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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.

Olive Grove: Kid's Lessons; Men's League

Amateurs at Aberdeen, 7 p.m.

Region 6B Legion Tournament in Groton

Thursday, July 20

Senior Menu: Breaded chicken breast on bun, sliced tomato, potato salad, mandarin oranges, cucumber salad.

Water Tower Ribbon Cutting Ceremony, 11:30 a.m. to Noon followed by open house at City Hall, noon to 1:30 p.m.

Sip and Shop, Downtown Groton, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Olive Grove: Pro Am

Region 6B Legion Tournament in Groton

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton

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

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Monday, July 17

Senior Menu: Chicken Tetrizine, 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

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.

Groton Daily Independent
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Weekly Vikings Recap - Kirk Cousins

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

The talk around the NFL this week has been about Netflix's new show, "Quarterback", which follows Patrick Mahomes, Kirk Cousins, and Marcus Mariota throughout the entire 2022 NFL season. The show, which is produced by Peyton Manning's production company, Omaha Productions, offers a unique look into the daily grind that these quarterbacks endure each week in the NFL. As a warning, if you have not watched this show yet and are planning to, some spoilers of the show are written throughout this article.

For Vikings fans, "Quarterback" was the first time that we got a behind-the-scenes look at Kirk Cousins' daily life. We got to see him do things like take his kids to school, have his weekly appointments with a chiropractor, and endlessly study the opposing team week in and week out. However, the biggest takeaway from the show is Kirk Cousins' toughness. The show reveals that Cousins' suffered a rib injury when he got hit by Daron Payne in the Vikings' week 9 matchup against the Washington Commanders. Nevertheless, Cousins, like he always does throughout the show, got up from the hit, fought through the pain, and was able to pull out a victory for the Vikings.

As the weeks continued during the 2022 season, Cousins' continually dealt with this rib injury. Cousins' pain reached its climax in the Vikings game against the Buffalo Bills. In that game, the show plays a montage of Cousins constantly getting hit by Bills' defenders. However, Cousins keeps getting up, showing just how tough he is. As the game heads to overtime, it appears that Cousins is on his last legs. After the Vikings' opening drive of overtime gets stopped by a Cousins sack, the show shows Cousins running off the field in severe pain. When Kevin O'Connell asks Cousins how he is doing, Cousins screams back at him "No, I'm in pain!" You can hear the excruciating pain in his voice with that scream. It leaves you wondering, had the game continued and the Vikings' offense needed to go back on the field, would Cousins have returned? I think after watching this show, we can safely say that the answer is yes.

Who would have thought that Kirk Cousins would be the star of a show that also follows around Patrick Mahomes, the best quarterback in the NFL, and Marcus Mariota, the former Heisman trophy winner? However, that is the case with "Quarterback" mainly because of the player and person Cousins is shown to be. Cousins never complains, he never blames his other players, and he is always giving his very best. Not once during the season did we hear Cousins ever use his rib injury as an excuse for a mistake he made on the field. Cousins just went out and did his job, and I think Vikings fans, including myself, respect him even more after this.

Looking ahead, the writing on the wall indicates that this will likely be Cousins' last season with the Vikings. This is the last season of his contract and with the Vikings likely to give Justin Jefferson and TJ Hockenson large contract extensions soon, it would make sense for the Vikings to look to draft an inexpensive quarterback in the 2024 NFL Draft.

If it does end up being Kirk Cousins last year in Minnesota, I hope it is one to remember. Was Cousins frustrating at times as the Vikings' quarterback? Of course, but that does not take away from the fact the guy never once missed a game with an injury, he never once was offended by the negative media comments made about him, and he never once did not give it his all for this franchise. In the future, when Cousins is no longer with the Vikings and he returns to US Bank Stadium as either an opposing player or just as a fan, I hope Vikings fans give him the biggest standing ovation because Cousins deserves it.

Marshall County Fatal Farm Implement Accident

What: Two-vehicle crash

Where: 420th Ave and 119th St, 5 miles Northeast of Langford

When: 3:59 pm (CT), Friday, July 14, 2023

Driver No. 1: Female, 21, No injuries

Vehicle No. 1: John Deere field sprayer

Driver No. 2: Male, 45, Fatal injuries

Vehicle No. 2: 2017 Freightliner Cascadia semi-trailer truck

5 miles from Langford, S.D.- One person died Friday afternoon in a two vehicle crash five miles North-east of Langford.

The names of the two persons involved have not been released pending notification of family members.

Preliminary crash information indicates the 21-year-old female was operating a field sprayer when the boom of the sprayer came in contact with a parked semi-truck and trailer parked on 420th Avenue (minimum maintenance road) near 119th Street.

The 45-year-old male was standing next to the trailer of the semi.

The sprayer boom of Vehicle No. 1 struck the parked semi-trailer and then struck the 45-year-old male.

The 45-year-old male was pronounced deceased while enroute to the hospital.

The 21 year old female was not injured.

South Dakota's Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. All information released so far is only preliminary.

The Highway Patrol is an agency of the South Dakota Department of Public Safety.

“Getting the Most Out of Your Healthcare”

As a patient, it can be challenging to navigate the health-care system. This can lead to frustration and disappointment in the system itself. My intent with this article is to be both informative and alleviate some angst associated with seeking medical care.

- **Preparing for your appointment:** This may be the most crucial step - whether the appointment is with your primary care physician or a specialist. As the patient, it is important to have the most important concern(s) prepared to address. As physicians, we are only allotted so many minutes to see each patient depending on the reason for the visit. Time ranges anywhere from 5 to 30 minutes, the majority are on the shorter end of the range. It is possible that all your concerns may not be addressed in one visit. While this may be frustrating, we also want to devote enough time to each issue. If there are numerous concerns, you may need to schedule a follow up appointment. Rushing through may cause important information to be missed.

- **Arriving for your appointment:** Many clinic goers believe the appointment time is when they should arrive at the clinic. During an ideal day, it is our goal to have your physician walking into your exam room at the time of your appointment. Arriving at least 15-20 minutes prior to your appointment time will give clinic staff more time to get you prepared for your visit. You will ultimately end up spending more time with your physician by arriving early.

- **Running late:** Tardiness is never anyone's goal. Both parties may be the cause for appointments starting late, including late arrival times. There may also be life-threatening complications with the patient before you. We may be calling the Emergency Room or hospital to admit sick patients. Many physicians deliver babies. Little ones can arrive at any time, day or night. If the babies need help after birth, we stay and assist them. This only names a few reasons why we may run late. When your turn arrives, we will give you our undivided attention. As physicians, we very much appreciate your patience and understanding as we navigate unforeseen situations that arise.

- **The appointment:** As you now know, visits are short. Throughout the visit, we are collecting important information. This involves history taking, an examination and formulation of a plan based on our diagnosis. This all occurs in a very short timeframe. Have your medication list, any updates to your health along with information on other healthcare visits on hand. If an acute issue brings you to the clinic, a time frame of the concern, interventions you've tried, and what makes the issue better or worse can expedite the information collection process. This preparedness will ensure you get the most out of your visit.

This is just the beginning. Next week, I'll go over what happens behind the scenes after your visit.

Dr. Samantha Darnall-Werlinger is a family medicine physician with a special interest in obstetrics. Dr. Darnall-Werlinger practices at the Sanford Health Watertown Clinic in Watertown, SD. Follow The Prairie Doc® at www.prairedoc.org and on Facebook featuring On Call with the Prairie Doc® a medical Q&A show based on science, built on trust for 21 seasons, broadcast on SDPB and streaming live on Facebook most Thursdays at 7 p.m. central.



Based on Science, Built on Trust



Samantha Darnall-Werlinger, MD

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: What exactly are hydrofoils and why are environmental advocates so bullish on them revolutionizing the shipping industry?

—John C., Elizabeth, NJ

The shipping industry emits around three percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions annually, which is a comparable figure to that of the widely known airline industry's footprint. Looking at how to make the shipping industry, and maritime transport, more sustainable is accordingly a key concern for environmental leaders around the globe. Hydrofoils are not a new concept, but electric ones may be a promising new innovation for the future of sustainable maritime travel, and the field is developing fast.

December 2022 saw the advent of the world's fastest and most long-range electric ferry to date in Stockholm, Sweden, in the form of the Candela P-12 shuttle. Like all hydrofoils, this public transportation shuttle was built with a wing-like structure underneath itself that functions much like the airfoil seen on airplanes: As the official Candela press release states, "The hydrofoil technology means that the boat is lifted on wings that 'fly' underwater, eliminating water resistance from pushing the hull through water. The hydrofoils reduce energy consumption by 80 percent compared to conventional ships." This new combination of technology makes electric hydrofoils both faster than diesel-powered ships and cheaper to operate due to less stringent energy demands.

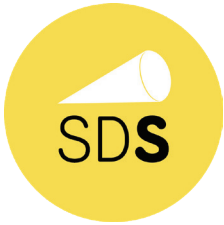
The wide-spread implementation of electric hydrofoil technology has not yet occurred. However, Stockholm's KTH Royal Institute of Technology asserts that the inclusion of electric hydrofoils or similar technologies could potentially reduce the shipping industry's emissions by 97.5 percent compared to the emissions of standard diesel-fueled ships. Furthermore, the very nature of the construction of these lightweight electric hydrofoils requires less material, overall minimizing the emissions of an electric hydrofoil throughout its lifetime.

In the face of rising global temperatures, and a projected increase in global greenhouse gas emissions, hydrofoils are necessary additions to the maritime industry if it hopes to reach the International Maritime Organisation's goal of cutting carbon emissions by 40 percent by 2030. Beyond that, these ships also serve in the interest of efficiency, particularly since their lighter designs and inability to produce a wake mean that they are oftentimes faster than standard diesel boats: For example, the implementation of an electric hydrofoil has cut down one commuting route in Stockholm from 55 minutes to only 25.

The original concept of a hydrofoil has existed for decades, but electric hydrofoils are the "new kid on the block" focused on growing sustainable practices for the future. These boats' low carbon footprint, lower operating costs and ability for more efficient transportation make them an interesting new opportunity for investment, and for a future that will require more environmentally-focused decisionmaking.



Hydrofoils are not a new concept, but electric ones may be a promising new innovation for the future of sustainable maritime travel.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

COMMENTARY

Amendment is clumsy way to keep Legislature from manhandling voter initiatives

DANA HESS

South Dakota's legislative process is haunted by the ghost of Initiated Measure 22. Endorsed by a little more than 51% of voters in 2016, the anti-corruption measure was quickly dismantled in the next legislative session. Since then, lawmakers have lived with a reputation for dismissing the will of the people.

Derailing IM 22 has had a couple of consequences. Now some people who bring issues directly to the voters do it two ways — both as an initiated measure and as a constitutional amendment. Even though voters traditionally don't relish endorsing amendments, the theory behind the twofold approach is that if the amendment becomes law, the Legislature won't be able to muck about with it the way it can with an initiated measure.

Another consequence appeared recently when Brian Bengs, an Aberdeen man who ran for the U.S. Senate and lost to John Thune, offered an amendment that would put a seven-year prohibition on the Legislature repealing or amending a measure endorsed by voters.

In media interviews about the amendment, Bengs has directly referenced IM 22 as his inspiration. He told Hub City Radio that the Legislature repealed IM 22 because lawmakers believed "this will inconvenience us."

Well, it wasn't just an inconvenience, it was unconstitutional. Shortly after its passage, a group of Republican lawmakers filed a lawsuit in circuit court in Hughes County contesting its constitutionality. In granting an injunction, Judge Mark Barnett said it was "beyond a reasonable doubt" that the claim that IM 22 was unconstitutional would succeed.

During the next legislative session, lawmakers were generally of two minds about how to proceed. Democrats wanted to let the lawsuit play out in the courts while readying legislation that would provide for some of the elements found in the anti-corruption initiative.

Republicans, who took offense at the IM 22 commercials that portrayed them as taking bribes, had a different plan. They wanted to ram through an emergency repeal of IM 22 as fast as they could. While some measures found in IM 22 were endorsed in legislation during that session, Republicans wanted that law off the books as soon as possible. To that end, the repeal of IM 22 set a land-speed record for traveling through the legislative process. On a Monday, the bill containing the repeal was approved by the House State Affairs Committee. On Tuesday, it was approved by the full House. On Wednesday, it made its Senate debut before that chamber's State Affairs Committee where it was easily endorsed.

Thursday, the last day of the legislative week, found the repeal before the full Senate. Only then did the brakes go on, with cooler heads suggesting that perhaps it would be best if lawmakers were to explain themselves to constituents at weekend cracker barrels. The next week, the Senate gave the repeal its OK, too.

If Bengs' amendment had existed at that time, and if by some stretch of the imagination the state Supreme Court had found IM 22 constitutional, South Dakota would have been living with that law for the past seven years. Among its many features, IM 22:

- Allowed for the appropriation of state funds, usurping the Legislature's power of the purse.

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- Created an ethics commission that was answerable to no one, essentially setting up a fourth branch of government.

- Kept almost everyone from running for office since anyone who worked for or did business with companies or institutions that employed lobbyists could not serve in the Legislature.

IM 22's heart was in the right place, even if its guts were unconstitutional. South Dakota was ready for anti-corruption legislation after the flawed administration of the state's EB-5 visa program and the embezzlement of funds in the Gear Up scandal. While ham-handed in its execution, IM 22 sought what was so often lacking in government: transparency, accountability and ethics.

One way of looking at the IM 22 experience is that the Legislature inherited a flawed piece of legislation from voters and embraced some aspects of the initiative that voters wanted. Few are the bills that make their way through the Capitol that don't need to be polished or tweaked in some way. Even Bengs knows that. In his radio interview, he admitted that his amendment, which takes up all of one sentence, was submitted incorrectly the first time and had to be withdrawn. If he hadn't caught his mistake, we could have been living with a flawed amendment for the foreseeable future.

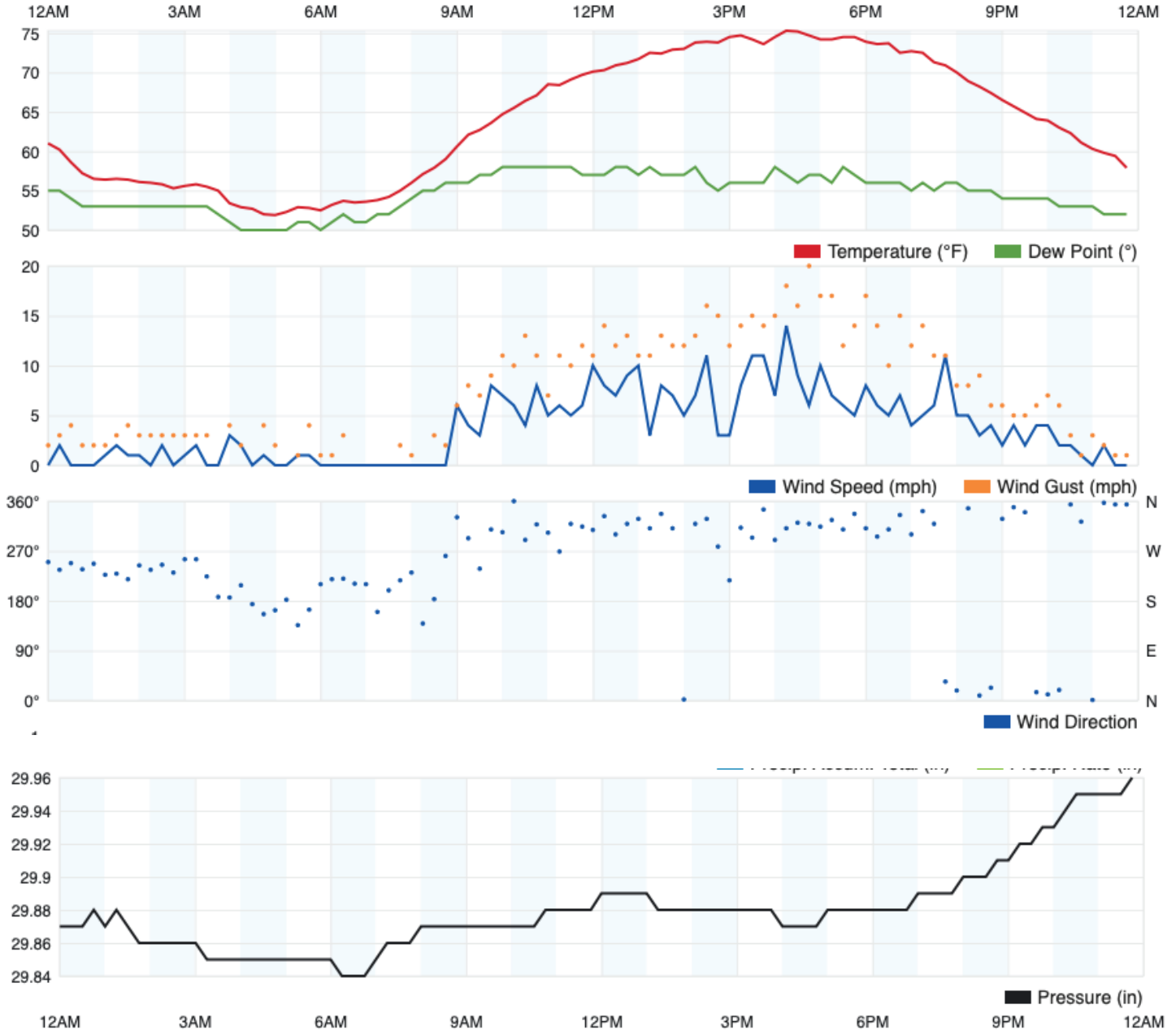
Seven years is too long to live with a bad law. If citizens believe that legislators are messing with initiated measures too much, there's a solution that doesn't take nearly as long. Voters should keep in mind that legislative terms are just two years. Lawmakers who are too handsy with measures endorsed by voters can easily be shown the door without the need to amend the constitution.

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

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Sunny	Mostly Cloudy	Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Clear and Breezy then Mostly Clear	Sunny
High: 77 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 82 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 83 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 80 °F

Tonight's Severe Weather Threat

Storms develop in northeast WY and western SD, then move to the southeast

July 17, 2023
3:46 AM

Timing/Location

After storms develop late this afternoon, they will move to the southeast through southwest SD between 10pm and 4am

Threats: Primarily for **YELLOW** area

Tornado Potential

Very Low Low Medium High

Max Hail Size

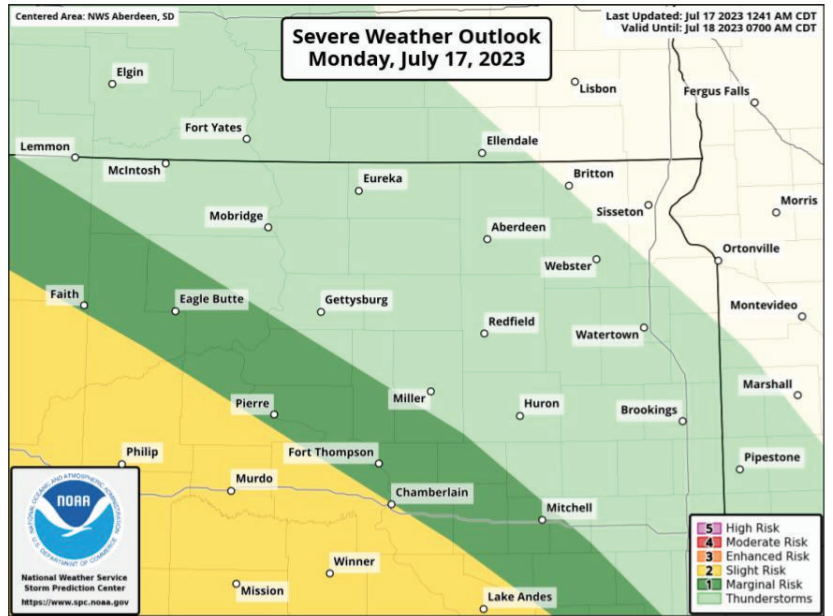
Dimes Quarters **Golfball** Baseball

Max Wind Speed

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

Heavy Rain/Flooding Potential

Very Low **Low** Medium High



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Thunderstorms are possible over south central South Dakota late this evening and into the overnight hours. There is some uncertainty in the exact track of the storms, but the best chance for severe weather is southwest of a line from Faith, to Pierre, to Chamberlain. The strongest storms could produce golfball sized hail and winds of 60-70 mph.

