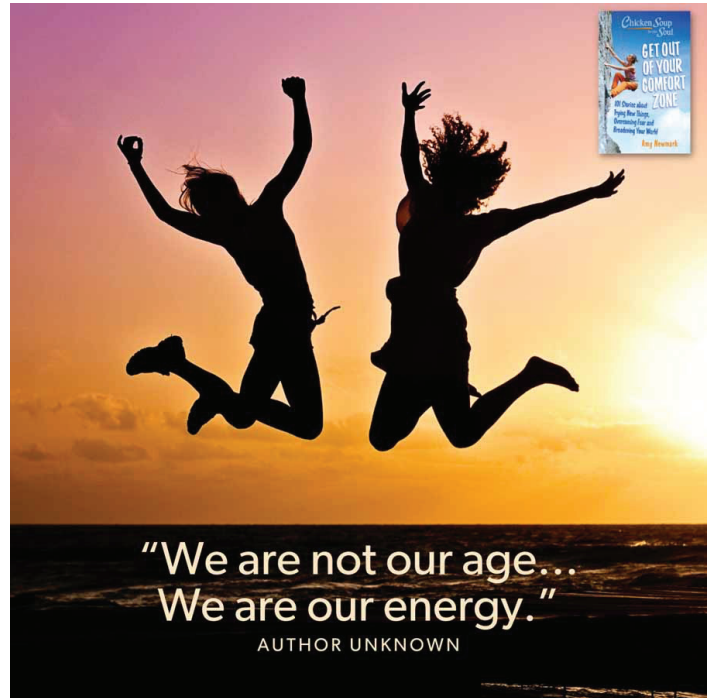


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Tuesday, Aug. 1

Senior Menu: Goulash, 7 layer salad, garlic toast, mixed fruit.

The Pantry at Groton Community Center, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 209 N Main, open 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.

City Council Meeting, 7 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 2

Senior Menu: Breaded pork cutlet, scalloped potatoes, Harvard beets, blushing pears, whole wheat bread.

Groton Chamber meeting, noon, at City Hall

Emmanuel Lutheran: Sarah Circle, 5 p.m.; Freshmen Confirmation Info (students and parents), 6 p.m.; Youth Gathering Info (8th-12th), 7 p.m.

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

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

Thursday, Aug. 3

Senior Menu: Tater tot hot dish, corn, Mandarin orange salad, whole wheat bread.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Nigeria Circle, 2 p.m.

Friday, Aug. 4

Senior Menu: Chicken pasta salad, grape juice, muffin, watermelon, carrots.

Wine on Nine Golf Event

State Jr. Legion Baseball Tournament in Lennox: Groton vs. SF Christian 30 minutes after the second game.

Saturday, Aug. 5

Common Cents Community Thrift Store, 209 N Main, open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Catholic: SEAS Confession, 3:45-4:15 p.m.; SEAS Mass, 4:30 p.m.

State Jr. Legion Baseball Tournament in Lennox

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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The Bulletin by Newsweek

World in Brief

The U.S. Women's Soccer Team scraped through to the last 16 of the Women's World Cup, securing a second-place finish in their group after a 0-0 tie with Portugal, who were knocked out.

Donald Trump's Save America leadership PAC may have broken the law by asking for \$60 million it sent to the Make America Great Again Inc super PAC to be returned in order to pay the former president's legal fees, one legal expert told Newsweek.

House Judiciary Committee Chair Jim Jordan is launching a new investigation into the Biden family after a collapsed plea deal between Hunter Biden and the Justice Department. Hunter's former business partner Devon Archer testified before a House committee.

Angus Cloud, a rising star and a fan-favorite on the hit HBO series Euphoria, died at the age of 25. The cause of death is unknown.

Lori Vallow Daybell, also known as the 'doomsday mom,' was sentenced to life in prison without parole for the 2019 murder of her two children and conspiring in the death of her husband's first wife.

The Biden Administration launched its new Saving on a Valuable Education program, allowing borrowers to begin applying for the income-driven repayment plan that would help mitigate financial stress once student loan payments resume in October.

China unveiled new leadership to manage its nuclear arsenal in the biggest unplanned shake-up in nearly a decade. Navy's former deputy chief Wang Houbin is named head of the PLA Rocket Force, and Xu Xisheng its new political commissar.

The whereabouts of Alix Dorsainvil, the nurse who was kidnapped alongside her daughter while working in Haiti, remains unknown, with the U.S. State Department refusing to confirm whether their abductors had made demands.

In the ongoing war in Ukraine, Moscow was struck again by a drone, Mayor Sergei Sobyanin said, damaging "the same tower at the Moskva City complex" that was hit on Sunday. It comes as a series of Russian strikes on Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky's hometown, Kryvyi Rih, killed at least six people, including one child.

TALKING POINTS

"Paul Reubens was like no one else – a brilliant and original comedian who made kids and their parents laugh at the same time. He never forgot a birthday and shared his genuine delight in silliness with everyone he met. My family and I will miss him," Jimmy Kimmel wrote about the death of Paul Reuben, who played the iconic character Pee-Wee Herman.

"Yellow has historically proven that it could not manage itself despite billions of dollars in worker concessions and hundreds of millions in bailout funding from the federal government. This is a sad day for workers and the American freight industry." Teamsters union President Sean O'Brien in a statement after top trucking company Yellow Corp. shut down resulting in 30,000 workers being laid off.

"There's something underlying this approach that states like Iowa have taken that really suggests that they're-- that they don't trust women to be able to know what's in their best interests and make the decision accordingly," Kamala Harris said in an interview with ABC News calling out several state leaders over abortion rights since the overturning of Roe v. Wade.

WHAT TO WATCH IN THE DAY AHEAD

Job openings and construction spending for June, and S&P and ISM manufacturing PMI data for July are on the economic calendar from 9:45 a.m. ET.

It's a busy day for corporate events, with Caterpillar, Merck, Pfizer, Starbucks, Uber, and Advanced Micro Devices due to report their quarterly results.

Groton City Council Meeting Agenda

August 1, 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.)
- Department Reports
- Airport Discussion – Darrell Hillestad
- Park Bathrooms – Dean Marske from HKG Architects
- Approval of Revised Quitclaim Deed for Jailhouse Property
- Pay Request #2 – Maguire Iron
- Change Order #3 (Final) – Maguire Iron
- TextMyGov Discussion
- Second Reading of Ordinance No. 769 – 2023 Supplemental Appropriation Ordinance
- Minutes
- Bills
- Announcement: Family Fun Fest on August 10, 2023 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm on Main Street
- Executive session personnel & legal 1-25-2 (1) & (3)
- Adjournment

Thank you!!!!!!

I would like to thank everyone involved with my benefit from the bottom of my heart. I am so humbled by the number of people who volunteered to take charge and make it such a beautiful, successful day. Thank you to everyone who showed up in person and everyone who reached out but couldn't be there. I noticed and appreciated each and every one of you.

Thank you to Thrivent, Dacotah Bank, and Venture Communications for helping with expenses. A huge thank you to my sister, Stephanie, for making this event so special and organized. Thank you to all my sweet friends and family members for helping her pull it off. The kids' activity room was great, the flyers were beautiful, and the article in the Marshall County Journal was perfect. Thank you to all my aunts, uncles, and cousins who headed up the food and made an amazing meal. Thank you to Horton's Meat Processing for the burgers and brats. Thank you to Snapper's for the beverages. Thank you to the Britton Cornhole Club for the fun tournament. Thank you to Scott Bush and everyone who helped with the live auction. Thank you to Angela Antonsen for making 350+ t-shirts! Thank you to everyone who helped set up and tear down for the event. Thank you to Burt, Todyn, and Noah for being my rock that day! Thank you to each and every one of you who donated baskets for the silent auction, raffle drawings, and the live auction. Thank you to my best girls that made the whole thing run so smoothly! There were so many amazing items I could not begin to thank you enough. If I missed anyone, I am truly sorry. I am so very thankful for it all. It was a wonderful day!

Sincerely, Angela Glover

Still No Explanation for Leak of Gov. Noem's Social Security Number

PIERRE, S.D. – Today, Governor Kristi Noem issued a statement on the lack of response or action from the Biden Administration or Democrats in Congress regarding the leak of her Social Security number.

"More than 6 months later, Democrats in Washington have still not addressed how they will rectify the situation where they leaked my family's personal information, including our Social Security numbers. Attorney General Garland has not responded to our request for an investigation into this unlawful action," said Governor Kristi Noem. "DC bureaucrats callously mishandled sensitive information, all while accusing others of the same misstep."

Because of this leak, Governor Noem and her family have experienced hardships where nefarious actors have used their personal information illegally.

The leak was a violation of the Privacy Act of 1974. Governor Noem was notified of the leak by the Washington Post, rather than by the agencies responsible for the unlawful leak. According to that media report, the leak was a result of a document dump as the former House January 6th Select Committee wrapped up its work.

The Government Publishing Office (GPO) was the entity that published the file containing the leaked Social Security numbers. They acknowledged the leak but did not take admit fault. Their remedy was merely to offer identify theft services. They appeared to shift the blame back to the January 6th Select Committee, which "directed GPO to publish the materials referenced in their report."

No response has been received from the January 6th Select Committee.

The National Archives stated that the leak was not their fault.

Texas Governor Greg Abbott, South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster, former Trump Administration Secretary Housing and Urban Development Dr. Ben Carson, and former Trump Administration Secretary of Health and Human Services Alex Azar also had their Social Security numbers leaked.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Task force recommends creation of state public defender's office

Abuse and neglect, criminal appeals might be initial task of state-level team

BY: JOHN HULT - JULY 31, 2023 4:23 PM

A task force studying the cost of public defense costs to South Dakota counties has concluded that a state public defender's office could ease the burden.

A seven-person office would cost the state around \$1.4 million a year under a rough outline of its duties presented Monday during a virtual meeting of the Indigent Legal Services Task Force by State Court Administrator Greg Sattizahn. That investment would save counties about \$1.5 million a year.

The creation of such an office was one of the primary recommendations built from months of study that included public meetings across the state. Other ideas included a request for one-time money for cash-strapped counties and an extensive study in seven counties where little data is available on public defense costs and outcomes in court.

Sattizahn's presentation about a state public defender's office did not envision a pool of lawyers to represent defendants in local courtrooms. Instead, the office could pick up criminal appeals filed by defendants who'd been represented by county-funded lawyers at the trial level. "Ineffective assistance of counsel" is the most common appeal in criminal cases, the task force learned in previous meetings, one that can force counties to pay a new lawyer to pick apart the performance of the previous one.

A state public defender would also handle appeals in abuse and neglect cases. As with criminal cases, those involved in abuse and neglect disputes are entitled to legal representation regardless of their ability to pay for it.

A state-level office could study and recommend joint state-county funding structures, seek grants for public defense, audit bills from the private attorneys who contract with counties for indigent legal aid, and create and monitor caseloads statewide, Sattizahn said.

Task force members agreed Monday to endorse the production of a report detailing the group's findings and outlining the framework for a state public defense office.

The details on how to pay for such an office, however, and its potential to help counties bear the financial burden of legal services were topics of considerable debate.

Funding source, limits debated

Counties rely almost entirely on property taxes to pay for government services, and have limited freedom to increase them without voter approval. Public defense costs can be among the most difficult to cover, and there's little counties can do to reduce them.

Hughes County Commissioner Randy Brown, a member of the task force, said his county is looking at what to cut to fill a \$1 million shortfall, and "we don't like some of the places that we have to (look at) that are not constitutionally obligated."

"We don't have two to three years to get this fixed," Brown said. "We're going to need some sort of financial assistance starting next year."

Sattizahn's presentation offered fee increases for defendants and case participants as a possible funding source. It would push a required \$7.50 per-case payment for public defenders to \$25.50. That payment to the state is in addition to any attorney fees that might be levied by a county to recoup its hourly attorney costs. The \$1 fee attached to abuse and neglect cases, meanwhile, would jump to \$3.50 per case.

Lake County State's Attorney Wendy Kloepfner addressed both the funding mechanism and the fiscal impact to counties during the meeting.

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On the funding side, she said, it's unrealistic to expect defendants to pay higher fees, given how little money the state is able to collect now.

"A lot of defendants don't have the money to pay those fees," Kloeppner said. "That's why there's so many cases in the state collection system."

Public defenders from Minnehaha and Pennington counties, two of the three with full-time public defense offices, agreed.

"Funding it on the backs of indigent people is not something I think is the right thing to do," said Pennington County Public Defender Eric Whitcher. "And it's certainly not going to work."

Whitcher also suggested that the cities whose police make arrests could stand to pony up some funding for defense, as well.

Kloeppner said she agreed with that idea. She also said a state public defender's office that only handles appeals would mostly help larger counties. Her own county doesn't handle many appeals.

Task force member Sen. Jim Mehlhaff, R-Pierre, said he was disappointed that the recommendations wouldn't make a more significant dent in county budgets. He said he didn't like the idea of moving money from cities or law enforcement to counties without identifying a new funding source, and he also worried that keeping the initial cost of defense in county hands doesn't go far enough.

"It would be nice to see some sort of funding component and relief to the counties that are really squeezed by this in the initial court appointed attorney appointments," Mehlhaff said.

Report to outline concerns, approaches

The task force members did agree that a state-level office for public defense was important.

The notion of additional funding outside of such an office also got a lot of play on Monday.

Task force member Will Mortenson, a Fort Pierre lawyer and the House majority leader, wondered aloud if the report ought to explore reworking the counties' catastrophic expense fund to help smaller areas handle more of the day-to-day costs of public defense.

Perhaps the state could earmark some of those funds to cover costs above a set amount, he said, or rework the program to make the funds easier to access.

"I don't think that we have really heard, other than Greg's initial proposal, any actual replacements for revenue generation," Mortenson said.

Kloeppner and Brown each pointed out that the catastrophic expense fund has a \$25,000 deductible, which is more than the price of public defense for most lower-level crimes.

That fund doesn't get any state support at the moment, said Kris Jacobsen of the South Dakota Association of County Commissioners. If the state pitched in, that might be a bigger help.

"It is strictly county funded – one county helps another county," Jacobsen said. "And if we could create a hybrid of that, we'd definitely be open for discussion on that."

Whitcher, meanwhile, suggested a possible one-time cash infusion for counties, earmarked for public defense, that might get them through the next few years as a state public defender's office takes shape.

The potential funding sources, concerns about defendants' ability to pay, and notes about the counties' most significant costs all belong in the task force's final report, said Neil Fulton, the dean of the University of South Dakota Knudson School of Law and co-chair of the task force.

The study piece of the task force's recommendations would involve inviting the nonprofit Sixth Amendment Center to gather and analyze data. That's in response to the task force's finding that the state lacks good information on what's happening at the county level with public defense.

That study and a solid report on the task force's findings should help lawmakers and state officials as they work to address the issues, Fulton said.

"This would be a good opportunity, to me, to throw everything conceivable about funding against the wall to at least put it out there to start that discussion, because it's going to take some time," Fulton said.

John is the senior reporter for South Dakota Searchlight. He has more than 15 years experience covering criminal justice, the environment and public affairs in South Dakota, including more than a decade at the Sioux Falls Argus Leader.

Crop damage payouts debated as pipeline hearing continues

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - JULY 31, 2023 8:06 PM

A company touted its plan to reimburse crop damages caused by the installation of its proposed carbon capture pipeline, and an opposing attorney criticized the plan Monday during the fourth day of a permit hearing before state regulators at the Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center in Fort Pierre. Meanwhile, an expert witness for the company testified that the pipeline is safe after prior testimony suggesting otherwise.

Stephen Lee is the executive vice president of engineering and construction for Navigator CO2, the company proposing the Heartland Greenway pipeline. He said the company will pay landowners "250% of crop damages" for as long as damages occur.

Brian Jorde, the lawyer representing landowners, said that language is misleading. He said landowners could suffer enough damage to receive 100% in each of years one and two, but would then be limited to 50% in year three and nothing more going forward because of the 250% cap.

The proposed 1,300-mile, approximately \$3 billion Heartland Greenway pipeline would link 21 ethanol plants and several fertilizer plants across five states. Carbon dioxide emitted by the plants would be captured and transported for injection underground in Illinois (where it wouldn't contribute to climate change by trapping heat in the atmosphere) or sold for commercial or industrial use. The project would include 111.9 miles of pipeline in eastern South Dakota, crossing rural land in Brookings, Moody, Minnehaha, Lincoln and Turner counties. The project needs a permit from the state Public Utilities Commission, which is conducting the hearing.

On the topic of crop damages, Jorde asked Lee, "What is Navigator's written protocol for determining what 'actual damages' are?"

"I'd say we estimate, initially," Lee said. He said the company would then work with the landowner and take other factors, like crop yields, into account.

Jorde later asked Lee about the duration of the rights the company is seeking on land that the pipeline would cross.

"Is it not perpetual, in perpetuity, forever?" Jorde asked.

"It could be," Lee said. "The easement is valid for the terms of the easement, for as long as we are a party to that and for as long as the utilization of the pipeline system."

Lee previously testified that the company has offered landowners an average of \$24,000 per acre in easement negotiations. Navigator has easements with about 30% of the owners of land the pipeline would cross. The company has not yet used eminent domain, a legal process to gain access to land when an agreement can't be reached with a landowner.

Pushing back on last week's testimony

John F. Godfrey, a pipeline safety consultant contracted by the company, defended the modeling the company used to assess the impacts of a leak or rupture. That followed testimony from last week when John Abraham, a University of St. Thomas professor, testified that compared to alternative modeling methods, the software Navigator CO2 used to model the impacts of potential ruptures or leaks is "less accurate and often underpredicts how far a plume would go."

Godfrey, who did some of the company's modeling, was asked if the model Abraham advised is superior. Godfrey said, "Possibly not, depending on how it's applied."

Opponents have concerns about carbon dioxide plumes from potential pipeline leaks. In 2020, a leak in a carbon pipeline in Mississippi caused the evacuation of about 200 people and sent 45 to the hospital. In response, federal regulators are reviewing the safety standards for carbon capture pipelines.

"Pipelines are the safest mode of transporting a commodity," Godfrey said.

Lee said the company has already spent "hundreds of thousands on 225-plus models." He said the company is still early in the process and will start doing the modeling Abraham advised, but he thinks it's likely that data "will confirm our current modeling."

Public Utilities Commissioner Gary Hanson said that while the company may see itself as being early in the permitting process – given the number of states where permitting has yet to happen – the commis-

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sioners need to make a decision "60 days from today."

The Heartland Greenway is one of two proposed carbon pipelines that would pass through South Dakota. A pipeline proposed by Summit Carbon Solutions is scheduled for a permit hearing in September.

At the end of Monday's proceedings on the Heartland Greenway pipeline, the hearing recessed until Tuesday.

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.

U.S. ag secretary touts Biden climate agenda as boost for rural America in Oregon visit

BY: JACOB FISCHLER - JULY 31, 2023 4:54 PM

PORTLAND, Ore. — U.S. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack sees the Biden administration's climate agenda as a boon for rural economies, he said Monday during a visit to Portland's World Forestry Center.

The U.S. Forest Service, which is part of the Agriculture Department, will begin accepting applications for a second round of grants from its Community Wildfire Defense Grant program for at-risk communities to help prepare for wildfires, Vilsack said. That program is part of a wider objective set by President Joe Biden to strengthen the middle class.

Three major laws enacted in the first two years of Biden's presidency have provided billions in resources to address climate change. Those dollars can help spur rural economies, Vilsack said.

The longtime Agriculture secretary was one of several Cabinet members who fanned out across the country this week to promote the administration's record and agenda.

Some Republican members of Congress have criticized Biden's approach to climate, especially measures to limit fossil fuel production that they say limit economic opportunities in rural areas.

But Vilsack emphasized how climate programs can create economic opportunities in rural areas. He highlighted the USDA's Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities that pays farmers and foresters for reducing carbon emissions and other climate-focused priorities.

One of the program's goals is to create another revenue stream for rural areas with relatively limited economic opportunities, Vilsack said.

"This is a brand-new revenue opportunity for farmers and forested landowners by saying we will measure the environmental impact of what you're doing, and someone will be willing to pay you for that result," he said. "That is a new income source."

Vilsack also promoted using forest byproducts to create building materials like mass timber as a way to both reduce fire risk and enhance economic opportunity.

"It's one thing to manage the forest responsibly," he said. "But the question then becomes what do you do with the wood? What do you do with product that's taken out of that forest? How do you create the opportunity in addition to reducing the risk?"

Vilsack said he would visit the Portland airport later Monday to see an under-construction terminal that has used mass timber.

Fire dollars

Addressing climate change in agriculture programs and reducing the associated wildfire damage can have a positive impact on rural economies, Vilsack and Democratic elected officials in attendance said.

"The only thing we want on fire this summer is Oregon's economy," U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, a Democrat, said before introducing Vilsack.

The Labor Day 2020 fires in the state sparked more awareness about the danger fire can pose and the climate crisis in general, U.S. Rep. Suzanne Bonamici, a Democrat, said.

"We are at a crisis moment," she said.

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The Forest Service will accept applications for community wildfire grants for the next 90 days. The first round of funding under the program included about \$200 million in grants.

Vilsack, Wyden, Bonamici and fellow Democrat Andrea Salinas, a first-term lawmaker who sits on the U.S. House Agriculture Committee, all advocated for increasing pay for federal wildland firefighters.

Wyden said the issue should be "at the top of the list" for the farm bill that Congress is expected to pass this year.

Also Monday, officials with the U.S. Bureau of Land Management, which is part of the Department of the Interior, announced the agency would spend \$11 million to research wildland fires. That funding, which will go to the multi-agency Joint Fire Science Program, comes from the \$1.2 trillion infrastructure law Congress passed in 2021.

"It is crucial we continue funding wildland fire science research and knowledge exchange at local, regional and national scales," Grant Beebe, an assistant BLM director at the National Interagency Fire Center, said in a statement. "Research funded by the Joint Fire Science Program will continue to aid in our understanding of the complex wildland fire environment."

Democrats playing defense on ag conservation

As Congress considers a reauthorization of agriculture and nutrition programs in the upcoming farm bill, Vilsack said lawmakers should continue the "momentum" conservation and climate programs have gathered during Biden's presidency.

Democrats' climate, social policy and taxes law that passed last year included important funding for rural conservation, he said. Alluding to the preferences of some Republicans in Congress, Vilsack said during a question-and-answer session with reporters that it would be a mistake to redirect some of that spending in the upcoming farm bill.

"Now's not the time to take a step back," Vilsack said. "Now is the time to continue the aggressive work that's being done."

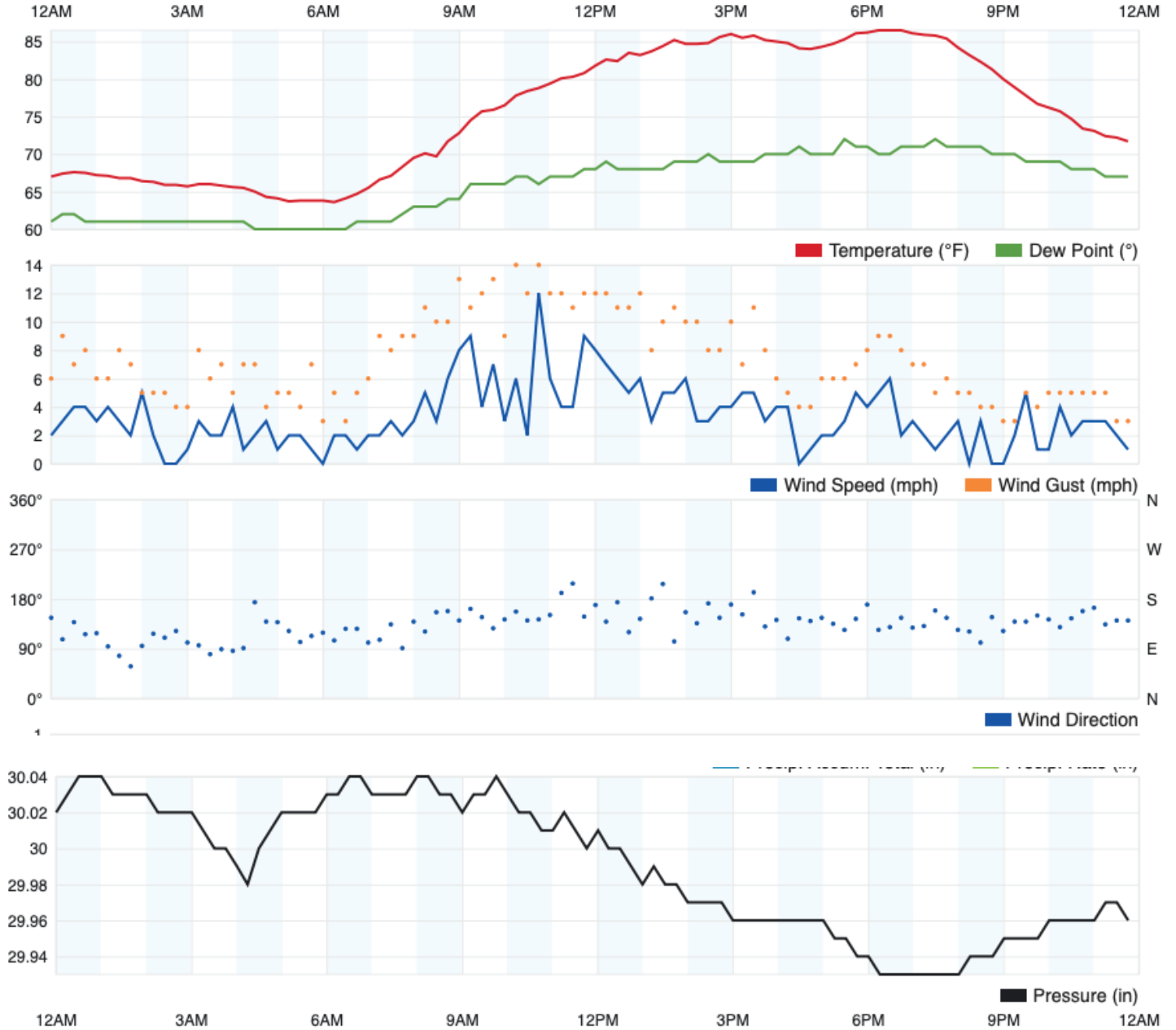
Bonamici added that House Democrats were fighting efforts to roll back conservation funding. Vilsack and Bonamici said U.S. Senate Agriculture Chair Debbie Stabenow, a Democrat from Michigan, would work to ensure climate programs in the USDA are not reduced.

