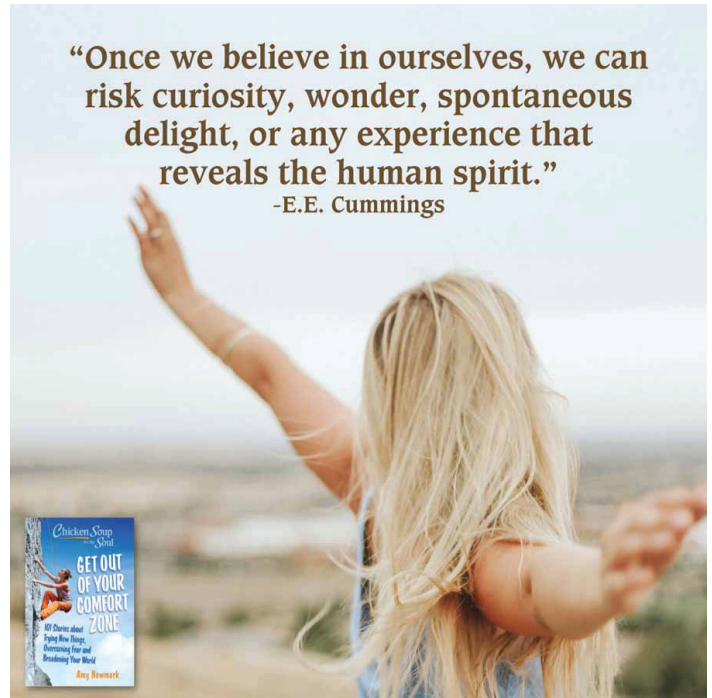


Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 1 of 62

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- Newsweek Bulletin](#)
- [3- Storybook Land Theatre ad](#)
- [4- Angela Glover Thank You](#)
- [5- City Council Story](#)
- [8- SD SearchLight: Relative of famed author wants to find out what's inside mysterious South Dakota monument](#)
- [9- SD SearchLight: Contrasting safety views aired on sixth day of carbon pipeline permit hearing](#)
- [10- SD SearchLight: State seeks pledges to explore South Dakota respectfully](#)
- [11- SD SearchLight: Ohio voters are deciding if it's too easy to pass ballot measures. Other states are watching.](#)
- [17- Weather Pages](#)
- [20- Daily Devotional](#)
- [21- 2023 Community Events](#)
- [22- Subscription Form](#)
- [23- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [24- News from the Associated Press](#)



“Once we believe in ourselves, we can risk curiosity, wonder, spontaneous delight, or any experience that reveals the human spirit.”

-E.E. Cummings

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

Sunday, Aug. 6

Emmanuel Lutheran: Worship with communion, 9 a.m.

United Methodist: Worship with communion: Conde worship, 8:30 a.m.; coffee hour, 9:30 a.m.; Groton worship, 10:30 a.m.

Groton CM&A: Sunday School at 9:15 a.m., Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. (Daniel and Karla Grenz will be speaking)

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

State Jr. Legion Baseball Tournament in Lennox
Groton CM&A: Vacation Bible School (Keepers of the Kingdom), 6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church: Bible Study, 9:30 a.m.; Worship, 11 a.m.

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

OPEN: **Recycling Trailer in Groton**
The recycling trailer is located west of the city shop. It takes cardboard, papers and aluminum cans.
© 2023 Groton Daily Independent

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 2 of 62

The Bulletin by Newsweek

World in Brief

over their effectiveness, which the agency said could lead to "unexpected" pregnancies.

An intense heat wave across South America has seen parts of the continent experience all-time record-high temperatures, despite it being winter in the southern hemisphere.

North Korea has confirmed that it has custody of U.S. soldier Travis King, who crossed into the country from South Korea in July but has not elaborated further.

Adidas generated €400 million (\$437 million) from its first sale of Yeezy trainers left over after ending its collaboration with controversial rapper Kanye West. The shoemaker says it will donate part of the proceeds to groups fighting antisemitism.

The Cyberspace Administration of China has recommended a limit of two hours per day of smartphone usage for children under the age of 18, sending tech stock prices crashing.

In the ongoing war in Ukraine, no serving members of the Russian military received honors at Russia's first state awards since the Wagner Group mutiny against President Vladimir Putin, who claimed medals would only be given to those "who selflessly defended the constitutional order of Russia on June 24," the day of the rebellion.

TALKING POINTS

"I was treated with such disrespect by her. I witnessed how arrogant, self-centered, and unkind she is. I was not protected and was thrown into a s*** situation with little support. My spirit said to run as fast as you [...] can, and I'm so grateful I trusted my gut... this kind of abuse of power happens far too often," filmmaker Sophia Nahli Allison posted on social media. Allison is among members of Lizzo's team accusing the singer of creating a hostile work environment.

"Rumors of a coup attempt in #SierraLeone as fears of 'coup contagion' continue to rise. What we are seeing in #Niger and the #Sahel is a nightmare scenario for the U.S. Concerns over spillover into coastal West Africa. Jihadis empowered, Russian mercenaries filling power vacuums." Colin Clarke, a prominent terrorism researcher and director of policy and research at the Soufan Group think tank, warned that growing unrest across the Sahel region of Africa could provide opportunities to jihadists and the Wagner Group.

WHAT TO WATCH IN THE DAY AHEAD

Market heavyweights Apple and Amazon are set to report their quarterly results after the closing bell. Analysts have upped their price targets on Apple shares but predict the tech giant will post a revenue drop as it battles lower iPhone sales due to weak demand and macroeconomic conditions.

Lollapalooza kicks off in Grant Park, Chicago. This year's lineup includes Billie Eilish, Karol G, Kendrick Lamar, The 1975, K-pop superstars Tomorrow X Together, Red Hot Chili Peppers, and Lana Del Rey. Fans can watch live performances on Hulu (in the U.S.), Weverse Live, and YouTube.

The weekly report on initial jobless claims, S&P and ISM services PMI and factory orders figures are on the economic calendar from 8:30 a.m. ET.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 3 of 62



The Perfect DOG

This search is gonna be ruff!

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY
DAVID ABBINANTI

BOOK BY
JILL ABBINANTI

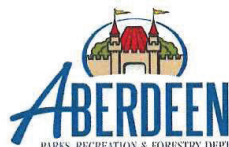
INSPIRED BY THE BOOK
"THE PERFECT DOG"
BY JOHN O'HURLEY

When: Thursday, August 10, 2023

Time: 1:00pm

Where: Groton Community Center – 109 N 3rd St

Entry Fee: \$0



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

City Council discusses location of new comfort station

by Elizabeth Varin

The Groton City Council traded the confines of city hall for the open expanse of the city park as they looked at where the new park bathroom and tornado shelter should be built.

At the close of the Tuesday meeting, council members drove down to the park to finalize where they would like to see the new comfort station built.

"I think we found our location," said Councilman Brian Bahr. "I think it's a great spot."

The council, along with Finance Officer Douglas Heinrich and resident Topper Tastad, mapped out the footprint of the new building based on the old water fountain

that stands south of the current park bathroom. From the south corner of the fountain, the building would stretch 46 feet west and 36 feet south to make up a square next to the current sidewalk.

"Everybody OK with that?" asked Mayor Scott Hanlon, to which council members answered back "yes."

The location was a final piece of the plan the city will submit for possible grant funding from the state and federal governments.

Earlier in the meeting, the council was presented with updated costs to build the facility that includes the women's restroom, men's restroom, family restroom, utility room and standing room that acts as an emergency tornado shelter.

The probable cost of building the 1,629 square foot structure would total about \$630,000, said Dean Marske, president of HKG Architects. Those are estimates, and a finalized amount won't be known until the project goes out to bid.

If the Federal Emergency Management Agency approves a reimbursement rate of 75 percent, and the state kicks in another 10 percent, the eligible reimbursement would total \$450,000, he said. However, the state and federal governments will not reimburse some portions of the project, like the showers and some of the restroom costs, as they aren't requirements for an emergency shelter.



The Groton City Council took a tour to the park to figure out where to put the new bathroom facility. Pictured are Jason Wambach, Kevin Nehls, Douglas Heinrich, Shirley Wells, Topper Tastad, Brian Bahr, Mayor Scott Hanlon, Karyn Babcock and Jon Cutler. (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 6 of 62

Anything that isn't considered necessary will not be reimbursed, added Ted Dickey, program coordinator at the Northeast Council of Governments.

"It's supposed to be a plain jane building," he said.

Dickey said the document that will be submitted to the state to review is nearing completion. He will get council's approval, though, before it is sent off.



The council was doing measurements to determine the location of the new comfort station (park bathroom facility). (Photo by Elizabeth Varin)

Early in the meeting at City Hall, Dickey and Marske asked the council to pick a location for the new building to sit.

Councilman Bahr said he doesn't want to shut down the current bathrooms for a full summer while construction takes place.

"And I don't want port-o-potties because those would get rancid," he added.

Councilwoman Karyn Babcock said she likes the idea of moving the bathroom building south of the current structure. It would open up a camping spot or two at the park.

It's a replacement that is necessary, added Mayor Hanlon.

"We need it," he said. "We need new bathrooms. It's time. It's time."

Texting the city of Groton may be coming

Another improvement the city is looking at would be to communication with residents.

Finance Officer Heinrich told the council about TextMyGov, a system that would allow the city to text residents about issues taking place. The program also allows residents to text the number and get answers or information right away.

Local governments can answer questions, send links to their website and engage with residents, he said. Currently, the city uses the One Call Now from OnSolve to get messages to residents.

"It's an expensive endeavor we do with limited success," he said.

Currently the city spends between \$120-\$200 per call with One Call Now, he said. There is no indication that people pick up the calls or whether it goes to voicemail. And staff dread having to send out the calls too.

TextMyGov costs more, \$3,000 per year with a \$1,500 installation and set up fee, but it could be utilized a lot more than what the city currently does with One Call Now, Heinrich said. And there would be something similar to a paper trail to indicate whether residents have received the notification.

"Is it three times gooder?" asked Councilman Jon Cutler.

Because Groton is a small town, city staff still get questions on their personal cell phones and messaging platforms during their off-time, said Councilwoman Babcock.

"This would help kind of take away from that," she said.

Hanlon replied: "Instead of calling them? That's not going to happen."

If someone is going to call a council member or city worker, they're still going to do it even with something like TextMyGov in place, he added.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 7 of 62

Moving from calls to texts is a sign of the times, Hanlon said. It's something the council should think about moving forward.

Hanlon and Councilwoman Shirley Wells asked city staff to put the question out on the city's website or Facebook page to gauge how residents feel on it.

"We're supposed to serve the people, what they want," Hanlon said. "Let's see what they want."

- Councilwoman Karyn Babcock brought up concerns about how much time city staff spends checking electrical meters. She asked if it would be worthwhile to replace the 80 or so that need to be checked manually each month. Electric Utility Supervisor Todd Gay said the meters aren't necessarily the issue, but rather issues getting the signal back to the city to remotely check the meters. Last year, the city had issues with about 40 meters, and that number has grown to 80 this year, Gay said. It seems to be interference in the signal in some places, and some signals aren't as strong as they used to be. Council members asked whether the city should replace those meters, to which Gay responded not yet. New technology is already in place in Europe and Asia, and is progressing to the U.S. However, it's not quite available yet, and it doesn't make sense to put money into new meters if the technology isn't up to date.

- What's that smell? Wastewater Superintendent Dwight Zerr told the council that standing water along the Railroad Avenue south of the golf course has caused it. "If you get the right wind, it's not good," he added.

- Staff discussed a concern brought up by Mayor Hanlon about undergrounding power lines by the seed companies on Railroad Avenue. "It costs a lot of money," said Electric Utility Supervisor Todd Gay. "Just doing his (Joel Bierman's) property doesn't make sense. We can do it, but if you're going to fix one problem, you should fix two of them." Ted Dickey added that there might be some grant funding available, but there needs to be a cost-benefit analysis done, and it would be hard to show a need if there haven't been power outages or other issues there.

- City staff are looking at a new skid steer, and Public Works Coordinator Terry Herron said he hopes the council can finalize a decision by its next meeting in mid-August. The city has a good bid for a new piece of equipment, but council members asked staff to look into other manufacturers before going with one. The cost of the machine has already jumped up five percent from when the bid was given in July, but the company said they would honor the lower bid cost.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Relative of famed author wants to find out what's inside mysterious South Dakota monument

Ownership of concrete Hugh Glass marker remains unclear

BY: PAUL HAMMEL - AUGUST 2, 2023 1:14 PM

A lonely monument to the heroics of a frontier mountain man may surrender its secrets after all. That is, if someone can determine who actually owns the monument erected in 1923 to commemorate Hugh Glass, who purportedly crawled, limped and rafted 200 miles after being mauled by a bear and left for dead.

This week, a relative of famed author/poet John Neihardt, who led construction of the monument a century ago near Lemmon, pledged to make an ownership claim and seek permission to break into the concrete marker.

That way it could be determined if a time capsule and "original manuscript" left by Neihardt, along with other items of value, are inside.

'We all love a mystery'

"Let's do it," said Coralie Hughes, a granddaughter of Neihardt — who died in 1973 and is Nebraska's poet laureate "in perpetuity" as well as a member of the Nebraska Hall of Fame.

"We all love a mystery, and this is a good one," Hughes added from her home in Indiana.

Neihardt wrote an epic poem about "the crawl" as he called it, and led a group of students and professors from the Nebraska Normal College (now Wayne State College) to northwest South Dakota in 1923, which they believed to be near the site where Glass was attacked a century earlier.

The author wrote in 1923 that he left a time capsule and an "original manuscript" in the "bosom" of the monument. He then challenged members of the "Neihardt Club" of the Nebraska Normal College to return in 100 years to open it, read passages from his poem and celebrate like mountain men would.

But in June, a group from Wayne State College that took up the challenge was rebuffed in its effort to discover what's inside the Hugh Glass monument.

'Can't dig without permission'

"It would still be interesting to find out what's in there, but you can't dig without the state archeologist's permission," said Joseph Weixelman, the Wayne State Western studies professor who led the group to Lemmon in June.

Cassie Vogt, the South Dakota state archeologist, said there are two conundrums to resolve: who really owns the monument, and whether permission should be granted to crack into something with such historical value.

The monument was originally placed on a private ranch, but the land was acquired later by the federal Bureau of Reclamation to build a reservoir. The monument now sits on a campground managed by the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks.

But who owns the monument?

Neihardt, who led its construction, and his descendants? Wayne State College, whose club (now long disbanded) helped to build it? Or possibly the Neihardt State Historic Site, which was established to preserve and promote his legacy and works?

On Tuesday, Neihardt's granddaughter said she's ready to step up to see if her family can obtain permission to dig into the monument.

Important to discover what's inside

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 9 of 62

"If it was important enough for my grandfather to put something in there, it is important enough to find out what it is," Hughes said.

Hughes said one possible document to help confirm ownership by the Neihardt family would be papers creating the Neihardt Trust, which declared that anything produced by her grandfather would be property of the trust.

There are also photographs showing Neihardt leading the construction of the Hugh Glass monument, as well as Neihardt's writings in the student newspaper describing what was done and challenging students to revisit it in 2023.

But when asked if that would be enough proof of ownership, an official with the South Dakota State Historical Society didn't know.

The 1923 monument is not recorded by the Historical Society, said spokesman Kevin Larsen, so it's clear the society does not own it.

"Someone interested in opening the monument would need the appropriate permissions to access it," Larsen said.

Vogt, the South Dakota state archeologist, said it would ultimately be up to the Bureau of Reclamation and South Dakota parks agency — who own and manage the land on which the monument sits — to jointly decide whether someone should break into the monument.

'Sad to see it wrecked'

Not everyone is crazy about the idea.

LaQuita Shockley, the owner/editor of the Dakota Herald, based in Lemmon, said it would be a shame to destroy the monument only to find that what's inside wasn't that valuable.

There are also questions about whether flooding at the reservoir ruined any papers inside the time capsule.

"Is what's encased in there worth destroying the monument?" Shockley asked. "It would be sad to see it wrecked."

Lemmon plans to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the Hugh Glass story with a mountain man rendezvous, from Aug. 22-28.

This story was originally published by the Nebraska Examiner, which like South Dakota Searchlight is part of States Newsroom, a network of news bureaus supported by grants and a coalition of donors as a 501c(3) public charity. Nebraska Examiner maintains editorial independence.

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

Contrasting safety views aired on sixth day of carbon pipeline permit hearing

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - AUGUST 2, 2023 6:29 PM

Opposing sides debated the safety of the proposed Heartland Greenway pipeline Wednesday during the sixth day of a permit hearing at the Casey Tibbs Rodeo Center in Fort Pierre.

Navigator CO2's application to construct a pipeline carrying compressed carbon dioxide has some people worried about a leak.

The project includes "a laundry list of techniques" to ensure safety, according to William Byrd, president of RCP Inc., a pipeline consulting firm with a focus on federal regulations. And while Navigator CO2 has been late responding to some requests from regulators and has not yet completed all of its safety analyses, Byrd said it's not "surprising to me that those things are going to continue to evolve."

The point was echoed by other witnesses, including State Geologist Tim Cowman, with the Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources. He is aware of no "geologic concerns" after reviewing the project, he testified.

South Dakota is the first state to hold permit hearings on the 1,300-mile, five-state pipeline proposal. The company says that's a sign it still has plenty of time to complete all necessary safety measures.

Byrd said the state's three elected public utilities commissioners, who will ultimately vote on the permit, are really deciding on whether or not they "trust the operator" and trust the federal regulations that are already in place.

Brian Jorde, representing landowners along the proposed pipeline route, argued the answer to those questions is "no." He said the company has never built a carbon pipeline, and federal regulators are currently reviewing their pipeline safety rules – a development that caused California to put a pause on the construction of carbon pipelines in that state.

The federal review follows a 2020 leak and carbon dioxide plume from a pipeline in Mississippi that led to the evacuation of approximately 200 residents and the hospitalization of 45.

The planned \$3 billion pipeline would capture carbon dioxide emissions from 21 ethanol and several fertilizer plants. The gas would be liquefied and transported for underground storage in Illinois or for industrial uses such as oil extraction or dry ice. The project is eligible for up to \$1.3 billion in federal tax credits annually, for removing carbon from the atmosphere that would otherwise trap heat and contribute to climate change. The pipeline route would run through 112 miles of eastern South Dakota, in Brookings, Moody, Minnehaha, Lincoln and Turner counties.

Company spokespeople earlier testified that federal regulators are aware of the project and have not reached out with concerns. The company found the annual likelihood of a leak or rupture to be 1% per 1,000 miles, based on federal data over the last 20 years.

Navigator CO2 has negotiated easements with about 30% of affected landowners and has offered an average of \$24,000 per acre for rights to cross private land. The company has not yet used eminent domain, a legal process for obtaining access to land when landowners won't grant it.

The hearing is scheduled to continue through Saturday, and a decision by the Public Utilities Commission is due by Sept. 26.

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.

State seeks pledges to explore South Dakota respectfully

BY: SEARCHLIGHT STAFF - AUGUST 2, 2023 10:48 AM

Modern information sharing means there are almost no undiscovered places anymore, and that's led to some negative effects that state tourism officials are trying to counteract.

Travel South Dakota, an arm of the state Department of Tourism, is launching a campaign encouraging visitors and South Dakotans to pledge that they'll travel respectfully. The campaign, which incorporates the state's only area code, is called Forever 605.

"Forever 605 is about letting the wild be wild, not overcrowding destinations, and leaving nothing behind but your boot prints," said James Hagen, secretary of the Department of Tourism, in a news release.

People can take the pledge online at Forever605.com. Everyone who pledges will receive a Forever 605 sticker and be entered for a chance to win additional prizes.

The department said the goal of the pledge is protecting South Dakota's waterways, trails and natural beauty. The pledge also encourages people to look beyond crowded destinations and seek experiences in all areas of the state, to shop locally, and to treat frontline employees with care.

"By strengthening communities and taking good care of this place we love, our beautiful scenery and opportunities to create meaningful experiences can be enjoyed for generations to come," Hagen said in

the release.

The release didn't mention specific examples, but some natural sites in South Dakota, especially in the Black Hills, have come under stress in recent years from increased visitation driven by online information sharing. Those sites include places that were formerly viewed as unofficial attractions known mostly to locals, such as Devils Bathtub, Poet's Table, Hippie Hole and the Rock Maze.

For people, businesses and organizations involved in the tourism and visitor industries, Travel South Dakota has produced a webinar and a resource page on its industry-focused website, SDVisit.com/Forever-605. The page explains how to engage with the Forever 605 program and share it with communities and visitors.

That page says the department hopes to encourage actions such as picking up trash, staying on designated trails, respecting wildlife, preserving cultural integrity, and more.

Ohio voters are deciding if it's too easy to pass ballot measures. Other states are watching.

Effort follows unsuccessful attempt to create 60% threshold in South Dakota

BY: ZACHARY ROTH AND MORGAN TRAU - AUGUST 2, 2023 5:00 AM

CLEVELAND — Ohioans over the last century have used the state's ballot initiative process to pass constitutional amendments that raised the minimum wage, integrated the National Guard and removed the phrase "white male" from the constitution's list of voter eligibility requirements.

Now, lawmakers want to make it much tougher for an initiative to be approved. Opponents of the effort, who are leading in the polls, say doing so would undermine democracy. Whoever prevails, the verdict could reverberate far beyond the Buckeye State, as other states also eye limits on ballot initiatives.

Since mid-July, Ohioans have been voting on a new ballot measure, drafted by the Republican-controlled legislature and known as Issue 1, that would require future initiatives to be approved by 60% of voters, rather than the simple majority needed now. Also, starting on Jan. 1, 2024, the measure would mandate that, to get an issue on the ballot in the first place, backers gather signatures in all 88 Ohio counties, double the 44 now needed.

GOP lawmakers and their supporters say it's too easy for out-of-state interests to use the initiative process to change the state's constitution. Among other examples, they point to a 2009 ballot measure that legalized casino gambling in the state, which passed with 52% of the vote after national gambling interests spent over \$50 million in support.

States Newsroom partnered with News 5 Cleveland to meet the organizers and canvassers on the ground. The team spent one day with opponents of Issue 1 and the next with supporters.