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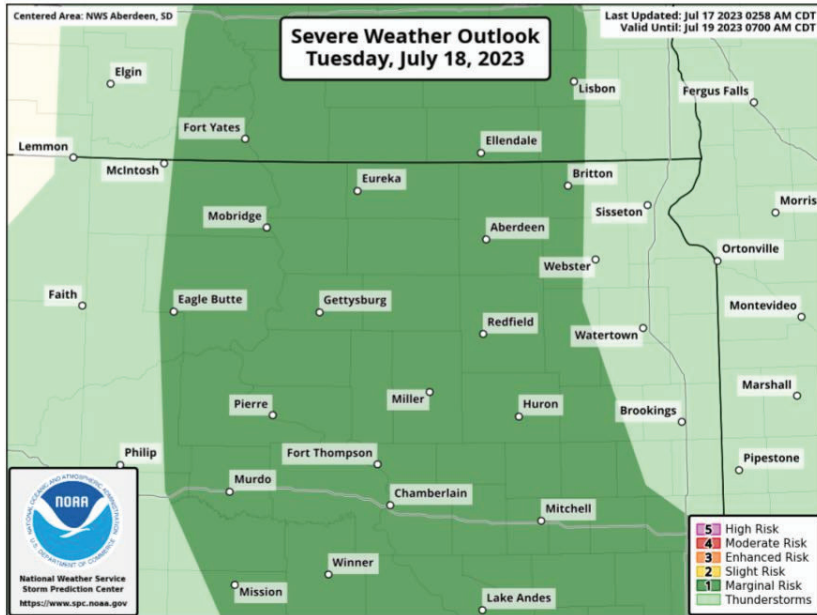
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Tuesday's Severe Weather Potential

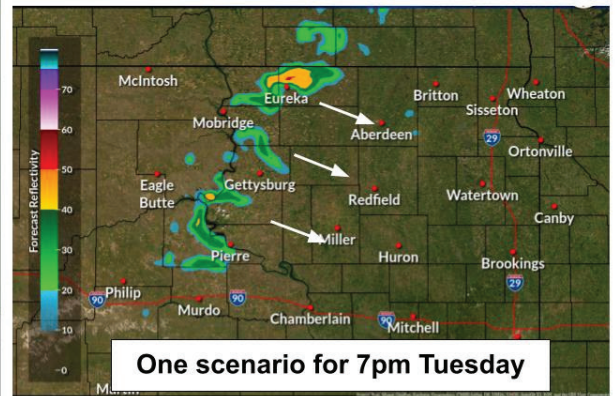
July 17, 2023
3:51 AM

Uncertainty remains in where/if storms will develop



Timing/Location

Thunderstorms may develop along a front in central SD during the mid-late afternoon hours, then move to the east-southeast through the evening. **Severe hail and wind are possible.**



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Additional thunderstorms are possible on Tuesday, but confidence is low on if storms will develop and where they will develop. Continue to monitor later forecasters for updates on Tuesday's severe weather threat.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 76 °F at 4:13 PM

Low Temp: 52 °F at 4:52 AM

Wind: 20 mph at 4:37 PM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 19 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 111 in 1936

Record Low: 44 in 1895

Average High: 85

Average Low: 60

Average Precip in July.: 1.90

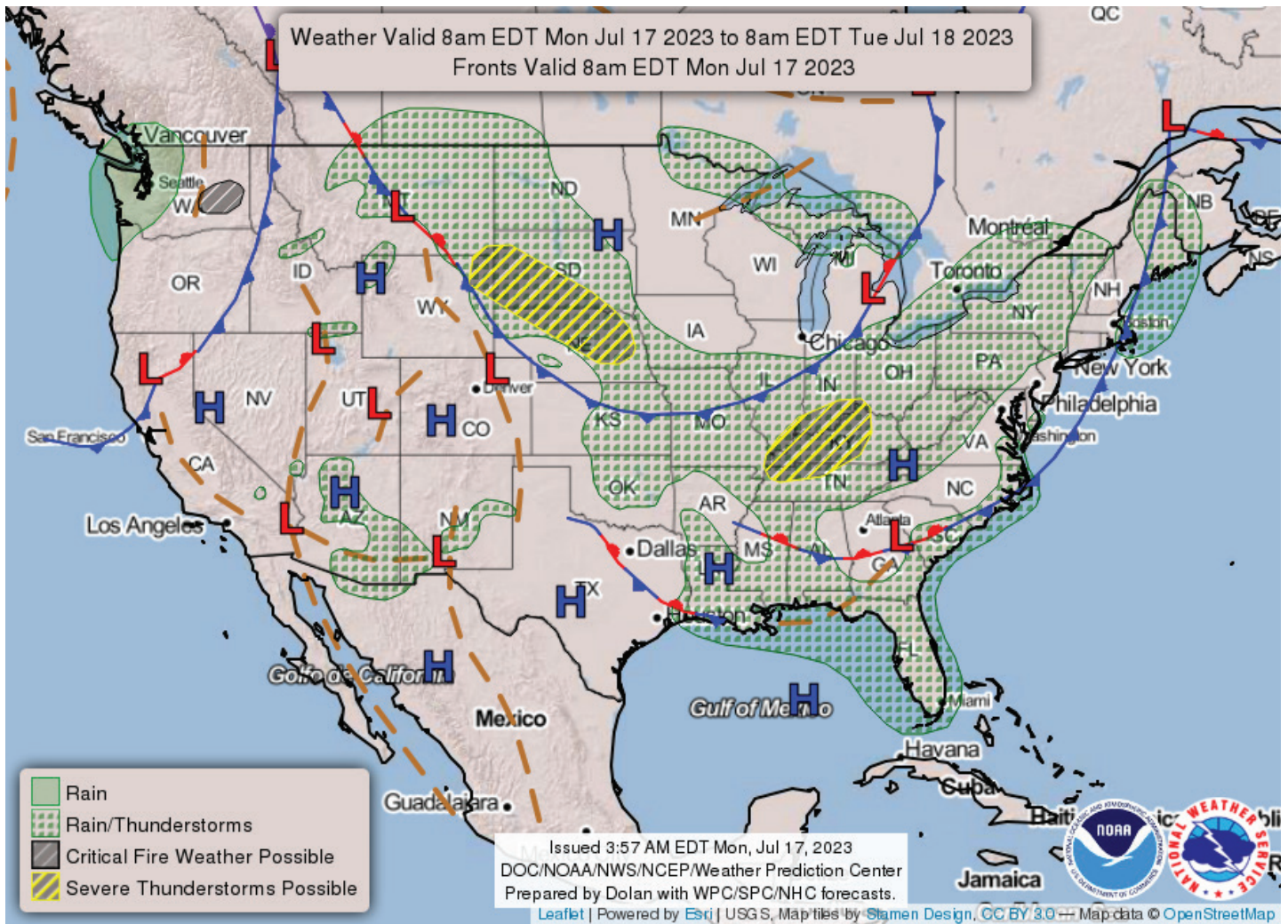
Precip to date in July.: 1.32

Average Precip to date: 12.91

Precip Year to Date: 12.67

Sunset Tonight: 9:18:25 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 5:59:44 AM



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Today in Weather History

July 17, 1985: An F1 tornado touched down, ten miles east of Raymond, in Clark County, destroying two cattle sheds and damaged several buildings. A garage was moved off its foundation. Heavy rains, high winds and hail up to 2.75 inches in diameter produced considerable damage to farm buildings between Raymond and Garden City. Rainfall amounts of three to six inches caused additional crop losses from erosion. In the city of Clark, some basement flooding occurred, and water ran across Highway 212 west of Clark. Some storm total rainfall amounts include; 3.77 inches in Clark; 3.15 in Clear Lake; 2.85 in Redfield; and 2.31 inches in 3 miles NE of Raymond. This thunderstorm began near Kennebec, in Lyman County, where winds gusted to 80 mph, and small hail was observed. A few trees were uprooted, and numerous branches were downed. Several car windows were broke from the winds and small hail. A half inch of rain fell in ten minutes, filling ditches. High winds continued into Spink County where extensive damage to a farm estate east of Redfield occurred. Heavy rains of three to five inches caused road and basement flooding. A damage path from wind and hail continued to Clear Lake, to the south of Gary and into Minnesota to the east of Canby. Winds gusted to 70 mph, and hail ranged from one to almost two inches in diameter. In Clear Lake, four businesses were damaged, and power poles were downed. One building had the fiberglass siding and roofing torn off. A second building had a metal roof blown off. Highway 77, south of Clear Lake was impassable due to hail on the ground.

July 17, 1993: Torrential rains of three to seven inches fell in Grant County resulting in the overflow of Lake Farley into the city of Milbank. The dam held, but an emergency dike broke on the evening of the 17th releasing water into residential streets and a trailer court in Milbank. The broken barrier forced the evacuation of at least 200 people. Damage included 120 mobile homes, and 26 houses were affected by floodwaters. Also, a man died when his pickup truck hit a washout on a gravel road south of Milbank and was swept into the floodwaters of a nearby creek.

July 17, 2010: Several supercell thunderstorms moving southeast across the region brought large hail up to softball size along with damaging winds to parts of northeast South Dakota. Numerous homes, vehicles, along with thousands of acres of crops were destroyed. Hail up to the size of softballs occurred near Westport, in Brown County. Golf ball to baseball size hail fell at the National Weather Service office causing damage to several vehicles. The rear window was broken out of one of the vehicles. A supercell thunderstorm was tracking southeast across Clark County produced anywhere from a quarter to baseball size hail along with wind gusts over 70 mph from Crocker to Clark to Naples to Vienna. The large hail and winds caused extensive damage to homes, outbuildings, vehicles, and thousands of acres of crops. Many trees and gardens were also damaged or destroyed by the hail and high winds. The storm entered western Hamlin County. Winds measured at 90 mph in Hayti along with some large hail broke numerous windows out of several homes and vehicles, damaged several roofs, and downed many trees. A concrete silo was also destroyed. The highway shop lost half of its roof along with severe damage to the ceiling of a trucking business in Hayti.

1942: A great flood developed over the Smethport area in Pennsylvania, resulting in an estimated 34.50 inches of rain in just one day, including 30.60 inches in only six hours, setting a world record. The official observing site, Smethport Highway Shed, reported only 13.08 inches for the entire month because the flood consumed the gauge after 6.68" of rain. The total results from the substitution of the officially estimated amount for the amount measured.

1981: Severe thunderstorm winds ripped a 10,000 square foot hole in a 90-foot high pavilion at Sea World in Orlando, FL. The storm panicked a crowd of 550 tourists. One death occurred due to injury and heart attack, and 15 people were injured. The canopy was made of fiberglass and Teflon, designed to withstand 120 mph winds.

1987: Slow moving thunderstorms caused flooding on the Guadalupe River in Texas resulting in tragic loss of life. A bus and van leaving a youth summer camp stalled near the rapidly rising river, just west of the town of Comfort, or about 50 mile northwest of San Antonio. The powerful surge of water swept away 43 persons, mostly teenagers. Ten drowned in the floodwaters. Most of the others were rescued from treetops by helicopter.

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

ON BEING AN EXAMPLE

Gilbert Stewart was one of America's greatest artists. He became famous because of the magnificent portraits he painted. In fact, he painted the portraits of the first six presidents of the United States. His work was easily recognized because of its beautiful coloring. On one occasion, a group of his competitors stole his colors thinking that they could match his work if they had his paints.

When Benjamin West, another artist, heard that other artists stole his paints, he went to them and said, "It's no use to steal his colors. If you want to paint as he paints, you must steal his eyes."

In Paul's letter to the Corinthians, he challenged them to "follow my example and do as I do." This is a rather bold statement, and we may think he is better than us and is asking us to copy his lifestyle. Not so. Paul encouraged the Corinthian Christians, and us today, to do as he did: imitate Christ. He was willing and able and empowered to imitate Him because he read and meditated on God's Word, spent time with Him in prayer and worship. And if we, as His disciples, want to imitate Christ, we must do as Paul did: study, meditate, pray. Only as we come to know Him, love Him and worship Him will we be able to imitate Him. And, if we want to know Him as Paul knew Him, we spend time with Him.

Prayer: Lord, grant us a passion to want to love You, know You, serve You, and finally imitate You. May we willingly surrender our lives to You and become like You. In Jesus' Name, Amen!

Scripture For Today: For I became your father in Christ Jesus when I preached the Good News to you. So I urge you to imitate me. 1 Corinthians 4:14-16



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

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2023 Community Events

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

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The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

- Black & White \$48.99/year
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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 1 Days 17 Hrs 23
DRAW: Mins 56 Secs

[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 16 Hrs 38 Mins 56
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.16.23

3 9 44 46 48 9

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT 16 Hrs 53 Mins 55
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.15.23

3 9 19 31 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$20,000

NEXT 2 Days 16 Hrs 53
DRAW: Mins 55 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.15.23

12 21 23 37 52 19

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT 17 Hrs 22 Mins 55
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.15.23

2 9 43 55 57 18

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$900,000,000

NEXT 17 Hrs 22 Mins 55
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

Pipestone carvers preserve revered Native spiritual tradition in Minnesota prairie

By GIOVANNA DELL'ORTO Associated Press

PIPESTONE, Minn. (AP) — Under the tall prairie grass outside this southwestern Minnesota town lies a precious seam of dark red pipestone that, for thousands of years, Native Americans have quarried and carved into pipes essential to prayer and communication with the Creator.

Only a dozen Dakota carvers remain in the predominantly agricultural area bordering South Dakota. While tensions have flared periodically over how broadly to produce and share the rare artifacts, many Dakota today are focusing on how to pass on to future generations a difficult skillset that's inextricably linked to spiritual practice.

"I'd be very happy to teach anyone ... and the Spirit will be with you if you're meant to do that," said Cindy Pederson, who started learning how to carve from her grandparents six decades ago.

Enrolled in the Sisseton-Wahpeton Dakota Nation, she regularly holds carving demonstrations at Pipestone National Monument, a small park that encompasses the quarries.

In the worldview of the Dakota peoples, sometimes referred to as Sioux, "the sacred is woven in" the land where the Creator placed them, said Iyekiapiwin Darlene St. Clair, a professor at St. Cloud State University in central Minnesota.

But some places have a special relevance, because of events that occurred there, a sense of stronger spiritual power, or their importance in origin stories, she added.

These quarries of a unique variety of red pipestone check all three – starting with a history of enemy tribes laying down arms to allow for quarrying, with several stories warning that if fights broke out over the rare resource, it would make itself unavailable to all.

The colorful prayer ties and flags hung from trees alongside the trails that lead around the pink and red rocks testify to the continued sacredness of the space.

"It was always a place to go pray," said Gabrielle Drapeau, a cultural resource specialist and park ranger at the monument who started coming here as a child.

From her elders in the Yankton Sioux Tribe of South Dakota, Drapeau grew up hearing one of many origin stories for the pipestone: In time immemorial, a great flood killed most people in the area, their blood seeping into the stone and turning it red. But the Creator came, pronounced it a place of peace, and smoked a pipe, adding this is how people could reach him.

"It's like a tangible representation of how we can connect with Creator," Drapeau said. "All people before you are represented in the stone itself. It's not just willy-nilly stone."

Pipes are widely used by Indigenous people across the Great Plains and beyond, either by spiritual leaders or individuals for personal prayer for healing and thanksgiving, as well as to mark rites of passage like vision quests and the solemnity of ceremonies and gatherings.

"Pipestone has a particular relationship to our spiritual practice – praying with pipes, we take very seriously," St. Clair said.

The pipe itself is thought to become sacred when the pipestone bowl and the wooden stem are joined. The smoke, from tobacco or prairie plants, then carries the prayer from a person's heart to the Creator.

Because of that crucial spiritual connection, only people enrolled in federally recognized tribes can obtain permits to quarry at the monument, some traveling from as far as Montana and Nebraska. Within tribes, there's disagreement over whether pipes should be sold, especially to non-Natives, and the pipestone used to make other art objects like carved animal figures.

"Sacredness is going to be defined by you — that's between you and the Creator," said Travis Erickson, a fourth-generation carver who's worked pipestone in the area for more than two decades and embraces a less restrictive view. "Everything on this Earth is spiritual."

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His first job in the quarries, at age 10, was to break through and remove the layers of harder-than-steel quartzite covering the pipestone seam – then about six feet down, now more than 18 feet into the quarry, so the process can take months. Only hand tools can be used to avoid damaging the pipestone.

Taken out in sheets only about a couple of inches thick, it is then carved using flint and files.

“The stone talks to me,” added Erickson, who has fashioned pipe bowls in different shapes, such as horses. “Most of those pipes showed what they wanted to be.”

Growing up in the 1960s, Erickson recalled making pipes as a family affair where the day often ended with a festive grilling. He taught his children, but laments that few younger people want to take up the arduous job.

So does Pederson, some of whose younger family members have shown interest, including a granddaughter who would hang out in her workshop starting when she was 3 and emerge “pink from head to toe” from the stone dust.

But they believe the tradition will continue as long as they can share it with Native youth who might have their first encounter with this deep history on field trips to the monument.

On a recent trip, Pederson’s brother, Mark Pederson, who also holds demonstrations at the visitor center, took several young visitors into the quarries and taught them how to swing sledgehammers — and many asked to return, she said.

Teaching the techniques of quarrying and carving is crucially important, and so is helping youth develop a relationship with the pipestone and its place in the Native worldview.

“We have to be concerned with that as Dakota people – all cultural messages young people get draw away from our traditional lifeways,” St. Clair said. “We need to hold on to the teachings, prayers, songs that make pipes be.”

From new exhibits to tailored school field trips, recent initiatives at the monument — undertaken in consultation between tribal leaders and the National Park Service — are trying to foster that awareness for Native youth.

“I remind them they have every right to come here and pray,” Drapeau said — a crucial point since many Native spiritual practices were systematically repressed for decades past 1937, when the monument was created to preserve the quarries from land encroachment.

Some areas of the park are open only for ceremonial use; the 75,000 yearly visitors are asked not to interfere with the quarriers.

“The National Park Service is the newcomer here — for 3,000 years, different tribal nations have come to quarry here and developed different protocols to protect the site,” said park superintendent Lauren Blacik.

One change brought through extensive consultations with tribal leaders is the park’s decision to no longer sell pipes at the visitor center, though other pipestone objects are — like small carved turtles or owls. Pipes are available at stores a few miles away in Pipestone’s downtown.

Tensions over the use of sacred pipes by non-Natives long predates the United States, when French and English explorers traded them, said Greg Gagnon, a scholar of Indian Studies and author of a textbook on Dakota culture.

“Nobody wants to have their world appropriated. The more you open it up, the more legitimate a fear of watering it down,” he said. But there’s also a danger in becoming entrenched in dogmatic ways of understanding traditions, Gagnon added.

For carvers like Pederson, good intentions and the Spirit at work in both those practicing the craft as well as those receiving the pipestone are reasons to be optimistic about the future.

“Grandma and Grandpa always said the stone takes care of itself, knows what’s in a person’s heart,” she said.

