by having them halt operations, rather than just issue recalls.

Chandra Wax, director of the board's enforcement and education division, said in a statement that regulators acted "responsibly, swiftly, and intentionally."

"We recognize the significant impact this had on licensees as well as the risk this posed to the public," Wax said.

It isn't clear how the DDE wound up in the products. Cannabis is known for its ability to remove contaminants from soil and has been studied for use in environmental cleanup. Taylor said he believed the contamination most likely came from dust settling on the plants as he and others drove or walked on the farm, or even from DDT present in wildfire smoke in the region.

In response to the testing, Washington lawmakers this spring directed \$200,000 to help the growers fix their soil, as well as \$5 million to study how marijuana plants absorb toxins, how much is transferred to cannabis products and the potential cost to grow plants in pots or broadly clean the soil in the area.

"You want a safe product, obviously, and you don't want people getting sick," said Republican Rep. Joel Kretz, who represents the area. "I'm hoping we can get it squared away without putting a bunch of farmers out of business."

Hundreds of migrants in southern Mexico form group to head toward US

By EDGAR H. CLEMENTE Associated Press

SUCHIATE, Mexico (AP) — Nearly a thousand migrants that recently crossed from Guatemala into Mexico formed a group Saturday to head north together in hopes of reaching the border with the United States.

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place — a position he'd hold until he won the nomination.

Ralph Reed, a longtime Republican strategist who is the chairman of the evangelical Faith and Freedom Coalition, said Trump remains in the "strongest position" of any candidate, but still believes the race "will be competitive and hard fought."

"No one should take any state for granted, no one should take this primary for granted because anything can happen and often does," he said. "Almost every front-runner has a near-death experience."

Critics and rival campaigns point to what they perceive as a growing list of Trump campaign missteps, particularly in Iowa, where he has criticized the state's popular governor, Kim Reynolds, for her seemingly cozy relationship with DeSantis while purporting to be neutral. He's also skipped a pair of GOP gatherings that attracted most of his top rivals.

After his rivals spent Friday in Iowa at the Family Leadership Summit, Trump had the stage largely to himself Saturday at the annual Turning Point Action conference, a gathering of thousands of young conservatives in Florida.

While DeSantis has had a years-long relationship with organizer Charlie Kirk and had been featured at last year's event alongside Trump and received a warm welcome from the crowd, DeSantis turned down the group's invitation, citing a scheduling conflict.

"You only have a few opportunities in the grand scheme of an election cycle to get in front of major groups and all the media and to pass up this opportunity to lay out your vision for America I just think is one of the biggest mistakes," said Tyler Bowyer, chief operating officer of Turning Point Action.

Trump, in his remarks to the group, called DeSantis' campaign a "hopeless cause" and said the millions he has raised and spent "should be used to support the party winning against Crooked Joe Biden in November of 2024."

United Airlines agrees to give union pilots big pay raises

By DAVID KOENIG AP Airlines Writer

United Airlines and the union representing its pilots said Saturday they reached agreement on a contract that will raise pilot pay by up to 40% over four years.

The union valued the agreement at about \$10 billion. It followed more than four years of tumultuous bargaining that included picketing and talk of a strike vote.

The deal reflects the leverage enjoyed by labor groups, especially pilots, as airline revenue soars on the strong recovery in travel.

The Air Line Pilots Association said the agreement, which is subject to a ratification vote, would put United pilots on par with counterparts at Delta Air Lines, who approved a pay-raising deal earlier this year.

The union said the agreement includes substantial increases in pay, retirement benefits and job security.

At least on pay, the deal appears far better than one that United pilots rejected last November.

Once the deal is approved, pilots will get immediate wage-rate increases of 13.8% to 18.7%, depending on the type of plane they fly, followed by four smaller annual raises, according to a summary on the union's website.

Over the course of the contract, pilot pay would rise 34.5% to 40.2%.

Garth Thompson, chair of the United pilots' union, called it an "historic agreement" that was made possible by the resolve of the 16,000 pilots.

In a statement on the LinkedIn social media site, CEO Scott Kirby said, "We promised our world-class pilots the industry-leading contract they deserve, and we're pleased to have reached an agreement with ALPA on it."

Pilots at American Airlines are scheduled to begin voting July 24 on an offer that includes average cumulative raises of 41.5% over four years. Southwest Airlines pilots are still negotiating. American and Southwest have independent unions, while pilots at Delta and United are represented by ALPA.

The unions believe they are in strong bargaining position with airlines, which took \$54 billion in federal aid to help get through the pandemic, booming because of a resurgence in travel. The number of people

flying in the U.S. is roughly back to pre-pandemic levels.

This week, Delta reported a record quarterly profit of more than \$1.8 billion and record revenue during the April-through-June period that includes the first part of summer travel season. United is scheduled to report results Wednesday, and analysts expect the airline to post a profit of more than \$1.3 billion, according to a FactSet survey.

