

Groton Daily Independent

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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 Northville

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

City Council meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, July 19

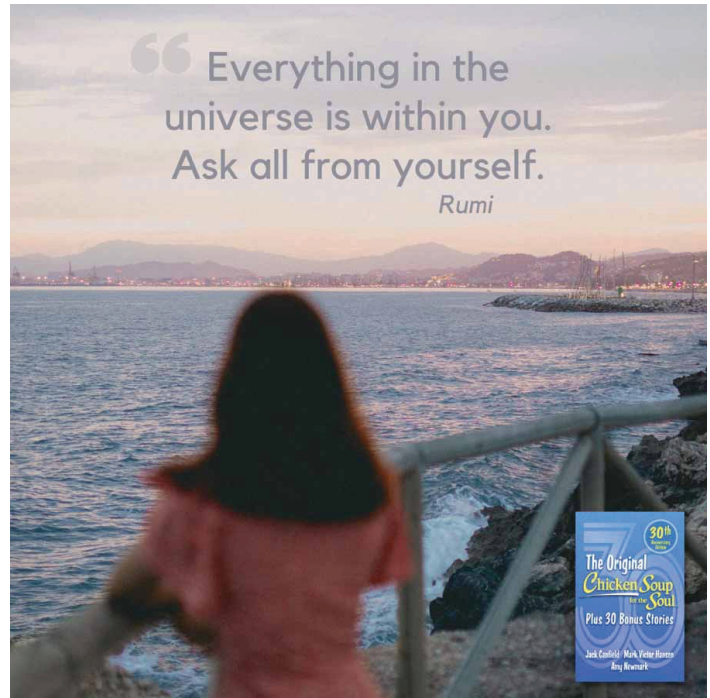
Senior Menu: Meatloaf, baked sweet potato, creamed peas, fruit cocktail, whole wheat bread.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Movie night, 7 p.m.

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

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

OPEN: Recycling Trailer in Groton
The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.
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“ Everything in the universe is within you. Ask all from yourself. *Rumi* ”

Olive Grove: Kid's Lessons; Men's League Amateurs at Aberdeen, 7 p.m.
Region 6B Legion Tournament in Northville

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 Northville

Friday, July 21

Senior Menu: Bratwurst on bun, mashed potatoes, green beans, tropical fruit, whole wheat bread.

Olive Grove: Ferney Open

Region 6B Legion Tournament in Northville

State Jr. Teener Tournament in Corsica

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The Bulletin by Newsweek

JULY 18, 2023

World in Brief

Northeast of the U.S.

The Powerball jackpot rose to an estimated \$1 billion on Monday night after no winning ticket was sold for the day's drawing. This is the third-highest jackpot in the game's history.

The Australian Women's soccer team criticized FIFA, the sport's governing body, for only offering a quarter of the prize money at the Women's World Cup as the men's tournament in Qatar in 2022. The Women's World Cup starts in Australia and New Zealand this week.

Influential GB News presenter and MailOnline columnist Dan Wootton concealed himself behind false identities to mislead and bribe several individuals into disclosing incriminating sexual material for at least 10 years, Byline Times revealed.

Jack Teixeira, the former Massachusetts Air National Guardsman accused of leaking classified military documents, asked a federal judge to reconsider his detention as he awaits a trial, citing the release of Donald Trump in a similar case.

In the ongoing war in Ukraine, Russia launched a wave of air attacks using drones and possibly ballistic missiles in southern and eastern Ukraine, the country's Air Force said. Meanwhile, Ukrainian forces are "strangling" Russian supply lines by targeting infrastructure like the Kerch Strait Bridge, retired U.S. Lieutenant General Mark Hertling said.

TALKING POINTS

"[Former President Donald Trump] spent more time coming up with imbecilic ideas at the border than he did focusing on his job. Sometimes the ideas were stupid. Sometimes they were illegal. Often they were both," former Trump administration official Miles Taylor told Newsweek.

"If you didn't know already, if Republicans win control of the House and Senate in 2024, they are going to pass a national abortion ban. It's 100% certain. Just so we're clear about the stakes," Democratic Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut tweeted.

"I deeply regret Russia's decision to terminate the implementation of the Black Sea Initiative, which has been a lifeline for global food security in a troubled world. Hundreds of millions facing hunger & consumers confronting a global cost-of-living crisis will pay the price," United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres said.

WHAT TO WATCH IN THE DAY AHEAD

Market participants will watch for retail sales figures for June at 8:30 a.m. ET for clues on U.S. consumer spending. Industrial production and home builder confidence index are also on the economic radar from 9:15 a.m.

Earnings shift into high gear, with Bank of America, Morgan Stanley, Lockheed Martin, Charles Schwab, Bank of New York Mellon, and Hasbro among major companies set to report their quarterly results.

Cardinal Matteo Maria Zuppi, the Archbishop of Bologna and the president of the Italian Episcopal Conference, is expected to meet with President Joe Biden this evening at Pope Francis' request to discuss efforts to support the Ukrainian people.

A Florida judge will preside over a hearing this afternoon on how classified material should be handled in former President Donald Trump's classified documents case.

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Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

July 18, 2023 – 7:00pm

City Hall – 120 N Main Street

(IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO CALL IN TO THIS MEETING, PLEASE MAKE PRIOR ARRANGEMENTS TO DO SO BY CALLING CITY HALL 605-397-8422)

- Approval of Agenda
- Public Comments - pursuant to SDCL 1-25-1
(Public Comments will offer the opportunity for anyone not listed on the agenda to speak to the council. Speaking time will be limited to 3 minutes. No action will be taken on questions or items not on the agenda.)
- Airport Discussion – Darrell Hillestad
- Park Bathrooms – Dean Marske from HKG Architects
- Approval to Transfer Ownership of Jailhouse Property to Groton Historical Society
- Approval of Certificate of Substantial Completion – Dahme Construction
- Pay Request #5 (Final) – Dahme Construction
- Authorization to Purchase New Skidsteer
- Authorization to Temporarily Pause Ordinance 6-2-2 to Allow the Public to Possess and Consume Alcoholic Beverages for Summer Sip & Shop on July 20, 2023, from 5:00pm to 8:00pm on Main Street.
- First Reading of Ordinance No. 769 – 2023 Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance
- June Finance Report
- Minutes
- Bills
- Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
- Electric Lineman’s Journeyman Certification and Wage
- Adjournment

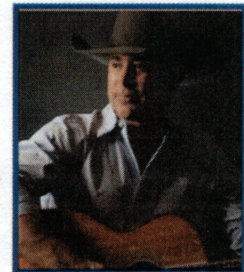
2ND ANNUAL **COLUMBIA FEST** & PARKS DEDICATION “A BLAST FROM THE PAST” **JULY 29, 2023**



COME FOR A FULL DAY OF FUN!

- 10:00 AM.....PARADE!
- 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM.....Vendors
- 11:00 AM.....Parks Dedication
- 12:00 - 3:00 PM.....Ballgames
- 3:00 - 4:00 PM.....Home Run Derby
- 4:00 - 5:00 PM.....Harry Luge Performs
- 5:00 PM.....Duck Race
- 6:00 - 8:00 PM.....Karaoke
- 9:00 PM.....Harry Luge

Lots of **GREAT ENTERTAINMENT, DELICIOUS FOOD** and **FUN ACTIVITIES**. Bring your lawn chairs and picnic blanket.



Names Released in 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: Anna Huggett, 21, No injuries, Long Prairie, MN
Vehicle No. 1: John Deere field sprayer

Driver No. 2: Michael Patton, 45, Fatal injuries, Andover, SD
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.

Preliminary crash information indicates Anna Huggett 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.

Michael Patton, the driver of the semi, was standing next to the trailer of the semi.
The sprayer boom of Vehicle No. 1 struck the parked semi-trailer and then struck Patton.

Michael Patton, age 45, was pronounced deceased while enroute to the hospital.
Anna Huggett, age 21, the operator of the field sprayer 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.

HOUSING INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING PROGRAM (HIFP) APPLICATION AVAILABLE ON SD HOUSING WEBSITE

PIERRE, S.D. – South Dakota Housing will be accepting Housing Infrastructure Financing Program (HIFP) applications beginning on Monday, July 24, 2023 at 12:00 (noon) CDT. Applicants are encouraged to use the application portal on sdhousing.org. Instructions on how to access the portal can be found on the Application Submission page.

To access the application portal, you will need to obtain a username and password. In order to ensure you receive your sign-on information in a timely manner you are encouraged to request them in advance of the opening of the portal on July 24, 2023.

SD Housing is holding a virtual meeting to provide training on filling out the application and related documentation. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, July 19, 2023 at 2 p.m. CDT.

HIFP Application Training
Wednesday, July 19, 2023
2:00 p.m. CDT
Join by Phone: 844.773.7615
Conference ID: 511238

Or

Join by desktop or tablet: <https://meet.sdhd.org/chas/76KTV473>

South Dakota Ends Fiscal Year with \$96.8 Million Surplus

PIERRE, S.D. – Today, Governor Kristi Noem announced that South Dakota closed the 2023 budget year with a surplus of \$96.8 million.

“South Dakota’s economy is continuing to thrive because we keep state government small, taxes are low, and we spend within our means. This surplus shows that what we are doing here is working,” said Governor Noem. “As long as we continue to budget responsibly, families across the state will be able to keep more of their money in their pockets, and we will be able to avoid unnecessary debt by using this surplus for future prison construction costs.”

State government spent \$79.7 million less than appropriated in fiscal year 2023, with the total revenue finishing above the legislative adopted forecast by \$17.1 million. Sales and use tax, which is the state’s largest revenue source, finished 0.5% below estimates, down \$6.9 million.

“South Dakota state government continues to budget responsibly on both the revenue and spending sides of the equation,” said Jim Terwilliger, Commissioner of the South Dakota Bureau of Finance and Management. “Our state’s economic metrics are very strong because we stick to our conservative budget principles. Going forward, we must keep following those principles. With so much uncertainty surrounding the national economy, conservative spending will ensure our long-term fiscal health.”

Over the last several years, South Dakota has seen unprecedented economic growth. By keeping the state “Open for Business” during the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Noem ensured that South Dakota came out stronger than ever. South Dakota continues to maintain a AAA credit rating and is one of the only states with a fully-funded pension. Now, with the lowest unemployment in the history of the nation, South Dakotans are still working hard and guaranteeing that our kids and grandkids will inherit a thriving state.

By law, the fiscal year 2023 surplus was transferred to the state’s budget reserves. The state’s reserves now total \$335.7 million or 14.7% of the fiscal year 2024 general fund budget.

Teachers “hit the road” to discover state history, bring back to classrooms

PIERRE, S.D. – Approximately 240 elementary and middle school educators began a week-long trek yesterday, to explore the people, places, and events that figure prominently in South Dakota history. One group of teachers departed Sioux Falls for an East River history tour, while another left Rapid City for a West River tour.

“Teachers play a critical role in preparing the next generation of South Dakota citizens and leaders,” said Secretary of Education Joseph Graves. “This experience will broaden teachers’ knowledge about South Dakota’s rich history. They should come away with practical ideas for bringing these stories into classrooms across the state.”

As part of the East River tour, educators will visit locations such as Laura Ingalls Wilder’s home, Nicollet Tower, Sisseton Agency Headquarters and Wacipi Grounds, and the Territorial Capital. On the West River tour, stops include the Adams Museum, Bear Butte, and Minuteman Missile National Historic Site Visitor Center. At each location, educators will hear from experts who will share the site’s story and its historical significance.

The history road trips are one piece of support the Department of Education is providing to educators as they work towards implementation of new social studies standards by fall 2025.

“Our support kicked off with a Civics & History Summit in June and continues with the road trips. We’ll be launching a new website featuring South Dakota-specific resources soon, and we’ll be working with educators to identify possible state supports over the next two years,” Graves said.

Deadlines Approaching for SD State Fair Open Class Entries

HURON, S.D. – Deadlines for all South Dakota State Fair open class entries are approaching quickly.

Exhibitors are encouraged to submit entries online at www.sdstatefair.com. Mailed static exhibit entry forms must include payment and a completed W9.

July 31, 2023 – Static Entry Deadline

August 1, 2023 – Open Class Livestock Entries

Late entries may be accepted if space is available. A late fee will be charged.

Refer to the Exhibitor Handbooks for more information. Handbooks are available online at www.sdstatefair.com.

“The State Fair is the place for you to let your talents shine! With many divisions and classes to enter, I encourage you to check out the open class exhibitor handbooks and see where you might fit in,” said Peggy Besch, South Dakota State Fairgrounds manager. “With perfectly grown vegetables to exquisite needlework items, beautiful photographs, and eight different livestock species, there is absolutely somewhere for everyone to enter!”

The 2023 South Dakota State Fair runs Thursday, August 31, through Monday, September 4. Channel Seeds preview night will be Wednesday, August 30. For information about the South Dakota State Fair, contact the Fair office at 800-529-0900, visit www.sdstatefair.com or find them on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

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That's Life/Tony Bender

So long, squirrel

His full name was Squirrel The World's Grumpiest Cat. He was the boss around here for 19 ½ years with a grating, tuneless, demanding meow.

For a long time we didn't know exactly how old he was. You see, we kept his records taped to the inside of kitchen cabinet, and when we pondered his age years ago, India mistook the date of a rabies shot as his birth date, so the running gag was that Squirrel was 19 ½ rabies shots old.

India was a toddler and Dylan was in second grade when they brought that tuxedo kitten home from a pet store, complaining and shaking his head. "He's so squirrely!" Thus, his name. We soon discovered he had ear mites. Poor guy.

That would prove to be a constant battle over the years as Squirrel insisted on going out and brawling with the mite-ridden neighborhood strays. Orange The Outside Cat, who adopted us for several years, put a permanent notch in Squirrel's ear during one contest.

At one point, Squirrel was part of a veritable herd. Inside, we had Tiger Cat, a shy Bengal who eventually found happiness in a friend's barn, and Hunny Bunny, a sweet Persian who met a tragic end in an encounter with a stray dog. Before that was Phil, a short-lived tabby rescue who came to us with bad lungs, and Orange's girlfriend, another stray, who was eventually exiled to the Eszlinger Ranch to hunt gophers. Squirrel was the last cat standing.

The joke was that in the divorce I lost the custody battle and had to keep the cat. Squirrel adored Julie but was somewhat indifferent towards me. We got off to a rocky start as bachelors when I observed him wheezing as he climbed the stairs. I put him on a diet, and in time had him in perfect condition. And he resented me for it even though it added years to his life.

When the kids moved out we were forced upon each other. He yelled at me each morning to be fed and again in the evening. I soon learned that it was necessary for me to talk back and acknowledge his abysmal treatment, otherwise he just wouldn't shut up.

He and Gus the Wonder Pug became fast friends, united in their bullying at feeding time. For a while it was just us boys. Then, Dylan returned to work with me at the newspaper, and India took a year off after college, much to Squirrel's delight. So much attention.

The last couple years were marked by the inevitable decline. Squirrel's bestie, his veterinarian, Emily Fox, explained that cat kidneys just aren't built to go that long. So there was that. Tooth and gum issues. Hearing loss. Arthritis, and possibly creeping cat dementia. Or maybe Squirrel just mellowed. He grew increasingly affectionate towards me. But he was drifty, sometimes staring off like he was at a Grateful Dead concert.

We wanted to give him one more summer. But he only went out a couple times, choosing instead to stay inside, sleeping more and eating less. You know how these things go. I assessed Squirrel daily. He was happy but on the precipice of misery.

Emily took it hard when we scheduled Squirrel's last visit. He was the oldest cat in the practice, and she loved that old man. The night before, India FaceTimed her mother so she could say goodbye to Squirrel, too.

Squirrel instinctively seemed to know. He was especially affectionate as he made the rounds between us in his last week. I struggled with it, wanted to call it off, but after watching him wobble from the arthritis as he walked by one day, I became secure in my decision.

He drifted away peacefully with the three of us, Emily, and an assistant, at his side.

We'd come in separate vehicles and I got home first. I stopped at the mailbox, mechanically going through the motions, still numb. Then, as I sorted through the letters, I began to smile and then laugh.

The kids saw me grinning at the top of the stairs when they arrived, still somber and red-eyed. I handed India a postcard. "A message from Squirrel," I told her, laughing.

It was a reminder. His rabies shot was due.

Squirrel visited me in my dreams that night. There was a tuft of black fur by Squirrel's food dish yesterday. Another gentle wink from beyond.

You know, 19 ½ rabies shots old is a pretty good run.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Cleanup of abandoned Black Hills mine on hold for potential re-mining EPA has spent more than \$120 million on effort in past two decades

BY: SETH TUPPER - JULY 17, 2023 6:27 PM

Aspects of a two-decade-long cleanup at an abandoned Black Hills gold mine are pausing because a company might want to re-mine it.

The Gilt Edge Mine was abandoned in 1999 when its operator, Brohm Mining, went bankrupt. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency took over the site the next year.

The EPA's Joy Jenkins, of Denver, oversees the cleanup. She did not have an updated tally Monday but said the cleanup costs totaled \$120 million as of five years ago, and have recently been around \$2 million per year.

Most of the money has come from EPA's Superfund, which is reserved for the nation's most contaminated land. Some of the funding has come from legal settlements with past operators of the mine, and from a cost-sharing agreement with the state of South Dakota.

The site consists of about 360 acres of disturbed land on rocky and mountainous terrain about 5 miles southeast of Lead. A small portion of the site – a steep hillside where miners dumped waste rock – has been capped with protective material, covered with soil and revegetated. Exposed rock walls, deep pits and a pile of crushed ore dominate the rest of the site.

Canada-based Agnico Eagle is considering whether it will seek permission to reopen the mine, so Jenkins said the plan to fill and cover the pits is on hold.

"We want to pause on that for the moment because if we continue to put money into reclaiming the surface features, and if a company were to get a mining permit in the future, they would potentially dig through our remedy," Jenkins said.

She led a tour of the site Monday for a group of local government officials, concerned citizens and journalists.

The environmental threat at the site is from a phenomenon called "acid rock drainage," Jenkins said. Surface mining exposed pyrite, aka "fool's gold," to oxygen and water. That exposure causes a chemical reaction that produces sulfuric acid, and the acid leaches metals — such as zinc, nickel, cadmium, chromium and copper — out of the surrounding rock. The leached metals can pollute groundwater and runoff from rain and snow, generating about 95 million gallons of acid rock drainage per year.

That's why a big portion of the work at Gilt Edge is collecting, pumping and treating water. One of the mining pits is used as a holding basin for a water treatment plant, where harmful metals are removed before the water is discharged into Strawberry Creek.

Agnico Eagle's formal involvement with Gilt Edge began five years ago. The company signed an agreement with the EPA and drilled about 40 holes on the site for dual purposes: to study any remaining gold or other mineral deposits, and to give the EPA more data about underground sources of cadmium that are contaminating the creek.

That work is complete, and Agnico Eagle has decided it wants to continue exploring the site's remaining mineral deposits. The company has a new agreement with the EPA, pending finalization, that would give it another four years to conduct exploratory drilling and produce a "reuse assessment." If the company determines it wants to re-mine the site, it would have to apply for a state mine permit.

Agnico Eagle would also take on the responsibility and cost of reclamation — restoring the mine to something resembling a natural condition — if the company obtains a mining permit, Jenkins said.

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"EPA doesn't decide what happens for reuse at a site," she said. "We just have to make sure it's compatible with the remedy and that the environmental contamination is controlled in the future. So that's the rationale of allowing an agreement such as this."

Rick Bell, of Rapid City, requested the tour. He's a member of the nonprofit Dakota Rural Action, which advocates for causes including the protection of environmental resources.

Bell said he's concerned about the potential for another mine at Gilt Edge, because the conditions that led to the acid rock drainage problem are unchanged.

"It's just the wrong place to be doing it," he said.

The proposed new agreement would require Agnico Eagle to pay at least \$2.5 million annually for water treatment, and the company would have to provide \$2 million of assurance — such as a bond or letter of credit — to cover anything that might go wrong.

There were no representatives of Agnico Eagle on Monday's tour. In email correspondence with South Dakota Searchlight, the company stressed that the work authorized in the pending agreement would be investigative in nature, and the company does not yet know if re-mining the site is viable.

"If the mineral resource validation program proves to be successful, then Agnico Eagle would expect to enter further discussions with all levels of government on developing a long-term plan that will provide all stakeholders with the best possible options for maintaining the environmental remediation with an economic re-development plan for the mine," the company said. "If environmental, technical and economic circumstances warrant, Agnico Eagle may pursue further exploration, resource studies and possibly a mining application, but that decision has not been made, nor has an application process started.

Seth is editor-in-chief of South Dakota Searchlight. He was previously a supervising senior producer for South Dakota Public Broadcasting and a newspaper journalist in Rapid City and Mitchell.

Gap grows between targeted and actual teacher pay

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - JULY 17, 2023 5:52 PM

Schools are lagging the state's target pay for teachers, and the gap is growing, according to data shared with a state board in Pierre.

That's despite the 2016 Legislature's efforts to address the problem by increasing the state's sales tax by half a percentage point. This year, the Legislature reduced the state sales tax by three-tenths of a percentage point; meanwhile, the state's average teacher pay stands at 49th in the nation.

The state's Teacher Compensation Review Board conducted its first meeting of 2023 on Monday in Pierre.

"South Dakota was so far behind everyone else," said state Sen. and Board Chair Jim Bolin, R-Canton, a former teacher. "We didn't move up significantly in the number of states we passed, but we did close the gap."

According to a report shared by the state Department of Education, South Dakota teachers were making an average of \$42,025 during the 2015/2016 school year. During the 2016/2017 school year, the number jumped to 46,979.

The average teacher salary among the state's approximately 10,000 teachers is now an estimated \$51,363. The state Department of Education showed slides with a target of \$55,756 for this year. And the state may veer further off track from that goal without a significant increase in compensation. The state's goal for 2024 is \$59,659.

South Dakota's average teacher salary ranks only above Mississippi and West Virginia (the rankings extend to No. 51 because Washington, D.C., is included). The state is last among neighboring states, and about 7% of South Dakota teachers leave the profession each year.

A presentation shared with the board said the state also faces a teacher shortage, especially in elementary, special education, language arts, fine arts and math. Aberdeen Superintendent Becky Guffin told board members about the consequences of not having adequate staffing.

"We no longer have a calculus or statistics class," Guffin said. "And I think we used to offer four foreign languages. We'll be struggling to have a Spanish class next year."