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

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 halts wartime deal allowing Ukraine to ship grain. It's a blow to global food security

By COURTNEY BONNELL Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Russia halted an unprecedented wartime deal on Monday that allows grain to flow from Ukraine to countries in Africa, the Middle East and Asia where hunger is a growing threat and high food prices have pushed more people into poverty.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov announced Russia would suspend the Black Sea Grain Initiative until its demands to get its own agricultural shipments to the world are met — even though the country has been shipping record amounts of wheat and its fertilizers also have been flowing.

“When the part of the Black Sea deal related to Russia is implemented, Russia will immediately return to the implementation of the deal,” Peskov said. Russia has complained that restrictions on shipping and insurance have hampered its exports of food and fertilizer — also critical to the global food chain.

It's the end of a breakthrough accord that the United Nations and Turkey brokered last summer to allow food to leave the Black Sea region after Russia invaded its neighbor nearly a year and a half ago. The deal provided assurances that ships won't be attacked entering and leaving Ukrainian ports.

A separate agreement facilitated the movement of Russian food and fertilizer amid Western sanctions.

The warring nations are both major global suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other affordable food products that developing nations rely on. While analysts don't expect more than a temporary bump to food commodity prices because places like Russia and Brazil have ratcheted up wheat and corn exports, food insecurity is growing.

The agreement was renewed for 60 days in May amid Moscow's pushback. In recent months, the amount of food shipped and number of vessels departing Ukraine have plunged, with Russia accused of preventing additional ships from participating.

The war in Ukraine sent food commodity prices surging to record highs last year and contributed to a global food crisis also tied to other conflicts, the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, droughts and other climate factors.

High costs for grain needed for food staples in places like Egypt, Lebanon and Nigeria exacerbated economic challenges and helped push millions more people into poverty or food insecurity.

People in developing countries spend more of their money on meals. Poorer nations that depend on imported food priced in dollars also are spending more as their currencies weaken and they are forced to import more because of climate issues. Places like Somalia, Kenya, Morocco and Tunisia are struggling with drought.

Prices for global food commodities like wheat and vegetable oil have fallen, but food was already expensive before the war in Ukraine and the relief hasn't trickled down to kitchen tables.

“The Black Sea deal is absolutely critical for the food security of a number of countries,” and its loss will compound the problems for those facing high debt levels and climate fallout, said Simon Evenett, professor of international trade and economic development at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland.

He noted that rising interest rates meant to target inflation as well as weakening currencies “are making

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it harder for many developing countries to finance purchases in dollars on the global markets.”

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization said this month that 45 countries need outside food assistance, with high local food prices “a driver of worrying levels of hunger” in those places.

The Black Sea Grain Initiative has allowed three Ukrainian ports to export 32.9 million metric tons of grain and other food to the world, more than half of that to developing nations, according to the Joint Coordination Center in Istanbul.

But the deal has faced setbacks since it was brokered by the U.N. and Turkey: Russia pulled out briefly in November before rejoining and extending the deal.

In March and May, Russia would only extend the deal for 60 days, instead of the usual 120. The amount of grain shipped per month fell from a peak of 4.2 million metric tons in October to 1.3 million metric tons in May, the lowest volume since the deal began.

Exports expanded in June to a bit over 2 million metric tons, thanks to larger ships able to carry more cargo.

Asked Monday whether an attack on a bridge connecting Crimea to Russia’s mainland was a factor behind the decision, the Kremlin spokesman said it was not.

“No, these developments aren’t connected,” Peskov said. “Even before this terror attack President (Vladimir) Putin had declared our stand on that.”

Ukraine has accused Russia of preventing new ships from joining the work since the end of June, with 29 waiting in the waters off Turkey to join the initiative. Joint inspections meant to ensure vessels only carry grain and not weapons that could help either side also have slowed considerably.

Average daily inspections have steadily dropped from a peak of 11 in October to about 2.3 in June. Ukrainian and U.S. officials have blamed Russia for the slowdowns.

Meanwhile, Russia’s wheat shipments hit all-time highs following a large harvest. It exported 45.5 million metric tons in the 2022-2023 trade year, with another record of 47.5 million metric tons expected in 2023-2024, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates.

The earlier figure is more wheat than any country ever has exported in one year, said Caitlin Welsh, director of the Global Food and Water Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

See AP’s complete coverage of the war in Ukraine at <https://apnews.com/hub/russia-ukraine> and the food crisis at <https://apnews.com/hub/food-crisis>.

Georgia mass shooting suspect is killed during intense search and 3 officers are wounded, police say

By JEFF AMY Associated Press

HAMPTON, Ga. (AP) — Officers on Sunday shot and killed a man wanted in four weekend killings near Atlanta during an exchange of gunfire, with a sheriff’s deputy and two police officers wounded while trying to take the suspect into custody, authorities said.

Officials said Andre Longmore was shot during an intense search for the 40-year-old suspect. The exchange of gunfire came a day after Saturday morning’s shootings rocked a bucolic subdivision in Hampton, south of Georgia’s main city.

Officials said Longmore was killed about 15 miles (25 kilometers) to the north of Hampton in suburban Jonesboro. Clayton County police said a Henry County sheriff’s deputy saw the SUV that Longmore stole from one of the victims and began chasing him, calling for help. After exchanging gunfire with Longmore, Clayton police said he ran away.

Justin Robinson told WANF-TV that Longmore entered the backyard of a townhouse.

“He had a gun, he was bleeding, he was naked,” Robinson said.

Robinson said he alerted police officers, who were greeted with gunfire when they entered the townhouse where Longmore had hidden.

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"Soon as they open the back door this guy starts shooting, shoots at the cops," Robinson said. "The police start shooting."

A Henry County sheriff's deputy and two Clayton County police officers were injured in the attempt to arrest Longmore, officials said

One officer was shot in the back and was taken by helicopter to an Atlanta trauma center, Henry County Sheriff Reginald Scandrett said. "He is conscious, breathing and talking at this time," Scandrett said of that officer.

Clayton County Police Chief Kevin Roberts said all three officers are expected to recover. Details on the conditions of the other two wounded officers weren't immediately made public.

Hampton Police Chief James Turner said the four killed Saturday were all residents of the same Dogwood Lakes neighborhood where Longmore lived, and were all shot within a 10-minute span. He identified the victims as 67-year old Scott Leavitt and his wife, 66-year old Shirley Leavitt, as well as 65-year-old Steve Blizzard and 66-year-old Ronald Jeffers.

Sherry Wyatt, who works at Hampton's recreation center near Jeffers' home, said Jeffers would regularly come in to sing at the senior center that shares the building.

A few months ago, Jeffers came over to her side of the building to practice and she told him how beautiful was his voice.

"I'm just so glad I told him he sang like an angel," said Wyatt, adding her heart was heavy Sunday over his death. "I know he is in heaven now singing."

A relative of Blizzard didn't immediately respond to a Facebook message.

Authorities had been seeking to arrest Longmore on four murder warrants for the deaths. Turner said Longmore's motives remained under investigation.

On Sunday, neighbor Frankie Worth told The Associated Press he heard a gunshot Saturday morning as he was reaching for his living room window to open the blinds and see how much yard work he had to do.

Worth said he ducked "just for a second" and then looked back out the window. "You know, when you get incoming, you've got to know where it's coming from," said Worth, who identified himself as a Marine Corps veteran.

Longmore, who Worth knew only as Andre, was standing in the street. He described seeing the man's hands jerking from the recoil of firing a silver handgun.

Worth said the man appeared to have fired at a small white car driven by another neighbor, "an older white gentleman." He said the shooting happened near a cul-de-sac where they all live.

Worth said he first thought there'd been a road rage confrontation, but said the man moved deliberately. "He didn't appear angry, upset, agitated," Worth said.

Worth said Longmore appeared to evaluate whether he needed to shoot again and then "started walking casually" toward the entrance to the subdivision, then at a "brisk stride." Worth said he ran upstairs, watching Longmore disappear behind some trees as he called police.

Turner told reporters earlier that detectives were investigating at least four crime scenes in Dogwood Lakes. At least three police cars staked out the neighborhood Sunday, limiting access. About 40 houses on two streets flank a lake in the neighborhood, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of downtown Atlanta.

Ron Foster, who lives on the main road outside the subdivision entrance, said Longmore drove through his yard and his neighbor's yard, destroying multiple ornamental windmills and leaving tire tracks in the grass. Foster was inside his house when he heard crunching metal.

"What was going through that man's mind after he did all he done?" Foster wondered. "It was unreal."

Hampton is home to the Atlanta Motor Speedway, Georgia's racetrack for NASCAR events. The most recent homicide before Saturday in the town of 8,000 had been in 2018, Turner said. "It's not normal for us," he said.

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 AP and USA Today in a partnership with Northeastern University.

Hampton Mayor Ann Tarpley said the city would hold a prayer vigil Monday evening for the four victims and their loved ones.

"We have their back and we will continue to support them throughout their bereavement," Tarpley said.

An earlier version incorrectly named the Clayton County police chief as Kevin Turner. He is Kevin Roberts.

Associated Press writers Tom Murphy contributed from Indianapolis and Leah Willingham contributed from Charleston, West Virginia.

Heavy rains swamp Northeast again as flash flooding claims at least 5 lives in Pennsylvania

The Associated Press undefined

WASHINGTON CROSSING, Pa. (AP) — Heavy rains pounded an already saturated Northeast on Sunday for the second time in a week, spurring another round of flash flooding, cancelled airline flights and power outages. In Pennsylvania, a sudden flash flood late Saturday afternoon claimed at least five lives.

Officials in Bucks County's Upper Makefield Township in Pennsylvania said torrential rains occurred around 5:30 p.m. Saturday in the Washington Crossing area, sweeping away several cars. At least five people died and two children, a 9-month-old boy and his 2-year-old sister, remained missing, authorities said.

Other parts of the East Coast were experiencing heavy rain, including Vermont. Authorities there said landslides could become a problem Sunday as the state copes with more rain following days of flooding.

"There are flash flood warnings throughout the state today. Remain vigilant and be prepared," Vermont Gov. Phil Scott said.

Sunday's strong storms led to hundreds of flight cancellations at airports in the New York City area, according to the tracking service FlightAware. More than 350 flights were canceled at Newark Liberty International Airport in New Jersey alone, while more than 280 flights were canceled at Kennedy International Airport in New York. Hundreds of flights were delayed.

The National Weather Service issued flash flood warnings and tornado watches for parts of Connecticut, western Massachusetts, Vermont and New Hampshire. A tornado warning was issued for an area along the Massachusetts-New Hampshire border.

Thousands of power outages also were reported.

New York Gov. Kathy Hochul urged people to stay home Sunday until the storms passed.

"Here comes the rain. It just seems unrelenting this year," she said. "You have to avoid unnecessary travel. ... A flash flood doesn't give you warning ... and in those moments your car can go from a place of safety to a place of death."

Hochul said 5 inches (13 centimeters) of rain fell within two hours in Suffolk County on Long Island. The state saw \$50 million in damages from last week's storms. Disaster declarations will cover more than a dozen New York counties.

Manchester, New Hampshire, the largest city in northern New England, opened its emergency operations center in response to severe weather. Manchester Mayor Joyce Craig and other officials urged residents to stay inside.

Flooding forced Tweed-New Haven Airport in Connecticut to close Sunday. The small airport, which offers daily commercial flights from one carrier, Avelo Airlines, said in a Twitter post that the terminal was closed until further notice. Several flights were delayed.

Flash flooding was reported in New Haven, Hartford, Waterbury and other Connecticut towns, leaving many roads impassible. Connecticut Gov. Ned Lamont said he was headed to Bristol, home of ESPN, to view flooding.

In northern New Jersey, some roads were closed Sunday as crews worked to repair stretches of concrete that buckled under heavy rain and flooding. Local creeks washed over passageways and a rockslide blocked Route 46. Thoroughfares were a mess of water and rocks covered in brown sludge.

In Pennsylvania, a sudden, torrential downpour turned deadly in Upper Makefield Township.

Fire Chief Tim Brewer told reporters the area got about 6 1/2 to 7 inches of rain (about 18 centimeters)

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in 45 minutes.

"In my 44 years, I've never seen anything like it," he said. "When the water came up, it came up very swiftly."

About 4 to 5 feet of water washed over the road and three of an estimated 11 cars were swept away. All three were later recovered and no one was found inside, Brewer said. Eight people were rescued from the cars and two from the creek, he said.

The two children who remained missing Sunday are part of a Charleston, South Carolina, family visiting family and friends. They were on their way to a barbecue when their vehicle got stuck in the flash flood, Brewer said.

"As they tried to escape the fierce floodwaters, Dad took his 4-year-old son while the mother and the grandmother grabbed the two additional children, aged 9 months and 2 years," he said. The father and son were "miraculously" able to get to safety. "However the grandmother, the mother, and the two children were swept away by the floodwaters," Brewer said. The mother was among those later found dead.

"We continue to look for the two children. We are not going to give up," Brewer said.

About 150 people were searching the creek during the night and 100 were involved Sunday. Brewer said earlier that officials were treating the effort as a rescue "but we are fairly certain we are in a recovery mode at this time."

Gov. Josh Shapiro vowed aid from state emergency and transportation officials.

"All hands are on deck," Shapiro said.

In North Carolina, floodwaters were blamed for the death of a 49-year-old woman whose car was swept off a road in Alexander County late Saturday night. A man who was in the car with her was rescued.

And as far south as Miami, soccer fans sought shelter from a torrential downpour as they waited for an event presenting international superstar Lionel Messi one day after the team signed him through the 2025.

Meanwhile, recovery efforts were underway in Vermont from recent days of heavy precipitation.

The Vermont Agency of Transportation said 12 state roads remained closed while 12 were partially open to one lane of traffic and 87 have been reopened that were previously closed.

The agency said 211 bridge inspections have been completed this week in damaged areas and there are four state bridges closed and four town structures closed.

Rail lines throughout Vermont were also damaged, the transportation agency said. The agency said it reopened 57 miles (92 kilometers) of rail lines, and 64 miles of rail line remained closed.

"Our crews have been working tirelessly all week to repair the damaged state roads and bridges, and to restore the state's transportation infrastructure for Vermonters and visitors," Transportation Secretary Joe Flynn said.

Heavy precipitation was not the only extreme weather plaguing the U.S. A scorching heat wave across the Southwest has put roughly one-third of Americans under some type of heat watch or warning. That included brutal temperatures in the hottest place on Earth — Death Valley, which runs along part of central California's border with Nevada. Las Vegas also faced the possibility of reaching an all-time record temperature Sunday.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency posted air quality alerts for several states stretching from Montana to Ohio on Sunday because of smoke blowing in from Canadian wildfires. Hochul, the New York governor, said she expected air quality alerts to be issued for northern and western parts of New York state Monday because of the wildfires.

"Air Quality alerts are in place for much of the Great Lakes, Midwest, and northern High Plains," the National Weather Service said. "This is due to the lingering thick concentration of Canadian wildfire smoke over these regions."

This story corrects the name of the township to Upper Makefield.

Associated Press writers Ron Todt in Philadelphia; David Collins in Hartford, Connecticut; Patrick Whittle in Portland, Maine; and Leah Willingham in Charleston, West Virginia; contributed to this report.

Russia blames Ukraine for attack on key Crimea military supply bridge that kills 2

By The Associated Press undefined

Traffic on a key military supply bridge connecting Crimea to Russia's mainland came to a standstill Monday after one of its sections was blown up, killing two people and wounding their daughter. Russian officials blamed the attack on Ukraine, but Kyiv officials didn't openly admit it.

The strike on the 19-kilometer (12-mile) Kerch Bridge was carried out by two Ukrainian sea drones, Russia's National Anti-Terrorist Committee said.

Ukrainian officials didn't claim responsibility for the attack, which is the second major strike on the bridge since October, when a truck bomb blew up two of its sections.

The bridge is a conspicuous symbol of Moscow's claims on Crimea and an essential land link to the peninsula, which Russia captured from Ukraine in 2014. The \$3.6 billion bridge is the longest in Europe and is crucial for enabling Russia's military operations in southern Ukraine during the almost 17-month-long war.

Russia has expanded its presence in Crimea since its full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Occasional acts of sabotage and other attacks against Russian military and other facilities on the peninsula have occurred since, with the Kremlin blaming Ukraine.

The attack on the bridge comes as Ukrainian forces are trying to press a counteroffensive in several sections of the front line. It also happened just hours before Russia, as expected, announced it is halting a deal brokered by the United Nations and Turkey that allows the export of Ukrainian grain during the war.

Natalia Humeniuk, a spokeswoman for the Ukrainian military's Southern Command, said the explosions on the bridge could be a Russian provocation. But Ukrainian *Ukrainska Pravda* and RBC Ukraine news outlets said the attack was planned jointly by the Security Service of Ukraine (SBU) and the Ukrainian Navy and involved sea drones.

Kyiv didn't initially acknowledge responsibility for last October's bombing either, but a senior Ukrainian official eventually confirmed it.

In what appeared to be an indirect acknowledgment of Ukraine's involvement in Monday's explosion, Ukrainian Security Service spokesman Artem Degtyarenko said in a statement that details of what happened would be revealed after Ukraine has won the war.

"In the meantime, we are watching with interest how one of the symbols of the Putin regime once again failed to withstand the military load," he said.

Video posted by Crimea 24 online news channel showed a section of the bridge tilted and hanging down, but there was no indication any portion had fallen into the water.

Russia's Belgorod region Gov. Vyacheslav Gladkov said the attack killed a married couple from the region and their daughter was hospitalized with serious injuries.

Russian authorities said the attack didn't affect the piers but damaged the decking in a section of one of the two road links. The damage appeared less serious than in October's attack that took months to repair.

Rail traffic resumed later Monday morning after being halted for about six hours, and authorities said they were considering plans to use the undamaged road section of the bridge for traffic traveling in both directions alternately.

Andriy Yusov, a spokesman for Ukraine's military intelligence department, declined to comment Monday on the incident but said: "The peninsula is used by the Russians as a large logistical hub for moving forces and assets deep into the territory of Ukraine. Of course, any logistical problems are additional complications for the occupiers."

The Security Service of Ukraine posted a redacted version of a popular lullaby, tweaked to say that the bridge "went to sleep again."

Why allowing Ukraine to ship grain during Russia's war matters to the world

By COURTNEY BONNELL AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — The fate of a wartime deal designed to move food from Ukraine to parts of the world where millions are going hungry is unclear as it faces renewal Monday.

Moscow has ramped up its rhetoric, saying it may not extend the deal brokered by the U.N. and Turkey unless its demands are met — including ensuring that its own agricultural shipments don't face hurdles.

The Black Sea Grain Initiative has allowed 32.9 million metric tons (36.2 million tons) of food to be exported from Ukraine since August, more than half to developing countries, including those getting relief from the World Food Program, according to the Joint Coordination Center in Istanbul.

If the deal isn't renewed, "you will have a new spike for sure" in food prices, said Maximo Torero, U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization chief economist. "The duration of that spike will depend a lot on how markets will respond."

The good news is some analysts don't foresee a lasting rise in the cost of global food commodities like wheat because there's enough grain in the world to go around. But many countries are already struggling with high local food prices, which are helping fuel hunger.

Here's a look at the crucial accord and what it means for the world:

WHAT IS THE GRAIN DEAL?

Ukraine and Russia signed separate agreements in July 2022, one that reopened three of Ukraine's Black Sea ports that were blocked for months following Moscow's invasion. The other facilitated the movement of Russian produce amid Western sanctions.

Both countries are major global suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other affordable food products that Africa, the Middle East and parts of Asia rely on. Ukraine is also a huge exporter of corn, and Russia of fertilizer — other critical parts of the food chain.

Interrupted shipments from Ukraine, dubbed the "breadbasket of the world," exacerbated a global food crisis and sent prices for grain soaring worldwide.