Musk says Twitter is losing cash because advertising is down and the company is carrying heavy debt

By The Associated Press undefined

Elon Musk says Twitter is still losing cash because advertising has dropped by half.

In a reply to a tweet offering business advice, Musk tweeted Saturday, "We're still negative cash flow, due to (about a) 50% drop in advertising revenue plus heavy debt load."

"Need to reach positive cash flow before we have the luxury of anything else," he concluded.

Ever since he took over Twitter in a \$44 billion deal last fall, Musk has tried to reassure advertisers who were concerned about the ouster of top executives, widespread layoffs and a different approach to content moderation. Some high-profile users who had been banned were allowed back on the site.

In April, Musk said most of the advertisers who left had returned and that the company might become cash-flow positive in the second quarter.

In May, he hired a new CEO, Linda Yaccarino, an NBCUniversal executive with deep ties to the advertising industry.

But since then, Twitter has upset some users by imposing new limits on how many tweets they can view in a day, and some users complained that they were locked out of the site. Musk said the restrictions were needed to prevent unauthorized scraping of potentially valuable data.

Twitter got a new competitor this month when Facebook owner Meta launched a text-focused app, Threads, and gained tens of millions of sign-ups in a few days. Twitter responded by threatening legal action.

Authorities search for man suspected of killing 4 people in Georgia

HAMPTON, Ga. (AP) — Authorities in Georgia hunted Saturday for a man who remained at large hours after he was suspected of gunning down three men and a woman in a suburban neighborhood south of Atlanta.

Andre Longmore, 40, is believed to be armed and dangerous, Hampton Police Chief James Turner said during a news conference. The shootings happened late Saturday morning in a subdivision in Hampton, a city of roughly 8,500 people.

Officials released few details about the killings. Turner said detectives were investigating at least four crime scenes near one another in the same neighborhood. He said Longmore is a Hampton resident, but declined to discuss a possible motive.

The suspect remained at large more than five hours after the killings, and authorities vowed to keep searching until he was in custody.

"We've done an exhaustive search in the general area and we're now widening that a little bit," Turner told reporters.

Investigators were also on the lookout for a Black GMC Acadia SUV that they believe Longmore might be driving.

Longmore doesn't appear to have a listed phone number and The Associated Press could not immediately find a family member or attorney who could speak on his behalf.

Authorities didn't release the victims' names, saying they were working to notify their families.

Henry County Sheriff Reginald Scandrett said his office is offering a \$10,000 reward for information that leads to Longmore's arrest and prosecution.

He also addressed Longmore directly, saying: "Wherever you are, we will hunt you down in whatever

hole you may be residing in and bring you into custody. Period.”

Located about 30 miles (48 kilometers) south of Atlanta, Hampton is home to the Atlanta Motor Speedway, Georgia’s racetrack for NASCAR events.

Law enforcement agencies throughout the Atlanta area and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation are assisting in the manhunt and investigation.

The shootings marked the 31st mass killing of 2023, taking the lives of at least 153 people this year, according to a database maintained by The Associated Press and USA Today in a partnership with North-eastern University.

This story has been corrected to show that Hampton is roughly 30 miles south of Atlanta, not 40 miles away.

A new look at an old clue helps investigators arrest the man accused of Gilgo Beach murders

By JENNIFER PELTZ, MICHAEL R. SISAK and JAKE OFFENHARTZ Associated Press

MASSAPEQUA PARK, N.Y. (AP) — The first find was startling: a woman’s skeletal remains cast into the dunes along a remote Long Island highway.

Then came the shock.

Days after that discovery in December 2010, police discovered parts of three more women nearby on a spit of sand known as Gilgo Beach. The remains of six other people were found along several miles of the same parkway during the next few months. An 11th person, whose disappearance had spurred the initial search, was found dead by the highway in December 2011.

What became known as the Gilgo Beach murders — the victims mostly young women who had been sex workers — flummoxed investigators for over a dozen years. The case endured through five police commissioners, more than 1,000 tips, countless theories and supposed conspiracies. Then a fresh review last year tied an old clue, about a pickup truck linked to a victim’s disappearance, to a new name: Rex A. Heuermann.

Energized by the truck tidbit, investigators charted the calls and travels of multiple cellphones, picked apart email aliases, delved into search histories, and collected discarded bottles — and even a pizza crust — for advanced DNA testing, according to court papers.

On Friday, Heuermann was charged with murder in three of the killings, and prosecutors called him the prime suspect in a fourth.

“Since the discovery of the first victim, there’s been a lot of scrutiny and criticism regarding how this investigation was handled. I will tell you this: The investigators were never discouraged,” Suffolk County Police Commissioner Rodney Harrison said. He vowed they would continue working “until we bring justice to all the families involved.”

Heuermann, a 59-year-old architect, pleaded not guilty to multiple murder charges. He insists he “didn’t do this,” his lawyer Michael Brown said.