"We believe that a 60% threshold is absolutely critical to protecting our constitution from these outside influences," state Sen. Jerry Cirino, a Republican, said in an interview at the headquarters of the Lake County GOP in Painesville, about 30 miles east of Cleveland.

And, though it isn't a message they emphasize publicly, Republicans also have said that they want to make it easier to stop a measure to protect reproductive rights that will be on the ballot in November.

"After decades of Republicans' work to make Ohio a pro-life state, the Left intends to write abortion on demand into Ohio's Constitution," Rep. Brian Stewart, a leader of the push for Issue 1, wrote in a letter to colleagues in December. "If they succeed, all the work we accomplished by multiple Republican majorities will be undone."

"Some people say this is all about abortion," Secretary of State Frank LaRose, a Republican, said in May, in a video obtained by News 5. "Well, you know what? It's 100% about keeping a radical pro-abortion amendment out of our constitution."

LaRose, who for months had denied that Issue 1 was about abortion, added that the higher threshold for approval also would be useful down the road to combat other "dangerous plans" from "the left," including raising the minimum wage and legalizing marijuana.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 12 of 62

Power grab seen

Opponents of Issue 1 — a coalition of over 200 groups — call it a brazen power grab by the legislature that threatens Ohio's democracy.

With state lawmakers entrenched in power in Columbus thanks to gerrymandered maps, opponents argue, the ballot initiative process is the last meaningful avenue left for ordinary Ohioans to effect change. Issue 1 would raise the costs both of the signature-gathering process, by making organizers hire canvassers in all 88 counties rather than just half, and of the campaign itself, by requiring that 60% of voters approve. The result would be to make ballot initiatives usable only by deep-pocketed special interests, opponents say.

And, they add, it would threaten the principle of one person, one vote by allowing just 40% of voters plus one to override the clear will of the people.

"Issue 1 would end majority rule as we know it," Jen Miller, the executive director of the League of Women Voters of Ohio, told a raucous crowd at a July 20 rally for the "No" campaign at a union hall in Boardman, just outside Youngstown.

Opponents also accuse the GOP of trying to sneak the measure through by setting an Aug. 8 election date — a time when politics is the furthest thing from many voters' minds — to depress voting rates, since lower turnout is often thought to help Republicans. In last year's August primaries, turnout dropped to a meager 8%.

Still, the early signs suggest that turnout will be strong.

In the first 13 days of early voting, 231,800 Ohioans voted in person, according to numbers released July 28 by the secretary of state's office. That's a higher rate of votes per day than the 136,000 people who voted in person during the first nine days of early voting for last November's high-profile and competitive U.S. Senate race.

However voters come down, other states will be watching closely.

From Arizona to the Dakotas to Florida, legislators are working to make it harder to get initiatives passed into law, or on the ballot at all. In doing so, they're taking aim at a form of direct democracy that's emerged in recent years as a favorite tool of advocates looking to enact popular policies — on issues from health care to the minimum wage to democracy reform — that elected politicians have failed to prioritize.

Sarah Walker, the policy and legal advocacy director for the Ballot Initiative Strategy Center, which works to support progressive ballot measures, said she views the push to restrict ballot initiatives as closely tied to higher-profile efforts, in some states, to tighten voting laws in what voter advocates have called suppression.

"It's ultimately another step on the road towards authoritarianism and towards consolidated power," said Walker. "And what happens in Ohio is going to shape ... whether or not these attacks on direct democracy are going to continue."

Ballot initiatives grow popular

Ballot initiatives have found themselves in state lawmakers' crosshairs just as they've become a key method to subvert those lawmakers' power.

A quarter-century ago, conservatives started using the initiative process — which exists in about half of all states — to make gains they were unable to achieve through legislation, on issues from voter ID to criminal justice to same-sex marriage.

In Ohio, a 2004 gay marriage ban put on the ballot by GOP lawmakers — reportedly at the urging of top White House political strategist Karl Rove — was credited with super-charging conservative turnout, helping President George W. Bush win the state, and with it, reelection.

But after Republicans took full control of a slew of state governments in 2010, the shoe switched to the other foot.

Shut out of state capitols, progressives in many states poured resources into the ballot initiative process, which they've used throughout the last decade — including in deep-red states like Utah, Idaho, Kansas, and Arkansas — to expand access to Medicaid, protect abortion rights, boost the minimum wage, establish paid sick leave, reform the redistricting process, liberalize voting rules, legalize marijuana and more.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 13 of 62

In some states where Republican legislators have little fear of losing their majorities, the ballot initiative process has become their opponents' most significant check on lawmakers' power.

The Ballot Initiative Strategy Center counts 76 state bills introduced this year that would make the initiative process harder to use — often by creating tougher signature requirements or by raising the threshold for approval, the two methods used by Issue 1.

Last fall, Arizona voters approved two measures, both backed by the legislature, that restricted the initiative process. Voters rejected a third, further-reaching measure that would have rendered the process all but moot by letting lawmakers amend or repeal initiatives already passed by voters.

Arkansas this year raised the number of counties where initiative supporters must gather signatures from 15 to 50. North Dakota voters will weigh in on a measure next year that would amend the constitution by raising the threshold for initiatives to 60%.

And in 2020, Florida imposed tougher signature-gathering requirements for the initiative process — a response in part to the passage in 2018 of a measure re-enfranchising people with past convictions, which the legislature had already weakened via legislation.

Some of these efforts have failed. South Dakota voters in June 2022 rejected a bid by the legislature to raise the threshold for some ballot measures to 60% — which one top lawmaker acknowledged was aimed at foiling a measure on the November ballot to expand Medicaid. (The Medicaid expansion ultimately passed with 56% of the vote.)

And in Missouri, legislation that would have required ballot initiatives to gain 57% approval passed the House but died in the Senate in May. Republicans, who control state government, have vowed to try again next year. As in Ohio, lawmakers have said they want to stop an abortion rights measure, which could be on the 2024 ballot in the state.

"There is a common thread between all these efforts," Elena Nunez, the director of state operations at Common Cause, told reporters. "They are responses to people using the ballot measure process to address the important issues of the day — things like economic justice, democracy and voting rights, and reproductive health."

Nunez added: "We are seeing states where the legislature is not only not doing that — they are taking efforts to make sure that the people themselves can't do it either."

Abortion access

Ohio's Issue 1 popped up because of one reason: abortion.

When swing states started enshrining abortion access into their constitutions in the wake of the Supreme Court's ruling striking down *Roe v. Wade*, Ohio reproductive-rights groups jumped on board. They organized a November ballot measure to do the same for their state.

In May, the Republicans who control the Ohio Statehouse responded by passing a joint resolution to put their own measure, Issue 1, on the ballot. As legislators voted, hundreds of protestors, including law enforcement, union workers and nurses, demonstrated outside the chambers.

The resolution called for an August special election, meaning that if Issue 1 passed, the abortion rights measure in November would need to win 60% of the vote.

That threshold could well be the difference between victory and defeat. Of the six abortion-rights ballot measures to have been held since *Roe* was struck down, four — those in Kentucky, Montana, Michigan, and Missouri — have passed with between 52 and 59 percent of the vote. Only in deep-blue Vermont and California did they win over 60%.

But there was one problem with lawmakers' plan. Back in December, they had passed a bill to eliminate the vast majority of August special elections, which have an abysmal turnout rate and cost \$20 million. A coalition of Issue 1 opponents filed a lawsuit in the Ohio Supreme Court challenging the August special election date, citing the recent change in law. In 1897, they noted, the Ohio Supreme Court stated that the legislature couldn't amend statutes by passing joint resolutions.

The court's Republican majority allowed the election to move forward, finding that the legislature could override itself to set an election date.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 14 of 62

Proponents of Issue 1 say they want to stop wealthy special interests from coming into the state. But the effort is being bankrolled in part by Richard Uihlein — an out-of-state billionaire and a major supporter of groups that helped organize the rally on Jan. 6, 2021 that led to the deadly insurrection at the U.S. Capitol — who gave over \$4 million to a pro-Issue-1 PAC Protect Our Constitution.

Newly filed campaign finance documents reveal that the PAC has raised about \$4.8 million. Uihlein's donations have been 82% of the group's total support. But out-of-state interests aren't just funding the vote yes side.

One Person One Vote, the anti-Issue 1 PAC, has raised more than \$14.8 million, according to the filings. The largest lump sum was \$1.8 million from the Tides Foundation, a progressive social advocacy charity based in California. In total, 83% of the funds raised by the vote no campaign have also been from out-of-state interests. However, these include national organizations that have chapters in Ohio, like the National Education Association.

Some of the ads run by Issue 1 supporters have been called misleading. One declares: "Out-of-state special interests that put trans ideology in classrooms and encourage sex-changes for kids are hiding behind slick ads." Neither the abortion-rights measure nor any other potential Ohio ballot measure in the works relates to trans issues.

LaRose, too, has received criticism for campaigning energetically for Issue 1 while being responsible for overseeing the vote in an unbiased way as the state's top elections official. In July, he also announced his campaign for the U.S. Senate, in a competitive Republican primary.

"We don't expect, especially this close to the election, for the secretary of state to be out there as the chief cheerleader of Issue 1," Catherine Turcer of Common Cause Ohio told News 5 recently.

A spokesperson for LaRose did not respond to a request for comment at that time.

Polling favors opponents

A Suffolk University/USA Today poll released July 20 found that 57% of registered Ohio voters oppose Issue 1, while 26% support it, with 17% undecided.

That has some Issue 1 opponents talking about triumphing by a margin large enough to make a statement to the legislature.

"I don't want to just win this, I want to win this big," Jaladah Aslam, an organizer with the Ohio Unity Coalition, a civil rights group, told the crowd at the Boardman rally. "I want to send a message to them to stop messing with us."

Getting the resounding victory they want will depend on how effectively Issue 1's opponents can mobilize their voters. By July 28, the campaign said it had knocked on over 63,000 doors and participated in more than 15,000 conversations since May.

"Overwhelmingly, folks who know about the issue are excited to vote no or they've already voted no," said Tatiana Rodzos, an organizer for Ohio Citizen Action, a progressive group playing a leading role in the "No" effort.

As he went door-to-door on a recent afternoon in Westlake, a Cleveland suburb, Mike Todd found plenty of potential voters who didn't know about the election.

"It's kind of voter education," said Todd, the field director for OCA. "Making sure folks are aware that there's even an election going on in August."

States Newsroom and News 5 followed as Todd went door-to-door on a recent afternoon in Westlake, a Cleveland suburb. Plenty of potential voters said they didn't know much about the election.

At each door, Todd introduced himself and described the measure as a threat to majority rule that would take power away from regular Ohioans and give it to politicians. Most people promised to study the literature he left and consider the issue.

Playing a key role in the "No" campaign are progressive organizations who may look to use the initiative process to advance their issues. That means not only reproductive-rights groups, but also workers'-rights advocates pushing to raise the minimum wage, anti-gerrymandering activists who want to reform redistricting, and more.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 15 of 62

One Fair Wage is collecting signatures for a possible 2024 ballot measure that would boost Ohio's minimum wage to \$15 an hour, from the current \$10.10, by 2026. On a recent afternoon, Barry Goldberg, a canvasser for the group, was asking for signatures on a busy shopping street in Cleveland Heights, a small city just outside Cleveland.

If passers-by agreed to sign — and most registered Ohio voters did — Goldberg would then tell them about the election for Issue 1, explaining that it would make it harder to pass initiatives like the minimum-wage measure. He asked them to write their contact information on a separate sheet so that organizers could get them to the polls.

Goldberg said the current rules make it challenging enough to gather the signatures needed to get an issue on the ballot through the initiative process. In the 44 counties required, organizers must get signatures from registered voters numbering at least 5% of the county's total vote in the last gubernatorial election.

Having to gather signatures in all 88 counties?

"That would kill nearly every ballot initiative before it started," Goldberg said. "All it would take is someone with a million dollars who didn't like a bill to just dump money into a handful of counties, and do everything they can to make it harder to get signatures. Something could be wildly popular, and still not even get (on the ballot)."

Making change difficult

But Issue 1 supporters say trying to change the state's founding documents should be difficult.

"If a constitutional issue is significant enough to impact all 11.8 million Ohioans, then it should have to garner and demonstrate broad statewide backing for consideration," the Ohio Restaurant Association and other business groups who oppose a minimum-wage hike said in a May statement backing Issue 1.

Cirino, the Republican senator, agrees.

"The U.S. Constitution has very stiff requirements in order to make amendments," he said. "The founding fathers designed it that way, so that the Constitution could not be changed on a willy-nilly basis."

"Yes" campaign leaders have mostly tried to publicly downplay the role of abortion in the effort. But it wasn't hard to find Ohioans who cited the issue to explain their support for Issue 1.

"The driving force for us to be here was the abortion issue," said Bob Dlugos, a local voter who stopped in to the Lake County GOP headquarters with his wife to pick up a lawn sign. "I do not want abortion to go up to the date of birth," said Dlugos. "So that 60% vote is crucial."

In fact, the proposed abortion-rights ballot measure would allow for abortion to be banned "after fetal viability," unless a pregnant patient's life or health were at risk.

But Cirino said passing Issue 1 would have a positive impact beyond abortion.

"Minimum wage, recreational marijuana — there will be other things," he said. "If organizations realize that they can easily get into the Ohio Constitution with a 50%-plus-one majority, they're going to be flocking to the state of Ohio to get things done that way."

And Cirino suggested that making direct democracy too easy undermines the whole idea of representative government.

"Legislators — we are all elected by the people," he said. "We speak for the people. We are up for election every two years in the House, in the Senate every four years.

"So that gives the people an opportunity to express their views to the legislators," Cirino continued. "And then we can act accordingly, in their best interests."

But Issue 1 opponents say that because lawmakers have used the redistricting process to ensure they'll stay in power, that system isn't working.

"We're living under gerrymandered maps," Mia Lewis, the associate director of Common Cause Ohio, told reporters recently. "There's super-majorities in both chambers ... one party controls the Ohio Supreme Court, and all statewide elected positions. But it's not enough. They actually want to take away the citizens' last meaningful way to have their voices heard."

Turnout

Although polling has favored vote no, and so has the sharp increase in absentee ballots, this election

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 16 of 62

will most likely come down to one thing: voter turnout.

When it comes to Republicans, state data shows they went out to vote twice the amount as Democrats in the 2022 primary. This provides some comfort for Cirino. But Rodzos says he is in for a shock.

"It's just really motivating to think that supporters of Issue 1, they don't see that we can do this — but we're going to do it," the vote no advocate said. "The energy is there, the excitement is there and the anger is there."





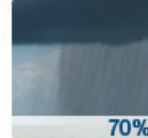
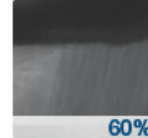
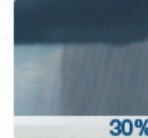
Until Aug. 8, advocates will continue knocking.

Zachary Roth is the National Democracy Reporter for States Newsroom.

Morgan Trau is a political reporter and multimedia journalist based out of the WEWS Columbus Bureau in Ohio. A graduate of Syracuse University's S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, Trau has previously worked as an investigative, political and fact-checking reporter in Grand Rapids, Mich., at WZZM-TV; a reporter and multimedia journalist in Spokane, Wash., at KREM-TV; and has interned at 60 Minutes and worked for CBS Interactive and PBS NewsHour.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 17 of 62

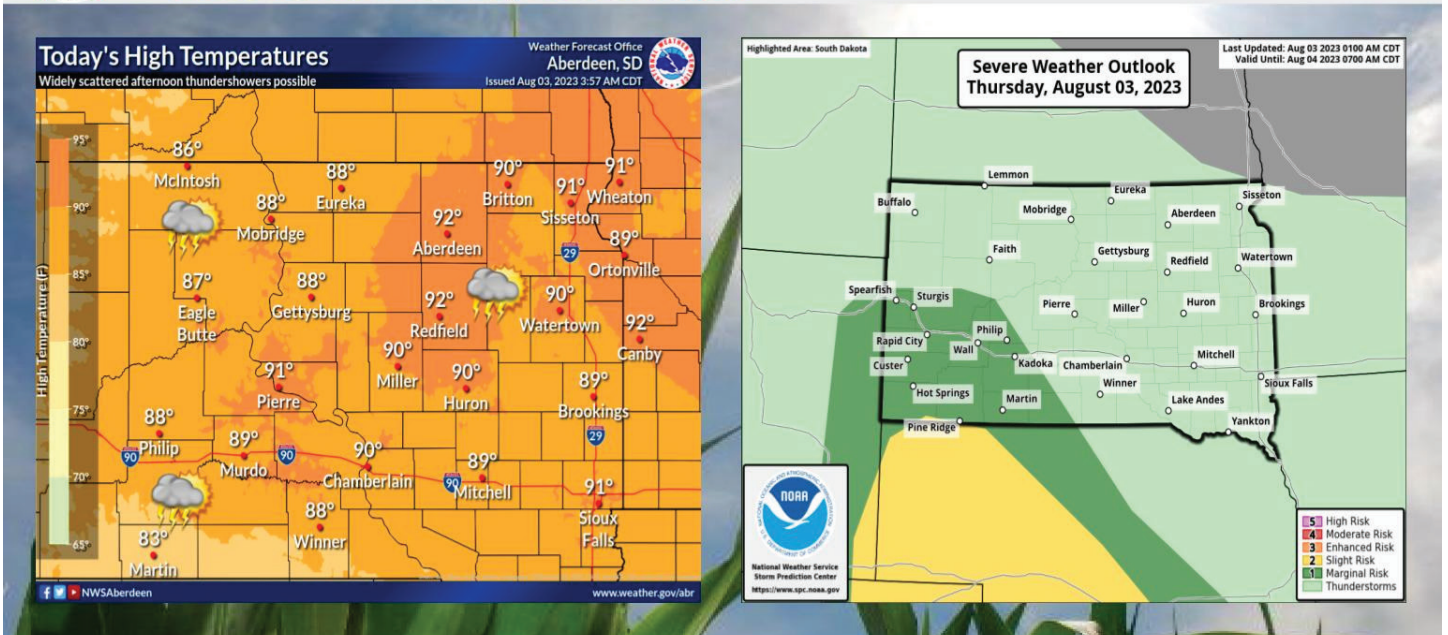
Today	Tonight	Friday	Friday Night	Saturday	Saturday Night	Sunday
						
20%	20%	30% 30%	50%	70%	60%	30%
Partly Sunny then Slight Chance T-storms	Slight Chance T-storms	Chance Showers then Chance T-storms	Chance T-storms	Showers Likely	Showers Likely and Breezy	Chance Showers and Breezy
High: 92 °F	Low: 66 °F	High: 84 °F	Low: 63 °F	High: 78 °F	Low: 60 °F	High: 78 °F



One More Hot Day in Store

August 3, 2023
4:23 AM

Severe weather threat stays west and south



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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

Upper 80s and lower 90s will once again be in place across the area today, making for another hot day. Although, humidity is forecast to be a bit less this afternoon compared to the past couple days. Widely scattered afternoon showers and thunderstorms are possible, but the threat for organized severe storms is generally west and south of the forecast area.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 18 of 62

Yesterday's Groton Weather

High Temp: 92 °F at 5:31 PM

Low Temp: 67 °F at 6:22 AM

Wind: 24 mph at 12:34 AM

Precip: : 0.00

Day length: 14 hours, 42 minutes

Today's Info

Record High: 107 in 1947

Record Low: 39 in 1971

Average High: 85

Average Low: 59

Average Precip in Aug.: 0.22

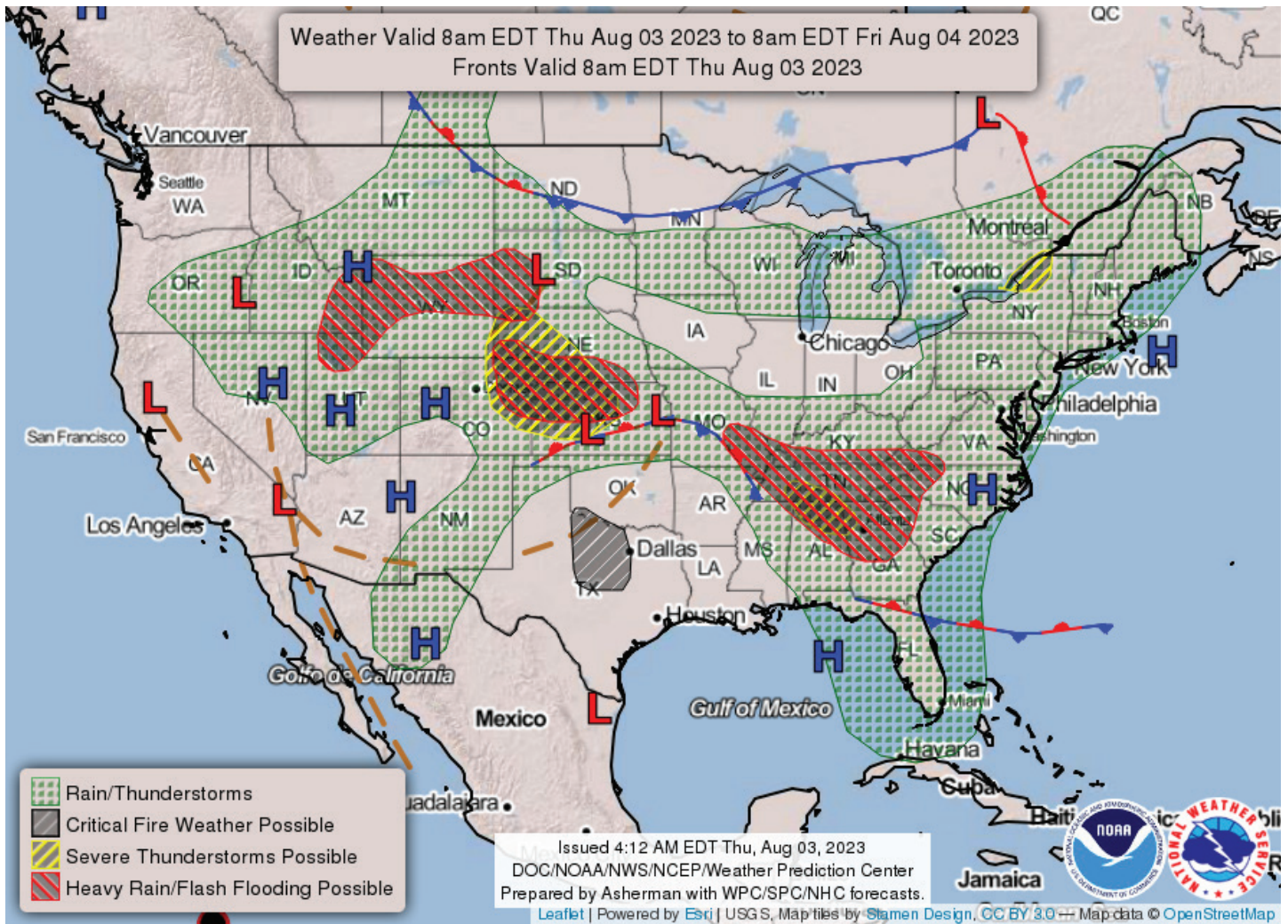
Precip to date in Aug.: 0.00

Average Precip to date: 14.32

Precip Year to Date: 12.67

Sunset Tonight: 8:59:52 PM

Sunrise Tomorrow: 6:18:30 AM



Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 19 of 62

Today in Weather History

August 3, 1984: During the morning hours, estimated four to six inches of rain fell from west of Garden City in Clark County to north of Henry in Codington County. Low lying areas were flooded, and a potato field west of Garden City was washed out.