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South Dakota Department of Education Secretary Joseph Graves followed that, saying, "And they're not reflected in the data because you can't have an opening for a position you don't have."

Graves said the state has a number of efforts in place to improve the situation. Those include advertising to recruit teachers from outside the state, a mentor program, and a pilot program that aims to help about 90 teacher aides from more than 50 school districts become fully certified teachers.

"Right now, we're trying to see if the pilot works," Graves said.

Ranking 49th in teacher pay is nothing to celebrate, said state Sen. Reynold Nesiba, D-Sioux Falls, who sits on the review board.

"Why can't South Dakota be first in the region?" Nesiba told South Dakota Searchlight. "We should make education the priority that it deserves to be. When budgeting, we start there and build the rest of our budget around that. But we just don't do that."

Meanwhile, Gov. Kristi Noem announced Monday that state government closed the 2023 budget year with a surplus of \$96.8 million.

Bolin said he wants to raise teacher pay.

"We're doing reasonably well, but not well enough if we're wanting to stay competitive," he told South Dakota Searchlight.

A dearth of qualified counselors also emerged as a pressing concern during the board meeting. Graves said the state is likely "way under" the ideal counselor-to-student ratio.

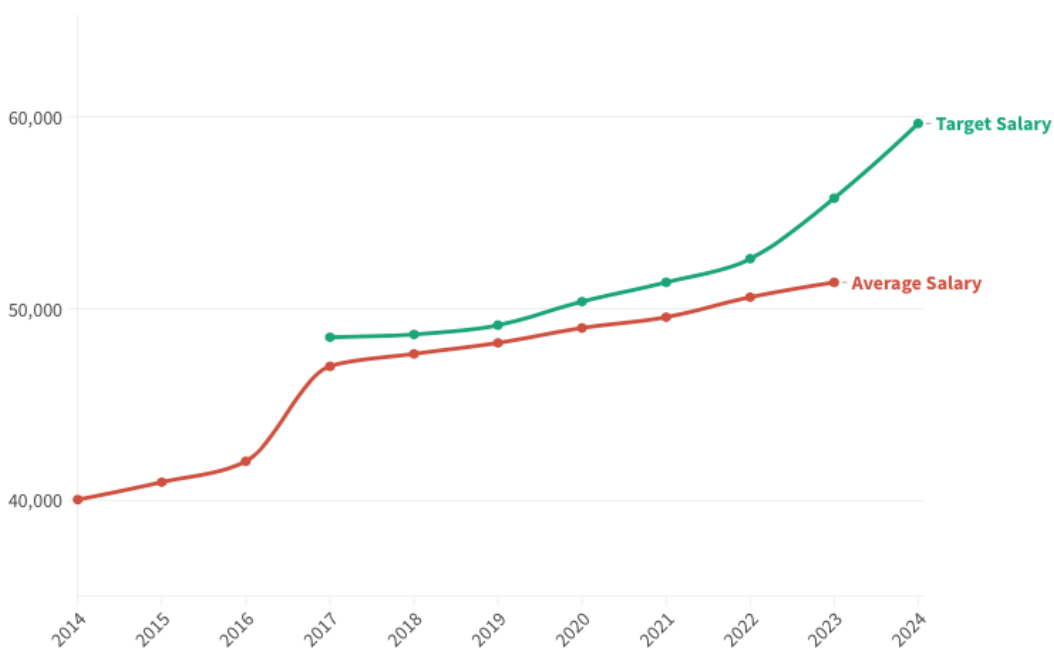
"You can't hire guidance counselors," Graves said. "There just aren't any people in that profession."

The board, which was created in 2016 when the Legislature raised sales taxes for teacher pay, aims to draft recommendations for the next legislative session in Pierre this winter. The board's next public meeting is scheduled for Aug. 21.

Joshua Haiar is a reporter based in Sioux Falls. Born and raised in Mitchell, he joined the Navy as a public affairs specialist after high school and then earned a degree from the University of South Dakota. Prior to joining South Dakota Searchlight, Joshua worked for five years as a multimedia specialist and journalist with South Dakota Public Broadcasting.

South Dakota Teacher Pay

2014 to 2024

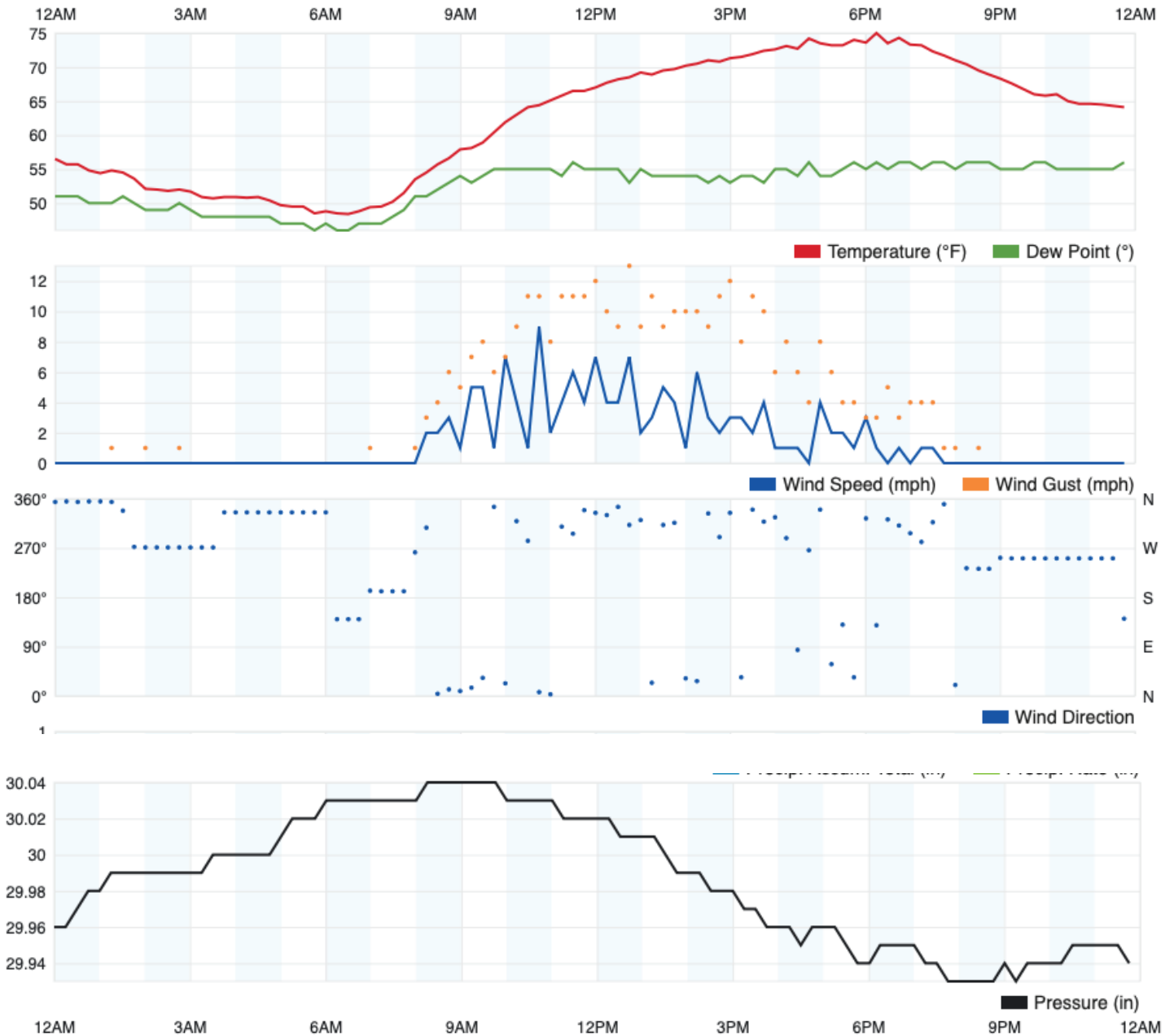


Source: S.D. Department of Education

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
20%	30%					
Mostly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Mostly Sunny then Sunny and Breezy	Mostly Clear and Breezy	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny
High: 82 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 85 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 79 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 82 °F



Today's Severe Weather Threat

July 18, 2023
2:56 AM

Main focus across central North Dakota and north central South Dakota

Synopsis:

Between 4pm and 10pm storms are expected to track from central North Dakota and north central South Dakota southeast. Main threat with storms will be large hail.

Tornado Potential

Very Low **Low** Medium High

Max Hail Size

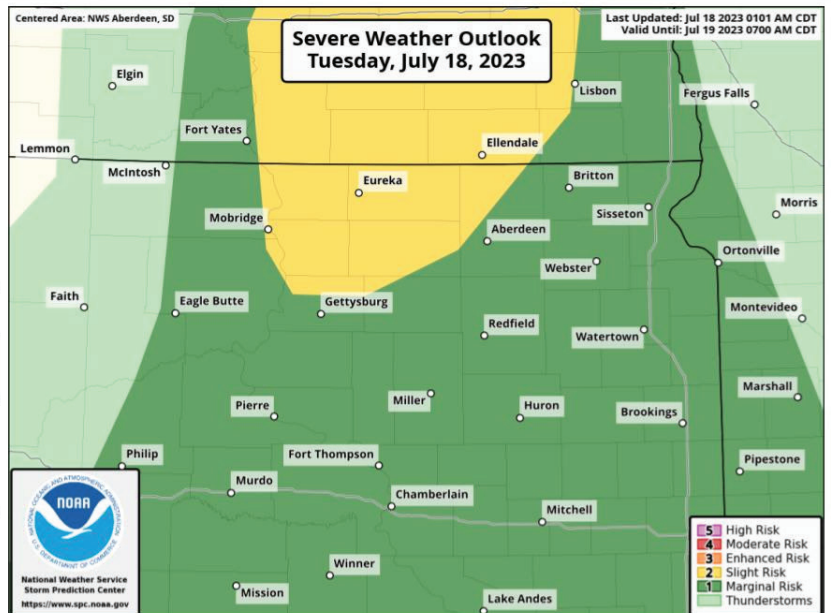
Dimes Quarters Golfball **Baseball**

Max Wind Speed

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

Heavy Rain/Flooding Potential

Very Low **Low** Medium High



National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Storms are expected to develop along a front that will move into the Missouri valley this afternoon. This will be the focus for severe weather through the late afternoon and evening, with the storm threat transitioning south and east during the late evening/overnight, though with a lower potential for severe weather.

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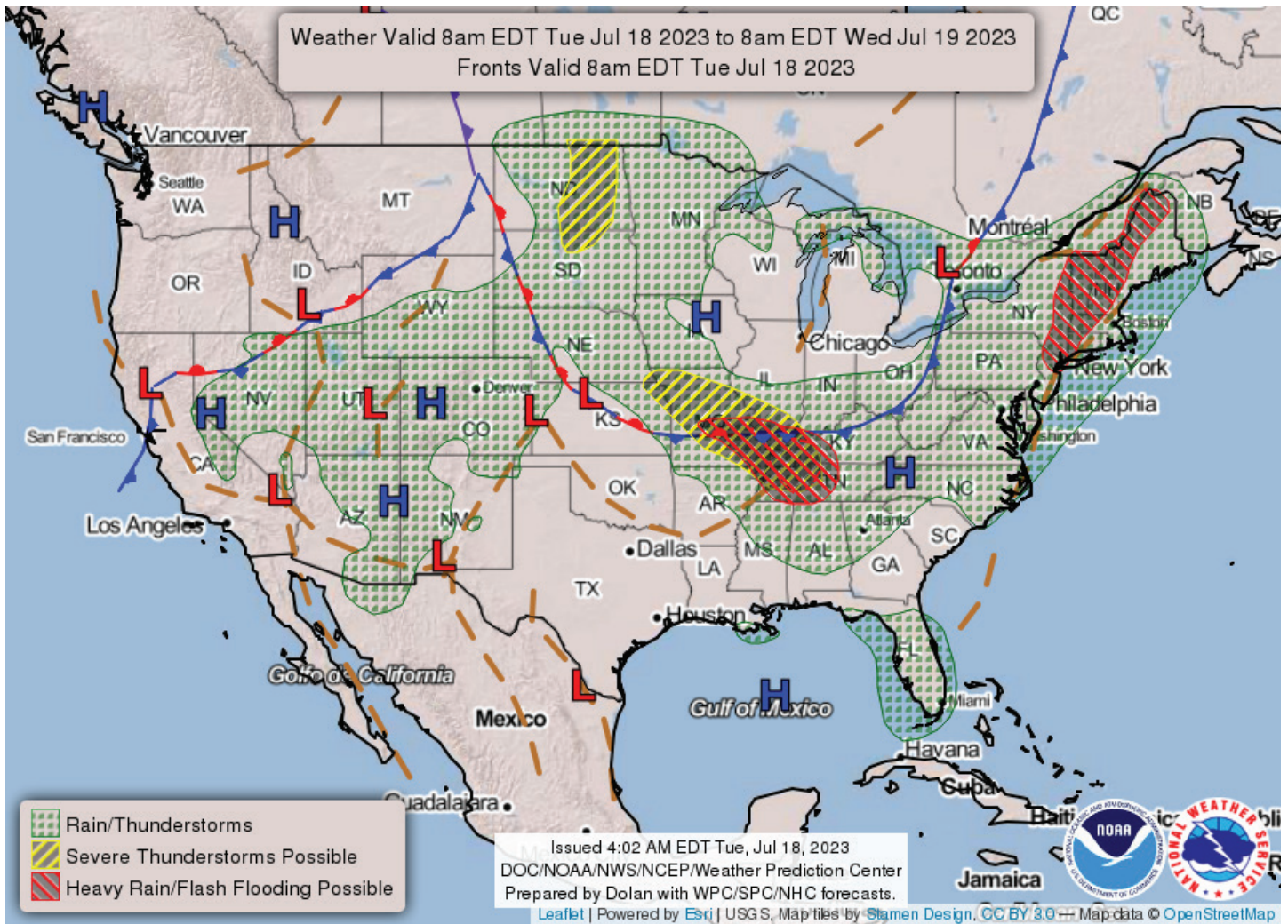
Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 75 °F at 6:15 PM
Low Temp: 48 °F at 5:45 AM
Wind: 13 mph at 12:45 PM
Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 15 hours, 17 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 106 in 1936
Record Low: 40 in 1915
Average High: 85
Average Low: 60
Average Precip in July.: 1.99
Precip to date in July.: 1.32
Average Precip to date: 13.00
Precip Year to Date: 12.67
Sunset Tonight: 9:17:35 PM
Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:00:44 AM



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Today in Weather History

July 18, 1883: An estimated F3 tornado moved southeast from south of Redfield to north of Hitchcock, to 6 miles southeast of Crandon in Spink County. At least one farm house was destroyed and swept away. Three people were killed on one farm.

July 18, 1986: In the afternoon, an F2 tornado that touched down in the northern suburbs of Minneapolis became one of the most observed and photographed tornadoes ever. The detailed coverage included video from a Minnesota DOT traffic camera and a remarkable aerial video taken from a helicopter by a television camera crew. The tornado began in Brooklyn Park and moved slowly northeast, causing light to moderate damage. It then turned east and slowed as it crossed the Mississippi River. Also on this day, an F2 tornado touched down two miles southeast of Bryant, in Hamlin County. This tornado traveled near Dolph Creek and moved east along the creek to the Lake Norden area. The tornado damaged many trees and destroyed a barn. A second F2 tornado touched down three miles west of Toronto and moved southeast. The tornado destroyed a barn, silo, and six other buildings and caused extensive damage to farm equipment on a farm one mile south and a half mile west Astoria.

July 18, 2008: Severe thunderstorms developed across parts of central and north-central South Dakota bringing large hail up to the size of golf balls and damaging winds to near 80 mph. Some tree, vehicle, and building damage occurred with some of the storms. Eighty mph winds or higher brought down many branches along with some trees in Fort Pierre. Power was cut off for parts of Fort Pierre when branches fell on power lines. Several truck trailers and feed silos were tipped onto their sides by the high winds. Also, some buildings were damaged. A loaded train was pushed down the tracks almost a quarter of a mile by the strong winds. Seventy mph winds or greater brought down many tree branches along with some trees in Pierre. There were power outages in Pierre along with some buildings receiving damage. Damaging thunderstorm winds also downed six power poles between Sully Buttes and Onida knocking power out to over 800 homes in and around Onida.

64: The great fire of Rome breaks out and destroys much of the city on this day. Despite the well-known stories, there is no evidence that the Roman emperor, Nero, either started the fire or played the fiddle while it burned. The fire began in the slums of a district south of the legendary Palatine Hill. The area's homes burned very quickly, and the fire spread north, fueled by high winds.

1889 - A cloudburst in West Virginia along the small creeks in Wirt County, Jackson County and Wood County claimed twenty lives. Rockport, WV, reported nineteen inches of rain in two hours and ten minutes that Thursday evening. Tygart Creek rose 22 feet in one hour, and villages were swept away on Tygart, Slate, Tucker, and Sandy Creeks. (The Weather Channel)

1936 - The all time record high temperature for the state of Kansas was set when a 121-degree high temperature fried Fredonia. (US National Weather Service Wichita)

1942 - A record deluge occurred at Smethport in northern Pennsylvania, with 30.7 inches in just six hours. The downpours and resultant flooding in Pennsylvania were devastating. (David Ludlum)

1986 - One of the most photo-genic tornadoes touched down in the northern suburbs of Minneapolis, MN, during the late afternoon. The very slow moving tornado actually appeared live on the evening news by way of an aerial video taken by the KARE-TV helicopter crew. The tornado, unlike most, was quite the prima donna, staying visible to tens of thousands of persons for thirty minutes. It was moderate in intensity, with winds of 113-157 mph, and caused 650 thousand dollars damage. (Storm Data)

1987 - Cool weather prevailed in the western U.S. Seven cities reported record low temperatures for the date, including Alamosa, CO, with a reading of 38 degrees. The low of 52 degrees at Bakersfield, CA, was a record for July. Up to eight inches of snow covered the Northern Sierra Nevada Range of California from a storm the previous day. During that storm, winds gusting to 52 mph at Slide Mountain, NV, produced a wind chill reading of 20 degrees below zero. Susanville, CA, reached 17 degrees that previous day, Blue Canyon, CA, dipped to a July record of 36 degrees, and the high of 44 degrees at Klamath Falls, OR, smashed their previous record for July by ten degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

GOING AFTER THE RIGHT THINGS

Everyone admires a "go-getter." Their energy and enthusiasm are an inspiration and often motivate others to "get involved in life." One important fact, however, is to know what you want and why you want it before you go after it and try to get it. Getting for the sake of getting can be a disaster!

A good example of a go-getter is King David. He accomplished many things for God, and the people he served and led. And, he left a great legacy for us in his writings that can provide guidance for our lives. How? He knew what he wanted and what he wanted was the right thing!

A great example of David's "going" after the "right thing" is in Psalm 27. "This one thing I ask of the Lord "this thing I seek most" is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating in His temple." Does that mean he lived in church? No!

The word "temple" refers to "the presence of the Lord." We cannot read the Psalms without believing David achieved his greatest desire: to live in God's presence each day of his life. It is reflected in all that he did. So, surely, this should be our greatest desire as well. Why?

When we search for and enjoy being in His "presence" - being with Him in prayer, reading His Word, and meditating on the things of the Lord - we can be confident of His peace and presence, promises and protection, as well as His guidance and goodness, grace and gifts.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to always go after "the right things," knowing that when we do, what we get is Your best for our lives. Help us to do the right things rather than things right! In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: This one thing I ask of the Lord "this thing I seek most" is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, delighting in the Lord's perfections and meditating in His temple. Psalm 27:1-4



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

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2023 Community Events

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

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WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.14.23

10 24 48 51 66 15

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$640,000,000

NEXT 15 Hrs 34 Mins
DRAW: 43 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.17.23

25 28 29 40 51 10

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$5,930,000

NEXT 1 Days 14 Hrs 49
DRAW: Mins 43 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.17.23

2 4 17 30 45 12

TOP PRIZE:
\$7,000/week

NEXT 15 Hrs 4 Mins 44
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.15.23

3 9 19 31 32

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$20,000

NEXT 1 Days 15 Hrs 4
DRAW: Mins 44 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.17.23

9 37 38 62 69 23

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 15 Hrs 33
DRAW: Mins 43 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
07.17.23

5 8 9 17 41 21

Power Play: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$1,000,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 15 Hrs 33
DRAW: Mins 43 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

Second heat wave in as many weeks grips Mediterranean while fires hit Spain, Switzerland and Greece

By COLLEEN BARRY and JAMEY KEATEN Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — Officials warned residents and tourists packing Mediterranean destinations on Tuesday to stay indoors as a second heat wave in as many weeks hit the region and Greece, Spain and Switzerland battled wildfires.

In Italy, Red Cross teams checked on the elderly by phone while in Portugal they took to social media to warn people not to leave pets or children in parked cars. In Greece, volunteers handed out drinking water, while in Spain they reminded people to protect themselves from breathing in smoke from fires.

Several countries in southern Europe are sweating through a new heat wave, amplified by climate change, that is expected to persist for days. The U.N. weather agency said that temperatures in Europe could break even the 48.8-degree Celsius (119.8-degree Fahrenheit) record set in Sicily two years ago, as concerns grew the heat would provoke a spike in deaths.

"Heat waves are really an invisible killer," Panu Saaristo, emergency health unit team leader for the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, told a briefing in Geneva. "We are experiencing hotter and hotter temperatures for longer stretches of time every single summer here in Europe."

Heat records are being shattered all over the world, and scientists say there is a good chance that 2023 will go down as the hottest year on record, with measurements going back to the middle of the 19th century.

June saw the warmest global average temperature, according to Europe's Copernicus Climate Change Service, and the U.N.'s World Meteorological Organization predicted that a number of heat records were set to fall this summer. The global organization said unprecedented sea surface temperatures and low Arctic sea-ice levels were largely to blame.

Human-caused climate change from the burning of coal, oil and natural gas is making the world hotter and is being amplified by the naturally occurring El Nino weather phenomenon. But the current El Nino only started a few months ago and is still weak to moderate and isn't expected to peak until winter.

Temperatures above 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) were forecast to persist not only in the Mediterranean, but across North America, Asia and North Africa.

In Italy, health officials warned of extreme temperatures in 20 cities, rising to 23 on Wednesday, from Bolzano in the north to Palermo in the south.