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

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Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



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Today	Tonight	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday	Thursday Night	Friday
						
Hot	Slight Chance T-storms	Hot	Partly Cloudy	Partly Sunny	Mostly Cloudy then Slight Chance T-storms	Chance Showers
High: 91 °F	Low: 64 °F	High: 93 °F	Low: 66 °F	High: 89 °F	Low: 64 °F	High: 81 °F







Hot Through Mid Week...

August 1, 2023
3:54 AM



Becoming More Unsettled By Late This Week

Today	Wed	Thurs	Friday	Sat
				
87-92°	90-95°	87-92°	79-84°	75-80°

Through the next few days, expect isolated afternoon and evening storms today, with hot conditions through mid week. A cool down is expected for the latter half of the work week and weekend with the decent potential for moisture.

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Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 87 °F at 2:55 PM

Low Temp: 64 °F at 5:20 AM

Wind: 15 mph at 10:50 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 14 hours, 47 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 111 in 1900

Record Low: 44 in 1948

Average High: 85

Average Low: 59

Average Precip in Aug.: 0.08

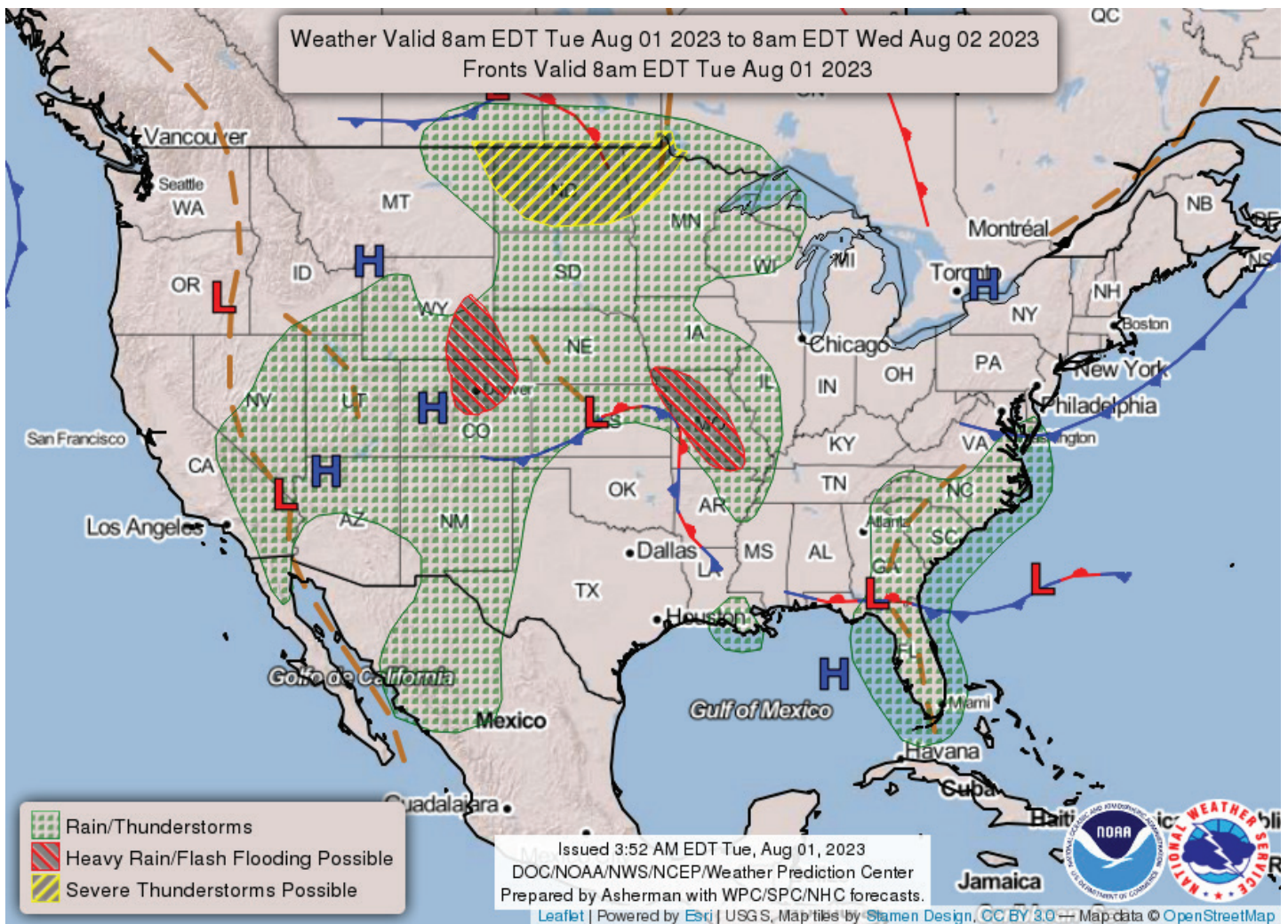
Precip to date in Aug.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 14.18

Precip Year to Date: 12.67

Sunset Tonight: 9:02:30 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:16:09 AM



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Today in Weather History

August 1, 1978: A severe thunderstorm developed in west-central Beadle County during the afternoon hours and moved southeast. High winds near 80 mph and hail up to golf ball size pelted several counties along the storm path. Hail piled up to six inches deep and up to three feet in ditches. Hail remained visible in some areas up to thirty-six hours after the storm passed. Approximately 480,000 acres of crops were severely damaged or destroyed. Damage to crops and personal property were estimated to be nearly four million dollars.

August 1, 2000: A severe thunderstorm produced large hail up to golf ball size and damaging winds estimated at 90 to 110 mph across northeastern Wyoming and western South Dakota during the evening hours. The northern foothills of the Black Hills and the communities of Spearfish and Sturgis received the brunt of the storm. Considerable F0 and F1 wind damage (90 to 110 mph) occurred in and around Spearfish. The strong winds blew down trees, business and road signs, and damaged tents for the 60th Annual Sturgis Motorcycle Rally, destroying vendor merchandise and mobile homes.

1954 - Mount Rainier in Washington State was still covered with sixteen inches of snow at the 5500 foot level following a big snow season. (David Ludlum)

1983: During the early afternoon hours, a strong microburst swept across Andrews Air Force Base in Washington, D.C. Although the base anemometer was not calibrated at extreme wind speeds, the peak gust hit 149 mph. It was reported that Air Force One, with President Reagan on board, landed less than 10 minutes before the peak gust.

1985 - A nearly stationary thunderstorm deluged Cheyenne, WY, with rain and hail. Six inches of rain fell in six hours producing the most damaging flash flood of record for the state. Two to five feet of hail covered the ground following the storm, which claimed twelve lives, and caused 65 million dollars property damage. (Storm Data)

1986 - A powerful thunderstorm produced 100 mph winds and large hail in eastern Kansas and southwestern Missouri causing 71 million dollars damage, and injuring nineteen persons. It was one of the worst thunderstorms of record for Kansas. Crops were mowed to the ground in places and roofs blown off buildings along its path, 150 miles long and 30 miles wide, from near Abilene to southeast of Pittsburg. (The Weather Channel)

1987 - Record heat gripped parts of the Midwest. A dozen cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Lincoln, NE, with a reading of 105 degrees, Moline, IL, with an afternoon high of 103 degrees, and Burlington, IA, with a reading of 102 degrees. (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Two dozen cities in the Upper Midwest reported record high temperatures for the date, including La Crosse WI with a reading of 105 degrees. Highs of 103 degrees at Milwaukee, WI, and South Bend, IN, were records for the month of August. (The National Weather Summary)

1989 - Hurricane Chantal made landfall along the Upper Texas coast about sunrise. Chantal deluged parts of Galveston Island and southeastern Texas with 8 to 12 inches of rain. Unofficial totals ranged up to twenty inches. Winds gusted to 82 mph at Galveston, and reached 76 mph in the Houston area. Tides were 5 to 7 feet high. The hurricane claimed two lives, and caused 100 million dollars damage. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

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Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

LOVE ENOUGH TO CARE

Day after day Amy Jo came home from school crying. Her classmates were unkind and hurtful. They made fun of her uncontrolled movements, her limping, twisting and drooling. She could hardly sit or stand still without jerking because of her illness.

One day she wrote a letter to an editor. In it, she said: "I have a problem in school. Kids laugh at me because of the way I walk and talk. I have cerebral palsy. I just want one day at school when no one laughs at me and makes fun of me."

One paper finally carried her story, and then another. Eventually, it was carried by many newspapers, and she received an astounding number of letters that brought her hope, comfort and encouragement.

Many people have broken hearts, not as a result of mental or physical disabilities. Their hearts ache, they have troubled thoughts, and their shoulders droop because they are left out, feel unwelcome, unwanted, or unacceptable - even in our churches.

Jesus said that loving one's neighbor was the second most important commandment and because it is a commandment, we are obligated to love those who may seem unlovable or unacceptable □ on our terms! Buy, we must remember that they are loved and accepted on God's terms! So, as His ambassadors, we must show His love. And, Paul said that showing God's love was more important than any spiritual gift. Love is not a word nor a choice: it is to be a way of life - the Christ-filled life.

Prayer: Help us, Father, to seek out the least, the last, the lost, and the lonely and give them Your love. Help us to recognize those who need love □ Your love □ and love them in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: Love is patient and kind. Love is not jealous or boastful or proud or rude. Love never gives up, never loses faith, is always hopeful, and endures through every circumstance. 1 Corinthians 13:4-7



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

- 01/28/2024 Groton Robotics Pancake Feed, 10am-1pm, Community Center
- 01/28/2024 85th Carnival of Silver Skates 2pm & 6:30pm (Last Sunday of January)
- 03/23/2024 Lion's Club Easter Egg Hunt 10am Sharp at the City Park (Saturday a week before Easter)
- 04/20/2024 Firemen's Spring Social at the Fire Station 7pm-12:30am (Same Saturday as GHS Prom)
- 04/21/2024 Princess Prom 4:30-8pm (Sunday after GHS Prom)
- 05/04/2024 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
- 08/10/2023 Family Fun Fest, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.
- 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:

07.28.23

5 10 28 52 63 18

MegaPlier: 5x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$1,050,000,000

NEXT 17 Hrs 6 Mins 9
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.31.23

5 11 12 34 40 9

All Star Bonus: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$6,910,000

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 21
DRAW: Mins 9 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.31.23

8 26 28 30 35 1

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT 16 Hrs 36 Mins 9
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.29.23

1 4 20 28 31

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000

NEXT 1 Days 16 Hrs 36
DRAW: Mins 9 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.31.23

15 32 33 34 35 4

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 5
DRAW: Mins 9 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

07.31.23

2 11 48 58 65 13

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$95,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 5
DRAW: Mins 9 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

At least 20 dead and 27 missing in floods surrounding China's capital Beijing, thousands evacuated

BEIJING (AP) — At least 20 people were killed and 27 are missing in floods surrounding China's capital Beijing, with thousands of others evacuated to safety, state media reported Tuesday.

Days of heavy rains have prompted authorities to close train stations and evacuate people in vulnerable areas to school gyms. Homes have been flooded, roads torn apart and cars piled into stacks by the rushing waters.

The level of rainfall is rarely seen in Beijing, which generally enjoys moderate, dry summers but has experienced record-breaking extended days of high temperatures this summer. Flooding in other parts of northern China that rarely see such large amounts of rain have led to scores of deaths.

Seasonal flooding hits large parts of China every summer, particularly in the semitropical south, while some northern regions this year have reported the worst floods in 50 years.

Indicating the level of urgency, President Xi Jinping issued an order for local governments to go "all out" to rescue those trapped and minimize the loss of life and damage to property.

State media reported that 11 people died and 27 are missing in the mountains to the west of Beijing's city center. Nine other deaths were reported in Hebei province, just outside the metropolis and the source of much of its food and labor. More than 500,000 people have been impacted by the floods, state broadcaster CCTV said, without saying how many had been moved to other locations.

In early July, at least 15 people were killed by floods in the southwestern region of Chongqing, and about 5,590 people in the far northwestern province of Liaoning had to be evacuated. In the central province of Hubei, rainstorms trapped residents in their vehicles and homes.

China's deadliest and most destructive floods in recent history were in 1998, when 4,150 people died, most of them along the Yangtze River.

In 2021, more than 300 people died in flooding in the central province of Henan. Record rainfall inundated the provincial capital of Zhengzhou on July 20 that year, turning streets into rushing rivers and flooding at least part of a subway line.

Russia accuses Ukraine of drone attack on Moscow, hitting a tower for the second time in 3 days

By DASHA LITVINOVA Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — Russian authorities early Tuesday accused Kyiv of yet another attack on Moscow and its surroundings with drones, one of which hit a building in the capital that was damaged by a drone just days ago in a similar attack early Sunday.

Russian officials have claimed that the intensified attacks on the capital region reflect failures in Ukraine's counteroffensive, while Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said over the weekend that "the war is gradually coming back to Russian territory," but stopped short of taking responsibility of the attacks.

The repeated drone strikes underscore Moscow's vulnerability as Russia's war in Ukraine drags into its 18th month.

Overnight, Russian forces attacked Kharkiv, Ukraine's second largest city, with Iranian-made Shahed drones, according to Kharkiv Gov. Oleh Syniehubov. One drone struck a three-story building at an educational institution in the Saltivka district, partially destroying the top two floors of the building, as well as the roof. No people were inside the building at the time of the attack.

Three more drone strikes hit the area of a sports complex in the Shevchenkivskiyi district of Kharkiv. A two-story building on the complex was partially damaged, and a 63-year-old security guard was injured, according to Syniehubov.

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Tuesday morning, Russian forces shelled Kherson region and hit a medical facility, according to Regional Governor Roman Mrochko, killing a doctor and injuring one nurse.

In Russia, the Defense Ministry said in the early hours of Tuesday that it shot down two Ukrainian drones outside Moscow and jammed another, sending it crashing into a skyscraper in the Moscow City business district and damaging the building's facade.

Moscow Mayor Sergei Sobyenin said the drone crashed into the same building that was damaged in a similar attack early Sunday. IQ-Quarter, located 7.2 kms (4.5 miles) from the Kremlin, houses a number of government agencies, including the headquarters of the Ministry of Economic Development, the Ministry of Digital Development and Communications, and the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Sobyenin said the Tuesday attack didn't result in any casualties.

It wasn't clear why the same building was hit twice in a row. In both incidents, the Russian military said the drones that hit the skyscraper were jammed before crashing.

Sobyenin said the drone that struck the building Tuesday hit the 21st floor, one of the floors housing the Economic Development ministry. Photos from the site of the crash showed several panels of glass missing, exposing charred insides of the building, and about a dozen more damaged. According to the mayor, 150 square meters of the building's glass facade was damaged.

Russian news agency Interfax cited Darya Levchenko, an advisor to the economic development minister, as saying that the ministry's staff was working from home on Tuesday, while damage to the office was being assessed.

Zelenskyy's advisor Mykhailo Podolyak tweeted that Moscow "is rapidly getting used to a full-fledged war, which, in turn, will soon move to the territory of the 'authors of the war' to collect all their debts," without confirming or denying Kyiv's involvement in the attack.

The Russian military also said that Kyiv's forces tried to attack two of its warships in the Black Sea overnight, using maritime drones. Three drones targeted two patrol vessels, Sergei Kotov and Vasily Bykov, 340 kilometers southwest of the Russian-controlled city of Sevastopol on the annexed Crimean peninsula, the Defense Ministry reported. All three drones were destroyed, the report said.

The attacks on Moscow and Crimea, which Russia illegally annexed from Ukraine in 2014, follow a deadly Russian missile strike on Kryvyi Rih, a city in central Ukraine and Zelenskyy's hometown. Monday's strike partially destroyed a residential building and killed seven people, wounding dozens more.

Ukraine's presidential office reported Tuesday morning that at least 12 civilians had been killed in country over the previous 24 hours, and 104 people were injured.

The office reported that Monday's attack on Kryvyi Rih killed seven people, including a 10-year-old girl, making it one of the deadliest attacks on civilians in recent weeks. Russian rockets struck a residential high-rise building and a university building in the attack, which also wounded 81 people, including seven children.

US slips into round of 16 of Women's World Cup after scoreless draw with Portugal

By ANNE M. PETERSON AP Sports Writer

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — The two-time reigning champion United States came an inch short of Women's World Cup elimination, but Portugal's late near-miss helped the Americans avoid the biggest upset in tournament history.

The Americans slipped through to the knockout round Tuesday despite a listless, uninspiring 0-0 draw against Portugal. The U.S. won only one game in group play for the first time in tournament history, and scored just four goals over three games.

In a hold-your-breath moment, the Americans came an inch away from elimination when Ana Capeta nearly scored in stoppage for Portugal. Her shot hit the left post and the Americans preserved the draw.

The tie was just enough to ensure the Americans advanced to the knockout round. The U.S. looked shaky at best in a game they were expected to win.

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"It's not the result we wanted, but we move forward," forward Alex Morgan said.

The Americans, the most successful team ever at the World Cup with four titles, have never been eliminated in the group stage at the World Cup.

The path for the Americans also hinged on the results of the Netherlands match against Vietnam, played simultaneously in Dunedin. With a decisive 7-0 victory, the Netherlands bumped the United States from the top of Group E.

The Americans move on as the second seed as Portugal, playing in its first World Cup, heads home. The Portuguese sobbed on the field after the final whistle after having come so close to upsetting the mighty Americans.

Lynn Williams had a chance on a header in the 14th minute but Portugal goalkeeper Ines Pereira smothered it. While the U.S. controlled possession and had the better chances, the team could not finish and the game was scoreless at the break.

Rose Lavelle picked up a yellow card in the 38th minute, her second of the group stage, and she won't be available for the team's round of 16 match.

The frustration of the U.S. fans at Eden Park was evident at the break, when there were scattered boos among the crowd as the teams headed for the tunnel. Early in the second half, a fire alarm went off in the stadium. It turned out to be a malfunctioning sprinkler.

The United States had a free kick from a dangerous spot in the 57th minute, but Morgan's header popped up well over the goal. She put her hands to her face in exasperation.

"I think we just need a little bit of ruthlessness in front of the net," Lavelle said. "I think we're getting the chances, but it's that final bit of ruthlessness of just putting it away."

Megan Rapinoe came in as a sub in the 61st minute, but the Golden Boot winner at the 2019 World Cup couldn't find that elusive goal.

U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski tweaked his starting lineup for the match and started forward Williams and midfielder Lavelle for the first time at this World Cup. He had started Trinity Rodman at forward and Savannah DeMelo in the midfield for the team's first two games.

Lavelle boosted the team when she came in at halftime against the Netherlands on Thursday in Wellington when a lackluster opening half sent the Americans into the break down 1-0 to the Dutch. Lavelle's corner to Lindsey Horan gave the Americans a 1-1 draw in the match.

But the energy just wasn't there against Portugal and the Americans seemed lost and unorganized for most of the match. In a post-game huddle, defender Kelley O'Hara, one of the veterans, appeared angry as she shouted at her teammates.

"I just told the team 'Listen, we did what we had to do, we're moving on, the group stage is done, this is over, it's in the rearview, we have our next game in front of us and that's the only one that matters,'" O'Hara said. "Maybe we didn't do it the way we wanted to, or planned on doing it, but we're advancing and this is the World Cup and that's all that matters."

The United States last lost in the group stage to Sweden at the 2011 World Cup, but the Americans still advanced to the final match before losing on penalties to champion Japan.

The Americans have not needed the third and final group-stage match to learn their tournament fate since 2007, when there was only a slim chance for elimination. A loss to Portugal on Tuesday would have ended the Americans tournament.

Going into the match against Portugal, the United States sat atop Group E, even on points with the Netherlands but holding an edge on goal differential.

The United States had won all of the previous 10 matches against Portugal. The Portuguese have never scored against the Americans.

With its decisive victory over Vietnam, the Netherlands heads to Sydney to face the second-place team from Group G, which includes Sweden, South Africa, Italy and Argentina. The United States plays the group's top team.

"They made it frustrating for us, and yeah, I think we're disappointed with ourselves. But we made it

through, so we've got to put our every toward that," Lavelle said.

Niger crisis deepens as France plans evacuation and coup leaders get support from neighboring juntas

By SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

NIAMEY, Niger (AP) — France prepared to evacuate French and European nationals from Niger on Tuesday, telling them to carry no more than a small bag, after a military coup there won backing from three other West African nations ruled by mutinous soldiers.

The French Foreign Ministry in Paris cited recent violence that targeted the French Embassy in Niamey, the capital, as one of the reasons for the decision.

The closure of Niger's airspace also "leaves our compatriots unable to leave the country by their own means," the ministry said.

The evacuation comes amid a deepening crisis sparked by the coup last week against Niger's democratically elected president, Mohamed Bazoum. It was starting Tuesday for French and European citizens who wish to leave, the French ministry said in a statement. It gave no other details.

The West African regional body known as ECOWAS announced travel and economic sanctions against Niger on Sunday and said it would use force if the coup leaders don't reinstate Bazoum within one week. Bazoum's government was one of the West's last democratic partners against West African extremists.

In a joint statement, the military governments of Mali and Burkina Faso said that "any military intervention against Niger will be considered as a declaration of war against Burkina Faso and Mali."

Col. Abdoulaye Maiga, Mali's state minister for territorial administration and decentralization, read the statement on Malian state TV Monday evening. The two countries also denounced the ECOWAS economic sanctions as "illegal, illegitimate and inhumane" and refused to apply them.

ECOWAS suspended all commercial and financial transactions between its member states and Niger, as well as freezing Nigerien assets held in regional central banks. Niger relies heavily on foreign aid, and sanctions could further impoverish its more than 25 million people.

Mali and Burkina Faso have each undergone two coups since 2020, as soldiers overthrew governments claiming they could do a better job fighting increasing jihadi violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group. ECOWAS has sanctioned both countries and suspended them from the bloc, but never threatened to use force.

Also on Sunday, Guinea, another country under military rule since 2021, issued a statement in support of Niger's junta and urged ECOWAS to "come to its senses."

"The sanctions measures advocated by ECOWAS, including military intervention, are an option that would not be a solution to the current problem, but would lead to a human disaster whose consequences could extend beyond Niger's borders," said Ibrahima Sory Bangoura, general of the brigade, in a statement from the ruling party. He added the Guinea would not apply the sanctions.

In anticipation of the ECOWAS decision Sunday, thousands of pro-junta supporters took to the streets in Niamey, denouncing France, waving Russian flags along with signs reading "Down with France" and supporting Russian President Vladimir Putin and telling the international community to stay away.

There has been no clear explanation of the references to Russia, but some demonstrators regard the country as symbolizing their anti-Western feelings.

Protesters also burned down a door and smashed windows at the French Embassy before the Nigerien army dispersed them.

The evacuation was announced by France's embassy in an email sent to French nationals in Niamey. The message said the evacuation would be an airlift and that the spouses and children of French nationals were also eligible. It asked people to pack one small bag per person and to also take water, a bit of food, phones and batteries.

Niger could be following in the same footsteps as Mali and Burkina Faso, both of which saw protesters waving Russian flags after their respective coups, analysts say. After the second coup in Burkina Faso in

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September, protesters also attacked the French Embassy in the capital, Ouagadougou, and damaged and ransacked the Institut Francais, France's international cultural promotion organization.

If ECOWAS uses force, it could also trigger violence between civilians supporting the coup and those against it, Niger analysts say.

While unlikely, "the consequences on civilians of such an approach if putschists chose confrontation would be catastrophic," said Rida Lyammouri, senior fellow at the Policy Center for the New South, a Morocco-based think tank.

Lyammouri does not see a "military intervention happening because of the violence that could trigger," he said.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Sunday commended the resolve of the ECOWAS leadership to "defend constitutional order in Niger" after the sanctions announcement, and joined the bloc in calling for the immediate release of Bazoum and his family.

Also Sunday, junta spokesman Col. Maj. Amadou Abdramane banned the use of social media to put out messages he described as harmful to state security. He also claimed without evidence that Bazoum's government had authorized the French to carry out strikes to free Bazoum.