But police and prosecutors paint a picture of a scheming predator who outwardly maintained the life of a suburban professional, while secretly killing women when his wife was out of town.

“We are going to convict him, and we are going to hold him responsible for what he did,” Suffolk County District Attorney Ray Tierney declared.

Voice and email messages seeking comment were sent Friday and Saturday to various numbers and addresses associated with Heuermann and his family.

Heuermann used a victim’s cellphone to torment her relatives with calls — including one in which he said he’d killed her — and doggedly searched for information about the investigation while trying to obscure his identity online, according to prosecutors.

Among his searches: “Why hasn’t the long island serial killer been caught.”

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The case began with a search for Shannan Gilbert, a sex worker who had called 911 as she ran from a client's home, saying someone was chasing her. Police were looking for Gilbert in December 2010 when they stumbled upon the remains of someone else: Melissa Barthelemy, last seen alive the year before.

As the toll of victims grew and the search expanded, police used horses to reach the remote area, climbed firefighters' ladders to see over poison ivy-infested thickets, scoured parking ticket records and got aerial surveillance photos from the FBI. Over the years, reward money was offered, FBI experts profiled the killer and evolving DNA techniques were used.

Harrison announced a new task force to work the case shortly after he became commissioner in January 2022. He'd been a high-ranking New York Police Department official and brought new energy and perspective to the investigation years after the Suffolk department's former chief was arrested and went to prison in an unrelated case.

Tierney said a breakthrough came six weeks into the group's work, when a New York State Police investigator used a database to determine that Heuermann owned an early-model Chevrolet Avalanche and lived in Massapequa Park, an area that had come into focus because of some victims' cellphone activity.

The Avalanche was key because witnesses had told police that a man had parked one outside the home of victim Amber Costello the night before she died, and that the sex worker had arranged to meet that man again the next night, according to prosecutors' court filing.

Using subpoenas and search warrants, investigators dug into Heuermann's background. They learned that his cellphone had often been in the same general areas, around the same times, as prepaid anonymous cellphones that had been used to contact Barthelemy, Costello and victim Megan Waterman, the court papers said. The "burner" phones and Heuermann's phone sometimes even traveled together.

His phone's location also roughly matched up with some places and times when a man used Barthelemy's phone to call her relatives after her disappearance, according to the documents.

Combing Heuermann's credit card records, investigators found payments to a dating site and followed that thread to uncover email addresses under fictitious names and more burner phones. The emails were linked to searches for violent pornography and information on the Gilgo Beach case, and to apparent selfies of Heuermann that were sent to arrange sexual trysts, court papers said.

The phones contacted massage parlors and sex workers as recently as this year. Heuermann was carrying one of the phones when arrested Thursday night, according to prosecutors.

Using advanced DNA testing not available early in the case, authorities also reexamined hairs found on a belt buckle, duct tape and a burlap restraint used in the killings.

Meanwhile, investigators employed more old-fashioned methods to snare a sample of Heuermann's DNA: They tailed him and sifted through his garbage to pluck 11 bottles from his home bin and grab partially eaten pizza crusts that he'd tossed into a trash can on a Manhattan sidewalk.

The DNA from the pizza matched a hair found on burlap wrapped around one victim, and other hairs matched a relative of Heuermann's who isn't a suspect, investigators said. They believe he got the other person's hair on him at home.

Heuermann has lived in the same ramshackle house since childhood, according to testimony he gave several years ago in one of several traffic-accident-related lawsuits he's filed in the past decade. He graduated from the same local high school as actor Billy Baldwin, who tweeted Friday that news of his 1981 classmate's arrest was "mind-boggling."

After getting a bachelor's degree from the New York Institute of Technology, Heuermann formed his architecture firm in 1994. He did most of his architectural work in New York City, with clients including city agencies, charities, airlines and major retailers, according to a company biography and the firm's website.

In 2007, the city's Department of Buildings audited multiple jobs involving Heuermann after an allegation that he falsely said a seven-story building was vacant when it was set to be renovated. The audits didn't find any pattern of false filings or significant disregard for city regulations, and no disciplinary actions were taken, according to the department.

After a brief marriage in the early 1990s, Heuermann has been married since 1996 to wife Asa, with whom he has a daughter — a graphic artist — and a stepson, according to his 2018 testimony. His wife,

he testified, dropped him off at a nearby train station in the mornings.

Neighbors puzzled at the rundown home with the overgrown shrubs in their tidy midst, and at the contrast between the house and the businessman who set off from it each weekday with suit and briefcase.

"It was," neighbor Barry Auslander said, "weird."

Peltz and Sisak reported from New York. Associated Press researcher Rhonda Shafner in New York contributed to this report.

FBI opens criminal investigations into violent Los Angeles County deputy encounters

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The FBI has opened criminal investigations into violent encounters involving Los Angeles County sheriff's deputies, including one in which a deputy punched a woman in the face as she held her baby.