In Greece, where a second heat wave is expected to hit Thursday, three large wildfires burned outside Athens for a second day. Thousands of people evacuated from coastal areas south of the capital returned to their homes Tuesday when a fire finally receded after they spent the night on beaches, hotels and public facilities.

But wildfires continued to burn out of control to the north and west of Athens.

Authorities last week introduced changes in working hours and ordered afternoon closures of the Acropolis and other ancient sites to allow workers to cope with the high heat. Temperatures as high as 44 C (111 F) are expected in parts of central and southern Greece by the end of the week.

Most of Spain is under alert for high to extreme heat with forecasts calling for peak temperatures of 43 C (109 F) in areas along the Ebro River in the northeast and on the island of Mallorca. Spain is also dealing with a prolonged drought that has increased concerns about the risk of wildfires.

Some 400 firefighters assisted by nine water-dumping aircraft labored to extinguish a wildfire that burned for a fourth consecutive day on La Palma in Spain's Canary Islands. Authorities said that a perimeter has been established around the blaze but that it is still active.

In Switzerland, some 150 firefighters, police, troops and other emergency teams backed by helicopters fanned out Tuesday to fight a wildfire that engulfed a mountainside in the southwestern Wallis region, evacuating residents of four villages and hamlets in the area.

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In a report Monday, the U.N. weather agency said that a committee of experts has verified the accuracy of the 48.8 degree Celsius record set on August 11, 2021, in Sicily. A full report has not yet been published.

The previous verified record of 48 degrees Celsius (118.4 degrees Fahrenheit) was set in Athens on July 10, 1977.

"These are not your normal weather systems of the past. They have arrived as a consequence of climate change," said John Nairn, senior extreme heat adviser for WMO. "It is global warming, and it's going to continue for some time."

Nairn noted a sixfold increase in simultaneous heat waves since the 1980s, "and the trend line isn't changing."

Keaten reported from Geneva. Associated Press writers Dana Beltaji in London, Derek Gatopoulos in Athens and Joseph Wilson in Barcelona contributed.

Israeli protesters block highways in 'day of disruption' against Netanyahu's judicial overhaul plan

By SAM McNEIL Associated Press

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Israeli protesters blocked highways and gathered outside Tel Aviv's stock exchange and military headquarters on Tuesday in the latest countrywide demonstration against Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's planned judicial overhaul.

The latest "day of disruption" came as longtime allies of the prime minister pushed a contentious piece of legislation through a parliamentary committee ahead of a vote expected next week.

Additional protests are planned throughout the day, including on the platforms at train stations around the country during the afternoon rush hour.

Demonstrators, many of them military reservists, created human chains and blocked one of the entrances to the Kirya, Israel's military headquarters in central Tel Aviv. Outside the Tel Aviv stock exchange, demonstrators ignited smoke bombs, drummed and chanted, and held up signs reading "save our startup nation" and "dictatorship will kill the economy."

Others demonstrated outside the headquarters of the Histadrut, Israel's largest labor union, demanding the organization calls for a general strike — a move that could paralyze the country's economy. Protesters scaled scaffolding outside the building and hoisted reservist protest flags. The labor union had called a strike in March, a move that contributed to Netanyahu freezing the judicial overhaul.

Itai Bar Natan, 48, CFO of an Israeli start-up, said he was angry enough to climb the scaffolding and wave the flag that read "Brothers in arms," a slogan used by military reservists protesting against the judicial overhaul.

"This government is totally insane. We are afraid for our democracy, for everything we've built — that's why we are all here fighting," Natan said.

Police said officers had arrested at least 19 people suspected of public disturbance during protests blocking highways in central Israel.

The Israel Medical Association also announced that it would be holding a two-hour strike in protest of the legislation on Wednesday.

Netanyahu heads the most ultranationalist and religiously conservative government in Israel's 75-year history. He proposed a series of drastic changes to the country's judiciary shortly after taking office in December. His government took office in the aftermath of the country's fifth elections in under four years, all of them regarded as referendums on his fitness to serve as prime minister while on trial for corruption.

The weekly mass protests led Netanyahu to suspend the overhaul in March but he decided to revive the plan last month after compromise talks with the political opposition collapsed.

The proposed laws would grant lawmakers greater control over the appointment of judges and give parliament the power to overturn high court decisions and pass laws impervious to judicial review.

Tuesday's protests came as Israel's figurehead president, Isaac Herzog, was visiting Washington and set

to meet with President Joe Biden. Herzog's visit comes a day after Biden spoke with Netanyahu by phone and invited him to meet in the U.S. this fall, despite expressing concern about the controversial plans to overhaul Israel's judiciary.

The bill making its way through parliament this week would eliminate the Supreme Court's ability to strike down government decisions it deems unreasonable. Judges used that "reasonability clause" to annul a key Netanyahu ally's appointment as interior minister after accepting a plea deal for tax evasion in 2021.

He and his allies say the measures are necessary to curb an over-activist Supreme Court comprised of unelected judges. Critics say the judicial overhaul will concentrate power in the hands of Netanyahu and his allies and undermine the country's system of checks and balances.

They also say Netanyahu has a conflict of interest because he is on trial for charges of fraud, breach of trust and accepting bribes.

An American national has crossed into North Korea without authorization and has been detained

By HYUNG-JIN KIM and KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — An American has crossed the heavily fortified border from South Korea into North Korea, the American-led U.N. Command overseeing the area said Tuesday, amid heightened tensions over North Korea's nuclear program.

The U.N. Command tweeted that the U.S. citizen was on a tour to the Korean border village of Panmunjom and crossed the border into the North without authorization.

It said he is currently in North Korean custody and that the U.N. Command is working with its North Korean counterparts to resolve the incident.

It gave no further details on who the person is or why he crossed the border.

Cases of Americans or South Koreans defecting to North Korea are rare, though more than 30,000 North Koreans have fled to South Korea to avoid political oppression and economic difficulties at home since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

Panmunjom, located inside the 248-kilometer (154-mile) -long Demilitarized Zone, was created at the close of the Korean War. Bloodshed and gunfire have occasionally occurred there, but it has also been a venue for numerous talks and a popular tourist spot.

The area is jointly overseen by the U.N. Command and North Korea. No civilians live at Panmunjom.

In November 2017, North Korean soldiers fired 40 rounds as one of their colleagues raced toward freedom. The soldier was hit five times before he was found beneath a pile of leaves on the southern side of Panmunjom. He survived and is now in South Korea.

There have been a small number of U.S. soldiers who fled to North Korea during the Cold War, including Charles Jenkins, who deserted his army post in South Korea in 1965 and fled across the DMZ. He appeared in North Korean propaganda films and married a Japanese nursing student who had been abducted by North Korean agents. He died in Japan in 2017.

In recent years, some Americans have been arrested in North Korea after allegedly entering the country from China. They were later convicted of espionage and other anti-state acts, but were often released after the U.S. sent high-profile missions to secure their freedom.

In 2018, North Korea released the last three known American detainees as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was engaged in nuclear diplomacy with then-President Donald Trump. The high-stakes diplomacy collapsed in 2019 amid wrangling over U.S.-led sanctions on North Korea.

Tuesday's border crossing happened amid high tensions over North Korea's barrage of missile tests since the start of last year. The United States earlier Tuesday sent a nuclear-armed submarine to South Korea for the first time in decades as deterrence against North Korea.

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No winner in Monday's Powerball drawing. Jackpot reaches \$1 billion

By NICK INGRAM Associated Press

ST. JOSEPH, Mo. (AP) — The Powerball jackpot rose yet again to an estimated \$1 billion after no winning ticket was sold for the latest drawing.

No ticket for Monday's drawing matched the white balls 5, 8, 9, 17, 41 and red Powerball 21. The jackpot was estimated at \$900 million.

The new jackpot for Wednesday's drawing would be the seventh highest in U.S. history and the third largest for Powerball. Ticket buyers have a chance at \$1 billion paid out in yearly increments or a \$516.8 million one-time lump sum before taxes.

Three people won \$2 million after matching all five numbers plus the Power Play, lottery officials said. The winning tickets were sold in Arkansas, Georgia and Texas.

Five people won \$1 million after matching all five numbers. The winning tickets were sold in Connecticut, Florida, Kentucky, New York and Pennsylvania.

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

The last time someone won the Powerball jackpot was April 19 for a top prize of nearly \$253 million. Since then, no one has won the grand prize in the past 38 consecutive drawings. The jackpot will keep growing until someone wins.

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

The story has been updated to correct that the jackpot for Wednesday's drawing would be the seventh highest lottery jackpot in U.S. history. It also has been updated to correct the number of the red Powerball to 21.

Day and night Phoenix has sweltered from heat that will break a record for American cities

By SETH BORENSTEIN and ANITA SNOW Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Phoenix's relentless streak of dangerously hot days was finally poised to smash a record for major U.S. cities on Tuesday, the 19th straight day the desert city was to see temperatures soar to 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 C) or more.

Nighttime has offered little relief from the brutal temperatures. Phoenix's low of 95 F (35 C) on Monday was its highest overnight low ever, toppling the previous record of 93 F (33.8 C) set in 2009. It was the eighth straight day of temperatures not falling below 90 F (32.2 C), another record.

It's "pretty miserable when you don't have any recovery overnight," said National Weather Service meteorologist Matt Salerno.

The length of Phoenix's heat wave is notable even during a summer in which much of the southern United States and the world as a whole has been cooking in record temperatures, something scientists say is stoked by climate change.

What's going on in a metropolitan area known as the Valley of the Sun is far worse than a short spike in the thermometer, experts said, and it poses a health danger to many.

"Long-term exposure to heat is more difficult to withstand than single hot days, especially if it is not cooling off at night enough to sleep well," said Katharine Jacobs, director of the Center for Climate Adaptation Science and Solutions at the University of Arizona.

"This will likely be one of the most notable periods in our health record in terms of deaths and illness," said David Hondula, chief heat officer for the City of Phoenix. "Our goal is for that not to be the case."

The last time Phoenix didn't reach 110 F (43.3 C) was June 29, when it hit 108 (42.2 C). The record of 18 days above 110 that was tied Monday was first set in 1974, and it appeared destined to be shattered

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with temperatures forecast above that through the end of the week.

"This is very persistent," said National Weather Service meteorologist Isaac Smith. "We're just going to see this streak continue it looks like."

No other major U.S. city has had a streak of 110 degree days or 90 degree nights longer than Phoenix, said weather historian Christopher Burt of the Weather Company.

NOAA climate data scientists Russ Vose and Ken Kunkel found no large cities with that run of heat, but smaller places such as Death Valley and Needles in California and Casa Grande in Arizona have had longer streaks. Death Valley has had an 84-day streak of 110-degree temperatures and a 47-day streak of nighttime temperatures not going below 90, Vose said.

Phoenix's heat wave has both long and short-term causes, said Arizona State University's Randy Cerveny, who coordinates weather record verification for the World Meteorological Organization.

"The long-term is the continuation of increasing temperatures in recent decades due to human influence on climate, while the short-term cause is the persistence over the last few weeks of a very strong upper level ridge of high pressure over the western United States," he said.

That high pressure, also known as a heat dome, has been around the Southwest cooking it for weeks, and when it moved, it moved to be even more centered on Phoenix than ever, Smith said.

All of the southern U.S. has been under a heat dome with temperature records shattered from California to Florida and the globe itself is the hottest its been on record for much of the summer.

The high pressure in the Southwest also prevents cooling rain and clouds from bringing relief, Smith said. Normally, the Southwest's monsoon season kicks in around mid-June with rain and clouds. But Phoenix has not had measurable rain since mid-March.

"Although it is always hot in the summer in Phoenix, this heat wave is intense and unrelenting," Jacobs said. "Unfortunately, it is a harbinger of things to come given that the most reliable projected impacts of climate change are those that are directly related to the increase in global temperatures."

Since 1983, Phoenix's average daily summer temperature has increased 3.6 degrees (2 degrees Celsius), it's daily high temperature has gone up 3.2 degrees (1.8 degrees Celsius) and it's nighttime low has gone up 4.4 degrees (2.4 degrees Celsius), according to NOAA.

"The changing climate along with urban heating are certainly exacerbating the warmer temperatures and making them more frequent," Smith said.

And that's dangerous for many groups.

"Heat waves are deadly, especially for the homeless, for people who work outdoors or for those who have inadequate air conditioning," Jacobs said. "It is especially hard for older people and those with underlying health conditions to stay hydrated."

Such heat can hit Indian Country particularly hard. Jacobs said about 30% of the population of the Hopi and Navajo reservations lack running water and air conditioning and aren't near cooling centers. That's especially unfair because "tribal members have contributed very little to greenhouse gas concentrations," she said.

Another aspect of heat waves that disproportionately affects certain communities is the urban heat island effect, where cities are warming because of buildings and lack of trees and greenspace, said Dr. Jonathan Patz, a professor of health and the environment at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

A study published two years ago in the journal Nature Communications found that people of color face more extreme temperatures compared to non-Hispanic white people, and poor people must deal with hotter temperatures than rich people.

Phoenix's majority Hispanic neighborhoods tend to have less tree canopy than other parts of the city.

And one of the hottest neighborhoods in the city is Edison-Eastlake, a historically Black neighborhood east of downtown that has become majority Latino, where in past years temperatures have reached as much as 10 degrees higher than other parts of the city.

Arizona State University researchers are conducting a heat study of the neighborhood, which is home to the largest collection of public housing in Arizona, to gauge whether temperatures ease as it undergoes

redevelopment aimed at better protecting residents from extreme heat. Any conclusions so far have not been made public.

Hondula, the Phoenix heat officer, was involved in that study several years ago as a researcher at the university.

"It's very clear that heat has disproportionate impacts on some communities," he said. "That's where we can and should work."

Follow AP's climate and environment coverage at <https://apnews.com/hub/climate-and-environment>

Borenstein reported from Washington. Follow Seth Borenstein and Anita Snow on Twitter at @borenbears and @asnowreports

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

Russia targets key Ukraine Black Sea port of Odesa, a day after halting grain export deal

By FELIPE DANA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Ukrainian forces shot down scores of exploding drones and six cruise missiles during a pre-dawn Russian attack on the port of Odesa on Tuesday, authorities in Kyiv said, a day after Moscow broke off a deal that had allowed Ukraine to ship vital grain supplies from the Black Sea city during the war.

The Russians first sought to wear down Ukraine's air defenses with the drones and then targeted Odesa with six Kalibr cruise missiles, the Ukrainian military's Southern Command said.

All six missiles and 25 drones were shot down by air defenses in the Odesa region and other areas in the south, though their debris and shock waves damaged some port facilities and a few residential buildings, injuring an elderly man at his home, officials said.

Russia said the grain decision was not connected to a strike Monday on a key bridge between Moscow-annexed Crimea and Russia that the Kremlin blamed on Kyiv's forces using sea drones. Ukrainian officials stopped short of directly taking responsibility, as they have done in similar past strikes, but Ukraine's top security agency appeared tacitly to admit to a role in the strike.

Russia described Tuesday's strikes along the Black Sea coast as "retribution" for that attack.

The Russian Defense Ministry said it used sea-launched precision weapons on Ukrainian military facilities near Odesa and Mykolaiv, a coastal city about 50 kilometers (30 miles) to the northeast.

The Russian military destroyed facilities involved in preparing "terror attacks" against Russia that use sea drones, including a facility at a shipyard near Odesa that was producing them, the ministry said, while also hitting Ukrainian army fuel depots.

Andriy Yermak, the head of Ukraine's presidential office, said the Odesa attack showed that the Kremlin is ready to endanger the lives of millions of people around the world who need Ukrainian grain exports. Hunger is a growing threat in Africa, the Middle East and Asia, and high food prices have pushed more people into poverty.

"The world must realize that the goal of the Russian Federation is hunger and killing people," Yermak said. "They need waves of refugees. They want to weaken the West with this."

The United Nations and Ukraine's Western allies slammed Moscow for halting the Black Sea Grain Initiative, saying it put many lives in peril.

The Kremlin said the agreement would be suspended until Moscow's demands to lift restrictions on exports of Russian food and fertilizer to the world are met.

Meanwhile, the Russian Defense Ministry also said its forces had foiled a Ukrainian attack on occupied Crimea using 28 drones.

The ministry said 17 of the attacking drones were shot down by air defenses and 11 others were jammed

by electronic warfare means and crashed. It said there was no damage or casualties.

The reported attack came a day after the Kremlin blamed Ukraine for striking a bridge in Crimea that links Russia to Moscow-annexed Crimea and is a key supply route for Kremlin forces in the war.

Also Tuesday, satellite photos from Planet Labs PBC analyzed by The Associated Press show that a large convoy of vehicles have arrived at a once-abandoned military base in Belarus, which local authorities offered to Russia's Wagner military contractor following its short-lived mutiny against Moscow officials last month.

The photos, taken Monday, show a long line of vehicles coming off a highway into the base near the Belarusian town of Osipovichi, some 75 kilometers (45 miles) northwest of the capital, Minsk.

Belaruski Hajun, a Belarusian activist group that monitors troops movements in Belarus, said that a convoy of more than 100 vehicles carrying Russian flags and Wagner insignia entered the country, heading toward the field camp. The group said it was the third Wagner convoy to enter the country since last week.

Associated Press writer Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, contributed to this report.

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

Trump's classified documents case set for first pretrial conference hearing before Judge Cannon

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON and ERIC TUCKER Associated Press

FORT PIERCE, Fla. (AP) — A Florida judge who issued a court ruling last year that critics said was unduly favorable to Donald Trump is set to preside Tuesday over the first pretrial conference in his landmark criminal case concerning the mishandling of classified documents.

Prosecutors and defense lawyers are scheduled to appear before U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon to discuss the rules and procedures that will govern how classified evidence is used in the case. It's a routine subject for any prosecution that concerns classified information, but it's notable because it will be Cannon's first time hearing arguments in the case since the Republican former president's indictment last month.

At issue during Tuesday's arguments is a 1980 law known as the Classified Information Procedures Act. That statute governs how classified information is handled by the parties in a criminal prosecution. It's meant to balance a defendant's right to access evidence that prosecutors intend to use in a case against the government's interest in safeguarding sensitive and secret information.

Ahead of the pretrial conference, special counsel Jack Smith's team asked Cannon on Monday to enter a protective order that would, in part, restrict the ability of defense lawyers to share with Trump and his codefendant and aide, Walt Nauta, classified information in the case. In seeking the order, prosecutors wrote that defense lawyers have told them "that they intend to object to certain provisions of the proposed protective order, but did not specify any such provisions."

Trump and Nauta have pleaded not guilty to a 38-count indictment that accuses them of conspiring to hide classified documents from Justice Department investigators that were taken from the White House to Mar-a-Lago at the end of Trump's time in office in January 2021.

Neither Trump nor Nauta is expected to attend Tuesday's hearing.

Another unresolved issue that could come up Tuesday is the trial date. Prosecutors have proposed that the trial begin Dec. 11, while lawyers for Trump, who is pursuing the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, have suggested that it be postponed until after the election.

Cannon also presided over a lawsuit that the Trump team filed last year over the August 2022 FBI search of Mar-a-Lago. Cannon drew criticism and second-guessing from legal experts for granting Trump's request for a special master to conduct an independent review of the classified documents removed by the FBI from Mar-a-Lago.

A three-judge federal appeals court later overruled that order and said she had lacked the authority for such a ruling.

Tucker reported from Washington.

Climate envoy John Kerry meets with Chinese officials amid US push to stabilize rocky relations

BEIJING (AP) — U.S. climate envoy John Kerry told China's top diplomat on Tuesday that President Joe Biden's administration is "very committed" to stabilizing relations between the world's two biggest economies, as the countries seek to restart high-level contacts.

On his second day of talks in Beijing, Kerry met with the ruling Communist Party's head of foreign relations Wang Yi, telling him Biden hoped the two countries could "achieve efforts together that can make a significant difference to the world."

Ties between the countries have hit a historic low amid disputes over tariffs, access to technology, human rights and China's threats against self-governing Taiwan.

In his opening remarks, Wang said the sides had suffered from a lack of communication, but that China believes through renewed dialogue "we can find a proper solution to any problems."

"Sometimes, small problems can become big problems," Wang said, adding that dialogue must be conducted on an "equal basis."

That was an apparent reference to U.S. criticism of China's aggressive foreign policy, rights abuses against Muslim and Buddhist minorities and travel sanctions against officials ranging from the Beijing-appointed leader of Hong Kong to the country's defense minister.

China broke off some mid- and high-level contacts with the Biden administration last August, including over climate issues, to show its anger with then-House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's trip to Taiwan. China claims the island as its own territory to be brought under its control by force if necessary, threatening to draw the U.S. into a major conflict in a region crucial to the global economy.

Contacts have only slowly been restored and China continues to refuse to restart dialogue between the People's Liberation Army, the party's military branch, and the U.S. Department of Defense.

Kerry is the third senior Biden administration official in recent weeks to travel to China for meetings with their counterparts following Secretary of State Antony Blinken and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen.

Kerry said he appreciated the opportunity to "change our relationship for the better" and that Biden is "very committed to stability within this relationship and also to achieve efforts together that can make a significant difference to the world."

Biden "values his relationship with President Xi (Jinping), and I think President Xi values his relationship with President Biden, and I know he looks forward to being able to move forward and change the dynamic," Kerry said.

Kerry later paid a courtesy call on newly appointed Premier Li Qiang, the party's second-ranking official, who told him China and the U.S. should cooperate more closely on the "extremely large challenge" posed by global warming. No meeting has been set with Xi, and China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang has been absent from public sight for three weeks.

There was no immediate comment on Kerry's Monday meeting with his counterpart Xie Zhenhua in the first extensive face-to-face climate discussions between representatives of the world's two worst climate polluters after a nearly yearlong hiatus.

China leads the world in producing and consuming coal, and has proceeded with building new plants that add tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere annually, while also expanding the use of renewables such as solar and wind power.

China has pledged to level off carbon dioxide emissions by 2030 and become carbon neutral by 2060. The U.S. and the European Union have urged China to adopt more ambitious reduction targets.

As with the U.S. and Europe, China has seen record stretches of high temperatures that have threatened crops and prompted cities to open Cold War-era bomb shelters to help residents escape the heat.

U.S. lawmakers have faulted China for refusing to make bigger cuts in climate-damaging fossil fuel emissions, along with the country's insistence that it is still a developing economy that produces far less pollution

per capita and should be exempted from the climate standards adopted by developed Western economies.