Observers believe Bazoum is being held at his house in Niamey. The first photos of him since the coup appeared Sunday evening, sitting on a couch smiling beside Chad President Mahamat Deby, who had flown in to mediate between the government and the junta.

Both the United States and France have sent troops and hundreds of millions of dollars of military and humanitarian aid in recent years to Niger, which was a French colony until 1960. The country was seen as the last working with the West against extremism in a Francophone region where anti-French sentiment opened the way for the Russian private military group Wagner.

After neighboring Mali and Burkina Faso ousted the French military and began working with Wagner mercenaries, Blinken visited Niger in March to strengthen ties and announce \$150 million in direct assistance, calling the country "a model of democracy."

The U.S. will consider cutting aid if the coup is successful, the State Department said Monday. Aid is "very much in the balance depending on the outcome of the actions in the country," said department spokesman Matt Miller. "U.S. assistance hinges on continued democratic governance in Niger."

The sanctions could be disastrous and Niger needs to find a solution to avoid them, Prime Minister Ouhoumoudou Mahamadou told French media outlet Radio France Internationale on Sunday.

"When people say there's an embargo, land borders are closed, air borders are closed, it's extremely difficult for people. ... Niger is a country that relies heavily on the international community," he said.

In the capital, many people live in makeshift shelters tied together with slats of wood, sheets and plastic tarps because they can't pay rent. They scramble daily to make enough money to feed their children.

Since the 1990s, the 15-nation ECOWAS has tried to protect democracies against the threat of coups, with mixed success.

Four nations are run by military governments in West and Central Africa, where there have been nine successful or attempted coups since 2020.

In the 1990s, ECOWAS intervened in Liberia during its civil war, one of the bloodiest conflicts in Africa and one that left many wary of intervening in internal conflicts. In 2017, ECOWAS intervened in Gambia to prevent the new president's predecessor, Yahya Jammeh, from disrupting the handover of power. Around 7,000 troops from Ghana, Nigeria, and Senegal entered the country, according to the Global Observatory, which provides analysis on peace and security issues. The intervention was largely seen as accomplishing its mission.

Chatbots sometimes make things up. Not everyone thinks AI's hallucination problem is fixable

By MATT O'BRIEN AP Technology Writer

Spend enough time with ChatGPT and other artificial intelligence chatbots and it doesn't take long for them to spout falsehoods.

Described as hallucination, confabulation or just plain making things up, it's now a problem for every business, organization and high school student trying to get a generative AI system to compose documents and get work done. Some are using it on tasks with the potential for high-stakes consequences, from psychotherapy to researching and writing legal briefs.

"I don't think that there's any model today that that doesn't suffer from some hallucination," said Daniela Amodei, co-founder and president of Anthropic, maker of the chatbot Claude 2.

"They're really just sort of designed to predict the next word," Amodei said. "And so there will be some rate at which the model does that inaccurately."

Anthropic, ChatGPT-maker OpenAI and other major developers of AI systems known as large language models say they're working to make them more truthful.

How long that will take — and whether they will ever be good enough to, say, safely dole out medical advice — remains to be seen.

"This isn't fixable," said Emily Bender, a linguistics professor and director of the University of Washington's Computational Linguistics Laboratory. "It's inherent in the mismatch between the technology and the proposed use cases."

A lot is riding on the reliability of generative AI technology. The McKinsey Global Institute projects it will add the equivalent of \$2.6 trillion to \$4.4 trillion to the global economy. Chatbots are only one part of that frenzy, which also includes technology that can generate new images, video, music and computer code. Nearly all of the tools include some language component.

Google is already pitching a news-writing AI product to news organizations, for which accuracy is paramount. The Associated Press is also exploring use of the technology as part of a partnership with OpenAI, which is paying to use part of AP's text archive to improve its AI systems.

In partnership with India's hotel management institutes, computer scientist Ganesh Bagler has been working for years to get AI systems, including a ChatGPT precursor, to invent recipes for South Asian cuisines, such as novel versions of rice-based biryani. A single "hallucinated" ingredient could be the difference between a tasty and inedible meal.

When Sam Altman, the CEO of OpenAI, visited India in June, the professor at the Indraprastha Institute of Information Technology Delhi had some pointed questions.

"I guess hallucinations in ChatGPT are still acceptable, but when a recipe comes out hallucinating, it becomes a serious problem," Bagler said, standing up in a crowded campus auditorium to address Altman on the New Delhi stop of the U.S. tech executive's world tour.

"What's your take on it?" Bagler eventually asked.

Altman expressed optimism, if not an outright commitment.

"I think we will get the hallucination problem to a much, much better place," Altman said. "I think it will take us a year and a half, two years. Something like that. But at that point we won't still talk about these. There's a balance between creativity and perfect accuracy, and the model will need to learn when you want one or the other."

But for some experts who have studied the technology, such as University of Washington linguist Bender, those improvements won't be enough.

Bender describes a language model as a system for "modeling the likelihood of different strings of word forms," given some written data it's been trained upon.

It's how spell checkers are able to detect when you've typed the wrong word. It also helps power automatic translation and transcription services, "smoothing the output to look more like typical text in the target language," Bender said. Many people rely on a version of this technology whenever they use the

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“autocomplete” feature when composing text messages or emails.

The latest crop of chatbots such as ChatGPT, Claude 2 or Google’s Bard try to take that to the next level, by generating entire new passages of text, but Bender said they’re still just repeatedly selecting the most plausible next word in a string.

When used to generate text, language models “are designed to make things up. That’s all they do,” Bender said. They are good at mimicking forms of writing, such as legal contracts, television scripts or sonnets.

“But since they only ever make things up, when the text they have extruded happens to be interpretable as something we deem correct, that is by chance,” Bender said. “Even if they can be tuned to be right more of the time, they will still have failure modes — and likely the failures will be in the cases where it’s harder for a person reading the text to notice, because they are more obscure.”

Those errors are not a huge problem for the marketing firms that have been turning to Jasper AI for help writing pitches, said the company’s president, Shane Orlick.

“Hallucinations are actually an added bonus,” Orlick said. “We have customers all the time that tell us how it came up with ideas — how Jasper created takes on stories or angles that they would have never thought of themselves.”

The Texas-based startup works with partners like OpenAI, Anthropic, Google or Facebook parent Meta to offer its customers a smorgasbord of AI language models tailored to their needs. For someone concerned about accuracy, it might offer up Anthropic’s model, while someone concerned with the security of their proprietary source data might get a different model, Orlick said.

Orlick said he knows hallucinations won’t be easily fixed. He’s counting on companies like Google, which he says must have a “really high standard of factual content” for its search engine, to put a lot of energy and resources into solutions.

“I think they have to fix this problem,” Orlick said. “They’ve got to address this. So I don’t know if it’s ever going to be perfect, but it’ll probably just continue to get better and better over time.”

Techno-optimists, including Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates, have been forecasting a rosy outlook.

“I’m optimistic that, over time, AI models can be taught to distinguish fact from fiction,” Gates said in a July blog post detailing his thoughts on AI’s societal risks.

He cited a 2022 paper from OpenAI as an example of “promising work on this front.”

But even Altman, at least for now, doesn’t count on the models to be truthful.

“I probably trust the answers that come out of ChatGPT the least of anybody on Earth,” Altman told the crowd at Bagler’s university, to laughter.

Aung San Suu Kyi has some of her prison sentences reduced by Myanmar’s military-led government

BANGKOK (AP) — Myanmar’s military-led government has reduced the prison sentences of ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi in a clemency connected to a religious holiday in the Buddhist-majority country, state media said Tuesday.

Former President Win Myint also had his sentence reduced as part of the clemency granted to more than 7,000 prisoners.

But Suu Kyi, 78, still must serve a total of 27 years out of the 33 she was originally imprisoned for.

The head of Myanmar’s military council, Senior Gen. Min Aung Hlaing, granted the clemency order to reduce the sentences in five cases against Suu Kyi in which she was convicted for violating coronavirus restrictions, illegally importing and possessing walkie-talkies and sedition, according to a report on state MRTV.

She was initially sentenced for 19 offenses that her supporters and rights group say were attempts to discredit her and legitimize the 2021 army takeover while preventing her return to politics.

The clemency was announced a day after Myanmar’s military extended the state of emergency it imposed when it seized power from Suu Kyi’s elected government 2 1/2 years ago, forcing a further delay in elections it promised when it took over.

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Several of Suu Kyi's cases are awaiting final appeals.

Min Aung Hlaing pardoned a total of 7,749 prisoners and commuted the death sentences of others to commemorate the day the Buddha gave his first sermon, the MRTV report said.

The army leader also granted amnesty to 125 foreign prisoners and 22 members of ethnic armed groups, it added. The announcement said he dropped cases against 72 people connected to ethnic armed groups.

It wasn't immediately clear if any of the released prisoners included the thousands of political detainees locked up for opposing army rule.

According to the Assistance Association for Political Prisoners, a rights monitoring organization, 24,123 people have been arrested in Myanmar since the army takeover. At least 3,857 civilians have been killed by security forces in the same period, the group says.

MRTV said it was necessary to extend the state of emergency for another six months because there is still a lot of work to be done to return the country to normalcy and time is needed to prepare for an election.

The United Nations on Monday called on Myanmar to return to democratic rule.

The clemency also came three weeks after Thai Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai met Suu Kyi in prison, becoming the first foreign visitor to be granted access to her since she was detained. Don told journalists she was in good health and conveyed her willingness to engage in talks to resolve the crisis gripping her strife-torn nation.

Suu Kyi has been unable to give her version of the July 9 meeting, said to have lasted about an hour-and-a-half. Myanmar's military confirmed the meeting had been held, but said it had no details because it was one-on-one between the ousted leader and the Thai diplomat.

Don revealed the event when he was attending a meeting in the Indonesian capital, Jakarta, of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. ASEAN has been seeking to mediate an end to the violent conflict in Myanmar, which some members believe destabilizes the region.

The fate of the American nurse and her daughter kidnapped by armed men in Haiti remains uncertain

By EVENS SANON and MICHAEL CASEY Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) — The fate of an American nurse and her daughter kidnapped in Haiti last week remains unknown Tuesday as the U.S. State Department refused to say whether the abductors made demands.

Around 200 Haitians had marched in their nation's capital Monday to show their anger over an abduction that's another example of the worsening gang violence that has overtaken much of Port-au-Prince.

Alix Dorsainvil of New Hampshire was working for El Roi Haiti, a nonprofit Christian ministry, when she and her daughter were seized Thursday. She is the wife of its founder, Sandro Dorsainvil.

Witnesses told The Associated Press that Dorsainvil was working in the small brick clinic when armed men burst in and seized her. Lormina Louima, a patient waiting for a check-up, said one man pulled out his gun and told her to relax.

"When I saw the gun, I was so scared," Louima said. "I said, 'I don't want to see this, let me go.'"

Some members of the community said the unidentified men asked for \$1 million in ransom, a standard practice of the gangs killing and sowing terror in Haiti's impoverished populace. Hundreds of kidnappings have occurred in the country this year alone, figures from the local nonprofit Center for Analysis and Research in Human Rights show.

The same day Dorsainvil and her daughter were taken, the U.S. State Department advised Americans to avoid travel in Haiti and ordered nonemergency personnel to leave, citing widespread kidnappings that regularly target U.S. citizens.

The violence has stirred anger among Haitians, who say they simply want to live in peace.

Protesters, largely from the area around El Roi Haiti's campus, which includes a medical clinic, a school and more, echoed that call as they walked through the sweltering streets wielding cardboard signs written in Creole in red paint.

"She is doing good work in the community, free her," read one.

Local resident Jean Ronald said the community has significantly benefitted from the care provided by El Roi Haiti.

Such groups are often the only institutions in lawless areas, but the deepening violence has forced many to close, leaving thousands of vulnerable families without access to basic services like health care or education.

Earlier this month, Doctors Without Borders announced it was suspending services in one of its hospitals because some 20 armed men burst into an operating room and snatched a patient.

As the protesters walked through the area where Dorsainvil was taken, the streets were eerily quiet. The doors to the clinic where she worked were shut, the small brick building empty. Ronald and others in the area worried the latest kidnapping may mean the clinic won't reopen.

"If they leave, everything (the aid group's programs) will shut down," Ronald worried. "The money they are asking for, we don't have it."

State Department spokesman Matthew Miller wouldn't say Monday if the abductors had made demands or answer other questions.

"Obviously, the safety and security of American citizens overseas is our highest priority. We are in regular contact with the Haitian authorities. We'll continue to work with them and our US government interagency partners, but because it's an ongoing law enforcement investigation, there's not more detail I can offer," Miller wrote in a statement Monday.

In a video for the El Roi Haiti website, Alix Dorsainvil describes Haitians as "full of joy, and life and love" and people she was blessed to know.

Dorsainvil graduated from Regis College in Weston, Massachusetts, which has a program to support nursing education in Haiti. Dorsainvil's father, Steven Comeau, reached in New Hampshire, said he could not talk.

In a blog post Monday, El Roi Haiti said Alix Dorsainvil fell in love with Haiti's people on a visit after the devastating 2010 earthquake. It said the organization was working with authorities in both countries to free her and her daughter.

"Please continue to pray with us for the protection and freedom of Alix and her daughter. As our hearts break for this situation, we also continue to pray for the country and people of Haiti and for freedom from the suffering they endure daily."

Brain fog and other long COVID symptoms affect millions. New treatment studies bring hope

By LAURAN NEERGAARD AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The National Institutes of Health is beginning a handful of studies to test possible treatments for long COVID, an anxiously awaited step in U.S. efforts against the mysterious condition that afflicts millions.

Monday's announcement from the NIH's \$1.15 billion RECOVER project comes amid frustration from patients who've struggled for months or even years with sometimes-disabling health problems — with no proven treatments and only a smattering of rigorous studies to test potential ones.

"This is a year or two late and smaller in scope than one would hope but nevertheless it's a step in the right direction," said Dr. Ziyad Al-Aly of Washington University in St. Louis, who isn't involved with NIH's project but whose own research highlighted long COVID's toll. Getting answers is critical, he added, because "there's a lot of people out there exploiting patients' vulnerability" with unproven therapies.

Scientists don't yet know what causes long COVID, the catchall term for about 200 widely varying symptoms. Between 10% and 30% of people are estimated to have experienced some form of long COVID after recovering from a coronavirus infection, a risk that has dropped somewhat since early in the pandemic.

"If I get 10 people, I get 10 answers of what long COVID really is," U.S. Health and Human Services

Secretary Xavier Becerra said.

That's why so far the RECOVER initiative has tracked 24,000 patients in observational studies to help define the most common and burdensome symptoms — findings that now are shaping multipronged treatment trials. The first two will look at:

— Whether taking up to 25 days of Pfizer's antiviral drug Paxlovid could ease long COVID, because of a theory that some live coronavirus, or its remnants, may hide in the body and trigger the disorder. Normally Paxlovid is used when people first get COVID-19 and for just five days.

— Treatments for "brain fog" and other cognitive problems. They include Posit Science Corp.'s BrainHQ cognitive training program, another called PASC-Cognitive Recovery by New York City's Mount Sinai Health System, and a Soterix Medical device that electrically stimulates brain circuits.

Two additional studies will open in the coming months. One will test treatments for sleep problems. The other will target problems with the autonomic nervous system — which controls unconscious functions like breathing and heartbeat — including the disorder called POTS.

A more controversial study of exercise intolerance and fatigue also is planned, with NIH seeking input from some patient groups worried that exercise may do more harm than good for certain long COVID sufferers.

The trials are enrolling 300 to 900 adult participants for now but have the potential to grow. Unlike typical experiments that test one treatment at a time, these more flexible "platform studies" will let NIH add additional potential therapies on a rolling basis.

"We can rapidly pivot," Dr. Amy Patterson with the NIH explained. A failing treatment can be dropped without ending the entire trial and "if something promising comes on the horizon, we can plug it in."

The flexibility could be key, according to Dr. Anthony Komaroff, a Harvard researcher who isn't involved with the NIH program but has long studied a similarly mysterious disorder known as chronic fatigue syndrome or ME/CFS. For example, he said, the Paxlovid study "makes all sorts of sense," but if a 25-day dose shows only hints of working, researchers could extend the test to a longer course instead of starting from scratch.

Komaroff also said that he understands people's frustration over the wait for these treatment trials, but believes NIH appropriately waited "until some clues came in about the underlying biology," adding: "You've got to have targets."

The Crimean Peninsula is both a playground and a battleground, coveted by Ukraine and Russia

By DASHA LITVINOVA Associated Press

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — Its balmy beaches have been vacation spots for Russian czars and Soviet general secretaries. It has hosted history-shaking meetings of world leaders and boasts a strategic naval base. And it has been the site of ethnic persecutions, forced deportations and political repression.

Now, as Russia's war in Ukraine enters its 18th month, the Crimean Peninsula is again both a playground and a battleground, with drone attacks and bombs seeking to dislodge Moscow's hold on the territory and bring it back under Kyiv's authority, no matter how loudly the Kremlin proclaims its ownership.

Ukraine's Volodymyr Zelenskyy has vowed to retake the diamond-shaped peninsula that Russia's Vladimir Putin illegally annexed in 2014.

For both presidents, backing off Crimea is hardly an option.

Moscow deployed troops and weapons there, allowing Russian forces to quickly seize large parts of southern Ukraine when the war began in 2022. Kyiv says the militarization of Crimea threatens all countries in the Black Sea region.

'CRIMEA IS OURS!'

Putin's annexation in 2014 was quick and bloodless. While Ukraine was still grappling with the aftermath of the uprising that forced pro-Moscow President Victor Yanukovich from office, men in military uniforms without insignia took control of Crimea.

They helped orchestrate a referendum on the peninsula, and pro-Kremlin authorities said the results

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showed an almost unanimous desire of its residents to become part of Russia.

Putin's popularity soared. His approval ratings, which had been declining, soared from 65% in January of that year to 86% in June, according to the Levada Center, an independent Russian pollster.

"Krym nash!" — or "Crimea is ours!" — became a rallying cry in Russia. But only a handful of countries, such as North Korea and Sudan, recognized the move.

Putin has called Crimea "a sacred place," and has prosecuted those who publicly argue it is part of Ukraine. Zelenskyy has repeatedly said that "Russia won't be able to steal" the peninsula.

A STRATEGIC ASSET

Crimea's unique position in the Black Sea makes it a strategically important asset for whoever controls it, and Russia has spent centuries fighting for it.

Crimea was home to Turkic-speaking Tatars when the Russian empire first annexed it in the 18th century. It briefly regained independence as a Tatar republic two centuries later before becoming swallowed by the Soviet Union.

In 1944, Soviet dictator Josef Stalin deported nearly 200,000 Tatars, or about a third of Crimea's population, to Central Asia, 3,200 kilometers (2,000 miles) to the east. Stalin had accused them of collaborating with Nazi Germany — a claim widely dismissed by historians. An estimated half of them died in the next 18 months of hunger and harsh conditions.

Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev transferred it to Ukraine in 1954 to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the unification of Moscow and Kyiv. But that symbolic move backfired in 1991 when the USSR collapsed and the peninsula became part of newly independent Ukraine.

"For the majority of Russians, as well as for the Russian political elite, Crimea has always been perceived as given to Ukraine unfairly. Crimea has always been perceived as Russian," Tatiana Stanovaya, a senior fellow at the Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center, told The Associated Press.

Russia kept a foot in the door, however: Its Black Sea Fleet had a base in the city of Sevastopol, and Crimea — as part of Ukraine — continued to host it.

The base was of major military value to Moscow, and that was likely a key factor for the Kremlin's decision to annex the peninsula in 2014, according to Graeme Robertson of the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

"Sevastopol really matters for the Russian fleet and for access to the Mediterranean, and for Russia to be a power that's able to close the Black Sea and exercise control over Ukraine's economic viability and political viability," Robertson said in an interview. "I think that is, at the end of the day, why the annexation took place."

Repressions against the Crimean Tatars continued under Putin, despite Moscow's denials of discrimination. They strongly opposed the annexation, and an estimated 30,000 of them fled the peninsula between 2014 and 2021.

Some who stayed faced a relentless crackdown, who reject accusations of discrimination but nevertheless have banned the Tatars' main representative body and some religious groups. About 80 Tatars have been convicted in the crackdown, Amnesty International reported in 2021, and 15 activists have gone missing.

CRIMEA'S EMOTIONAL VALUE

Beyond its strategic value, Crimea has a special resonance for Russians — "an emotional and almost sort of quasi-religious kind of thing," said Sam Greene, a professor of Russian politics at King's College London.

Some of it may be based on its history.

Sevastopol was a preferred holiday destination for Nicholas II, the last Russian czar, and his family. The southern town of Yalta was the prime holiday destination during Soviet times, with many sanatoriums built in and around it. It drew worldwide attention when Stalin, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt and British Prime Minister Winston Churchill met there in 1945 to discuss the fate of Germany and Europe after World War II.

Foros, another resort town near Sevastopol, held the state dachas of Soviet leaders. President Mikhail Gorbachev was vacationing there in 1991 when hard-liners opposed to his rule put him under house ar-

with some carrying flowers. The public memorial service was also attended by her relatives and friends, including singers Elva Hsiao and Jenny Tseng.

Lin Jing, a fan from Fujian province in southeast China, said she admired Lee's smile and appearance, adding: "She was really talented. She always tried to improve and she inspired women to feel independent."

Inside the funeral hall, three pink hearts made of flowers and other floral decorations were displayed below Lee's photo.

Her close friend, Hsiao, said during the ceremony that she remembered watching Lee's performances as a student and thinking of her as a perfect idol. After they became friends in the entertainment industry, Lee encouraged Hsiao when she was lost and treated her as "a little sister."

"She brightened my life with her happiness and bravery. I will keep preserving her spirit," Hsiao said in a quavering voice.

In a video for the memorial service, actors and singers from Hong Kong, mainland China and Taiwan recalled their memories with Lee and mourned her death.

Action star Jackie Chan said in the video that everyone was proud of her when she sang at the Oscars. "To friends like us, Coco was a passionate and kind friend who showed care to us. She was really a good person. That's why we are so reluctant to accept she has left us," he said.

Award-winning director Ang Lee recalled his exchanges with the late singer before the Oscars and said it was a pity she died so young. "We miss her very much. Coco, rest in peace," he said in the video.

Lee was the first Chinese singer to break into the American market, and her English song "Do You Want My Love" was a 1999 dance hit. In 2001, she sang "A Love Before Time" from Ang Lee's movie "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" at the Academy Awards, becoming the first Chinese American to perform at the Oscars.

Lee was also the voice of heroine Fa Mulan in the Mandarin version of Disney's "Mulan," and sang the Mandarin version of the movie's theme song "Reflection."

She was married to Bruce Rockowitz, a Canadian business executive in Hong Kong, and had two stepdaughters.

Does Texas A&M's botched hire spell doom for classroom diversity? Some say yes

By ACACIA CORONADO Associated Press

With pageantry that included balloons, a banner and an outdoor signing ceremony, Texas A&M University celebrated a diverse new chapter in its history with its June hiring of Kathleen McElroy.

McElroy, a Black journalist whose background included decades at the New York Times and a reputation for promoting diversity in the workplace, was a major get for the university with the largest student body in the country. She was headed to her alma mater with a mission to revive its journalism program — and it was all the sweeter for A&M because she had been lured away from its rival, the University of Texas at Austin.

But the celebration didn't last long. Just days later, McElroy's tenure offer unraveled after the university buckled under backlash from Texas Scorecard, a conservative website, and an unspecified group of individuals close to the university who opposed her previous diversity initiatives. A new state law will limit that and the discussion of race and inclusion on college campuses next year.

The Republican-backed law, which takes effect in January, prohibits employees at Texas higher education institutions from promoting diversity, equity or inclusion. Institutions that violate the law face financial penalties.

While the law is supposed to exempt academics and admissions, many are concerned it could be broadly applied — chilling free speech in the classroom.

They point to McElroy's unceremonious departure to show it's already happening.

"We were supposed to maintain our academic freedom around these issues but the McElroy situation

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shows that in fact those are not safe either," said Karma Chavez, a professor and department chair of Mexican American and Latino/a Studies at UT-Austin.

What happened?

Just days after the signing ceremony at Texas A&M, McElroy was informed of internal pushback on her hiring, according to the Texas Tribune. Opponents who remain unidentified took issue with her experience with the Times and her work on race and diversity.

The Tribune reported that over several weeks, McElroy received three different contract offers — the first included full tenure, the second reduced the offer to a five-year contract without tenure and a final proposal offered a one-year at-will position from which she could be fired at any time. McElroy ultimately rejected the offer and withdrew her resignation from UT-Austin.

Texas A&M president Katherine Banks resigned after the details of McElroy's hiring process were publicized. The school's Office of General Counsel is investigating what happened.

McElroy said in a statement that she was "deeply grateful" for the outpouring of support from current and former students, as well as "Aggies of all majors." "Aggie" is a nickname adopted by Texas A&M for its students, who it referred to as "Farmers" until the 1920s.

McElroy declined to comment further.

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents met Sunday in an hourslong executive session to approve "potential" negotiations of a settlement with McElroy.