Federal authorities visited the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department headquarters to take documents related to the probes, according to an email obtained by the newspaper, the Los Angeles Times reported Saturday.

Department officials confirmed the visit and told the newspaper they planned to cooperate with investigators.

The second case being scrutinized by the FBI involves a deputy who threw a woman to the ground by her neck last month in a grocery store parking lot after she started recording an arrest with her cellphone.

In addition to the federal investigations, the California Department of Justice has agreed to review the case of 18-year-old Andres Guardado, who was shot in the back three years ago by a sheriff's deputy in the city of Gardena, south of Los Angeles, the email said.

An FBI spokesperson would not confirm that agents were conducting a criminal investigation into either incident.

The internal county email obtained by the newspaper said that "federal criminal investigations have been opened concerning the recent incidents" in Palmdale and Lancaster, north of Los Angeles.

The Palmdale case involved a July 2022 traffic stop but did not become public until this week, when Sheriff Robert Luna called a news conference to release body camera footage and announce that the deputy involved had been relieved of duty.

The eight-minute video was taken during the traffic stop after Palmdale deputies spotted a vehicle being driven at night without any headlights. When they pulled it over, the deputies smelled alcohol and saw four women inside, three of them with babies in their arms rather than in car seats, authorities said.

The deputies began to arrest the women on suspicion of felony child endangerment, and used force on two of the women when they resisted giving up their babies. The bulk of the video shows a tense conversation between a group of deputies and one woman who clutches her baby while sitting cross-legged on the ground. The deputies are heard saying that the woman was riding in a car driven by someone without a valid license, and that her baby was not in a car seat.

After several minutes of back-and-forth, deputies pry the woman's hands apart, and she begins screaming as the child is removed from her arms. Nearby, another woman holding a baby begins screaming and cursing at officers before deputies announce they plan to arrest her too.

As at least two deputies hold the woman by her wrists and arms, a third male deputy can be seen throwing two punches toward her head while she is still holding her baby. It is unclear in the video whether the punches connected with the woman's head, but she howls in pain.

The FBI is also investigating a June 24 case when deputies responded to 911 calls reporting a robbery in progress at a grocery store in Lancaster. They encountered a man and a woman who they said matched the descriptions of the suspects given to 911, according to authorities.

As the deputies handcuffed the man in the parking lot, the woman began taking video with her phone. Within seconds, one of the deputies rushes toward her and reaches for her arm, seemingly in an attempt

to take the phone.

"You can't touch me," she screams. The deputy throws her on the ground, and video shows him arguing with her, and at one point threatening to punch her. He then pepper-sprays her in the face and handcuffs her.

The man who was handcuffed was ultimately cited on suspicion of resisting an officer, attempted petty theft and interfering with a business. The woman was hospitalized for the effects of the pepper spray and for abrasions to her arm. She was released but cited on suspicion of assaulting an officer, as well as battery on allegations that she had assaulted store loss prevention personnel, the newspaper said.

Luna has vowed to overhaul the nation's largest sheriff's department since taking charge in December.

South Korea to expand support for Ukraine as President Yoon Suk Yeol makes a surprise visit

By FELIPE DANA and HYUNG-JIN KIM Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol made a surprise visit to Ukraine on Saturday, offering support for the invaded country in its war with Russia while demonstrating his own nation's cooperation with NATO.

Yoon's office said he traveled to Ukraine with his wife, Kim Keon Hee, following trips to Lithuania for a NATO summit and to Poland. It's his first visit since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022.

Yoon toured Bucha and Irpin, two small cities near Kyiv where bodies of civilians were found in the streets and mass graves after Russian troops retreated from the capital region last year. He laid flowers at a monument to the country's war dead, before he sat down for a summit with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

South Korea, a key U.S. ally in Asia, joined international sanctions against Russia and has provided Ukraine with humanitarian and financial support to Ukraine. But the Asian nation, a growing arms exporter, hasn't provided weapons to Ukraine in line with its long-standing policy of not supplying arms to countries actively engaged in conflict.

During a joint news conference with Zelenskyy later Saturday, Yoon announced plans to expand support shipments to Ukraine but didn't touch upon weapons supplies.

Yoon began his statement with a mention of the U.N. forces' support of South Korea during the 1950-53 Korean War that helped repel a North Korean invasion.

"The current situation facing Ukraine reminds us of the past situation of the Republic of Korea," Yoon said.

Zelenskyy thanked Seoul for its "firm support of Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity" and the "significant political, security, economic and humanitarian aid" it has supplied since the start of Russia's invasion.

Yoon said that South Korea will increase the shipments of nonlethal military items such as body armor and helmets this year. He said that South Korea will also provide humanitarian aid worth \$150 million this year, up from \$100 million last year. He said that South Korea has also sent the de-mining equipment and other aid items that had been requested by Ukraine.