Biden and Xi spent days together when both were their countries' vice presidents and met in November at the Group of 20 summit in Indonesia. However, no state visits have been held following the COVID-19 outbreak and no plans have been announced for their next face-to-face meeting.

Asked about U.S. restrictions on technology transfer and the overall state of bilateral relations, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning said China "has always opposed the U.S. politicizing and weaponizing economic, trade and technological issues."

"We hope the U.S. will implement President Biden's promise that he has no intention of decoupling from China, obstructing China's economic development, or encircling China, so as to create a favorable environment for China-U.S. economic and trade cooperation," Mao told reporters at a daily briefing.

Climate envoy John Kerry meets with Chinese officials amid US push to stabilize rocky relations

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Israel's Herzog will meet with Biden as US concerns over settlements and judicial overhaul simmer

By ZEKE MILLER AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Tuesday is hosting Israel's figurehead president Isaac Herzog at the White House, as they seek to sustain ties despite U.S. concerns over Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's controversial plans to overhaul his country's judicial system and ongoing settlement construction in the West Bank.

Herzog's visit comes a day after Biden spoke with Netanyahu by phone and invited him to meet in the U.S. this fall, although the president expressed reservations about several of the Netanyahu hard-right coalition's policies. Netanyahu's government is pushing forward with judicial changes that have sparked widespread protest in Israel and he has authorized the construction of thousands of new housing units in the West Bank.

Netanyahu and his allies, a collection of ultra-Orthodox and ultranationalist parties, say the plan is needed to rein in the powers of unelected judges. Opponents say the plan will destroy Israel's fragile system of checks and balances and move the country toward authoritarian rule.

Herzog has appealed for a compromise that has thus far proven elusive. Many American Jewish groups and Democratic lawmakers have expressed concerns about the plan.

During his visit, Herzog is set to meet with Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and congressional leaders. On Wednesday he will become the second Israeli president, after his father Chaim Herzog, to address Congress. His speech will mark Israel's celebration of its 75th year of independence.

Herzog's visit comes weeks after Israeli forces carried out one of their most intensive operations in the West Bank in two decades, with a two-day air and ground offensive in Jenin, a militant stronghold in the occupied West Bank. Senior members of Netanyahu's government have been pushing for increased construction and other measures to cement Israel's control over the West Bank in response to a more than year-long wave of violence with the Palestinians.

U.S. officials have broadly supported Israel's right to defend itself from militant attacks but have also urged restraint to minimize harm to civilians and have lobbied against additional settlements that would further diminish the chances of securing a two-state solution between Israel and Palestinians.

The Biden administration declined to say whether Biden would host Netanyahu at the White House — as the Israeli leader has hoped — or in New York on the margins of the U.N. General Assembly.

White House visits are typically standard protocol for Israeli prime ministers, and the delay in Netanyahu receiving one has become an issue in Israel, with opponents citing it as a reflection of deteriorating relations with the U.S.

National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said Biden again on Monday expressed concern to Netanyahu over the judicial plan — as he did when they last spoke earlier this year — and urged the “broadest possible consensus” over the legislation that has been pushed by Netanyahu and his hard-line coalition.

Kirby said during the call Biden also expressed his “ironclad, unwavering commitment” to Israel’s security and that the two leaders discussed Iran’s nuclear program and regional security issues. Biden also “expressed concern” over Israel’s continued settlement growth in the West Bank and urged Israel to take steps to preserve the viability of a two-state solution with Palestinians.

Biden, Kirby said, also welcomed steps by the Palestinian Authority to reassert security control in Jenin and other areas of the West Bank and moves by Israel and Palestinians to move toward another round of direct talks.

Progressive lawmakers, Reps. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Jamaal Bowman, Cori Bush and Ilhan Omar have pledged to boycott Herzog’s address in protest of Israel’s policies.

Herzog’s visit comes days after Rep. Pramila Jayapal, chair of the influential 100-member Congressional Progressive Caucus, sparked outrage for calling Israel a “racist state,” including criticism from House Democratic leader Rep. Hakeem Jeffries. Jayapal later said she was criticizing Israel’s government, not its existence as a country.

Kirby said Biden was glad she apologized. “We think an apology was the right thing to do,” he told reporters Monday.

Israel captured the West Bank, east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians claim all three territories for a future independent state.

Israel has annexed east Jerusalem and claims it as part of its capital — a claim that is not internationally recognized. It says the West Bank is disputed territory whose fate should be determined through negotiations, while Israel withdrew from Gaza in 2005. Two years later, the Hamas militant group overran the territory.

South Korea searches for missing people as death toll from downpours reaches 41

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Rescuers searched Tuesday for nine people still missing in landslides and other incidents caused by more than a week of torrential rains in South Korea, as the country’s military dispatched more than 10,000 troops to support rescue works.

The downpours pounding South Korea since July 9 have left 41 people dead, nine missing and 35 others injured. The rainfall has also forced about 12,780 people to evacuate and left about 28,600 households without power.

During a Cabinet Council meeting Tuesday, President Yoon Suk Yeol ordered officials to mobilize all available resources to rescue any possible additional survivors, assist victims and conduct recovery works.

Yoon said the government plans to designate major rain-stricken areas as special disaster zones to help speed up the recovery.

The Defense Ministry separately said it was sending equipment and 11,000 soldiers on Tuesday to support government efforts to find the missing people and restore damages.

Much of the severe damage has been reported in South Korea’s central and southern regions, with the nine missing people listed in the southeastern North Gyeongsang province or the southeastern city of Busan.

Also, 14 fatalities were reported from a tunnel in the central city of Cheongju, where 17 vehicles including a bus were trapped in a flash flood that may have filled up the passageway. Authorities earlier mobilized

issues.

Sánchez said he would never form a government with Podemos, deeming it too radical, but then he did in 2019. Sánchez also said he would not pardon nine separatists who were convicted of sedition after pushing for the Catalonia region's secession — but then he did.

The PP claims his minority government betrays Spain by aligning itself with extremists in Basque and Catalan regional parties that ultimately want independence.

But the Socialist-Podemos coalition's biggest blunder came in what was supposed to have been one of its signature pieces of progressive legislation. A sexual consent law passed in October inadvertently allowed more than 1,000 convicted sex offenders to have their sentences reduced, and over 100 gained early release.

Sánchez apologized and the law was amended to close the legal loophole, but the episode provided invaluable material for the right-wing parties and right-leaning media outlets.

Sánchez "has made it easier for him to be perceived as a liar," Canel said, adding that he did not help his cause when he explained in a television interview that "Sanchismo" stood for evil, lies and manipulation.

The 51-year-old prime minister also performed disastrously in the only televised pre-election debate with the PP's Feijóo, 61. Polling analyses show anti-Sánchez sentiment and the fear of Vox entering government has led some 700,000 Socialist voters switching to the PP, according to Canel.

"The vote is not going to be about corruption or the economy. It will be motivated by a rejection of Sánchez," she said.

Sánchez first took office in June 2018 after winning a no-confidence vote that ended an eight-year run in government for the PP on the back of a major corruption scandal. He led a caretaker government until, after two elections in November 2019, he struck a deal with Podemos.

Within months, Spain was one of the countries hit hardest by the COVID-19 pandemic in terms of both deaths and economic impact, severely testing the strength of the left-wing coalition government. Russia's invasion of Ukraine and its knock-on financial effects tested it again.

But heading into the May elections, Sánchez could boast of a growing economy, falling unemployment and inflation, pension and minimum wage increases, and the establishment of a minimum vital income. The government also negotiated a deal with the EU that allowed it to slash consumer energy costs driven up by Russia's war in Ukraine.

The various measures helped millions of people but apparently have not translated into voter loyalty. King's College London's Calvo thinks the right-wing's nationalist tactics have put Sánchez on the defensive, while his leftist coalition's laudably progressive policies have made the government seem out of touch.

A factor that could upset poll predictions is Sumar, a new movement of 15 small left-wing parties, including Podemos, led by Spain's immensely popular labor minister, Yolanda Díaz. If it beats Vox for third place Sunday, Sumar could provide the Socialists with backing to form another coalition government.

With the election taking place at the height of summer, millions of citizens are likely to be vacationing away from their regular polling places. But postal voting requests have soared, and officials have estimated a 70% election turnout.

As UK housing costs soar, anxiety grips homeowners and renters: 'I'm in meltdown'

By SYLVIA HUI and PAN PYLAS Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — For Sadie James, the cost-of-living crisis in Britain just never seems to ease.

First, it was skyrocketing energy and food costs stemming from Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Now, the 61-year-old worries whether she can keep a roof over her head.

James, who lives in south London, has struggled for years to stay on top of her finances. Just as she was starting to clear her debts, she's back to square one: Her rent keeps rising, and on top of higher food and energy bills, her welfare payments just can't keep up.

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"I'm actually in a meltdown each time I think about it," said James, who cannot work because of underlying health problems. "I'm literally depressed, I'm angry, I'm totally overwhelmed about it because I don't want to lose my home."

Interest rates have risen rapidly in recent months, which in turn have ratcheted up mortgages and rents across the United Kingdom. Rates have hit 5% after being below 1% for the past decade as the Bank of England has tried to bring down the highest inflation in the Group of Seven major economies.

As is often the case, the poorest households are bearing the brunt. The rate hikes have led to the biggest fall in household wealth in Britain since World War II, according to new research from the Resolution Foundation think tank.

Unlike the United States, where many mortgages are fixed for up to 30 years, U.K. homeowners are more exposed to changes in the cost of borrowing because a large percentage of them have loans that need to be renewed every two or five years.

Around 2.5 million such deals are due to expire by the end of next year, with around a million households facing a 500-pound (\$655) monthly increase in their average mortgage repayments by 2026, Bank of England Gov. Andrew Bailey said.

That has put pressure on both Bailey and Prime Minister Rishi Sunak, whose hold on power is tenuous ahead of a likely general election next year. Making it more expensive to borrow is how higher interest rates help lower inflation — people potentially spend less, reducing demand and pressure on prices.

Though inflation has eased from a double-digit peak last year, it's still stubbornly high at 8.7%, and the central bank is expected to keep hiking rates — already at a 15-year high. That has led to mounting fears of the economy sinking into recession.

Many landlords facing higher mortgage payments want to pass on those costs to renters. A dearth of rental options doesn't help either.

James says her landlord, a London housing organization that manages affordable rental homes for lower-income tenants, has raised her rent yearly and most recently declared a 4% bump to 170 pounds (\$223) a week. For James, who is barely managing to cover her other bills, the rent increases seem relentless and she is terrified of being evicted.

"It's a nightmare, thinking they're going to come one day ... lock my door and I can't get in," she said.

Despite the sharp increase in mortgage rates, renters have struggled to afford their housing to a greater degree than homeowners, according to Britain's statistics agency. Renters typically spend a higher proportion of their income on housing costs, it said.

Jon Taylor, a debt manager at the charity Christians Against Poverty who has helped James, said his organization has seen a large increase in the number of people in rental debt in the past two years. Almost half of the charity's new clients seek help paying their rent.

"Already, the rent increases are astronomical here in London, and people can't afford that," he said. "There's this group of people that would have just about been able to pay their rent, but it's just not sustainable anymore. And so something's got to give."

The rising rates are not just affecting people on the breadline or on social welfare, he added. He's also worried about workers who could easily be tipped into debt because they can't cover the simultaneous increases in food, housing and energy bills seen since last year.

"I'm extremely concerned that we're going to see more people coming to us saying, 'We can't pay the mortgage' — people who you'd never have thought of needing that kind of help are now going to be struggling," he said.

The interest rate hikes have sent the average two-year fixed mortgage rate to 6.66%, the highest since before the 2008 global financial crisis.

Joanne Barker-Marsh, a single mother who cares for her teenage son with special needs, is trying not to think about February, when her fixed-rate mortgage is up for renewal. She is bracing for her payment to more than double.

"I will fly by the seat of my pants," Barker-Marsh said. "I can't even address this right now because I am terrified."

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The 51-year-old from Rochdale, in northern England, lost her job during the pandemic and relies on social services payments. She spends a third of her state benefits on the mortgage.

"I don't have any spare cash, I don't know where we're going next," she said. "It will swallow up the majority of our social services payment."

Bailey, the central banker, expressed hope that the country's biggest banks are resilient enough to offer more help than they could before the global financial crisis. He said banks have more capital and are carrying far less debt than they did then, allowing them to offer struggling households more financial options.

Whatever options are available, the drip-drip of bad news doesn't help those fretting about where the cost-of-living crisis will go next.

"I don't have a chance to catch up, to get better, because next minute there's something else," James said. "And I don't understand why."

Wind-fanned wildfires force thousands to flee seaside resorts outside Greek capital

By PETROS GIANNAKOURIS and DEREK GATOPOULOS Associated Press

LOUTRAKI, Greece (AP) — Wildfires outside Athens forced thousands to flee seaside resorts, closed highways and gutted vacation homes Monday, as high winds pushed flames through hillside scrub and pine forests parched by days of extreme heat.

Authorities issued evacuation orders for at least six seaside communities as two major wildfires edged closer to summer resort towns and gusts of wind hit 70 kph (45 mph).

The army, police special forces and volunteer rescuers freed retirees from their homes, rescued horses from a stable, and helped monks flee a monastery threatened by the flames.

Before nightfall, water-dropping planes and helicopters tackled the flames near Lagonisi, some 40 kilometers (25 miles) southeast of the capital. The second large wildfire broke out in a wooded area near the resort town of Loutraki, some 90 kilometers (55 miles) west of Athens, where a children's summer camp and rehabilitation center for seniors were evacuated, local officials said.

Fire Service spokesman Yiannis Artopios said the strong and changeable winds and mountainous terrain in which both fires broke out were slowing the firefighting effort.

"The conditions are changing constantly and this has to be matched by our response. We have ordered multiple evacuations," he said. The evacuees gathered along the coastline or were put up in schools and hotels, while coast guard vessels were dispatched to smoke-heavy beachfronts to assist if needed.

On a visit to Brussels, Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis described the risk posed by wildfires this month as "extremely difficult" to deal with.

"We have always had wildfires and we always will have them. But with the effects of the climate crisis, we are experiencing fires with increasing intensity," Mitsotakis said, speaking on the margins of talks between leaders from the European Union and Latin American and Caribbean countries.

Greater Athens and much of southern Greece were on the second highest level of alert for wildfires Monday and Tuesday following a four-day heat wave that eased over the weekend. More heat wave temperatures are expected later in the week.

Residents and visitors in areas affected by the two fires received cell phone alerts from the Civil Protection Ministry. Loutraki Mayor Giorgos Gionis said municipal workers were also assisting seniors in the evacuations, adding that the operation had been impeded by cell phone reception outages.

Local officials confirmed that homes had been destroyed and badly damaged in both fires. ___ Gatooulos reported from Athens

Australian man and his dog rescued by Mexican tuna boat after drifting 3 months in the Pacific Ocean

MANZANILLO, Mexico (AP) — An Australian sailor who had been adrift at sea with his dog for three months has been rescued by a Mexican tuna boat in international waters, the fishing vessel's owner said Monday.

Timothy Lyndsay Shaddock, 54, was aboard his incapacitated catamaran Aloha Toa in the Pacific about 1200 miles (1900 kilometers) from land when the crew of the boat from the Grupomar fleet spotted them, the company said in a statement.

The company said Shaddock and his dog Bella were in a "precarious" state when found, lacking provisions and shelter. The tuna boat's crew gave them medical attention, food and hydration, it said.

Grupomar did not provide specific details on what day Shaddock was rescued or when he had started his voyage.

The tuna boat, captained by Oscar Meza Oregón, was expected to arrive in the Pacific coast port of Manzanillo on Tuesday with Shaddock and Bella.

Antonio Suárez Gutiérrez, Grupomar's founder and president, said he was proud of his crew, praising them for their humanity in saving the life of someone in trouble.

Shaddock told Australia's Nine News television that he and his dog had survived on raw fish and rain water after a storm damaged his vessel and wiped out its electronics.

"I've been through a very difficult ordeal at sea and I'm just needing rest and good food because I've been alone at sea a long time," a thin and bearded Shaddock said in video broadcast by Nine on Sunday night Australian time.

"Otherwise, I'm in very good health," Shaddock added.

The Sydney resident and his dog had sailed from the Mexican city of La Paz for French Polynesia in April, but the voyage ended within weeks, Sydney's The Daily Telegraph newspaper reported.

In photographs of the rescue provided by Grupomar to the AP, a smiling, bearded and thin Shaddock is seen with a blood pressure cuff around his arm, holding a box of pain medication inside the fishing boat's cabin. In others, Bella is stretched out on the deck. The catamaran floated nearby without a visible sail.

Deaths of four Oregon women over three months are linked, authorities say, reversing earlier call

By ANDREW SELSKY and REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

SALEM, Ore. (AP) — The bodies of four women began appearing in wooded areas in northwest Oregon in February, though police initially said the cases appeared to be unconnected. But on Monday, prosecutors dropped a bombshell, saying they are linked and "at least one person of interest" has been identified.

The state medical examiner has not determined the cause or manner of death for any of the women, prosecutors said in a statement.

But, in an about-face from a June 4 Portland Police Bureau statement saying six deaths did not appear to be connected, the Multnomah County District Attorney's office in Portland announced that four of them are.

"Investigators and prosecutors from multiple law enforcement agencies have been working collaboratively, ... and they have determined that there are links between four cases: Kristin Smith, Charity Perry, Bridget Webster, and Ashley Real," the prosecutor's office said.

"Investigators have interviewed multiple people in connection with these cases and have identified at least one person of interest that is linked to all four," the DA's office added.

The Multnomah County District Attorney's office in Portland says no charges have been filed against anyone but that the community is not currently in any danger. Local media reported a man is in custody. The announcement led to online reports of a serial killer, but officials did not use those words in announcing the connection between the deaths.

The women's bodies were found in Portland and rural areas starting on Feb. 19, with the latest one found on May 7. One body was found about 45 miles (72 kilometers) southwest of Portland, near a creek

in Polk County.

The first body discovered was that of Smith, 22, found in a wooded area in a suburb southeast of Portland. Smith's disappearance was reported to police in suburban Gresham on Dec. 22, 2022.

"It's quite like a piece of you is missing, that's really the only way you can describe it," Hailey Smith, Kristin's sister, told KPTV, a Portland television station, as family members searched for the then-missing woman.

Family members hung up fliers and looked for Smith near homeless shelters and other sites in downtown Portland. And a private "Justice for Kristin Smith" Facebook page with over 600 members was created over four months ago.

Perry was 24 when she died. Her body was found on April 24 near a state park alongside the Columbia River, east of Portland.

Webster's body was found on April 30 near Mill Creek in rural northwest Polk County. She was 31.

Real, 22, was last seen at a fast-food restaurant near Portland on March 27, police said. She was reported missing on April 4. Her body was found on May 7 in a forest southeast of Portland.

Investigators from nine law enforcement agencies, including the prosecutor's offices in three Oregon counties and the Oregon State Police, have been collaborating on the cases, authorities said.

This story has been updated to correct the location where two of the women's bodies were discovered. While two of the women were from Gresham and Milwaukie, the bodies were found elsewhere in rural areas.

Boone reported from Boise, Idaho.

4 slain in Georgia mass shooting memorialized as neighbors gather for candlelight vigil

By KATE BRUMBACK and JEFF AMY Associated Press

HAMPTON, Ga. (AP) — A few hundred people gathered Monday for a vigil to remember four victims of a mass shooting in an Atlanta suburb, singing "This Little Light of Mine" at the end as they lit candles in their honor.

Family members, friends and neighbors were still shaking off disbelief at the 10-minute span Saturday when Scott Leavitt, 67; his wife, Shirley Leavitt, 66; Steve Blizzard, 65; and Ronald Jeffers, 66, were shot and killed. Police and witnesses named 40-year-old Andre Longmore as the shooter.

"My parents loved each other," Scott Leavitt Jr. said after the vigil, a tear running down his cheek. "They always said neither one of them would be able to live without the other, so we've been able to find some comfort that they went together."

Harold Blizzard said his older brother, Steve, was a lover of photography and adventure. The two had planned a trip along Route 66 in early July, but when Harold had to cancel to allow an amputated finger to heal, Steve told him they'd do it another time.

"It's the biggest regret of my life," Harold Blizzard said after the vigil.

The killings set off a massive search that ended Sunday with Longmore dead in a shootout in another suburb about 15 miles (25 kilometers) north. The exchange of gunfire wounded a sheriff's deputy and two police officers, who are all recovering.

Residents of the bucolic Dogwood Lakes subdivision, where about 40 houses with tidy yards flank a lake on two streets, were surprised that gun violence had come to their peaceful neighborhood about 25 miles (40 kilometers) south of Atlanta. Hampton had not previously recorded a homicide since 2018.

"I'm not going to say it makes me uneasy, but it does drive home that this kind of thing could happen anywhere," said Kevin Pugh, who lives next door to the house where the Leavitts lived for a few years with their adult daughter and her children. "Up until Saturday, the most ruckus we had was the Canadian geese."

Erin Leavitt, in a Facebook post, remembered her aunt and uncle, Scott and Shirley, as "fun loving and caring souls, my aunt possibly one of the sweetest and kindest souls a person could meet."

divers and other workers to rescue survivors and retrieve bodies before they reportedly ended searches inside the tunnel on Monday night.

Severe weather was also affecting many other places around the world. Earlier this month, relentless flooding also deluged parts of India, Japan, China, Turkey and the U.S

Although the destructive floods are occurring in different parts of the world, atmospheric scientists say they have this in common: With climate change, storms are forming in a warmer atmosphere, making extreme rainfall a more frequent reality now.

Spain's early election could put the far right in power for the first time since Franco

By CIARÁN GILES Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — Spain's general election on Sunday could make the country the latest European Union member swing to the populist right, a shift that would represent a major upheaval after five years under a left-wing government.

Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez called the early election after his Spanish Socialist Workers' Party and its small far-left coalition partner, Unidas Podemos ("United We Can"), took a beating in local and regional elections.

The center-right Popular Party emerged from the May 28 elections with the most votes. Polls for the general election have consistently put the PP in first place — but likely needing support from the far-right Vox party to form a government.

Such a coalition would return a far-right force to the Spanish government for the first time since the country transitioned to democracy following the 1975 death of Gen. Francisco Franco, the dictator who ruled Spain for nearly 40 years.