The uproar at Texas A&M is no longer just about McElroy, though. Allegations have emerged that another professor, Joy Alonzo, was put on paid leave after a student accused her of speaking unfavorably about Texas Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick during a lecture about the opioid crisis.

According to The Tribune, John Sharp, the chancellor of Texas A&M System, texted Patrick shortly after the lecture to inform him that Alonzo was placed on leave "pending investigation re firing her." It remains unclear what Alonzo said that was considered questionable.

Patrick is one of the main proponents of the state's DEI ban, calling such initiatives "divisive" in previous statement. His office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

McElroy's and Alonzo's situations come at a time when at least a dozen GOP states are targeting DEI efforts in higher education — which were created to increase access and equitable treatment for minority communities. They also come as the U.S. Supreme Court has struck down affirmative action, ruling that race cannot factor into college admissions processes.

An uncertain and gloomy future

Rebecca Hankins, a Texas A&M professor for 20 years, said that though professors have been promised academic freedom, what happens next is unclear. "There is nothing that gives me confidence things are going to get better," she said.

Hankins, who is Black and Muslim, said she has seen colleagues admonished for their speech in the classroom over the years and cited the school's history in her pessimism about its capacity for change.

"Am I supposed to think that you care about me knowing that someone who fought to keep us enslaved, you built a statue to?" Hankins said.

Hankins said the school's archives include photos of former university groups wearing Ku Klux Klan robes, and a campus statue of a Confederate Army general is still revered by students, who drop pennies on it for good luck.

Traditions aside, some alumni have expressed disgust over the university's handling of McElroy's hiring.

In a letter sent last week, the Texas A&M Black Former Student Network criticized the school's leadership for promoting values such as loyalty, respect and self-service while showing that they "don't have the character nor the courage to follow these Core Values."

Current students remain concerned about the impact the DEI ban will have on activities, programs and speech on campus next year.

"A lot of the students want clear communication with how that is going to look, especially students in organizations funded through DEI offices," said Andrew Applewhite, a junior at Texas A&M who leads the student senate.

In a statement Wednesday, Texas A&M interim president Mark A. Walsh said he believed every Aggie should have a voice and be treated with respect. "Just to be clear on where I stand, I believe diversity in all its forms is a strength," Walsh said.

While Texas A&M has said it embraces diversity, it's not explicitly among the values the school promotes. A potential exodus from higher education

McElroy's failed hiring is also driving concerns about the new law's impact on hiring and retention.

College administrators are so fearful of violating the new law that they are debating this over the qualifications of a candidate, said Pat Heintzelman, president of the Texas Faculty Association.

"They are setting the bar higher because of race now," Heintzelman said.

Gov. Greg Abbott reinforced that in February when he warned state entities, including universities, to end DEI hiring practices — months before the ban was passed.

Faculty are already feeling the effects, according to Paulette Granberry Russell, president of the National Association of Diversity Officers in Higher Education. She said she is increasingly learning of faculty members at universities subject to DEI restrictions who are planning to leave their positions because they teach subjects that are "subject to a higher level of scrutiny."

"Too often it is going to have more of a dramatic impact on faculty of color," Granberry Russell said.

Analysis: Buildup of American forces in Persian Gulf a new signal of worsening US-Iran conflict

By JON GAMBRELL Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Thousands of Marines backed by advanced U.S. fighter jets and warships are slowly building up a presence in the Persian Gulf. It's a sign that while America's wars in the region may be finished, its conflict with Iran over its advancing nuclear program continues to worsen, with no solutions in sight.

The dispatch of the troop-and-aircraft-carrying USS Bataan to the Gulf, alongside stealth F-35 fighters and other warplanes, comes as America wants to focus on China and Russia.

But Washington is seeing once again that while it's easy to get into the Middle East militarily, it's difficult to ever get fully out — particularly as Iran now enriches uranium closer than ever to weapons-grade levels after the collapse of its 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

There is no sign that diplomacy will revive the deal soon, and Iran in recent weeks has resumed harassing and seizing ships trying to pass through the Strait of Hormuz. Some 20% of the world's oil passes through the narrow waterway connecting the Persian Gulf to the wider world.

For hard-liners in Tehran's theocracy, the move projects power to surrounding nations as part of a wave of assaults attributed to Iran since 2019. It also serves as a warning to the U.S. and its allies that the Islamic Republic has the means to retaliate, particularly as American sanctions result in the seizure of ships carrying Iranian crude oil. Worries over another seizure likely has left a ship allegedly carrying Iranian oil stranded off Texas as no company has yet to unload it.

For the U.S., keeping the Strait of Hormuz open to shipping remains a priority to ensure global energy prices don't spike, particularly as Russia's war on Ukraine pressures markets. Gulf Arab nations need the waterway to get their oil to market and worry about Iran's intentions in the wider region.

Those fears have cemented the longtime American presence in the Persian Gulf. In the two decades that followed the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, there were at times two different American aircraft carriers patrolling the Gulf to provide fighter jets for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and later for the battle against the Islamic State group.

But slowly, the Pentagon began to wind down the naval presence, leaving a gap of months that brought gasps from Gulf Arab states and commentators worried about Iran. The USS Nimitz sailed out of the Strait of Hormuz in November 2020 as the last American carrier in the Persian Gulf. The last Marine expeditionary unit — an armada carrying Marines, aircraft and vehicles prepared for an amphibious assault — came

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through in November 2021.

Washington's worries have changed since then. Russia's war on Ukraine shifted some of the American focus back to Europe. China continues its push to control more of the South China Sea, and the U.S. Navy has responded with increased patrols.

In recent months, the U.S. military has again begun dialing up its Mideast presence. It conducted a Strait of Hormuz patrol with the top U.S., British and French naval commanders in the region on board. In late March, A-10 Thunderbolt II warplanes arrived at Al Dhafra Air Base in the United Arab Emirates. The Pentagon ordered F-16 fighters, as well as the destroyer USS Thomas Hudner, to the region. Stealth F-35A Lightning II fighter jets arrived last week.

Now, America will have part of a Marine expeditionary unit in the region for the first time in nearly two years. The deployment of thousands of Marines and sailors consists of both the USS Bataan and the USS Carter Hall, a landing ship.

Those vessels left Norfolk, Virginia, on July 10 on a mission the Pentagon described as being "in response to recent attempts by Iran to threaten the free flow of commerce in the Strait of Hormuz and its surrounding waters." The Bataan passed through the Strait of Gibraltar into the Mediterranean Sea last week on its way to the Mideast.

While the U.S. military hasn't discussed precisely what it will be doing with the increased presence in the region, the movements have gotten Iran's attention. In recent days, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amirabdollahian called his counterparts in both Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates to say that "we can have peace, stability and progress in the region without the presence of foreigners."

Iran's army chief, Gen. Abdolrahim Mousavi, said the U.S. deployment would bring only "insecurity and damage" to the region.

"For years, Americans have been in and out of the region with pipe dreams, but the security of the region will only endure with the participation of the regional nations," Mousavi said, according to Iranian state television.

Iran also made a point to again show off its Abu Mahdi cruise missile, first unveiled in 2020, which could be used to target ships at sea up to 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) away. The missile is named after Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, a veteran Iraqi militant who was killed in a 2020 U.S. drone strike in Baghdad alongside Iranian Gen. Qassem Soleimani.

All that raises the risk of conflict, though previous recent buildups of U.S. forces in the region haven't resulted in open warfare. The two sides have been in combat in the past, however. In 1988, America attacked two Iranian oil rigs used for military surveillance and sank or damaged Iranian ships in the largest U.S. naval battle since World War II.

With diplomacy stalled and Iran willing to be more aggressive at sea, the U.S. appears again to be relying on military might to convince Tehran to dial back. But that leaves the rest of the issues between them beyond the seas to continue to fester.

16 workers killed in the collapse of a crane being used to build a bridge in India

NEW DELHI (AP) — A huge crane collapsed at a highway construction site in western India, killing at least 16 workers, the country's National Disaster Response Force said Tuesday

Television footage showed the collapsed crane on the ground as rescue workers looked for survivors near the site in Thane, a city just outside Mumbai. At least three people who were injured were rushed to a hospital.

Press Trust of India reported the crane is used to install precast box girders while building highway and high-speed rail bridges.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences in a message on X, the social media platform formerly known as Twitter.

"My deepest condolences to the families of those who lost their lives. Our thoughts and prayers are with those who are injured," his office said in a post.

Hawaii could see a big hurricane season, but most homes aren't ready

By AUDREY McAVOY Associated Press

HONOLULU (AP) — Jan Pappas and Ronald Yasuda hired a contractor to fasten the roof of their 1960s-era home to their walls with metal plates and nails so high winds of a potential hurricane wouldn't blow it away.

Their motivation? Global warming fueling natural disasters around the planet.

"It's happening right now, every place in the world," said Pappas, who installed the so-called hurricane clips after watching extreme weather in other parts of the world. "How are we to expect that it's not going to happen here to us?"

Many of Hawaii's homes are even more vulnerable than theirs. Two-thirds of the single-family homes on Oahu, an island of 1 million people that's home to Honolulu, have no hurricane protections. That lack of preparedness is unnerving residents this hurricane season as the islands prepare for the possibility of a one-two weather punch: the increased odds of a tropical cyclone that come with any El Nino year combined with climate-fueled ocean warming that could mean bigger and more frequent tropical storms around the islands overall.

El Nino, a naturally occurring warming of equatorial waters in the central and eastern Pacific, affects weather worldwide. Already this year, Hawaii has felt its wrath as a tropical storm passed south of the Big Island last month. On top of that, warming oceans heated by climate change could strengthen tropical storms and nudge them farther north, potentially putting them on a collision course with Hawaii.

Hawaii's experience stands in contrast to the U.S. territory of Guam, where stronger building codes and years of rebuilding after powerful storms means most homes are now made of sturdy concrete. In May, a Category 4 typhoon with maximum sustained winds of 150 mph (241 kph) slammed into the island. The storm destroyed some older homes, but the concrete ones generally emerged unscathed.

Many of Hawaii's single-family homes are single-wall construction, a style phased out only in the 1970s, said Gary Chock, a licensed structural engineer.

Hawaii's temperate climate means homes don't need to trap heat, so most don't have an additional wall to contain insulation. Structurally, their foundations aren't often properly anchored to the ground. Their lower cost made them Hawaii's preferred construction style for decades.

They proved particularly vulnerable to powerful winds during Hurricane Iwa, which just missed Kauai in 1982, and Hurricane Iniki, which slammed directly into Kauai a decade later.

"The entire roof of the home might be decapitated by wind," Chock said of single-wall homes hit by Iniki. "And the whole roof, in one piece, would just fly off the walls, and the rest of the structure would fall apart thereafter."

Iniki damaged or destroyed 41% of Kauai's 15,200 homes with 130- to 160-mph (209- to 257-kph) winds. Seven people were killed, and 100 were injured.

After Iwa, new homes had to have their roofs secured to their walls. After Iniki, new construction had to strap upper stories to lower stories and connect the foundation to the first floor.

Chock said a home built to code today would withstand a Category 3 hurricane, with winds up to 130 mph (209 kph), if a structural engineer supervised construction. Homes built on mountain ridges and in valleys must be able to withstand higher winds.

Homes built before the building code changes aren't required to have these features, and few homeowners have retrofitted with hurricane clips like Pappas and Yasuda. Sixty-four percent of single-family homes — or 125,000 houses — on Oahu lack any hurricane protections, according to a 2019 study by Honolulu.

Bob Fenton, Federal Emergency Management Agency administrator for the region that includes both Hawaii and Guam, said these homes are more easily damaged by Category 3 or 4 tropical cyclones.

The state is looking at some nonprofit and volunteer programs that could help fortify homes, said James

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rest during a failed coup d'état.

When Greene and Robertson conducted a survey of Russians both before and after Putin seized Crimea in 2014, they noted a change in the respondents' demeanor.

"All of a sudden, they felt that corruption was less of an issue in the country," Greene said. "And they were optimistic about the economy, both personally, in terms of their own welfare, and how the country as a whole was likely to do in the future. And their memories of the 1990s have improved."

This optimism held for four years but began deflating in 2018. Putin's popularity fell to under 70% in summer 2018, after he was re-elected and made unpopular economic moves such as raising the retirement age.

The full-scale war in Ukraine in 2022 reinstated that rallying effect to a degree, Greene says, but if the Kremlin loses Crimea or requires a significant effort to keep it, people "might come to the conclusion that Putin is not the man for the job."

Stanovaya, the political analyst, says few in Moscow believe Ukraine is capable of retaking Crimea, even with the increased attacks that include those on Putin's prized asset — the Kerch Bridge linking Crimea to Russia, which was struck in October 2022 and again last month — and other targets, such as an ammunition depot on July 22.

"It is, of course, irritating, but it is viewed as political investments directed at (Ukraine's) domestic audience and at the West," she said.

Some ordinary Russians seem unbothered as well — many still flocked to Crimea's resorts this summer. After July's attack on the bridge, Russian media found multiple vacationers undeterred by authorities telling them to travel to the peninsula through the occupied parts of Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia and Kherson regions of Ukraine, even though all three are on the front line of the fighting.

Still, tourism has suffered, with some of the peninsula's beaches turned into fortifications and some hotels and guest houses reporting vacancies.

UKRAINE'S STAKE IN CRIMEA

By the time of the 2014 Russian annexation, Crimea had been part of Ukraine for 60 years. Leonid Kravchuk, the first president of independent Ukraine, said Kyiv had invested some \$100 billion into the peninsula between 1991 and 2014.

It also has become part of Ukraine's identity as well.

Before the invasion, Zelenskyy was focused on diplomatic efforts to get Crimea back, but after Russian troops rolled across the border, Kyiv started publicly contemplating retaking the peninsula by force.

It won't be easy, as "Russia seeks to deploy the maximum number of different types of weapons there," military analyst Roman Svytan told AP, because its position between the Black Sea and the Azov Sea gives Moscow "the military key to the entire region."

From a security perspective, Ukraine needs Crimea to be fully independent and have control over activities in the Black Sea, Robertson said.

"Any deal that would cede Crimea to the Russians as part of a peace settlement would be very hard to sell in Ukraine," he added.

So it's very important for Kyiv "to signal to the West that this is a war about getting all of Ukraine back," Robertson said. "This is not about getting eastern Ukraine and southern Ukraine and then cutting a deal."

Singer Coco Lee mourned by fans and family at Hong Kong funeral

By KANIS LEUNG Associated Press

HONG KONG (AP) — Singer and songwriter Coco Lee was being mourned by family and friends at a private ceremony Tuesday, a day after fans paid their respects at a public memorial for the Hong Kong-born entertainer who had international success.

Sobs were heard when pallbearers marched solemnly with her coffin inside the funeral hall before her cremation. Lee, who died July 5 at age 48, was known for her powerful voice and live performances.

On Monday, scores of fans dressed in black had waited outside the funeral hall in the summer heat,

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Barros, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency administrator.

"But it starts with the individual house — taking a look at, 'How vulnerable is my house to winds?'" he said. Guam already faces ferocious storms with some regularity.

The U.S. territory nearly 4,000 miles (6,400 kilometers) west of Hawaii tends to have more — and more powerful — tropical cyclones because its sea surface temperatures are higher. The ocean around Guam is also warmer year-round, so cyclones can form anytime. Such storms are called typhoons west of the international dateline and hurricanes to the east.

Since the early 1990s, four typhoons with sustained winds of at least 150 mph (241 kph) have directly hit Guam, including Typhoon Mawar in May. By contrast, Hawaii has only had one such powerful storm, Iniki.

Guam has become more resilient after each storm, often by rebuilding with concrete capable of withstanding Category 4 and 5 typhoons.

Those homes are more expensive to build, and they trap heat and radiate warmth at night when people need to sleep — a problem that could worsen with global warming.

To cool their homes, many people on Guam paint their roofs white to deflect the sun or plant rooftop gardens, said Kyle Mandapat, a spokesperson for University of Guam Sea Grant. Mandapat has even heard of people installing rooftop sprinklers and using drains to catch the water to irrigate their gardens.

More concrete leads to more air conditioning, which can also be expensive. It's all a lot, but "people still see that as more of something they can deal with as opposed to the prospect of their house blowing away," Mandapat said.

Concrete homes are rare in Hawaii, but new homes are being built with pricey hurricane-resistant features.

Daryl Takamiya, a past president of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii, said the hurricane-resistant windows his company is installing at a suburban Honolulu development add \$25,000 to \$30,000 to the cost of each new home. A hurricane-resistant garage door adds another \$1,600. The homes are being built to withstand winds of up to 130 mph (209 kph).

"There's always a drawback, right?" Takamiya said. "I mean, you can build homes that are basically bunkers, but you're going to pay for it."

The high cost of Hawaii homes is already driving an exodus of residents to other states, including many Native Hawaiians. Family homes at Takamiya's suburban development start at \$940,000, just under the Oahu median price of \$1.03 million.

Yet these hurricane-resistant homes may become more necessary in Hawaii as the planet warms.

John Bravender, the warning coordination meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Honolulu, pointed to a 2014 study showing that as oceans have warmed, tropical cyclones in the northern hemisphere have been drifting farther north, and those in the southern hemisphere have been moving further south.

For Hawaii, that means hurricanes that would have previously passed south of the Big Island may now be more likely to hit the island chain. And unlike Tropical Storm Calvin, which lost its hurricane status as it approached the Big Island last month, they may maintain strength.

"So far, cross our fingers, nothing has really happened," said Yasuda, the homeowner, referring to the many close calls Oahu has had. "I don't know how long we can hope that nothing happens, you know?"

Trump's campaign finances are strained as legal peril mounts

By BRIAN SLODYSKO and JILL COLVIN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump's political operation entered the second half of the year in a strained financial position with its bank account drained by tens of millions of dollars that were directed toward defending the former president from mounting legal challenges as he seeks the White House again.

Trump took in over \$53 million since the start of 2023, records show, a period in which his two criminal indictments in Florida and New York were turned into a rallying cry that made his fundraising soar. Yet the Republican presidential front-runner burned through at least \$42.8 million this year, much of it used to cover costs related to the mounting legal peril faced by Trump, his aides and other allies, leaving him with \$31.8 million cash on hand. And that was after receiving a lifeline from a pro-Trump super PAC that

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agreed to refund millions of dollars in contributions that Trump's operation had previously donated to it. New campaign finance disclosures made public ahead of Monday night's filing deadline showed Trump's network of political committees spent roughly \$25 million on legal fees. But according to a person familiar with the situation who insisted on anonymity to discuss the matter, the number is considerably higher: \$40 million this year alone.

It's a familiar position for Trump, carrying an echo of the 2020 presidential contest when his massive cash advantage over Joe Biden evaporated amid profligate spending by his campaign. Though Trump currently dominates the Republican primary field, a lack of cash could force his campaign to make difficult spending decisions as he braces for the possibility of two additional indictments, which could come as soon as this week in Georgia and Washington and are related to his efforts to overturn the outcome of the 2020 election.

"I've never seen anything like it," said Paul S. Ryan, a longtime campaign finance attorney in Washington, referring to the sum Trump's operation spent on legal fees this year. "There's no legal issue. It's really just a question for his donors: Do they want to be funding lawyers?"

Trump is not alone in his money struggles. His top rival, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis raised over \$20 million after launching his much-hyped candidacy in May. But DeSantis, who trails Trump in a distant second place, hemorrhaged cash in his first six weeks as a candidate, burning through \$8 million in a spending spree that included more than 100 paid staffers, a large security detail and luxury travel.

Never Back Down, a super PAC supporting him that can raise and spend unlimited amounts, reported raising \$130 million in a filings submitted before Monday's midnight deadline. But it also spent roughly one-quarter of that money, much of it going to cover operations, like voter turnout, that are typically paid for by a candidate's campaign, filings show.

The group was financed with \$80 million left over from DeSantis' successful 2022 gubernatorial reelection campaign. Most of the other cash was raised from several dozen corporations and donors, who gave over \$100,000, including Robert Bigelow, a Las Vegas-based businessman, who gave Never Back Down \$20 million, records show.

DeSantis has pledged to reset and trim expenses, laying off more than a third of his staff. Trump does not have the same luxury.

To help offset his growing legal bills, Trump's allies are launching a new fundraising effort. The Patriot Legal Defense Fund, as it is called, is intended to defray costs for those "defending against legal actions arising from an individual or group's participation in the political process," according to a filing made last month with the IRS. The group will be run by Trump campaign senior advisers Susie Wiles and Michael Glassner.

"The weaponized Department of Justice and the deranged Jack Smith have targeted innocent Americans associated with President Trump," said Trump spokesman Steven Cheung. "In order to combat these heinous actions by Joe Biden's cronies and to protect these innocent people from financial ruin and prevent their lives from being completely destroyed, a new legal defense fund will help pay for their legal fees." The fund was first reported by The New York Times.

Smith is the special counsel leading the federal investigations of Trump. His team has expressed interest in the payment of legal fees for Trump-aligned witnesses in the investigations and has sought information about it, according to a person familiar with the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity in order to discuss ongoing criminal probes.

Trump's PAC has also requested that his super PAC, MAGA Inc., return some of the money that it transferred to seed the group to help cover costs. Filings show Trump's PAC, Save America, received \$12.2 million in refunds from the group in May and June.

A spokesman for the super PAC did not respond to a request for comment.

Trump launched Save America, in the days after the 2020 election, which he lost to Biden. For weeks, the group bombarded supporters with a nonstop stream of text messages and emails that purported to raise money for an "election defense fund" that would be used to contest the election's outcome.

But the \$170 million that the effort raised in less than a month was not used to contest the election, records show. Instead, it was used to pay down campaign debt and replenish the coffers of the Republican National Committee, with Trump also stockpiling another large chunk for his future political endeavors. Last year, the Justice Department issued a round of grand jury subpoenas that sought information about the political action committee's fundraising practices.

Since then, Save America has served as a different sort of "defense fund," covering the legal expenses for Trump operatives, allies and employees who have been ensnared in the Justice Department's ongoing investigation.

Some of Save America's money has been used to boost other candidates, though it's a pittance compared to how much Trump has spent on ballooning legal costs.

As the 2022 midterm elections approached, Trump pledged to back congressional candidates loyal to him. But of the roughly \$65 million earmarked by Save America for political spending, less than a third — about \$20 million — was used to back midterm candidates through campaign contributions or paid advertising.

Mar-a-Lago property manager is the latest in line of Trump staffers ensnared in legal turmoil

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — A longtime Mar-a-Lago staffer who spent years fetching luxury cars for wealthy club members is the latest person to be ensnared in former President Donald Trump's ballooning legal troubles.

Carlos De Oliveira appeared in court Monday to face charges connected to what prosecutors allege was a scheme directed by the former president and current GOP frontrunner to try to erase security footage after it was subpoenaed by a grand jury. De Oliveira is also charged with lying to investigators, according to a new indictment unveiled last week.

De Oliveira is now the second little-known Trump employee charged in connection to his alleged hoarding of classified documents at his Palm Beach, Florida, club. His case highlights the collateral damage of Trump's mounting legal woes, as he leaves a trail of co-conspirators and allies accused of lying or committing other crimes on his behalf. Some of those finding themselves under legal scrutiny depend on Trump for their livelihood — and now to pay their mounting legal bills.

Trump has adamantly denied any wrongdoing and accused President Joe Biden's Justice Department of targeting him to damage his campaign.

"They're trying to intimidate people so that people go out and make up lies about me. Because I did nothing wrong," he told conservative radio host John Fredericks last week. "But these are two wonderful employees. They've been with me for a long time and they're great people. And they want to destroy their lives."

The White House has repeatedly denied any suggestion that Biden has sought to influence investigations related to Trump.

De Oliveira's appearance Monday marked not only the public's first glimpse of Trump's co-defendant, but an introduction for many who frequent the club. Unlike Nauta, who is a constant presence by Trump's side, even current and former Trump staffers and allies said after the indictment was unsealed they were unfamiliar with De Oliveira and didn't recognize his name. Several asked whether a reporter might have a photograph to help jog their memories.

Mar-a-Lago is staffed by more than 150 workers, from full-time staff to seasonal employees, and many were among those called to appear before the grand jury, according to people familiar with the appearances, who, like others, spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the case. They are just some of the dozens of staff, aides, public officials and attorneys who have been caught up in overlapping investigations into the documents as well as Trump's efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election.

De Oliveira, according to the indictment and public records, has worked at Mar-a-Lago for more than 20 years, beginning as a valet who earned just \$12,000 in 2010. He was promoted to the club's property

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manager in January 2022.

One club member who requested anonymity to talk about staff described De Oliveira as a friendly face who ran the valet parking operation. The club member said it was hard to imagine Trump having any kind of lengthy conversations with someone in his position, as the indictment alleges. Others, however, noted Trump has a tendency to talk to everyone, including staff, and pays very close attention to his properties, pointing out issues like chipped paint, and directing maintenance workers to quickly attend to them.

Trump also has a longtime pattern of elevating low-level staffers, building intense loyalty in the process. They pointed to people like Dan Scavino, a former golf caddy who became one of Trump's most trusted aides, serving as a White House deputy chief of staff for communications and one of the few people entrusted to issue tweets under his name.