Yoon said that he and Zelenskyy agreed on cooperating on post-war reconstruction efforts in Ukraine. Yoon said South Korea will also launch a scholarship fund named after him and Zelenskyy to expand support for Ukrainian students in South Korea.

South Korea isn't a NATO member, but like Japan, Pakistan and a handful of other countries, it's considered a global partner of the military alliance. Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida visited Ukraine in March.

In his recent written responses to questions from The Associated Press, Yoon said that the security of the Atlantic and Indo-Pacific regions is closely intertwined, saying: "In particular, the war in Ukraine has reminded us all that a security crisis in one particular region can have a global impact."

Yoon took office last year amid a mix of tough foreign policy challenges such as North Korea's advancing nuclear program and the intensifying rivalry between the U.S., South Korea's main security ally, and China, its biggest trading partner.

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During a January visit to South Korea, NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg called for the country to provide direct military support to Ukraine, saying Kyiv was in urgent need of weapons to fight off the prolonged Russian invasion.

In May, when Yoon met Ukrainian first lady Olena Zelenska in Seoul, the president said he would expand South Korea's nonlethal aid to Ukraine. Yoon's office said at the time that Zelenska made no request for South Korean weapons supplies.

Later in May, Yoon and Zelenskyy met for the first time on the sidelines of a Group of Seven industrialized nations summit in Hiroshima, Japan. Zelensky thanked South Korea for its humanitarian shipments of medicines, computers and generators and requested additional provisions of non-lethal items, Yoon's office said.

Since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, South Korea has reached billions of dollars worth of deals to provide tanks, howitzers, fighter jets and other weapons systems to NATO member Poland.

An American official said in November that the United States had agreed to buy 100,000 artillery rounds from South Korean manufacturers to provide to Ukraine, although South Korean officials have maintained that the munitions were meant to refill depleted U.S. stocks.

"Yoon's visit to Ukraine reflects his globally-minded foreign policy and shows South Korean solidarity with NATO partners in defending the rules-based international order," Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul, said. "Seoul's support of Ukraine includes not only humanitarian assistance, but also arms sales to backfill NATO countries providing military aid to Kyiv, and plans for post-conflict reconstruction of infrastructure."

Yoon and his wife's visit came two days after Russia launched another barrage of Iranian-made drones at the Kyiv region. Ukrainian officials said their air defenses intercepted the drones but that wreckage fell on four districts of the capital, wounding two people and destroying several homes.

Although Kyiv didn't come under attack in the hours before the South Korean president's arrival, Ukrainian forces on Friday and overnight downed 10 Russian drones across the country, the Ukrainian air force reported Saturday.

In a Telegram post, the air force added that Moscow fired six Iranian-made Shahed drones at Ukraine's south and east during the night, four of which were shot down. It did not immediately give details of any casualties or damage.

In southern Ukraine's Zaporizhzhia province, where Ukraine has been engaged in a counteroffensive to take back occupied territory, there were 45 air and artillery attacks between Friday and Saturday, Gov. Yuri Malashka reported.

Russian forces shelled neighboring Kherson province 70 times over the same period, using mortars, artillery, drones, tanks, aviation and multiple rocket launchers, Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin said Saturday. No civilians were wounded, he said.

Russian shelling over the past day killed one civilian in eastern Ukraine's Donetsk province, Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko reported Saturday. Ukrainian forces have been pressing their counteroffensive in the area, inching their way from Velyka Novosilka down toward the Russian-occupied city of Mariupol.

Russia's Federal Security Service, or FSB, said Saturday that a group of neo-Nazis was arrested in connection with a Ukrainian plot to kill Margarita Simonyan, editor-in-chief of the state-funded RT international television channel, and journalist and celebrity Ksenia Sobchak.

When Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered the full-scale invasion, he vowed to "denazify" Ukraine, alleging that radical neo-Nazi groups dominate the country led by a Jewish president. Kyiv and its Western allies dismissed his assertion as a bogus cover for an unprovoked act of aggression.

The FSB, which is the main successor to the KGB, didn't say how many people were arrested, but Russian news media later said seven suspects had been put in detention by a Moscow court.

The FSB said that the plot was organized at the direction of Ukraine's SBU security agency. But the FSB didn't provide any evidence of that, and there was no immediate comment from Ukraine.

Russia previously has charged Ukrainian authorities were behind the killings of nationalist television commentator Daria Dugina and popular pro-war blogger Vladlen Tatarsky.

Also Saturday, Russia's defense ministry said it had completed its planned spring call-up of 147,000 military conscripts, 12,500 more than in the previous year's draft.

Hyung-jin Kim reported from Seoul, South Korea. Joanna Kozłowska in London and Jim Heintz in Tallinn, Estonia, contributed to this report.

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

Israel's Netanyahu is rushed to hospital for dehydration. Hours later, he says he feels 'very good'

By JOSEF FEDERMAN Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Saturday declared that he feels "very good" after he was rushed to the hospital for what doctors said likely was dehydration.