The Popular Party and Vox have agreed to govern together in some 140 cities and towns since May, as well as to add two more regions to the one where they already co-governed. Sen. Alberto Núñez Feijóo, the PP's leader, has not ruled out a partnership at the national level.

Led by former PP member Santiago Abascal, 47, Vox opposes abortion rights, denies climate change and rejects the need for government to combat gender violence. Election polling indicates the party could finish third this weekend, a showing that would put Abascal in a kingmaker's role.

Nagore Calvo Mendizabal, a senior lecturer in Spanish and European Politics and Society at King's College London, said the likelihood of Vox entering government frames Sunday's parliamentary election "in terms of the future of democracy in Spain as being what is at stake."

Vox's manifesto is virtually a "copy-and-paste of the tenets of the Franco regime," Calvo said. It promises, for example, a return to a highly centralized government by scrapping the 17 regions that came into being after Franco's death.

Beyond Spain, a PP-Vox government would mean another EU member has moved firmly to the right, a trend seen recently in Sweden, Finland and Italy. Countries such as Germany and France are concerned by what such a shift would portend for EU immigration and climate policies, Calvo said.

Spain took over the EU's rotating presidency on July 1. Sánchez had hoped to use the six-month term to showcase the advances his government had made before a national election originally scheduled for December.

Voter concerns over immigration and costs of living, as well as frustration with the EU's perceived interference in national affairs, often have been cited to explain increases in right-wing support in other countries.

In Spain, however, the dominant issue is the "honorability" of the Socialist politician who has served as prime minister since June 2018, according to María José Canel Crespo, a political communication professor at Madrid's Complutense University.

For most of the past year, the PP has pursued a hard-hitting media and parliamentary campaign on the need to defeat what it calls "Sanchismo," portraying the prime minister as a liar for his U-turns on major

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They both grew up in Massachusetts and moved years ago to Georgia, where they shared their home with their daughter Jessica and granddaughters, Erin Leavitt wrote. The couple also has two other surviving children, she wrote.

"Jessica and her young girls were also home at the time of the attack, however, my aunt was able to alert her and she and the girls survived," she said. "Sadly, my aunt did not."

Jeffers was described as a pillar of his church. Sherry Wyatt, who works at Hampton's recreation center near Jeffers' home, said Sunday that Jeffers would regularly sing at the senior center that shares the building. A few months ago she told Jeffers how beautiful his voice was.

"I'm just so glad I told him he sang like an angel," Wyatt said. "I know he is in heaven now singing."

Tom Hannegan and his husband, Donald Smith, live two doors down from the house where Blizzard had lived since the subdivision was built in the 1990s. The only crime they ever remember hearing about was a rash of car break-ins about five years ago.

Hannegan, now president of the homeowners association, said Blizzard was one of the few remaining original residents. He was vice president of the association and previously served as president.

"He was just a good guy," Hannegan said.

Blizzard was a military veteran and skilled locksmith, former coworker Randy Slape told The Atlanta Journal-Constitution. He lamented that Blizzard's life was cut short.

"I can just imagine that he was planning on doing something with his grandkids and being a grandpa," Slape said.

Hampton Mayor Ann Tarpley ordered flags flown at half-staff in the city of 8,000 on Monday. Officials including the city manager and police chief assured the families during the evening vigil that their community would support them over the long haul.

The shootings brought to 31 the number of mass killings so far this year, with at least 153 people dying in them, according to a database maintained by The Associated Press and USA Today in a partnership with Northeastern University.

Longmore had needed mental help for nearly a decade, but his family and officials couldn't force him to get treatment, his mother said. Longmore had a "mental breakdown" in 2014, leading to an inpatient hospital stay, Lorna Dennis told WSB-TV on Sunday.

She said her son "kept deteriorating" but refused to seek medical attention, and that officials said they couldn't force him to seek care.

"It's hard to lose your son, and it's also hard to know your son cost the life of so many people," Dennis said.

She said Longmore was living with her in recent years and she hopes relatives of the victims will find peace with God.

"I feel so much for the families, and that's why I just want to say I'm very, very sorry. I know words cannot really comfort them from me at this time, but I know there is a comforter, and they can refer to him at any time," Dennis said.

The Army said Longmore was a sergeant, working as an automated logistical specialist from August 2000 to May 2006 overseeing supplies and equipment. He deployed to Afghanistan, served under hostile fire and was a trained parachutist, driver and mechanic.

Hannegan said Longmore attended a couple of neighborhood association meetings with his mother, but he didn't really know him. Longmore sometimes rode an electric scooter around the neighborhood or drove slowly up and down the dead-end streets.

"You could just tell he was a little out there," Hannegan said. "He would tell people he was a prophet."

Longmore was killed in suburban Jonesboro after a Henry County sheriff's deputy saw the SUV that Longmore stole from Blizzard and began chasing.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation said Monday that Longmore first tried to ambush officers in Jonesboro and shot a Henry County deputy. Longmore stole a police vehicle and drove across the street, investigators said. He then fled to the backyard of a townhouse, bleeding and naked, and ran inside. When officers entered the home, Longmore fired again, wounding two Clayton County police officers.

The sheriff's deputy was shot in the back and underwent surgery. Both Clayton officers were released after treatment for minor injuries.

Amy reported from Atlanta.

Watchdog calls for House committee to uninvite RFK Jr. after his comments are blasted as antisemitic

By ALI SWENSON Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A Democratic watchdog group has called for a U.S. House committee to rescind an invitation to Robert F. Kennedy Jr. after the Democratic presidential candidate was filmed falsely suggesting COVID-19 could have been "ethnically targeted" to spare Ashkenazi Jews and Chinese people.

Kyle Herrig, executive director of the Congressional Integrity Project, sent a letter to Ohio Republican Rep. Jim Jordan, chairman of the House Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government, asking him to disinvite Kennedy from a hearing scheduled for Thursday after the candidate's comments at a New York City dinner last week prompted widespread accusations of antisemitism and racism.

A spokesperson for Jordan said he plans to move forward with the hearing Thursday despite disagreeing with comments Kennedy made.

In the filmed remarks first published by The New York Post, Kennedy said "there is an argument" that COVID-19 "is ethnically targeted" and that it "attacks certain races disproportionately."

"COVID-19 is targeted to attack Caucasians and Black people. The people who are most immune are Ashkenazi Jews and Chinese," he added. "We don't know whether it was deliberately targeted at that or not but there are papers out there that show the racial or ethnic differential of impact for that."

After the video was made public, Kennedy posted on Twitter that his words were twisted and denied ever suggesting that COVID-19 was deliberately engineered to spare Jewish people. He asserted without evidence that there are bioweapons being developed to target certain ethnicities, and called for the Post's article to be retracted.

Researchers and doctors pushed back on the assertion, including Michael Mina, a medical doctor and immunologist.

"Beyond the absurdity, biological know-how simply isn't there to make a virus that targets only certain ethnicities," Mina wrote on Twitter.

Democrats and anti-hate groups quickly condemned the comments from Kennedy, who comes from one of the country's most famous political families as the son of former Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and the nephew of former President John F. Kennedy.

"These are deeply troubling comments and I want to make clear that they do not represent the views of the Democratic Party," read a Saturday tweet from Jaime Harrison, chair of the Democratic National Committee.

"Last week, RFK Jr. made reprehensible anti-semitic and anti-Asian comments aimed at perpetuating harmful and debunked racist tropes," US Rep. Suzan DelBene, chair of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, said in a statement on Sunday. "Such dangerous racism and hate have no place in America, demonstrate him to be unfit for public office, and must be condemned in the strongest possible terms."

Asked about the video on Monday, White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Kennedy's claims were false and "vile" and that "they put our fellow Americans in danger."

The Anti-Defamation League also responded to the comments with a statement saying Kennedy's claim is "deeply offensive and feeds into sinophobic and antisemitic conspiracy theories about COVID-19 that we have seen evolve over the last three years."

And another anti-hate watchdog, Stop Antisemitism, tweeted, "We have no words for this man's lunacy."

On Monday, Kerry Kennedy issued a statement saying, "I strongly condemn my brother's deplorable and untruthful remarks last week about Covid being engineered for ethnic targeting," adding that the remarks

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don't represent "what I believe or what Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights stands for." She is president of the human rights organization.

Kennedy is set to address the GOP-led House subcommittee during a hearing Thursday to examine "the federal government's role in censoring Americans."

He has long railed against social media companies and the government, accusing them of colluding to censor his speech during the COVID-19 pandemic when he was suspended from multiple platforms for spreading vaccine misinformation.

Herrig's letter to Jordan, first reported by Politico, called Kennedy "a total whack job whose views and conspiracy theories would be completely ignored but for his last name."

It asked the chairman to disinvite the candidate from Thursday's hearing because of "video evidence of his horrific antisemitic and xenophobic views which are simply beyond the pale."

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy threw cold water Monday on the idea of disinviting the presidential candidate from testifying before Congress.

"I disagree with everything he said," McCarthy said. "The hearing that we have this week is about censorship. I don't think censoring somebody is actually the answer here. I think if you're going to look at censorship in America, your first action to censor probably plays into some of the problems we have."

Kennedy has a history of comparing vaccines – widely credited with saving millions of lives – with the genocide of the Holocaust during Nazi Germany, comments for which he has sometimes apologized.

His first apology for such a comparison came in 2015, after he used the word "holocaust" to describe children whom he believes were hurt by vaccines.

But he continued to make such remarks, ramping up during the COVID-19 pandemic. An AP investigation detailed how Kennedy has frequently invoked the specter of Nazis and the Holocaust in his work to sow doubts about vaccines and agitate against public health efforts to bring the COVID-19 pandemic under control, such as requiring masks or vaccine mandates.

In December 2021, he put out a video that showed infectious disease expert Anthony Fauci with a mustache reminiscent of Nazi leader Adolf Hitler. In an October 2021 speech to the Ron Paul Institute, he obliquely compared public health measures put in place by governments around the world to Nazi propaganda meant to scare people into abandoning critical thinking.

In January 2022, at a Washington rally organized by his anti-vaccine group Children's Health Defense, Kennedy complained that people's rights were being violated by public health measures that had been taken to reduce the number of people sickened and killed by COVID-19.

"Even in Hitler's Germany, you could cross the Alps to Switzerland. You could hide in an attic like Anne Frank did," he said.

The comment was condemned by the head of the Anti-Defamation League as "deeply inaccurate, deeply offensive and deeply troubling." Yad Vashem of the World Holocaust Remembrance Center in Jerusalem said it "denigrates the memory of its victims and survivors," as well as others.

After initially sticking by his remarks, Kennedy ultimately apologized, tweeting, "I apologize for my reference to Anne Frank, especially to families that suffered the Holocaust horrors."

Then, days after he launched his presidential campaign this April, he wrote on Twitter that "the onslaught of relentless media indignation finally compelled me to apologize for a statement I never made in order to protect my family."

Associated Press writers Farnoush Amiri and Chris Megerian in Washington, and Michelle R. Smith in Providence, Rhode Island, contributed to this report.

The Associated Press receives support from several private foundations to enhance its explanatory coverage of elections and democracy. See more about AP's democracy initiative here. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Children lost in flooding as US endures extreme weather, from smoke up north to heat in the West

By MARYCLAIRE DALE Associated Press

WASHINGTON CROSSING, Pa. (AP) — Pennsylvania authorities drew on 100 people, drones and cadaver dogs Monday in their search for two missing children whose family's car was swept away in flash flooding that ravaged the East Coast over the weekend. Other parts of the country endured threateningly high temperatures and severe air pollution from Canadian wildfires.

In eastern Pennsylvania, authorities described Monday's search for missing Matilda Sheils, 2, and her 9-month-old brother Conrad Sheils as a "massive undertaking" along a creek that drains into the Delaware River. The children are members of a Charleston, South Carolina, family that was visiting relatives and friends when they got caught in a flash flood Saturday.

The children's father, Jim Sheils, grabbed their 4-year-old son, while the children's mother, Katie Seley, and a grandmother grabbed the other children, said Upper Makefield Township Fire Chief Tim Brewer. Sheils and his son made it to safety, but Seley and the grandmother were swept away.

The grandmother survived, but Seley, 32, was among five killed by the floods.

"A wall of water came to them; they did not go into the water," Brewer said of the Sheils family.

Scott Ellis, an uncle to the missing children, described the family as "utterly devastated."

Monsignor Michael Picard of St. Andrew Roman Catholic Church, where family members are parishioners, said he spoke with the grandparents Sunday.

"No matter how long I've been doing this — over and over and over, many, many years — you find yourself still helpless and without words to make people feel more comfortable," Picard said. "And so you just simply pray with them for a few minutes."

Pennsylvania's flash floods also drowned Enzo Depiero, 78, and Linda Depiero, 74, of Newtown; Yuko Love, 64, of Newtown; and Susan Barnhart, 53, of Titusville, New Jersey, Bucks County Coroner Meredith Buck said.

The county commissioners signed an emergency declaration in response to the flooding.

Other parts of the saturated Northeast began drying out Monday after drenching weekend rains resulted in flash flooding in parts of New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York and New Jersey. New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy declared a state of emergency Sunday.

The Vermont Emergency Management agency reported that swift-water rescue teams conducted an additional six rescues overnight. The agency also was monitoring areas at risk for landslides.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and Vermont Gov. Phil Scott toured some of the destruction from recent torrential rains on Monday, including a damaged inn that was cut in half by flood waters.

Buttigieg said Vermont has endured two storms that would be called "once-in-a-century" events in the span of just 12 years.

"We can't go into the future requiring communities to put everything back exactly the way it was if a 100-year flood is about to become an annual event," he said.

More rain was forecast for Tuesday.

Sunday's storms led to hundreds of flight cancellations at airports in the New York City area, and hundreds more flights were delayed.

New York Gov. Kathy 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 storms in the past week.

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. A man who was in the car with her was rescued.

Meanwhile, extensive swaths of the northern United States awoke to unhealthy air quality Monday morning or were experiencing it by midafternoon, according to the Environmental Protection Agency's AirNow.gov Smoke and Fire map.

Fine particle pollution caused by smoke from Canada's wildfires is causing a red zone air quality index, meaning it is unhealthy for everyone. The particles are tiny enough to get deep into the lungs and cause

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short-term problems like coughing and itchy eyes, and in the long run, can affect the lungs and heart.

On Monday afternoon, cities and regions hitting that mark included Lincoln, Nebraska; Peoria, Illinois; Fort Wayne, Indiana; Cleveland and Columbus in Ohio; Huntsville, Alabama; Knoxville and Chattanooga in Tennessee; Greensboro, North Carolina; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Syracuse and Utica in New York.

Sensitive groups, including people with heart and lung disease, older adults, children and pregnant women, should consider staying inside, advisories warn.

Elsewhere in the U.S., thousands of people in Kansas and Missouri were without power from weekend storms that swept those states. Kansas' largest electric power provider, Evergy, said it could take days to restore service to all customers. The timeline could create difficult conditions for some people as more storms and stifling heat were expected in Kansas and Missouri early this week, according to the National Weather Service.

In the West, a mountain biker died Saturday in blistering desert heat east of San Diego after he and three fellow bikers helped rescue four hikers who were without water.

Cal Fire Capt. Brent Pascua said the bikers called 911, and two rode back to a trailhead to give directions to rescuers. A helicopter hoisted the hikers, and the two bikers who had stayed with them headed to the trailhead. One did not arrive and was found unresponsive about a quarter-mile away. He later died, though there was no information on the cause of death.

Temperatures also soared in Phoenix, which hit 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 degrees Celsius) on Monday shortly after 12:30 p.m., marking 18 consecutive days the city has hit that temperature and tying an earlier record for consecutive days at or above 110 degrees. Phoenix is expected to surpass the record on Tuesday.

Death Valley, which runs along part of central California's border with Nevada, reached 128 degrees Fahrenheit (53.3 degrees Celsius) on Sunday at the aptly named Furnace Creek, according to the National Weather Service.

Reno, Nevada, set a record high of 108 degrees Fahrenheit (42.2 degrees Celsius) for the date on Sunday, while also tying the all-time high set on July 10 and 11 of 2002, and equaled on July 5, 2007, according to the National Weather Service.

Associated Press writers Ron Todt in Philadelphia; David Collins in Hartford, Connecticut; Sarah Brumfield in Silver Spring, Maryland; Kathy McCormack in Concord, New Hampshire; Patrick Whittle in Portland, Maine; Margery Beck in Omaha, Nebraska; Scott Sonner in Reno, Nevada; and Leah Willingham in Charleston, West Virginia contributed to this report.

Arrest in Gilgo Beach killings isn't end of investigation, police say. Other deaths remain unsolved

By MICHAEL R. SISAK Associated Press

MASSAPEQUA PARK, N.Y. (AP) — Detectives on Long Island are hunting for fresh clues about an architect arrested in connection with a string of slayings known as the Gilgo Beach killings. They're combing through storage units linked to Rex Heuermann and using DNA evidence to see if he's connected to other cold cases.

The ongoing work Monday marks an important new phase in a multi-agency investigation that — after years of dead ends and frustrations — led prosecutors to charge Heuermann with murder last Friday in the deaths of three of the 11 women whose remains were found buried along a remote beach highway in 2010 and 2011.

Heuermann, who has lived for decades across a bay from where the remains were found, is also considered the prime suspect in the killing of a fourth victim. He has pleaded not guilty. His lawyer said Heuermann denied committing the crimes.

Investigators have said it's unlikely just one person killed all of the victims, and they insist the probe is far from over after the watershed moment of Heuermann's arrest.

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Suffolk County Police Commissioner Rodney Harrison, who spearheaded the creation of an interagency task force last year to solve the Gilgo Beach killings, has vowed that authorities will “work tirelessly until we bring justice to all the families involved.”

“We’re just in the infancy of the work that needs to be done going forward,” Deputy Commissioner Anthony Carter told The Associated Press on Monday.

Detectives executed a search warrant at Omega Self Storage in Amityville on Sunday and searched another nearby storage facility on Monday. Both are less than a 10-minute drive from Heuermann’s home

This followed a multi-day search at Heuermann’s house in Massapequa Park, about a 25-minute drive across a causeway spanning South Oyster Bay to the sandy stretch known as Gilgo Beach where the women’s remains were found. That search yielded more than 200 guns, Harrison told Fox News on Monday.

Investigators were also checking to see if Heuermann’s DNA — obtained from pizza crust he disposed and linked to genetic material found on a Gilgo Beach victim’s remains — connected him to other unsolved cases.

Heuermann, 59, is charged with killing Melissa Barthelemy, Megan Waterman and Amber Costello. Authorities are continuing to work toward charging him in the death of a fourth victim, Maureen Brainard-Barnes, said Suffolk County District Attorney Ray Tierney.

Most of the victims were young women who had been sex workers. Their deaths long stumped investigators, and the mystery fueled immense public attention and led to a 2020 Netflix film, “Lost Girls.”

Harrison, the NYPD’s former chief of detectives and chief of department, made solving the Gilgo Beach killings one of his top priority when he was appointed police commissioner in January 2022.

Harrison soon formed the Gilgo Beach Homicide Investigation Task Force, convincing the FBI, state police and local departments to commit their top investigators full time to the effort. Harrison assigned longtime Gilgo Beach investigator Detective Lt. Kevin Beyrer to lead the probe.

“His goal was not to move the case forward, his goal was to solve the case,” said Carter, who moved to the Suffolk County department with Harrison from the NYPD.

Task force investigators started working out of a dedicated space at a Suffolk County police facility, an open space with no offices so they could share ideas and information.

Within six weeks of their first meeting, task force investigators identified Heuermann as a suspect — using a vehicle registration database to connect him to a Chevrolet Avalanche pickup truck that a witness reported seeing when one of the victims disappeared.

Some of the victims were believed to have disappeared from Massapequa Park, and their cell phones were found to have pinged towers in the area.

The truck discovery unlocked other investigative tools.

A grand jury authorized more than 300 subpoenas and search warrants, allowing the task force to dig into Heuermann’s life. They collected billing records for burner phones he allegedly used to arrange meetings with the victims, retested DNA found with the bodies, and combed Heuermann’s internet search history, which showed intense interest in the Gilgo Beach killings and the renewed investigation.

In January, a task force surveillance team tailing Heuermann in Manhattan watched as he threw the remnants of his lunch — a box of partially eaten pizza crusts — into a sidewalk garbage can. Investigators rushed in, grabbed the box, and sent it to the crime lab, which matched the DNA from Heuermann’s afternoon nosh to a male hair found on burlap used to restrain one of the victims.

The results of that testing came back on Tuesday, two days before Heuermann’s arrest.

“There were some questions about the task force — that the mission of the task force is now complete because we’ve effected an arrest,” Carter said. “Everything is in its infancy still. This is just part of it. There’s so much more work that needs to be done in terms of additional investigation, additional interviews, analyzing evidence, and on and on.”

“There are still a lot of victims, and we need to continue to try to bring justice for all of them,” he added. “That’s super important to all of us, and super important to the Suffolk County Police Department.”

Associated Press reporter Karen Matthews contributed to this report.

Follow Michael Sisak on Twitter at twitter.com/mikesisak and send confidential tips by visiting <https://www.ap.org/tips/>

Florida family accused of selling fake COVID-19 cure through online church goes on trial in Miami

MIAMI (AP) — A Florida family accused of selling a toxic industrial bleach as a fake COVID-19 cure through their online church is on trial this week in Miami.

Mark Grenon, 65, and his sons, 37-year-old Jonathan, 35-year-old Joseph and 29-year-old Jordan, are all charged with conspiring to defraud the United States and deliver misbranded drugs, according to court records.

The Grenons are representing themselves but declined to make opening statements as the trial began Monday, the Miami Herald reported. They have pleaded not guilty.

Prosecutors called the Grenons “con men” and “snake-oil salesmen” and said the Bradenton family’s Genesis II Church of Health and Healing sold \$1 million worth of their so-called Miracle Mineral Solution. In videos, it was pitched as a purported cure for 95% of known diseases, including COVID-19, Alzheimer’s, autism, brain cancer, HIV/AIDS and multiple sclerosis, prosecutors said.

What the Grenons were selling was actually chlorine dioxide, officials said. When ingested, the solution becomes a bleach that is typically used for such things as treating textiles, industrial water, pulp and paper, according to the Food and Drug Administration. Authorities said it is the same as drinking bleach and can be fatal.

A Miami federal judge ordered the church to stop selling the substance in 2020, but that was ignored.