"One major agricultural producer is waging war on another major agricultural producer, which is affecting the price of food and fertilizers for millions of people around the world," said Caitlin Welsh, director of the Global Food and Water Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

The deal provides assurances that ships won't be attacked entering and leaving Ukrainian ports. Vessels are checked by Russian, Ukrainian, U.N. and Turkish officials to ensure they carry only food.

Meant to be extended every four months, the deal was hailed as a beacon of hope amid the war and has been renewed three times — the last two for only two months as Russia insisted its exports were being held up.

The original accord says it "can be extended automatically" unless "one of the parties notifies the other of the intent to terminate the initiative or to modify it."

It's not clear whether Russia has signaled its intentions, but no new ships have joined the initiative since June 27, which Ukraine blames on Moscow. The last vessel left Ukraine on Sunday.

Russia's agreement is to last three years.

WHAT HAS IT ACCOMPLISHED?

The deal helped bring down global prices of food commodities like wheat that hit record highs after Russia invaded Ukraine.

As the war caused food and energy costs to surge worldwide, millions of people were thrown into poverty and faced greater food insecurity in already vulnerable nations.

Once the grain deal was struck, the World Food Program got back its No. 2 supplier, allowing 725,000 metric tons of humanitarian food aid to leave Ukraine and reach countries on the precipice of famine, including Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Yemen.

"It is a pretty unique phenomenon to have two warring parties and two intermediaries agree to establish this sort of corridor to get humanitarian products — which is ostensibly what this is — out to markets

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that need it most," said John Stawpert, senior manager of environment and trade for the International Chamber of Shipping, which represents 80% of the world's commercial fleet.

WHAT THREATENS THE DEAL?

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Moscow wouldn't extend the grain deal unless the West fulfills "the promises given to us."

"We have repeatedly shown goodwill to extend this deal," Putin told reporters last week. "Enough is enough."

He said he wants an end to sanctions on the Russian Agricultural Bank and to restrictions on shipping and insurance that he insists have hampered agricultural exports.

Some companies have been wary of doing business with Russia because of sanctions, but Western allies have made assurances that food and fertilizer are exempt.

"It's not uncommon in situations like this for countries to use whatever levers they have to try and get sanctions regimes changed," said Simon Evenett, professor of international trade and economic development at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres sent a letter to Putin proposing to ease transactions through the agricultural bank, a spokesperson said.

Russian "claims that its agriculture sector is suffering are countered by the reality" that production and exports are up since before the war, Welsh said.

Russia exported a record 45.5 million metric tons of wheat in the 2022-2023 trade year, with another all-time high of 47.5 million metric tons expected in 2023-2024, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture estimates.

WHO IS AFFECTED?

The International Rescue Committee calls the grain deal a "lifeline for the 79 countries and 349 million people on the frontlines of food insecurity."

East Africa, for instance, has seen both severe drought and flooding, destroying crops for 2.2 million people who depend on farming for their livelihoods, said Shashwat Saraf, the group's regional emergency director for East Africa.

"It is critical that the deal is extended for a longer term to create some predictability and stability," he said.

Countries that depend on imported food, from Lebanon to Egypt, would need to find suppliers outside the Black Sea region, which would raise costs because they are farther away, analysts say.

That would compound costs for countries that also have seen their currencies weaken and debt levels grow because they pay for food shipments in dollars.

For low-income countries and people, food "will be less affordable" if the grain deal isn't renewed, World Food Program chief economist Arif Husain told reporters.

WHAT ABOUT UKRAINE?

Ukraine's economy depends on agriculture, and before the war, 75% of its grain exports went through the Black Sea.

It can send its food by land or river through Europe, so it wouldn't be cut off from world markets if the grain deal ends, but those routes have a lower capacity than sea shipments and have stirred anger from farmers in neighboring countries.

Nonetheless, the Ukrainian Grain Association wants to send more grain through the Danube River to neighboring Romania's Black Sea ports, saying it's possible to double monthly exports along that route to 4 million metric tons.

Ukraine's wheat shipments have fallen by more than 40% from its pre-war average, with the USDA expecting 10.5 million metric tons exported in the coming year.

Ukraine has accused Russia of slowing down inspections of ships, which along with no new ships joining, has led to a drop in exports from a high of 4.2 million metric tons in October to 2 million in June.

WHAT ELSE AFFECTS FOOD SUPPLY?

Fallout from the pandemic, economic crises, drought and other climate factors affect the ability of people

tations," Chow said.

Earlier this year, growth was boosted as people flocked to shopping malls and restaurants after nearly three years of "zero-COVID" restrictions were removed in late 2022.

The government's growth target of "around 5%" was seen as a conservative goal. It can only be met if the economy maintains close to its current level of growth.

Data released earlier showed exports declined 12.4% in June from a year earlier as global demand faltered after central banks in U.S. and Europe raised interest rates to curb inflation.

Retail sales, an indicator of consumer demand, in June rose 3.1% from the same period in 2022. That's seen as a strong point, but not strong enough, analysts said.

Industrial output, which measures activity in the manufacturing, mining and utilities sectors, beat analyst's expectations, rising by 4.4% in June compared to the same month a year earlier.

China's policymakers are not having to fight inflation, but may end up having to contend with its opposite, deflation, or falling prices due to weak demand. In recent months, the authorities have tried to spur lending and spending, with mixed success.

Fixed-asset investment — spending on factory equipment, construction and other infrastructure projects to drive growth — rose by a still tepid 3.8% for the first half of 2023 compared to the same period of 2022.

GOP vs. FBI: A Republican campaign to stop a new FBI headquarters is revving up after Trump probes

By LISA MASCARO AP Congressional Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Speaker Kevin McCarthy suggested recently he might stop the FBI from relocating its downtown headquarters to a new facility planned for the Washington suburbs, it was more than idle thinking about an office renovation.

The nod from the Republican speaker is elevating a once-fringe proposal to upend the FBI in the aftermath of the federal indictment of Donald Trump over classified documents and the Justice Department's prosecution of his allies, including some of the nearly 1,000 people charged in the Jan. 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol.

Moving from far-right corners into the mainstream, the emerging effort to overhaul the nation's premier law enforcement agency is rooted in increasingly forceful conservative complaints about an overly biased FBI that they claim is being weaponized against them.

"This is a pretty dramatic reversal of what the politics would have been 50 years ago," said Beverly Gage, a historian at Yale who won a 2023 Pulitzer Prize for her biography of the legendary FBI director, "G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century."

The shifting attitudes among Republican members of Congress toward the FBI underscore the way Trump's personal grievances have become legislative policy. Once the party of law and order, Republicans are now antagonists of federal law enforcement, undermining a storied institution and attacking Justice Department officials whose work is foundational to American democracy.

While political criticism of the FBI has followed the bureau since its founding with Hoover, who famously wiretapped civil rights leaders and orchestrated the infiltration of left-wing political organizations, the right-flank campaign against federal law enforcement had mostly simmered at the margins of party politics.

But the Justice Department's indictment of Trump, who has pleaded not guilty to 37 felony counts over storing and refusing to return classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago club, and the ongoing prosecution of Trump supporters who stormed the Capitol, have fueled conservative anger. The Justice Department is also investigating Trump and his allies over the effort to challenge President Joe Biden's election in the run-up to the 2021 Capitol attack.

Conservatives criticize the federal law enforcement on multiple fronts; among them, its work with social media companies to flag potentially dangerous postings, and a COVID-era memo from Attorney General Merrick Garland directing resources to combat violence against school officials. They compare the Trump

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investigations with what they say was a sweetheart deal for Hunter Biden, the president's son, who is pleading guilty to misdemeanor tax evasion after a long investigation.

"Looking at the actions of the FBI, I think the whole leadership needs to change," McCarthy told reporters at the Capitol last month.

Fresh from a visit with law enforcement in California, McCarthy said he envisions decentralizing the FBI by spreading operations into the states.

"This idea that we're going to build a new, big Pentagon and put all the FBI mainly in one place, I don't think it's a good structure," McCarthy said Friday, panning a conservative-led proposal to relocate the FBI to Alabama.

"I'd like to see the structure of a much smaller FBI administration building, and more FBI agents out across the country, helping to keep the country safe," he said. "To me that's better."

In many ways, the resistance to a robust federal law enforcement agency extends a thread that has run across American history — from the aftermath of the Civil War, when Southern states rejected federal troops for Reconstruction, to Trump's own 2024 campaign announcement in Waco, Texas, a region known for the federal siege of a separatist compound in 1993.

"The Washington headquarters is symbolic," said Steven G. Bradbury, a former Trump administration general counsel who is now a senior fellow at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank.

Heritage is among those outside entities and advocacy organizations encouraging Congress to reimagine the FBI.

Bradbury's "How to Fix the FBI" report outlines nearly a dozen options. One is scaling back its jurisdiction. Another is to overhaul section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, known as FISA, that was part of the Trump-Russia investigation over 2016 election interference and is a program some Democrats also want to limit.

"We have our finger on the pulse of what conservatives are reacting to," said Bradbury. "The FBI needs to be rebuilt."

Last week, FBI Director Christopher Wray appeared before the House Judiciary Committee for the first time since Republicans took control in January, facing a long list of criticisms, complaints and accusations of bias at the bureau.

"Are you protecting the Bidens?" asked Rep. Matt Gaetz, R-Fla.

"Absolutely not," Wray said.

At another point Wray said, "The idea that I'm biased against conservatives seems somewhat insane to me, given my own personal background."

He is a longtime Republican who had been appointed by Trump to fill the job after Director James Comey was fired in 2017.

Wray told the lawmakers that dismantling or defunding the FBI would be disastrous for the bureau's 38,000 employees and "hurt our great state local law enforcement partners that depend on us each day to work with them on a whole slew of challenging threats."

Democratic Rep. Pramila Jayapal, the chair of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, called the hearing "bizarre."

"I didn't think I would ever see Republicans attacking a Republican appointed by Donald Trump to lead the nation's largest law enforcement agency, essentially saying they want to defund the FBI," she said.

The lawmaker said it was also odd to find herself defending the federal law enforcement agency that she, too, believes needs strong oversight from Congress. But she felt Democrats had to step in to counter Republican attacks on the FBI.

"That's their message: They want to shut down the FBI because the FBI is continuing to investigate Donald Trump," said Jayapal. "And that is really what this is about."

Judiciary Committee Chairman Rep. Jim Jordan, R-Ohio, submitted a proposal before the hearing that calls for "eliminating taxpayer funding for any new FBI headquarter facility."

Jordan said in a letter to the Republican chair of the House appropriations committee that he also wants a plan for moving the FBI headquarters out of Washington, noting an existing facility in Huntsville, Ala-

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bama — a recommendation Heritage has also made.

“One of the goals we’ve set in this Congress as Republicans is to do the oversight so we can impact the appropriations process,” Jordan said in a brief interview at the Capitol, and “put limitations on how taxpayer money is spent to stop the weaponization of these agencies against the American people.”

Democratic Sen. Tim Kaine of Virginia, which is competing with neighboring Maryland to host the new FBI headquarters, called the Republican ideas “a solution in search of a problem.”

“I think they just got a political bug against federal law enforcement agencies,” he said.

Parity, bigger field mean there could be surprises at the Women’s World Cup

By ANNE M. PETERSON AP Sports Writer

There could be some some surprises at the Women’s World Cup.

Sure, the U.S. is still considered dominant, and those elite European teams have developed even more with the rise of competitive clubs. Then there’s Brazil, which always seems on the verge of a breakout.

But an expanded field of 32 teams at the tournament starting Thursday in Australia and New Zealand means more players will see the international spotlight — and they no doubt want to prove they belong.

Consider Japan.

Back in 2011, Japan wasn’t expected to make the semifinals, let alone the championship match. But the Japanese, reeling from the earthquake and tsunami that devastated their country earlier that year, rallied and beat the Americans on penalties after a 2-2 draw, and in the process became the first Asian team to win soccer’s top prize.

That was the last Women’s World Cup that wasn’t won by the United States. The No. 1-ranked Americans aim to make it three in a row.

U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski is well aware that other countries are catching up. He pointed to Zambia’s exhibition victory over Germany in the run-up to the tournament.

“The top 10 have always been there. The world that is catching up is Wales, is Vietnam, is Zambia, Portugal. These are these are the countries that are catching up. The 7-0, 8-0 games are gone. And we can see that Germany plays against Zambia, loses 3-2. Those games are going to happen,” Andonovski said. “And that’s what we are preparing ourselves for, so we don’t run into into a game like that with the mentality that it’s gonna be easy. No game is gonna be easy. It doesn’t matter who’s in front of us.”

Canada is considered among those top teams, particularly after winning the Olympic gold medal at Tokyo. But coach Bev Priestman suggested that growing parity means there are no givens.

“It could really throw up some surprises just on tournament football, you can lose group-stage games and then go on to win the thing. So yeah, it’s it’s tighter than it’s ever been,” Priestman said.

There are eight teams on debut at the tournament, including Ireland, Vietnam, Zambia, Haiti, Morocco, Panama, Portugal and Philippines. While most stand little chance against the likes of France or Sweden, there’s always that hope.

And there’s hope that the international stage will help push federations to invest in more for the teams that don’t traditionally have support.

“A lot of federations are slowly getting into the trend of being better,” South Africa forward Thembi Kgatlang said. “A lot of those girls in those countries have been professional athletes, so they have an idea of what it means to be a professional. And when they go back to the respective national teams, they are able to also help and say ‘Hey, we need this, we need that.’ It kind of forces the national teams to also adapt into the trends of changing and becoming better.”

MORE THAN A GAME

Players are well aware that the World Cup gives them the platform to speak about inequity, human rights and a whole host of social issues.

At the World Cup final four years ago in France, fans chanted “Equal Pay!” in support of the Americans’

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fight for equitable compensation to their male national team counterparts. The players struck a contract that equalized pay last year.

Now other teams are joining the call for better pay and conditions. A group of international players, backed by the global players association FIFPRO, called on FIFA to increase prize money and make sure that each player at the tournament gets a share of those funds.

As a result, all 736 players participating at this World Cup will each get at least \$30,000, an amount that increases the further teams advances in the tournament. FIFPRO has vowed to make the money gets to the players.

The overall fund for this World Cup is \$152 million, covering prize money, team preparation and payments to players' clubs. That's a 300% increase over the funds for the 24-team edition in 2019, and 10 times what it was in 2015.

IT'S JUST A NUMBER

It's hard to say who has had more of an impact on women's soccer in their home countries: Canada's Christine Sinclair or Brazil's Marta. Both players will be making their sixth appearance at the World Cup.

Sinclair, 40, holds the international scoring record, among both men and women, with 190 career goals. She's played in 323 games for Canada.

Marta, 37, a six-time FIFA World Player of the Year, has scored 115 goals for Brazil in 174 appearances. Marta is the tournament's all-time leading scorer with 17 goals and will vie to be the first player to score in six World Cups.

They are not the only players to make a sixth World Cup roster: Nigeria's Onome Ebi, 40, is about a month older than Sinclair and is the oldest in the tournament.

THE KIDS ARE ALRIGHT

Casey Phair, an American-born forward on South Korea's squad, turned 16 on June 29 and is the youngest person on a tournament roster. She's one of four 16-year-old players in World Cup squads.

The United States boasts teenager Alyssa Thompson, who plays for Angel City in the National Women's Soccer League. Just 18, she missed her high school graduation because of soccer.

A LOOK BACK

The U.S. women ran through a gauntlet of tough teams — first host France in the quarterfinals and then England in the semis — before beating Netherlands 2-0 in the final to win the 2019 World Cup. Sweden defeated England in the third-place match.

DETAILS, DETAILS

The co-hosts are in action on the tournament's opening day, with New Zealand facing Norway in Auckland followed by Australia against Ireland in Sydney.

The United States opens against Vietnam on Saturday in Auckland, but because of the time difference, viewers in North America will watch on Friday.

The top two teams from each of the eight groups will advance to the knockout stage, which begins on Aug. 5. The championship game is set for Aug. 20.

More AP coverage of the Women's World Cup: <https://apnews.com/hub/fifa-womens-world-cup>

10 years since bankruptcy, Detroit's finances are better but city workers and retirees feel burned

By COREY WILLIAMS Associated Press

DETROIT (AP) — Mike Berent has spent more than 27 years rushing into burning houses in Detroit, pulling people to safety and ensuring his fellow firefighters get out alive.

But as the 52-year-old Detroit Fire Department lieutenant approaches mandatory retirement at age 60, he says one thing is clear: He will need to keep working to make ends meet.

"I'm trying to put as much money away as I can," said Berent, who also works in sales. "A second job

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affords you to have a little bit of extra.”

Thousands of city employees and retirees lost big on July 18, 2013, when a state-appointed manager made Detroit the largest U.S. city to file for bankruptcy.

A decade later, the Motor City has risen from the ashes of insolvency, with balanced budgets, revenue increases and millions of dollars socked away. But Berent and others who spent years on Detroit’s payroll say they can’t help but feel left behind.

“You become a firefighter because that’s your passion and you’ll make a decent living. You would retire with a good pension,” said Berent, who told The Associated Press that his monthly pension payments will be more than \$1,000 lower than expected due to the bankruptcy.

Berent’s city-funded healthcare also ends with retirement, five years before he’s eligible for Medicare.

“I don’t see us ever getting healthcare back,” he said. “It’s going to have to come out of our pensions.”

The architect of the bankruptcy filing was Kevyn Orr, a lawyer hired by then-Gov. Rick Snyder in 2013 to fix Detroit’s budget deficit and its underfunded pensions, healthcare costs and bond payments.

Detroit exited bankruptcy in December 2014 with about \$7 billion in debt restructured or wiped out and \$1.7 billion set aside to improve city services. Businesses, foundations and the state donated more than \$800 million to soften the pension cuts and preclude the sale of city-owned art.

The pension cuts were necessary, Orr insisted.

“I’ve read about the pain, the very real pain,” he told the AP. “But the alternatives of what was going to happen — just on the math — would have been significantly worse.”

In 2013, Detroit had some 21,000 retired workers who were owed benefits, with underfunded obligations of about \$3.5 billion for pensions and \$5.7 billion for retiree health coverage.

In the months before the bankruptcy, state-backed bond money helped the city meet payroll for its 10,000 employees.

“Those problems were well on their way years or decades before we got there,” Orr said.

Daniel Varner, the president and chief executive of Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit, which provides on-the-job training and skilled labor to businesses, called the bankruptcy filing “heartbreaking.”

“In some ways, it represented the failure of all of us who had been working so hard to achieve the (city’s) renaissance,” Varner said. “On the flip side ... maybe this is the fresh start? I think we’ve been making great progress.”

The city, which was subject to state oversight and a state-monitored spending plan for years after the bankruptcy filing, has reported nine consecutive years of balanced budgets and strong cash surpluses.

Mike Duggan was elected mayor and took office in 2014. Hoping to slow the exodus of people and businesses from Detroit — its population plummeted from about 1.8 million in 1950 to below 700,000 in 2013 — and increase the tax base, Duggan’s administration began pushing improvements to city services and quality of life.

More than 24,000 abandoned houses and other vacant structures were demolished, mostly using federal funds. Thousands more were renovated and put on the market to attract or keep families in Detroit.

“Very little of our recovery had anything to do with the bankruptcy,” Duggan said Tuesday, pointing to business developments and neighborhood improvement projects. “The economic development strategy is what’s driving it.”

Jay Aho and his wife, Tanya, have seen improvements in their eastside neighborhood. Along nearby Sylvester Street, about half a dozen vacant homes have been torn down and just one ramshackle house remains, with peeling siding, sagging roof and surrounded by waist-high weeds, trees and a thriving rose bush. Rabbits, deer and pheasants have started to appear in the grass and weed-filled vacant lots.