While those who have been elevated by Trump are among his most loyal defenders, others who have turned against the former president described a pattern of young staffers and low-level employees becoming enthralled with Trump and the trappings of power — first at the White House, with its rides aboard Air Force One, and now at Mar-a-Lago where dues-paying members burst into applause every time he enters a room. Trump, they say, has a knack for making people feel like they are special, and, from some, earns blind loyalty in return.

Stephanie Grisham, a onetime press secretary and aide to the former first lady, who is now a vocal Trump critic, said she was initially enamored by it all.

"I used to be in awe of that very thing," she said. "He makes you feel important."

De Oliveira and his attorney, John Irving, didn't respond to multiple requests for comment and nobody answered the door at the home he rents in a working-class suburban community close to the highway between Jupiter and West Palm Beach. In 2012, records show, he filed for bankruptcy.

"The Justice Department has unfortunately decided to bring these charges against Mr. De Oliveira," Irving said after the court appearance Monday. "They don't stop to put their money where their mouth is. I am looking forward to seeing what discovery is."

De Oliveira joins a long line of former Trump associates, employees and supporters who have faced potential jail time or served time behind bars. They include Walt Nauta, the Navy valet who fetched Trump's Diet Cokes at the White House before joining him as a personal aide, and was charged last month alongside Trump for his role in the alleged scheme. Both he and Trump have pleaded not guilty to the charges.

Allen Weisselberg, a Trump Organization executive, served three months in jail after pleading guilty to receiving \$1.7 million in unreported job perks; and Michael Cohen, Trump's longtime lawyer and fixer, who spent more than 13 months behind bars over payouts he helped arrange during the 2016 presidential race to keep women from going public about alleged sexual encounters with Trump. Trump has since been charged in connection to the payments.

Others have recently been implicated. In Michigan last month, 16 Republicans who acted as fake electors to help Trump overturn the results of the 2020, were charged with felonies. And more than 1,000 people so far have been charged with federal crimes in connection with storming the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, driven by Trump's like of a stolen election.

The document unveiled last week alleges that, the day after the Trump organization was informed of a draft grand jury subpoena asking for security camera footage from Mar-a-Lago, Trump called De Oliveira, and they spoke for approximately 24 minutes. A day later, Nauta — who was scheduled to travel with Trump to Illinois — changed his arrangements and instead made plans to travel to Palm Beach.

At the club, Nauta met with De Oliveira and the two "went to the security guard booth where surveillance video is displayed on monitors, walked with a flashlight through the tunnel where the Storage Room was located, and observed and pointed out surveillance cameras."

Two days later, De Oliveira allegedly asked "Trump Employee 4" — a man identified as information technology worker Yuscil Taveras — how long security footage was saved on the club's server and said "the boss" wanted the server deleted. When the employee responded that he would not know how to do that and didn't have the right to, De Oliveira allegedly "insisted to TRUMP Employee 4 that 'the boss' wanted the server deleted and asked, what are we going to do?"

It remains unclear whether the men succeeded in preventing investigators from accessing any footage. Prosecutors, in their interviews, had asked about potential gaps or missing footage but the indictments make ample reference to movement caught on tape and Trump has insisted nothing was deleted.

Another notable scene unfolded two weeks after the FBI's Mar-a-Lago search. The indictment alleges that Nauta called another Trump employee and said words to the effect of, "someone just wants to make sure Carlos is good." The employee allegedly responded that De Oliveira was loyal and would not do anything to affect his relationship with the former president — and later confirmed that in a Signal chat. Later that day, Trump allegedly called De Oliveira and told the property manager that he would get him an attorney.

Trump's political operation has paid tens of millions of dollars on legal fees for associates, including De Oliveira, and recently created a new legal defense fund to help cover costs.

"In order to combat these heinous actions by Joe Biden's cronies and to protect these innocent people from financial ruin and prevent their lives from being completely destroyed, a new legal defense fund will help pay for their legal fees to ensure they have representation against unlawful harassment," said Trump spokesman Steven Cheung.

Grisham said the help made it harder to turn on Trump.

"If he's looking out into the world right now, he's not seeing that anyone whose turned on Trump has been real successful. And he's getting his lawyers paid for ... so I think he traps you in that regard too... You're trapped financially, you're trapped emotionally and you dig yourself into a hole you cannot get out of, thinking: 'What is the upside for me to tell the truth?'... At the end of the day you have to feed yourself and your family."

IS claims responsibility for the bombing that killed 54 at a pro-Taliban election rally in Pakistan

By ANWARULLAH KHAN and RIAZ KHAN Associated Press

KHAR, Pakistan (AP) — An Afghan branch of the Islamic State group on Monday claimed responsibility for a suicide bombing in Pakistan that killed at least 54 people at a pro-Taliban party's election rally, in one of the region's worst attacks in recent years.

Islamic State in Khorasan Province made the claim in a statement posted on its Amaq website. It said the attacker detonated an explosive vest, and that the bombing Sunday in the northwestern town of Bajur was part of the group's continuing war against forms of democracy it deems to be against Islam.

Hours earlier, hundreds of mourners in Bajur carried caskets draped in colorful cloths to burial sites following the previous day's attack at the election rally for the Jamiat Ulema Islam party. Officials said the bombing killed 54 people, including at least five children, and wounded nearly 200.

The attack appeared to reflect divisions between Islamist groups, which have a strong presence in the district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province that borders Afghanistan. The Jamiat Ulema Islam party has ties to the Afghan and Pakistani Taliban.

At least 1,000 people were crowded into a tent near a market for the rally ahead of fall elections, according to police.

"People were chanting God is Great as the leaders arrived," said Khan Mohammad, a local resident who said he was standing outside the tent, "and that was when I heard the deafening sound of the bomb."

Mohammad said he heard people crying for help, and minutes later ambulances arrived and began taking the wounded away.

Police had suggested in their initial investigation that Islamic State in Khorasan Province was a suspect. The group is based in neighboring Afghanistan's Nangarhar province and is a rival of the Afghan Taliban and al-Qaida.

Pakistan security analyst Mahmood Shah also previously had said that breakaway factions of the Pakistani Taliban could be possible suspects, though the group distanced itself from the attack.

The Pakistani military spent years fighting the Pakistani Taliban, also known as Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, or TTP, in Bajur before declaring the district clear of militants in 2016. But the Jamiat Ulema Islam party,

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headed by hard-line cleric and politician Fazlur Rehman, has remained a potent political force.

On Monday, police recorded statements from some of the wounded at a hospital in Khar, the district's principal town.

Female relatives and children wailed and beat their chests at family homes Monday as the dead were taken for funerals, following local customs. Hundreds of men followed the caskets to mosques and open areas for special funeral prayers and then into the hills for burial.

As condolences continued to pour in from across the country, dozens of people who had lesser injuries were discharged from hospital, while the critically wounded were taken to the provincial capital of Peshawar by army helicopters. The death toll continued to rise as some critically wounded people died in hospital, physician Gul Naseeb said.

Gul Akbar, the father of an 11-year-old boy who was wounded in the attack, told The Associated Press that his entire family was in a state of shock after hearing about the bombing Sunday. He said he first went to the scene of the attack, and later found his son Taslim Khan being treated in a hospital in Khar.

"What would I have done if he had also been martyred? Five children died in this barbaric attack, and we want to know what our children did wrong," he said.

Rehman's party is preparing to contest elections, which are expected in October or November. Abdul Rasheed, one of the party's senior leaders, said the bombing was aimed at weakening the party but that "such attacks cannot deter our resolve."

Rehman's party is part of Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif's coalition government, which came to power in April 2022 by ousting former Prime Minister Imran Khan through a no-confidence vote in the legislature.

Sharif called Rehman to express his condolences and assure the cleric that those who orchestrated the attack would be punished. Khan condemned the bombing Sunday, as did the U.S. and Russian embassies in Islamabad.

The Pakistani Taliban also distanced themselves from the bombing, saying that it was intended to set Islamists against each other. Zabihullah Mujahid, the spokesman for the Afghan Taliban, wrote in a tweet that "such crimes cannot be justified in any way."

The bombing came hours before Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng arrived in Islamabad, where he signed new agreements to boost trade and economic ties to mark a decade of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, a sprawling package under which China has invested \$10 billion in Pakistan over 10 years, according to Sharif.

"We will not tolerate any obstacles in the way of friendship with China," Sharif said, as he stood next to He.

But the government canceled a cultural event that had been arranged in honor of He, according to Sharif, while the nation mourns.

Some Chinese nationals have also been targeted by militants in northwestern Pakistan and elsewhere.

Rehman, who has long supported Afghanistan's Taliban government, survived at least two known bomb attacks in 2011 and 2014, when bombings damaged his car at rallies.

Sunday's bombing was one of the worst in northwestern Pakistan in the last decade. In 2014, 147 people, mostly schoolchildren, were killed in a Taliban attack on an army-run school in Peshawar.

In January, 74 people were killed in a bombing at a mosque in Peshawar. And in February, more than 100 people, mostly policemen, died in a bombing at a mosque inside a high-security compound housing Peshawar police headquarters.

Phoenix has ended 31-day streak of highs at or above 110 degrees as rains ease a Southwest heat wave

BY ANITA SNOW and DREW COSTLEY Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — A record string of daily highs over 110 degrees Fahrenheit (43.3 degrees Celsius) in Phoenix ended Monday as the dangerous heat wave that suffocated the Southwest throughout July receded slightly with cooling monsoon rains.

The historic heat began blasting the region in June, stretching from Texas across New Mexico and Arizona

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and into California's desert. Phoenix and its suburbs sweltered more and longer than most, with several records including the 31 consecutive days of 110 degrees Fahrenheit-plus (43.4 degrees Celsius) weather. The previous record was 18 straight days, set in 1974.

The streak was finally broken Monday, when the high topped out at 108 degrees Fahrenheit (42.2 Celsius) at 3:10 p.m.

"The high temperature for Phoenix today is 108 degrees," Jessica Leffel, meteorologist for the National Weather Service, said at 5 p.m.

"The record streak of 31 straight days of 110+ degree temperatures has ended," the weather service said on social media. "The high temperature at Phoenix Sky Harbor Airport reached 108 degrees this afternoon, which is only 2 degrees above normal."

The reprieve was expected to be brief, with the forecast calling for highs again above 110 for several days later in the week. And National Weather Service meteorologist Matthew Hirsch said August could be even hotter than July.

But residents and visitors were taking what they could get.

"It's not going to last more than a couple of days, but I'm enjoying this break," said Christine Bertaux, 76, who was cooling off Monday at a downtown day center for older people who are homeless.

"It has been REALLY hot here!" said Jeffrey Sharpe, of Kenosha, Wisconsin, who was in town for a long weekend that on Monday included watching his son's two poodles frolic in a grassy dog park. "But today it was about 85 degrees, more like Wisconsin."

Phoenix also sweated through a record 16 consecutive days when overnight lows didn't dip below 90 degrees (32.2 degrees Celsius), making it hard for people to cool off after the sun went down.

In California, Death Valley, long considered the hottest place on Earth, flirted in July with some of the hottest temperatures ever recorded, reaching 125.6 degrees Fahrenheit (52.5 Celsius) on July 16 at the aptly named Furnace Creek.

The planet's hottest recorded temperature ever was 134 F (56.67 C) in July 1913 at Furnace Creek, according to the World Meteorological Organization, the body recognized as keeper of world records.

And in Nevada, also on July 16, Las Vegas briefly reached 116 degrees (46.6 degrees Celsius) to tie the record for that date set in 1998.

The heat in Phoenix began to ease slightly last week with the city's first major storm since the monsoon season began June 15.

The Southwest heat wave was just one kind of extreme weather events that hit the U.S. in July. Fatal flash floods swept people and cars away in Pennsylvania, and days of flooding led to dangerous mudslides in the Northeast.

At several points during the month, as many as a third of Americans were under some type of heat advisory, watch or warning. While not as visually dramatic as other natural disasters, experts say heat waves are deadlier — heat in parts of the South and Midwest killed more than a dozen people in June.

Rudy Soliz, who manages the center where Bertaux was cooling off, said those who visit to get a meal and cool off out of the sun "have been having a very hard time this summer."

"Older people have a harder time with the heat, there are a lot of diabetics, people who take medicines," he said.

"The heat has been pretty bad this summer. We've made at least five 911 calls from here this July for people who got heat stroke," said Soliz. "They've found a couple of bodies around here this month but it's not clear yet if they died from the heat."

Maricopa County, Arizona's most populous and home to Phoenix, reported 25 heat-related deaths this year as of July 21. Another 249 deaths are listed as under investigation, and results from toxicological tests that can take weeks or months after an autopsy could lead to many being confirmed as heat-related.

Maricopa County reported 425 heat-associated deaths in all of 2022, with more than half in July.

R. Glenn Williamson, a businessman who was born in Canada but has lived in Phoenix for years, said he really noticed a temperature difference Monday morning as he washed his car in his driveway.

"Now we have to get rid of the humidity!" Williamson said. "But honestly, I'd rather have this heat than

a Montreal winter.”

US needs win or draw to avoid risk of elimination in group play for first time in Women’s World Cup

By JENNA FRYER AP National Writer

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — The United States arrived at the Women’s World Cup as the favorite to win an unprecedented third consecutive title. But after an underwhelming draw against the Netherlands, there’s a real chance the Americans could be eliminated in group play for the first time in tournament history.

The U.S. plays Portugal in the third and final match of Group E play, and if Portugal pulls off an upset Tuesday at Eden Park in Auckland, the Americans could be in big trouble.

The United States needs to either win or draw against Portugal, one of eight teams playing in its first World Cup, to ensure the Americans continue to play in this tournament.

“I think we feel like we have to win everything all the time,” said American star Megan Rapinoe. “That’s the expectation for ourselves. That’s the expectation playing for U.S. national team. It’s just kind of like, ‘Why would you come into the World Cup if you don’t think that you should win it, and if you don’t think that you can win it?’”

The United States sits atop the group after a 3-0 victory over Vietnam in the tournament opener, and a 1-1 draw with the Netherlands last Thursday in Wellington. The Dutch are tied with the U.S. on points, but the Americans have the tiebreaker on goals scored.

Portugal lost to the Dutch in its opener but then beat Vietnam 2-0. So if the Portuguese beat the United States, they’ll move on, and the Americans would then need Vietnam to beat the Dutch in Dunedin — while keeping their advantage on goal differential — to advance.

“One thing is for sure, that we have a job to do and that’s first and foremost to take care of our game, so our main focus right now is our performance, our team, and Portugal,” U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski said. “What happens on the other side is something we can’t control. We have to stay focused on the things we can control.”

Portugal could use a swarming defense to try to prevent the United States from scoring the way Vietnam — unsuccessfully — played the Americans in the opener.

Portugal defender Ana Borges said her team will be prepared.

“This is the stage where we want to be. It’s against these teams that we want to play because we’re going to learn and grow from them,” Borges said. “Not saying anything about the other team, but if we weren’t prepared for this challenge, we wouldn’t be playing football.”

CHINA-ENGLAND

England is in very good shape headed into its Group D finale against China, needing only a draw Tuesday night in Adelaide, Australia, to win the group and advance to the round of 16.

Even a loss would be OK and push England through as group winners so long as Denmark doesn’t beat Haiti. If Denmark won and England lost, the group winner would be decided by FIFA tiebreakers.

England edged out a 1-0 victory over Haiti to open the tournament, then beat Denmark by the same score.

China lost 1-0 to Denmark in the opener but rebounded with a 1-0 win over Haiti and is now trying to keep its streak intact of advancing out of group play in all eight of its World Cup appearances.

It will be a tough task: China can advance to the round of 16 if the Chinese beat England. But if Denmark beats Haiti, coupled with a China win, then FIFA tiebreakers would come into a play. A loss would mean China’s only chance at advancing would be if Haiti beat Denmark.

England and China meet for just the fifth time, but first since a 2-1 China victory in 2015.

England has scored in each of its last 15 matches at the Women’s World Cup for a tally of 25 goals since 2015. A goal against China would make England the first team to score in 16 consecutive matches in the tournament.

China is looking to win consecutive World Cup games for the first time since 1999.

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VIETNAM-NETHERLANDS

The Netherlands wants to win every match in the Women's World Cup but none more so than Tuesday's game against Vietnam.

At stake: avoiding Sweden in the knockout round.

The Dutch, the tournament runner-up in 2019, need only a win or a draw in the Group E match played in Dunedin, New Zealand. And even a loss would be OK so long as the United States beats Portugal in a game being played simultaneously.

But the Netherlands has mapped out the tournament and wants no part of Sweden anytime soon.

"The first aim is always to win and get to the last 16 and then after that if we can score goals we will, of course," Dutch coach Andries Jonker said. "But looking at our colleagues from the U.S. and Portugal, we've noticed it's not all that easy. We've never shown any kind of arrogance, but if we get chances to score goals we will. We would prefer to play against the number two in this group and not Sweden."

The Netherlands are tied with the United States for the top spot in the group after playing to a 1-1 draw against the Americans and a 1-0 win over Portugal.

Vietnam has already been eliminated from its first Women's World Cup following losses to the United States and Portugal. Vietnam has lost its last five internationals by a combined score of 18-1.

"The Netherlands tries to have as many goals as possible, and I have to say we are at a low level," Vietnam coach Mai Duc Chung said. "If we compare with Asia, we're still at a low level. So if we compare with the world, we are still quite behind. It is a success for us already. In the past two matches we have tried our best. Great effort already."

HAITI-DENMARK

First-time Women's World Cup participant Haiti would like to stick around a bit longer but needs a miracle against in the Group D finale against Denmark to have any shot to advance.

Haiti needs to beat Denmark in the Tuesday match played in Perth, Australia, and hope England beats China. If both those things happen, Haiti's only chance would still come down to FIFA's tiebreaker system.

It's very long odds for Haiti, which has played better in this tournament than its 0-2 record shows. Haiti held both England and China to one goal each in the first two matches.

Haiti is on a six-game losing streak headed into what is probably its final game of this tournament.

Denmark, meanwhile, is trying to advance to the group stage for the first time since 1995. Denmark was a 1-0 winner over China to start the tournament, then lost 1-0 to England and heads into the game tied for second in the group with China with three points each.

A win over Haiti pushes Denmark through to the next round so long as England doesn't lose to China. That scenario would put tiebreakers into play.

The Danes, in the tournament for the first time since 2007, can also get through with a draw, but again, only if England beats China.

Denmark has won five of its last seven international matches.

Pee-wee Herman actor and creator Paul Reubens dies from cancer at 70

By ANDREW DALTON AP Entertainment Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Paul Reubens, the actor and comedian whose Pee-wee Herman character — an overgrown child with a tight gray suit and an unforgettable laugh — became a 1980s pop cultural phenomenon, has died at 70.

Reubens, who's character delighted fans in the film "Pee-wee's Big Adventure" and on the TV series "Pee-wee's Playhouse," died Sunday night after a six-year struggle with cancer that he kept private, his publicist said in a statement.

"Please accept my apology for not going public with what I've been facing the last six years," Reubens said in a statement released Monday with the announcement of his death. "I have always felt a huge

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amount of love and respect from my friends, fans and supporters. I have loved you all so much and enjoyed making art for you."

Created for the stage, Pee-wee with his white chunky loafers and red bow tie would become a cultural constant in both adult and children's entertainment for much of the 1980s, though an indecent exposure arrest in 1991 would send the character into entertainment exile for years.

The staccato giggle that punctuated every sentence, catch phrases like "I know you are but what am I" and a tabletop dance to the Champs' song "Tequila" in a biker bar in "Pee-wee's Big Adventure" were often imitated by fans, to the joy of some and the annoyance of others.

Reubens created Pee-wee when he was part of the Los Angeles improv group The Groundlings in the late 1970s. The live "Pee-wee Herman Show" debuted at a Los Angeles theater in 1981 and was a success with both kids during matinees and adults at a midnight show.

The show closely resembled the format the Saturday morning TV "Pee-wee's Playhouse" would follow years later, with Herman living in a wild and wacky home with a series of stock-character visitors, including one, Captain Karl, played by the late "Saturday Night Live" star Phil Hartman.

HBO would air the show as a special.

Reubens took Pee-wee to the big screen with 1985's "Pee-wee's Big Adventure," which takes the character outside for a nationwide escapade. The film, in which Pee-wee's cherished bike is stolen, was said to be loosely based on Vittorio De Sica's Italian neo-realist classic, "The Bicycle Thief." Directed by Tim Burton and co-written by Hartman, the movie was a success, grossing \$40 million, and continued to spawn a cult following for its oddball whimsy.

A sequel followed three years later in the less well-received "Big Top Pee-wee," in which Pee-wee seeks to join a circus. Reubens' character wouldn't get another movie starring role until 2016's "Pee-wee's Big Holiday," for Netflix. Judd Apatow produced Pee-wee's big-screen revival.

His television series, "Pee-wee's Playhouse," ran for five seasons, earned 22 Emmys and attracted not only children but adults to Saturday-morning TV.

Jimmy Kimmel posted on Instagram that "Paul Reubens was like no one else — a brilliant and original comedian who made kids and their parents laugh at the same time. He never forgot a birthday and shared his genuine delight for silliness with everyone he met."

Both silly and subversive and championing nonconformity, the Pee-wee universe was a trippy place, populated by things like a talking armchair and a friendly pterodactyl.

Director Guillermo del Toro tweeted Monday that Reubens was "one of the patron saints of all misfitted, weird, maladjusted, wonderful, miraculous oddities."

The act was a hit because it worked on multiple levels, even though Reubens insists that wasn't the plan. "It's for kids," Reubens told The Associated Press in 2010. "People have tried to get me for years to go, 'It wasn't really for kids, right?' Even the original show was for kids. I always censored myself to have it be kid-friendly.

"The whole thing has been just a gut feeling from the beginning," Reubens told the AP. "That's all it ever is and I think always ever be. Much as people want me to dissect it and explain it, I can't. One, I don't know, and two, I don't want to know, and three, I feel like I'll hex myself if I know."

Reubens' career was derailed when he was arrested for indecent exposure in an adult movie theater in Sarasota, Florida, the city where he grew up. He was handed a small fine but the damage was incalculable.

He became the frequent butt of late-night talk show jokes and the perception of Reubens immediately changed.

"The moment that I realized my name was going to be said in the same sentence as children and sex, that's really intense," Reubens told NBC in 2004. "That's something I knew from that very moment, whatever happens past that point, something's out there in the air that is really bad."

Reubens said he got plenty of offers to work, but told the AP that most of them wanted to take "advantage of the luridness of my situation," and he didn't want to do them.

"It just changed," he said. "Everything changed."

He did take advantage of one chance to poke fun at his tarnished image. Just weeks after his arrest, he would open the MTV Video Music Awards, walking on to the stage alone and saying, "Heard any good jokes lately?" (Herman appearances on MTV had fueled Pee-wee's popularity in the early 1980s.)

In 2001, Reubens was arrested and charged with misdemeanor possession of child pornography after police seized images from his computer and photography collection, but the allegation was reduced to an obscenity charge and he was given three years probation.

Born Paul Rubinfeld in Peekskill, New York, in 1952, the eldest of three kids, he grew up in Sarasota where his parents ran a lamp store and he put on comedy shows for neighbor kids.

After high school he sought to study acting. He spent a year at Boston University, and was then turned down by the Juilliard School and Carnegie-Mellon University. So he enrolled at the California Institute of the Arts. That would lead to appearances at local comedy clubs and theaters and joining the Groundlings.

"Paul's contributions to comedy and entertainment have left a lasting impact on the world, and he will be greatly missed by all in the Groundlings community," the group said in a statement.

After the 1991 arrest, he would spend the decade playing primarily non-Pee-wee characters, including roles in Burton's 1992 movie "Batman Returns," the "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" film and a guest-star run on the TV series "Murphy Brown."

He also appeared in the 1999 comedy film "Mystery Men" and Johnny Depp's 2001 drug-dealer drama "Blow."

Reubens — who never lost his boyish appearance even in his 60s, would slowly re-introduce Pee-wee, eventually doing a Broadway adaptation of "The Pee-wee Herman Show" in 2010, and the 2016 Netflix movie.

Reubens was beloved by his fellow comedians, and fans of Pee-wee spanned the culture.

"His surreal comedy and unrelenting kindness were a gift to us all," Conan O'Brien tweeted. "Damn, this hurts."

Idaho mom Lori Vallow Daybell sentenced in deaths of 2 children and her romantic rival

By REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

BOISE, Idaho (AP) — Idaho mother Lori Vallow Daybell has been sentenced to life in prison without parole Monday in the murders of her two youngest children and a woman she saw as a romantic rival in a case that included bizarre claims that her son and daughter were zombies and that she was a goddess tasked with ushering in an apocalypse.

Vallow Daybell, 50, was found guilty in May of killing her two youngest children, 7-year-old Joshua "JJ" Vallow and 16-year-old Tylee Ryan, as well as conspiring to kill Tammy Daybell, her fifth husband's previous wife. Vallow Daybell will serve three life sentences one after the other, the judge said.

The husband, Chad Daybell, is awaiting trial on the same murder charges. Vallow Daybell also faces two other cases in Arizona — one on a charge of conspiring with her brother to kill her fourth husband, Charles Vallow, and one of conspiring to kill her niece's ex-husband. Charles Vallow was shot and killed in 2019, but her niece's ex survived an attempt later that year. Vallow Daybell has not yet entered a plea on the Arizona charges.