Jonathan and Jordan Grenon were arrested in Bradenton, just south of the Tampa Bay area. Mark and Joseph Grenon fled to Colombia, where they were arrested and extradited back to the U.S.

Russian fighter jet flies dangerously close to US warplane over Syria

By TARA COPP and LOLITA C. BALDOR Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Russian fighter jet flew very close to a U.S. surveillance aircraft over Syria, forcing it to go through the turbulent wake and putting the lives of the four American crew members in danger, U.S. officials said Monday.

The officials said the incident, which happened just before noon EDT on Sunday, was a significant escalation in what has been a string of encounters between U.S. and Russian aircraft in Syria in recent weeks. The intercept by the Russian Su-35 impeded the U.S. crew’s ability to safely operate their MC-12 aircraft, the officials said, calling it a new level of unsafe behavior that could result in an accident or loss of life.

In recent weeks, Russian fighter jets have repeatedly harassed U.S. unmanned MQ-9 drones, but the latest incident raised alarms because it endangered American lives.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss details of a military operation, would not say how close the Russian jet got to the U.S. warplane. The MC-12, which is a twin-engine turboprop aircraft routinely used by special operations forces, was doing surveillance in support of operations against the Islamic State groups in Syria, the officials said.

On multiple occasions in the past two weeks, Russian fighter jets flew dangerously close to MQ-9 Reapers, setting off flares and forcing the drones to take evasive maneuvers. U.S. and Russian military officers communicate frequently over a deconfliction phone line during the encounters, protesting the other side’s actions.

The U.S. is considering a number of military options to address the increasing Russian aggression in the skies over Syria, which complicated efforts to strike an Islamic State group leader earlier this month,

according to a senior defense official. The U.S. was eventually able to launch a strike and kill the militant.

The official, who also spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss military operations, declined to detail the options under consideration, but said the U.S. will not cede any territory and will continue to fly in the western part of the country on anti-Islamic State missions.

The Russian military activity, which has increased in frequency and aggression since March, stems from growing cooperation and coordination between Moscow, Tehran and the Syrian government to try to pressure the U.S. to leave Syria.

There are about 900 U.S. forces in the country, and others move in and out to conduct missions targeting Islamic State group militants.

Actors and writers on strike are united and determined in the face of a long summer standoff

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Solidarity and stamina were picket-line themes Monday as striking screenwriters and actors in New York and Los Angeles braced for a long, hot summer standoff with studios.

Picketers emphasized unity between writers, who have been on the lines for more than two months, and performers, who are only on Day 2 of striking — as well as camaraderie between highly paid actors and those with spare screen credits who struggle to scrape by.

Kevin Bacon, who was among the famous faces picketing among unknowns outside Viacom headquarters in New York, said his presence was about “seeing people out here and being aware that not all actors are super high paid actors, that they are working class people who are trying to make a living.”

One such working actor, Whitney Morgan Cox, who has appeared on the CBS series “Criminal Minds,” said it was “powerful” to see writers and actors come together who don’t often work simultaneously in production.

“I don’t think people necessarily realize the energy that writers and actors have,” Cox said outside Walt Disney Studios in Burbank, California, “and the stamina, and our ability to commit, that’s all our entire job is about is just committing to something and following through. So it’s been a really beautiful sense of community.”

Leaders of the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists (SAG-AFTRA) voted unanimously on Thursday that when their contract expired they would start striking the following day, joining the Writers Guild of America, who walked out on May 2.

“It’s been amazing to be out here now that we have the second wind of SAG members coming,” said Paul Scheer, who was already striking as a writer, and is now doing the same as an actor, outside Netflix headquarters in Hollywood. “I’m on strike two times, which means I have to walk double the steps, which is hard, but I’m willing to do it.”

On Monday temperatures were in the high 80s in New York, and well above 90 degrees F (32 C) in parts of Los Angeles, where some afternoon pickets were called off because of the extreme heat.

A union rally was planned for later in the day in Atlanta, where many productions have moved in recent years because of tax breaks and other lower costs.

The issue also came up in Washington, when White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre responded to a question during Monday’s briefing about whether the Biden administration supports the aims of striking entertainment workers.

“The president believes all workers, including the writers, including the actors, they deserve fair pay. And they deserve fair benefits,” Jean-Pierre said. “We sincerely hope that both actors and writers strikes get resolved, and that the parties come together and have a mutually beneficial agreement as soon as possible.”

While actors and writers also emphasized the need to reach a deal, few believed any such agreement would be coming soon, given the vast distance between the unions and the Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers — which represents studios, streamers and production companies in negotiations

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that are currently neither happening nor planned.

Key issues for both unions include residual payments, which have been nearly wiped out by the switch to the streaming system, and the unpaid use of their work and likeness by artificial intelligence avatars.

The AMPTP said it has offered fair terms on those and other issues.

"These things are things that I personally can negotiate for," Bacon said. "But I'm here for the working class, middle class part of our union who needs these basic provisions in the basic contract."

Associated Press Writers John Carucci in New York, Zeke Miller in Washington, Krysta Fauria in Los Angeles, and Leslie Ambriz in Burbank, California contributed.

Hollywood plunges into all-out war on the heels of pandemic and a streaming revolution

By JAKE COYLE AP Film Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — To get a sense of just how much animosity is flying around Hollywood these days, watch how Ron Perlman responded to a report that the studios aimed to prolong a strike long enough for writers to lose their homes.

Perlman, the hulking, gravel-voiced actor of "Hellboy," leaned into the camera in a since-deleted Instagram live video to vent his anger. "Listen to me, mother-(expletive)," Perlman said. "There's a lot of ways to lose your house."

Three years after the pandemic brought Hollywood to a standstill, the film and TV industry has again ground to a halt. This time, though, the industry is engaged in a bitter battle over how streaming — after advancing rapidly during the pandemic — has upended the economics of entertainment.

Having weathered plague, Hollywood is now fully at war in its own "Apocalypse Now" double feature. When tens of thousands Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists hit the picket lines last week, joining 11,000 Writers Guild of America screenwriters who have been on strike since May, a smaller clash went nuclear just in time for the release of "Oppenheimer." As striking actors and writers mobilized to mob studio lots and streamer headquarters, Puck's Matthew Belloni wrote, "The town is burning to the ground."

"You cannot change the business model as much as it has changed and not expect the contract to change, too," said Fran Drescher, SAG-AFTRA president, in a fiery press conference announcing the strike. "We're not going to keep doing incremental changes on a contract that no longer honors what is happening right now with this business model that was foisted upon us.

"What are we doing?" she added. "Moving around furniture on the Titanic?"

Disaster also loomed in Hollywood when COVID-19 in March 2020 shuttered movie theaters, emptied TV studios and shut down all production. The recovery is still ongoing. Over the weekend, one of the first major film productions shut down by the pandemic — "Mission: Impossible – Dead Reckoning Part One" — only just reached theaters. And as its big-but-not-blockbuster opening showed, some of pre-pandemic Hollywood still just hasn't returned. Box office remains about 20-25% off the pre-pandemic pace.

"We've talked about disruptive forces on this business and all the challenges we're facing, the recovery from COVID which is ongoing. It's not completely back," Disney CEO Bob Iger said Thursday. "This is the worst time in the world to add to that disruption."

Though many of the demands of SAG-AFTRA and the WGA are longstanding, much of the current dispute gathered force in the helter-skelter days of the pandemic. A digital land rush to streaming ensued, as studios, in many cases, hurried to craft their Netflix competitors. Subscriber growth became the top priority.

Rahul Telang, a Carnegie Mellon University professor and co-author of the book "Streaming, Sharing, Stealing: Big Data and the Future of Entertainment," says an entire era of change was condensed into two years.

"What is happening right now was bound to happen. With streaming, the whole business got disrupted,"

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says Telang. "So naturally, they're complaining, 'We need our fair share.' But how do you decide what's a fair share? There has to be a transparency about where the money is coming from and where it's going. Until this gets resolved, this issue will keep coming up."

The last time screen actors and writers struck simultaneously, in 1960, the guilds established royalty (later residual) payments for replays of films and TV episodes, among other landmark protections. If that strike reckoned with the dawn of television, this one does much the same for the streaming era.

But streaming, especially when companies carefully guard audience numbers, offers no easy metric like box office or TV ratings to establish residuals — long a foundational part of how writers and actors make a living. SAG-AFTRA is seeking a small percentage of subscriber revenue, with data measured by a third party, Parrot Analytics.

The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which negotiates on behalf of the studios, hasn't agreed to that but says the studios have offered actors "historic pay and residual increases," along with pension contributions and other protections.

Meanwhile, actors are sharing images of their paltry residual payments for streaming hits. Kimiko Glenn of Netflix's "Orange Is the New Black" posted a clip of residual payments totaling \$27.30.

"You used to be able to work on a broadcast show, one show and you're good for the year because of the residuals," said actor Nachayka Vanterpool on the picket lines. "And then you have streaming coming along and you got 20 cent residual checks. That impacts you."

Increasingly, it's looking like everyone lost in the so-called streaming wars that went into hyperdrive under COVID-19. Since Wall Street last year began souring on subscription numbers being the be-all-end-all, most media companies have suffered stock declines. Wall Street's message turned to: Show us the profits.

At the same time, the drive to streaming has accelerated the demise of traditional television and its ad-based revenue. That's led analysts like Michael Nathanson of MoffettNathanson to survey a fragmented entertainment business and forecast a "scary" second half of the year for media companies.

With traditional TV increasingly eroded by streaming, many studios have been cutting costs. Disney, Warner Bros. Discovery and Netflix all slashed jobs over the past year and a half. Streaming profitability has remained elusive. The Walt Disney Co. says Disney+ will get there in fall 2024. WarnerBros. Discovery, which has taken the extreme step of canning finished productions to reshape its streaming strategy, says Max will start making money this year.

Many are now girding for a prolonged stoppage that, if carried into September, would greatly impact the fall TV schedule and the film festivals (Venice, Telluride, Toronto) that launch awards season contenders. Drescher said she "couldn't believe" how far apart her union and AMPTP are.

Ronny Regev, who penned the book "Working in Hollywood: How the Studio System Turned Creativity into Labor," thinks this strike could play out similarly to the 1960 stoppage, when actors struck for about a month but the writers strike dragged on.

"I hate to bring up the cliché but history repeats itself," says Regev. "Like in 1960, there's a good chance the actors will reach a deal sooner than the writers. Now we're dealing with very different companies. These are conglomerates that have other businesses. I'm not sure if (Amazon chairman Jeff) Bezos really cares."

There are also differences that favor the writers. In 1960, the strike by SAG (whose president was a then-Democrat Ronald Reagan) was fiercely opposed by some other guilds, including the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees (IATSE), which represents below-the-line crew members. This time, the actors and writers have near-universal support throughout the guilds. IATSE, notably, is set to negotiate its own new contract next year.

"The urgency of this moment cannot be overstated. Our industry is at a crossroads, and the actions taken now will affect the future of labor relations in Hollywood and beyond," Matthew D. Loeb, IATSE president, said in a statement. "Their fight today foreshadows our fight tomorrow."

Cooler heads could prevail. Perlman, for his part, later apologized for getting so heated. He implored studio executives to find "a degree of humanity."

"It can't all be about your (expletive) Porsche and your (expletive) stock prices," said Perlman. "There's

got to be dignity if we're going to hold a mirror up and reflect human experiences, which is what we do as actors and writers."

Aron Ranen contributed to this report.

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

How Benjamin Franklin laid groundwork for the US dollar by foiling early counterfeiters

By DAVID HAMILTON AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Benjamin Franklin was so busy as an inventor, publisher, scientist, diplomat and U.S. founding father that it's easy to lose track of his accomplishments.

So add one more to the roster: his early work in printing colonial paper currency designed to counter a constant threat of counterfeiting.

Franklin was an early innovator of printing techniques that used colored threads, watermarks and imprints of natural objects such as leaves to make it far harder for others to create knockoffs of his paper bills. A team at the University of Notre Dame has shed new light on his methods using advanced scanning techniques that reveal some of Franklin's methods in greater detail — along the way, also providing one more reason Franklin appears on the \$100 bill.

The new research, published Monday in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, describes data gathered with techniques such as spectroscopy and fluorescence tests, which use light to identify elements such as carbon, calcium and potassium in test samples. Researchers also used electron microscopes for imaging fine details.

The intent, said lead author Khachatur Manukyan, a Notre Dame associate professor of physics, was to learn more about the materials used by Franklin and his network of affiliated printers and how they served to distinguish their bills from cheaper copies.

"The goal was to decode what type of material they used," Manukyan said in an interview. "And then we found some very interesting differences between this money and other printers."

The researchers examined Franklin's penchant for including watermarks, tiny indigo-dyed threads and "fillers" of special crystal in printed bills to create barriers to copycats. The paper also highlights Franklin's use of "nature printing," a technique by which he transferred the detailed vein patterns of tree leaves to printing plates.

These techniques raised numerous barriers to would-be copycats. Counterfeiters naturally sought to keep their costs low, and thus were often slow to invest in improving their own printing techniques. Franklin's fillers served to make bills harder and thus extend their life over the cheaper paper preferred by criminals, while his dyed threads added another production barrier.

Similarly, Franklin's nature-printed images produced fine details that were particularly difficult for less skilled printers to duplicate.

The Notre Dame team also learned that Franklin developed his own graphite-based ink at a time when competing printers were mostly using inks derived from "boneblack," a charcoal-like substance produced by heating animal bones to high temperatures in a kiln that limited the flow of oxygen. The significance of Franklin's graphite-based ink isn't clear and needs further study.

Later, though, the Revolutionary War brought on such a surge of counterfeiting — much of it, apparently, courtesy of the British Army — that the subsequent U.S. government shunned paper bills for decades in favor of coinage. It didn't reconsider until the onset of the Civil War in 1861, when the federal government first authorized the printing of dollar bills called "greenbacks."

Among the features in those U.S. banknotes were, of course, colored threads. These remain in use today, albeit in a more modern form. Today's U.S. currency, for instance, features an embedded "security thread" in bills denominated \$5 or more, although it's now a thin vertical band that fluoresces under ultraviolet light.

This story has been revised to correct the name of the University of Notre Dame.

Abortion in Iowa is legal again, for now, after a judge blocks new restrictions

By HANNAH FINGERHUT Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — An Iowa judge on Monday temporarily blocked the state's new ban on most abortions after about six weeks of pregnancy, just days after Gov. Kim Reynolds signed the measure into law.

That means abortion is once again legal in Iowa up to 20 weeks of pregnancy while the courts assess the new law's constitutionality.

The new law prohibits almost all abortions once cardiac activity can be detected, which is usually around six weeks of pregnancy and before many women know they are pregnant.

The Republican-controlled Legislature approved the measure in a rare, all-day special session last week, prompting a legal challenge by the ACLU of Iowa, Planned Parenthood North Central States and the Emma Goldman Clinic. Judge Joseph Seidlin held a hearing on the matter Friday, but said he would take the issue under advisement — just as Reynolds signed the bill into law about a mile away.

Abortion providers said they scrambled last week to fit in as many appointments as possible before the governor put pen to paper, preemptively making hundreds of calls to prepare patients for the uncertainty and keeping clinics open late.

Reynolds swiftly put out a statement underscoring her intention to fight the issue all the way to the state Supreme Court.

"The abortion industry's attempt to thwart the will of Iowans and the voices of their elected representatives continues today," she said.

The ruling Monday does specify that while the law is temporarily paused, the state's Board of Medicine should proceed with creating rules for enforcement, as the law specifies. That way the guidance for health care providers would be well defined if the law were to be in effect in the future.

There are limited circumstances under the law that would allow for abortion after the point in a pregnancy where cardiac activity is detected: rape, if reported to law enforcement or a health provider within 45 days; incest, if reported within 145 days; if the fetus has a fetal abnormality "incompatible with life;" or if the pregnancy is endangering the life of the pregnant woman.

Seidlin specified that his ruling today hinges on the "undue burden" test, which is an intermediate level of scrutiny that requires laws do not create a significant obstacle to abortion.

The state Supreme Court, in its latest rulings on the issue, said that undue burden remains in effect "with an invitation to litigate the issue further," Seidlin wrote. "This, perhaps, is the litigation that accepts the invitation."

Using that standard, abortion advocates are likely right to say the new law violates Iowans' constitutional rights, Seidlin said, which led him to grant the temporary block.

Lawyers for the state argued — and will likely continue to argue — that the law should be analyzed using rational basis review, the lowest level of scrutiny to judge legal challenges.

"We are deeply relieved that the court granted this relief so essential health care in Iowa can continue," said Abbey Hardy-Fairbanks, medical director of the Iowa City-based Emma Goldman Clinic, in a statement. "We are also acutely aware that the relief is only pending further litigation and the future of abortion in Iowa remains tenuous and threatened."

Most Republican-led states have drastically limited abortion access in the year since the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* and handed authority on abortion law to the states. More than a dozen states have bans with limited exceptions and one state, Georgia, bans abortion after cardiac activity is detected.

Several other states have similar restrictions that are on hold pending court rulings, as is now the case

in Iowa.

Store that sold Alex Murdaugh's son beer must pay \$15 million to family of teen killed in boat crash

By JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — The family of a teen killed in a boat crash, which prosecutors say began the financial downfall of double murderer Alex Murdaugh, has reached a \$15 million deal to settle a lawsuit against a convenience store chain that sold Murdaugh's son alcohol while underage.

Sunday's deal came after a judge refused to allow the Parker's Kitchen chain to be separated from Murdaugh in a wrongful death trial next month in Hampton County, South Carolina, where Murdaugh was once a powerful and well-known attorney.

Murdaugh is serving a life sentence without parole the 2021 killing of his wife and the son involved in the drunken boat crash.

Under South Carolina law, even if the jury found Parker's Kitchen was only 1% responsible, since Murdaugh is now nearly broke, the chain with its deeper pockets would likely have to pay almost the entire settlement.

The family's attorney, Mark Tinsley, told media outlets the \$15 million settlement that will be paid by the convenience store chain's insurance was a large enough amount that Mallory Beach's family felt would show the stores have to take alcohol laws seriously.

The Parker's Kitchen clerk did not stop Paul Murdaugh, then 19, from using his older brother's ID to buy beer, according to an investigation into the crash. Paul Murdaugh was facing a charge of boating under the influence causing death when he was killed at the family's home.

The settlement doesn't require Parker's Kitchen to admit responsibility in the case. A lawyer for the stores said owner Greg Parker felt like he had no choice but to settle because Alex Murdaugh and the chain would be tried together in the wrongful death suit.

On Friday, a judge refused to separate Parker's Kitchen from Murdaugh and declined to move the case out of Hampton County.

"The unfairness of that caused Parker's insurance carriers to resolve these suits to avoid paying the likely award intended to punish Alex Murdaugh," attorney P.K. Shere said in a statement, which also said he was disappointed the Beach family's attorney revealed details of the settlement before it could be approved by a judge.

Beach, 19, was killed and three other teens in the boat were hurt in February 2019 after Paul Murdaugh steered the boat into a bridge piling, authorities said.

Her family has already settled lawsuits with another family who held an oyster roast the group was attending, a bar that served Paul Murdaugh liquor just before the crash, and Murdaugh's older brother Buster.

Parker's Kitchen also agreed to settlements with the three teens who survived the crash, lawyers said.

Nurses at the hospital where the injured teens were taken said Alex Murdaugh and his father arrived not long after the crash and tried to talk to them alone in the emergency room. One teen said it appeared the family was trying to convince them to say someone other than Paul Murdaugh was driving the boat.

The crash also left Alex Murdaugh fearful of a wrongful death lawsuit. Prosecutors at his double murder trial earlier this year said he worried financial disclosures in the suit would show he'd been stealing millions from clients and his law firm for a decade.

Tinsley testified at the trial he wanted Murdaugh to pay \$10 million, and Murdaugh's lawyer said he was broke and might be able to scrape together \$1 million.

Tinsley said that didn't make sense with Murdaugh's reputation and outward signs of wealth so he asked for records of all of Murdaugh's finances, a request being put before a judge at a June 10, 2021, hearing that was postponed after Murdaugh's son and wife were killed.

Murdaugh killed his son Paul with two shotgun blasts and his 52-year-old wife Maggie with four or five rifle shots outside their home, authorities said.

Alex Murdaugh told investigators who arrived while the bodies were still on the ground that he wondered

if the anger toward his son over the boat crash led to the killings. But prosecutors said they were instead a sinister, methodical plan to buy time to straighten out his finances and derail the wrongful death suit over the boat crash.

Murdaugh, 55, testified he didn't kill his family. He is under protective custody at a South Carolina prison serving his life sentence. His lawyers have indicated he plans to settle his part of the Beach family's wrongful death lawsuit.

State agents have been investigating whether Murdaugh obstructed the criminal investigation into the boat crash. No charges have been announced.

This story has been updated to correct that the Murdaugh family allegedly tried to convince the injured teens that someone other than Paul Murdaugh was driving the boat, not Buster Murdaugh.

Biden still concerned about judicial overhaul as he extends invite to meet with Israel's Netanyahu

By ZEKE MILLER AP White House Correspondent

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden on Monday invited Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to meet with him in the U.S. this fall, the White House said, even as he expressed ongoing concern about Netanyahu's controversial plans to overhaul his country's judicial system.

Monday's phone conversation between the U.S. and Israeli leaders came one day before Israel's figurehead president Isaac Herzog is set to visit to the White House and as Netanyahu's government pushes forward with the judicial changes that have sparked widespread protest in Israel.

The Biden administration declined to say whether Biden would host Netanyahu at the White House — as the Israeli leader has hoped — or in New York on the margins of the U.N. General Assembly.

White House visits are typically standard protocol for Israeli prime ministers, and the delay in Netanyahu receiving one has become an issue in Israel, with opponents citing it as a reflection of deteriorating relations with the U.S.

National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said Biden again on Monday expressed concern to Netanyahu over the judicial plan — as he did when they last spoke earlier this year — and urged the "broadest possible consensus" over the legislation that has been pushed by Netanyahu and his hard-line coalition.

Netanyahu and his allies, a collection of ultra-Orthodox and ultranationalist parties, say the plan is needed to rein in the powers of unelected judges. Opponents, who have held months of large-scale protests across Israel, say the plan will destroy Israel's fragile system of checks and balances and move the country toward authoritarian rule. Herzog has appealed for a compromise that has thus far proven elusive, as many American Jewish groups and Democratic lawmakers have expressed concerns about the plan.