August 3, 1989: Strong thunderstorm winds gusted to 70 mph, driving golf ball size hail through most the windows on the west side of buildings in Amherst, Marshall County. Corn crops were stripped off their leaves with an estimated 1800 acres being severely damaged.

August 3, 1996: High winds up to 90 mph uprooted and damaged many trees in Mobridge. The roofs of two buildings were blown off while other roofs received some damage. Windows were broken out in eight vehicles at the South Dakota Winds up to 90 mph also caused damage in Herreid where doors on a concrete elevator were blown out.

August 3, 2008: Severe thunderstorms moved across north-central South Dakota during the early morning hours bringing large hail and damaging thunderstorm winds to the area. Isabel, Timber Lake, and Selby were among the hardest hit locations. Isabel in Dewey County saw eighty mph winds which damaged or downed several trees, damaged carnival equipment, destroyed some sheds, and rolled some large hay bales. High winds up to 80 mph severely damaged a barn, downed some power poles along with many trees and branches in and around Timber Lake. Also, several vehicles and many acres of crops were damaged by the hail and high winds. The Little Moreau Elk Lodge roof was destroyed, and some windows were broken. One-hundred mph winds downed six power poles and caused considerable damage to sunflowers, corn, wheat, and beans in and around Selby in Walworth County. Also, an empty grain bin was blown over and damaged. Numerous trees were snapped off. The coop seed building in Selby sustained considerable damage with many trees uprooted or damaged throughout town.

August 3, 2009: A cold front moving southeast across the area brought many severe thunderstorms to parts of central and northeast South Dakota. Large hail up to golf ball size along with wind gusts nearing 80 mph occurred across the area. Brown, Hyde, Lyman, and Gregory Counties were among the hardest hit locations. Hail and sixty mph winds significantly damaged many acres of soybeans and corn near Putney in Brown County. Seventy to 80 mph winds brought down several large trees along with many large tree branches in and around Highmore in Hyde County. The high winds also tipped over a semi, a gravity wagon, and a grain auger along with damaging several fences. There were also power outages in Highmore. Golf ball size hail combined with strong winds broke many windows in the house and dented several vehicles south of Kennebec in Lyman County. The house pet was also injured. Large hail, up to two inches in diameter, fell in a swath a few miles wide from northwestern to south-central Gregory County. The hail broke numerous windows, severely damaged siding and roofs of homes and other buildings, and severely damaged vehicles, while covering the ground in several places. Property damage has been particularly severe in the town of Gregory. Crop damage was also severe along the swath, with corn crops in some areas destroyed to the point of only small stubble left.

1885 - A tornado hit Philadelphia and Camden along its eight mile path. (David Ludlum)

1970: Hurricane Celia was the costliest tropical cyclone in Texas history until Hurricane Alicia in 1983. Hurricane Celia made landfall near Port Aransas as a major Hurricane, Category 3 on the Saffir-Simpson scale with sustained winds of 130 mph.

1987 - A severe thunderstorm moved across Cheyenne, WY, during the mid afternoon. The thunderstorm produced hailstones up to two inches in diameter causing more than 37 million dollars damage. The eastern U.S. sweltered in the heat. A dozen cities reported record high temperatures for the date, including Paducah KY with a reading of 102 degrees. Beckley WV established an all-time record with an afternoon high of 93 degrees. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1988 - Thunderstorms developing ahead of a slow moving cold front produced severe weather from the Central High Plains to the Upper Great Lakes Region. Thunderstorms around Fort Collins, CO, produced wind gusts to 74 mph along with marble size hail. Sixteen persons were injured in the storm, most of whom were accidentally locked out of their office building, having evacuated it when the fire alarm went off, apparently triggered by lightning. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 20 of 62

Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

GOING BEYOND THE ORDINARY

What does it take to "go beyond" others and find happiness? Education? Wealth? Family? Networking? Occupation? Power? Recognition? Prestige?

What about "going beyond" for the Christian? Are there standards for "happiness?"

The first Psalm almost explodes with a joyful exclamation of one who "goes beyond." That one is called "blessed," or in many translations, "happy." And it is not "everyone" who attains this plateau of happiness. It is "the one" who is a believer in the Word of God – Christ Jesus.

To look at some who profess to be followers of the Lord does not provide an easy answer. They do not seem to be satisfied with life, have a sense of peace about them, or look forward to living each day with expectancy and joy. They appear "ordinary." They give the world the wrong impression of what God has to offer us through His Son.

The first Psalm provides the "do's" and "do not's" to "go beyond" the ordinary Christian and become an extraordinary Christian.

Negatively, the extraordinary Christian does not follow the advice of the wicked, spend time talking to them, or listening to their advice, and even avoids being in their presence whenever possible.

Positively, the extraordinary Christian takes pleasure in honoring God, following His teachings, and being obedient to His Word.

The extraordinary Christian is always seeking ways to grow into the likeness of Christ, to follow His teachings, and to worship and serve Him daily.

Prayer: Help us, Heavenly Father, to willingly make any and every sacrifice that is necessary to become all that we can become in You and through You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night. Psalm 1:1-4



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

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 21 of 62

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

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 22 of 62

The Groton Independent Printed & Mailed Weekly Edition

Subscription Form

All prices listed include 6.5% Sales Tax

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

E-mail _____

Phone Number _____

Mail Completed Form to:

Groton Independent

P.O. Box 34

Groton, SD 57445-0034

or scan and email to paperpaul@grotonsd.net

Groton Daily Independent

www.397news.com

Subscription Form

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

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

Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City _____

State, Zip Code _____

Phone Number _____

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

E-mail _____

Password _____

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

paypal.me/paperpaul



Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 23 of 62



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.01.23

8 24 30 45 61 12

MegaPlier: 4x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$1,250,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 17 Hrs 11
DRAW: Mins 0 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.02.23

1 18 33 41 51 10

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$7,100,000

NEXT 2 Days 16 Hrs 26
DRAW: Mins 0 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.02.23

4 15 31 39 46 14

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT 16 Hrs 40 Mins
DRAW: 59 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.02.23

8 9 12 14 19

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$20,000

NEXT 2 Days 16 Hrs 40
DRAW: Mins 59 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.02.23

5 23 30 62 63 9

TOP PRIZE:

\$10,000,000

NEXT 2 Days 17 Hrs 9
DRAW: Mins 59 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:

08.02.23

23 24 33 51 64 5

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:

\$124,000,000

NEXT 2 Days 17 Hrs 9
DRAW: Mins 59 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

Editorial Roundup: South Dakota

By The Associated Press undefined

Yankton Press & Dakotan. July 31, 2023.

Editorial: Could South Dakota Repeal Its Medical Cannabis Law?

A proposed ballot initiative has materialized that would scuttle South Dakota's new medicinal marijuana law. To be clear, this is only a proposed measure and has a long way to go to get to a vote, and if it should get on the ballot, it would theoretically have a lot of momentum working against it.

Still, the prospect is there and must be treated with a degree of seriousness.

The ballot measure proposes to repeal 2020's Initiated Measure 26 (IM26), which established the legalization of medicinal cannabis in South Dakota. IM26 passed with nearly 70% of the vote.

Despite that outcome, a Newell man, Travis Ismay, is preparing a petition drive to get a repeal measure on the 2024 ballot, according to the office of Attorney General Marty Jackley, which released a draft ballot explanation last week.

This can be viewed as frustrating on several fronts.

First, the proposed measure is trying to undo a law that was approved overwhelmingly just three years ago. That would seem to have been a rather definitive statement on the matter.

It was emphatic enough that it compelled state lawmakers to begin moving forward in 2021 on implementing IM26, or so it appeared. As we recall, the 2021 session started with a surprising lack of action or urgency on implementing medicinal marijuana regulations, possibly with the belief (as was speculated then) that many lawmakers figured it would be scuttled somehow by an executive branch that wasn't particularly excited by the idea. But progress was eventually made, perhaps because it became clear to lawmakers that they couldn't ignore 70% of the voters on the topic.

Counties and municipalities began fashioning their own rules on how development should work. Yankton County was surprisingly progressive in its approach, while some other counties and cities were notably more stringent.

For the public, getting medicinal cards has reportedly been a slow process, but headway has been made. But right now, there are about 80,000 card holders in South Dakota, Kittrick Jeffries, CEO of Puffy's Dispensary, told Rapid City TV station KOTA.

Also, medical dispensaries are now opening up with more frequency in the states after a slow start. Yankton saw its first such dispensary open last summer, and at least two more (one within Yankton and another in rural Yankton County) have opened in the past couple of weeks. A new dispensary also opened last week in Vermillion. These are not fly-by-night operations: They have required considerable investment and procedural work, as well as procuring product, which must be produced in South Dakota.

The new petition effort seems to be another hurdle in this process, and it may cause some potential medical dispensary operators to temporarily rethink their plans. (And perhaps that freezing effect is part of the point of all this.)

The petition effort must collect more than 17,000 valid signatures to get on the ballot, which is not impossible but, given the overwhelming support for medicinal marijuana shown in 2020, might make the odds rather long.

Still, the added uncertainties it creates are frustrating, not only for those who use medicinal cannabis but also for those who are trying to establish dispensaries or produce and process product to meet the demand. A repeal of this law would undo a lot of work and investment made on this issue the last three years and put South Dakota at a disadvantage compared to several surrounding states.

Undeniably, a repeal of IM26 would be a huge step. The question is: In which direction?

Madison Daily Leader. July 27, 2023.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 25 of 62

Editorial: State surplus is good news; what to do next?

We can debate taxes and spending in South Dakota for a long time, but let's take a moment to recognize the great financial situation South Dakota government is in.

Jim Terwilliger, commissioner of South Dakota's Bureau of Finance and Management, reported to the Joint Appropriations Committee Wednesday morning about the \$96 million budget surplus achieved in the year ended June 30. More than \$17 million of the surplus was revenue the state collected above forecast, while \$78 million was from expenses lower than budgeted.

Budget surpluses are not new for South Dakota, whose state Constitution requires the Legislature to pass a balanced budget, combined with the generally conservative culture of budgeting in the state. Surpluses, by law, are put into general fund reserves and must be re-appropriated to be spent.

These factors have led to a healthy state financial situation: AAA rating by bond agencies, a fully funded retirement system for government employees (not just state employees, but city, county and school workers) and very little debt in state government.

South Dakota has several trust funds, including the School and Public Lands fund, and part of the interest and earnings from each of them is sent to the Legislature for spending each year. It's a financial position that most states in the U.S. would love to have.

Not all surpluses are good, however. A notable portion of the expense surplus was a result of being understaffed at important jobs, such as workers at the Health and Human Services in Yankton. We'd much rather see those jobs filled with capable people to help South Dakotans in need than have a financial gain.

There are also some critics who would prefer more spending and less prudence. Others believe taxes should be lowered if there are additional funds available after the fiscal years are complete. They certainly have a point, but we prefer to have reserves and surpluses that can be used for extraordinary items, such as replacing the century-old penitentiary and other corrections facilities. The state Legislature and the governor have already been setting aside funds for their replacement.

South Dakota's finances are among the best of any state, and we expect that will continue into the foreseeable future.

END

Waves grow up to 13 feet tall in California as Earth warms, research finds

By JULIE WATSON Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Waves are getting bigger and surf at least 13 feet (about 4 meters) tall is becoming more common off California's coast as the planet warms, according to innovative new research that tracked the increasing height from historical data gathered over the past 90 years.

Oceanographer Peter Bromirski at Scripps Institution of Oceanography used the unusual method of analyzing seismic records dating back to 1931 to measure the change in wave height.

When waves ricochet off the shore, they collide with incoming waves and cause a ripple of energy through the seafloor that can be picked up by seismographs designed to detect earthquakes. The greater the impact, the taller the wave is.

Until now, scientists relied on a network of buoys by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration that collect data on wave height along U.S. coasts, but that data along the California coast only went back to 1980.

"Until I stumbled upon this data set, it was almost impossible to make that comparison with any kind of reliability," Bromirski said.

To go back further, Bromirski gathered a team of undergraduate students to analyze daily seismic readings covering decades of winters. It was a slow, painstaking process that took years and involved digitizing drums of paper records. But he said it was important in learning how things have changed over nearly a century along California's coast.

They found that average winter wave heights have grown by as much as a foot since 1970, when global

warming is believed to have begun accelerating. Swells at least 13 feet tall (about 4 meters) are also happening a lot more often, occurring at least twice as often between 1996 to 2016 than from 1949 to 1969.

Bromirski was also surprised to find extended periods of exceptionally low wave heights prior to about 1970 and none of those periods since.

"Erosion, coastal flooding, damage to coastal infrastructure is, you know, something that we're seeing more frequently than in the past," Bromirski said. "And, you know, combined with sea level rise, bigger waves mean that is going to happen more often."

Changes in waves are showing up in other ways, too.

"There's about twice as many big wave events since 1970 as there was prior to 1970," Bromirski said.

The study, published Tuesday in the *Journal of Geophysical Research: Oceans*, adds to the evidence that climate change is causing massive shifts in the world's oceans. Other studies have shown waves are not only getting taller but also more powerful.

Damage from intense storms and massive surf is already playing out. This winter, California's severe storms and giant waves collapsed bluffs, damaged piers and flooded parts of the state's picturesque Highway 1.

Bromirski said that is a harbinger of the future. Scientists say global warming may even be accelerating, ushering in even bigger waves.

As sea levels rise and storms intensify, bigger waves will cause more flooding in coastal communities, erode away beaches, trigger landslides and destabilize remaining bluffs, he said.

These issues are of particular concern along the California coast, where sea cliffs have already started crumbling and brought down homes in recent years. Because of sea level rise, projections at the end of the 21st century indicate even moderate waves might cause damage comparable to that of extreme weather events, according to the study.

Oceanographer Gary Griggs at the University of California Santa Cruz said while a jump of a foot in wave height over more than 50 years is not huge, the findings are consistent with what scientists know is happening to the world's oceans as they warm: They are becoming increasingly violent due to more extreme storms and wreaking havoc along coasts.

Griggs, who was not involved in the research, said it adds to growing scientific data showing how fast the world is warming and how quickly seas are rising.

"We know hurricanes are more intense and last longer, and now we've got, you know, waves increasing in power. So those are all consistent," he said. "The challenge ... is sort of how to really respond to that."

Adidas brings in \$437 million from selling Yeezy shoes that will benefit anti-hate groups

By DAVID McHUGH AP Business Writer

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) — Adidas brought in 400 million euros (\$437 million) from the first release of Yeezy sneakers left over after breaking ties with Ye, the rapper formerly known as Kanye West, as the German sportswear maker tries to offload the unsold shoes and donate part of the proceeds to groups fighting antisemitism and other forms of hate.

The first batch of shoes sold in June helped the company reach an operating profit of 176 million euros in the second quarter, better than it originally planned, Adidas said in a statement Thursday.

After Ye's antisemitic and other offensive comments led the company to end its partnership with the rapper in October, Adidas has sought a way to dispose of 1.2 billion euros worth of the high-end shoes in a responsible way.

"We will continue to carefully sell off more of the existing Yeezy inventory," said CEO Bjørn Gulden, who took over in January. Adidas said it sold out the first batch of Yeezy shoes and launched a second release on Wednesday.

"This is much better than destroying and writing off the inventory and allows us to make substantial donations to organizations like the Anti-Defamation League, the Philonise & Keeta Floyd Institute for Social Change and Robert Kraft's Foundation to Combat Antisemitism," Gulden said.

Several Jewish civic leaders contacted by The Associated Press said they weren't planning to buy a pair of Yeezys themselves but generally welcomed the plan to support anti-hate organizations, saying the company is trying to make the best of a bad situation.

The Adidas chief executive added that the Yeezy sales are "of course also helping both our cash flow and general financial strength."

The blow-up of the Ye partnership put Adidas in a precarious position because of the popularity of the Yeezy line, and it faced growing pressure to end ties last year as other companies cut off the rapper. Adidas said it now expects to report an operating loss of 450 million euros this year instead of 700 million euros.

Yeezy revenue from June were "largely in line" with sales seen in the same April-to-June period last year, Adidas said.

Adidas has not said how many shoes it is selling or whether Ye is receiving royalties from the sales. It has only said that "we will honor our contractual obligations and enforce our rights but will not share any more details."

The US wants Kenya to lead a force in Haiti with 1,000 police. Watchdogs say they'll export abuse

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — As the U.S. government was considering Kenya to lead a multinational force in Haiti, it was also openly warning Kenyan police officers against violent abuses. Now 1,000 of those officers might head to Haiti to take on gang warfare.

It's a challenging turn for a police force long accused by rights watchdogs of killings and torture, including gunning down civilians during Kenya's COVID-19 curfew. One local group confirmed that officers fatally shot more than 30 people in July, all of them in Kenya's poorest neighborhoods, during opposition-called protests over the rising cost of living.

"We are saddened by the loss of life and concerned by high levels of violence, including the use of live rounds" during those protests, the U.S. said in a joint statement with 11 other nations in mid-July.

Now the U.S., as this month's president of the U.N. Security Council, is preparing to put forward a resolution to authorize a mission in Haiti led by Kenyan police, who have relatively little overseas experience in such large numbers and don't speak French, which is used in Haiti.

"This is not a traditional peacekeeping force," the U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Linda Thomas-Greenfield, said Tuesday.

For more than nine months, the U.N. had appealed unsuccessfully for a country to lead an effort to restore order to the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere.

Kenya's interest was announced on Saturday, with its foreign minister saying his government has "accepted to positively consider" leading a force in Haiti and sending 1,000 police officers to train the Haitian National Police, "restore normalcy" and protect strategic installations.

"Kenya stands with persons of African descent across the world," Alfred Mutua said. A ministry spokesman didn't respond to questions about the force or what Kenya would receive in return.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken on Tuesday praised Kenya for simply considering to serve, a sign of the difficulty in mustering international forces for Haiti, where deadly gang violence has exploded since the 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moise.

Some organizations that have long tracked alleged police misconduct in Kenya are worried.

"We had some consultations with Kenyan (civil society organizations) last week and there was general consensus that Kenya should not be seen to be exporting its abusive police to other parts of the world," Otsieno Namwaya, Kenya researcher with Human Rights Watch, told The Associated Press.

Kenya's security forces have a yearslong presence in neighboring Somalia to counter Islamic extremists — a deadly threat that some Kenyans say should keep police at home — and troops have been in restive eastern Congo since last year. Past U.N. peacekeeping deployments include Sierra Leone.

But while other African nations including Rwanda, Ghana and Egypt have thousands of personnel in

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 28 of 62

U.N. peacekeeping missions, Kenya currently has less than 450, according to U.N. data. Just 32 are police officers. The U.S. has a total of 35 personnel in U.N. peacekeeping missions.

"I have no knowledge of any complaints raised by the U.N. during those deployments, hence no concern on my end," the executive director of the watchdog Independent Medico-Legal Unit, Peter Kiama, told the AP. "Remember, the major challenges regarding policing practices in Kenya include political interference with police command and independence, inadequate political will to reform the institution, culture of internal impunity and criminality, and inadequate internal and external accountability."

With the Haiti deployment, Kenyan police would likely be in charge instead of answering to a U.N. force commander as in traditional peacekeeping missions.

Haiti's Prime Minister Ariel Henry on Tuesday said he spoke with Kenyan President William Ruto to thank Kenyans for the "demonstration of fraternal solidarity." Kenya plans to send a task force in the coming weeks to assess the mission's operational requirements.

"We have to find someone who can help us," one Port-au-Prince resident, Benice Pierre, said Wednesday.

At home, Kenya's police force has received millions of dollars in training and support from the U.S., European Union and other partners in recent years, with the U.S. focusing on "promoting police accountability and professionalism."

But last week, Kenya's National Assembly saw a shouted debate, along with demands for a moment of silence, over police actions during the recent protests.

"The kind of brutality that has been meted out on innocent and unarmed civilians in the last couple of months has been unprecedented," minority leader Opiyo Wandayi said. "Those youth that you are killing require jobs, not bullets."

Kenya's leading opposition party has threatened to gather evidence to submit to the International Criminal Court.

In response, Interior Minister Kithure Kindiki said police have remained "neutral, impartial and professional." The ministry referred questions about alleged abuses to the police, who haven't responded.

Ruto, elected president a year ago, at first praised police for their conduct during the protests, but later warned officers against extrajudicial killings as a public outcry grew.

Problems with Kenya's police force have long been acknowledged, even by officials.

The National Police Service "does not have a 'shoot to kill' policy," its inspector general, Hilary Mutyambai, said in a submission to a parliamentary inquiry on extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances released in late 2021.

But the government-created Independent Policing Oversight Authority told the inquiry it had received 95 cases of alleged deaths due to police action in the previous seven months alone, noting "continuous abuse of force and firearms occasioning deaths."