“We benefit from having lots of open space, beautiful surroundings,” said Jay Aho, 49.

Born in southwest Detroit, 32-year-old Arielle Kyer also sees improvements.

“There were no parks like what there are now,” she said at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for a new splash pad attended by Duggan. “Everything is different.”

Downtown, boutique hotels and upscale restaurants have sprung up, and a 685-foot (208-meter) skyscraper under construction is expected to host a hotel, a restaurant, shops, offices and residential units.

to get enough to eat.

There are 45 countries that need food assistance, the Food and Agriculture Organization said in a July report. High domestic food prices are driving hunger in most of those countries, including Haiti, Ukraine, Venezuela and several in Africa and Asia.

While drought can also be a problem for major grain suppliers, analysts see other countries producing enough grain to counterbalance any losses from Ukraine.

Besides Russia's huge exports, Europe and Argentina are increasing wheat shipments, while Brazil saw a banner year for corn.

"These markets adapt and producers adapt — and boy, the wheat and corn markets have adapted very, very quickly," said Peter Meyer, head of grain analytics at S&P Global Commodity Insights.

AP reporter Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations contributed.

See AP's complete coverage of the war in Ukraine at <https://apnews.com/hub/russia-ukraine> and the food crisis at <https://apnews.com/hub/food-crisis>.

China's economy misses growth forecasts, raising the odds of more support for its tepid recovery

By ZEN SOO AP Business Writer

HONG KONG (AP) — China's economic growth missed forecasts in the second quarter of the year, adding to worries over surging youth unemployment and a weak property sector and raising the likelihood the government will double down on support for the faltering post COVID-19 recovery.

The world's second largest economy grew at a 6.3% annual pace in the April-June quarter, much slower than the 7% plus growth analysts had forecast given the anemic pace of activity the year before.

Unemployment of youths aged 16 to 24 rose to a record 21.3% in June, up from 20.8% the month before.

Investment in property development, a vital driver of both industrial and consumer demand, sank 7.9% in the first half of the year compared to a year earlier in a troubling sign of persisting weakness in an industry that slowed even before the pandemic as the government moved to rein in excessive borrowing.

Officials have acknowledged that the economy is facing stiff headwinds, but said they expected growth to still reach the ruling Communist Party's official target for this year of about 5%.

The government will adjust policies to stabilize growth, National Bureau of Statistics spokesman Fu Linghui said at a news conference Monday.

Quarterly growth, the usual measure for other major economies, was 0.8%, according to government data released Monday, in line with expectations but down sharply from 2.2% in January-June.

Analysts have been far less optimistic than the Chinese government about the outlook for the year, given weakening demand for Chinese exports in other major economies.

The numbers are a "worrying result," said Moody's Analytics economist Harry Murphy Cruise.

"China's recovery is going from bad to worse," he said. "After a sugar injection in the opening months of 2023, the pandemic hangover is plaguing China's recovery."

Government spending is likely to help key industries like real estate and construction, but won't be a "silver bullet," he said in a commentary.

The 6.3% growth in China's gross domestic product from April to June outpaced a 4.5% expansion in the previous quarter.

The still robust growth is largely due to the economy growing just 0.4% a year earlier in April-June of 2022 amid strict lockdowns in Shanghai and other cities during COVID-19 outbreaks.

Apart from more government spending, regulators may cut interest rates and take other measures to free up credit, Marcella Chow, global market strategist at J.P. Morgan Asset Management wrote in a report.

"The weak economic readings suggest an urgency in escalating policy support so as to stabilize expect-

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Corktown, a neighborhood just east of downtown, got a boost in 2018 when Ford Motor Co. bought and began renovating the hulking Michigan Central train station, which for years was a symbol of the city's blight. The building will be part of a campus focusing on autonomous vehicles.

Ford's move has attracted other investment, according to Aaron Black, the general manager of the nearby \$75 million Godfrey Hotel, which is scheduled to open this year and whose owners also are developing homes in the neighborhood.

"The (city's) brand may have been dented," Black said. "The brand may have been tarnished, but Detroit is head and shoulders above a lot of other competitive cities."

Some warn against too much optimism.

Detroit's two pension systems have been making monthly payments to retirees without any contributions from the city for the past decade. That is set to change next year when the city will be required to resume contributions from a city-created fund that now stands at about \$470 million.

Detroit's Chief Financial Officer Jay Rising says both pension systems are better funded than a decade ago. But Leonard Gilroy, senior managing director of the Washington-based Reason Foundation's Pension Integrity Project, says his data shows the systems' funding levels near where they were in 2013.

"It's a big moment for the city that presents daunting future fiscal challenges to avoid further deterioration of the pensions," Gilroy said. "They are getting the keys back to fund their pension system, which would be a huge responsibility if these plans were fully funded, and is that much more of a challenge given their fragile, underfunded state."

South Korea's death toll from destructive rainstorm grows to 40 as workers search for survivors

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Heavy downpours lashed South Korea for a ninth day on Monday as rescue workers struggled to search for survivors in landslides, buckled homes and swamped vehicles in the most destructive storm to hit the country this year.

At least 40 people have died, 34 others are injured and more than 10,000 people have had to evacuate from their homes since July 9, when heavy rain started pounding the country. The severest damage has been concentrated in South Korea's central and southern regions.

In the central city of Cheongju, hundreds of rescue workers, including divers, continued to search for survivors in a muddy tunnel where about 15 vehicles, including a bus, got trapped in a flash flood that may have filled up the passageway within minutes Saturday evening.

The government has deployed nearly 900 rescue workers to the tunnel who have so far pulled up 13 bodies and rescued nine people who were treated for injuries. It wasn't immediately clear how many people were in the submerged cars.

As of Monday afternoon, rescue workers had pumped out most of the water from the tunnel and were searching the site on foot, a day after they used rubber boats to move and transport bodies on stretchers.

Hundreds of emergency workers, soldiers and police were also looking for any survivors in the southeastern town of Yecheon, where at least nine people were dead and eight others listed as missing after landslides destroyed homes and buckled roads, the county office said.

Photos from the scene showed fire and police officers using search dogs while wading through knee-high mud and debris from destroyed homes.

Nearly 200 homes and around 150 roads were damaged or destroyed across the country, while 28,607 people were without electricity over the past several days, the Ministry of the Interior and Safety said in a report.

The Korea Meteorological Administration maintained heavy rain warnings across large swaths of the country. Torrential rains were dumping up to 3 centimeters (1.2 inches) per hour in some southern areas. The office said the central and southern regions could still get as much as 20 centimeters (7.9 inches) of additional rain through Tuesday.

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Returning from a trip to Europe and Ukraine, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol held an emergency government meeting. He called for officials to designate the areas hit hardest as special disaster zones to help funnel more financial and logistical assistance into relief efforts.

Yoon later visited Yecheon where he was briefed on the search and rescue efforts.

Golf has long been about making connections. That won't change in an LIV-PGA Tour world

By WILL GRAVES AP Sports Writer

Kerry Bowie's daughters have dreams. Big ones. His 15-year-old wants to go to law school, maybe dabble in politics. His 12-year-old plans to be a business magnate.

And while their schedules are jammed with everything from piano and violin lessons to soccer and volleyball tournaments, at some point this summer Bowie plans to take them to Franklin Park in the heart of Boston, place a golf club in their hands and have them learn about a game whose influence extends far beyond fairways and greens.

"There are some things people miss out on by not doing it," Bowie says. "To be that young lady who plays golf, it changes things."

Especially in the corporate world, where the golf course — and sometimes the 19th hole, the driving range or the locker room — can open doors that shareholder meetings, working lunches, Zoom calls and cocktail mixers cannot.

THERE'S A LONG RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOLF AND POWER

If Bowie needs to offer his daughters proof, he need only point to the way the tectonic plates under pro golf moved last month, when the acrimonious standoff between the PGA Tour and LIV Golf ended with a staggering deal that materialized seemingly out of nowhere. It's a detente whose groundwork was laid by quiet negotiations between leaders of both organizations during a round at a tony private golf club southwest of London.

But the golf course's reputation as a safe space where business can get done and careers — professional, political or otherwise — can be forever altered is hardly new.

Steel magnate Andrew Carnegie agreed to a merger between his company with one led by J.P. Morgan after a round at The Saint Andrew's Golf Club in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York in the early 1900s. Nearly every U.S. president over the last century has put a tee in the ground with Secret Service, advisors, allies, rivals — and occasionally an agenda — in tow.

So it's not a coincidence that most Fortune 500 CEOs believe golf has helped their career. No wonder as many as 90% of business executives have taken up the game, seeing it as a way to unwind while also making connections far away from the formality of an office setting.

No suits. No ties. No heels. No briefcases or sling bags. No computers and (hopefully) no phones. Just a sport that can be equally frustrating to all regardless of skill level, with ample amounts of downtime in between shots to talk — and, just as important, to get a gauge of just who exactly you're playing with.

"When you're on the golf course with someone, it's the best place to learn about their ethics and their values and their emotional intelligence as well," said Susan Ascher, president and CEO of New Jersey-based consulting firm The Ascher Group. "Whether they're good or bad golfers doesn't matter. Are they concerned about the welfare of the game of the people they're playing with? Are they considerate of you?"

Golf's reputation, however, comes with baggage. The game has traditionally been played by the affluent — most of them men, most of them white — some of whom organized country clubs that can set the parameters of membership at their discretion. That has, historically, included racism, sexism and anti-Semitism.

"It's been a man's sport," said Dr. Deborah Gray, a marketing professor at Central Michigan University. "Research shows that golf is a legacy thing. It's generational."

And in that way, exclusionary, whether intentionally or unintentionally.

THE CULTURE IS AT THE TOP AND IN EVERYDAY PLAY

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LIV was born in part out of Saudi Arabia's bid to fulfill the "Vision 2030" initiative created by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman. The vision includes investing heavily in sports and entertainment in hopes of diversifying the country's economy, and lessening its reliance on its massive oil reserves.

The upstart organization failed to make much of a dent globally. TV ratings in the U.S., in particular, were a fraction of what the PGA Tour draws weekly. Yet in less than 12 months it managed to bring the PGA to the negotiating table, creating a partnership that gives the Saudis the access to the U.S. golf world that LIV had been trying — and failing — to secure.

The alliance between LIV and the PGA Tour has been met with skepticism and a raised eyebrow in most circles, including the U.S. Congress. As members of both tours gather at this week's British Open at Royal Liverpool, the leadership that put the deal together are hoping both the public and the players themselves will be able to strip away the sensitive politics — not easy, given Saudi Arabia's human rights abuses — and look at the bottom line.

The fact that the pact was between two groups in a sport whose image is so closely aligned with the corporate world — witness those massive sponsor tents that ring the fairways at PGA Tour events — could be considered a case of sport imitating life.

Last month's announcement appeared to come out of the blue — to the general public and in many cases, the golfers themselves. There was no paper trail. No leaks. Just a paradigm-altering decision reached quietly. Maybe too quietly. All of it symbolic of a game steeped in the culture of connections.

While Gray can see the still-murky LIV-PGA partnership eventually working, she's unconcerned about it affecting people picking up the game. To her, most business professionals who play can draw a distinct line between their feelings about the top of the sport and the benefits and relationship-building that take place when an afternoon conference call turns into a friendly nine holes.

Alisha Jernack certainly has. She began taking lessons about a decade ago not out of some deep-rooted calling but as a means to an end. In her 20s at the time, she couldn't help but notice the number of executives and managers at Mazars, the international audit, tax and advisory firm where she worked, who went out to the course together. There were conversations being had that she felt compelled to be a part of.

She saw only one solution: grab a club and swing away.

"I had no interest prior," said Jernack. "I saw it as an opportunity to advance in my career."

Jernack draws a direct line from some of the relationships she has established on the golf course to increased opportunities at work. "Quite often," she says, the people she meets "are able to refer business opportunities back and forth to each other because we know what we do." She became a partner at Mazars in 2020.

While the groups Jernack often plays with can still be male-dominated, she's noticed a slight shift in the demographics of late. So has Ascher, who began organizing "Course Connection" outings at Montclair Golf Club about 10 years ago. The outings — about three to four a year — include instruction and a nine-hole scramble followed by a mixer. Ascher estimates the gender split is pretty equal, with interest among women "exploding" in recent years.

"Women are seeing that, yeah, if the guys are doing it and they're making deals on the golf course, why can't I?" Ascher said.

Women, however, face obstacles that men do not, particularly when it comes to child care. Gray has been an advocate for increasing opportunities for women to get involved with the game, something she believes can be done by having outings scheduled into the work day instead of after hours or on weekends. She notes, though, that women may need to adjust their mindset when they hop in a cart.

"Men tend to network with people who can help them," Gray said. "They are more strategic and utilitarian. Women are more true to self. They tend to network with people they like."

HELPING OPEN GOLF TO NEW GROUPS OF PLAYERS

Golf, with its thick rule book and unwritten etiquette — no stepping in someone's line on the green, and please replace your divots — can be difficult for newcomers. Yet Steve Branch sees the game as vital to career development, one of the reasons he helped start the "Writing The Code" program at MIT's Sloan

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School of Management last fall.

Branch, who holds the post of diversity and belonging leader at the school, bumped into Michael Packard, foundation director of PGA REACH New England, at an analytics conference a couple of years ago. A light-bulb moment followed.

"Minority students could have a leg up if introduced to the game before they needed to play the game in the future," Branch said. "So I saw this as an introductory opportunity to, let's say, give them a chance to learn before they needed to be counted on to leverage a promotion or leverage a career opportunity going forward."

More than 30 students representing 11 countries participated in an inaugural event last fall that included instruction from teaching professionals and analysis of their golf swings. It also gave them a chance to talk to alumni who believe being around the game made a direct impact in their lives — alumni like Bowie, 51, who was managing chemical gas systems at Texas Instruments in the late 1990s when he was introduced to golf. The facilitators? A group of managers, most of whom, like Bowie, were Black.

"I was like, 'golf'? I'm from Alabama, I grew up playing football and basketball and baseball," Bowie says.

He grew up not far from a golf course in a small town. To this day, he's never stepped foot on the first tee. "You didn't go play golf," he said. "It really wasn't something that was open to you."

Bowie is now a managing partner at MSAAD Partners, a firm that provides technical assistance to promote entrepreneurship and innovation in communities of color. He admits, laughing, that his game remains a work in progress, but he sees his relationship with golf as emblematic of what he hopes is the changing face of the sport.

The game has provided a connective tissue for Bowie and a handful of former classmates who go on yearly golf getaways together. Those getaways can serve as an incubator, a place where in between all the trash talk and poker games, things are getting done.

"People are getting hired on those trips," he says. "People have launched businesses or talked about what they're going to be doing on those trips. These types of things definitely happen."

That's one of the reasons Bowie is intent on making sure his daughters understand the difference between a five-iron and a fairway wood.

"If they're golfers," he says, "it's going to open up more doors for them."

Associated Press Sports Writer Will Graves is based in Pittsburgh. Follow him on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/WillGravesAP>

Mexico beats Panama 1-0 in CONCACAF Gold Cup final as Giménez scores 88th-minute goal

By GREG BEACHAM AP Sports Writer

INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Eight months and two coaches after Mexico crashed out of an embarrassing World Cup, most of the same players triumphantly raised the CONCACAF Gold Cup amid confetti and raucous cheers Sunday night.

El Tri has reversed its fortunes with stunning speed, and its winning goal at SoFi Stadium came on an end-to-end play that was every bit as dramatic.

Late substitute Santiago Giménez scored after an electrifying sprint in the 88th minute, and Mexico won the Gold Cup for the record ninth time with a 1-0 victory over Panama.

After Edson Álvarez slid to block Iván Anderson's cross in the Mexico penalty area, Orbelín Pineda dribbled away and made a tremendous pass into the center circle. Giménez, the 22-year-old Feyenoord forward, dribbled past Harold Cummings and outraced Cummings and Fidel Escobar into the penalty area.

Giménez scuffed a bouncing left-foot shot over goalkeeper Orlando Mosquera for his fourth goal in 18 international appearances and his second of the tournament.

"It's the biggest moment of my career," Giménez said. "I just tried to get down the field quickly. We followed our principles throughout the game, and they worked perfectly. The result was great, because

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there were a lot of competitive teams in this tournament.”

The goal by the Argentina-born Giménez, who came on only three minutes earlier, set off a frenzied celebration at a Southern California stadium packed with fans celebrating Mexico’s revival in this biennial CONCACAF tournament. After Mexico was eliminated in the group stage of the World Cup for the first time since 1978, El Tri rebounded with an excellent tournament under interim coach Jaime Lozano, who took over the beleaguered program only a month ago after a Nations League loss to the U.S.

“Today the environment was like being in a World Cup,” said Lozano, whose contract is only for this tournament. “It wasn’t like a Gold Cup. I’m dreaming after I saw a stadium like we saw today, and to provide people with the happiness we’ve seen. Again, the team gave everything. We knew that we were writing history, and you have to take these opportunities.”

Mexico, which allowed just two goals in its matches, has won this tournament more than all other nations combined. The U.S. has seven Gold Cup titles and Canada one.

Giménez’s heroics ended an inspiring Gold Cup run by Panama, which upset the U.S. in the semifinals to earn its third appearance in the final. Los Canaleros couldn’t get several solid scoring chances past veteran Mexican goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa.

Panama also lost the Gold Cup final in 2005 and 2013, both to the U.S.

“We gave everything we had,” coach Thomas Christiansen said through a translator. “The team died standing. There is nothing I can regret from my players. Some people remove the (postgame) medals when they are the runner-ups, but I told them they should be proud of the achievements because of the soccer they played.”

While the Gold Cup is notorious for featuring half-strength national teams, Mexico began the final with eight starters who also started at last year’s World Cup.

Mexico dominated play for most of the first half with 14 shots, but Panama defended capably. Henry Martín appeared to put Mexico ahead in the 33rd minute with a close-range goal, but a video review several minutes after the play found him offside.

Pineda and Martín both had tantalizing chances in the 43rd minute, but Mosquera stopped their consecutive point-blank shots.

Panama got its best scoring chance shortly after halftime, but Alberto Quintero put his header just wide of the far post. Edgar Bárcenas had another good-looking chance in the 87th minute, but missed wide from outside the box.

Moments later, Giménez scored his biggest goal for Mexico and gave optimism to fans hoping he’ll be the centerpiece of a new generation of Mexican talent.

Lozano, who coached Mexico’s Olympic team to a bronze medal in Tokyo two years ago, was hired to lead the Gold Cup campaign by Juan Carlos Rodríguez, who took over as Mexican Football Federation president only a month earlier. Mexico’s World Cup disappointment led to coach Tata Martino’s departure and Diego Cocca’s brief tenure before the arrival of Lozano, who largely relied on the core of his Olympic team at the Gold Cup.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino congratulated Lozano on stage and wished him luck for the 2026 World Cup cycle, unaware that Lozano’s contract is now up.

“I would love to be here,” Lozano said. “It’s a dream to lead my national team in the World Cup, specifically a World Cup that is going to be hosted by Mexico and (the U.S. and Canada). If it is me, I’m going to have to work hard with my coaching staff. If it isn’t me, I’m going to support the team.”

Anybody who thought the absence of the hosts’ national team would lead to an anticlimactic Gold Cup final doesn’t know Southern California very well: The sellout crowd south of downtown Los Angeles was overwhelmingly dominated by fans of El Tri, which is treated like the home team whenever it plays in this area -- even against the American team.

Just a month after frustrated Mexican fans boycotted the third-place match of the Nations League in Las Vegas against Panama, that passionate base returned in full voice to the Los Angeles Rams’ palatial NFL stadium.