Kirby said during the call Biden also expressed his "ironclad, unwavering commitment" to Israel's security and that the two leaders discussed Iran's nuclear program and regional security issues. Biden also "expressed concern" over Israel's continued settlement growth in the West Bank and urged Israel to take steps to preserve the viability of a two state solution with Palestinians.

Biden, Kirby said, also welcomed steps by the Palestinian Authority to reassert security control in Jenin and other areas of the West Bank and moves by Israel and Palestinians to move toward another round of direct talks.

During his visit, Herzog is set to meet with Biden, Vice President Kamala Harris and Congressional leaders, and will become the second Israeli president, after his father Chaim Herzog, to address Congress to mark Israel's celebration of its 75th year of independence.

Russia halts landmark deal that allowed Ukraine to export grain at time of growing hunger

By COURTNEY BONNELL Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Russia on Monday halted a breakthrough wartime deal that allowed 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 said the Black Sea Grain Initiative would be suspended until demands to get Russian food and fertilizer to the world are met. An attack Monday on a bridge connecting the Crimean Peninsula to Russia was not a factor in the decision, he said.

"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.

Russian representatives at the operation center for the initiative were more definitive, calling the decision "a termination," according to a note obtained by The Associated Press. Russia has complained that restrictions on shipping and insurance have hampered its agricultural exports, but it has shipped record amounts of wheat since last year.

The suspension marks the end of an accord that the U.N. and Turkey brokered last summer to allow shipments of food from the Black Sea region after Russia's invasion of its neighbor worsened a global food crisis. The initiative is credited with helping reduce soaring prices of wheat, vegetable oil and other global food commodities.

Ukraine and Russia are both major global suppliers of wheat, barley, sunflower oil and other food that developing nations rely on.

The suspension of the deal sent wheat prices up about 3% in Chicago trading, to \$6.81 a bushel, which is still about half what they were at last year's peak. Prices fell later in the day.

Some analysts don't expect more than a temporary bump in food staples traded on global markets because countries such as Russia and Brazil have ratcheted up wheat and corn exports. But food insecurity worldwide and prices at local stores and markets have risen as developing countries also struggle with climate change, conflict and economic crises. Finding suppliers outside Ukraine that are farther away also could raise costs, analysts say.

The grain deal provided guarantees that ships would not be attacked entering and leaving Ukrainian ports, while a separate agreement facilitated the movement of Russian food and fertilizer. Western sanctions do not apply to Moscow's agricultural shipments, but some companies may be wary of doing business with Russia.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said he wanted to keep the initiative going even without Russia's safety assurances for ships.

"We are not afraid," he said, adding that shipping companies told him "everyone is ready to continue supplying grain" if Ukraine and Turkey were on board.

The Russian Foreign Ministry again declared the northwestern Black Sea area "temporarily dangerous." Sergei Markov, a Moscow-based pro-Kremlin political analyst, speculated that if Ukraine doesn't heed the warnings, Russia could strike Ukrainian ports or place mines in shipping routes.

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, according to the Joint Coordination Center in Istanbul.

Russia has repeatedly complained that the deal largely benefits richer nations. JCC data shows that 57% of the grain from Ukraine went to developing nations, with the top destination being China, which received nearly a quarter of the food.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said the end of the deal will result in more human suffering but that the U.N. would keep working to ensure the flow of supplies from Ukraine and Russia.

"There is simply too much at stake in a hungry and hurting world," Guterres told reporters.

Ukraine can still export by land or river through Europe, but those routes have a lower capacity and have stirred divisions among its neighbors.

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In a post late Monday on his Telegram channel, Zelenskyy said he and Guterres agreed "to work together and with the responsible states" to restore food supplies via the Black Sea.

White House national security spokesman John Kirby blasted Moscow for pulling out of the deal and said the decision would "harm millions of vulnerable people around the world."

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said officials were talking with Russia and that he hoped the deal would be extended.

The agreement was renewed for 60 days in May, but the amount of grain and number of vessels departing Ukraine have plunged, with Russia accused of preventing new ships from participating since June 27. The last ship left Ukraine on Sunday and was inspected Monday.

The war in Ukraine sent food commodity prices to record highs last year and contributed to a global food crisis, which was also tied to other conflicts, the fallout from the pandemic and climate factors.

High grain prices in countries like Egypt, Lebanon and Nigeria exacerbated economic challenges and helped push millions more people into poverty or food insecurity.

Rising food prices affect people in developing countries disproportionately, because they 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 change.

Under the deal, prices for wheat and other commodities have fallen, but food was already expensive before the war in Ukraine, and the relief hasn't trickled down to kitchen tables.

"Countries such as Sudan, Somalia, Ethiopia are dependent on food imports from Ukraine, so it does hamper availability and accessibility to food," said Shashwat Saraf, the International Rescue Committee's regional emergency director for East Africa.

Now, it's key to watch whether Russia "weaponizes" its wheat exports, said Simon Evenett, professor of international trade and economic development at the University of St. Gallen in Switzerland.

As the world's current largest wheat supplier, Russia could hike its export taxes, which "would raise world grain prices as well as allow Russia to finance more of its military campaign in Ukraine," Evenett said. He noted that Moscow already raised them slightly this month.

The grain deal has faced setbacks since it was brokered. Russia pulled out briefly in November before rejoining and extending the deal.

In March and May, Russia would only renew for two months, instead of the usual four. Joint inspections meant to ensure vessels carry only grain and not weapons have slowed considerably.

The amount of grain shipped per month has fallen from a peak of 4.2 million metric tons in October to over 2 million metric tons in June.

Meanwhile, Russia's wheat shipments hit all-time highs following a large harvest. The country 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.

Associated Press reporters Hanna Arhirova in Kyiv, Ukraine, Edith M. Lederer at the United Nations and Andrew Wilks in Istanbul 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>.

Potential jurors share strong feelings about Trump ahead of trial over Michael Cohen's legal fees

By JAKE OFFENHARTZ Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Jury selection began Monday in Michael Cohen's civil lawsuit against the Trump Organization, in which the former president's personal attorney and fixer claims he is owed more than \$1 million.

Roughly three dozen prospective jurors sat inside a Manhattan courtroom, largely silent as Judge Joel Cohen outlined the coming trial dates and posed a series of questions meant to weed out candidates with

potential conflicts of interest.

Then the judge asked the assembled group, all New Yorkers, whether they had strong opinions about former President Donald Trump or his family members. A few people snickered. More than half raised their hands.

"Did we get everyone?" Judge Cohen asked as he tallied the responses. "I feel like an auctioneer here."

The jury selection process comes one week before scheduled opening statements in Cohen's lawsuit, initially filed in 2019. In it, Cohen accused the Trump Organization of renegeing on an agreement to cover his legal costs, leaving him with \$1.3 million in unpaid bills.

Cohen served for years as Trump's personal attorney and fixer, once boasting of his loyalty. But Cohen split with Trump in 2018 after the FBI raided his home and office while investigating him for multiple crimes that led him to plead guilty to multiple charges that year.

The former president is not a witness in the trial, the judge told the jury pool. But his son, Donald Trump Jr., may be called to testify.

Separately, Cohen is expected to be a key witness for Manhattan prosecutors in their criminal case against Trump over allegations the former president tried to cover up past extramarital affairs during his first White House campaign. That criminal case hinges on charges that Trump made large payments to Cohen to reimburse him for his work buying the silence of people with potentially embarrassing stories about infidelity.

Trump has denied having any extramarital affairs with the women involved.

Asked Monday about Cohen's civil lawsuit, most prospective jurors said they had strong feelings about the president and his family but also said their personal views wouldn't prevent them from fairly evaluating the evidence.

Under state court rules, jurors in both cases must live in Manhattan, a liberal enclave that voted against Trump by 70 points in the previous election.

Cohen says the Trump Organization, where he previously served as vice president, eventually stopped paying for his legal defense. The Trump Organization has disputed that, arguing that Cohen's involvement in the federal investigation wasn't an outgrowth of his former job but rather a personal effort to reduce his own criminal legal exposure as an indictment loomed.

Cohen pleaded guilty in 2018 to several charges, admitting that he lied to Congress, violated campaign finance laws, lied to banks and evaded income taxes by failing to report over \$4 million in income. He was sentenced to three years in prison, although he served nearly two-thirds of it at home, after the COVID-19 outbreak overwhelmed the nation's prisons.

Cohen did not attend the jury selection on Monday and did not immediately return a request for comment.

Attorneys for the Trump Organization, Kiley, Kiley & Kiley, also did not respond to requests for comment.

Turning Point Action's student activists were torn between Trump and DeSantis last year. Not anymore

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — When student activists assembled in Florida last year for Turning Point Action's annual summit, many were torn, wrestling with whether former President Donald Trump or Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis was the Republican Party's best hope for 2024.

One year later, there is no more doubt. Attendees at this year's meeting booed at even the suggestion of a contested GOP primary. Trump, they overwhelmingly said, is their pick.

"Trump, for sure. I don't think anyone else really has a chance," said Sky Sanchez, 21, a student from Durham, North Carolina, who was volunteering at the conference with the Tea Party Patriots.

Soren Nielsen, 18, who lives near Ann Arbor, Michigan, said he had been seriously considering DeSantis earlier this year, worried that Trump had lost momentum, particularly after a weaker-than-expected Republican showing in last year's midterm elections.

But those views changed as he watched Trump reenergize his campaign and saw DeSantis falter.

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"I started to realize his campaign did not launch as successfully as I thought it would," Nielsen said. "And he doesn't have the stamina, like Trump does, to win a general election."

While the conference provides only a snapshot of a small slice of the electorate, the views expressed in interviews here over the weekend reflect the broader contours of the GOP contest six months before voting is to begin. While DeSantis was once seen as a serious threat to Trump's hold on the party — and remains his strongest challenger — he has so far failed to catch fire. His campaign over the weekend confirmed it had laid off a handful of staffers amid concerns over runaway spending, while polling shows Trump ahead by 20 to 30 points, or more, even after a pair of criminal indictments that only seemed to bolster his standing.

Last year, both Trump and DeSantis attended the Turning Point Student Action Summit, held in Tampa, as they prepared to launch their campaigns. DeSantis headlined the Friday night program; Trump headlined Saturday's. Both were introduced with pro wrestling-style videos and elaborate pyrotechnics. Both received rousing welcomes.

But this year DeSantis chose to skip the events, as did most other top-tier candidates, turning it into a full-on Trumpfest, like so many other conservative gatherings. The program featured a who's-who of "MAGA" world, including MyPillow chief executive Mike Lindell, Roger Stone and Donald Trump Jr.

The former president was met with thundering applause Saturday as he mocked DeSantis' campaign, calling it a "hopeless cause" that was only dividing the party and wasting money.

Of the 2024 GOP candidates who did decide to show up, several received very rough receptions. Former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, a Trump critic, was loudly booed as he took the stage and later interrupted when the crowd began to chant Trump's name. Miami Mayor Francis Suarez was greeted by jeers, as some shouted "RINO" — Republican In Name Only — and "Traitor!"

When former Fox News host Megyn Kelly, a speaker at the event, suggested that the primary was a two-person race between Trump and DeSantis — "Realistically, it's probably going to be one of those two," she said — the room erupted in anger.

"I think they like Trump, Megyn," responded Charlie Kirk, Turning Point's founder.

Indeed, an unscientific survey of attendees found Trump was the first choice for president for nearly 86% of respondents. Asked to name their second pick, 51% named Vivek Ramaswamy, the millionaire tech entrepreneur who has declined to criticize Trump. (DeSantis last year had been the first choice of 19% of attendees, behind only Trump. This year, he was the first choice of just over 4%.)

Beyond the main stage, an exhibition hall was filled with tables selling MAGA merchandise, including bejeweled purses with Trump's name spelled out in rhinestones. One wall featured large cutouts of each candidate's face. Attendees were encouraged to share thoughts using Post-it notes. DeSantis' entries ranged from "TRAITOR" to "Trump is your Daddy." Attendees pegged Trump their "ONLY HOPE" and "The ONLY choice. period," though also noting he "Might go to jail."

DeSantis' decision to skip the event, citing a scheduling conflict, drew criticism from attendees and angered organizers who noted their long history with the Florida governor.

While founder Kirk has endorsed Trump and Turning Point is widely seen as a pro-Trump organization, it has also organized events for DeSantis over the years. Indeed, earlier this year, Kirk drew Trump's ire for appearing too cozy with DeSantis as the Florida governor's stock was on the rise.

As for DeSantis' no-show over the weekend, Tyler Bowyer, Turning Point's chief operating officer, said, "You only have a few opportunities in the grand scheme of an election cycle to get in front of major groups and all the media and to pass up this opportunity to lay out your vision for America I just think is one of the biggest mistakes."

DeSantis press secretary Bryan Griffin noted that the governor had "spent the day with Iowans and spoke to a packed house at the Tennessee GOP Statesman Dinner later that night."

"This was a day after he delivered the strongest interview at the Family Leadership Summit, which Donald Trump notably skipped," Griffin said. "Ron DeSantis is campaigning to win."

Nielsen, who had been leaning toward DeSantis before switching to Trump, said he has concerns about

DeSantis' electability. "If he were to win the primary, Trump voters aren't going to vote for him," he said. "All those people aren't guaranteed Republican voters. They're guaranteed Trump voters."

Dolan Bair, 21, said he, too, had been "more leaning toward DeSantis," drawn to his embrace of culture war issues and his 20-point margin of victory in his reelection race last fall. But now he doubts that DeSantis can win the presidential primary.

"I don't think he has the same sort of energy," said Bair, of Kent City, Michigan.

Riley Tobin, a 21-year-old student at the University of Hawaii, said he had admired DeSantis from afar during the COVID-19 pandemic as he rolled back restrictions. But he feels DeSantis has failed to measure up to expectations as a presidential candidate.

"A year ago, everyone was in love with DeSantis," said Tobin after the conference Sunday. "I really think he could have had a phenomenal campaign, but he turned to the wrong people and had the wrong supporters. And you could hear it yesterday, having 6,000 people pretty much boo at him. It's like he's doing something wrong if he's making that many upset conservatives."

Some critics cited DeSantis' comments on Ukraine; others his perceived establishment ties. Some were furious at the very fact that he had dared to challenge Trump in the first place."

"I'm very disappointed in him," said Alan Pincus, 66, one of the thousands of party activists, officials and fans of the speakers who joined the students at the event. "Since he announced he's running, I am no longer a fan."

Pincus, who is running for Congress and lives in Boynton Beach, Florida, credited Trump for DeSantis' first victory as governor and accused him of disloyalty, echoing a charge Trump often makes. "The fact that he even decided to run against Trump is astounding to me. It's not about personal gains anymore. It's about bringing this country back."

Jasmin Rodriguez, 61, who traveled to the event from Harker Heights, Texas, said she loved what DeSantis had done in Florida, but was disappointed in his decision to run. "Dang, dude! You should have just waited a bit, you know? Wait your turn."

Last year, she said, she would have loved to see Trump pick DeSantis as his vice president or support him in 2028. But now her opinion has soured.

"He's burned that bridge," said her ex-husband, Randy Rodriguez, 50. "He's been a huge disappointment."

Key Russian bridge to Crimea is struck again as Putin vows response to attack that killed 2

By The Associated Press undefined

An attack before dawn Monday damaged a bridge linking Russia to Moscow-annexed Crimea that is a key supply route for Kremlin forces in the war with Ukraine, forcing the span's temporary closure for a second time in less than a year. Two people were killed and their daughter was injured.

Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered increased security at the 19-kilometer (12-mile) Kerch Bridge, repeating a call he made in October 2022 when the span was severely damaged by an explosion that Moscow also blamed on Kyiv.

He also promised "there will be a response from Russia, of course."

"What happened is another terrorist act of the Kyiv regime," Putin said at a televised meeting with officials. "It is a crime that is pointless from the military point of view, it bears no significance because the Crimean bridge hasn't been used for military means in a long time, and it is brutal, because blameless civilians were injured and killed."

Vehicle traffic on the bridge came to a standstill on Monday, while rail traffic also was halted for about six hours.

Satellite images taken Monday morning by Maxar Technologies showed serious damage to both eastbound and westbound lanes of the bridge across the Kerch Strait on the part nearest to the Russian mainland, with at least one section collapsed. The railroad bridge that runs parallel to the highway appeared undamaged.

The strike was carried out by two Ukrainian maritime drones, Russia's National Anti-Terrorist Committee

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said.

Ukrainian officials were coy about taking responsibility, as they have been in past strikes. But in what appeared to be a tacit acknowledgment, Ukrainian Security Service spokesman Artem Degtyarenko said in a statement that his agency would reveal details of how the "bang" was organized after Kyiv has won the war.

The October attack on the bridge came when a truck bomb blew up two of its sections and required months of repair. Moscow decried that assault as an act of terrorism and retaliated by bombarding Ukraine's civilian infrastructure, targeting the country's power grid over the winter.

In Monday's blast, the Ukrainian news portal RBK-Ukraine cited a security services source as saying it was carried out by what it called floating drones. A deputy prime minister, Mykhailo Fedorov, later said on the Telegram messaging service that "today, the Crimea bridge was torn apart by sea drones," but it was not clear if he was making an official confirmation or referring to earlier reports.

Hours after the attack, video from Russian authorities showed crews picking up debris from the deck of the bridge, a section of which appeared to be sloping to one side, and a damaged black sedan with its passenger door open.

Putin ordered authorities to "thoroughly investigate what happened," to come up with "concrete proposals to enhance security of this strategically important transport object," and to "provide all possible support to people who ended up in a difficult position due to the halted traffic on the bridge."

The Kerch Bridge is a conspicuous symbol of Moscow's claims on Crimea and an essential land link to the peninsula, which Russia illegally annexed in 2014. The \$3.6 billion bridge is the longest in Europe and is crucial for Russia's military operations in southern Ukraine in the nearly 17-month-old war.

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

Those attacks and acts of sabotage haven't discouraged Russians from spending their holidays in Crimea, and as car traffic on the bridge came to a halt, long lines formed at a ferry crossing the Kerch Strait, Russian media reported.

Traffic jams also clogged a highway in the Russian-held part of the Kherson region after Moscow-appointed authorities in Crimea redirected motorists to take the land route to Russia, through the partially occupied regions of Kherson, Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk, according to Russian state news agency RIA Novosti. Drivers heading to Crimea were also stuck in a three-kilometer jam between Russian cities of Rostov-on-Don and Taganrog, RIA Novosti reported.

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

Russian media identified the dead as Alexei and Natalia Kulik, who were traveling to Crimea for a summer vacation. The 40-year-old Kulik was a truck driver and his 36-year-old wife was a municipal education worker. Their 14-year-old daughter suffered chest and brain injuries.

Kyiv didn't initially acknowledge responsibility for October's bridge attack either, but Deputy Defense Minister Hanna Maliar acknowledged earlier this month that Ukraine struck it to derail Russian logistics.

Russian authorities said the attack didn't affect the bridge's piers but damaged two road links, one beyond repair. The damage still appeared less serious than in October's attack; Russian Deputy Prime Minister Marat Khusnullin said authorities would gradually resume traffic on one side of the bridge after midnight Monday (2100 GMT Monday).

Andriy Yusov, a spokesman for Ukraine's military intelligence department, declined to comment 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."

Associated Press writer Michael Biesecker contributed from Washington.

Unhealthy air quality lingers across parts of U.S. from drifting Canadian wildfire smoke

By CLAIRE SAVAGE Associated Press/Report for America

CHICAGO (AP) — For Chicagoans planning a lengthy outdoor run Monday, “today is not necessarily the day for that,” according to Kim Biggs of the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

Extensive swaths of the northern United States awoke to unhealthy air quality Monday morning or were experiencing it by midafternoon, according to the Environmental Protection Agency’s AirNow.gov Smoke and Fire map.

Fine particle pollution caused by smoke from Canada’s wildfires is causing a red zone air quality index, meaning it is unhealthy for everyone. The particles, known as PM2.5, are tiny enough to get deep into the lungs and cause short-term problems like coughing and itchy eyes, and in the long run, can affect the lungs and heart.

The EPA advises keeping outdoor activities light and short when air quality indexes reach above 150 on the agency’s map. On Monday afternoon, cities and regions hitting that mark included Lincoln, Nebraska; Peoria, Illinois; Fort Wayne, Indiana; Cleveland and Columbus in Ohio; Huntsville, Alabama; Knoxville and Chattanooga in Tennessee; Greensboro, North Carolina; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and Syracuse and Utica in New York.

Sensitive groups, including people with heart and lung disease, older adults, children and pregnant women, should consider staying inside, advisories warn.

Although air quality was poor in the Chicago region earlier Monday, it has already improved to moderate quality and was expected to continue doing so throughout the day, Biggs said.

Relief from the smoke crossing the Canadian-U.S. border won’t be immediate, experts said. Large fires in Alberta, British Columbia and Saskatchewan are likely to keep churning out smoke throughout the summer and possibly into early fall, said Montana Department of Environmental Quality meteorologist Aaron Ofseyer.

“The worst is over with this round,” Ofseyer said. “Unfortunately there’s still a ton of wildfire smoke north of the border. Anytime we get a North wind we’re going to be dealing with Canadian wildfire smoke.”

Climate change and rising temperatures cause the environment to be more prone to wildfires, and more susceptible for air masses to become stagnant and stationary, explained Dr. Ravi Kalhan, a pulmonologist and professor of medicine and preventative medicine at Northwestern University’s Feinberg School of Medicine.

“It’s not normal,” he said of the repeated air quality alerts experienced by the Midwest this summer.

“We keep having these events. They’re not just one bad day a year,” Kalhan said.

The Canadian Interagency Forest Fire Centre website reported 882 active fires, with 581 deemed “out of control,” as of Monday afternoon.

Anthony Izaguirre and Matthew Brown contributed to this report from Albany, New York, and Billings, Montana. Savage is a corps member for the Associated Press/Report for America Statehouse News Initiative. Report for America is a nonprofit national service program that places journalists in local newsrooms to report on undercovered issues.

Elton John lends celebrity testimony to Kevin Spacey's sexual assault trial

By BRIAN MELLEY Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Kevin Spacey's lawyers enlisted the help of an A-list star Monday in his sexual assault trial, calling on Elton John and his husband to cast doubt on one of the Oscar winner's accusers at the end of the defense case.