A commissioner with the authority said last month that police weren't even reporting deaths to the body as required, which is illegal.

Niger's civil society mobilizes the nation to fight for freedom from foreign interference

By SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

NIAMEY, Niger (AP) — Niger's ruling junta and civil society groups called on the nation to mobilize in the capital on Thursday to fight for the country's freedom and push back against foreign interference.

"We are talking about the immediate departure of all foreign forces," Mahaman Sanoussi, interim coordinator for the M62 civil society group that's organizing the protest, told The Associated Press. "(We'll mobilize) against all forms of threats to continue the struggle for the sovereignty of the people. The dignity of the Nigerian people will be respected by all without exception."

The march falls on the West African nation's independence day from its former colonial ruler, France, and as anti-French sentiment spikes, more than one week after mutinous soldiers ousted the country's

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 29 of 62

democratically elected president. Protests are expected throughout the capital, Niamey, to push back against foreign meddling.

The coup has been strongly condemned by Western countries, many of which saw Niger as the last reliable partner for the West in efforts to battle jihadis linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group in Africa's Sahel region. Russia and Western countries have been vying for influence in the fight against extremism.

France has 1,500 soldiers in Niger who conduct joint operations with its military, and the United States and other European countries have helped train the nation's troops.

In an address to the nation on Wednesday, the new military ruler, Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, lashed out at neighboring countries and the international community and called on the population to be ready to defend the nation.

Tchiani said Niger will face difficult times ahead and that the "hostile and radical" attitudes of those who oppose his rule provide no added value. He called harsh sanctions imposed last week by the West African block known as ECOWAS illegal, unfair, inhuman and unprecedented.

ECOWAS has also threatened to use force if ousted President Mohamed Bazoum, who remains under house arrest, is not released and reinstated by Aug. 6.

In a closed door meeting on Wednesday, dozens of people from civil society organizations, professional groups and trade unions spoke with the coup leaders about their vision for the country. Sanoussi, from M62, was at the meeting and said the junta talked about their priorities for the nation, including securing it from violence.

But another civil society member at the same gathering who did not want to be named for security reasons told the AP they left feeling concerned. They had a strong impression that the French military was going to be ousted soon and that members of civil society groups would help the junta do it.

During the meeting, Tchiani spent a long time speaking about the history of foreign military presence in the region, discussing France's involvement without naming it specifically, and asked those present to help maintain the country's integrity. Tchiani also didn't seem concerned that ECOWAS would intervene or that President Bazoum would resign — which he has yet to do — noting he was no longer in power, the civil society members said.

Even if the junta demands the withdrawal of French troops — as they did in neighboring Mali and Burkina Faso, both of which are run by military leaders — it wouldn't make a difference, said Anne-Claire Legendre, a spokesperson for the French foreign minister during a press briefing on Wednesday.

"We don't answer to the putschists. We recognize one constitutional order and one legitimacy only, that of President Bazoum," she said.

Ahead of Thursday's demonstration, the French Embassy in Niamey asked Niger's government to take all measures to ensure the security and protection of its premises after it was attacked by protesters last week and a door was set on fire.

Demonstrators in Niger are openly resentful of France and have been waving Russian flags during protests. Some see Russia and its Wagner mercenary group, which operates in a handful of African countries, including Mali, as a powerful alternative. The new junta leaders have not said whether they intend to ally themselves with Moscow or stick with Niger's Western partners.

As tensions grow in the capital and the region, many European countries announced the evacuations of their citizens.

By late Wednesday night, nearly 1,000 people had left on four flights and a fifth evacuation was underway, France's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said.

The State Department on Wednesday ordered what it said was the temporary departure of nonessential embassy staff and some family members from Niger as a precaution. It said its embassy would remain open. Pentagon press secretary Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder said late Wednesday that the State Department had not requested U.S. military assistance for the departure.

Nigeriens are now bracing for what's ahead. The sanctions announced by ECOWAS included halting energy transactions with Niger, which gets up to 90% of its power from neighboring Nigeria, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency.

Earlier this week, power transmission from Nigeria to Niger was cut off, an official at one of Nigeria's main electricity companies said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment on the issue. The official did not clarify how much of Niger's power the cut represented, but any reduction would further squeeze citizens in the impoverished country of more than 25 million people.

On Wednesday, the president's party accused the junta of cutting off electricity to his residence since that morning. "As a result, the president of the republic and his family no longer benefit from the rotating supply of energy," said Kalla Ankourao, the ruling party's general secretary.

Typhoon Khanun forecast to turn back to Japanese islands where it already left damage and injuries

By MARI YAMAGUCHI Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — The typhoon that damaged homes and knocked out power on Okinawa and other Japanese islands this week was slowly moving west Thursday but is forecast to make a U-turn and dump even more rain on the archipelago.

Typhoon Khanun, now in the waters between China and Japan's southwestern islands, is expected to slow to nearly stationary movement before a weakening high pressure system nearby allows it to turn east Friday, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

That forecast would largely spare China, where rain from an earlier typhoon caused deadly flooding and damage this week around the capital, Beijing.

Khanun, which means jackfruit in Thai, had sustained surface winds of 162 kph (100 mph) with higher gusts Thursday morning. Up to 20 centimeters (7.8 inches) of rainfall were expected in the Okinawa region by midday Friday, JMA said.

China and Taiwan were also making preparations for the storm. Though the eye is forecast to stay offshore as the typhoon turns east, winds exceeding 90 kph (56 mph) extended an average radius of 100 kilometers (60 miles), Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau said Thursday afternoon.

China's weather authorities issued rainstorm alerts for the eastern coast, from Jilin province, near the border with North Korea, to Zhejiang province, south of Shanghai. Ships were called into port and passenger ferry services halted in Zhejiang province.

Light rain was falling in the Taiwanese port city of Keelung, near Taipei, and coast guard personnel were warning people to stay off the beaches. The island shut its financial markets Thursday, some of its northern cities shut offices and schools, and offices closed in anticipation of worsening weather on the northeastern coast.

In Okinawa, the typhoon injured 41 people, three of them seriously, according to the prefectural government. A 90-year-old man was found under a collapsed garage in Ogimi village, and his death is being investigated as possibly caused by the typhoon's high winds.

The storm at one point left nearly 220,000 homes, or about 30%, of those in Okinawa, without power, according to the Okinawa Electric Power Company. Also, some 7,000 homes on Amami, an island northeast of the Okinawan islands and part of Kagoshima prefecture, were without power, according to the Economy and Industry Ministry.

Most were still without power Thursday as the storm hampered restoration work. Hospitals that lost power were only receiving emergency cases.

Wind warnings for the main Okinawa Island were lifted Thursday, though moderate winds and rain were affecting the island. Public transit systems that closed during the storm resumed operations, and some flights in and out of the Naha Airport are expected to resume later Thursday.

Israeli protesters are calling for democracy. But what about the occupation of Palestinians?

By TIA GOLDENBERG Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel is being rocked by a wave of mass protests calling for the country's democracy to be upheld. But the pro-democracy movement lacks any clear message of opposition to Israel's open-ended military rule over millions of Palestinians.

This contradiction reflects a widely held belief among Jewish Israelis that the conflict with the Palestinians is both intractable and somehow separate from Israel's internal strife.

Critics of the protest movement, including Palestinians, say this is a significant blind spot and that such selective advocacy of democratic ideals shows how disconnected Israelis are from the harsh reality of those living under Israel's occupation.

"It's so ironic that they're talking and protesting for democracy while at the same time it's been a dictatorship for Palestinians for 75 years," said Diana Buttu, a Palestinian commentator. "They're afraid that their own privileges and rights are going to somehow be affected, but they won't make the connection" with the occupation.

The protesters are demonstrating against the drive of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government to weaken the judiciary by limiting judicial oversight on official decision-making and legislation.

The protest movement says its limited message against the judicial overhaul is holding together one of the largest and most sustained protest movements Israel has ever seen, bringing tens of thousands of people to the streets for the last 30 weeks.

Netanyahu's government, made up of ultranationalist and ultra-religious parties with close ties to the West Bank settler movement, says the overhaul will restore power to elected lawmakers and rein in what it says is an overly interventionist judicial system.

Critics see the legislative push, especially because it's driven by far-right and conservative religious parties, as an assault on Israel's democratic fundamentals and its weak system of checks and balances. They say it will open the door to serious infringements on personal liberties and the rights of women, the LGBTQ+ community and minorities that will set Israel on a path toward autocracy.

The protesters come from a wide swath of Israeli society. They chant "democracy or rebellion!" carry signs reading "Israel will remain a democracy," and have unfurled a giant copy of the country's declaration of independence, which serves as an unofficial bill of rights, at various events.

But largely missing from the raucous protests is any meaningful reference to Israel's 56-year occupation of lands the Palestinians seek for their future state. A small contingent of activists waving Palestinian flags have taken part, but remain mostly on the fringe.

In some cases, they have even been ostracized by organizers who feared that mentioning the occupation would somehow undercut the protest movement. Israel's Palestinian citizens, who make up a fifth of the population, have sat out the protests in part because the demonstrations are ignoring the occupation.

"The protest is against the reduction of the democratic space for Jews. Most Jews in Israel don't have a problem with Israel enforcing an apartheid regime in the West Bank," said Dror Etkes, a veteran anti-occupation activist.

Despite his concerns, Etkes has made a point of participating in the protests. He sees the absence of occupation-related themes as a strategy meant to unite disparate groups against a more imminent threat. He said that if the government has its way, "people like me won't be able to protest" against the occupation.

The Associated Press contacted several protest leaders who either declined to comment or did not respond to questions about the contradictions.

Israel captured the West Bank, east Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, territories the Palestinians seek for their hoped-for independent state, in the 1967 Mideast war. Israel withdrew from the Gaza Strip in 2005 and, along with Egypt, enforces a blockade on the territory. More than 700,000 settlers now live in the West Bank and east Jerusalem.

Palestinians in the West Bank live under limited autonomous self-rule, but Israel controls major parts of

their lives, including movement and travel, construction permits in certain areas and significant parts of the economy. Israel's military also frequently targets Palestinian areas in what it says is a bid to thwart militancy.

A two-tier legal system is also in place in the West Bank, where large parts of Israeli law apply to Jewish settlers and Palestinians are subject to Israeli military law. Palestinians cannot vote in Israeli elections. Their own leadership, established as part of interim peace agreements in the 1990s, has repeatedly delayed Palestinian elections.

While Palestinians in east Jerusalem hold Israeli residency and have access to certain social benefits, they face widespread discrimination. They can apply for citizenship but many choose not to, either on ideological grounds or because the process is too bureaucratic.

Those contrasting realities have prompted rights groups to say an apartheid system has taken root. Israel vehemently denies such claims. It says the West Bank is disputed territory whose fate should be determined through negotiations, which are long moribund.

After years of deadly conflict with the Palestinians, many Jewish Israelis see the occupation as the inevitable by-product of a hopeless security situation. Others accuse the Palestinians of rejecting generous peace offers — a claim the Palestinians reject.

That frame of mind has prevented many Israeli demonstrators from grasping the contradiction in their struggle, said Amichai Cohen, a senior fellow at the Israel Democracy Institute, a Jerusalem think tank.

But he and others say the occupation is seeping into the protests, presenting a potential opening for an awakening. For one, the main backers of the legal overhaul are firebrand West Bank settlers who seek to expand and solidify Israel's domination over the Palestinian territories in part by weakening the court's oversight over its moves.

The protests have also coincided with a spike in Israeli-Palestinian fighting, during which radical settlers have attacked Palestinian towns, most notably Hawara, setting cars and homes ablaze with a paltry response from Israeli security forces. The prominent protest chant "Where were you in Hawara?" emerged as a cry against perceived police brutality against protesters.

Avner Gvanyahu, who heads Breaking the Silence, a whistleblower group of former soldiers, is a constant presence at the protests.

He has watched in frustration as military reservists have refused to continue serving to protest what they say is the disintegration of Israel's democracy, but kept silent over the occupation.

Still, the reservist protest has shattered a taboo against military refusal, a tool he said might be used in the future by soldiers against the occupation.

"The mainstream is waking up," he said.

Palestinians remain skeptical.

Shawan Jabarin, head of the Palestinian rights group Al-Haq, said he considers the protests an internal Israeli struggle to maintain a status quo that has only cemented the occupation.

"What democracy are you speaking about?" he said. "Democracy doesn't go in the same time with occupation."

Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton to appear in Houston court hearing for his securities fraud trial

By JUAN A. LOZANO Associated Press

HOUSTON (AP) — Embattled Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, awaiting the start of a separate impeachment trial, is set to appear in a Houston courtroom Thursday to discuss his nearly decade-long delayed trial on securities fraud charges.

It's unclear if any decision will be made during the court hearing on when Paxton might finally go to trial on felony charges of defrauding investors in a tech startup. He was indicted in 2015.

The case is back in a Houston courtroom after the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals upheld a decision

last month by a judge who originally oversaw the case to move the proceedings out of Paxton's hometown near Dallas. Paxton has spent years fighting to keep the trial in Collin County, where he maintains wide support among GOP activists and his wife, Angela Paxton, is a state senator.

Paxton was scheduled to appear in court during the hearing, said Philip Hilder, one of Paxton's lawyers. Paxton has rarely appeared in court for hearings in the securities fraud case.

Hilder declined to comment on what might be discussed during the status conference hearing but said he expected it to be "relatively short."

Brian Wice, a special prosecutor who was appointed to the securities fraud case after Paxton was indicted, declined to comment.

The hearing will be before state District Judge Andrea Beall, a Democrat.

The indictments accuse Paxton of defrauding investors in a Dallas-area tech startup by not disclosing he was being paid by the company, called Servergy, to recruit them. The indictments were handed up just months after Paxton was sworn in as Texas' top law enforcement officer.

A multitude of reasons have delayed the trial, including legal debate over whether the case should be tried in the Dallas area or Houston, changes in which judge would handle the case and a protracted battle over how much the special prosecutors should get paid.

If convicted of the securities fraud charges, Paxton faces up to 99 years in prison.

Thursday's hearing comes as Paxton faces removal from office following his historic impeachment by the state House in May. A trial in the Texas Senate is set to begin Sept. 5.

The case is among the 20 articles of impeachment the Texas House of Representatives brought against Paxton. Other impeachment charges surround Paxton's relationship with Nate Paul, an Austin real estate developer who has been indicted on charges of making false statements to banks to obtain more than \$170 million in loans.

Rights group reports war crimes in Sudan, including deliberate attacks on civilians, sexual assault

By SAMY MAGDY Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — Sudan's warring parties have committed extensive war crimes in the ongoing conflict, including deliberate killings of civilians and sexual assault, a leading rights group said Thursday.

The east African country plunged into chaos in mid-April when monthslong tensions between the military and a powerful paramilitary group, the Rapid Support Forces, exploded into open fighting in the capital of Khartoum, and elsewhere in the country.

Amnesty International's 56-page report said civilians were killed and wounded in targeted attacks. The group also reported women being raped, with some held in conditions "amounting to sexual slavery" mostly in the capital, Khartoum, and the western region of Darfur.

"Sexual violence has been a defining element of this conflict since the beginning," Donatella Rovera, co-author of the report, told The Associated Press. "Civilians really have no good options. It's difficult for them to leave. It's incredibly dangerous for them to stay."

Almost all rape cases were blamed on the RSF and its allied Arab militias. The report said the RSF abducted 24 women and girls - as young as 12- and held them "for several days during which they were raped by several RSF members."

Rovera said that war crimes such as sexual assault are happening, "on what seems to be a large scale."

The RSF, which evolved from the notorious Janjaweed militias, was also blamed for most of the deliberate attacks, Amnesty said. Some members of the military were also accused of the crimes, the report said.

Responding to the report, the military said it had established a unit to try to minimize civilian harm while the RSF denied allegations of sexual violence, as well as carrying out violent acts in West Darfur.

The conflict has turned Khartoum and other urban areas into battlefields. Darfur — which had been the scene of genocidal war in the early 2000s — saw some of the worst bouts of violence with the current fighting turning into ethnic clashes.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 34 of 62

The fighting forced about 4 million people to flee their homes, either to safer areas inside Sudan or to neighboring countries, according to the U.N. migration agency.

The violence in Darfur was mostly blamed on the RSF and its allied Arab militias which the group said targeted the African Masalit community in the region. The group said armed men from the Masalit allegedly also targeted Arabs suspected of siding with militias.

Amnesty detailed waves of violence in West Darfur province —one of five constituting the Darfur region — including the killing of civilians, looting and destruction of homes and facilities such as the main hospital and markets.

The killing of West Darfur Gov. Khamis Abdalla Abkar on June 14 — following his detention by the RSF — promoted an exodus of many members of the Masalit community to eastern Chad, which turned into an open camp for those who fled the fighting in Darfur, Amnesty said.

“Civilians throughout Sudan are suffering unimaginable horror every single day,” said Agnès Callamard, the group’s secretary general. She called on the warring sides and their affiliated groups to “end their targeting of civilians, and guarantee safe passage for those seeking safety.”

On April 20, an attack in Khartoum’s southern neighborhood of Kalakla killed three children from the same family as they tried to escape the gunfire, the group said, adding that it was not able to determine which side was responsible for the killing.

Amnesty quoted Kodi Abbas, a 55-year-old teacher, whose two sons and nephew were killed, as saying they “were small and couldn’t run away fast enough...I don’t know who shot them. The war killed them.”

The group said it also documented an attack by the RSF on the complex of the Mar Girgis Coptic church in Khartoum’s Bahri district. RSF members in a pick-up vehicle stormed the church, shooting five members of the clergy, and stole money and a gold cross, the report said citing witnesses.

“They were shouting and insulting us – saying things like, ‘Egyptian dogs and sons of dogs’ – and asking for money and gold,” an unidentified survivor was quoted by the human rights group.

Amnesty’s report was the latest one documenting atrocities in Sudan’s conflict.

Last month, Human Rights Watch called for the International Criminal Court to investigate atrocities in Darfur, including “summary executions” of around three dozen non-Arab tribesmen in a Darfur town.

The U.N. Human Rights Office said a mass grave was found outside the town of Geneina with at least 87 bodies, citing credible information. And the International Criminal Court’s prosecutor, Karim Khan, told the U.N. Security Council in July he was investigating alleged new war crimes and crimes against humanity in Darfur.

“There are allegations that this could be ethnic cleansing,” said Rovera, “The situation is a very difficult one, is a very dangerous one because it can escalate further.”

108 attendees at the World Scout Jamboree treated for heat-related illnesses in South Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — At least 108 people were treated for heat-related illnesses at the World Scout Jamboree being held in South Korea, which is having one of its hottest summers in years.

Most of them have recovered but at least two remain in treatment at an on-site hospital as of Thursday morning, said Choi Chang-haeng, secretary-general of the Jamboree’s organizing committee.

The committee, which plans to proceed with the event while adding dozens of more medical staff to prepare for further emergencies, did not confirm the ages and other personal details of those who were injured.

Wednesday night’s opening ceremony of the Jamboree, which brought more than 40,000 scouts, mostly teens, to a campsite built on land reclaimed from the sea in the southwestern town of Buan. The temperature there reached 35 degrees Celsius (95 degrees Fahrenheit) on Wednesday.

Lee Sang-min, South Korea’s Minister of the Interior and Safety, during an emergency meeting instructed officials to explore “all possible measures” to protect the participants, including adjusting the event’s outdoor

Palestinian attackers from reaching Israeli cities and has ignored the ruling.

The December General Assembly resolution demands that Israel comply with the court's ruling, dismantle the wall and pay reparations for all damage caused by its construction.

Israel captured the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip in the 1967 Mideast war. The Palestinians seek all three areas for an independent state. Israel considers the West Bank to be disputed territory and has built dozens of settlements that are now home to roughly 500,000 Jewish settlers. It also has annexed east Jerusalem and considers the entire city to be its capital.

The United Nations and the international community overwhelmingly consider the settlements and Israel's annexation of east Jerusalem, home to the city's most sensitive holy sites, to be illegal.

Woman's escape from cinder block cell likely spared others from similar 'nightmare,' FBI says

By GENE JOHNSON and CLAIRE RUSH Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A woman who escaped her kidnapper by punching her way out of a homemade cinder block cell at a home in southern Oregon likely saved other women from a similar fate, authorities said, by alerting them to a man they now suspect in sexual assaults in at least four more states.

Negasi Zuberi posed as an undercover police officer when he kidnapped the woman in Seattle, drove hundreds of miles to his home in Klamath Falls and locked her in the garage cell until she bloodied her hands breaking the door to escape, the FBI said Wednesday.

Zuberi, 29, faces federal charges that include interstate kidnapping, and authorities said they are looking for additional victims after linking him to the other assaults. Authorities have not yet said publicly in which states those attacks took place.

"This woman was kidnapped, chained, sexually assaulted, and locked in a cinderblock cell," Stephanie Shark, the assistant special agent in charge of the FBI's Portland field office, said in a news release. "Police say she beat the door with her hands until they were bloody in order to break free. Her quick thinking and will to survive may have saved other women from a similar nightmare."

After the woman escaped from his home in Klamath Falls, Zuberi fled the city of roughly 22,000 people but was arrested by state police in Reno, Nevada, the next afternoon, the FBI said.

Court records did not yet list an attorney who might speak on Zuberi's behalf. He has not yet been assigned a public defender in Oregon as he's still being transferred from Nevada, which can take several weeks, said Kevin Sonoff, a spokesperson for the U.S. attorney's office in Oregon.

A grand jury in Portland on Wednesday returned an indictment charging Zuberi with interstate kidnapping and transporting an individual across state lines with intent to engage in criminal sexual activity. He could face up to life in prison if convicted.

According to the FBI, Zuberi also went by the names Sakima, Justin Hyche and Justin Kouassi, and he has lived in multiple states since 2016, possibly including California, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Utah, Florida, New York, New Jersey, Alabama, and Nevada.

According to a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Oregon, Zuberi solicited the woman, identified only as Adult Victim 1, in the early-morning hours of July 15 to engage in prostitution along Aurora Avenue in Seattle, an area known for sex work. Afterward, Zuberi told the woman he was an undercover officer, showed her a badge, pointed a stun gun at her and placed her in handcuffs and leg irons before putting her in the back of his vehicle, the complaint says.