But doctors ordered him to remain in the hospital overnight for further observation, and his weekly Cabinet meeting was delayed by a day and rescheduled for Monday, his office said.

Netanyahu's office said he was hospitalized after feeling mild dizziness. It said that he had spent the previous day in the heat at the Sea of Galilee, a popular vacation spot in northern Israel, and that after a series of tests, the initial assessment was that the veteran Israeli leader was dehydrated.

Later on Saturday, a smiling Netanyahu issued a video statement from the hospital, saying that he had been out in the sun on Friday without wearing a hat and without water. "Not a good idea," he said.

"Thank God, I feel very good," he added, thanking the medical team at Israel's Sheba Hospital and thanking the public for messages of support.

He said he had "one request" — that people drink water and stay out of the sun.

Israel is in the midst of a summer heat wave, with temperatures in the mid-30s Celsius (mid-90s Fahrenheit).

Netanyahu is Israel's longest serving leader. He has served multiple terms stretching over 15 years in office. His current far-right government, a collection of religious and ultranationalist parties, took office last December.

Netanyahu is said to be in generally good health, though he was briefly hospitalized last October after feeling unwell during prayers on Yom Kippur, a day when observant Jews fast.

The Israeli leader faces pressure on multiple fronts.

He is on trial for multiple corruption charges in a case that has bitterly divided the nation. His government's hard-line policies toward Palestinians have drawn international criticism and antagonized relations with the United States, Israel's closest and most important ally.

At home, tens of thousands of Israelis have held weekly demonstrations against Netanyahu's government to protest his plan to overhaul the country's judiciary.

Netanyahu's allies say the plan is needed to rein in the power of unelected judges. But his opponents say the plan will destroy the country's fragile system of checks and balances and concentrate power in the hands of Netanyahu and his allies.

Israeli opposition leader Yair Lapid issued a statement wishing Netanyahu a "full recovery and good health."

"Feel better," Lapid said on Twitter.

Marketa Vondrousova is Wimbledon's first unseeded female champion after beating Ons Jabeur

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — Marketa Vondrousova came to the All England Club a year ago unable to play tennis at all. She had a cast on her surgically repaired left wrist, so her visit was limited to sightseeing

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around London with her sister and cheering for a friend who was competing at Wimbledon.

This trip was a lot more memorable: She is leaving as a Grand Slam champion.

Vondrousova became the first unseeded woman to win Wimbledon on Saturday, coming back in each set for a 6-4, 6-4 victory over 2022 runner-up Ons Jabeur in the final.

"When I was coming back, I didn't know what's going to happen, if I can play at that level again," said Vondrousova, a 24-year-old left-hander from the Czech Republic who was the runner-up at the 2019 French Open on clay as a teenager and a silver medalist at the Tokyo Olympics on hard courts two years ago. "On grass, I didn't play well before. I think it was the most impossible Grand Slam for me to win, so I didn't even think of it. When we came, I was just like, 'Try to win a couple of matches.' Now this happened. It's crazy."

After being sidelined from April to October, she finished last season ranked just 99th. She was 42nd when she arrived at Wimbledon and was the first unseeded woman to even reach the final at the All England Club in 60 years — the last, 1963 runner-up Billie Jean King, was seated in the front row of the Royal Box on Saturday alongside Kate, the Princess of Wales.

Following the match, King greeted Vondrousova with a hug and told her: "First unseeded ever. I love it."

Centre Court's retractable roof was closed for the final, shielding everyone from the wind that topped 20 mph (30 kph) outside, and that allowed Vondrousova's smooth strokes to repeatedly find the intended mark. She also liked that she didn't have to worry about any gusts or the sun or anything else while playing — a reminder of days practicing at indoor courts during winters in Prague.

"I always play good indoors," Vondrousova said. "I was like, 'Yeah, maybe that's going to help me.'"

On this afternoon, she trailed in each set but collected the last four games of the first, then the last three games of the second as Jabeur fell to 0-3 in major finals.

The 28-year-old from Tunisia is the only Arab woman and only North African woman to make it that far in singles at any Grand Slam tournament.

"You cannot force things," the sixth-seeded Jabeur said. "It wasn't meant to be."

She lost to Elena Rybakina 12 months ago at the All England Club and to No. 1 Iga Swiatek at the U.S. Open last September.

"I think this is the most painful loss of my career," Jabeur said Saturday, pausing to wipe away tears.

Vondrousova's surge to her Slam title was hard to envision at the start of this fortnight.

She was 1-4 in previous appearances on Wimbledon's grass, only once making it as far as the second round, before going 7-0 on a run that included wins against five seeded foes.

One key was that Jabeur, who acknowledged feeling tension and pressure, kept making mistakes: She finished with 31 unforced errors; Vondrousova made merely 13.