At the Fremont County Courthouse in St. Anthony, Idaho, Judge Steven W. Boyce said the search for the missing children, the discovery of their bodies and the evidence photos shown in court left law enforcement and jurors traumatized, and he would never be able to get images of the slain children out of his head.

A parent killing their own children "is the most shocking thing really that I can imagine," Boyce said.

Vallow Daybell justified the murders by "going down a bizarre religious rabbit hole, and clearly you are still down there," the judge said.

"I don't think to this day you have any remorse for the effort and heartache you caused," he said.

Boyce heard testimony from several representatives of the victims, including Vallow Daybell's only surviving son, Colby Ryan.

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"Tylee will never have the opportunity to become a mother, wife or have the career she was destined to have. JJ will never be able to grow and spread his light with the world the way he did," Ryan wrote in a statement read by prosecuting attorney Rob Wood. "My siblings and father deserve so much more than this. I want them to be remembered for who they were, not just a spectacle."

JJ's grandmother Kay Woodcock, who first raised the alarm about the missing children in 2019, told the judge that it has been 1,536 days since she was last able to hug and kiss her grandson.

JJ was a preemie and had autism, and his biological parents weren't able to care for him so he was adopted by Woodcock's brother Charles and Lori Vallow.

Vallow Daybell appeared stoic through most of the testimony, but wiped her eyes when Woodcock talked about how confident she had been that Vallow Daybell would be a good mom.

"I knew she would be 1,000% involved in his care," Woodcock said.

The Woodcocks frequently visited JJ, cooking and playing together and patting his back as he fell asleep at night. Now they have only memories and "immeasurable grief," Woodcock said.

"Lori is a monster that has not taken any responsibility or shown an ounce of remorse for her vile actions," she said.

The murder scheme and Tammy Daybell's death left a deep rift in her family, Tammy's sister Samantha Gwilliam told the court.

"Why? Why plan something so heinous? You are not exalted beings, and your behavior makes you ineligible to be one," Gwilliam said, referring to a religious belief that Vallow Daybell purportedly incorporated into her claims. "Because of the choices you made, my family lost a beloved mother, sister and daughter."

Tammy Daybell's mother was fighting cancer, and spent the last months of her life watching the murder trial, Gwilliam said. "I miss my sister every day. I will grieve her, and the loss of my mother, every single day of my life," Gwilliam said.

Boyce also heard from Vallow Daybell before handing down the sentence. She quoted Bible verses about how people should not judge each other.

"I mourn with all of you who mourn my children and Tammy," Vallow Daybell said, crying and calling Tammy Daybell her "eternal friend."

"Jesus Christ knows that no one was murdered in this case," she said. "Accidental deaths happen. Suicides happen. Fatal side effects from medication happen."

She also claimed that she regularly is visited by the spirits of the three victims, and that the children's spirits had told her to "stop worrying" and that she "didn't do anything wrong."

"Because of these communications, I know for a fact that my children are happy and busy in the spirit world," Vallow Daybell said. "Because of my communications with my friend Tammy Daybell I know that she is also very happy and extremely busy."

Wood pointed to the two Arizona cases as well as the three murders in six weeks in Idaho.

"A defendant who is willing to murder her own children is willing to murder anyone," Wood said. "Society can only be protected from this defendant by a sentence of life in prison without parole."

Vallow Daybell was committed multiple times for treatment to make her mentally competent for the court proceedings. But Wood said there is no evidence that her crimes were impacted by her "alleged mental illness," which includes a diagnosis of a delusional disorder featuring bizarre content and hyper-religiosity, as well as a personality disorder with narcissistic features, according to a doctor's report provided to the court.

"The evidence is overwhelming that she did know right from wrong," Wood said, noting testimony from several people who said she lied to them about the deaths.

In July 2019, Vallow Daybell's brother, Alex Cox, shot and killed her estranged husband, Charles Vallow, in a suburban Phoenix home. Cox told police he acted in self-defense. He was never charged and later died of natural causes.

Vallow Daybell was already in a relationship with Chad Daybell, a self-published writer of doomsday-focused fiction loosely based on Mormon teachings. She moved to Idaho with her kids and brother to be

closer to him.

The children were last seen alive in September 2019. A few weeks later Tammy Daybell was killed. Chad Daybell and Lori Vallow married just two weeks after Tammy's death in November 2019.

The children's bodies were found buried in Chad Daybell's yard the following summer.

Defense attorney Jim Archibald argued during the trial that there was no evidence tying Vallow Daybell to the killings, but plenty showing she was a loving, protective mother whose life took a sharp turn when she met Chad Daybell and fell for his "weird" apocalyptic religious claims. He suggested that Daybell and Vallow Daybell's brother, Alex Cox, were responsible for the deaths.

Daybell told her they had been married in several previous lives and she was a "sexual goddess" who was supposed to help him save the world by gathering 144,000 followers so Jesus could return, Archibald said.

Vallow Daybell's former friend Melanie Gibb testified during the trial that Vallow Daybell believed people in her life had been taken over by evil spirits and turned into "zombies," including JJ and Tylee.

Biden decides to keep Space Command in Colorado, rejecting move to Alabama

By LOLITA C. BALDOR and TARA COPP Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Joe Biden has decided to keep U.S. Space Command headquarters in Colorado, overturning a last-ditch decision by the Trump administration to move it to Alabama. The choice ended months of thorny deliberations, but an Alabama lawmaker vowed to fight on.

U.S. officials told The Associated Press on Monday that Biden was convinced by the head of Space Command, Gen. James Dickinson, who argued that moving his headquarters now would jeopardize military readiness. Dickinson's view, however, was in contrast to Air Force leadership, who studied the issue at length and determined that relocating to Huntsville, Alabama, was the right move.

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity to provide details of Biden's rationale for the decision.

In announcing the plans, Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, Pentagon press secretary, said the decision was based on an "objective and deliberate process informed by data and analysis." He said Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin supported the president's decision.

Reaction to the decision came fast and was sharply divided, as Colorado lawmakers praised it and Alabama officials slammed it as a political maneuver. "This fight is far from over," warned Rep. Mike Rogers, R-Ala., chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Biden, said the U.S. officials, believes that keeping the command in Colorado Springs would avoid a disruption in readiness that the move would cause, particularly as the U.S. races to compete with China in space. And they said Biden firmly believes that maintaining stability will help the military be better able to respond in space over the next decade. Those factors, they said, outweighed what the president believed would be any minor benefits of moving to Alabama.

Biden's decision enraged Alabama lawmakers and is sure to fuel accusations that abortion politics played a role in the choice. The location debate has become entangled in the ongoing battle between Alabama Republican Sen. Tommy Tuberville and the Defense Department over the move to provide travel for troops seeking reproductive health care. Tuberville opposed the policy is blocking hundreds of military promotions in protest.

The U.S. officials said the abortion issue had no effect at all on Biden's decision. And they said the president fully expected there would be different views on the matter within the Defense Department.

Tuberville, in a statement, said the top three choices for Space Command headquarters were all in Republican-leaning states — Alabama, Nebraska and Texas — and bypassing them "looks like blatant patronage politics."

Formally created in August 2019, the command was temporarily based in Colorado, and Air Force and Space Force leaders initially recommended it stay there. In the final days of his presidency Donald Trump decided it should be based in Huntsville.

The change triggered a number of reviews.

Proponents of keeping the command in Colorado have argued that moving it to Huntsville and creating a new headquarters would set back its progress at a time it needs to move quickly to be positioned to match China's military space rise. And Colorado Springs is also home to the Air Force Academy, which now graduates Space Force guardians, and more than 24 military space missions, including three Space Force bases.

Officials also argued that any new headquarters in Alabama would not be completed until sometime after 2030, forcing a lengthy transition.

Huntsville, however, scored higher than Colorado Springs in a Government Accountability Office assessment of potential locations and has long been a home to some of earliest missiles used in the nation's space programs, including the Saturn V rocket. It is home to the Army's Space and Missile Defense Command.

According to officials, Air Force Secretary Frank Kendall, who ordered his own review of the matter, leaned toward Huntsville, while Dickinson was staunchly in favor of staying put. The officials said Austin presented both options to Biden.

In a statement Monday, Kendall said the service will work to quickly implement Biden's decision, adding that keeping the command in Colorado will "avoid any disruption to its operational capability."

The decision was hailed as a victory in Colorado lawmakers and condemned in Alabama.

"For two and a half years we've known any objective analysis of this basing decision would reach the same conclusion we did, that Peterson Space Force Base is the best home for Space Command," Sen. John Hickenlooper, D-Colo., said in a statement. "Most importantly, this decision firmly rejects the idea that politics — instead of national security — should determine basing decisions central to our national security."

Sen. Michael Bennet, D-Colo., said the decision "restores integrity to the Pentagon's basing process and sends a strong message that national security and the readiness of our Armed Forces drive our military decisions."

Rogers, meanwhile, vowed that his committee will continue an investigation into the matter, calling it a "deliberate taxpayer-funded manipulation of the selection process." He added, "It's clear that far-left politics, not national security, was the driving force behind this decision."

Republican Alabama Sen. Katie Britt echoed his sentiment, saying it was irresponsible for Biden to "yank a military decision out of the Air Force's hands in the name of partisan politics." She said an Air Force evaluation of the potential locations ranked Huntsville first, adding that the decision "should have remained in the Air Force's purview."

Princeton University student pleads guilty to joining mob's attack on Capitol

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A man who was a Princeton University student when the FBI arrested him on charges related to the U.S. Capitol riot pleaded guilty on Monday to joining a mob's attack on police officers during one of the most violent clashes on Jan. 6, 2021.

Larry Fife Giberson was on the front lines when rioters attacked police officers in a tunnel on the Capitol's Lower West Terrace. Giberson, 22, of Manahawkin, New Jersey, waved other rioters into the tunnel and then joined in a coordinated push against officers guarding an entrance to the building, according to a court filing.

Giberson tried in vain to start a chant of "Drag them out!" and then cheered on rioters using weapons and pepper spray against police in the tunnel, according to an FBI's agent affidavit. Giberson remained in the area for roughly an hour, the affidavit says.

Giberson pleaded guilty to a felony charge of interfering with police during a civil disorder, court records show. U.S. District Judge Carl Nichols is scheduled to sentence him on Nov. 1. The judge allowed him to remain free until his sentencing.

Giberson was enrolled at Princeton as an undergraduate when he was arrested in March on riot-related charges. On Monday, a university spokesperson declined to answer questions about Giberson's enrollment

status.

Charles Burnham, an attorney for Giberson, didn't immediately respond to emails and a telephone call seeking comment.

Giberson was wearing a "Make America Great Again" hat and a Trump flag around his neck when he joined the Jan. 6 attack, which disrupted the joint session of Congress for certifying President Joe Biden's electoral victory over Donald Trump.

The FBI posted images of Giberson on social media to seek the public's help in identifying him. Online sleuths also posted images of Giberson using the "#DragThemOut" hashtag moniker.

Investigators matched photos of Giberson from the Capitol to several images found on Instagram and Princeton University's website, according to the FBI.

Also on Monday, a Florida man was arrested on charges that he assaulted several police officers outside the Capitol during the riot. Videos captured Marcus Clint Martin applying first aid to an injured rioter and then shoving two officers who tried to help, the FBI said.

Other videos show Martin, 32, of Blountstown, Florida, piling onto an officer who was knocked over and removing metal barriers after chasing officers away from their positions in front of the Capitol, according to the FBI.

Martin was arrested in Panama City, Florida, on charges including civil disorder and assaulting, resisting or impeding police. There was no lawyer immediately listed in the court docket for Martin.

Approximately 1,100 people have been charged with federal crimes related to the Capitol riot. More than 600 of them have pleaded guilty. Over 100 others have been convicted by judges or juries after trials in Washington, D.C.

Mar-a-Lago manager De Oliveira makes his first court appearance in Trump's classified documents case

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON and ALANNA DURKIN RICHER Associated Press

MIAMI (AP) — The property manager of Donald Trump's Mar-a-Lago estate made his first court appearance on Monday facing charges in the classified documents case against the former president, but he did not enter a plea because he has not found a Florida-based attorney to represent him.

Carlos De Oliveira is accused of scheming with Trump to try to delete security footage sought by investigators probing the former president's hoarding of classified documents at his Palm Beach club. De Oliveira was added last week to the indictment with Trump and the ex-president's valet, Walt Nauta, and faces charges including conspiracy to obstruct justice and lying to investigators.

De Oliveira, wearing a blue suit and tie, answered questions from a magistrate judge during a brief hearing in Miami federal court. He was ordered to turn over his passport and sign an agreement to pay \$100,000 if he doesn't return to court. He was represented by Washington, D.C.-based attorney John Irving, but under court rules he needs local counsel to proceed with his arraignment, which was scheduled for Aug. 10 in Fort Pierce.

Irving told reporters after the hearing that he looks forward to seeing what potential evidence the Justice Department has. He declined to comment about whether De Oliveira has been asked to testify against Trump.

De Oliveira's court appearance comes as Trump braces for possible charges stemming from investigations into his efforts to cling to power after he lost the 2020 election to Joe Biden.

Trump, the early front-runner in the 2024 Republican presidential primary, has been informed he's a target of special counsel Jack Smith's investigation into efforts to overturn the 2020 election, and Trump's lawyers met with Smith's team last week. A Georgia prosecutor is also expected to seek a grand jury indictment in the coming weeks in her investigation into efforts by Trump and his allies to subvert his election loss there.

Trump, who pleaded not guilty in June in the documents case, has denied any wrongdoing. He posted on his Truth Social platform last week that the Mar-a-Lago security tapes were voluntarily handed over to investigators and that he was told the tapes were not "deleted in any way, shape or form."

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Prosecutors have not alleged that security footage was actually deleted or kept from investigators. Nauta has also pleaded not guilty. U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon had previously scheduled the trial of Trump and Nauta to begin in May, and it's unclear whether the addition of De Oliveira to the case may impact the case's timeline.

The latest indictment, unsealed on Thursday, alleges that Trump tried to have security footage deleted after investigators visited in June 2022 to collect classified documents the former president took with him after he left the White House.

Trump was already facing dozens of felony counts — including willful retention of national defense information — stemming from allegations that he mishandled government secrets that as commander-in-chief he was entrusted to protect. Experts have said the new allegations bolster the special counsel's case and deepen the former president's legal jeopardy.

Video from Mar-a-Lago would ultimately become vital to the government's case because, prosecutors said, it shows Nauta moving boxes in and out of a storage room — an act alleged to have been done at Trump's direction and in effort to hide records not only from investigators but also from Trump's own lawyers.

Days after the Justice Department sent a subpoena for video footage at Mar-a-Lago to the Trump Organization in June 2022, prosecutors say, De Oliveira asked an information technology staffer how long the server retained footage and told the employee "the boss" wanted it deleted. When the employee said he didn't believe he was able to do that, De Oliveira insisted the "boss" wanted it done, asking, "What are we going to do?"

Shortly after the FBI searched Mar-a-Lago and found classified records in the storage room and Trump's office, prosecutors say, Nauta called a Trump employee and said words to the effect of "someone just wants to make sure Carlos is good." The indictment says the employee responded that De Oliveira was loyal and wouldn't do anything to affect his relationship with Trump. That day, the indictment alleges, Trump called De Oliveira directly to say that he would get De Oliveira an attorney.

Prosecutors allege that De Oliveira later lied in interviews with investigators, falsely claiming that he hadn't even seen boxes moved into Mar-a-Lago after Trump left the White House.

DeSantis unveils new economic policy that targets China, taxes and regulations

By HOLLY RAMER Associated Press

ROCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — In a new policy plan unveiled Monday, Republican presidential hopeful Ron DeSantis took aim at China with a "Declaration of Economic Independence" that also targets taxes, regulations and "elites" he blames for the nation's decline.

Speaking in a New Hampshire warehouse, the Florida governor promised to diversify and expand the economy by fighting for the middle class.

"Revitalizing economic freedom and opportunity will require building an economy where the concerns of average citizens are elevated over those deemed too big to fail," he said at Prep Partners Group, which coordinates warehousing, distribution and other logistics for other companies.

"We are a nation with an economy, not the other way around," DeSantis said. "We are citizens of a republic. We are not cogs in a global economic empire."

DeSantis said his top priority would be wresting economic control from China by ending the nation's preferential trade status, banning imports of goods made from stolen intellectual property and preventing companies from sharing critical technologies with China. Current policies, he said, have created an "abusive relationship" between the two countries.

"The elites sold us a bill of goods when it came to China. They were wrong, and we need to get it right," he said.

The 10-point economic plan is the third major policy proposal put forth by DeSantis, who remains a distant second to former President Donald Trump in most polls and is fighting for momentum in the midst of a campaign reset. He recently shed more than one-third of his staff as federal filings showed his campaign

was burning through cash at an unsustainable rate.

But on Monday, his focus was on reckless federal government spending. His plan describes him as a "new sheriff in town" who will veto wasteful spending and mandate work requirements for welfare programs. He also claimed he could achieve 3% annual economic growth by keeping taxes low, eliminating bureaucracy and incentivizing investment.

On the education front, DeSantis said he will stop incentivizing "useless degrees" by making universities responsible for the loans their students accrue.

"It's wrong to say that a truck driver should have to pay off the debt of somebody who got a degree in gender studies," he said.

After the speech, in what was billed as a news conference, DeSantis sidestepped a question about Trump's mounting legal fees. That's even as the DeSantis campaign has been attacking Trump for devoting much of his political fundraising to his legal entanglements.

"We're here to talk about restoring this economy. We're here to talk about uplifting the middle class," DeSantis said. "To me, if you ask voters, are they more interested in hearing about that or the process stories about politics? I think that they want to hear about the country's future so that's what we're going to talk about."

A spokesperson for the Democratic National Committee said DeSantis should be talking about the economic woes he created in Florida including the rising costs of housing, property insurance and health care.

"It remains a mystery why DeSantis would try to reboot his dumpster fire of a campaign by promising to bring his failures as governor nationwide," Ammar Moussa said.

Churchill Downs to improve track maintenance, veterinary resources for fall meet after horse deaths

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Churchill Downs will implement safety measures for its September meet including new track surface maintenance equipment and additional monitoring and equine care following 12 horse deaths before and after the Kentucky Derby that spurred suspension of its spring meet.

Racing is scheduled to resume Sept. 14 and run through Oct. 1 at the historic track, which paused racing operations on June 7 to conduct an internal safety review following the spate of horse deaths from racing or training injuries. Seven died in the days leading up to the 149th Derby on May 6, including two in races preceding the premier event.

The Horseracing Integrity and Safety Authority recommended suspending the remainder of the meet, which moved to Ellis Park in western Kentucky. Training continued at Churchill Downs during the investigation, and a release on Monday stated that while industry experts found no issues with the racing surfaces, the track invested in new maintenance equipment. It will also double the frequency of surface testing among infrastructure upgrades.

Churchill Downs Inc. CEO Bill Carstanjen said the track's commitment to safety "remains paramount" in the release and added, "our participants, fans and the public can be assured that we will continue to investigate, evaluate and improve upon every policy and protocol."

The announcement comes days after Carstanjen said racing would resume this fall with no changes and called the deaths "a series of unfortunate circumstances" in an earnings call with CDI investors.

Churchill Downs veterinarians will receive additional resources for specialized horse care and to assist in pre-race inspections and entry screening, the release added. The track will work with HISA and industry experts to predict at-risk horses through advanced analytic techniques.

A safety management committee including horsemen, track employees and veterinarians will also be created.

Israel's full high court to hear petitions against judiciary law in September that spurred protests

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's Supreme Court said Monday that a full panel of 15 justices would hear petitions in September against a contentious law that was passed last week by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government and which has spurred mass protests.

The law was one of a series of proposed changes to Israel's judiciary put forward by Netanyahu's government earlier this year that seek to curb the power of the Supreme Court. The judicial overhaul plan has been met with months of sustained mass protest against the legislation and drawn criticism from the White House.

Critics of the overhaul say that the package of laws would concentrate power in the hands of the ruling coalition and erode the system of checks and balances between branches of government. Proponents say the measures are necessary to limit the power of unelected judges who they say are overly activist.

Netanyahu and his allies passed a law last week that removes the high court's ability to annul government decisions considered "unreasonable." The "reasonableness standard" was implemented by the Supreme Court earlier this year to thwart the appointment of a Netanyahu ally as interior minister after he had recently pleaded guilty to tax offenses.

The court said the hearing concerning the law striking down the "reasonableness standard" would take place on Sept. 12 with a full bench of 15 justices. The Supreme Court typically hears cases with smaller panels of justices, but appears to have opted for a full complement of judges because of the highly delicate nature of the matter.

The Netanyahu administration's push to overhaul the judiciary has deeply divided an already highly polarized country and sparked the longest sustained protests in the country's history.

Netanyahu and his allies took office in December after the country's fifth election in under four years, most of them referendums on the longtime leader's fitness to serve while on trial for corruption.

Pig cooling pads and weather forecasts for cows are high-tech ways to make meat in a warming world

By MELINA WALLING Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — More than a third of the heat-trapping gases cooking the planet come from growing and raising food, but millions of cattle, pigs and other animals get to stay cool in the United States and other parts of the developed world.

Many American farmers have apps to forecast animal comfort in the heat. There are computer-controlled "cooling pads" for sows. Dairy farmers lower barns' temperatures with misters, air conditioning and giant fans. Special pedometers, the cow version of a Fitbit, measure vital signs that give clues to animals' health.

More intense summer heat resulting from emissions-driven climate change means animal heat stress that can result in billions of dollars in lost revenue for farmers and ranchers if not properly managed. But technology often insulates livestock in richer countries — another way global warming exacerbates the gap between wealthy and poor nations.

The U.S. is the world's largest producer and consumer of beef by volume. People have been drinking less milk in the U.S. but eating more cheese, and government programs still support dairies across the country. About 20% of all global greenhouse gas emissions come from animal-based food products, said Atul Jain, a professor in the department of atmospheric sciences at The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign who studies the interactions between climate and human activities like agriculture.

Livestock producers in other parts of the world can't adopt measures to beat the heat as easily as farmers in the U.S. A 2022 study in the Lancet Planetary Health found that cattle heat stress losses will be far greater in most tropical regions than in temperate regions, due to higher climate impacts and the relatively higher price of measures to adapt to climate change.

Many experts advocate for people in countries like the U.S., where diets are heavy with animal products,

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to eat less meat and dairy. But big, industrial farms in developed countries are relatively efficient, so to meet global demand with fewer animals, less-developed countries will also need to access the kind of technology that can make them more productive in the face of extreme heat.

"Those innovations bring me a lot of hope," said Mario Herrero, a professor of food systems and global change at Cornell University who coauthored the Lancet Planetary Health study. "It's a matter of how do we deploy them."

This winter, the McAllister family of New Vienna, Iowa, installed new fans above the beds where their cows lie, and they're happy with the updates. Their cows are already showing signs of improved welfare, like chewing more cud, and there's more heat ahead this summer.

"We're going to do what's best by our cows no matter what is or isn't going on with climate change," said Megan McAllister, a sixth-generation dairy farmer. Her husband's family has been farming for five generations.

September feels like another August these days, McAllister said.

"We want to make the right investments to better our cows, better our businesses that are our dairies, and make sure we're here for the long haul and that we are thinking about sustainability," she said.

Making that investment, of course, has a price: more fans for cooling means higher energy bills. That's something Dr. Michelle Schack, a dairy veterinarian based in Arizona, has noticed as well. She said that the farmers she works with are well-prepared for the blistering heat the state has seen this year, because as research on animal health has improved, they've invested in infrastructure.

But it costs a lot.

"Fans and misters, let's not forget, are hugely expensive, not only to install but the amount of electricity they take is insane," Schack said.

That could be partly addressed with cheaper solar power integrated into agricultural projects. But regardless, "it's going to be a challenge, a financial challenge" for more farms to adopt heat mitigation strategies, said Gerald Nelson, a professor emeritus at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and a coauthor on the Lancet Planetary Health study.

Nelson described how different, heat-tolerant animal species or even something as simple as shade structures and extra water supplies can make a big difference when adapting to heat.

Information can help too. A team of USDA and university scientists recently launched a new app called HotHog that uses local weather data to help farmers anticipate conditions that might be uncomfortable for their pigs. And Chip Redmond, a meteorologist at Kansas State University, helped develop a seven-day animal comfort forecast tool for beef farmers that takes into account temperature as well as factors like humidity and wind.

As part of his work with Kansas State, Redmond gives presentations to producers and the general public, and he said that climate change has come up in conversations.

Both he and Jackie Boerman, an associate professor in the department of animal sciences at Purdue University, said that they recognize that farmers have to deal with the effects of climate change every day.

"We want to cool cows, but we also have to recognize that we want to also be environmentally sustainable," Boerman said. Those two ideas are, she said, "sometimes a little bit at odds with each other."

Blue blood from horseshoe crabs is needed for medicine, but a declining bird relies on crabs to eat

By PATRICK WHITTLE Associated Press

PORTLAND, Maine (AP) — The horseshoe crab has been scuttling in the ocean and tidal pools for more than 400 million years, playing a vital role in the East Coast ecosystem along with being a prized item for fishing bait and medical research.