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

Judge in Trump documents case under the spotlight as arguments near

By ERIC TUCKER and ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — A month after former President Donald Trump was charged with mishandling classified documents, the judge presiding over the case is set to take on a more visible role as she weighs competing requests on a trial date and hears arguments this week on a procedural, but potentially crucial, area of the law.

A pretrial conference Tuesday to discuss procedures for handling classified information will represent the first courtroom arguments in the case before U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon since Trump was indicted five weeks ago. The arguments could provide insight into how Cannon intends to preside over the case while she also confronts the unresolved question of how to schedule Trump's trial as he campaigns for president.

Those issues would be closely watched in any trial involving a former president. But Cannon could face additional scrutiny in light of a much-dissected ruling she issued last year that granted the Trump team's request for a special master to conduct an independent review of the reams of classified records removed by the FBI from his Mar-a-Lago estate. A three-judge federal appeals panel reversed her order, rebuking Cannon for a ruling it said she lacked the legal authority to make in the first place.

Cannon's ruling, in a lawsuit Trump brought against the Justice Department, elicited criticism from legal experts who saw her as overly preferential to the former president. It also focused public attention on her limited experience as a judge, particularly in hugely sensitive national security matters, given that she was appointed to the bench just three years ago by Trump.

Still, some Florida lawyers say there's no doubt, as the judge now assigned to Trump's criminal case, that she's mindful of the stakes of the most politically explosive federal prosecution in recent memory.

"She is not going to want to do anything but go by the book. The challenge is there has never been a book like this," said Kendall Coffey, a former U.S. Attorney in Miami who served on the advisory committee that reviewed Cannon's judicial application. He said he was impressed with her credentials and felt confident she would be able to oversee the case fairly.

"I think she is going to want to be very well-regarded for her judicial leadership of this case," Coffey said.

Jeffrey Garland, a criminal defense lawyer in Fort Pierce, Florida — where Cannon's courtroom is based — praised Cannon for her handling of a trial he had before her last year in which he represented a "quite difficult" defendant who'd been charged with throwing a chair at a federal prosecutor.

"She was able to maintain the dignity of the court and courtroom composure, and she was able to express control in ways that were not threatening," Garland said, adding that he assumed Cannon would be able to do the same in the Trump case. "I think she understands that's what a federal judge has to do in a case like this. It's true in any case, but especially in this case."

Cannon — a Duke University graduate and Colombian-born daughter of a Cuban immigrant — clerked for a U.S. Circuit Court judge and worked as an assistant U.S. attorney in Florida, prosecuting several dozen cases as part of her office's Major Crimes Division and later handling appeals of convictions and sentences, before being nominated by Trump in 2020. She's also been a member of the Federalist Society, a conservative legal organization.

Her ruling in the Trump lawsuit last September catapulted her into the spotlight since it effectively halted core aspects of the Justice Department's investigation into the hoarding of classified documents. In overturning the order, the appeals court said that letting it stand would have allowed a "radical reordering of our caselaw limiting the federal courts' involvement in criminal investigations."

As the judge assigned to Trump's criminal prosecution, she'll be empowered to issue rulings that could shape the trajectory of the case, including about what evidence can and can't be admitted and whether to proceed swiftly toward trial or grant the Trump team's request for a delay.

There have been few matters of substance for Cannon to decide in the month since Trump's indictment, though she did set a tentative August trial date — a formality under the Speedy Trial Act — in Fort Pierce and rebuffed a Justice Department request to file under seal a list of witness who prosecutors want Trump to be prohibited from discussing the case with.

But major issues lie ahead.

Prosecutors and defense lawyers are at odds over the trial date, a question with significant legal and political implications. The Justice Department has proposed a Dec. 11 trial, while defense lawyers have suggested that it should be put off until after the 2024 presidential election, citing the challenges of scheduling a date while Trump pursues the Republican nomination and legal issues that they say are "extraordinary" and complex.

It is not clear when that issue will be resolved.

Tuesday's status conference centers on the Classified Information Procedures Act, a 1980 law that governs how classified information is handled in a criminal prosecution and that will likely provide an essential roadmap in this case. The law is meant to balance a defendant's right to access evidence prosecutors intend to use at trial with the government's desire to safeguard sensitive, classified information.

Richard Serafini, a Florida criminal defense lawyer and former senior Justice Department official, said he did not necessarily believe Cannon's lack of experience in that area would be detrimental given the case law and past precedent she and the attorneys can turn to for consultation.

"These things aren't novel. They're not everyday occurrences, but it's not like, 'Oh, my goodness, there's no precedent on any of these things,'" he said.

Whatever happens, said Coffey, "the eyes of the world are on her. She is in the middle of writing a chapter in history."

Tucker reported from Washington.

The Vatican's next doctrinal guardian defends the book on kissing he wrote as a young priest

By ALMUDENA CALATRAVA Associated Press

LA PLATA, Argentina (AP) — Three decades ago, when he was a parish priest in Argentina, the man named by Pope Francis to be the Catholic Church's new guardian of doctrinal orthodoxy wrote a short book about kissing and the sensations it evokes.

Some conservative sectors in the church are using the reflections in "Heal Me with Your Mouth. The Art of Kissing" to criticize the designation of Archbishop Víctor Manuel Fernández to lead the Vatican's Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, a body once known as the Holy Office that for centuries was responsible for persecuting heretics, disciplining dissidents and enforcing sexual morality.

"These are ultra-conservative sectors that deeply hate the Argentine pontiff (Francis)," Fernández, the archbishop of La Plata, a city 70 kilometers (43 miles) south of Buenos Aires, told The Associated Press.

"They take a phrase from the book and say: 'Look at the level of this theologian. How can a person who uses these expressions be the prefect of the Doctrine of the Faith?'" said Fernández, who dreamed of being a poet when he was younger.

The 80-page book, published in 1995 but not longer in print, has emerged as a key point used to blast the appointment of the 60-year-old archbishop commonly known as "Tucho" to one of the Vatican's most powerful offices.

The book highlights the importance of kissing in human relationships, defining them as expressions of absolute love. "In English, 'Kiss,' in Italian, 'bacio,' in French, 'baiser,' in German, 'kuss,' in Portuguese, 'beijo.' Depending on how it's done, it is also often called 'peck,' 'sucking,' 'drilling,' etc.," the book says.

An article published earlier this month on Catholic news agency Zenit said that "everyone is talking about Monsignor Víctor Manuel Fernández ... and above all about his kisses."

Criticism of the archbishop, whose appointment was seen by some as an attempt to break with the past,

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has come from conservative religious figures in the United States.

"Pray that he returns to the Catholic faith," Joseph Strickland, bishop of Tyler, Texas, wrote on social media.

Fernández, who has long had a close relationship with the pope, a fellow Argentine, said he rejected later offers to reprint the book.

"I was already older, and I thought this is a book about the kiss ... so I said, 'No, no, no, please, don't reprint it, let's leave this in the past.' But well, now it's my karma," Fernández said with a laugh.

One of the excerpts from the book reads: "A couple with a lot of sex, a lot of sexual satisfaction, but few kisses that are genuine or with kisses that say nothing is digging the grave of love with each sexual encounter, creating routine, fatigue, and weariness until one of them finds something more human."

Fernández argued he can't be accused "of anything" because the work in question "contains no heresy or error." He stressed that the strategy of his critics is to "quote phrases" from the book repeatedly to question the pope for appointing someone with "such superficial theology and street language" to a key position.

The book includes a poem written by Fernández: "How was God so ruthless to give you that mouth... No one can resist, witch, hide it."

The cardinal complained on social media that critics mistranslated "bruja," or "witch," as "bitch."

Fernández said he wrote the book along with a group of young people when he was a parish priest in the Argentine town of Santa Teresita, in the central province of Córdoba. He said it was written as a catechesis for teenagers, with the contributions of his young collaborators, and he improved them by providing "a little editing."

In the book's introduction, Fernández wrote that the book was not written from his personal experience and that his goal was to summarize what "mortals" experience when they kiss.

Fernández says he has written dozens of texts since then and his critics should cite ones he has published in "top-level" journals. He has been the rector of the Catholic University of Argentina and head of the Argentine Society of Theology. He was recently named a cardinal.

"But they take this little youth catechism, from a poor parish priest from the countryside, and take phrases out of context," Fernández said.

In Argentina, Fernández has received some criticism on social media but has the support of the church in his homeland.

"He has given an excellent and clear explanation of the issue," said Máximo Jurcinovic, director of communications for the Argentine Episcopal Conference.

Fernández said the pope told him his task as head of the doctrinal office would be "guarding the teaching that stems from faith" in order to "give a reason for our hope, but not as enemies who point fingers and condemn."

The book is not the only piece of controversial writing Fernández has done in the past.

He has acknowledged that some of his writings were sent to the Vatican, anonymously, after then-Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio appointed him as rector of the Catholic University of Argentina in 2009. The controversy resulted in a two-year delay in his being cleared for the job.

Fernández wrote about the ordeal soon after Bergoglio was elected Pope Francis, recounting that a newspaper article he had penned about gay marriage had been included in the anonymous dossier and that an unnamed Vatican "congregation" -- believed to be the one responsible for Catholic education -- repeatedly refused to receive him to explain himself.

He has also had to acknowledge mistakes in his handling of a 2019 case involving a priest accused of sexually abusing minors. The case has drawn allegations by critics that Fernández tried to protect the priest, a charge that he has denied.

"Today I would certainly act very differently and certainly my performance was insufficient," he told AP after celebrating Mass in La Plata.

By appointing Fernández to head the Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, Francis seemed to indicate a desire for a break with the past.

"The Dicastery over which you will preside in other times came to use immoral methods. Those were

times when, rather than promoting theological knowledge, possible doctrinal errors were pursued. What I expect from you is certainly something very different," the pope wrote in a letter to Fernández.

German Cardinal Gerhard Müller, who served as prefect of the office until Francis fired him in 2017, said the new directives are out of place considering the mission of that department was to "protect and promote the revealed faith."

"This is not a theological academy or a talk show where everyone can express their opinion," Müller said on conservative U.S. broadcaster EWTN.

Fernández has characterized himself as a reformist who doesn't like to "break with everything," but advocates for a church that is "more inclusive, more respectful of different ways of living and thinking."

Associated Press journalist Nicole Winfield in Rome contributed to this report.

California's Death Valley sizzles as brutal heat wave continues

By JOHN LOCHER, ADAM BEAM and SETH BORENSTEIN Associated Press

DEATH VALLEY, Calif. (AP) — Long the hottest place on Earth, Death Valley put a sizzling exclamation point Sunday on a record warm summer that is baking nearly the entire globe by flirting with some of the hottest temperatures ever recorded, meteorologists said.

Temperatures in Death Valley, which runs along part of central California's border with Nevada, reached 128 degrees Fahrenheit (53.33 degrees Celsius) on Sunday at the aptly named Furnace Creek, the National Weather Service said.

The hottest temperature ever recorded on Earth was 134 F (56.67 C) in July 1913 at Furnace Creek, said Randy Ceverny of the World Meteorological Organization, the body recognized as keeper of world records. Temperatures at or above 130 F (54.44 C) have only been recorded on Earth a handful of times, mostly in Death Valley.

"With global warming, such temperatures are becoming more and more likely to occur," Ceverny, the World Meteorological Organization's records coordinator, said in an email. "Long-term: Global warming is causing higher and more frequent temperature extremes. Short-term: This particular weekend is being driven by a very very strong upper-level ridge of high pressure over the Western U.S."

Furnace Creek is an unincorporated community within Death Valley National Park. It's home to the park's visitor center, which includes a digital thermometer popular with tourists. On Sunday afternoon, dozens of people gathered at the thermometer — some wearing fur coats as a joke — hoping to snap a picture with a temperature reading that would shock their friends and family.

That digital thermometer hit 130 degrees at one point on Sunday, but it's not an official reading. The National Weather Service said the highest temperature recorded on Sunday was 128 F (53.3 C) — a high that was unlikely to be surpassed as the sun went down.

A few miles away at Badwater Basin — the lowest point in North America at 282 feet (85.95 meters) below sea level — tourists took selfies and briefly walked along the white salt flats ringed by sandy-colored mountains as wisps of clouds crawled overhead. Meteorologists say that thin cloud cover most likely kept temperatures from reaching potential record highs.

William Cadwallader lives in Las Vegas, where temperatures reached 116 F (46.67 C) on Sunday, nearing the all-time high of 117 degrees. But Cadwallader said he's been visiting Death Valley during the summer for years just to say he's been to the hottest place on Earth.

"I just want to go to a place, sort of like Mount Everest, to say, you know, you did it," he said.

The heat wave is just one part of the extreme weather hitting the U.S. over the weekend. Five people died in Pennsylvania on Saturday when heavy rains caused a sudden flash flood that swept away multiple cars. A 9-month-old boy and a 2-year-old girl remained missing. In Vermont, authorities were concerned about landslides as rain continued after days of flooding.

Death Valley's brutal temperatures come amid a blistering stretch of hot weather that has put roughly one-third of Americans under some type of heat advisory, watch or warning. Heat waves are not as visu-

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ally dramatic as other natural disasters, but experts say they are more deadly. A heat wave in parts of the South and Midwest killed more than a dozen people last month.

Residents in the western U.S. have long been accustomed to extreme temperatures, and the heat appeared to prompt minimal disruptions in California over the weekend. Local governments opened cooling centers for people without access to air conditioning to stay cool. The heat forced officials to cancel horse racing at the opening weekend of the California State Fair as officials urged fair-goers to stay hydrated and seek refuge inside one of the seven air-conditioned buildings.

Temperatures in Phoenix hit 114 F (45.56 C) on Sunday, the 17th consecutive day of 110 degrees or higher. The record is 18 days, set in June 1974. Phoenix is on track to break that record on Tuesday, said Gabriel Lojero, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service.

Heat records are being shattered all over the U.S. South, from California to Florida. But it's far more than that. It's worldwide, with devastating heat hitting Europe along with dramatic floods in the U.S. Northeast, India, Japan and China.

For nearly all of July, the world has been in uncharted hot territory, according to the University of Maine's Climate Reanalyzer.

June was also the hottest June on record, according to several weather agencies. Scientists say there is a decent chance that 2023 will go down as the hottest year on record, with measurements going back to the middle of the 19th century.

Death Valley dominates global heat records. In the valley, it's not only hot, it stays brutally warm.

Some meteorologists have disputed how accurate Death Valley's 110-year-old hot-temperature record is, with weather historian Christopher Burt disputing it for several reasons, which he laid out in a blog post a few years ago.

The two hottest temperatures on record are the 134 F in 1913 in Death Valley and 131 F (55 C) in Tunisia in July 1931. Burt, a weather historian for The Weather Company, finds fault with both of those measurements and lists 130 F (54.4 C) in July 2021 in Death Valley as his hottest recorded temperature on Earth.

"130 degrees is very rare if not unique," Burt said.

In July 2021 and August 2020, Death Valley recorded a reading of 130 F (54.4 C), but both are still awaiting confirmation. Scientists have found no problems so far, but they haven't finished the analysis, NOAA climate analysis chief Russ Vose said.

There are other places similar to Death Valley that may be as hot, such as Iran's Lut Desert, but like Death Valley are uninhabited so no one measures there, Burt said. The difference was someone decided to put an official weather station in Death Valley in 1911, he said.

A combination of long-term human-caused climate change from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas is making the world hotter by the decade, with ups and downs year by year. Many of those ups and downs are caused by the natural El Nino and La Nina cycle. An El Nino cycle, the warming of part of the Pacific that changes the world's weather, adds even more heat to the already rising temperatures.

Scientists such as Vose say that most of the record warming the Earth is now seeing is from human-caused climate change, partly because this El Nino only started a few months ago and is still weak to moderate. It isn't expected to peak until winter, so scientists predict next year will be even hotter than this year.

Borenstein reported from Washington and Beam reported from Sacramento, California.

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1 dead, 1 critically injured after being knocked from gondola at Quebec resort

MONTREAL (AP) — One person died and another was critically injured when they were knocked out of a sightseeing gondola Sunday at the popular Mont-Tremblant resort, authorities said.

Quebec provincial police said the crash occurred shortly before noon when a piece of construction equipment struck the gondola at the mountain resort around 105 kilometers (65 miles) northwest of Montreal.

Police said in an email that the other passenger was taken to a Montreal-area hospital with life-threatening injuries.

Investigators from the major crimes division were sent to the scene.

The Tremblant Resort Association declined to comment on the accident, but said in a post on Facebook that activities at the mountain were suspended after the accident.

French tourism businesses are wary of customers drying up as droughts worsen

By DANIEL COLE Associated Press

SAINTE-CROIX du VERDON, France (AP) — At the pristine southern French lake of Sainte-Croix-du-Verdon, tourists in pedal boats and on white water rafts — and the businesses that welcome them — have been buoyed by generous rainfall and good water management this spring.

After a prolonged drought last summer, then another in the winter that followed, the once cracked lakebeds are now abundantly watered. Dams are releasing water into reservoirs on a consistent schedule for activities in the lake.

But tour operators are still wary.

“Rafting and kayaking is great, but if tomorrow there is not enough water in the river, we will have to reinvent ourselves,” said Antoine Coudray of Secret River Tours, that operates in the gorges of Verdon.

The artificial lake of Sainte-Croix, a bustling tourist attraction, is one of three reservoirs in the area built for 16 hydroelectric dams. The dams supply the southeastern region of Provence-Alpes-Côte d’Azur with 35% of its electricity needs.

Human-caused climate change is lengthening droughts in southern France, meaning the reservoirs are increasingly drained to lower levels to maintain the power generation and water supply needed for nearby towns and cities. It’s concerning those in the tourism industry, who are working out how to keep their lakeside businesses afloat in the long term if water levels remain low or unpredictable.

The three reservoir lakes in the area — Serre Ponçon, Castillon and Sainte-Croix — quickly became a draw for nature lovers after their construction in the middle of the 20th century. They’re known for their crisp, clear waters in undisturbed valleys surrounded by tall mountains. The region attracts over 4.6 million visitors a year, the bulk of whom flock to the cool lakes during the summer months.

Water levels in the reservoirs are set and managed by national energy giant EDF, which operates the dams.

Last year, the low water levels from a lack of snow and rain in the spring meant the company was forced to draw on the reservoirs to keep hydroelectric power going and water pipes in southern France flowing for drinking and agriculture.

Then it kept getting worse. By August, France’s government warned the country was in the midst of its fourth heat wave that year, further dwindling water supplies that evaporated in the blazing temperatures.

For many in the tourism industry, last year’s low water levels came as a shock.

“In 35 years of working here, I’ve never seen a year like last year. We were not at all prepared,” said Jean-Claude Fraizy who runs a canoe and kayak rental base on the Castillon lake. His leisure center’s sales figures were down by 60% last year.

“If there is no water, there is no desire to come to the lake,” he said.

More shocks could follow. A 32-day long dry spell over winter — the longest in recorded history — means

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reservoirs still haven't fully recovered for this summer.

Paul Marquis, founder of meteorology service E-Meteo, said the winter saw 40% less snowfall, keeping water levels below average despite recent rain.

The Serre-Poncon lake reached just 755 meters (2,480 feet) over winter, prompting EDF to hold back its hydroelectric production so that the water level would have a chance of returning to the optimal level of 780 meters (2,560 feet) in time for the summer season, Marquis said.

Marquis added that groundwater in the region will also not replenish fast enough, "meaning that we could see water restrictions come in to place during the summer."

Touring companies are already preparing.

"These days we have to be conscious that there will be less and less water in the river for us, so we have to know how to adapt," said Coudray. He's introduced "drought-proof" packrafting into the region over the past of couple of years, where the inflatable bottom allows it to float in much shallower waters in the Gorges du Verdon.