That helped Vondrousova overcome deficits of 4-2 in the first set and 3-1 and 4-3 in the second. One she went ahead in each, the crowd's support for the popular Jabeur, nicknamed the Minister of Happiness for her demeanor on and off the court, would only rise, applause and shouts ricocheting off the cover atop the arena.

Staying steady down the stretch, Vondrousova broke to lead 5-4 and served for the match. She was soon up 40-love — and that's when the enormity of the moment hit her.

"I couldn't breathe," Vondrousova said. "I just was thinking to myself: 'Just be over.'"

When she ended the match by reaching to put away a volley, she tumbled to the grass, then laid on her back and put her hands over her visor and face, the happiest she's ever been on the surface.

She climbed into the stands to share hugs with her husband, who had been home on cat-sitting duty until going to England to watch the final in person. Vondrousova joked that his tears of joy at match's end were the most emotion he's shown in the eight years they've been together; their first wedding anniversary is Sunday.

Vondrousova has other plans for her first full day as a major title winner, too: She and her coach agreed to get tattoos if she won the trophy.

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

Thousands march at Budapest Pride as LGBTQ+ community voices anxiety over Hungary's restrictive laws

By JUSTIN SPIKE Associated Press

BUDAPEST, Hungary (AP) — Thousands of participants of the Budapest Pride march wound through the streets of the Hungarian capital on Saturday with marchers voicing their anxiety over the increasing pressure on the LGBTQ+ community from the country's right-wing government.

The 28th annual event comes as the country's laws, which ban the depiction of homosexuality or gender transition, to minors under 18 have begun to be applied with increasing regularity, resulting in fines and other penalties for those who disseminate LGBTQ+ content.

Before the march, which began in Budapest's city park, Pride organizer Jojo Majercsik said that while the laws, passed in 2021, didn't have immediate practical effects, they are now increasingly being used to crack down on LGBTQ+ visibility.

"You can now see how the propaganda law passed two years ago is being applied in practice and how the public discourse has become more angry," Majercsik said, referring to the 2021 law. "It is now apparent how they are trying to limit the rights of LGBTQ people in the media world, in the world of movies, films and books."

Majercsik pointed to a number of recent instances of media content that depicted LGBTQ+ people being restricted. This week, a national bookseller was fined around \$36,000 for placing a popular LGBTQ+ graphic novel in its youth literature section, and for failing to place it in closed packaging as required by law.

Additionally, a 30-second animated campaign video produced by Budapest Pride — in which two female characters meet and touch foreheads — was ruled unsuitable for audiences under 18 by Hungary's media authority, and may therefore only be broadcast between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Such policies, enacted by the governing party of Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, have led rights groups to warn that the rights of sexual minorities are being rapidly drawn back in the Central European country.

Orban's government portrays itself as a champion of traditional family values, and a defender of Christian civilization from what it calls "gender madness." It has repeatedly said its laws were designed to protect children from "sexual propaganda."

But some Hungarians see the policies as deliberate attempts to stigmatize the LGBTQ+ community for political gain.

David Vig, director at Amnesty International Hungary, said that in contrast to some countries in Western Europe and North America where Pride events are celebrations of LGBTQ+ history and culture, Budapest Pride is a way of protesting increasing crackdowns on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people.

"Unlike Pride marches in more happy countries of the world, this is really a human rights demonstration," Vig told The Associated Press. "This is for social acceptance and this is for equal rights, because in Hungary, these are not secured. We are second-class citizens in many spheres of public life."

Vig recounted a conflict that ensued this week after Amnesty International Hungary painted a city bench in rainbow colors to celebrate Pride month. The bench was defaced several times throughout the week by a white supremacist group of soccer fans, and anti-LGBTQ+ slogans were spraypainted in the vicinity.

"It is really a clear political message of stopping the LGBTQI community of the country from coming into public spaces, to showing who we are," Vig said.

On Saturday, a distributed denial-of-service, or DDoS, attack struck Budapest Pride's official webpage shortly before noon. It was unavailable throughout the day. Several small groups of counterprotesters lined the streets on the Pride march route, waving banners with anti-LGBTQ+ slogans.

But despite such opposition, Kristof Steiner, an emcee at Budapest Pride, said there were signs that younger generations of Hungarians are increasingly tolerant of the LGBTQ+ community.

"There are new laws that are making it nearly impossible for an LGBTQ person to live normally. We are

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being very much marginalized," he said. "But at the same time, there is a very positive change. I see that the new generation is completely different."

Nimrod Dagan, a Pride march participant, said he thinks LGBTQ+ rights in Hungary and in his home country of Israel are being "taken away," and that he feels a responsibility to stand up for his community by taking part in the march.

"I don't think it's a celebration. It's clear for everybody here that, unlike in other countries ... of the world, there is a bigger meaning to this," Dagan said. "I would say that it's a happy protest."