Its blue blood is harvested for medical researchers and used by drug and medical device makers to test for dangerous impurities in vaccines, prosthetics and intravenous drugs. The crabs are used by fishing crews as bait to catch eels and sea snails. And their eggs are a critical food for a declining subspecies of

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bird called the red knot – a rust-colored, migratory shorebird listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

The competing interests have set up a clash among researchers, fishing crews and environmentalists over new protections designed to keep more of the crabs in the environment. The animals are drained of some of their blood and returned to the shore, but many die from the bleeding. And a drive to create synthetic alternatives has yet to succeed in phasing out the crabs from use.

Recent revisions to guidelines for handling the animals should keep more alive through the process, regulators said. The animals — not really true crabs but rather more closely related to land-dwelling invertebrates such as spiders and scorpions — are declining in some of their East Coast range.

“They were here before the dinosaurs,” said Glenn Gauvry, president of Ecological Research & Development Group, a Delaware-based nonprofit that advocates for horseshoe crab conservation. “And they’re having problems because the new kids on the block, us, haven’t learned to appreciate the elders.”

The harvest of horseshoe crabs has emerged as a critical issue for conservationists in recent years because of the red knot. The birds, which migrate some 19,000 miles (30,577 kilometers) roundtrip from South America to Canada and must stop to eat along the way, need stronger protection of horseshoe crabs to survive, said Bethany Kraft, senior director for coastal conservation with the Audubon Society.

Kraft and other wildlife advocates said the fact the guidelines for handling crabs are voluntary and not mandatory leaves the red knot at risk.

“Making sure there is enough to fuel these birds on this massive, insanely long flight is just critical,” Kraft said. “There’s very clear linkage between horseshoe crabs and the survival of the red knot in the coming decades.”

The horseshoe crabs are valuable because their blood can be manufactured into limulus amebocyte lysate, or LAL, that is used to detect pathogens in indispensable medicines such as injectable antibiotics. The crabs are collected by fishermen by hand or via trawlers for use by biomedical companies, then their blood is separated and proteins within their white blood cells are processed. It takes dozens of the crabs to produce enough blood to fill a single glass tube with its blood, which contains immune cells sensitive to bacteria.

There are only five federally licensed manufacturers on the East Coast that process horseshoe crab blood. The blood is often described by activist groups as worth \$15,000 a quart (liter), though some members of the industry say that figure is impossible to verify.

Regulators estimate about 15% of the crabs die in the bleeding process. In 2021, that meant about 112,000 crabs died, said Caitlin Starks, a senior fishery management plan coordinator with the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. The bait fishery for horseshoe crabs, which are used as bait for eels and sea snails, killed more than six times that, she said.

Still, the fisheries commission in May approved new best management practices for the biomedical industry’s harvesting and handling of the crabs. Those include minimizing exposure to sunlight and keeping crabs cool and moist, Starks said.

“The goal is to give the crabs that are bled a better chance of surviving and contributing to the ecosystem after they are released,” she said.

That’s exactly what the new guidelines will do, said Nora Blair, quality operations manager with Charles River Laboratories, one of the companies that manufactures LAL from horseshoe crab blood. Blair was a member of a working group that crafted the updated guidelines alongside other industry members, conservationists, fishery managers, fishermen and others.

Blair said the industry is working toward synthetic alternatives — an outcome conservationists have been pushing for years. Lonza, a Switzerland-based company that is one of the LAL manufacturers, offers animal-free testing solution, and the company has touted it as a way to test for toxins while protecting natural resources, said Victoria Morgan, a spokesperson for the company.

However, for now the wild harvest of horseshoe crabs remains critically important to drug safety, Blair said. “The critical role of horseshoe crab in the biopharmaceutical supply chain and coastal ecosystem makes their conservation imperative,” he said.

The Atlantic horseshoe crab, the species harvested on the East Coast, ranges from the Gulf of Maine to

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Florida. The International Union for Conservation of Nature lists the species as being "vulnerable" based on a 2016 assessment.

One of the most important ecosystems for horseshoe crabs is the Delaware Bay, an estuary of the Delaware River between Delaware and New Jersey. The bay is where the crabs breed and the red knots feed.

The density of horseshoe crab eggs in the bay is nowhere near what it was in the 1990s, said Lawrence Niles, an independent wildlife biologist who once headed New Jersey's state endangered species program. Meanwhile, the population of the rufa red knot, the threatened subspecies, has declined by 75% since the 1980s, according to the National Park Service.

The birds need meaningful protection of horseshoe crab eggs to be able to recover, Niles said. He tracks the health of red knots and horseshoe crabs and has organized a group called Horseshoe Crab Recovery Coalition to advocate for conservation measures.

Niles and volunteers he organizes have been counting the horseshoe crab eggs since the 1980s and tagging birds since the 1990s. In mid-June, as he was wrapping up this year's tracking in southern New Jersey, he described the eggs as "good and consistent" through the month.

"What we want is the harvest to stop, the killing to stop, and let the stock rebuild to its carrying capacity," Niles said.

The horseshoe crabs have been harvested for use as bait and medicine from Florida to Maine over the years, though the largest harvests are in Maryland, Delaware, Massachusetts and Virginia. According to federal fishery statistics, the crabs were worth about \$1.1 million in total at the docks in 2021.

That figure is dwarfed by seafood species such as lobsters and scallops, which are routinely worth hundreds of millions of dollars. However, horseshoe crab fishers are dedicated stewards of a fishery that supplies a vital product, said George Topping, a Maryland fisherman.

"Everything you do in life comes from horseshoe crab blood. Vaccines, antibiotics," he said. "The horseshoe crab stocks are healthy."

The FBI should face new limits on its use of US foreign spy data, a key intelligence board says

By NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The FBI should stop using a U.S. spy database of foreigners' emails and other communications for investigating crimes that aren't related to national security, a group of White House intelligence advisers recommended in a report released Monday.

The President's Intelligence Advisory Board's findings come as the White House pushes Congress to renew Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act before its expiration at the end of this year. U.S. intelligence officials say Section 702 enables investigations of Chinese and Russian espionage, potential terrorist plots, and other threats.

But spy agencies also end up capturing the communications of U.S. citizens and businesses, and a series of intelligence mistakes at the FBI has fanned bipartisan criticism of the bureau that has shaped the debate over renewing the law. Some lawmakers in both parties and civil liberties groups have called for stronger curbs on how the FBI uses foreign surveillance to search for Americans' data.

While the White House did not commit to accepting the recommended changes, administration officials on Monday praised the board's work and again called on Congress to reauthorize the surveillance program. The board argues in its report that Section 702 is critical to U.S. national security and suggests that allowing the program to lapse would be an "intelligence failure" and a step backward from changes made after the Sept. 11 attacks.

The board says the FBI made "inappropriate use" at times of Section 702 information. Those include queries for a U.S. senator and state senator's names without properly limiting the search, looking for someone believed to have been at the Capitol during the Jan. 6, 2021, insurrection and doing large queries of names of protesters following the 2020 death of George Floyd.

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"Unfortunately, complacency, a lack of proper procedures, and the sheer volume of Section 702 activity led to FBI's inappropriate use of Section 702 authorities, specifically U.S. person queries," the board said in its report. "U.S. person queries" generally mean searches for U.S. citizens and businesses.

The board recommends the FBI no longer search the data when it is seeking evidence of a crime not related to national security. Currently, the FBI conducts fewer than two dozen such searches a year, a senior administration official told reporters Monday. The official spoke on condition of anonymity under ground rules set by the White House.

The White House has not decided whether it will accept the recommendation but is studying the board's work and report, the official said.

The board's report largely lines up with the White House's positions on other changes being debated in Congress. The board opposed requiring the FBI to obtain a warrant before it searches Section 702 data, saying that change would be impractical. It also says the FBI needs to maintain access to foreign spy collection because unlike other intelligence agencies, it has law enforcement authorities inside the U.S. and can warn Americans that they are being targeted by foreign spies or criminals.

Already, both Republicans and Democrats have called for broader changes affecting the FBI, including a handful of lawmakers in both parties who want to require warrants for any search.

Sen. Jon Ossoff, D-Ga., sharply questioned Assistant Attorney General Matt Olsen in June about how it searches Section 702 data and signaled he would push for new protections.

"I don't think you've effectively made the case that there shouldn't be a warrant requirement, whether or not it is constitutionally required, for a U.S. person search that is crime only," he said.

Many in the GOP, meanwhile, are furious about the FBI's investigations of former President Donald Trump and mistakes found by the Justice Department inspector general and other reviewers.

In a statement, the FBI said the report highlighted "how crucial" foreign intelligence was to the bureau's mission.

"We agree that Section 702 should be reauthorized in a manner that does not diminish its effectiveness, as well as reassures the public of its importance and our ability to adhere rigorously to all relevant rules," the bureau's statement said.

Here's how hot and extreme the summer has been, and it's only halfway over

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

At about summer's halfway point, the record-breaking heat and weather extremes are both unprecedented and unsurprising, hellish yet boring in some ways, scientists say.

Killer heat. Deadly floods. Smoke from wildfires that chokes.

And there's no relief in sight.

Expect a hotter than normal August and September, American and European forecast centers predict.

"We are seeing unprecedented changes all over the world," said NASA climate scientist Gavin Schmidt. "The heat waves that we're seeing in the U.S. and in Europe, in China are demolishing records left, right and center. This is not a surprise."

Imperial College of London climate scientist Friederike Otto said examining what's causing heat waves is "boring" in a way since it keeps happening. Yet she added that it matters "because it shows again just how much climate change plays a role in what we are currently experiencing."

"This story, these impacts, are going to continue," Schmidt said. "We're going to be seeing this pretty much this year and into next year" with a natural El Nino warming of the Pacific adding to the overwhelming influence of human-caused climate change largely from the burning of coal, oil and gas.

Here's a rundown of the summer of Earth's discontent.

RECORD-SHATTERING HEAT

Globally, June this year was the hottest June on record — and scientists say July has been so hot that

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even before the month was over they could say it was the hottest month on record. But it's individual places where people live that the heat has stuck around and killed.

Phoenix, where the last day of June and each day of July has been at least 110 degrees (43 degrees Celsius), set records for the longest mega-heat streak and longest stretch when the temperatures didn't go below 90 degrees (32 degrees Celsius) at night.

El Paso, Texas, had 44 days of 100 degree (37 degree) heat. Schools closed in Nuevo Leon state in northern Mexico a month earlier than usual as temperatures reached 113 degrees (45 Celsius).

Farther east, Miami added humidity to high heat for 46 straight days of feels-like temperatures of 100 or more.

Beijing had its own record streak with at least 27 days of 95 degrees (35 Celsius) in July, after a three-day streak of at least 104 (40 Celsius) in June. And the country set it's all-time highest temperature on July 16 in remote Sanbao township with 126 degrees (52.2 Celsius).

Heat records fell all over southern Europe. Sardinia, Italy, hit 117 (47 Celsius). Palermo in Sicily broke a record that goes back to 1791 by a whopping 3.6 degrees (2 degrees Celsius). Temperatures hit 115 (46 Celsius) in Gytheio, Greece.

Spain reported nearly 1,000 excess deaths from the heat, mostly among the elderly, by mid July.

In Argentina, where it's mid-winter, temperatures were above 89.6 (32 Celsius) four straight days in June in the northern part of the county. One July night in Buenos Aires didn't get below the 70s (low 20s Celsius).

TOO MUCH RAIN

More than 10,000 people had to be evacuated in central Hunan province in China where heavy rainfall caused at least 70 houses to collapse. In Yichang, rain triggered a landslide that buried a construction site and killed at least one person.

Australia's Queensland outback got 13 times its normal monthly July rain in just one day.

Thousands of people were evacuated from Delhi in India as rains caused flash floods and landslides. Elsewhere in the country at least 100 people were killed by the downpours.

In the United States, sudden heavy rain killed people in Vermont, Connecticut and Pennsylvania with tragic stories of children washed away in flooding.

WILDFIRES AND SMOKE

Too little rain in Greece and Spain fed wildfires that proved difficult to fight. In the Canary Islands, a fire caused 4,000 people to evacuate, others to wear face masks and had 400 firefighters battling it.

Hot and dry conditions caused about 160 wildfires to break out in Israel in early June.

But what really brought fires home happened in parts of Canada where few people live. Rare far northern Quebec wildfires triggered nasty smoke that inflicted the world's dirtiest air on cities like New York and Washington, then switched to the Midwest.

As of late July more than 600 wildfires were out of control in Canada. A record 47,490 square miles (123,000 square kilometers) burned, and fire season isn't near done. That's an area larger than the state of Pennsylvania or North Korea.

WATER TEMPERATURES

Water temperatures in the Florida Keys and off the Everglades hit the high 90s (high 30s Celsius) with Manatee Bay breaking 100 degrees twice in what could be an unofficial world record for surface water temperature, although that's in dispute.

The North Atlantic had hot spots that alarmed scientists. The world's oceans as a whole were their hottest ever in June and got even hotter in July. In Antarctica, sea ice smashed record-low levels.

Ocean temperatures take a long time to warm up and cool down, said University of Northern Illinois meteorology professor Victor Gensini. So it doesn't look good for the rest of the summer, he said.

A HOT FORECAST

"We are favoring above normal temperatures for the next three months," said NOAA Climate Prediction Center meteorologist Matt Rosencrans.

The only potential relief he sees, especially in the hot Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico, is if a hurricane or tropical storm moves through.

The peak of hurricane season in September hasn't even started.

When going through the litany of this summer's weather extremes so far, University of Pennsylvania climate scientist Michael Mann had one question: "How on God's Earth are we still burning fossil fuels after witnessing all this?"

Trump could be indicted soon in Georgia. Here's a look at that investigation

By KATE BRUMBACK Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — A Georgia prosecutor is expected to seek a grand jury indictment in the coming weeks in her investigation into efforts by Donald Trump and his Republican allies to overturn the then-president's 2020 election loss.

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis began investigating more than two years ago, shortly after a recording was released of a January 2021 phone call Trump made to Georgia's secretary of state.

Willis has strongly hinted that any indictment would come between Monday and Aug. 18. One of two grand juries seated July 11 is expected to hear the case.

If Trump is indicted by a Georgia grand jury, it would add to a growing list of legal troubles as he campaigns for president. Trump is set to go to trial in New York in March to face state charges related to hush money payments made during the 2016 presidential campaign. And he has another trial scheduled for May on federal charges related to his handling of classified documents. He has pleaded not guilty in those cases.

The Justice Department is also investigating Trump's role in trying to halt the certification of 2020 election results in the run-up to the Jan. 6, 2021, assault on the U.S. Capitol. Trump said he's been told he's a target of that investigation, which likely has some overlap with the one in Georgia.

An attempt by Trump to derail the Georgia case suffered a setback on Monday when a judge rejected his request to bar Willis from prosecuting him and to toss out the final report of an investigative special grand jury that had been seated to aid the investigation. A similar motion to be heard by a different judge is set for a hearing next week.

Details of the Georgia investigation that have become public have fed speculation that Willis, a Democrat, is building a case under the Georgia Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, which would allow her to charge numerous people in a potentially wide-ranging scheme.

Here are six investigative threads Willis and her team have explored:

THE PHONE CALLS

The Georgia investigation was prompted by the Jan. 2, 2021, phone call Trump made to Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger, a fellow Republican. Trump suggested the state's top elections official could help "find" the votes needed to put him ahead of Democrat Joe Biden in the state.

"All I want to do is this: I just want to find 11,780 votes, which is one more than we have," Trump is heard saying on a recording of the call, which was leaked to news outlets. "Because we won the state."

Trump has insisted he did nothing wrong and has repeatedly said the call was "perfect."

Trump also called other top state officials in his quest to overturn his 2020 election loss, including Gov. Brian Kemp, then-House Speaker David Ralston, Attorney General Chris Carr and the top investigator in the secretary of state's office.

U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, a South Carolina Republican, also called Raffensperger shortly after the November election. Raffensperger said at the time that Graham asked whether he had the power to reject certain absentee ballots, which Raffensperger has said he interpreted as a suggestion to toss out legally cast votes.

Graham has denied wrongdoing, saying he just wanted to learn about the signature verification process.

FAKE ELECTORS

Biden won Georgia by a margin of fewer than 12,000 votes. Just over a month after the election, on Dec. 14, 2020, a group of 16 Georgia Democratic electors met in the Senate chamber at the state Capitol to

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cast the state's Electoral College votes for him. They each marked paper ballots that were counted and confirmed by a voice roll call.

That day, in a committee meeting room at the Capitol, 16 prominent Georgia Republicans — a lawmaker, activists and party officials — met to sign a certificate falsely stating that Trump had won and declaring themselves the state's "duly elected and qualified" electors. They sent that certificate to the National Archives and the U.S. Senate.

Georgia was one of seven battleground states that Trump lost where Republican fake electors signed and submitted similar certificates. Trump allies in the U.S. House and Senate used those certificates to argue for delaying or blocking the certification of the election during a joint session of Congress.

Prosecutors in Fulton County have said in court filings that they believe Trump associates worked with state Republicans to coordinate and execute the plan.

The multi-state effort was ultimately unsuccessful. Despite public pressure from Trump and his supporters, then-Vice President Mike Pence refused on Jan. 6, 2021, to introduce the unofficial pro-Trump electors. After the attack on the U.S. Capitol put a violent halt to the certification process, lawmakers certified Biden's win in the early hours of Jan. 7, 2021.

At least eight of the fake electors have since reached immunity deals with Willis' team. And a judge last summer barred Willis from prosecuting another one, Lt. Gov. Burt Jones, because of a conflict of interest.

FALSE CLAIMS OF ELECTION FRAUD

Republican state lawmakers held several hearings at the Georgia Capitol in December 2020 to examine alleged problems with the November election. During those meetings, former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani and other Trump allies made unproven claims of widespread election fraud.

They alleged that election workers tallying absentee ballots at State Farm Arena in Atlanta had told outside observers to leave and then pulled out "suitcases" of unlawful ballots and began scanning them. The Trump allies played clips of surveillance video from the arena to support their allegations. State and federal officials investigated and said there was no evidence of election fraud at the site.

Some Trump allies also said thousands of people who were ineligible — including people convicted of felonies, people under the age of 18, people who had voted in another state — had cast votes in Georgia. The secretary of state's office has debunked those claims.

ALLEGED ATTEMPTS TO PRESSURE ELECTION WORKER

Two of the election workers seen in the State Farm Arena surveillance video, Ruby Freeman and her daughter Wandrea "Shaye" Moss, said they faced relentless harassment online and in person as a result of the allegations made by Trump and his allies.

Giuliani last week conceded that statements he made about the two election workers were false.

In a bizarre episode detailed by prosecutors in court filings, a woman traveled from Chicago to Georgia and met with Freeman on Jan. 4, 2021. The woman initially said she wanted to help Freeman but then warned that Freeman could go to prison and tried to pressure her into falsely confessing to committing election fraud, prosecutors wrote in court filings last year.

ELECTION EQUIPMENT ACCESSED

Trump-allied lawyer Sidney Powell and others hired a computer forensics team to copy data and software on election equipment in Coffee County, some 200 miles (322 kilometers) southeast of Atlanta, according to invoices, emails, security video and deposition testimony produced in response to subpoenas in a long-running lawsuit.

The county Republican Party chair at the time — who also served as a fake elector — greeted them when they arrived at the local elections office on Jan. 7, 2021, and some county elections officials were also on hand during the daylong visit. The secretary of state's office has said this amounted to "alleged unauthorized access" of election equipment and the Georgia Bureau of Investigation is looking into it at the secretary of state's request.

Two other men who have been active in efforts to question the 2020 election results also visited Coffee County later that month and spent hours inside.

U.S. ATTORNEY RESIGNATION

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U.S. Attorney BJay Pak, the top federal prosecutor in Atlanta, abruptly resigned two days after Trump called Raffensperger and a day after a recording of that call was made public. During that conversation, Trump called Pak a "never-Trumper," implying that he didn't support the president.

In December 2020, then-U.S. Attorney General William Barr asked Pak to investigate allegations by Giuliani and other Trump allies of widespread election fraud. Pak, who had been appointed by Trump in 2017, reported back that he had found no evidence of such fraud.

In August 2021, Pak told the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, which was investigating Trump's post-election actions, that he resigned on Jan. 4, 2021, after learning from Department of Justice officials that Trump did not believe enough was being done to investigate allegations of election fraud and wanted him gone as U.S. attorney.

RFK Jr. says he's not anti-vaccine. His record shows the opposite. It's one of many inconsistencies

By MICHELLE R. SMITH and ALI SWENSON Associated Press

Democratic presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr. rose to prominence during the COVID-19 pandemic because of his strident opposition to vaccines. Yet, he insists he's not anti-vaccine. He has associated with influential people on the far right – including Tucker Carlson, Steve Bannon and Michael Flynn – to raise his profile. Yet, he portrays himself as a true Democrat inheriting the mantle of the Kennedy family.

As he challenges President Joe Biden, the stories he tells on the campaign trail about himself, his life's work and what he stands for are often the opposite of what his record actually shows.

Though Kennedy's primary challenge to a sitting president is widely considered a longshot, he's been sucking up media attention due to his famous name and the possibility that his run could weaken Biden ahead of what is expected to be a close general election in 2024. He's drawn praise from Republican presidential candidates like Donald Trump and Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis. Meanwhile, Trump supporters, including his longtime ally Roger Stone, have ginned up interest by floating a Trump-Kennedy unity ticket.

Debra Duvall, 62, who lives in Fort Myers, Florida, and said she serves on the Lee County GOP executive committee, described herself as a longtime Trump supporter, but said she's torn for 2024.

"I'll take Trump or RFK. Either one," she said, explaining that she was drawn to both because she believes they can't be bought.

That kind of support has demonstrated some of the contradictions in Kennedy's candidacy. He has said he wants to "reclaim" the Democratic Party, while aligning himself with far right figures who have worked to subvert American democracy. He touts his credentials as an environmentalist, yet pushes bitcoin — a cryptocurrency that requires massive amounts of electricity from supercomputers to generate new coins, prompting most environmental advocates to loudly oppose it.

And though he peppers his speeches, podcast appearances and campaign materials with invocations of the Democratic Party legacies of his uncle President John F. Kennedy and his father, Robert F. Kennedy, his relatives have distanced themselves from him and even denounced him.

"He's trading in on Camelot, celebrity, conspiracy theories and conflict for personal gain and fame," Jack Schlossberg, President Kennedy's grandson, said of his cousin in an Instagram video in July. "I've listened to him. I know him. I have no idea why anyone thinks he should be president. What I do know is, his candidacy is an embarrassment."

Kennedy's recent comments that COVID-19 could have been "ethnically targeted" to spare Ashkenazi Jews and Chinese people — which he denies were antisemitic but concedes he should have worded more carefully — also drew a condemnation from his sister Kerry Kennedy.

The contradictions between what Kennedy says and his track record were nowhere more apparent than when he testified before a congressional committee in July at the invitation of Republican members.

Anti-vaccine activists, some who work for Kennedy's nonprofit group Children's Health Defense, sat in the rows behind him, watching as he insisted "I have never been anti-vaxx. I have never told the public to avoid vaccination."

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But that's not true. Again and again, Kennedy has made his opposition to vaccines clear. In July, Kennedy said in a podcast interview that "There's no vaccine that is safe and effective" and told FOX News that he still believes in the long-ago debunked idea that vaccines can cause autism. In a 2021 podcast he urged people to "resist" CDC guidelines on when kids should get vaccines.

"I see somebody on a hiking trail carrying a little baby and I say to him, better not get them vaccinated," Kennedy said.

That same year, in a video promoting an anti-vaccine sticker campaign by his nonprofit, Kennedy appeared onscreen next to one sticker that declared "IF YOU'RE NOT AN ANTI-VAXXER YOU AREN'T PAYING ATTENTION."

A close examination of Kennedy's campaign finance filings shows that the anti-vaccine movement lies at the heart of his campaign.

Several of his campaign staff and consultants have worked for his anti-vaccine group Children's Health Defense, including Mary Holland, the group's president on leave, campaign spokeswoman Stefanie Spear, and Zen Honeycutt, who hosted a show for the group's TV channel, CHD TV.

Children's Health Defense currently has a lawsuit pending against a number of news organizations, among them The Associated Press, accusing them of violating antitrust laws by taking action to identify misinformation, including about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines.

The campaign paid KFP Consulting, a Texas-based company run by Del Bigtree, head of the anti-vaccine group ICAN, and a leading voice in the movement, more than \$13,000 for communications consulting, the AP found. Bigtree appeared to still be working for the campaign last week, when an AP reporter saw him helping facilitate a Kennedy event in New York.

Kennedy also has received substantial support from activists who have spread misinformation about the coronavirus and vaccines, including Steve Kirsch, an entrepreneur who has falsely claimed COVID-19 vaccines kill more people than they save, chiropractors Patrick Flynn and Kevin Stillwagon, and others.

Ty and Charlene Bollinger, who run an anti-vaccine business and who the AP has previously reported have had a financial relationship with Kennedy, gave more than \$6,000. The couple, along with Kennedy's communication consultant Bigtree, were involved in hosting a rally near the Capitol on Jan. 6, and Ty Bollinger has said he was among the people who crowded at the Capitol doors in an attempt to get inside, though he said he did not enter.