He then drove to his home, stopping along the way to sexually assault her, the complaint says. When they arrived about seven hours after he first encountered her in Seattle, he put her in the makeshift cell built from cinder blocks with a door of metal bars and said he was leaving to do paperwork.

The woman "briefly slept and awoke to the realization that she would likely die if she did not attempt to escape," the complaint says.

She managed to break some of the door's welded joints, creating a small opening which she climbed

through, Klamath Falls Police Capt. Rob Reynolds said at a news conference.

"She repeatedly punched the door with her own hands," Reynolds said. "She had several lacerations along her knuckles."

The victim opened Zuberi's vehicle which was in the garage, grabbed his gun and fled, leaving blood on a wooden fence she climbed over to escape, the complaint says. She flagged down a passing driver, who called 911.

Two Nevada State Patrol officers tracked Zuberi down at a Walmart parking lot in Reno the next day, July 16, the complaint says. He was in his car holding one of his children in the front seat while talking to his wife, who was standing outside the vehicle. He initially refused to get out of the car when the officers asked and instead cut himself with a sharp object and tried to destroy his phone, according to the complaint. Zuberi eventually surrendered, and the child wasn't harmed.

Investigators interviewed Zuberi's wife and neighbors, but authorities declined to say if there was any indication that any of them had been aware of the abduction.

A search of Zuberi's home and garage turned up the Seattle woman's purse and handwritten notes, according to investigators. One of them was labeled "Operation Take Over" and included a bullet list with entries that read, "Leave phone at home" and "Make sure they don't have a bunch of ppl (sic) in their life. You don't want any type of investigation."

Another handwritten document appeared to include a rough sketch for an underground structure using concrete blocks, foam insulation and waterproof concrete.

The FBI said Zuberi may have used other methods of gaining control of women, including drugging their drinks. The agency said it was setting up a website asking anyone who believes they may have been a victim to come forward.

The Klamath Falls rental home where Zuberi allegedly took the woman is owned by the city's mayor, Carol Westfall, and her husband, Kevin, according to property records. The house backs onto a park and is on a residential street, less than a quarter-mile (half a kilometer) from a highway.

Court records show that after Zuberi's arrest, the couple had him evicted.

"We are shocked and dismayed by what has occurred," the Westfalls, who declined to comment on their interactions with Zuberi, said in an email. "We applaud the actions of the woman who helped capture this person and prevent him from committing further atrocities."

Trump to face judge in DC over charges that he tried to overturn 2020 presidential election

By MICHAEL KUNZELMAN, ERIC TUCKER and NOMAAN MERCHANT Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump is due in federal court Thursday to answer to charges that he sought to overturn the results of the 2020 election, facing a judge just blocks from the U.S. Capitol that his supporters stormed to block the peaceful transfer of presidential power.

In what's by now become a familiar but nonetheless stunning ritual, Trump is expected to be processed by law enforcement, be officially taken into custody and enter a not guilty plea in front of a judge before being released, so he can rejoin the campaign trail as he seeks to reclaim the White House in 2024.

An indictment Tuesday from Justice Department special counsel Jack Smith charges Trump with four felony counts related to his efforts to undo the presidential election in the run-up to the Jan. 6, 2021, riot at the Capitol, including conspiracy to defraud the U.S. government and conspiracy to obstruct an official proceeding. The charges could lead to a yearslong prison sentence in the event of a conviction.

Trump was the only person charged in the case, though prosecutors referenced six co-conspirators — mostly lawyers — they say he plotted with, including in a scheme to enlist fake electors in seven battleground states won by President Joe Biden to submit false certificates to the federal government.

The indictment chronicles how Trump and allies, in what Smith described as an attack on a "bedrock function of the U.S. government," repeatedly lied about the results in the two months since he lost the election and pressured his vice president, Mike Pence, and state election officials to take action to help

him cling to power.

This is the third criminal case brought against Trump in the last six months. He was charged in New York with falsifying business records in connection with an alleged hush money payment to a porn actor during the 2016 presidential campaign. Smith's office has also charged him with 40 felony counts in Florida, accusing him of illegally retaining classified documents at his Palm Beach estate, Mar-a-Lago, and refusing government demands to give them back. He has pleaded not guilty in both those cases, which are set for trial next year.

And prosecutors in Fulton County, Georgia are expected in coming weeks to announce charging decisions in an investigation into efforts to subvert election results in that state.

Trump's lawyer, John Lauro, has asserted in television interviews that Trump's actions were protected by the First Amendment right to free speech and that he relied on the advice of lawyers. Trump himself has claimed without evidence that Smith's team is trying to interfere with the 2024 presidential election, in which Trump is the dominant front-runner to claim the Republican nomination.

Smith said in a rare public statement that he was seeking a speedy trial, though Lauro has said he intends to slow the case down so that the defense team can conduct its own investigation.

The arraignment will be handled before U.S. Magistrate Judge Moxila Upadyaha, who joined the bench last year. But going forward, the case will be presided over by U.S. District Judge Tanya Chutkan, an appointee of President Barack Obama who has stood out as one of the toughest punishers of rioters.

She has also ruled against Trump before, refusing in November 2021 to block the release of documents to the U.S. House's Jan. 6 committee by asserting executive privilege.

MLB trade deadline analysis: AL West leaders loaded up on starting pitchers

By NOAH TRISTER AP Baseball Writer

The arms race in the AL West began with Lucas Giolito and quickly escalated.

After the Los Angeles Angels acquired Giolito and signaled their intentions to make a bid for the postseason, division rivals Texas and Houston answered with some big moves of their own, acquiring Max Scherzer and Justin Verlander before Tuesday's trade deadline. That should set up quite a race down the stretch.

Scherzer and Verlander, who were previously teammates with both the Tigers and Mets, were dealt by New York to two AL West rivals. Verlander returns to Houston less than a year after winning the Cy Young Award with the Astros. That was the third of his career, matching Scherzer's total.

Here's a look at the biggest buyers and sellers at this year's deadline, and how they've reshaped their futures:

BUYERS

Texas Rangers (61-46, first place in AL West)

Acquired: C Austin Hedges, LHP Jordan Montgomery, C Kevin Plawecki, RHP Max Scherzer and RHP Chris Stratton.

Traded: SS Luisangel Acuña, RHP Spencer Howard, LHP John King, RHP Tekoah Roby and SS Thomas Saggese.

Analysis: After losing Jacob deGrom and now Nathan Eovaldi to injuries, the Rangers will have to hope Scherzer and Montgomery can keep their rotation afloat. Their spot atop the division is precarious, but they've not giving it up without a fight.

Houston Astros (61-47, second place in AL West)

Acquired: RHP Kendall Graveman and RHP Justin Verlander.

Traded: OF Ryan Clifford, OF Drew Gilbert and C Korey Lee.

Analysis: The Astros lost Verlander to the Mets via free agency last offseason, only for him to return with New York covering the majority of the \$57.5 million the right-hander is still guaranteed through the

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 38 of 62

end of next season. No wonder Houston didn't feel the need to do much else.

Los Angeles Angels (56-52, third place in AL West)

Acquired: 1B C.J. Cron, RHP Lucas Giolito, RF Randal Grichuk, RHP Dominic Leone and RHP Reynaldo López.

Traded: LHP Mason Albright, LHP Ky Bush, LHP Tucker Davidson, SS Jeremiah Jackson, RHP Jake Maden and C Edgar Quero.

Analysis: This is what you do when you don't even want to think about what happens if you miss the playoffs again this year. The Angels, who are closer to fourth in the division than second, decided to hold onto Shohei Ohtani and make a run at the postseason. They acquired Giolito and López — both of whom can leave via free agency this offseason — and gave up Quero, the game's No. 65 prospect, according to MLB Pipeline.

Los Angeles Dodgers (60-45, first place in NL West)

Acquired: RHP Joe Kelly, RHP Lance Lynn, SS Amed Rosario and LHP Ryan Yarbrough.

Traded: RHP Phil Bickford, LHP Justin Bruihl, SS Derlin Figueroa, LHP Adam Kolarek, RHP Jordan Leasure, 2B Devin Mann, RHP Nick Nastrini, RHP Noah Syndergaard and RF Trayce Thompson.

Analysis: The Dodgers seemed like a realistic landing spot for someone like Verlander or Chicago White Sox ace Dylan Cease, but none of that came to fruition. They reached a deal to acquire Eduardo Rodriguez from Detroit, but that fell through because of his no-trade clause.

"Eduardo is one of the best left-handed starting pitchers in baseball, but he is also a human being who wants stability for his family," Rodriguez's agent, Gene Mato, said in a statement. "They are comfortable living in the Detroit area and have adjusted well."

Tampa Bay Rays (66-44, second place in AL East)

Acquired: RHP Aaron Civale, C Alex Jackson, RHP Manuel Rodríguez and RHP Adrian Sampson.

Traded: 1B Kyle Manzardo, RHP Evan McKendry, RHP Luis Patiño and RHP Josh Roberson.

Analysis: After slugging their way to a 13-0 start, Tampa Bay has ceded first place to Baltimore. The Rays made an interesting deal with Cleveland, acquiring Civale, who is under contract through 2025. They gave up a top-50 prospect in Manzardo to do it.

SELLERS

Chicago White Sox (43-65, fourth place in AL Central)

Acquired: LHP Ky Bush, RHP Juan Carela, LHP Jake Eder, RHP Jordan Leasure, C Korey Lee, RHP Nick Nastrini, RHP Luis Patiño, C Edgar Quero and RF Trayce Thompson.

Traded: 3B Jake Burger, RHP Lucas Giolito, RHP Kendall Graveman, RHP Joe Kelly, RHP Reynaldo López, RHP Lance Lynn and RHP Keynan Middleton.

Analysis: This was an impressive haul for the White Sox, considering they ended up holding onto ace Dylan Cease. Quero immediately becomes the No. 2 prospect in their system, with Eder, Nastrini and Bush slotting into their top seven.

New York Mets (50-56, fourth place in NL East)

Acquired: SS Luisangel Acuña, RHP Phil Bickford, OF Ryan Clifford, OF Drew Gilbert, C Ronald Hernandez, SS Jeremiah Jackson, RHP Justin Jarvis, LHP Adam Kolarek, SS Jeremy Rodriguez and 2B Marco Vargas.

Traded: LF Mark Canha, RHP Dominic Leone, CF Tommy Pham, RHP David Robertson, RHP Max Scherzer and RHP Justin Verlander.

Analysis: The Mets continued to throw their financial weight around, even when selling off star players. Their willingness to cover some of Verlander and Scherzer's huge salaries helped facilitate those deals, and New York netted a top-50 prospect in Acuña. However, Scherzer's comments about what the New

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 39 of 62

York front office told him suggest the Mets may take a more patient approach to free agency this coming offseason.

St. Louis Cardinals (47-61, last place in NL Central)

Acquired: LHP John King, RHP Adam Kloffenstein, 2B César Prieto, RHP Sem Robberse, RHP Tekoah Roby, LHP Drew Rom, SS Thomas Saggese, RHP Zack Showalter and RHP Matt Svanson.

Traded: SS Paul DeJong, RHP Jack Flaherty, RHP Jordan Hicks, LHP Jordan Montgomery and RHP Chris Stratton.

Analysis: It's unusual to see the Cardinals in this position. Although they couldn't touch the very best prospects in Baltimore's loaded system, they did acquire Prieto, who has hit .349 across Double-A and Triple-A this year.

Detroit Tigers (47-60, third place in AL Central)

Acquired: 2B Hao-Yu Lee and SS Eddys Leonard.

Traded: RHP Michael Lorenzen.

Analysis: A quieter deadline than Detroit would have liked after its failed attempt to trade Rodriguez to the Dodgers. The Tigers did manage to flip Lorenzen to Philadelphia after signing him to a one-year contract before the season.

"As for the Dodgers in particular, once I was granted permission to speak with them regarding the trade, we did our best to come up with a way to make it happen where everyone was comfortable with the outcome," Mato said. "Unfortunately, we just ran out of time."

Beijing records heaviest rainfall in at least 140 years, causing severe flooding and 21 deaths

By ANDY WONG and HUIZHONG WU Associated Press

ZHUOZHOU, China (AP) — China's capital recorded its heaviest rainfall in at least 140 years over the past few days as remnants of Typhoon Doksuri deluged the region, turning streets into canals where emergency crews used rubber boats to rescue stranded residents.

The city recorded 744.8 millimeters (29.3 inches) of rain between Saturday and Wednesday morning, the Beijing Meteorological Bureau said Wednesday.

Beijing and the surrounding province of Hebei were hit by severe flooding because of the record rainfall, with waters rising to dangerous levels. The rain destroyed roads and knocked out power and even pipes carrying drinking water. It flooded rivers surrounding the capital, leaving cars waterlogged, while lifting others onto bridges meant for pedestrians.

The number of confirmed deaths from the torrential rains around Beijing rose to 21 on Wednesday after the body of a rescuer was recovered. Wang Hong-chun, 41, was with other rescuers in a rubber boat when it flipped over in a rapidly flowing river. Four of her teammates survived.

At least 26 people remain missing from the rains.

Among the hardest hit areas is Zhuozhou, a small city in Hebei province that borders Beijing's southwest. On Tuesday night, police there issued a plea on social media for lights to assist with rescue work.

Rescue teams traversed the flooded city in rubber boats as they evacuated residents who were stuck in their homes without running water, gas or electricity since Tuesday afternoon.

"I didn't think it would be that severe, I thought it was just a little bit of water and that it would recede," said 54-year-old Wang Huiying. She ended up spending the night on the third floor of her building as the water seeped into the first floor, which holds her steamed bread shop. All the machinery is now underwater.

It's unknown how many people are trapped in flood-stricken areas in the city and surrounding villages. Rescue teams from other provinces came to Zhuozhou to assist with evacuations.

"We have to grasp every second, every minute to save people," said Zhong Hongjun, the head of a rescue team from coastal Jiangsu province. Zhong said he had been working since 2 a.m. Wednesday when

activities, adding more emergency vehicles and medical posts, and also adding more shade structures and air-conditioning. He said the goal is to prevent "even one serious illness or death," according to comments shared by the ministry.

There had been concerns about holding the Jamboree in a vast, treeless area lacking refuge from the heat.

Choi insisted that the event was safe enough to continue and similar situations could have occurred if the Jamboree was held elsewhere.

"The participants came from afar and hadn't yet adjusted (to the weather)," Choi said in a news briefing. He said the large number patients could be linked to a K-pop performance during the opening ceremony, which he said left many of the teens "exhausted after actively releasing their energy."

South Korea this week raised its hot weather warning to the highest "serious" level for the first time in four years as temperatures nationwide hovered between 33 to 38 degrees Celsius (91 to 100 degrees Fahrenheit).

The Safety Ministry said at least 16 people have died because of heat-related illnesses since May 20, including two on Tuesday.

Vast majority of submissions to UN body on Israeli occupation favor them, Palestinians say

By EDITH M. LEDERER Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — The vast majority of over 55 countries that made submissions to the U.N.'s highest judicial body which will give an advisory opinion on the legal consequences of Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories supported the Palestinians view that Israel is taking over land they seek for an independent state, their U.N. ambassador said Wednesday.

The Palestinian U.N. envoy, Riyad Mansour, told a group of reporters the number of submissions to the International Court of Justice exceeded Palestinian expectations and came from every continent and included all five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council – the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France.

The U.N. General Assembly last Dec. 30 adopted a Palestinian-backed resolution asking the court's opinion on the legality of Israeli policies in the Palestinian territories. It also seeks an opinion on the legal consequences of Israeli measures it said are "aimed at altering the demographic composition, character and status of the Holy City of Jerusalem." And it asks for an opinion on how all Israeli policies affect the legal status of its occupation, "and what are the legal consequences that arise for all states and the United Nations from this status."

Israel vehemently opposed the resolution. Its ambassador, Gilad Erdan, called the measure "outrageous," the U.N. "morally bankrupt and politicized," and said any potential decision from the court will be "completely illegitimate."

Mansour didn't provide further details on the submissions except to say the vast majority supported the Palestinians.

He said the next step is for the countries that made submissions to the court to rebut what other countries said if they desire, and to make additional submissions by Oct. 25. The court will then set oral arguments, deliberate, and render an opinion.

"When should we expect the opinion to be submitted?" Mansour said. "To be cautious, I think maybe sometime in the spring of next year. But, of course, the court is the master of its destiny."

While the court's rulings are not binding, they influence international opinion. It last addressed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in 2004, when the Assembly asked it to consider the legality of an Israeli-built separation barrier.

The court, located in The Hague, said the barrier was "contrary to international law" and called on Israel to immediately halt construction. Israel has said the barrier is a security measure meant to prevent

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 41 of 62

they arrived, and expects to work into the night. They've rescued about 200 people so far. "A lot of the people we saved are elderly and children," he said.

On Wednesday, waters in Gu'an county in Hebei, which borders Zhuozhou, reached as high as halfway up a pole where a surveillance camera was installed.

Gu'an county resident Liu Jiwen, 58, was evacuated from his village on Tuesday night. "There's nothing we can do. It's natural disaster," he said.

Two other people were trying to pass through the flooded areas to rescue a relative trapped in a nearby village.

Nearly 850,000 people have been relocated, local authorities in Hebei province said.

The previous record for rainfall was in 1891, the Beijing Meteorological Bureau said Wednesday, when the city received 609 millimeters (24 inches) of rain. The earliest precise measurements made by machines are from 1883.

Ma Jun, director of the Institute of Public and Environmental Affairs, called the recent rainfall "extreme." Last year's total rainfall in Beijing did not even top 500 millimeters (19.6 inches).

Ma said there should be a review of how cities are planned because some places experience repeat flooding. "We need to avoid building large-scale construction ... in low-lying areas," Ma said.

The record rainfall from Doksuri, now downgraded to a tropical storm, may not be the last. Typhoon Khanun, which lashed Japan on Wednesday, is expected to head toward China later this week. The powerful storm, with surface winds of up to 180 kph (111 mph), may also hit Taiwan before it reaches China.

Thousands of people were evacuated to shelters in schools and other public buildings in suburban Beijing and in nearby cities. The central government is disbursing 44 million yuan (\$6.1 million) for disaster relief in affected provinces.

The severity of the flooding took the Chinese capital by surprise. Beijing usually has dry summers but had a stretch of record-breaking heat this year.

Pittsburgh synagogue gunman will be sentenced to death for the nation's deadliest antisemitic attack

By PETER SMITH and MICHAEL RUBINKAM Associated Press

PITTSBURGH (AP) — The gunman who stormed a synagogue in the heart of Pittsburgh's Jewish community and killed 11 worshippers will be sentenced to death for perpetrating the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S. history, a jury decided Wednesday.

Robert Bowers spewed hatred of Jews and espoused white supremacist beliefs online before methodically planning and carrying out the 2018 massacre at the Tree of Life synagogue, where members of three congregations had gathered for Sabbath worship and study. Bowers, a truck driver from suburban Baldwin, also wounded two worshippers and five responding police officers.

The same federal jury that convicted the 50-year-old Bowers on 63 criminal counts recommended that he be put to death for an attack whose impacts continue to reverberate nearly five years later. He showed little reaction as the sentence was announced, briefly acknowledging his legal team and family as he was led from the courtroom. A judge will formally impose the sentence Thursday.

Jurors were unanimous in finding that Bowers' attack was motivated by his hatred of Jews, and that he chose Tree of Life for its location in one of the largest and most historic Jewish communities in the U.S. so that he could "maximize the devastation, amplify the harm of his crimes, and instill fear within the local, national, and international Jewish communities." They also found that Bowers lacked remorse.

At a news conference after the verdict, attack survivor Rabbi Jeffrey Myers of the Tree of Life Congregation noted that Wednesday was a "day of love" on the Hebrew calendar.

"I don't believe in coincidences. Today we received an immense embrace from the halls of justice," he said, taking the jury's decision as an affirmation that "we have the right to practice our Judaism and no one will ever take that right away from us."

The family of 97-year-old Rose Mallinger, who was killed in the attack, and her daughter, Andrea Wedner,

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 42 of 62

who was shot and wounded, thanked the jurors and said "a measure of justice has been served."

Bowers' lead defense attorney, Judy Clarke, declined comment.

The verdict came after a lengthy trial in which jurors heard in chilling detail how Bowers reloaded at least twice, stepped over the bloodied bodies of his victims to look for more people to shoot, and surrendered only when he ran out of ammunition. In the sentencing phase, grieving family members told the jury about the lives that Bowers took — elderly people and intellectually disabled brothers among them — and the unrelenting pain of their loss. Survivors testified about their own lasting pain, both physical and emotional.

Through it all, Bowers showed little reaction to the proceeding that would decide his fate — typically looking down at papers or screens at the defense table — though he could be seen conversing at length with his legal team during breaks. He told a psychiatrist that he thought the trial was helping to spread his antisemitic message.

It was the first federal death sentence imposed during the presidency of Joe Biden, who pledged during his 2020 campaign to end capital punishment. Biden's Justice Department has placed a moratorium on federal executions and has declined to authorize the death penalty in hundreds of new cases where it could apply. But federal prosecutors said death was the appropriate punishment for Bowers, citing the vulnerability of his mainly elderly victims and his hate-based targeting of a religious community.

"While today's unanimous decision by a federal jury in Pittsburgh is an important act of accountability, it will never bring back the eleven people who lost their lives or heal the grief and trauma of their loved ones," said White House principal deputy press secretary Olivia Dalton, adding that Biden was "praying for the victims' families, and for all those in the broader community who have been so deeply impacted by this tragedy."

Almost all of the victims' families said Bowers should die for his crimes.

"Many of our members prefer that the shooter spend the rest of his life in prison, questioning whether we should seek vengeance or revenge against him or whether his death would 'make up' for the lost lives," according to a statement from Stephen Cohen and Barbara Caplan, co-presidents of New Light Congregation, which lost three members in the attack.

But the congregation as a whole, they wrote, "accepts the jury's decision and believes that, as a society, we need to take a stand that this act requires the ultimate penalty under the law."

Bowers' lawyers never contested his guilt, focusing their efforts on trying to save his life. They presented evidence of a horrific childhood marked by trauma and neglect. They also claimed Bowers had severe, untreated mental illness, saying he killed out of a delusional belief that Jews were helping to cause a genocide of white people. The defense argued that schizophrenia and brain abnormalities made Bowers more susceptible to being influenced by the extremist content he found online.