Guillaume Requena, a tour guide at the company Aquabond Rafting, said they have started to offer tubing, another activity that works on lower water levels as they can float along the surface.

Wary of the spring rains being a temporary blip in the longer-term trend toward drier conditions, Requena knows tour companies need to find a longer term solution and try to ensure that water levels in the reservoirs can be maintained.

"All of the actors affected by how the water is managed in the region by EDF will have to keep negotiating at the table for their own interests as a changing climate adds more pressure," he said.

But with so many people reliant on the dams for power and water in the cities and towns below, Requena is all too aware that propping up the lakes' tourism industry is further down on the priority list.

"It is not necessarily the twenty or so rafting businesses who have the final say in the management of water resources," said Requena. "In many ways we are the last wheel on this wagon."

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Lionel Messi introduced by Inter Miami and Major League Soccer

By TIM REYNOLDS AP Sports Writer

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. (AP) — Lionel Messi walked out from behind a curtain, took a few steps along a rain-slicked runaway set up over the field at Inter Miami's stadium and headed toward David Beckham for a big hug.

His journey was complete. Inter Miami's wait was over.

At long last, Messi has arrived.

Inter Miami — after years of plotting, pleading and hoping — introduced arguably the game's biggest star on Sunday night, presenting their new franchise player with his pink No. 10 jersey that millions of people will be buying over the coming weeks and months.

"I'm sure we're going to have many wonderful experiences," Messi told the crowd.

Sunday was the first one. Almost every seat was filled despite horrible weather conditions that delayed the show, and nobody seemed to mind soaking rain that pounded down throughout the evening.

"I'm very much moved to be here in Miami, to be with you," Messi said. "I want to thank you, all of you, on behalf of my family, for the kindness that you have given me."

Beckham, the team's co-owner and president, had huge dark blotches on his blue blazer because of the rain.

It was going to take more than a downpour to ruin this party, one where fans roared and music boomed.

"Tonight is a typical Miami welcome for one of the greatest players to ever have played the game," Beckham said during the telecast of the show. "The fact that we have our fans in here, celebrating this moment ... this is what we have created and we're very proud of that."

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Added primary owner Jorge Mas: "When David and I first met and we dreamt of what Inter Miami represents, it started off with the freedom to dream. And we dreamed of not only bringing elite players and the best players but the best player to ever don boots — and his name is Lionel Andrés Messi."

When Inter Miami began floating the notion that it would be the team to land Messi and bring the World Cup champion to Major League Soccer, there were no shortage of people who were, to put it mildly, skeptical about how realistic a plan that was.

Among them: MLS Commissioner Don Garber. Yes, even the man running the league had a bit of doubt. Not anymore. Messi to Miami isn't just crazy talk. It happened, with Messi now tasked to lift a team that currently has the fewest points in the MLS standings and is mired in an 11-game winless streak.

"Here we are today with a player that I think, without doubt, is not only a generational player but in my opinion the greatest of all time," Garber said. "Went through a process throughout his decision-making period over the last number of months, if not the last year, to determine where he was going to play. Many of you have heard us say that we want MLS to be a league of choice, a league of choice for players, for fans, for partners, and ultimately for investors.

"And when you have the best player of all-time making Major League Soccer his league of choice, I think it's a real testament to where MLS is and where it's going in the years ahead."

The event billed as "The Unveil" happened at the team's stadium in Fort Lauderdale. It comes one day after Messi, MLS and Inter Miami finalized his signing through the 2025 season.

It's the start of a busy week of events for Messi with his new club. His first official training session that will be open to reporters is set for Tuesday and — if all goes to plan — he will play Friday in a Leagues Cup match against Cruz Azul. That could also be the Miami debut of World Cup winner Sergio Busquets, a Spanish midfielder who completed his long-awaited signing with the club Sunday through the 2025 season.

Busquets, who turned 35 on Sunday, and the 36-year-old Messi were teammates previously at Barcelona. "This is a special and exciting opportunity that I'm very excited to take," Busquets said.

Messi, a World Cup champion for Argentina and seven-time Ballon d'Or winner as the world's best player in a given year, is joining a club that has the fewest points in MLS and is mired in an 11-match winless streak. Inter Miami opened the season with two wins and has gone 3-14-3 since. It has 12 MLS matches left this season, and is 12 points out of a playoff spot — so it's going to take a ton of wins just to have a chance.

The club previously announced that Messi's deal will be for 2 1/2 seasons and will pay him between \$50 million and \$60 million annually — putting the total contract value between \$125 million and \$150 million in cash alone. There are other factors, the value of which isn't known.

"This ought to be fun. ... This journey here in Miami has been an epic one," Garber said.

Messi's greatness is not in question; he led Argentina to the World Cup this past December and is still generally considered one of the very best goalscorers in the world — if not the best.

That said, not everyone believes Messi coming to MLS will be a cakewalk, even for a legend.

"He won't find it easy here," Wayne Rooney, the former England and Manchester United great who now coaches D.C. United, told The Times of London for a story published Sunday. "It sounds mad, but players who come in find it's a tough league. The travelling, the different conditions in different cities, and there's a lot of energy and intensity on the pitch."

But Rooney also knows how Messi playing here is huge for MLS, and huge for soccer in the U.S.

"Americans love winners," Rooney said. "Above all, they want to see skill and to be entertained, and Messi brings all that."

Messi announced his decision in early June, and the buildup to Sunday was growing ever since.

"This is our moment," Mas said. "Our moment to change the futbol landscape in this country."

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

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

By TONG-HYUNG KIM Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korean rescuers on Sunday pulled nine 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, officials said.

A total of 37 people have died and thousands have been evacuated since July 9, when heavy rain started pounding South Korea's central regions.

Nearly 900 rescuers 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 to prevent any victims or survivors from being swept out, Yang said.

Nine survivors were rescued from the tunnel and around 10 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.

More than 60 centimeters (23.6 inches) of rain was measured in the South Chungcheong provincial towns of Gongju and Cheongyang since July 9. Cheongju, where the tunnel is located, received more than 54 centimeters (21.2 inches) during the same period.

The Korea Meteorological Administration said the central and southern parts of the country could still get as much as 30 centimeters (12 inches) of additional rain through Tuesday.

More than 8,850 people have been evacuated and 27,260 households had been without electricity in the past several days. The rain damaged or destroyed nearly 50 roads and more than a 100 homes, the Ministry of the Interior and Safety said. At least 35 people were 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.

Tour de France teams ask fans to behave better after mass pileup in 15th stage

SAINT-GERVAIS MONT-BLANC, France (AP) — Tour de France overall leader Jonas Vingegaard is calling on fans to behave better at cycling's biggest race after another mass crash marred the 15th stage on Sunday.

"I'd like to tell the spectators to enjoy the race and be there to cheer for us without standing on the road or pouring beers on us," Vingegaard said. "Please, just enjoy the race."

The Danish rider leads Tadej Pogacar of Slovenia by only 10 seconds with the race about to enter its final week.

The incident, which involved around two dozen riders, led to appeals from several teams at the Tour.

"Please be careful. So that the party remains a party for the riders, but also for you. You don't need a cell phone to create mind-blowing memories," the Cofidis team said amid unverified reports that the spectator who caused the crash was taking a selfie.

The Ineos Grenadiers team said "please give the riders room to race."

A day after a big pileup forced several riders to abandon, the latest accident occurred after 52 kilometers (32 miles) when a spectator on the side of the road inadvertently touched American rider Sepp Kuss — a

key teammate of Vingegaard — and sent him to the ground.

Fans gathering on the sides of roads and in villages as riders pass by is part of the tradition — and charm — of the Tour, but many spectators can take too many risks, including when they run alongside riders in mountain ascents.

Jumbo-Visma said Dylan van Baarle and Nathan van Hooydonck were among those who hit the tarmac on Sunday. Vingegaard was riding close to his teammates but escaped unscathed.

“The team felt pretty good today, although we of course had this crash that affected some of my teammates,” Vingegaard said.

Organizers also asked fans to “pay attention to the riders” after the incident which did not lead to any withdrawals.

Two years ago, a spectator brandishing a large cardboard sign while leaning into the path of oncoming riders led to a massive pileup during the opening stage.

Dutch veteran Wout Poels soloed to victory Sunday after the tough trek in the Alps.

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Carlos Alcaraz beats Novak Djokovic in 5 sets to win Wimbledon for a second Grand Slam trophy

By HOWARD FENDRICH AP Tennis Writer

WIMBLEDON, England (AP) — A poor start left Carlos Alcaraz a single point from a two-set hole against Novak Djokovic in the Wimbledon final.

That sort of deficit is daunting for anyone, let alone a 20-year-old in his second major final, and against anyone, let alone Djokovic, someone who hadn't lost at Centre Court in a decade, someone seeking a fifth consecutive championship, and record-tying eighth overall, at the All England Club. Someone who won the year's first two Grand Slam tournaments and 23 over his career.

Ah, but Alcaraz, last year's U.S. Open champ, wanted this shot at Djokovic, someone he called “a legend of our sport.” Said it would make winning Wimbledon that much more special. And so Alcaraz managed to come through in that tiebreaker as choruses of “Car-los! Car-los!” from the stands competed with cries of his older, more experienced, more accomplished foe's two-syllable nickname, “No-le! No-le!” And then Alcaraz came through in a 32-point, 25-minute masterpiece of a game soon thereafter. And, crucially, the Spaniard came through in the crucible of a fifth set, too.

Add it all up, and the No. 1-ranked Alcaraz marked himself as the star people have been predicting he would be, transforming potential into triumph and putting an end to Djokovic's 34-match winning streak at the All England Club all in one fell swoop by edging him 1-6, 7-6 (6), 6-1, 3-6, 6-4 in an engaging, back-and-forth final on Sunday. Alcaraz claimed his first title at Wimbledon and second Grand Slam trophy overall.

“Didn't get down, didn't give up,” said Alcaraz, the third-youngest man to win the grass-court major in the Open era, which began in 1968, after Boris Becker and Bjorn Borg. “We made great rallies, great points. It was a long, long match. Long sets. It was the mental part that allowed me to stay there.”

He is the first man outside the elite quartet of Djokovic, Roger Federer, Rafael Nadal and Andy Murray to win Wimbledon since 2002 and, to many, this symbolized a transfer of power in men's tennis.

“I haven't played a player like him. Ever,” said Djokovic, quite a statement from a guy who competed against Federer and Nadal for so long and in so many remarkable matches.

“He's proven,” Djokovic said, “that he's the best player in the world, no doubt.”

The age gap between Alcaraz and the 36-year-old Djokovic, who wiped away tears during the trophy ceremony, was the widest in any men's Slam final since 1974.

So Alcaraz had youth on his side, which he also did, of course, when they met in the French Open semifinals last month. That one was extraordinary for two sets before Alcaraz cramped up and faded. This time, he had the stamina and the strokes to get past Djokovic — and the belief that he could win.

After Alcaraz made nine unforced errors in the opening set to Djokovic's two, showing signs of the nerves

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that hit him in Paris, things began to shift Sunday. At 4-all in the second set, Djokovic slipped on a worn patch behind the baseline under the Royal Box, flinging his racket away as he fell. At the next changeover, Djokovic flexed one leg by bending it over the other, then plopped his left heel on the net for additional stretching.

They would head to a tiebreaker, Djokovic's dominion: He had won all six such set-enders he played at Wimbledon leading up to the final, and 15 straight in Grand Slam action.

Unflustered by a warning from chair umpire Fergus Murphy for taking too much time to serve, Djokovic pulled ahead 6-5. A set point.

But two netted backhands by Djokovic put Alcaraz within a point of that set.

"The backhands kind of let me down," Djokovic would say later.

Alcaraz then struck a backhand passing winner off the return of a 118 mph serve, holding the pose of his follow-through. As people in the stands rose to roar, Alcaraz spun around with his right hand to his ear, soaking in the moment.

"If I would have lost that set, probably I couldn't lift the trophy," Alcaraz said. "I probably could have lost in three sets."

They were two hours and two sets in.

One set each.

Now it was a match.

It began to feel memorable.

The fifth game of the third set might have been worth the high price of admission, in and of itself. Neither man wanted to bend. Neither wanted to cede a thing. It was one game, yes, but seemed meaningful.

When Djokovic slapped a forehand into the net to get broken — one of five times he dropped serve in the match, more than his previous six opponents managed combined — Alcaraz celebrated his 4-1 edge in the set by throwing his head back and screaming "Vamos!"

But Djokovic did not go away. He raised his level again, pushing this terrific tussle to a fifth set.

One of several reasons to like Djokovic's chances at that juncture: He went into Sunday with a 10-1 record in five-setters at Wimbledon and 35-9 at all majors.

Those matches, however, were in the past.

Alcaraz is the future.

His serves top 130 mph. His sledgehammer of a forehand tops 100 mph, unleashed in such a manner as to make an observer believe every ounce of strength, every fiber of his being, is invested in each swing. The smack of the racket, and his "Uhhh-ehhh!" exhale of exertion — along with the gasps of impressed onlookers — reverberated around the arena.

He displays as varied a game as possible, from his volleying ability to the well-disguised drop shots that helped him get back into the thick of it in the second and third sets.

Djokovic, meanwhile, is equipped with an abundance of talents, too, and so much muscle memory. So often, he would hustle and stretch and slide nearly into the splits to get Alcaraz's apparent point-ending shots back in ways no one else could.

Plus, he's been there, and done that, in ways Alcaraz, for now, can only dream of.

But if this victory on a windy and cloudy day is any indication, Alcaraz is on his way to achieving quite a bit himself.

He moved out front for good by breaking to go up 2-1 in the fifth with a backhand passing winner. Djokovic, who fell during the point but quickly popped back up, reacted by slamming his racket into the net post, letting go on impact. He destroyed his equipment and earned a code violation from Murphy.

"Frustration in the moment," Djokovic called it.

They would play on for another 24 minutes, but Alcaraz never relented, never gave way, no matter the skill and will possessed by the man across the net. And it was Alcaraz, not Djokovic, who covered his face and rolled in the grass after the final point, then received the gold trophy.

"It's something that I will never forget," Alcaraz said. "That's for sure."

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

Long Island serial killings arrest 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 the 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 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 three years earlier, Maureen Brainard-Barnes. Heuermann says he is innocent, according to his lawyer.

Barthelemy, who grew up in Buffalo, New York, was found on Dec. 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. It was 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.

If convicted on all charges, Heuermann would face multiple life sentences without the possibility of parole.

"Death is too good for him," the victim's mother, Lynn Barthelemy, told NBC News.

"I'd like him to suffer at the hands of other inmates," she said.

But the grieving parent 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. 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

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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., escort 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 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. "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 discovering 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.

'Mission: Impossible' debuts with \$80M over five days, igniting box office but missing expectations

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — After a globe-trotting publicity blitz by star Tom Cruise, "Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One" launched with a franchise-best \$80 million over five days, though it came in shy of industry expectations with a \$56.2 million haul over the three-day weekend, according to studio estimates.

The Paramount Pictures debut was boosted by strong overseas sales of \$155 million from 70 markets.

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But while a \$235 million worldwide launch marked one of the best global openings of the year, "Dead Reckoning" couldn't approach the high-speed velocity of last summer's top film, "Top Gun: Maverick."

"Dead Reckoning Part One," the seventh film in the 27-year-old series, had been forecast to better the franchise high of the previous installment, "Fallout," which opened with \$61 million domestically in 2018. Instead, it also fell short of the \$57.8 million "Mission: Impossible II" debuted with in 2000.

That puts the film's opening-weekend tally very close to the tepid launch of Disney's "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny," which opened in U.S. and Canadian theaters with \$82 million over five days and \$60 million over the three-day weekend. Paramount and Skydance had higher hopes for the action extravaganza of "Dead Reckoning," which cost \$290 million to make, not counting marketing expenses.

Those costs were inflated, in part, by the pandemic. "Dead Reckoning," directed by Christopher McQuarrie, was among the first major productions shut down by COVID-19. It was preparing to shoot in Italy in March 2020. When the film got back on track, McQuarrie and Cruise helped lead the industry-wide recovery back to film sets – albeit with some well-publicized friction over protocols along the way.

Still, "Dead Reckoning" was hailed as a high point in the franchise. Critics (96% fresh on Rotten Tomatoes) and fans (an "A" CinemaScore) alike came away awed by the stunts and chases of the latest "Mission: Impossible" film. Though the coming competition of "Barbenheimer" — the much-anticipated debuts of "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer" — looms, "Mission: Impossible" should play well for weeks to come.

"This is a global franchise. It's going gangbusters and its going to play for a long time. Quality always wins in the end," said Chris Aronson, distribution chief for Paramount.

"Dead Reckoning," Aronson said, met or exceeded the studio's expectations.

"In international markets, in like-for-like markets, we're 15% ahead of 'Fallout,' and that's taking China out," added Aronson. "Domestically, we're over 3% ahead of 'Fallout' for the first five days. To beat its predecessor is phenomenal, especially in this environment."

Cruise, the so-called savior of movie theaters last year, traveled tirelessly to again pump life back into a summer box office that's been sluggish. After a splashy world premiere in Rome with a red-carpet on the Spanish Steps, Cruise and McQuarrie surprised theaters in Atlanta, Miami, Toronto and Washington D.C. in the days ahead of opening.

"Dead Reckoning" hit theaters at a crucial mid-summer period for Hollywood, and not just because of the SAG-AFTRA strike which began Thursday. "Mission: Impossible" launched a week before one of the biggest box-office showdowns of the year.

Though "Dead Reckoning" and "Oppenheimer" have vied for some of the same IMAX screens, each film has publicly endorsed the idea that a rising tide lifts all blockbusters. Cruise and McQuarrie in early July even bought opening-weekend tickets to both "Barbie" and "Oppenheimer." "Barbie" director Greta Gerwig and "Oppenheimer" filmmaker Christopher Nolan reciprocated with their own gestures of support.

However that trio of films performs over the next few weeks will do a lot to determine the fate of the summer box office.

"These are a crucial couple of weeks for the industry starting this weekend," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for data firm Comscore. "I think it's going to be a fun reinvigoration of the box office because we have had a few films underperforming. Really, the summer movie season restarts this week with 'Mission' leading into 'Barbenheimer.'"

No other new wide release challenged "Mission: Impossible" over the weekend. Second place went to Angel Studios' faith-based political thriller "Sound of Freedom" which increased 37% in its second with \$27 million. Jim Caveziel stars in the child trafficking drama.

Last week's top film, "Insidious: The Red Door" slid to third with \$13 million in its second weekend. "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny" is dropping quickly with \$12 million its third weekend, with a domestic total so far of \$145.4 million.

In limited release, the Searchlight Pictures' mockumentary "Theater Camp" opened to \$270,000 from six theaters in New York and Los Angeles.

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

1. "Mission: Impossible — Dead Reckoning Part One," \$56.2 million.
2. "Sound of Freedom," \$27 million.
3. "Insidious: The Red Door," \$13 million.
4. "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny," \$12 million.
5. "Elemental," \$8.7 million.
6. "Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse," \$6.1 million.
7. "Transformers: Rise of the Beasts," \$3.4 million.
8. "No Hard Feelings," \$3.3 million.
9. "Joy Ride," \$2.6 million.
10. "The Little Mermaid," \$2.4 million.

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

Putin says Russia has 'sufficient stockpile' of cluster bombs as Ukraine gets its own supply from US

By ELISE MORTON and FELIPE DANA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian President Vladimir Putin said in an interview published Sunday that Moscow 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 hasn't used cluster bombs in the war with Ukraine so far. But the use of cluster bombs by both Russia and Ukraine has been widely documented, including by The Associated Press and international humanitarian organizations, and cluster rounds have been found in the aftermath of Russian strikes.

"Until now, we have not done this, we have not used it, and we have not had such a need," he said.