The couple is a part of the Children's Health Defense lawsuit against AP and other media outlets.

American Values 2024, a super PAC supporting Kennedy, is run by close associates to Kennedy who have propped up anti-vaccine ideas — the former head of the New York chapter of Children's Health Defense John Gilmore is its CEO and Kennedy's publisher Tony Lyons is its co-chair.

The Kennedy campaign did not return emails seeking comment about a number of questions, including how he can say he is not anti-vaccine given his record and his support from anti-vaccine activists.

Kennedy's run is also getting plenty of financial support from the right. A super PAC supporting Kennedy's presidential run, called Heal the Divide PAC, has deep ties to Republicans, Federal Election Commission records show.

The committee's address is listed in the care of RTA Strategy, a campaign consulting firm that has been paid for its work to help elect Republicans including Georgia Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene and the former Georgia Senate candidate Herschel Walker.

The PAC's treasurer, who works for RTA Strategy, is Jason Boles, a past donor to Trump and many other Republicans who includes "MAGA" and "AmericaFirst" in his bio on the platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

Kennedy denied knowing Boles or the Heal the Divide PAC when it came up at the congressional hearing, saying, "I've never heard of Mr. Boles, and I've never heard of that super PAC."

But video available online shows he was a guest speaker at a Heal the Divide event just two days earlier. The video features a "Heal the Divide 2024" logo with clips of him speaking at length about plans to back the U.S. dollar with bitcoin and precious metals.

Kennedy says that as president, he would fight for government honesty and transparency, heal the political divide, reverse economic decline, end war and preserve civil liberties. He has made freedom of speech

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a major part of his platform, arguing that the government's communication with social media companies unfairly censors protected speech.

Kennedy's press office did not respond to several messages asking about his support from the far right.

It also did not respond to questions about whether his stance on bitcoin was at odds with being an environmentalist.

Kennedy lists the environment as one of six top priorities on his campaign website and has spent many years speaking against pollution and climate change as an environmental lawyer. Yet he has made supporting the energy-intensive cryptocurrency bitcoin a key part of his platform.

Bitcoin mining, the process of generating new coins, uses massive amounts of electricity — more than some entire countries use, said Scott Faber of the Environmental Working Group.

That's because it works by tasking a network of supercomputers with solving complex mathematical puzzles — even as some other cryptocurrencies have adopted far more energy efficient mining methods.

"No one who claims to be an environmentalist could support a digital asset that needlessly consumes more electricity than all Americans use to power the lights in our homes," Faber said. "In fact, bitcoin produces more climate pollution than any other digital asset."

Despite the environmental downsides of bitcoin, some Democrats, including elected officials, have advocated for the currency.

Kennedy, for his part, told a crowd at Bitcoin 2023 that environmentalists like himself "will continue to pressure you to improve." Online, he has promoted the argument that demand for bitcoin will boost investment in new renewable energy projects.

Regardless, his financial disclosure documents show he has already personally invested between \$100,001 and \$250,000 in bitcoin, and he promised at Bitcoin 2023 that he wouldn't let the environmental argument hinder the currency's use.

"As president, I will make sure that your right to hold and use bitcoin is inviolable," he said.

During the past several years, Kennedy has cultivated his ties to the far right. He has appeared on Infowars, the channel run by Sandy Hook conspiracy theorist Alex Jones. He has granted interviews to Trump ally Steve Bannon and Tucker Carlson. After he headlined a stop on the ReAwaken America Tour, the Christian nationalist road show put together by former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn, he was photographed backstage with Flynn, Charlene Bollinger and Trump ally Roger Stone.

Those appearances have led to goodwill on the right, and he has found enthusiastic support among a segment of Trump's base, with some suggesting him as a potential vice presidential pick.

At a July 1 rally in the tiny town of Pickens, South Carolina, Adrian Palashevsky — a small businessman who described himself as more of a "libertarian" than a Republican — posited a unity ticket, with Kennedy as his top pick for Trump's VP.

"I think they would get along just fine," he said. "They're both anti-establishment, and that's why they're under so much attack."

DeSantis, one of Trump's Republican challengers, has also indulged in praise for the fringe candidate, saying in a recent interview that while he wouldn't make Kennedy vice president, he would consider appointing him to one of the federal agencies that regulates vaccine safety and protects public health.

"If you're president, you know, sic him on the FDA if he'd be willing to serve, or sic him on CDC," DeSantis said.

Not everyone is buying the Kennedy mystique.

At the annual meeting of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials in New York a few weeks ago, Kennedy leaned heavily on his family legacy, mentioning his father's alliance with labor leader Cesar Chavez and his uncle's work in Latin American countries.

But in his nearly 20-minute speech, he didn't lay out any plan or policy proposals of his own, or talk about specific issues facing the Latino community. He spent most of his time telling a story about getting arrested with the Mexican American actor Edward Olmos in 2001, an attempt at relating with the community that disappointed both Republicans and Democrats in the audience.

Mario Ceballos, president of a PAC representing LGBTQ+ Latinos, said Kennedy's speech — and the

candidate's conspiracy theory beliefs — saddened him.

"When I was living in Mexico, Kennedy was an American president that my whole family respected," Ceballos said. "And what he is presenting are esoteric, dangerous options that are actually going to hurt the same people that his father and uncle wanted to help."

Takeaways from AP's reporting on inconsistencies in RFK Jr.'s record

By MICHELLE R. SMITH and ALI SWENSON Associated Press

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who is running as a Democrat against President Joe Biden, tells many stories on the campaign trail about himself, his life's work and what he stands for that are the opposite of what his record actually shows.

The Associated Press found that Kennedy's insistence that he is not anti-vaccine doesn't square with his long record of opposition to vaccines. His claims that he is a true Democrat inheriting the mantle of his famous family are contradicted by his alignment with far right figures and support from Republicans. And despite listing the environment as a campaign priority, he has pushed bitcoin — a cryptocurrency that requires massive amounts of electricity from supercomputers to generate new coins, prompting most environmental advocates to loudly oppose it.

Kennedy's campaign is widely considered a long shot, but it's gained media attention due to his famous name and the possibility that his run could weaken Biden ahead of what is expected to be a close general election in 2024.

The campaign didn't return emails seeking comment about the contradictions in his candidacy.

Here are the key takeaways from the AP's reporting:

KENNEDY'S ANTI-VACCINE RECORD

Kennedy told a congressional committee this month: "I have never been anti-vaxx. I have never told the public to avoid vaccination." But Kennedy has a long record of anti-vaccine comments and rose to public prominence during the COVID-19 pandemic through the work of his anti-vaccine group, Children's Health Defense.

Just this month, Kennedy said in a podcast interview that "There's no vaccine that is safe and effective" and told FOX News that he still believes in the long-ago debunked idea that vaccines can cause autism. In a 2021 podcast, he recalled telling people on hiking trails not to get their children vaccinated.

That same year, Kennedy appeared in a video promoting an anti-vaccine sticker campaign by his nonprofit. A sticker shown beside him declared "IF YOU'RE NOT AN ANTI-VAXXER YOU AREN'T PAYING ATTENTION."

The AP found that anti-vaccine activists are at the heart of Kennedy's campaign. FEC records show several people paid to work on the campaign previously worked for Children's Health Defense.

Kennedy has also received substantial support from the anti-vaccine community.

Children's Health Defense currently has a lawsuit pending against a number of news organizations, among them The Associated Press, accusing them of violating antitrust laws by taking action to identify misinformation, including about COVID-19 and COVID-19 vaccines.

ASSOCIATION WITH FAR RIGHT HAS RAISED KENNEDY'S PROFILE

Kennedy is running as a Democrat, yet he has aligned himself with far right figures who have worked to subvert American democracy.

He has appeared on Infowars, the channel run by Sandy Hook conspiracy theorist Alex Jones. He has granted interviews to former President Donald Trump ally Steve Bannon and Tucker Carlson. After he headlined a stop on the ReAwaken America Tour, the Christian nationalist road show put together by former Trump national security adviser Michael Flynn, he was photographed backstage with Flynn and Trump ally Roger Stone.

Those appearances have led to goodwill on the right. Trump supporters have floated a Trump-Kennedy unity ticket.

Kennedy's run is also getting financial support from the right. A super PAC supporting Kennedy's presi-

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dential run, called Heal the Divide PAC, has deep ties to Republicans, Federal Election Commission records show.

Kennedy denied knowing the PAC when it came up at a recent congressional hearing, but video available online shows he was a guest speaker at a Heal the Divide event just two days earlier.

SUPPORT FOR BITCOIN RUNS COUNTER TO ENVIRONMENTAL STANCE

Kennedy lists the environment as one of six top priorities on his campaign website and has spent many years speaking against pollution and climate change as an environmental lawyer. Yet he has made supporting the energy-intensive cryptocurrency bitcoin a key part of his platform.

Bitcoin mining, the process of generating new coins, uses massive amounts of electricity — more than some entire countries, experts say.

Kennedy has acknowledged the environmental downsides, but says he wouldn't let them hinder its use. He promotes the argument that demand for the cryptocurrency will boost investment in renewable energy projects.

Kennedy has invested between \$100,001 and \$250,000 in bitcoin, his financial disclosure documents show.

KENNEDY INVOKES HIS FAMOUS FAMILY, WHILE RELATIVES DENOUNCE HIM

Though Kennedy peppers his speeches, podcast appearances and campaign materials with invocations of the Democratic Party legacies of his uncle President John F. Kennedy and his father Robert F. Kennedy, his relatives have distanced themselves from him and even denounced him.

"He's trading in on Camelot, celebrity, conspiracy theories and conflict for personal gain and fame," Jack Schlossberg, President Kennedy's grandson, said of his cousin in an Instagram video earlier this month. "I've listened to him. I know him. I have no idea why anyone thinks he should be president. What I do know is, his candidacy is an embarrassment."

Kennedy's recent comments that COVID-19 could have been "ethnically targeted" to spare Ashkenazi Jews and Chinese people — which he denies were antisemitic but concedes he should have worded more carefully — also drew a condemnation from his sister, Kerry Kennedy.

Do you believe in angels? About 7 in 10 U.S. adults do, a new AP-NORC poll shows

By HOLLY MEYER Associated Press

Compared with the devil, angels carry more credence in America.

Angels even get more credence than, well, hell. More than astrology, reincarnation, and the belief that physical things can have spiritual energies.

In fact, about 7 in 10 U.S. adults say they believe in angels, according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

"People are yearning for something greater than themselves — beyond their own understanding," said Jack Grogger, a chaplain for the Los Angeles Angels and a longtime Southern California fire captain who has aided many people in their gravest moments.

That search for something bigger, he said, can take on many forms, from following a religion to crafting a self-driven purpose to believing in, of course, angels.

"For a lot of people, angels are a lot safer to worship," said Grogger, who also pastors a nondenominational church in Orange, California, and is a chaplain for the NHL's Anaheim Ducks.

People turn to angels for comfort, he said. They are familiar, regularly showing up in pop culture as well as in the Bible. Comparably, worshipping Jesus is far more involved; when Grogger preaches about angels it is with the context that they are part of God's kingdom.

American's belief in angels (69%) is about on par with belief in heaven and the power of prayer, but bested by belief in God or a higher power (79%). Fewer U.S. adults believe in the devil or Satan (56%), astrology (34%), reincarnation (34%), and that physical things can have spiritual energies, such as plants, rivers or crystals (42%).

The widespread acceptance of angels shown in the AP-NORC poll makes sense to Susan Garrett, an

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angel expert and New Testament professor at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Kentucky. It tracks with historical surveys, she said, adding that the U.S. remains a faith-filled country even as more Americans reject organized religion.

But if the devil is in the details, so are people's understandings of angels.

"They're very malleable," Garrett said of angels. "You can have any one of a number of quite different worldviews in terms of your understanding of how the cosmos is arranged, whether there's spirit beings, whether there's life after death, whether there's a God ... and still find a place for angels in that worldview."

Talk of angels, Garrett said, is often also about something else, like the ways God interacts with the world and other hard-to-articulate ideas.

The large number of U.S. adults who say they believe in angels includes 84% of those with a religious affiliation — 94% of evangelical Protestants, 81% of mainline Protestants and 82% of Catholics — and 33% of those without one. And of those angel-believing religiously unaffiliated, that includes 2% of atheists, 25% of agnostics and 50% of those identified as "nothing in particular."

The broad acceptance is what fascinates San Francisco-based witch and author Devin Hunter: Angels show up independently in different religions and traditions, making them part of the fabric that unites humanity.

"We're all getting to the same conclusion," said Hunter, who spent 16 years as a professional medium, and started communicating as a child with what he believed were angels.

Hunter estimates that a belief in angels applies to about half of those practicing modern witchcraft today, and for some who don't believe, their rejection is often rooted in the religious trauma they experienced growing up.

"Angels become a very big deal" for long-time practitioners who've made occultism their primary focus, said Hunter, an angel-loving occultist. "We cannot escape them in any way, shape or form."

Jennifer Goodwin of Oviedo, Florida, also is among the roughly seven in 10 U.S. adults who say they believe in angels. She isn't sure if God exists and rejects the afterlife dichotomy of heaven and hell, but the recent deaths of her parents solidified her views on these celestial beings.

Goodwin believes her parents are still keeping an eye on the family — not in any physical way or as a supernatural apparition, but that they manifest in those moments when she feels a general sense of comfort.

"I think that they are around us, but it's in a way that we can't understand," Goodwin said. "I don't know what else to call it except an angel."

Angels mean different things to different people, and the idea of loved ones becoming heavenly angels after death is neither an unusual belief nor a universally held one.

In his reading of Scripture as an evangelical Protestant, Grogger said he believes angels are something else entirely — they have never been human and are on another level in heaven's hierarchy. "We are higher than angels," he said. "We do not become an angel."

Angels do interact with humans though, said Grogger, but what "that looks like we're not 100% sure." They worship God who created this angelic legion of unknown numbers, he said, adding that evangelicals often attribute the demonic forces in the world to the angels who fell from heaven when the devil rebelled.

The Western ideas about angels can be traced through the Bible — and to the worldviews of its monotheistic authors, Garrett said. Those beliefs have changed and developed for millennia, influenced by cultures, theologians and even the ancient polytheistic beliefs that came before the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, she said.

"There are sort of lines of continuity from the Bible that you can trace all the way up to the New Age movement," said Susan Garrett, who wrote "No Ordinary Angel: Celestial Spirits and Christian Claims about Jesus."

The angels in the Bible do God's bidding, and angelic violence is one part of their job description, said Esther Hamori, author of the upcoming book, "God's Monsters: Vengeful Spirits, Deadly Angels, Hybrid Creatures, and Divine Hitmen of the Bible."

"The angels of the Bible are just as likely to assassinate individuals and slaughter entire populations as they are to offer help and protect and deliver," said Hamori. She doesn't believe in these angels, but

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studies them as a Hebrew Bible professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York where she teaches a popular "Monster Heaven" class.

"They're just God's obedient soldiers doing the task at hand, and sometimes that task is in human beings' best interests, and sometimes it's not," she said.

The perception that angels act angelic and look like the idyllic, winged figurines atop Christmas trees could be attributed to an early centuries belief that people are assigned one good angel and one bad — or have a good and bad spirit to guide them, Garrett said.

This idea shows up on the shoulders of cartoon characters and is likely what Abraham Lincoln was alluding to in his famous appeal for unity when he referenced "the better angels of our nature" in his first inaugural address, she said.

"It's also tied in with ideas about guardian angels, which again, very ancient views that got developed over the centuries," Garrett said.

For Sheila Avery of Chicago, angels are protectors, capable of keeping someone from harm. Avery, who belongs to a nondenominational church, credits them with those moments like when a person's plans fall through, but ultimately it saves them from being in the thick of an unexpected disaster.

"They turn on the news and a terrible tragedy happened at that particular place," Avery said, suggesting it was an "angel that was probably watching over them."

Yellow is shutting down and headed for bankruptcy, the Teamsters Union says. Here's what to know

BY WYATTE GRANTHAM-PHILIPS AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Trucking company Yellow Corp. has shut down operations and is headed for a bankruptcy filing, according to the Teamsters Union and multiple media reports.

After years of financial struggles, reports of Yellow preparing for bankruptcy emerged last week — as the Nashville, Tennessee-based trucker saw customers leave in large numbers. Yellow shut down operations on Sunday, according to the Wall Street Journal, following the layoffs of hundreds of nonunion employees on Friday.

In an announcement early Monday, the Teamsters said that the union received legal notice confirming Yellow was ceasing operations and filing for bankruptcy.

"Today's news is unfortunate but not surprising. Yellow has historically proven that it could not manage itself despite billions of dollars in worker concessions and hundreds of millions in bailout funding from the federal government," Teamsters general president Sean O'Brien said in a statement. "This is a sad day for workers and the American freight industry."

The Associated Press reached out to Yellow for comment on Monday. No bankruptcy filings had gone live as of the early morning.

The bankruptcy reports have renewed attention around Yellow's ongoing negotiations with unionized workers, a \$700 million pandemic-era loan from the government and other bills the trucker has racked up over time. Yellow, formerly known as YRC Worldwide Inc., is one of the nation's largest less-than-truckload carriers. The company's reported closure puts 30,000 jobs at risk.

Here's what you need to know.

WHAT WOULD BANKRUPTCY MEAN FOR YELLOW?

According to Satish Jindel, president of transportation and logistics firm SJ Consulting, Yellow handled an average of 49,000 shipments per day in 2022. Last week, he estimated that number was down to between 10,000 and 15,000 daily shipments.

With customers leaving — as well reports of Yellow stopping freight pickups last week — bankruptcy would "be the end of Yellow," Jindel told The Associated Press, noting increased risk for liquidation.

"The likelihood of them surviving and remaining solvent diminishes really by the day," added Bruce Chan, a research director at investment banking firm Stifel.

Yellow declined to comment when contacted by The Associated Press on Friday. In a Wednesday state-

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ment to The Journal, the company said it was continuing "to prepare for a range of contingencies." On Thursday, Yellow said it was in talks with multiple parties about selling its third-party logistics organization.

Even if Yellow was able to sell its logistics firm, it would "not generate a sufficient amount of cash to keep them operational on any sort of permanent basis," Chan said. "Without a major equity injection, it would be very difficult for them to survive."

HOW MUCH DEBT DOES YELLOW HAVE?

As of late March, Yellow had an outstanding debt of about \$1.5 billion. Of that, \$729.2 million was owed to the federal government.

In 2020, under the Trump administration, the Treasury Department granted the company a \$700 million pandemic-era loan on national security grounds. Last month, a congressional probe concluded that the Treasury and Defense Departments "made missteps" in this decision — and noted that Yellow's "precarious financial position at the time of the loan, and continued struggles, expose taxpayers to a significant risk of loss."

The government loan is due in September 2024. As of March, Yellow had made \$54.8 million in interest payments and repaid just \$230 million of the principal owed, according to government documents.

Yellow's current finances and prospect of bankruptcy "is probably two decades in the making," Chan said, pointing to poor management and strategic decisions dating back to the early 2000s. "At this point, after each party has bailed them out so many times, there is a limited appetite to do that anymore."

In May, Yellow reported a loss of \$54.6 million, a decline of \$1.06 per share, for its first quarter of 2023. Operating revenue was about \$1.16 billion in the period.

A Wednesday investors note from financial service firm Stephens estimated that Yellow could be burning between \$9 million and \$10 million each day. Using a liquidity disclosure from earlier this month, Yellow had roughly \$100 million in cash at the end of June, the note added — estimating that the company has been burning through increasing amounts of money through July.

"It is reasonable to believe that the Company could breach its \$35 mil. liquidity requirement at any moment," Stephens analyst Jack Atkins and associate Grant Smith wrote.

DID THE COMPANY JUST AVERT A STRIKE?

Last week's reports of bankruptcy preparations arrived just days after a strike from the Teamsters, which represents Yellow's 22,000 unionized workers, was averted.

A series of heated exchanges have built up between the Teamsters and Yellow, who sued the union in June after alleging it was "unjustifiably blocking" restructuring plans needed for the company's survival. The Teamsters called the litigation "baseless" — with O'Brien pointing to Yellow's "decades of gross mismanagement," which included exhausting the \$700 million federal loan.

On July 23, a pension fund agreed to extend health benefits for workers at two Yellow Corp. operating companies, averting a strike — and giving Yellow "30 days to pay its bills," notably \$50 million that Yellow failed to pay the Central States Health and Welfare Fund on July 15, the union said. While the strike didn't occur, talks of a walkout may have caused some Yellow customers to pull back, Chan said.

"The financial struggles of Yellow are not related to the union and the contracts," Jindel said, pointing to management's responsibility around its services and prices. He added the union wages from Yellow are "lower than any competitor."

WHAT WOULD HAPPEN IF YELLOW WENT UNDER?

As Yellow customers take their shipments to other carriers, like FedEx or ABF Freight, prices will go up. Yellow's prices have historically been the cheapest compared to other carriers, Jindel said. "That's why they obviously were not making money," he added. "And while there is capacity with the other LTL carriers to handle the diversions from Yellow, it will come at a high price for (current shippers and customers) of Yellow."

Chan adds that we're in an interesting time for the LTL marketplace — noting that, if Yellow liquidates, "the freight would find a home" with other carriers, which may not have been true in recent years.

"It may take time, but there's room for it to be absorbed," he said.

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Today in History: Aug. 1, Hitler opens Berlin Olympics

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 1, the 213th day of 2023. There are 152 days left in the year.

On Aug. 1, 1936, the Olympics opened in Berlin with a ceremony presided over by Adolf Hitler.

In 1876, Colorado was admitted as the 38th state.

In 1907, the U.S. Army Signal Corps established an aeronautical division, the forerunner of the U.S. Air Force.

In 1944, an uprising broke out in Warsaw, Poland, against Nazi occupation; the revolt lasted two months before collapsing.

In 1957, the United States and Canada announced they had agreed to create the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD).

In 1966, Charles Joseph Whitman, 25, went on an armed rampage at the University of Texas in Austin that killed 14 people, most of whom were shot by Whitman while he was perched in the clock tower of the main campus building.

In 1975, a 35-nation summit in Finland concluded with the signing of a declaration known as the Helsinki Accords dealing with European security, human rights and East-West contacts.

In 1994, Michael Jackson and Lisa Marie Presley confirmed they'd been secretly married 11 weeks earlier.

In 2001, Pro Bowl tackle Korey Stringer, 27, died of heat stroke, a day after collapsing at the Minnesota Vikings' training camp on the hottest day of the year.

In 2007, the eight-lane Interstate 35W bridge, a major Minneapolis artery, collapsed into the Mississippi River during evening rush hour, killing 13 people.

In 2011, the U.S. House of Representatives passed, 269-161, emergency legislation to avert the nation's first-ever financial default; Arizona Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords returned to the House for the first time since being shot in Jan. 2011 to cast a "yes" vote.

In 2014, a medical examiner ruled that a New York City police officer's chokehold caused the death of Eric Garner, whose videotaped arrest and final pleas of "I can't breathe!" had sparked outrage.

Ten years ago: Defying the United States, Russia granted Edward Snowden temporary asylum, allowing the National Security Agency leaker to slip out of the Moscow airport where he had been holed up for weeks. President Barack Obama faced congressional critics of the National Security Agency's collection of Americans' telephone records as he and Vice President Joe Biden joined lawmakers on both sides of the issue for an Oval Office meeting.

Five years ago: The remains of dozens of presumed casualties of the Korean War were returned to U.S. soil; in an emotional ceremony in Hawaii, military members carried 55 boxes draped with American flags off two military transport planes. Ohio State University put football coach Urban Meyer on paid leave amid claims that his wife knew about allegations of domestic violence against an assistant coach years before the staff member was fired.

One year ago: President Joe Biden announced Monday that al-Qaida leader Ayman al-Zawahri was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Kabul, an operation Biden said delivered justice and hopefully "one more measure of closure" to families of the victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks on the United States. The first ship carrying Ukrainian grain sets out from the port of Odesa under an internationally brokered deal to unblock the embattled country's agricultural exports amid its war with Russia and ease the growing global food crisis.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Ramblin' Jack Elliott is 92. Former Sen. Alfonse D'Amato, R-N.Y., is 86. Actor Giancarlo Giannini is 81. Basketball Hall of Fame coach Roy Williams is 73. Blues singer-musician Robert Cray is 70. Singer Michael Penn is 65. Rock singer Joe Elliott (Def Leppard) is 64. Rock singer-musician Suzi Gardner (L7) is 63. Rapper Chuck D (Public Enemy) is 63. Actor Jesse Borrego is 61. Actor Demian Bichir is 60. Actor John Carroll Lynch is 60. Rock singer Adam Duritz (Counting Crows) is 59. Movie director Sam Mendes is 58. Country singer George Ducas is 57. Actor Jennifer Gareis is 53. Actor Charles Malik Whitfield is 51. Actor Tempestt Bledsoe is 50. Actor Jason Momoa is 44. Actor Honeysuckle Weeks is 44. Singer Ashley Parker Angel is 42. Actor Taylor Fry is 42. Actor Elijah Kelley is 37.