The prosecution denied mental illness had anything to do with it, saying Bowers knew exactly what he was doing when he violated the sanctity of a house of worship by opening fire on terrified congregants with an AR-15 rifle and other weapons, shooting everyone he could find.

The jury sided with prosecutors, specifically rejecting most of the primary defense arguments for a life sentence, including that he has schizophrenia and that his delusions about Jewish people spurred the attack. Jurors did find that his difficult childhood merited consideration, but gave more weight to the severity of the crimes.

Bowers blasted his way into Tree of Life on Oct. 27, 2018, and killed members of the Dor Hadash, New Light and Tree of Life congregations, which shared the synagogue building.

The deceased victims, in addition to Mallinger, were Joyce Fienberg, 75; Richard Gottfried, 65; Dr. Jerry Rabinowitz, 66; brothers David Rosenthal, 54, and Cecil Rosenthal, 59; Bernice Simon, 84, and her husband, Sylvan Simon, 86; Dan Stein, 71; Melvin Wax, 87; and Irving Younger, 69.

Bowers, who traded gunfire with responding officers and was shot three times, told police at the scene that "all these Jews need to die," according to testimony. Ahead of the attack, he posted, liked or shared a stream of virulently antisemitic content on Gab, a social media platform popular with the far right. He has expressed no remorse for the killings, telling mental health experts he saw himself as a soldier in a

race war, took pride in the attack and wished he had shot more people.

Martin Gaynor, a Dor Hadash member and attack survivor, said Wednesday that antisemitism is on the rise. All those affected by the massacre "know where this leads," he said, "a dark path that descends into hate, violence and destruction. This is not only bad for Jews, it's bad for our entire country. If we permit hate to enter our hearts, we ourselves are diminished."

In emotional testimony during the trial's sentencing phase, the victims' family members described what Bowers took from them. "My world has fallen apart," Sharyn Stein, Dan Stein's widow, told the jury.

Survivors and other affected by the attack will have another opportunity to address the court — and Bowers — when he is formally sentenced by the judge.

The synagogue has been closed since the shootings. The Tree of Life congregation is working on an overhauled synagogue complex that would house a sanctuary, museum, memorial and center for fighting antisemitism.

The heaviest animal ever may be this ancient whale found in the Peruvian desert

By MADDIE BURAKOFF AP Science Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — There could be a new contender for heaviest animal to ever live. While today's blue whale has long held the title, scientists have dug up fossils from an ancient giant that could tip the scales.

Researchers described the species — named *Perucetus colossus*, or "the colossal whale from Peru" — in the journal *Nature* on Wednesday. Each vertebra weighs over 220 pounds (100 kilograms) and its ribs measure nearly 5 feet (1.4 meters) long.

"It's just exciting to see such a giant animal that's so different from anything we know," said Hans Thewissen, a paleontologist at Northeast Ohio Medical University who had no role in the research.

The bones were discovered more than a decade ago by Mario Urbina from the University of San Marcos' Natural History Museum in Lima. An international team spent years digging them out from the side of a steep, rocky slope in the Ica desert, a region in Peru that was once underwater and is known for its rich marine fossils. The results: 13 vertebrae from the whale's backbone, four ribs and a hip bone.

The massive fossils, which are 39 million years old, "are unlike anything I've ever seen," said study author Alberto Collareta, a paleontologist at Italy's University of Pisa.

After the excavations, the researchers used 3D scanners to study the surface of the bones and drilled into them to peek inside. They used the huge — but incomplete — skeleton to estimate the whale's size and weight, using modern marine mammals for comparison, said study author Eli Amson, a paleontologist at the State Museum of Natural History in Stuttgart, Germany.

They calculated that the ancient giant weighed somewhere between 94 and 375 tons (85 and 340 metric tons). The biggest blue whales found have been within that range — at around 200 tons (180 metric tons).

Its body stretched to around 66 feet (20 meters) long. Blue whales can be longer — with some growing to more than 100 feet (30 meters) in length.

This means the newly discovered whale was "possibly the heaviest animal ever," Collareta said, but "it was most likely not the longest animal ever."

It weighs more in part because its bones are much denser and heavier than a blue whale's, Amson explained.

Those super-dense bones suggest that the whale may have spent its time in shallow, coastal waters, the authors said. Other coastal dwellers, like manatees, have heavy bones to help them stay close to the seafloor.

Without the skull, it's hard to know what the whale was eating to sustain such a huge body, Amson said.

It's possible that *P. colossus* was scavenging for food along the seafloor, researchers said, or eating up tons of krill and other tiny sea creatures in the water.

But "I wouldn't be surprised if this thing actually fed in a totally different way that we would never

imagine," Thewissen added.

Niger's military ruler warns against foreign meddling, urges population to defend the country

By SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

NIAMEY, Niger (AP) — Niger's new military ruler lashed out at neighboring countries and the international community in a nationally televised speech Wednesday night, and he called on the population to be ready to defend the nation.

In one of few addresses to the West African country since seizing power from Niger's democratically elected president a week ago, Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani warned against foreign meddling and military intervention against the coup.

"We therefore call on the people of Niger as a whole and their unity to defeat all those who want to inflict unspeakable suffering on our hard-working populations and destabilize our country," Tchiani said.

Tchiani, who commands Niger's presidential guard, also promised to create the conditions for a peaceful transition to elections following his ouster of President Mohamed Bazoum.

His speech comes amid rising regional tensions as the West African regional bloc ECOWAS threatens to use military force if Bazoum isn't released from house arrest and reinstated by Aug. 6. The bloc has imposed severe travel and economic sanctions.

The coup has been strongly condemned by Western countries, many of which saw Niger as the last reliable partner for the West in efforts to battle jihadis linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group in Africa's Sahel region. Russia and Western countries have been vying for influence in the fight against extremism.

France has 1,500 soldiers in Niger who conduct joint operations with its military, and the United States and other European countries have helped train the nation's troops.

Tchiani said Niger is facing difficult times ahead and that the "hostile and radical" attitudes of those who oppose his rule provide no added value. He called the sanctions imposed by ECOWAS illegal, unfair, inhuman and unprecedented.

The fierce rhetoric came as a fourth French military evacuation flight left Niger, after France, Italy and Spain announced evacuations of their citizens and other Europeans in Niamey amid concerns they could become trapped.

Nearly 1,000 people had left on four flights, and a fifth evacuation was underway, France's ministry of foreign affairs said.

An Italian military aircraft landed in Rome on Wednesday with 99 passengers, including 21 Americans and civilians from other countries, the Italian defense ministry said. Italian Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said the flights took place with the permission of Niger's new government.

The State Department on Wednesday ordered what it said was the temporary departure of nonessential embassy staff and some family members from Niger as a precaution. It said its embassy would remain open. Pentagon press secretary, Brig. Gen. Pat Ryder, said late Wednesday that the State Department had not requested U.S. military assistance for the departure.

A two-day meeting of defense chiefs of the ECOWAS bloc opened Wednesday in Nigeria's capital to confer on next steps. Abdel-Fatau Musah, the bloc's commissioner for political affairs, peace and stability, said the meeting in Abuja would deal with how to "negotiate with the officers in the hostage situation that we find ourselves in the Republic of Niger."

The sanctions announced by ECOWAS included halting energy transactions with Niger, which gets up to 90% of its power from neighboring Nigeria, according to the International Renewable Energy Agency.

On Tuesday, power transmission from Nigeria to Niger was cut off, an official at one of Nigeria's main electricity companies said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment on the issue. The official did not clarify how much of Niger's power the cut represented, but any reduction would further squeeze citizens in the impoverished country of more than 25 million people.

U.S. officials have stayed engaged in trying to roll back the armed takeover. Secretary of State Antony

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 45 of 62

Blinken, who praised Niger as a "model of democracy" when he visited there in March, spoke again Wednesday with President Mohamed Bazoum, the State Department said in a statement. Blinken called the safety of Bazoum and his family "paramount," and said the U.S. was committed to the restoration of democratically elected government in Niger.

A U.S. pullout would risk Washington's longstanding counter-terror investments in the West African country, including a major air base in Agadez that is key to efforts against armed extremists across the Sahara and Sahel. The United States has roughly 1,000 military personnel in Niger and helps train some Nigerien forces.

Leaving Niger would also risk yielding the country to the influence of Russia and its Wagner mercenary group, which already has a significant presence in Mali, Central African Republic and Sudan.

Before sunrise Wednesday, hundreds of people lined up outside the terminal at Niamey's airport hoping to leave. Some slept on the floor, while others watched television or talked on the phone.

A person who did not want to be named because of fears for personal safety, said they tried to shield their children from what was happening, telling them "just that they're going home." The person said they feared reprisal attacks against civilians if Niger's regional neighbors follow through on threats to intervene militarily.

At a virtual United Nations meeting Tuesday night, the U.N. special envoy for West Africa and the Sahel said non-military efforts were underway to restore democracy in Niger.

"One week can be more than enough if everybody talks in good faith, if everybody wants to avoid bloodshed," said the envoy, Leonardo Santos Simao. But, he added, "different member states are preparing themselves to use force if necessary."

Others in the diplomatic community said military intervention was a real option.

ECOWAS is resolved to use military force because economic and travel sanctions have failed to roll back other coups, said a Western diplomat in Niamey, who did not want to be identified for security reasons.

The M62 Movement, an activist group that has organized pro-Russia and anti-French protests, called for residents in Niamey to mobilize and block the airport until foreign military personnel leave the country.

"Any evacuation of Europeans (should be) conditional on the immediate departure of foreign military forces," Mahaman Sanoussi, the national coordinator for the group, said in a statement.

Pence fought an order to testify but now is a central figure in his former boss's indictment

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Mike Pence fought the Department of Justice in court to try to avoid testifying against his former boss. But the former vice president plays a central role in a new federal indictment unsealed Tuesday that outlines the first criminal charges against Donald Trump connected to his efforts to overturn the 2020 election.

The 45-page indictment is informed, in part, by contemporaneous notes that Pence kept of their conversations in the days leading up to the Jan. 6 attack on the U.S. Capitol, as Trump tried to pressure Pence to go along with his desperate — and prosecutors say illegal — scheme to keep the two men in power.

Among the discussions: an episode in which Trump is alleged to have told Pence that he was "too honest" for rejecting Trump's false claims that Pence had the power to overturn the vote. "Bottom line — won every state by 100,000s of votes," Trump said in another conversation, according to the indictment.

Pence, who is among a crowded field of Republicans now challenging Trump for the 2024 presidential nomination, has spent much of his nascent campaign defending his decision to defy Trump. He launched his bid with a firm denunciation of his two-time running mate, saying Trump had "demanded I choose between him and our Constitution. Now voters will be faced with the same choice."

Still, Pence said last month that he did not believe Trump had broken the law in connection with Jan. 6 and has repeatedly questioned the Department of Justice's motivations for investigating him.

On Tuesday night, he hit anew on his belief that Trump was unfit to serve again.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 46 of 62

"Today's indictment serves as an important reminder: Anyone who puts himself over the Constitution should never be President of the United States," he said in a statement. "Our country is more important than one man. Our Constitution is more important than any one man's career."

At a campaign stop Wednesday at the Indiana State Fair, Pence, who previously served as the state's governor, said he had "hoped it wouldn't come to this," but believed that he had "done his duty" that day.

"Sadly the president was surrounded by a group of crackpot lawyers that kept telling him what his itching ears wanted to hear," he said. "The president ultimately continued to demand that I choose him over the Constitution."

Despite his once-prominent position as Trump's No. 2, Pence has struggled to gain traction in his presidential campaign. Many of the former president's most loyal supporters still blame him for Trump's loss, believing Trump's false claims that he could have used his ceremonial role overseeing the counting of the Electoral College votes on Jan. 6 to prevent Democrat Joe Biden from becoming president.

Trump critics, on the other hand, fault Pence as being complicit in Trump's most controversial actions and standing by his side for so many years. Until the insurrection, Pence had been an extraordinarily loyal defender of his former boss.

With just three weeks until the first 2024 GOP presidential debate, it's unclear if Pence will even qualify to make the stage. He has yet to meet the donor minimum set by the Republican National Committee, but told donors during a call Wednesday that he expects to hit that mark in the next seven to 10 days.

"We feel really encouraged about the progress that we're making. ... We're not there yet, though," he said, before encouraging his supporters to ask friends and family members to chip in. Campaign manager Steve DeMaura said that, as of Wednesday morning, Pence had over 30,000 donors and was adding an average of more than 1,000 new names a day.

In Washington, Pence had refused to testify before the House committee that investigated the Jan. 6 attack, dismissing the probe as politicized. And he fought a subpoena demanding he testify before a grand jury, arguing that, because he was serving on Jan. 6 as president of the Senate, he was protected under the Constitution's "speech or debate" clause from being forced to testify. That provision is intended to protect members of Congress from questioning about official legislative acts.

Pence eventually complied when a judge refused to block his appearance, but said he wouldn't be forced to answer questions related to his role as Senate president.

Trump's lawyers had objected, too, citing executive privilege concerns.

Trump's new indictment outlines his and his allies' frantic efforts to remain in power. After first trying to persuade state lawmakers to reject certifying Biden's win, it says, they focused on Jan. 6 and "sought to enlist the Vice President to use his ceremonial role at the certification to fraudulently alter the election results."

They tried to persuade him to accept slates of fake electors or to reject states' electoral votes and send them back to state legislatures for further review, the indictment says.

That effort included a series of phone calls in late December and early January, including on Christmas Day.

"You know I don't think I have the authority to change the outcome," Pence said during one call with Trump, the indictment says.

In another, on New Year's Day, Trump berated Pence, telling him, "You're too honest" — an episode also recounted in Pence's book "So Help Me God."

Some Trump claims were viewed as dangerous. During a private meeting on Jan. 5, he "grew frustrated" at Pence and told the then-vice president that he would have to publicly criticize him. Concerned for Pence's safety, his chief of staff, Marc Short, alerted the head of Pence's Secret Service detail.

The indictment also outlines how Trump worked to falsely convince his supporters that Pence had the power to overturn the results.

Immediately after their final conversation before the riot, on the morning of Jan. 6, the indictment alleges that Trump revised the speech he was set to give at the Ellipse, "reinserting language that he had person-

ally drafted earlier that morning - falsely claiming that the Vice President had authority to send electoral votes to the states - but that advisors had previously successfully advocated be removed."

Trump, in his speech, repeated his false claims of election fraud and again gave false hope to his supporters that Pence had the power to change the outcome.

Not long after, hundreds of Trump's supporters were slamming through barricades, battling with police and breaking into the Capitol building — some chanting "Hang Mike Pence" as the former vice president and his family were rushed to safety.

Even after the rioters were cleared from the Capitol and Congress reconvened to certify the results, Trump's allies were still pushing Pence, emailing his attorney to urge that he seek further delay by adjourning the session for 10 days.

Pence instead certified the election, finalizing his and Trump's defeat.

FBI looks for more possible victims after woman escapes from cinder block cell in Oregon

By GENE JOHNSON and CLAIRE RUSH Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — A man who posed as an undercover police officer kidnapped a woman in Seattle, drove her hundreds of miles to his home in Oregon and locked her in a cinder block cell until she bloodied her hands breaking the door to escape, the FBI said Wednesday.

Negasi Zuberi, 29, faces federal charges that include interstate kidnapping, and authorities said they are looking for additional victims after linking him to violent sexual assaults in at least four more states.

"This woman was kidnapped, chained, sexually assaulted, and locked in a cinderblock cell," Stephanie Shark, the assistant special agent in charge of the FBI's Portland field office, said in a news release. "Police say she beat the door with her hands until they were bloody in order to break free. Her quick thinking and will to survive may have saved other women from a similar nightmare."

After the woman escaped from his home in Klamath Falls, Zuberi fled the southern Oregon city of roughly 22,000 people but was arrested by state police in Reno, Nevada, the next afternoon, the FBI said.

Court records don't list an attorney who might speak on Zuberi's behalf. He hasn't been assigned a public defender in Oregon yet, as he's still being transferred from Nevada, which can take several weeks, said Kevin Sonoff, a spokesman for the U.S. attorney's office in Oregon.

A grand jury in Portland on Wednesday returned an indictment charging Zuberi with interstate kidnapping and transporting an individual across state lines with intent to engage in criminal sexual activity. He could face up to life in prison if convicted.

According to the FBI, Zuberi also went by the names Sakima, Justin Hyché and Justin Kouassi, and he has lived in multiple states since 2016, possibly including California, Washington, Oregon, Colorado, Utah, Florida, New York, New Jersey, Alabama, and Nevada.

According to a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Oregon, Zuberi solicited the woman, identified only as Adult Victim 1, in the early-morning hours of July 15 to engage in prostitution along Aurora Avenue in Seattle, an area known for sex work. Afterward, Zuberi told the woman he was an undercover officer, showed her a badge, pointed a stun gun at her, and placed her in handcuffs and leg irons before putting her in the back of his vehicle, the complaint says.

He then drove the woman to his home in Oregon, stopping along the way to sexually assault her, the complaint states. When they arrived, about seven hours after he first encountered her in Seattle, he put her in a makeshift cell he had built in his garage — a cinder block cell with a door of metal bars — and said he was leaving to do paperwork.

The woman "briefly slept and awoke to the realization that she would likely die if she did not attempt to escape," the complaint says.

She started punching the metal door and broke some of its welded joints, creating a small opening which she climbed through, Klamath Falls Police Capt. Rob Reynolds said at a news conference.

"When she was trying to escape the cell itself, she repeatedly punched the door with her own hands,"

Reynolds said. "She had several lacerations along her knuckles."

The victim saw Zuberi's vehicle parked in the garage, opened it, grabbed his gun and then took off, leaving blood on a wooden fence she climbed over to escape, the complaint says. She flagged down a passing driver, who called 911.

Two Nevada State Patrol officers tracked Zuberi down at a Walmart parking lot in Reno the next day, July 16, the complaint says. He was in his car holding one of his children in the front seat while talking to his wife, who was standing outside the vehicle. He initially refused to get out of the car when the officers asked and instead cut himself with a sharp object and tried to destroy his phone, according to the complaint, which notes that Zuberi eventually surrendered and that the child wasn't harmed.

According to the complaint, investigators interviewed Zuberi's wife and neighbors. Authorities declined to say if there was any indication that any of them had been aware of the Seattle woman's abduction.

Investigators said that when they searched Zuberi's home and garage, they found the makeshift cell, the woman's purse and handwritten notes. One of the notes was titled "Operation Take Over," and included a bullet list with entries that read "Leave phone at home" and "Make sure they don't have a bunch of ppl (sic) in their life. You don't want any type of investigation."

Another handwritten document appeared to include a rough sketch for an underground structure using concrete blocks, foam insulation and waterproof concrete.

The FBI said Zuberi may have used other methods of gaining control of women, including drugging their drinks. The agency said it was setting up a website asking anyone who believes they may have been a victim to come forward.

The Klamath Falls rental home where Zuberi allegedly took the woman is owned by the city's mayor, Carol Westfall, and her husband, Kevin, according to property records. The house backs onto a park and is on a residential street, less than a quarter-mile (half a kilometer) from a highway.

Court records show that after Zuberi's arrest, the couple had him evicted.

"We are shocked and dismayed by what has occurred," the Westfalls said in an email. "We applaud the actions of the woman who helped capture this person and prevent him from committing further atrocities."

The Westfalls also praised local, state and federal law enforcement for their work on the case. They declined to respond to queries about their interactions with Zuberi.

Should Trump go to jail? The 2024 election could become a referendum on that question

By JILL COLVIN Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — The 2024 election will determine whether Donald Trump returns to the White House. It could also decide if he'll face time behind bars.

For Trump, who's now facing his third criminal indictment — this time for his efforts to overturn the 2020 election and block the transfer of presidential power — winning is about more than ego, redemption, score-settling or the future of the country.

"This election may very well be about Donald Trump's personal freedom," said Ari Fleischer, a longtime Republican strategist. "It's not an exaggeration to say, if convicted, he could be sentenced to prison unless he wins and he uses the levers of justice to reverse it or stop it or drop it."

The deeply personal stakes for Trump add to what is already an election unlike any other in modern history. It's now not only a debate over the country's challenges, but a partisan fight over whether the 77-year-old former president and GOP frontrunner should spend time in prison. Putting that issue out front, Trump ally Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., tweeted that she "will still vote for Trump even if he's in jail."

Critics have long alleged that Trump's fear of prosecution was a chief motivator for his decision to mount another campaign. While Trump denies that — insisting that charges never would have been brought had he decided against running — the new indictment ensures his campaign and legal issues are now intertwined.

"The legal messaging is the political messaging and the political messaging is the legal messaging," Trump campaign spokesman Steven Cheung said of the new reality. "It's part of what we're running on. Trump

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 49 of 62

has made the legal issues a big focus of his campaign and from our standpoint, it's messaging that works."

The combined 78 state and federal charges against Trump are already dominating his stump speeches as he seeks to portray himself as the victim of a politicized Justice Department bent on damaging the prospects of President Joe Biden's chief political rival. At his rallies, he tries to frame the charges as not just an attack on him, but his supporters.

"They're not indicting me, they're indicting you," he told the crowd at a weekend rally in Erie, Pennsylvania.

On a more practical level, Trump is confronting an unprecedented balancing act, campaigning while facing possible trials in at least three different jurisdictions.

He will appear in federal court in Washington Thursday to face the latest charges before headlining an Alabama Republican Party dinner on Friday. He faces another arraignment next week in Florida after special counsel Jack Smith filed additional criminal charges against him there in the case related to his handling of classified documents. That will come between a campaign stop in New Hampshire and a possible trip to the Iowa State Fair.

Trump also faces the potential of new charges in Atlanta related to efforts to overturn the 2020 election results in Georgia and must also decide whether to attend the first Republican presidential debate on Aug. 23.

Trump campaign officials said they weren't worried about such logistical challenges.

"President Trump's campaign will not be impacted by the deep state's efforts at election interference no matter how hard they try," said Trump senior campaign adviser Jason Miller, who, like others, argued Trump and his team are well-practiced at being on defense.