John appeared briefly in the London court by video link from Monaco after his husband, David Furnish, testified that Spacey did not attend an annual gala ball at their Windsor home at the time that the accuser said he was attacked in a car.

John was the final witness for the defense and was followed by character testimonials from colleagues, friends and family that had Spacey in tears in the dock when they were read aloud by his lawyer in Southwark Crown Court.

Spacey, 63, has pleaded not guilty to a dozen charges that include sexual and indecent assault counts and one count of causing a person to engage in penetrative sexual activity without consent.

One of the alleged victims said he was driving Spacey to the White Tie & Tiara Ball in 2004 or 2005 when the actor grabbed his crotch so forcefully that he almost ran off the road.

Furnish supported Spacey's own testimony that the only year he had attended the event was 2001. Furnish said he had reviewed photographs taken at the party from 2001 to 2005 and Spacey only appeared in images that one year. He said all guests were photographed each year.

John, who was wearing yellow tinted glasses, a dark jacket and light blue open-collar shirt, said the actor attended the party once in the early 2000s and arrived after flying to England on a private jet.

Spacey's appearance was a surprise and memorable because it was a big deal, said Furnish, a filmmaker and John's manager, who also appeared from Monaco.

"He was an Oscar-winning actor and there was a lot of buzz and excitement that he was at the ball," said Furnish.

John said the actor spent the night at their house after the event. He also confirmed that Spacey bought a Mini Cooper at the auction held that night for the Elton John AIDS Foundation.

Spacey said he spent the most money "ever" on that model of car and he kept it in John's garage until he could pick it up later.

The alleged victim said he may have gotten the year wrong, but that he would not have forgotten the incident because it took his breath away and he was driving and almost crashed the car.

The timeline, however, is important because the man testified that Spacey had fondled him over several years beginning in the early 2000s. The incident was the final occasion, he said. He threatened to hit the actor and after that avoided him.

Spacey said the two were friends and they engaged in some romantic contact but the man was straight, so the actor respected his wishes not to go further. He said he was crushed when he learned the man had complained to police about him and said the man had "reimagined" what had been consensual touching.

Furnish said he was familiar with the accuser and described him as "charming," the same term Spacey used.

Over two days of testimony last week, the two-time Academy Award winner insisted that he never sexually assaulted three of the four accusers who described disturbing encounters between 2001 and 2013. The acts allegedly escalated from unwanted touching to aggressive fondling to one instance of performing oral sex act on an unconscious man.

Spacey dismissed one man's fondling claims as "pure fantasy" and said he shared consensual encounters with two others who later regretted it. He accepted the claims of a fourth man, saying he had made a "clumsy pass" during a night of heavy drinking, but he took exception to the "crotch-grabbing" characterization.

Defense lawyer Patrick Gibbs rested his case after reading statements from 10 character witnesses who praised the actor's work and compassion toward others.

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Spacey dabbed at his eyes with a tissue as Gibbs read the words of actor Robert Sean Leonard, known for his role on the TV show "House" and the movie "Dead Poets Society." Leonard said Spacey was "positive, supportive and respectful" and someone he admired greatly.

"He's more than a successful actor, he's a movie star, but unlike every other movie star I've worked with, he doesn't know it," Leonard said. "Stardom was never his goal. He loves and respects the work, and he loves and respects the people he works with."

Closing arguments are expected later in the week. Spacey is free on bail.

John's testimony came just over a week after he wrapped up his 50-year touring career with a show in Stockholm.

It's the second time the "Rocket Man" star and Furnish have made appearances in a London courtroom this year. The two also showed for hearings in March at the High Court in their phone hacking lawsuit with Prince Harry against the publisher of the Daily Mail newspaper.

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?"

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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

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 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>

New drug to protect babies and toddlers from RSV gets FDA approval ahead of cold season

By MATTHEW PERRONE AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. officials on Monday approved the first long-acting drug to protect babies and toddlers against a respiratory virus that sends tens of thousands of American children to the hospital each year.

RSV is a cold-like nuisance for most healthy people, but it can be life-threatening in the very young and the elderly.

The Food and Drug Administration approved the injection for infants and children up to 2 years old who face increased risk of severe RSV.

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"Today's approval addresses the great need for products to help reduce the impact of RSV disease on children, families and the health care system" said FDA's Dr. John Farley in a statement.

Last year, a surge in RSV cases flooded U.S. hospitals with wheezing children. There are no vaccines for babies yet, though Pfizer and other companies are working on them.

AstraZeneca's drug, to be sold under the brand name Beyfortus, is a laboratory-made version of an antibody that helps the immune system fight off RSV. Under the FDA approval, babies — including preterm infants — can receive a single injection to protect against their first season of RSV, which typically lasts about five months. Children up to age 2 can receive another dose to protect them during their second season facing the virus.

Beyfortus, which will be marketed in the U.S. by Sanofi, is already approved in Canada, Europe and the U.K. Sanofi did not immediately announce the U.S. price of the treatment.

FDA officials approved the drug based on three studies showing Beyfortus reduced the risk of RSV infection between 70% and 75% among infants and children 2 and younger.

Advisers to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will meet early next month to recommend exactly who should get the drug.

A similar antibody drug won FDA approval more than 20 years ago, but it's only recommended for high-risk babies and requires monthly injections. Pediatricians say the drug is underutilized and they expect the longer-lasting effect of AstraZeneca's shot to improve uptake.

In the U.S., about 58,000 children younger than 5 are hospitalized for RSV each year and several hundred die.

After decades of setbacks for RSV research, drugmakers have made big strides this year, launching the first vaccines against the virus. In May, the FDA approved two RSV vaccines for older adults from GlaxoSmithKline and Pfizer. In August, the FDA is expected to make a decision on approving Pfizer's vaccine for pregnant women, with the aim of passing along protection to their newborns.

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Science and Educational Media Group. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Vanishing whale's decline worse than previously thought, feds say

By PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — A review of the status of a vanishing species of whale found that the animal's population is in worse shape than previously thought, federal ocean regulators said Monday.

The North Atlantic right whale numbers less than 350, and it has been declining in population for several years. The federal government declared the whale's decline an "unusual mortality event," which means an unexpected and significant die-off, in 2017.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration released new data that 114 of the whales have been documented as dead, seriously injured or sub-lethally injured or sick since the start of the mortality event. That is an increase of 16 whales since the previous estimate released earlier this year.

The agency recently completed a review of the whales using photographs from researchers and surveys to create the new estimate, said Andrea Gomez, a spokesperson for NOAA.

"Additional cases will continue to be reviewed, and animals will be added if appropriate, as more information is obtained," Gomez said.

Thirty-six of the 114 whales included in the estimate had died, NOAA documents state. The agency cautioned that only about a third of right whale deaths are documented, so the total number of dead or injured animals could be much higher.

Right whales are found off the Atlantic coast of the U.S. They are vulnerable to collisions with large ships and entanglement in commercial fishing gear. The federal government has worked to craft stricter rules to protect the whales from both threats.

Commercial fishing and shipping interests have both vowed to fight stricter protections. A federal ap-

peals court sided with fishermen last month after they filed a complaint that proposed new restrictions could put them out of business.

The new data illustrate how dire the situation is for the whales, said Sarah Sharp, an animal rescue veterinarian with International Fund for Animal Welfare. The number of injured animals is especially significant because injured whales are less likely to reproduce, Sharp said.

"If animals are putting energy into healing from a wound, they are not necessarily going to have those energy stores for other things," Sharp said. "I think this just paints a much more accurate picture of the threats these whales are facing."

The whales give birth off Florida and Georgia and feed off New England and Canada. They have been protected under the Endangered Species Act for decades, and federal authorities ruled in December that they must retain that protection.

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 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.

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."

Second Alzheimer's drug in pipeline can slow the disease by a few months but with safety risk

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Another experimental Alzheimer's drug can modestly slow patients' inevitable worsening — by about four to seven months, researchers reported Monday.

Eli Lilly and Co. is seeking Food and Drug Administration approval of donanemab. If cleared, it would be only the second Alzheimer's treatment convincingly shown to delay the mind-robbing disease — after the recently approved Leqembi from Japanese drugmaker Eisai.

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"Finally there's some hope, right, that we can talk about," Lilly's Dr. John Sims told reporters Monday at the Alzheimer's Association International Conference in Amsterdam.

"We don't cure the disease," he said. "Diabetes doesn't have a cure either — it doesn't mean you can't have very meaningful treatments for patients."

Lilly announced in May that donanemab appeared to work, but on Monday the full results of a study of 1,700 patients was published by the Journal of the American Medical Association and presented at the Alzheimer's conference.

Both donanemab and Leqembi are lab-made antibodies, administered by IV, that target one Alzheimer's culprit, sticky amyloid buildup in the brain. And both drugs come with a serious safety concern — brain swelling or bleeding that in the Lilly study was linked to three deaths.

Scientists say while these drugs may mark a new era in Alzheimer's therapy, huge questions remain about which patients should try them and how much benefit they'll really notice.

"The modest benefits would likely not be questioned by patients, clinicians or payers if amyloid antibodies were low risk, inexpensive and simple to administer. However, they are none of these," Dr. Eric Widera of the University of California, San Francisco, wrote in a JAMA editorial accompanying Lilly's new data.

Lilly's study enrolled people ages 60 to 85 who were in early stages of Alzheimer's. Half received once-a-month infusions of donanemab and half dummy infusions for 18 months.

The study had a few twists. Patients were switched to dummy infusions if enough amyloid cleared out — something that happened to about half within a year. And because amyloid alone doesn't cause Alzheimer's, researchers also tracked levels of another culprit in the brain — abnormal tau. More tau signals more advanced disease.

The results: Both groups declined during the 18-month study but overall those given donanemab worsened about 22% more slowly. Some patients fared better — those with low to medium tau levels saw a 35% slower decline, reflecting that the drug appears to work better in earlier stages of the disease.

How much difference does that make? It means donanemab slowed patients' worsening by about four to seven months, the JAMA report concluded.

Another way of measuring: Among the donanemab recipients with lower tau levels, 47% were considered stable a year into the study compared with 29% of those who got the dummy version.

The main safety concern is brain swelling or bleeding, which often causes no symptoms but sometimes can be serious, even fatal. About a quarter of donanemab recipients showed evidence of that swelling, and about 20% had microbleeds.

Scientists already know that patients getting any amyloid-targeted therapy need repeat brain scans to check for those side effects — a costly and time-consuming hurdle.

Widera noted that the possibility of stopping donanemab treatment at least temporarily in people who respond well would help limit some of those challenges. For comparison, Leqembi is given by IV every two weeks and researchers didn't test a similar stoppage.

It's too soon to know if some patients might need to resume donanemab, said Lilly's Dr. Mark Mintun. But the amyloid "doesn't come back with any sort of vengeance," he said, speculating that might take several years.

Another concern: More than 90% of the study's participants were white, leaving little data about how other populations might respond, Alzheimer's specialist Jennifer Manly of Columbia University wrote in JAMA.

Scientists have long tried and failed to slow Alzheimer's with amyloid-targeting drugs — and the FDA's contentious 2021 conditional approval of a drug named Aduhelm soon fizzled amid lack of evidence that it really worked. The approval of Leqembi and promising data for donanemab have reignited interest in attacking amyloid buildup.

But Mintun acknowledged additional approaches are needed, saying Lilly expects results of a late-stage study of a tau-fighting drug next year.

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Pod of 55 pilot whales die after being stranded on a beach in Scotland

LONDON (AP) — A pod of 55 pilot whales have died after they were found washed ashore on a beach in Scotland in the worst mass whale stranding in the area, marine experts said Monday.

Marine rescuers, the coast guard and police were called to Traigh Mhor beach on the Isle of Lewis in northwest Scotland after receiving reports that dozens of the mammals were in difficulty there early Sunday.

The British Divers Marine Life Rescue found that only 15 of the whales — a mixture of adults and calves — were still alive, and attempted to refloat two of the more active animals that were low down in the water.

But by Sunday afternoon rescue teams decided that the remaining whales should be euthanized on welfare grounds, after considering the shallow beach, rough wave conditions and how long the whales had been out of the water.

The charity said the whole pod may have followed a female whale onto the beach when she had problems giving birth.

"Pilot whales are notorious for their strong social bonds, so often when one whale gets into difficulty and strands, the rest follow," it said in a statement. "A sad outcome for this pod and obviously not the outcome we were all hoping for."

Experts will begin carrying out post-mortem work Monday to determine what caused the whales' death.

Andrew Brownlow, from the Scottish Marine Animal Stranding Scheme, said that would be a "monumental task."

"In terms of the number of casualty animals, this is the biggest one we've had," he told the BBC.

Experts will take samples and data from some of the whales, and the bodies will be taken to a landfill site and buried after the post-mortem is complete, he added.

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

By COURTNEY BONNELL AP Business Writer

LONDON (AP) — Russia has suspended a wartime deal designed to move grain from Ukraine to parts of the world where millions are going hungry.

The Black Sea Grain Initiative, brokered by the U.N. and Turkey, 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, according to the Joint Coordination Center in Istanbul.

Some analysts don't foresee a lasting rise in the cost of 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 food and fertilizer amid Western sanctions.

Both countries are major 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.

The deal provided assurances that ships won't be attacked entering and leaving Ukrainian ports. Vessels were 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 and was renewed three times — the last two for only two months as Russia insisted its exports were being held up. That's

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despite Moscow shipping record amounts of wheat.

No new ships have joined the initiative since June 27, and Ukraine blames Moscow. The last vessel left Ukraine on Sunday.

WHAT HAS IT ACCOMPLISHED?

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

Once the grain deal was struck, the World Food Program got back a top 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 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.

After Russia exited the deal, wheat prices in Chicago trading rose about 3% on Monday, to \$6.81 a bushel, still about half what they were during last year's peaks. Prices fell later in the day.

WHY DID RUSSIA END THE DEAL?

Russia has said it wants an end to sanctions on the Russian Agricultural Bank and to restrictions on shipping and insurance that Moscow insists have hampered its 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.

Russia also has complained that a commitment to pipe its ammonia, a key component of fertilizer, to a Ukrainian port to be exported has never started under the deal. That's true, but the U.N. says the pipeline has been damaged in the fighting.

"Regrettably, the part of the Black Sea agreements related to Russia hasn't been fulfilled," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Monday.

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

The Russian Defense Ministry said in a statement Monday that the last-minute offer was not feasible and couldn't be implemented.

Russian "claims that its agriculture sector is suffering are countered by the reality" that production and exports are up since before the war, said Caitlin Welsh, director of the Global Food and Water Security Program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

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."

Losing millions of tons of food from Ukraine at a time when many countries are increasingly reliant on imported food because of conflict and drought, "will result in inaccessibility and unavailability of food but also will increase prices and impact affordability for households," Shashwat Saraf, the group's regional emergency director for East Africa, said in an interview Monday.

While global prices for grain may stabilize, countries that depend on imported food, from Lebanon to Egypt, may see their costs rise for a while if they need to find suppliers that are farther away, analysts say.

That will 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," World Food Program chief economist

Arif Husain told reporters last week.

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, but those routes can handle lower amounts compared to sea shipments and their use has stirred anger 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 accused Russia of slowing down inspections of ships. Combined with no new ships joining the effort, that has led to a drop in exports from a high under the deal of 4.2 million metric tons in October to 2 million in June.

WHAT ELSE AFFECTS FOOD SUPPLY?

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

Associated Press writer 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>.

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 were not 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 where all were 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 did not 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 of this report 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.

Spotlight on judge in Trump documents case intensifies following controversial earlier ruling

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.

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, searched for survivors in a muddy tunnel where about 15 vehicles, including a bus, were 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, rescuers had pumped out most of the water from the tunnel and were search-

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ing 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 south-eastern 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.

Severe weather was also affecting many other places around the world. In the United States, An already saturated Northeast began drying out Monday after a second round of heavy rain in a week, including a flash flood in Pennsylvania that claimed at least five lives over the weekend.

Schools and the stock market were closed in Hong Kong on Monday as Typhoon Talim sideswiped the city and headed toward the Chinese mainland and the island province of Hainan.

This year has seen record-breaking stretches of high heat across large parts of China, South Korea and Japan. China's National Meteorological Administration reported that temperatures in the oasis city of Turpan in the northwestern Xinjiang region hit a record 52.2 Celsius (125.9 Fahrenheit) on Sunday.

Italian health officials intensified heat warnings as southern Europe began a brutally hot week on Monday with temperatures expected to top 40 C — or 104 F — on a continent already overburdened by tourists. The third heatwave in a month was expected to affect much of the Mediterranean and last until Wednesday.

In South Korea, 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.

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.

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

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 as the state copes with more rain following days of flooding.

"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.

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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 storms in the past week. 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) 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.

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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.

Today in History: July 18, Nelson Mandela is born

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Tuesday, July 18, the 199th day of 2023. There are 166 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On July 18, 1969, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., left a party on Chappaquiddick (chap-uh-KWIH'-dihk) Island near Martha's Vineyard with Mary Jo Kopechne (koh-PEHK'-nee), 28; Kennedy's car later went off a bridge into the water. Kennedy was able to escape, but Kopechne drowned.

On this date:

In 1536, the English Parliament passed an act declaring the authority of the pope void in England.

In 1863, during the Civil War, Union troops spearheaded by the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry, made up of Black soldiers, charged Confederate-held Fort Wagner on Morris Island, S.C. The Confederates were able to repel the Northerners, who suffered heavy losses; the 54th's commander, Col. Robert Gould Shaw, was among those who were killed.

In 1918, South African anti-apartheid leader and president Nelson Mandela was born in the village of Mvezo.

In 1925, Adolf Hitler published the first volume of his autobiographical screed, "Mein Kampf (My Struggle)."

In 1944, Hideki Tojo was removed as Japanese premier and war minister because of setbacks suffered by his country in World War II. American forces in France captured the Normandy town of St. Lo.

In 1947, President Harry S. Truman signed a Presidential Succession Act which placed the speaker of the House and the Senate president pro tempore next in the line of succession after the vice president.

In 1964, nearly a week of rioting erupted in New York's Harlem neighborhood following the fatal police shooting of a Black teenager, James Powell, two days earlier.

In 1984, gunman James Huberty opened fire at a McDonald's in San Ysidro (ee-SEE'-droh), California, killing 21 people before being shot dead by police. Walter F. Mondale won the Democratic presidential nomination in San Francisco.

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In 1994, a bomb hidden in a van destroyed a Jewish cultural center in Buenos Aires, Argentina, killing 85. Tutsi rebels declared an end to Rwanda's 14-week-old civil war.

In 2005, an unrepentant Eric Rudolph was sentenced in Birmingham, Alabama, to life in prison for an abortion clinic bombing that killed an off-duty police officer and maimed a nurse.

In 2020, Canadian officials said the Toronto Blue Jays baseball team would not be able to play its home games in Toronto during the shortened 2020 season because it wasn't safe for players to travel back and forth from the United States. (The Blue Jays would play "home" games in the ballpark of their minor league affiliate in Buffalo, N.Y.)

Ten years ago: Once the very symbol of American industrial might, Detroit became the biggest U.S. city to file for bankruptcy, its finances ravaged and its neighborhoods hollowed out by a long, slow decline in population and auto manufacturing. Romanian investigators found the remains of paint, canvas and nails in the oven of a woman whose son was charged with stealing seven paintings by Picasso, Monet and Matisse from a Dutch gallery in October 2012. Three Romanian men would later plead guilty to the thefts.

Five years ago: The 12 Thai youth soccer teammates and their coach who were trapped in a flooded cave for more than two weeks were released from the hospital. FBI Director Christopher Wray said Russia was continuing to use fake news, propaganda and covert operations to sow discord in the United States. European regulators fined Google a record \$5 billion for forcing cellphone makers that use the company's Android operating system to install Google's search and browser apps. California's Supreme Court decided that a measure to divide the state into three parts would not appear on the November ballot. California's Highway 1 near Big Sur reopened, 14 months after it was blocked by a massive landslide.

One year ago: The Texas Department of Public Safety announced an internal review into the actions of state police who had dozens of troopers and agents on the scene during a slow and chaotic response to the Uvalde elementary school massacre that left 21 dead. The review came after the release of a damning report by the Texas House revealed wide failures by all levels of law enforcement. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the government's top infectious disease expert, said he planned to retire by the end of President Joe Biden's term in January 2025. Fauci, 81, was appointed director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in 1984 and advised seven presidents, leading research in HIV/AIDS, respiratory infections, Ebola, Zika and the coronavirus. Pop artist Claes Oldenburg, who turned the mundane into the monumental through his outsized sculptures of a baseball bat, a clothespin and other objects, died at age 93.

Today's Birthdays: Skating champion and commentator Dick Button is 94. Olympic gold medal figure skater Tenley Albright is 88. Movie director Paul Verhoeven is 85. Musician Brian Auger is 84. Singer Dion DiMucci is 84. Actor James Brolin is 83. Baseball Hall of Famer Joe Torre is 83. Singer Martha Reeves is 82. Country-rock singer Craig Fuller (Pure Prairie League) is 74. Business mogul Richard Branson is 73. Actor Margo Martindale is 72. Singer Ricky Skaggs is 69. Actor Audrey Landers is 67. World Golf Hall of Famer Nick Faldo is 66. Actor Anne-Marie Johnson is 63. Actor Elizabeth McGovern is 62. Rock musician John Hermann (Widespread Panic) is 61. Rock musician Jack Irons is 61. Broadcaster Wendy Williams is 59. Actor Vin Diesel is 56. Actor Grant Bowler is 55. Retired NBA All-Star Penny Hardaway is 52. Bluegrass musician Jesse Brock (The Gibson Brothers) is 51. Alt-country singer Elizabeth Cook is 51. Actor Eddie Matos is 51. Singer-songwriter M.I.A. is 48. Rock musician Daron Malakian (System of a Down; Scars on Broadway) is 48. Actor Elsa Pataky ("The Fast and the Furious" films) is 47. Rock musician Tony Fagenson (formerly with Eve 6) is 45. Movie director Jared Hess is 44. Actor Jason Weaver is 44. Actor Kristen Bell is 43. Actor Michiel Huisman (MIHK'-heel HOWS'-man) is 42. Rock singer Ryan Cabrera is 41. Actor Priyanka Chopra is 41. Christian-rock musician Aaron Gillespie (Underoath) is 40. Actor Chace Crawford is 38. Actor James Norton is 38. Musician Paul Kowert (Punch Brothers) is 37. Actor Travis Milne is 37.