Today in History: July 16, Apollo 11 heads to the moon

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Sunday, July 16, the 197th day of 2023. There are 168 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 16, 1969, Apollo 11 blasted off from Cape Kennedy in Florida on the first manned mission to the surface of the moon.

On this date:

In 1790, a site along the Potomac River was designated the permanent seat of the United States government; the area became Washington, D.C.

In 1862, Flag Officer David G. Farragut became the first rear admiral in the United States Navy.

In 1945, the United States exploded its first experimental atomic bomb in the desert of Alamogordo, New Mexico; the same day, the heavy cruiser USS Indianapolis left Mare (mar-AY') Island Naval Shipyard in California on a secret mission to deliver atomic bomb components to Tinian Island in the Marianas.

In 1951, the novel "The Catcher in the Rye" by J.D. Salinger was first published by Little, Brown and Co.

In 1957, Marine Corps Maj. John Glenn set a transcontinental speed record by flying a Vought F8U Crusader jet from California to New York in 3 hours, 23 minutes and 8.4 seconds.

In 1964, as he accepted the Republican presidential nomination in San Francisco, Barry M. Goldwater declared that "extremism in the defense of liberty is no vice" and that "moderation in the pursuit of justice is no virtue."

In 1980, former California Gov. Ronald Reagan won the Republican presidential nomination at the party's convention in Detroit.

In 1999, John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, Carolyn, and her sister, Lauren Bessette, died when their single-engine plane, piloted by Kennedy, plunged into the Atlantic Ocean near Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

In 2004, Martha Stewart was sentenced to five months in prison and five months of home confinement by a federal judge in New York for lying about a stock sale.

In 2008, Florida resident Casey Anthony, whose 2-year-old daughter, Caylee, had been missing a month, was arrested on charges of child neglect, making false official statements and obstructing a criminal investigation. (Casey Anthony was later acquitted at trial of murdering Caylee, whose skeletal remains were found in December 2008; Casey was convicted of lying to police.)

In 2015, a jury in Centennial, Colorado, convicted James Holmes of 165 counts of murder, attempted murder and other charges in the 2012 Aurora movie theater rampage that left 12 people dead.

In 2016, Republican presidential nominee-apparent Donald Trump formally introduced his running mate, Mike Pence, during an event in New York, hailing the Indiana governor as his "first choice" and his "partner in the campaign" a day after announcing the selection on Twitter.

Ten years ago: Egypt's interim leader, Adly Mansour, swore in a Cabinet that included women and Christians but no Islamists as the military-backed administration moved swiftly to formalize the new political order. Twenty-three children between the ages of 5 and 12 were fatally poisoned by pesticide-contaminated lunches served at a school in eastern India. The American League beat the National League 3-0 in baseball's All-Star Game.

Five years ago: After meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki, President Donald Trump

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openly questioned the finding of his own intelligence agencies that Russia had meddled in the 2016 U.S. election to his benefit. (Trump said a day later that he misspoke.) Federal prosecutors said a 29-year-old gun rights activist, Maria Butina, had been arrested on charges that she served as a covert Russian agent while living in Washington, gathering intelligence on American officials and political organizations. (Butina was sentenced to 18 months in prison after admitting gathering intelligence on the NRA and other groups at the direction of a former Russian lawmaker.)

One year ago: President Joe Biden promised “strong executive action” to combat climate change, despite dual setbacks in the weeks before that restricted his ability to regulate carbon emissions and boost clean energy like wind and solar power. Rapper Kodak Black was arrested in Florida on charges of trafficking in oxycodone and possession of a controlled substance. José Ramón Balaguer, a longtime member of Cuba’s communist leadership who as health minister sent thousands of the island’s doctors on missions to win hearts and minds in Venezuela and developing countries around the world, died at age 90.

Today’s Birthdays: Soul singer William Bell is 84. International Tennis Hall of Famer Margaret Court is 81. College Football Hall of Famer and football coach Jimmy Johnson is 80. Violinist Pinchas Zukerman is 75. Actor-singer Ruben Blades is 75. Rock composer-musician Stewart Copeland is 71. Playwright Tony Kushner is 67. Actor Faye Grant is 66. Dancer Michael Flatley is 65. Former actor Phoebe Cates is 60. Actor Paul Hipp is 60. Actor Daryl “Chill” Mitchell is 58. Actor-comedian Will Ferrell is 56. Actor Jonathan Adams is 56. College and Pro Football Hall of Famer Barry Sanders is 55. Actor Rain Pryor is 54. Actor Corey Feldman is 52. Rock musician Ed Kowalczyk (koh-WAHL’-chek) (Live) is 52. Rock singer Ryan McCombs (Drowning Pool) is 49. Actor Jayma Mays is 44. Retired soccer star Carli Lloyd is 41. Actor AnnaLynne McCord is 36. Actor-singer James Maslow is 33. Actor Mark Indelicato is 29. Pop singer-musician Luke Hemmings (5 Seconds to Summer) is 27.