Cheung noted that, to date, no campaign events had been rescheduled or canceled because of legal proceedings and that, if anything, more stops have been added.

"It's full speed ahead," he said before the latest indictment.

But the challenge for Trump goes beyond politics. Each of the cases against him — ranging from the classified documents case in Florida to allegations in New York of making improper hush-money payments to women and the indictment released on Tuesday — will require intense preparation.

"Obviously, under normal circumstances, it's impossible to prepare for more than one criminal trial at a time," said Barry Boss, a leading white-collar criminal defense attorney. "Usually that's overwhelming in and of itself. So the notion of having multiple indictments that you're facing is just to me inconceivable."

In general, rules require defendants in federal cases to be present for major events like their initial appearances and when a verdict is returned, but give them leeway to decide when else to appear.

"There are some people who are very engaged in their defense and want to talk to you every day, and there are others that leave it to you and will be available if you need them," Boss said.

The investigations are also dominating Trump's campaign spending. So far this year, the former president's political operation has spent more on legal fees defending him, his staff and his allies than on travel, rallies and other campaign expenses combined, an AP analysis found.

Under Department of Justice guidelines, sitting presidents are generally shielded from indictment and criminal prosecution. But winning back the White House would not protect Trump indefinitely.

If he is elected anew, he could direct his attorney general to dismiss the federal cases, fire prosecutors or test the limits of presidential power by trying to pardon himself. But those efforts would only apply to the federal cases, not the state criminal charges he faces in New York or could face in Georgia.

Even if Trump does not end up the nominee, a different Republican president would likely face enormous pressure from Trump to drop the charges to placate his supporters -- a type of pressure no president has faced since Gerald Ford pardoned his predecessor, Richard Nixon, for his Watergate crimes.

In all, "It's extraordinarily bad news and the impact internationally would be devastating. That's why people need to come to their senses," said John Bolton, Trump's former national security adviser and now critic, who believes the reality heightens the pressure on Republicans to find an alternative candidate. "Somebody better take the initiative and say we are heading off the edge of a cliff here."

But so far, Trump has faced little political fallout from his indictments, his big lead over Republican chal-

lengers even growing as they struggle to respond. At the same time, he has used the prospect of jail time to try to raise cash.

The "Department of 'Justice'" he complained in a recent fundraising email, "is trying to put ME in JAIL for the rest of my life as an innocent man." Other solicitations have arrived with subject lines like "re: 400 YEARS in prison."

Fleischer said voters will begin to view Trump's legal triumphs and losses through the lens of the campaign.

If charges in one case are dismissed, for instance, "it will be like he won this legal primary," and if a judge rules against him, "people will feel like he lost the first day of the court primary."

Fleischer said that, if Trump ends up having to spend significant time in court, he can imagine the former president holding forth on the courthouse steps, telling voters watching at home, "I'm not on trial, you're on trial. And I'm in this courtroom fighting for you."

"It can take him off the road, but he just has another platform on which to have his voice be heard. To him it's all one campaign."

Russian drone strikes hit a Ukrainian port on Romania's border that is key to grain exports

By HANNA ARHIROVA Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russian drones on Wednesday hit a Ukrainian port city along the border with Romania, causing significant damage and a huge fire at facilities that are key to Ukrainian grain exports.

The attacks followed the end of a deal with Russia that had allowed Ukrainian shipments to world markets from the Black Sea port of Odesa. Since scrapping the deal, Russia has hammered the country's ports with strikes, compounding the blow to the key industry. In the past two weeks, dozens of drones and missile attacks have targeted the port of Odesa and the region's river ports, which are being used as alternative routes.

The head of the Ukrainian president's office, Andriy Yermak, said the city of Izmail, on the Danube River that forms part of the Ukraine-Romania border, was hit in the strikes.

Video obtained by The Associated Press showed explosions and a large fire in the distance on the Danube, captured by fishermen in Romania, a NATO member, on the other side of the river.

Three Ukrainian ports along the Danube are currently operating.

"The goal of the enemy was clearly the facilities of the ports and industrial infrastructure of the region," Ukraine's South operational command wrote in an update on Facebook. As a result of the attack, a fire broke out at industrial and port facilities, and a grain elevator was damaged.

Ukrainian infrastructure minister Oleksandr Kubrakov said that about 40,000 metric tons (44,000 tons) of grain, which had been expected by countries in Africa, China and Israel, was damaged in the attack.

Separately, Ukraine's air force intercepted 23 Iranian-made Shahed drones fired by Russia over the country overnight, mostly in Odesa and Kyiv, according to a morning update.

All 10 drones fired at Kyiv were intercepted, said Serhii Popko, the head of Kyiv City Administration. Numerous loud explosions were heard overnight as air defense systems were activated. Debris from felled drones hit three districts of the capital, damaging a nonresidential building, Popko said.

"Russian terrorists have once again targeted ports, grain facilities and global food security," President Volodymyr Zelenskyy posted Wednesday morning on Telegram. "The world must respond."

He confirmed that some drones hit their targets, with the most "significant damage" in the south of Ukraine.

Wheat prices rose about 3% and corn prices nearly 2% on Wednesday in Chicago trading following the new attacks, before erasing those spikes and trading down. It showed the continued volatility in world markets as Russia targets Ukraine's ports and agricultural infrastructure.

Ukraine is a major supplier of wheat, corn, vegetable oil and other agricultural products important to the Middle East, Africa and parts of Asia where people are struggling with high food prices and hunger.

Ukraine also can export by road and rail through Europe, but those routes are more costly than going

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 51 of 62

by the Black Sea and have stirred divisions among nearby countries.

Russia and Ukraine agreed a year ago on a deal brokered by the United Nations and Turkey that reopened three Ukrainian Black Sea ports blocked by fighting and provided assurances that ships entering the ports would not be attacked. Russia declined to renew the agreement last month, complaining that its own exports were being held up.

In a telephone conversation Wednesday, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan told Russia's Vladimir Putin that he would seek to restore the Black Sea initiative to export Ukrainian grain, according to his office.

Referring to the deal as a "bridge of peace," Erdogan told Putin that Turkey would "continue to carry out intensive efforts and diplomacy for the continuation of the Black Sea initiative."

The statement said the two leaders had agreed on Putin visiting Turkey but did not provide a date. Erdogan has previously said Putin would come during August.

A Kremlin statement about the call said "readiness was confirmed to return to the Istanbul agreements as soon as the West actually fulfills all the obligations to Russia recorded in them." It said preparations were continuing for "a possible meeting" of Putin and Erdogan.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Wednesday evening said the two leaders agreed to "in the nearest future determine exactly" where the meeting will take place and when.

Two civilians were wounded in shelling of the city of Kherson during the night, regional Gov. Oleksandr Prokudin said Wednesday. A summary from Zelenskyy's office said a doctor was killed and five medical personnel were wounded in an attack on a city hospital in Kherson, but didn't specify if the attack was on Wednesday or Tuesday.

A 91-year-old woman died in an attack on a village in the Kharkiv region, the presidential office said.

In the eastern region of Donetsk, four people were wounded in Russian shelling over the past day, according to Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko.

The area around the city of Nikopol, across the river from the Russian-held Zaporizhzhia Nuclear Power Plant, was shelled three times, Gov. Serhiy Lysak said.

Overall in the war, Ukrainian authorities have so far confirmed the deaths of at least 10,749 civilians, and at least 15,599 more have been wounded, Yuri Belousov from Ukraine's Prosecutor General's Office said in an interview with Interfax-Ukraine that was released Wednesday.

"We understand that these numbers are the tip of the iceberg. Once we de-occupy our lands, the numbers will grow many times, possibly tens of times. I think in Mariupol alone there will be tens of thousands of deaths," Belousov, who runs a department for combatting crimes committed during an armed conflict, said.

Climate change made July hotter for 4 of 5 humans on Earth, scientists find

By SETH BORENSTEIN AP Science Writer

Human-caused global warming made July hotter for four out of five people on Earth, with more than 2 billion people feeling climate change-boosted warmth daily, according to a flash study.

More than 6.5 billion people, or 81% of the world's population, sweated through at least one day where climate change had a significant effect on the average daily temperature, according to a new report issued Wednesday by Climate Central, a science nonprofit that has figured a way to calculate how much climate change has affected daily weather.

"We really are experiencing climate change just about everywhere," said Climate Central Vice President for Science Andrew Pershing.

Researchers looked at 4,711 cities and found climate change fingerprints in 4,019 of them for July, which other scientists said is the hottest month on record. The new study calculated that the burning of coal, oil and natural gas had made it three times more likely to be hotter on at least one day in those cities. In the U.S., where the climate effect was largest in Florida, more than 244 million people felt greater heat due to climate change during July.

For 2 billion people, in a mostly tropical belt across the globe, climate change made it three times more

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 52 of 62

likely to be hotter every single day of July. Those include the million-person cities of Mecca, Saudi Arabia and San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

The day with the most widespread climate-change effect was July 10, when 3.5 billion people experienced extreme heat that had global warming's fingerprints, according to the report. That's different than the hottest day globally, which was July 7, according to the University of Maine's Climate Reanalyzer.

The study is not peer-reviewed, the gold standard for science, because the month just ended. It is based on peer-reviewed climate fingerprinting methods that are used by other groups and are considered technically valid by the National Academy of Sciences. Two outside climate scientists told The Associated Press that they found the study to be credible.

More than a year ago Climate Central developed a measurement tool called the Climate Shift Index. It calculates the effect, if any, of climate change on temperatures across the globe in real time, using European and U.S. forecasts, observations and computer simulations. To find if there is an effect, the scientists compare recorded temperatures to a simulated world with no warming from climate change and it's about 2 degrees (1.2 degrees Celsius) cooler to find out the chances that the heat was natural.

"By now, we should all be used to individual heat waves being connected to global warming," said Princeton University climate scientist Gabriel Vecchi, who wasn't part of the study. "Unfortunately, this month, as this study elegantly shows, has given the vast majority of people on this planet a taste of global warming's impact on extreme heat."

In the United States, 22 U.S. cities had at least 20 days when climate change tripled the likelihood of extra heat, including Miami, Houston, Phoenix, Tampa, Las Vegas and Austin.

The U.S. city most affected by climate change in July was Cape Coral, Florida, which saw fossil fuels make hotter temperatures 4.6 times more likely for the month and had 29 out of 31 days where there was a significant climate change fingerprint.

The farther north in the United States, the less of a climate effect was seen in July. Researchers found no significant effect in places like North Dakota and South Dakota, Wyoming, northern California, upstate New York and parts of Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin.

Heat waves in the U.S. Southwest, the Mediterranean and even China have gotten special analysis by World Weather Attribution finding a climate change signal, but places like the Caribbean and Middle East are having huge climate change signals and not getting the attention, Pershing said. Unlike the other study, this one looked at the entire globe.

Republican National Committee boosts polling and fundraising thresholds to qualify for 2nd debate

By MEG KINNARD Associated Press

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP) — Some Republican presidential candidates haven't yet met polling and fundraising thresholds for the first debate of the 2024 cycle, and now the qualifications for making it to the second one will be even higher.

To get to the second debate, scheduled for Sept. 27 at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library in Simi Valley, California, candidates will need at least 3% in two national polls or will need 3% in one national poll as well as two polls from four of the early-voting states — Iowa, New Hampshire, Nevada and South Carolina — a person familiar with the markers set by the Republican National Committee told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The White House hopefuls must also have at least 50,000 unique donors, with at least 200 of those coming from 20 states or territories, according to the person, who wasn't authorized to speak publicly on the qualifications and spoke on the condition of anonymity. The new thresholds were first reported by Politico.

All of the requirements must be met at least two days before the debate, the person said.

Those are increases from the thresholds for the first debate, scheduled for Aug. 23 in Milwaukee. To get there, candidates have to secure at least 1% in three high-quality national polls, or in a mixture of early-state and national polls, as well as secure at least 40,000 unique donors.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 53 of 62

Meeting those marks has been tough for about half of the broad GOP field.

So far, seven candidates have qualified for the first debate: former President Donald Trump, Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott, biotech entrepreneur Vivek Ramaswamy, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie and North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum.

Two hopefuls, former Vice President Mike Pence and former Arkansas Gov. Asa Hutchinson, have met the polling requirements but not yet secured the needed number of unique donors. Others have aimed to up their numbers in creative — and potentially legally questionable — ways.

Trump, the field's early front-runner, long ago met the polling and fundraising thresholds but has said that he might skip the Milwaukee debate and hold a competing campaign event of his own. The on-stage participating candidate with the highest poll numbers will appear in the center, according to the debate details shared with the AP.

An overall RNC requirement to participate in its debates is that candidates pledge to support the eventual GOP nominee and vow not to take part in any debates not sanctioned by the party, which include the general election debate sponsored by the Commission on Presidential Debates.

The RNC has declined to release the actual language of the pledge it intends to make candidates sign. The pledge is expected to be similar to the one in 2016, when candidates had to affirm that, if they did not win the nomination, they would "endorse the 2016 Republican presidential nominee regardless of who it is" and not run as an independent or accept the nomination of any other party.

Only former Texas Rep. Will Hurd has said definitively that he will not sign the 2024 pledge. He said he won't support Trump, who has been indicted three times, if he becomes the eventual nominee.

Trump was indicted Tuesday on felony charges for working to overturn his 2020 election loss to Democrat Joe Biden in the run-up to the Jan. 6, 2021, riot by his supporters at the U.S. Capitol, and he is due in court in Washington, D.C., on Thursday. His campaign has called those charges "fake."

He also faces charges in a federal case in Florida related to the mishandling of classified documents and in a state case in New York stemming from hush money payments made during the 2016 presidential campaign to bury allegations of extramarital sexual encounters.

Burnout, low pay and politics are driving away teachers. Turnover is soaring for educators of color

By MARC LEVY Associated Press

HARRISBURG, Pa. (AP) — Rhonda Hicks could have kept working into her 60s. She loved teaching and loved her students in Philadelphia's public schools. As a Black woman, she took pride in being a role model for many children of color.

But other aspects of the job deteriorated, such as growing demands from administrators over what and how to teach. And when she retires in a few weeks, she will join a disproportionately high number of Black and Hispanic teachers in her state who are leaving the profession.

"I enjoy actually teaching, that part I've always enjoyed," said Hicks, 59. "Sometimes it's a little stressful. Sometimes the kids can be difficult. But it's the higher-ups: 'Do it this way or don't do it at all.'"

Teachers are leaving jobs in growing numbers, state reports show. The turnover in some cases is highest among teachers of color. A major culprit: stress — from pandemic-era burnout, low pay and the intrusion of politics into classrooms. But the burdens can be heavier in schools serving high-poverty communities that also have higher numbers of teachers of color.

In Philadelphia, a city with one of the highest concentrations of Black residents in the U.S., the proportion of Black teachers has been sliding. Two decades ago, it was about one-third. Last fall, it fell to below 23%, according to district figures.

In the school buildings where Hicks taught, most teachers were white. She said she and other teachers of color were expected to give more of themselves in a district where half the students are Black.

"A lot of times when you see teachers that are saving Black and brown kids on TV, it's always the white ones," Hicks said. "There are Black teachers and Hispanic teachers out there that do the same thing in

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 54 of 62

real life, all the time.”

Nationally, about 80% of American public school teachers are white, even though white students no longer represent a majority in public schools. Having teachers who reflect the race of their students is important, researchers say, to provide students with role models who have insight into their culture and life experience.

The departures are undoing some recent success that schools have had in bringing on more Black and Hispanic teachers. Turnover is higher among newer teachers. And researchers have found that teachers of color, who tend to have less seniority, often are affected disproportionately by layoffs.

In Pennsylvania, Black teachers were more than twice as likely to leave the profession as white teachers after the 2021-22 school year, according to a data analysis by Ed Fuller, an education professor at Penn State. Hispanic and multiracial teachers had a similar ratio, of around twice as likely.

Black and Hispanic teachers are more likely to be uncertified or teaching in an underfunded district, all of which is associated with someone leaving the profession at a higher rate, Fuller said.

“They’re in more precarious teaching positions, meaning you’re in a position with less resources and worse working conditions, so you’re more likely to quit no matter who you are,” Fuller said.

Sharif El-Mekki, a former Philadelphia teacher who leads the Center for Black Educator Development, said schools around the country come to him seeking help in recruiting teachers of color. But they don’t have plans to retain them, such as providing opportunities to help shape policies and curricula.

To address the problem, schools can start by ensuring students of color have better experiences in school themselves and offering them opportunities to consider teaching, El-Mekki said. Black teachers also are more likely stay on in school systems that have Black leaders, he said, as well as a culture and approaches to teaching that are anti-racist.

“We need to think about, ‘How are they experiencing my school?’” he said. “If they are having a better experience with us, they are more likely to stay.”

Attrition by teachers of color can vary greatly by state or region. Overall, it has been higher compared with white teachers for two decades, since around the time federal policies began encouraging the closure of schools with low test scores, said Travis Bristol, a professor of teacher education and education policy at the University of California-Berkeley.

In underfunded schools with large populations of Black and Hispanic children, teachers say they can expect more responsibilities, fewer resources and more children troubled by poverty and violence.

“I’m still in the classroom because this is my version of resistance and pushing back on a system that was not designed for folks that look like me and kids that look like me,” said Sofia Gonzalez, a 14-year teacher of Puerto Rican heritage in Chicago-area public schools. “We as teachers of color have to find so much inner strength inside of us to sustain our careers in education.”

The last few years have been a trying stretch for teachers everywhere. They’ve had to navigate COVID-19, a pivot to distance learning and the struggles with misbehavior and mental health that accompanied students’ return to classrooms.

Then there’s the pay: Educators’ salaries have been falling behind their college-educated peers in other professions.

Teachers unions have warned of flagging morale, and there are signs lately that more educators are heading for the exits. Data from at least a handful of states — including Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Texas and Washington — is showing an increase in teacher attrition.

Black teachers reported significantly higher rates of burnout and being significantly more likely to leave their job than white teachers, according to research sponsored by two national teachers unions and published in June by the Rand Corp. think tank.

Chantle Simpson, 36, taught her last day of school this spring in Frisco, Texas, ending her 11-year career as a teacher.

She described an exodus of her fellow teachers of color from the profession amid growing expectations from administrators, who put more work on teachers by repeatedly appeasing demands from parents.

Administrators — including those who are Black or Hispanic — put more pressure on Black and Hispanic teachers, she said.

"They believe we can handle more," Simpson said. "Because we develop relationships better, the kids understand us more, so they're more likely to behave for us or do what we ask them to. So we get fitted with the children who are more challenging or have more requirements. It's crazy."

That leaves those teachers with less time for the rest of their better-behaved students, Simpson said.

"I always was conflicted by it," Simpson said. "It's mixed with praise, but it's a punishment. 'Oh, you're so great at building relationships, the kids really appreciate being with you, they respond to you.' But at the same time, you're increasing my workload, you're increasing the amount of attention I have to give to one child versus my whole class."

Trump indicted for efforts to overturn 2020 election and block transfer of power

By ERIC TUCKER and MICHAEL KUNZELMAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump was indicted on felony charges Tuesday for working to overturn the results of the 2020 election in the run-up to the violent riot by his supporters at the U.S. Capitol, with the Justice Department acting to hold him accountable for an unprecedented effort to block the peaceful transfer of presidential power and threaten American democracy.

The four-count indictment, the third criminal case against Trump, provided deeper insight into a dark moment that has already been the subject of exhaustive federal investigations and captivating public hearings. It chronicles a months-long campaign of lies about the election results and says that, even when those falsehoods resulted in a chaotic insurrection at the Capitol, Trump sought to exploit the violence by pointing to it as a reason to further delay the counting of votes that sealed his defeat.

Even in a year of rapid-succession legal reckonings for Trump, Tuesday's indictment, with charges including conspiring to defraud the United States government that he once led, was stunning in its allegations that a former president assaulted the "bedrock function" of democracy. It's the first time the defeated president, who is the early front-runner for next year's Republican presidential nomination, is facing legal consequences for his frantic but ultimately failed effort to cling to power.

"The attack on our nation's Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, was an unprecedented assault on the seat of American democracy," said Justice Department special counsel Jack Smith, whose office has spent months investigating Trump. "It was fueled by lies, lies by the defendant targeted at obstructing a bedrock function of the U.S. government: the nation's process of collecting, counting and certifying the results of the presidential election."

The Trump campaign called the charges "fake" and asked why it took two-and-a-half years to bring them.

Trump was the only person charged in Tuesday's indictment. But prosecutors obliquely referenced a half-dozen co-conspirators, including lawyers inside and outside of government who they said had worked with Trump to undo the election results. They also advanced legally dubious schemes to enlist slates of fake electors in battleground states won by Democrat Joe Biden to falsely claim that Trump had actually won them.

The indictment accuses the defeated president and his allies of trying to "exploit the violence and chaos" by calling lawmakers into the evening on Jan. 6 to delay the certification of Biden's victory.

It also cites handwritten notes from former Vice President Mike Pence that give gravitas to Trump's relentless goading to reject the electoral votes. Pence, who is challenging Trump for the GOP presidential nomination, declined overtures from a House panel that investigated the insurrection and sought to avoid testifying before the special counsel. He appeared only after losing a court fight, with prosecutors learning that Trump in one conversation derided him as "too honest" to stop the certification.

Trump is due in court Thursday, the first step in a legal process that will play out in a courthouse situated between the White House he once controlled and the Capitol his supporters once stormed. The case is already being dismissed by the former president and his supporters — and even some of his rivals — as

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 56 of 62

just another politically motivated prosecution.

Yet the case stems from one of the most serious threats to American democracy in modern history.

The indictment centers on the turbulent two months after the November 2020 election in which Trump refused to accept his loss and spread lies that victory was stolen from him. The turmoil resulted in the riot at the Capitol, when Trump loyalists violently broke into the building, attacked police officers and disrupted the congressional counting of electoral votes.

In between the election and the riot, Trump urged local election officials to undo voting results in their states, pressured Pence to halt the certification of electoral votes and falsely claimed that the election had been stolen — a notion repeatedly rejected by judges. Among those lies, prosecutors say, were claims that more than 10,000 dead voters had voted in Georgia along with tens of thousands of double votes in Nevada. Each claim had been rebutted by courts or state or federal officials, the indictment says.