Rossiya TV reporter Pavel Zarubin published excerpts of the interview to his Telegram channel Sunday before a scheduled broadcast on 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.

The Ukrainian military said in a regular update on 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.

The mayor of Kharkiv, Ihor Terekhov, said seven people were injured in a Russian attack Sunday evening on the city, Ukraine's second-largest.

Ukrainian Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar said Sunday that fighting in eastern Ukraine had "somewhat intensified," amid a slow counteroffensive in which Ukraine has made small territorial gains.

Writing on Telegram, she said that Russia had been "actively attacking" in the direction of Kupiansk in the northeastern Kharkiv region for two consecutive days, and that Ukrainian forces were "on the defensive" in the area.

"There are fierce battles, the positions of both sides change dynamically several times a day," she wrote. Maliar wrote that Ukrainian troops were trying to hold onto their positions on the northern flank around the destroyed city of Bakhmut, but reported that Ukrainian forces were "advancing daily" on the southern flank. Ukraine has been trying to encircle the city since losing control of it to Russia in May.

Putin claimed that the Ukrainian counteroffensive had been futile, in another excerpt published by Zarubin. "All attempts by the enemy to break through our defenses ... they were unsuccessful during the entire offensive. The enemy is having no success!" Putin said.

Elsewhere in the country, two boys, ages 8 and 10, were wounded when an explosive device left by Russian forces detonated in the southern region of Kherson on Sunday, according to the Ukrainian Prosecutor General's Office.

Regional Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin said that Russia had launched 69 shelling attacks against the Kherson region. A 59-year-old man died on Saturday when attempting to disarm a round in the regional capital, also called Kherson.

Yurii Malashko, governor of the neighboring, partly occupied, Zaporizhzhia region, said Russia had attacked 13 populated areas in the region, wounding seven people in the town of Stepnohirsk.

Moscow-installed authorities in the Russia-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 the Moscow-installed governor of Sevastopol, Mikhail Razvozhayev, air defense systems 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.

Elise Morton reported from London.

Iran's morality police return after protests in a new campaign to impose Islamic dress on women

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Iranian authorities on Sunday announced a new campaign to force women to wear the Islamic headscarf and morality police returned to the streets 10 months after the death of a woman in their custody sparked nationwide protests.

The morality police had largely pulled back following the death of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini last September, as authorities struggled to contain mass protests calling for the overthrow of the theocracy that has ruled Iran for over four decades.

The protests largely died down earlier this year following a heavy crackdown in which over 500 protesters were killed and nearly 20,000 detained. But many women continued to flout the official dress code, especially in the capital, Tehran, and other cities.

The morality police were only rarely seen patrolling the streets, and in December, there were even some reports — later denied — that they had been disbanded.

Authorities insisted throughout the crisis that the rules had not changed. Iran's clerical rulers view the hijab as a key pillar of the Islamic revolution that brought them to power, and consider more casual dress a sign of Western decadence.

On Sunday, Gen. Saeed Montazerolmahdi, a police spokesman, said the morality police would resume notifying and then detaining women not wearing hijab in public. In Tehran, the men and women of the morality police could be seen patrolling the streets in marked vans.

Late Saturday, police arrested Mohammed Sadeghi, a young and relatively unknown actor, in a raid on his home that he appears to have broadcast on social media. Earlier, he had posted a video in response to another online video showing a woman being detained by the morality police. "Believe me, if I see such a scene, I might commit murder," he said.

The website of the semi-official Hamshahri daily, which is affiliated with the Tehran municipality, said he

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was arrested for encouraging people to use weapons against the police.

The battle over the hijab became a powerful rallying cry last fall, with women playing a leading role in the protests. The demonstrations quickly escalated into calls for the overthrow of Iran's clerical rulers, whom the mostly young protesters accuse of being corrupt, repressive and out of touch. Iran's government blamed the protests on a foreign conspiracy, without providing evidence.

Several Iranian celebrities joined the protests, including prominent directors and actors from the country's celebrated film industry. Several Iranian actresses were detained after appearing in public without the hijab or expressing support for the protests.

In a recent case, actress Azadeh Samadi was barred from social media and ordered by a court to seek psychological treatment for "antisocial personality disorder" after appearing at a funeral two months ago wearing a cap on her head.

Actor, singer and style icon Jane Birkin dies in Paris at age 76

By JOHN LEICESTER Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Actor and singer Jane Birkin, who made France her home and charmed the country with her English grace, natural style and social activism, has died at age 76.

The London-born star and fashion icon was known for her musical and romantic relationship with French singer Serge Gainsbourg. Their songs notably included the steamy "Je t'aime moi non plus" ("I Love You, Me Neither"). Birkin's ethereal, British-accented singing voice interlaced with his gruff baritone in the 1969 duet that helped make her famous and was forbidden in Italy after being denounced in the Vatican newspaper.

The style Birkin displayed in the 1960s and early 1970s — long hair with bangs, jeans paired with white tops, knit mini dresses and basket bags — still epitomizes the height of French chic for many women around the world.

Birkin was also synonymous with a Hermes bag that bore her name. Created by the Paris fashion house in 1984 in her honor, the Birkin bag became one of the world's most exclusive luxury items, with a stratospheric price tag and years-long waiting list to buy it.

In her adopted France, Birkin was also celebrated for her political activism and campaigning for Amnesty International, Myanmar's pro-democracy movement, the fight against AIDS and other causes.

"You can always do something," Birkin said in 2001, drumming up support for an Amnesty campaign against torture. "You can say, 'I am not OK with that.'"

She joined five monks on a march through the Cannes Film Festival in 2008 to demand that Myanmar let foreign aid workers into the country to help cyclone victims.

In 2022, she joined other screen and music stars in France in chopping off locks of their hair in support of protesters in Iran. Charlotte Gainsbourg, Birkin's daughter with Gainsbourg and also an actor in her own right, cut off a snippet of her mother's hair for the "HairForFreedom" campaign as Iran was engulfed by anti-government protests.

French President Emmanuel Macron hailed Birkin as a "complete artist," noting that her soft voice went hand-in-hand with her "ardent" activism.

"Jane Birkin was a French icon because she was the incarnation of freedom, sang the most beautiful words of our language," he tweeted.

French media reported that Birkin was found dead at her Paris home. The French Culture Ministry tweeted that Birkin died Sunday. It hailed her as a "timeless Francophone icon."

Culture Minister Rima Abdul Malak called Birkin "the most French British person" and "the emblem for a whole epoch who never went out of fashion."

Outside Birkin's home on Paris' Left Bank, fans mourned her death.

"She was a poet, a singer, an artist," said Marie-Jo Bonnet. "She gave the best of herself and that's marvelous."

Birkin's early movie credits included "Blow-Up" in 1966, credited with helping introduce French audiences to her "Swinging Sixties" style and beauty.

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Birkin and Gainsbourg met two years later. She remained his muse even after the couple separated in 1980.

She also had a daughter, Kate, with James Bond composer John Barry. Kate Barry died in 2013 at age 46. Birkin had her third daughter, singer and model Lou Doillon, with French director Jacques Doillon.

Birkin suffered from health issues in recent years that kept her from performing and her public appearances became sparse.

French broadcaster BFMTV said Birkin suffered a mild stroke in 2021, forcing her to cancel shows that year. She canceled her shows again in March due to a broken shoulder blade.

A return to performing was put off in May, with the singer saying she needed a bit more time and promising her fans she would see them again come the fall.

Despite her decades-long screen and music career, Birkin suspected that, for some people, the bag named after her might be her most famous legacy.

The fashion accessory was born of a fortuitous encounter on a London-bound flight in the 1980s with the then-head of Hermes, Jean-Louis Dumas. Birkin recounted in subsequent interviews that they got talking after she spilled some of her things on the cabin floor. She asked Dumas why Hermes didn't make a bigger handbag and sketched out on an airplane vomit sack the sort of bag that she'd like.

Dumas then had an example made for her and, flattered, she said yes when Hermes asked whether it could commercialize the bag in her name.

In a CBS Sunday Morning interview in 2018, Birkin joked that it might be what she's best known for.

"I thought, 'Oh gosh, on my obituary, it will say, 'Like the bag' or something,'" she said. "Well, it could be worse."

AP journalists Mallika Sen in New York and Elaine Ganley in Paris contributed.

Diversify or die: San Francisco's downtown is a wake-up call for other cities

By ANNE D'INNOCENZIO and JANIE HAR AP Writers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Jack Mogannam, manager of Sam's Cable Car Lounge in downtown San Francisco, relishes the days when his bar stayed open past midnight every night, welcoming crowds that jostled on the streets, bar hopped, window browsed or just took in the night air.

He's had to drastically curtail those hours because of diminished foot traffic, and business is down 30%. A sign outside the lounge pleads: "We need your support!"

"I'd stand outside my bar at 10 p.m. and look, it would be like a party on the street," Mogannam said. "Now you see, like, six people on the street up and down the block. It's a ghost town."

After a three-year exile, the pandemic now fading from view, the expected crowds and electric ambience of downtown have not returned.

Empty storefronts dot the streets. Large "going out of business" signs hang in windows. Uniqlo, Nordstrom Rack and Anthropologie are gone. Last month, the owner of Westfield San Francisco Centre, a fixture for more than 20 years, said it was handing the mall back to its lender, citing declining sales and foot traffic. The owner of two towering hotels, including a Hilton, did the same.

Shampoo, toothpaste and other toiletries are locked up at downtown pharmacies. And armed robbers recently hit a Gucci store in broad daylight.

San Francisco has become the prime example of what downtowns shouldn't look like: vacant, crime-ridden and in various stages of decay. But in truth, it's just one of many cities across the U.S. whose downtowns are reckoning with a post-pandemic wake-up call: diversify or die.

As the pandemic bore down in early 2020, it drove people out of city centers and boosted shopping and dining in residential neighborhoods and nearby suburbs as workers stayed closer to home. Those habits seem poised to stay.

No longer the purview of office workers, downtowns must become around-the-clock destinations for

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people to congregate, said Richard Florida, a specialist in city planning at the University of Toronto.

"They're no longer central business districts. They're centers of innovation, of entertainment, of recreation," he said. "The faster places realize that, the better."

Data bears out that San Francisco's downtown is having a harder time than most. A study of 63 North American downtowns by the University of Toronto ranked the city dead last in a return to pre-pandemic activity, garnering only 32% of its 2019 traffic.

Hotel revenues are stuck at 73% of pre-pandemic levels, weekly office attendance remains below 50% and commuter rail travel to downtown is at 33%, according to a recent economic report by the city.

Office vacancy rates in San Francisco were 24.8% in the first quarter, more than five times higher than pre-pandemic levels and well above the average rate of 18.5% for the nation's top 10 cities, according to CBRE, a commercial real estate services company.

Why? San Francisco relied heavily on international tourism and its tech workforce, both of which disappeared during the pandemic.

But other major cities including Portland and Seattle, which also rely on tech workers, are struggling with similar declines, according to the downtown recovery study, which used anonymized mobile phone data to analyze downtown activity patterns from before the pandemic and between March and May of this year.

In Chicago, which ranked 45th in the study, major retailers like AT&T, Old Navy and Banana Republic on the Magnificent Mile have closed or soon will as visitor foot traffic hasn't rebounded.

And midwestern cities like Indianapolis and Cleveland already struggled pre-pandemic with diminished downtowns as they relied on a single industry to support them and lacked booming industries like tech, said Karen Chapple, director of the School of Cities at the University of Toronto and author of the study.

San Francisco leaders are taking the demise of downtown seriously. Supervisors recently relaxed downtown zoning rules to allow mixed-use spaces: offices and services on upper floors and entertainment and pop-up shops on the ground floor. Legislation also reduces red tape to facilitate converting existing office space into housing.

Mayor London Breed recently announced \$6 million to upgrade a three-block stretch by a popular cable car turnaround to improve walkability and lure back businesses.

But Marc Benioff, chief executive officer of Salesforce, the city's largest employer and anchor tenant in its tallest skyscraper, said downtown is "never going back to the way it was" when it comes to workers commuting in each day. He advised Breed to convert office space into housing and hire more police to give visitors a sense of safety.

"We need to rebalance downtown," Benioff said.

Downtown housing has been the key to success in Baltimore and Salt Lake City, Chapple said.

Real estate experts also point to office-to-housing conversions as a potential lifeline. Cities such as New York and Pittsburgh are offering sizeable tax breaks for developers to spur such conversions.

But for many cities, including San Francisco, it will take more than housing for downtowns to flourish.

Daud Shuja, owner and designer of Franco Uomo, a luxury clothier based in San Jose, said new customers who live in San Francisco drive at least an hour to the store. He plans to open a shop in a more convenient location in suburban Palo Alto next year.

"They just don't want to deal with the homelessness, with the environment, with the ambience," he said.

Still, San Francisco officials say the downtown, which stretches from City Hall to the Embarcadero Waterfront and encompasses the Financial District and parts of the South of Market neighborhood, is in transition.

Gap, which started in San Francisco in 1969, closed its flagship Gap and Old Navy stores near Union Square. But the company isn't abandoning the city entirely, planning four new stores from its major brands at its headquarters near the waterfront and anticipating other new stores.

Marisa Rodriguez, CEO of the Union Square Alliance, said foot traffic is steadily up and a strong tourism season is expected. Sales tax revenue from fine and casual dining, as well as hotels and motels, is also up, said Ted Egan, the city's chief economist, defying the narrative that San Francisco is in a doom loop.

Furthermore, new Union Square businesses include upscale fusion restaurants, a hot yoga studio favored

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by celebrity Jessica Alba and a rare sneaker shop. The area just has to overcome hesitation from local and national visitors due to negative press, Rodriguez said.

"When you're making your plans to travel, and you're like, 'I've always wanted to go to San Francisco, but I just keep reading all this stuff.' When in fact, it's beautiful. It's here to welcome you," she said. "I just hope the noise settles quickly."

D'Innocenzio reported from New York. AP writer Michael Liedtke contributed to this report.

Alabama woman who disappeared after reporting child on highway returns home following two-day search

HOOVER, Ala. (AP) — A 25-year-old Alabama woman returned home late Saturday after being the focus of a two-day search by police and family members who reported her missing after she stopped to check on a child who was walking along a highway.

Police said Carlethia "Carlee" Nichole Russell had returned to the home she shares with her parents in Hoover, AL.com reported late Saturday night.

Hoover Police Chief Nick Derzis said Russell arrived home alone and was brought to a hospital for evaluation, AL.com reported.

Russell's whereabouts were not immediately clear since around 10:45 p.m. Thursday when she called 911 and a family member to say she saw a young child walking on the side of Interstate 459.

Police found Russell's car and her cellphone but were unable to find her or a child in the area.

Hoover Police Lt. Daniel Lowe said the family member on the phone with Russell lost contact with her even though the line remained open. A single witness reported possibly seeing a gray vehicle and a man standing outside of Carlee's vehicle, but they had no additional information.

Police asked people to report any information they might have about her disappearance, while family members organized a search in the area.

Talitha Russell told AL.com her daughter was headed home in the community about 10 miles (16 kilometers) south of Birmingham after leaving work and stopping to get food. She was on the phone with her brother's girlfriend when she said she saw a child on the roadside.

"My son's girlfriend heard her asking the child, 'Are you Ok?'" She never heard the child say anything but then she heard our daughter scream," Talitha Russell said. "From there, all you hear on her phone is background noise from the interstate."

During the search there were two separate rewards of \$20,000 and \$5,000 for information assisting Russell's safe return, police said.

Today in History: July 17, Disneyland's opening day

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, July 17, the 198th day of 2023. There are 167 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 17, 1821, Spain ceded Florida to the United States.

On this date:

In 1862, during the Civil War, Congress approved the Second Confiscation Act, which declared that all slaves taking refuge behind Union lines were to be set free.

In 1918, Russia's Czar Nicholas II and his family were executed by the Bolsheviks.

In 1936, the Spanish Civil War began as right-wing army generals launched a coup attempt against the Second Spanish Republic.

In 1944, during World War II, 320 men, two-thirds of them African-Americans, were killed when a pair of ammunition ships exploded at the Port Chicago Naval Magazine in California.

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In 1945, following Nazi Germany's surrender, President Harry S. Truman, Soviet leader Josef Stalin and British Prime Minister Winston S. Churchill began meeting at Potsdam in the final Allied summit of World War II.

In 1955, Disneyland had its opening day in Anaheim, California.

In 1975, an Apollo spaceship docked with a Soyuz spacecraft in orbit in the first superpower link-up of its kind.

In 1981, 114 people were killed when a pair of suspended walkways above the lobby of the Kansas City Hyatt Regency Hotel collapsed during a tea dance.

In 1996, TWA Flight 800, a Europe-bound Boeing 747, exploded and crashed off Long Island, New York, shortly after departing John F. Kennedy International Airport, killing all 230 people on board.

In 2009, former CBS anchorman Walter Cronkite died in New York at 92.

In 2014, all 298 passengers and crew aboard Malaysia Airlines Flight 17 were killed when the Boeing 777 was shot down over rebel-held eastern Ukraine; both Ukraine's government and pro-Russian separatists denied responsibility.

In 2020, civil rights icon John Lewis, whose bloody beating by Alabama state troopers in 1965 helped galvanize opposition to racial segregation, and who went on to a long and celebrated career in Congress, died at age 80.

Ten years ago: In a heated House Judiciary Committee hearing on domestic spying, members of Congress said they'd never intended to allow the National Security Agency to build a database of every phone call in America, while top Obama administration officials countered that the once-secret program was legal and necessary to keep America safe. At least 58 people were killed and dozens more were missing amid flooding in China's Sichuan province. Same-sex marriage became legal in England and Wales when a bill received royal assent.

Five years ago: Amid criticism from within his own party, President Donald Trump said he had simply misspoken when he said during his summit with Vladimir Putin that he saw no reason to believe Russia had interfered in the 2016 U.S. election. Former President Barack Obama, speaking in South Africa, denounced Trump's policies without mentioning his name; Obama took aim at the "politics of fear, resentment, re-trenchment," and decried leaders who are caught lying and "just double down and lie some more." Alex Bregman and George Springer hit back-to-back homers in the 10th inning, and the American League beat the National League 8-6 in an All-Star Game that included a record 10 home runs.

One year ago: A report said nearly 400 law enforcement officials rushed to a mass shooting that left 21 people dead at a Texas elementary school, but "egregiously poor decision-making" resulted in a chaotic scene that lasted more than an hour before the gunman was finally confronted and killed. Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy fired the head of the country's security service and its prosecutor general, citing hundreds of criminal proceedings into treason and collaboration by people within their departments. Australian Cameron Smith became the unlikely winner of golf's British Open, using stellar putting to come from behind and overcome Rory McIlroy to win his first major.

Today's Birthdays: Actor Donald Sutherland is 88. Sportscaster Verne Lundquist is 83. Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, is 76. Rock musician Terry "Geezer" Butler is 74. Actor Lucie Arnaz is 72. Actor David Hasselhoff is 71. Rock musician Fran Smith Jr. (The Hooters) is 71. Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel is 69. Television producer Mark Burnett is 63. Actor Nancy Giles is 63. Singer Regina Belle is 60. Country singer Craig Morgan is 59. Rock musician Lou Barlow is 57. Contemporary Christian singer Susan Ashton is 56. Actor Andre Royo is 55. Actor Bitty Schram is 55. Actor Jason Clarke is 54. Movie director F. Gary Gray is 54. Country singer Luke Bryan is 47. Actor Eric Winter is 47. Actor Mike Vogel is 44. Actor Tom Cullen is 38. Actor Brando Eaton is 37. R&B singer Jeremih (jehr-uh-MY') is 36. Actor Summer Bishil is 35. Actor Billie Lourd is 31. Actor Leo Howard is 26.