Prosecutors say Trump knew his claims of having won the election were false but he “repeated and widely disseminated them anyway — to make his knowingly false claims appear legitimate, to create an intense national atmosphere of mistrust and anger, and to erode public faith in the administration of the election.”

The document carefully outlined arguments that Trump has been making to defend his conduct, that he had every right to challenge the results, to use the courts, even to lie about it in the process. But in stark detail, the indictment outlines how the former president instead took criminal steps to reverse the clear verdict voters had rendered.

The indictment had been expected since Trump said in mid-July that the Justice Department had informed him he was a target of its investigation. A bipartisan House committee that spent months investigating the run-up to the Capitol riot also recommended prosecuting Trump on charges, including aiding an insurrection and obstructing an official proceeding.

The indictment includes charges of conspiring to defraud the U.S., conspiring to obstruct an official proceeding, obstructing an official proceeding and violating a post-Civil War Reconstruction Era civil rights statute that makes it a crime to conspire to violate rights that are guaranteed by the Constitution — in this case, the right to vote.

The mounting criminal cases are unfolding in the heat of the 2024 race. A conviction in this case, or any other, would not prevent Trump from pursuing the White House or serving as president, though Trump as president could theoretically appoint an attorney general to dismiss the charges or potentially try to pardon himself.

In New York, state prosecutors have charged Trump with falsifying business records about a hush money payoff to a porn actor before the 2016 election. The trial is set to begin in March.

In Florida, the Justice Department has brought more than three dozen felony counts, accusing him of illegally possessing classified documents after leaving the White House and concealing them from investigators. That trial begins in May.

Prosecutors in Georgia are also investigating efforts by Trump and his allies to reverse his election loss to Biden there. The district attorney of Fulton County is expected to announce charging decisions within weeks.

Smith’s team has cast a broad net as part of his federal investigation, with his team questioning senior Trump administration officials, including Pence, before a grand jury in Washington. Prosecutors also interviewed election officials in Georgia, Wisconsin, Michigan and other battleground states won by Biden who were pressured by the Trump team to change voting results.

Rudy Giuliani, a Trump lawyer who pursued post-election legal challenges, spoke voluntarily to prosecutors. Giuliani was not named in the indictment, but appears to match the description of one of the co-conspirators. A spokesman for Giuliani said Tuesday night that Trump had a “good-faith basis” for the actions he took.

Attorney General Merrick Garland last year appointed Smith, an international war crimes prosecutor who also led the Justice Department’s public corruption section, as special counsel to investigate efforts to undo the election as well as Trump’s retention of classified documents at his Florida home, Mar-a-Lago.

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 57 of 62

Although Trump has derided him as “deranged” and called him politically motivated, Smith’s past experience includes overseeing significant prosecutions against high-profile Democrats.

The Justice Department’s investigations began well before Smith’s appointment, proceeding alongside separate criminal probes into the rioters themselves. More than 1,000 people have been charged in connection with the insurrection, including some with seditious conspiracy.

Prepare to flick off your incandescent bulbs for good under new US rules that kicked in this week

By DAVID HAMILTON AP Business Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Get ready to say goodbye to the once ubiquitous incandescent light bulb, pioneered by Thomas Edison more than a century ago. You can thank — or blame — new federal energy efficiency regulations that went into full effect Tuesday. Quite possibly without you even noticing.

The Energy Department rules, which date back to the Obama administration, have been whipsawed in the political process for years. Some conservatives and Republican lawmakers long denounced them for interfering with consumer choice and placing undue burdens on business. Under former President Donald Trump, the Energy Department scrapped them in 2019; the Biden administration subsequently revived them.

Yet by the time Aug. 1 rolled around, the critics had gone quiet, possibly because companies and consumers have already started voting for better lighting efficiency with their wallets.

Here’s what you need to know.

WHAT CHANGES UNDER THE NEW RULES?

The rules establish strict new efficiency standards for bulbs used in homes and businesses and bans the manufacture and sale of those that don’t meet those requirements. Practical incandescent bulbs, which trace their origin to an 1880 Edison patent, can’t meet those standards. Neither can halogen bulbs. The rules also ban imports of less efficient bulbs.

But those requirements carry a bit less heft than they would have several years back, largely because advances in LED technology and manufacturing have dramatically lowered prices and improved quality. LED stands for “light emitting diode,” a semiconductor device that converts electricity directly into light.

Between 2015 and 2020, for instance, the percentage of American households that reported using LED bulbs for most or all of their lighting jumped more than tenfold — from 4% to 47%, according to the Energy Information Administration, an independent federal statistics agency.

SO DO I HAVE TO THROW AWAY MY OLD INCANDESCENTS?

Fortunately not. The rules don’t affect bulbs that you already own; they also exempt special purpose incandescents such as those used inside ovens.

But suppose you discard — or give away — your halogen and incandescent bulbs. Odds are good that replacing them with LED bulbs could save you a fair amount of money.

As the rules reinforce existing market changes, the Energy Department believes that U.S. consumers can save almost \$3 billion annually on their utility bills. Similarly, it projects that the rules could cut carbon emissions by 222 million metric tons over the next 30 years.

WHY DO LED BULBS SAVE ENERGY AND MONEY?

Incandescent bulbs create illumination by running an electric current through a filament that heats it until it glows. Edison’s first practical light bulb used a carbonized cotton thread for that purpose; modern bulbs use tungsten filaments in an inert gas.

But incandescents are not very efficient. Only roughly 5% of the energy used by an incandescent bulb produces light; the remaining 95% or so is lost as heat. This is why you let an incandescent bulb cool off before unscrewing it.

They also burn out frequently, requiring replacement roughly every year.

The light-emitting components in LED bulbs, by contrast, are manufactured via the same process used to make computer chips, which makes them extremely efficient. They generate almost no heat and use up to 90% less energy than incandescent bulbs while lasting up to 25 times longer, according to the

Energy Department.

Some of Niger's neighbors defend the coup there, even hinting at war. It's a warning for Africa

By CARA ANNA Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Not everyone is hostile to the coups in Niger and other African nations in the past few years that have worried the West. In the "family photo" for last week's Russia-Africa Summit, Russian President Vladimir Putin stood next to Ibrahim Traore, the young military officer who seized power in Burkina Faso in September.

It was an uncomfortable moment for many leaders elsewhere in Africa. "The normalization and dignifying of military takeovers must trouble our great continent," Kenya's principal secretary for foreign affairs wrote while sharing the photo this week.

Now Burkina Faso and another military junta-led country friendly with Russia, Mali, have taken the unusual step of declaring that foreign military intervention in neighboring Niger after last week's coup would be considered a declaration of war against them, too.

They are defying the West African regional body known as ECOWAS, which said on Sunday it could use force if Niger's coup leaders don't reinstate the democratically elected president, Mohamed Bazoum, within a week. Another coup-affected nation, Guinea, in a separate statement supported Niger's junta and urged ECOWAS to "come to its senses."

Their defense of the events in Niger complicates the world's response as the resolve of partners is tested. It also reflects what a United Nations study warned last month after surveying thousands of citizens of African countries that recently went through coups or other undemocratic changes of government.

"A possible regional-level scenario might see the military juntas in Mali, Guinea and Burkina Faso team up" to challenge the region's traditional response to coups, the report said. It warned they could defy sanctions and stand for elections, with help from "new international alliances."

The report said that "paradoxically," popular support for the recent military coups in Africa is "symptomatic of a new wave of democratic aspiration that is expanding across the continent" as overwhelmingly young populations grow frustrated with existing economic and political systems and press for change more rapid than what elections can deliver.

Many just want to feel secure as Islamic extremists expand their range in the Sahel, the arid region south of the Sahara Desert. "I think that a military power in Niger will better coordinate its military actions with Mali and Burkina Faso to fight terrorism," Harber Cisse, a Malian citizen living in Guinea, told The Associated Press. He believes Niger's democratically elected president, Mohamed Bazoum, had been "turning a blind eye" and allowing extremists to cross into Mali.

Those with memories of past coups in the region are not necessarily shocked by the hastily assembled military announcements and unrest in the streets. The U.N. survey found optimism and excitement along with anxiety for the future, plus an impatience that has led to multiple coups within months in more than one country. The four coups in Africa in 2021 were the most in a single year in two decades.

Many people said they believed the army should take over when a civilian government is incompetent. "These findings highlight the risk of a return to an era of close military involvement in African politics," the U.N. report said.

Certain international responses to coups can be seen as an insult, especially if some foreign partners were seen as prioritizing security instead of African governments' accountability for alleged misconduct. "In some scenarios, these geopolitically driven interventions have compounded the very factors that heighten coup risk," the U.N. report said.

Niger had been seen by the United States and allies as the last major counterterrorism partner in the immediate region after Mali and Burkina Faso kicked out French troops and Mali ordered a 15,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping mission to leave, claiming it had failed in its mission.

Post-coup economic sanctions and cuts in assistance programs threaten to worsen the living situation

for many in some of the world's poorest countries, while well-off foreigners board evacuation flights to more comfortable places.

To help counter the "epidemic of coups," international partners shouldn't downplay people's grievances against national authorities, and their engagement should extend beyond the security sector and "national elites," the director of the Amani Africa think tank, Solomon Dersso, wrote Monday.

"There's a small number of people profiting from the riches of Niger," one coup supporter, Seydou Moussa, said in the capital, Niamey. "Nigeriens cannot live like that. It's time that change comes. And change has come."

Part of the frustration in Niger and its neighbors over government weaknesses in addressing corruption and the threat from Islamic extremism has been aimed at France, the former colonizer of present-day Mali, Guinea, Niger, Burkina Faso and others in west and central Africa. The French embassy was attacked in Niger shortly after the coup, and the one in Burkina Faso was attacked last year.

Some in West Africa have been upset by France's warning shortly after the coup in Niger against those threatening "French interests" in the country, seeing it as an example of the alleged priorities that have long driven outsiders' involvement, notably natural resources.

Russia has played into such sentiments by framing itself to African nations as a country that never colonized the continent, winning support in Mali and other vulnerable nations for Moscow and the Russian mercenary group Wagner.

The Russian flag has been seen in the streets of Niger's capital in the days after the coup, even as the Kremlin called for Niger "to restore constitutional order as soon as possible."

Moscow also has emphasized its role as the top arms supplier to Africa, which Burkina Faso's military leader embraced during the Russia-Africa Summit.

"Thank God, Russia is a country that refuses nothing," Traore said in an interview with the Russian media outlet Sputnik, asserting that Moscow imposes no restrictions on weapons purchases and even is ready to deliver some for free to help the fight against extremism. "In fact, everything we want to buy, Russia agrees to sell to us. This is not the case with other countries."

Astros' Framber Valdez throws no-hitter vs Guardians on 93 pitches

By KRISTIE RIEKEN AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Framber Valdez was determined to improve this month after a subpar July where he posted a 7.29 ERA.

On the first day of August he certainly did that.

Valdez threw the 16th no-hitter in Houston Astros history in a 2-0 victory over the Cleveland Guardians on Tuesday night.

"The last couple of games I just wasn't as focused as I could have been and I'll be the first to admit that," Valdez said in Spanish through a translator. "But today I just came very focused, very positive and just ready to leave it all out on the field."

Hours after the Astros reacquired ace Justin Verlander from the New York Mets, Valdez allowed just one baserunner on a walk in the fifth inning, but still faced the minimum thanks to a double play in that frame. He threw 93 pitches, with 65 strikes.

"It's a wonderful day," manager Dusty Baker said. "(Valdez) started out with a bang. He had his breaking ball from the very beginning ... and you could tell he was on and he stayed on."

Gabriel Arias grounded out to start the ninth before Myles Straw lined out to center field. Cam Gallagher then lined out to Jeremy Pena to end it and set off the celebration.

Valdez (9-7) raised his arms above his head and then clapped as a huge smile crossed his face. He's the first left-hander to throw a no-hitter for Houston.

"When I got to the seventh inning I thought to myself, 'OK, I can finish this game without any hits,'" Valdez said. "Got to the eighth inning and still felt good, felt like it was still the first inning so I said. 'I'm

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 60 of 62

just going to continue attacking the hitters, trying to do my best out there.”

The 29-year-old from the Dominican Republic had pitched five complete games, including two complete game shutouts before Tuesday’s gem.

Catcher Martín Maldonado caught the third no-hitter of his career. He said he could tell from Valdez’s warmup that he would have a good night.

“I noticed from the bullpen, he wasn’t joking around,” Maldonado said. “He was straight business from the moment he walked out there.”

Maldonado had a simple answer as to what made Valdez so special Tuesday night.

“Just Framber being Framber,” he said.

Indeed, Valdez relies heavily on getting groundouts, and this game was no different. Valdez entered the game first in the AL in groundball percentage at 54.7 and 12 of his outs against the Guardians were on groundouts.

“It’s easy to see the two-seam movement, but his curveball — man just so good and he threw a couple changeups,” Cleveland manager Terry Francona said. “But his curveball was really good.”

The no-hitter was the third in the majors this season. New York Yankees right-hander Domingo Germán pitched a perfect game at Oakland on June 28, and Matt Manning, Alex Lange and Jason Foley of the Detroit Tigers threw a combined no-no against Toronto on July 8.

It’s Houston’s first no-hitter in the regular season since Cristian Javier, Hector Neris and Ryan Pressly combined to no-hit the Yankees on June 25, 2022, and the first by a single pitcher since Verlander against Toronto on Sept. 1, 2019.

The Astros made the move for Verlander as they chase the Texas Rangers for first place in the AL West. Texas beat the White Sox 2-0 on Tuesday to leave Houston a half-game back.

Baker thought it was special that Valdez threw the first individual no-hitter for the Astros since Verlander’s on the day Verlander was traded back to Houston.

“It was sort of destined to be,” Baker said. “And I’m sure Justin is smiling right now on his way here and he’ll be the first one to congratulate Framber when he gets here. It’s a great day.”

Javier also started a combined no-hitter in Game 4 of last year’s World Series against the Phillies on Nov. 2, 2022. Bryan Abreu, Rafael Montero and Pressly also pitched in that game.

Kyle Tucker provided the offense in this one with a two-run single in the third inning.

Valdez retired the first 12 batters, with six strikeouts, before Oscar Gonzalez walked to open the fifth. But Valdez still faced the minimum in that inning thanks to that double play.

Arias grounded out to start the sixth before a lineout by Straw. Gallagher then grounded out to end the sixth.

Valdez retired all three batters in the seventh on groundouts. The first two were routine. But Valdez deflected a high chopper hit by José Ramírez and Peña’s throw to first barely beat Ramírez there for the third out.

Valdez struck out Gonzalez to start the eighth and retired David Fry and Will Brennan on groundouts to end the inning.

The strong start comes after he allowed eight hits and six runs — both season highs — in 3 2/3 innings of a 13-5 loss to Texas in his last outing.

Jake Meyers singled to start Houston’s third but was caught stealing after Maldonado struck out.

Jose Altuve singled and Jeremy Peña walked before a wild pitch by Williams allowed both runners to advance a base.

Tucker then singled to center field to send both runners home and put the Astros up 2-0.

Cleveland’s rookie starter Gavin Williams (1-3) allowed four hits and two runs in five innings for the loss.

Josh Bell was originally in Cleveland’s lineup Tuesday but was scratched after the team made a late deal to send him to Miami for infielder Jean Segura and infield prospect Kahlil Watson.

UP NEXT

RHP Tanner Bibee (7-2, 3.11 ERA) starts for Cleveland in the series finale Wednesday. Houston hasn’t announced a starter.

As the summer breezes fade, sweltering Europeans give air conditioning a skeptical embrace

By COLLEEN BARRY and NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — During Europe's heat wave last month, Floriana Peroni's vintage clothing store had to close for a week. A truck of rented generators blocked her door as they fed power to the central Roman neighborhood hit by a blackout as temperatures surged. The main culprit: air conditioning.

The period — in which temperatures hit 40 degrees Celsius (104 degrees Fahrenheit) — coincided with peak electricity use that came close to Italy's all-time high, hitting a peak load of more than 59 gigawatts on July 19. That neared a July 2015 record.

Intensive electricity use knocked out the network not only near the central Campo de Fiori neighborhood, where Peroni operates her shop, but elsewhere in the Italian capital. Demand in that second July week surged 30%, correlating to a heat wave that had persisted already for weeks, according to the capital's electricity company ARETI.

Like many Romans, Peroni herself does not have AC either in her home or her shop. Rome once could count on a Mediterranean breeze to bring down nighttime temperatures, but that has become an intermittent relief at best.

"At most, we turn on fans," Peroni said. "We think that is enough. We tolerate the heat, as it has always been tolerated."

In Europe, though, that is starting to change.

AIR CONDITIONING IS LESS A PART OF THE CULTURE IN EUROPE

Despite holdouts like Peroni, rising global temperatures are dropping air conditioning from luxury to a necessity in many parts of Europe, which long has had a conflicted relationship with energy-sucking cooling systems deemed by many to be an American indulgence.

Europeans look with disdain at overcooled U.S. buildings, kept to near meat-locker temperatures, where a blast of cold air can shoot across city sidewalks as people come and go, and where extended indoor appointments necessitate a sweater even in the height of summer.

By contrast, event organizers in Europe may offer hand fans if events are expected to overheat. Shoppers can expect to sweat in under-cooled grocery stores, and movie theaters are not guaranteed to be climate-controlled. Evening diners have typically opted for outside tables to avoid stuffy restaurants, which rarely offer AC.

To deal with the heat, Italy and Spain typically shut down for several hours after lunch, for a riposo or siesta, and most vacation in August, when many businesses shut down completely so families can enjoy a holiday at the seaside or in the mountains. Italians in particular are happy to abandon overheated art cities to foreign tourists, which reduces the urgency for a home AC investment.

Still, European AC penetration has picked up from 10% in 2000 to 19% last year, according to the International Energy Agency. That is still well shy of the United States, at around 90%. Many in Europe resist due to cost, concern about environmental impact and even suspicions of adverse health impacts from cold air currents, including colds, a stiff neck, or worse.

Cooling systems remain rare in Nordic countries and even Germany, where temperatures can nudge above 30 degrees (into the 90s Fahrenheit) for extended periods.

But even those temperate climates may cross the threshold of discomfort if temperatures increase beyond 1.5 degrees C to 2 degrees C, according to a new study by the University of Cambridge. In that scenario, people living in northern climes like Britain, Norway, Finland and Switzerland will face the greatest relative increase in uncomfortably hot days.

Nicole Miranda, one of the study's authors, said their estimate, which would mean surpassing the international goal of limiting future warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial times, are conservative.

"They don't take into account the urban island effects," she said, when cities are unable to cool at night and surfaces become radiators. "From a scientific point of view, if we all run to the go-to solution, which

Groton Daily Independent

Thursday, Aug. 03, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 040 ~ 62 of 62

is air conditioning, we are going to get into a different type of problem, because there is high energy consumption and high carbon emissions related to air conditioning.”

Cities should consider less intensive solutions, like shading buildings, and incorporating cooling bodies of water, she said. She also advocated a trend toward cooling individuals, instead of spaces, using personal devices like ice packs in jackets or high-tech textiles that dissipate body heat more efficiently.

THERE’S A GROWING — IF RELUCTANT — DEMAND

In Italy, sales of air conditioning units grew from 865,000 a year in 2012 to 1.92 million in 2022, mostly for business and not residential use, with growth reported in the first quarter of this year, according to the industry association Assoclimate. Most are split heat air pump systems, which can heat spaces in the winter, which Assoclimate said can reduce gas consumption as prices spike during the war in Ukraine. That dual use attracts consumers.

France, with a slightly larger population, is showing more resistance, selling 1 million units a year. Air conditioning was rare in France until a 2003 heat wave killed thousands, mainly among the elderly. Still, most private homes and apartments there aren’t air conditioned, and many restaurants and other businesses aren’t either. Businesses with AC will often advertise to attract customers on hot days.

AC aversion persists, both among French conservatives who see it as a frivolous American import and French people on the left who see it as environmentally irresponsible.

Cécile de Munck and Aude Lemonsu, meteorologists at France’s national weather service, warned this summer that if the number of AC units doubles in Paris by 2030, the city temperature would rise by 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) because of heat released by the pump systems.

Despite the concerns over energy costs, air conditioning is rapidly conquering homes in Spain, a country that traditionally bent towards the use of fans and drawing heavy blinds, a very Spanish fixture. A study by Ca’ Foscari University projects that half of Spanish households will have AC by 2040, up from just 5% in 1990.

With the cooler indoor air come disputes as neighbors complain about noise from external units. That means problems for Spain’s real estate managers. “Some people can’t open a window because they get a puff of fire,” said Pablo Abascal, president of Spain’s council of real estate managers. “With the increase of AC systems in homes, many buildings will soon have nowhere to place the devices.”

Air conditioning and cooling was found to be key for older populations in extreme heat, reducing strain on cardiovascular functions in a heat wave of 37 degrees Celsius (99 degrees Fahrenheit), according to a study at the University of Ottawa in Canada. But even in countries like Cyprus, where heat waves of 40 degree Celsius have become the norm, the sustained use of AC isn’t an affordable option for many elderly people living on fixed incomes.

Many on the Mediterranean island nation restrict usage to the hottest times of day, sometimes confining themselves to a single room.

“Undoubtedly, this scenario significantly impacts their mental well-being as well,” said Demos Antoniou, director of the Cyprus Third Age Observatory, a seniors-rights group. “The prevailing fear is that refraining from using air conditioners could potentially lead to heat stroke.”

At 83, Angeliki Vassiliou thinks both about her energy bill and future generations before she hits the “on” button.

“There’s no sense in wasting energy. Waste is unfair,” Vassiliou said. “Waste of any resource is wrong, because what would happen to our planet because of all this waste?”

Today in History: Aug. 3, deadly Walmart shooting in Texas

By The Associated Press undefined

Today is Thursday, Aug. 3, the 215th day of 2023. There are 150 days left in the year.

On Aug. 3, 2019, a gunman opened fire at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas, leaving 22 people dead; prosecutors said Patrick Crusius targeted Mexicans in hopes of scaring Latinos into leaving the U.S., and that he had outlined the plot in a screed published online shortly before the attack. (A man who was