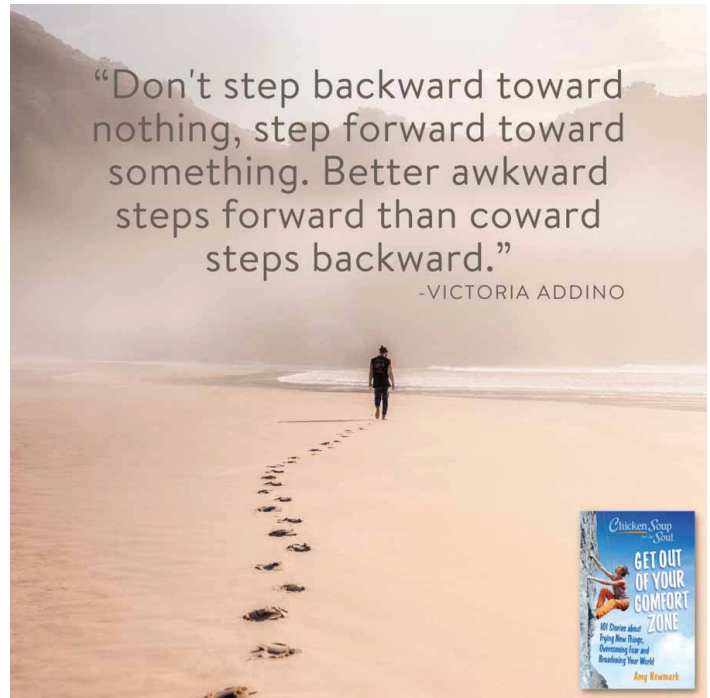


Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 1 of 53

- [1- Upcoming Events](#)
- [2- Newsweek Bulletin](#)
- [3- StoryBook Land Theatre Ad](#)
- [4- Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion Defeats WIN](#)
- [6- Babcock's photos](#)
- [7- Weekly Vikings Recap - First Week of Training Camp](#)
- [8- Prairie Doc: "Drug Prices"](#)
- [9- EarthTalk - Infrared grills](#)
- [10- SD SearchLight: Drought drives big drop in wheat and oat forecast amid long-term shift to corn and soybeans](#)
- [12- Weather Pages](#)
- [16- Daily Devotional](#)
- [17- 2023 Community Events](#)
- [18- Subscription Form](#)
- [19- Lottery Numbers](#)
- [20- News from the Associated Press](#)



Monday, Aug. 7

Senior Menu: Turkey sub with lettuce, tomato and cheese, macaroni salad with peas, peaches, whole wheat bread.

The Pantry at Groton Community Center, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

School Supply Drive, Groton Community Center, 4 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Emmanuel Lutheran: Bible Study, 6:30 a.m.; Sunday school meeting, 6 p.m.

United Methodist: Vacation Bible School, 5:30 p.m.

Groton CM&A: Vacation Bible School (Keepers of the Kingdom), 6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Aug. 8

Senior Menu: New England ham dinner, dinner roll, fruit cocktail.

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

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

Emmanuel Lutheran: Church Council, 7 p.m.

United Methodist: Bible Study, 10 a.m.; Vacation Bible School, 5:30 p.m.

Groton CM&A: Vacation Bible School (Keepers of the Kingdom), 6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Aug. 9

Senior Menu: Sloppy Joe on bun, oven roasted potatoes, mixed vegetables, acini depepi fruit salad.

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

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

Groton CM&A: Vacation Bible School (Keepers of the Kingdom), 6:15 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

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

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 2 of 53

The Bulletin by Newsweek

World in Brief

Greta Gerwig's Barbie surpassed \$1 billion at the global box office about three weeks into its run, breaking an earlier record held by Patty Jenkins for Wonder Woman to become the first female director to sail past the milestone so fast.

Three people were killed when a firefighting helicopter crashed in a mid-air collision while battling a brush fire in Riverside County in Southern California on Sunday night.

Police confirmed there are four active warrants for those involved in a brawl that broke out after citizens on a pontoon boat attacked a security guard who asked them to move their vessel in Montgomery, Alabama. The fight appeared to develop along racial lines as the boaters were white and the boat crew were black.

Cambodia's King Norodom Sihamoni endorsed Hun Manet, the eldest son of the long-term ruler, to become the next premier in a formality confirming a transition of power. His appointment will need to be approved by Parliament on August 22.

In the ongoing war in Ukraine, Kyiv's armed forces said that more than 250,000 Russian troops have been killed since the start of Moscow's invasion. The Ukrainian Air Force has shot down more than 5,500 Russian air targets heading for the war-torn country, President Volodymyr Zelensky said.

TALKING POINTS

"If we don't heed that call, shame on us. And the consequences, I believe, would be disastrous. So my call is to go to our well-positioned, well-prepared—of good character and competency, you know who they are—to jump in. Because Democrats and the country need competition." Democratic lawmaker Dean Phillips warned of consequences if President Joe Biden is not successfully challenged in the 2024 presidential primary.

"Will this lead to a full-blown war in Africa? It certainly has the potential to do so, and would be a significant and devastating event," Former NATO Commander James Stavridis said Sunday on the conflict in Niger amid a looming deadline for coup leaders to cede power.

WHAT TO WATCH IN THE DAY AHEAD

Former Minneapolis police officer Tou Thao will be sentenced for his role in the 2020 killing of George Floyd. A judge will decide whether Thao — the last of four officers to be sentenced in the case — will spend additional time in prison after being found guilty of aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter.

President Joe Biden and First Lady Jill Biden will welcome the Houston Astros to the White House to celebrate the team's 2022 World Series victory. The visit comes ahead of a three-game series between Astros and Baltimore Orioles.

The week will be critical for investors as the consumer price index and producer prices could determine whether the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates in September. Consumer credit for June is on the calendar today at 3 p.m. ET.

Shares of Palantir Technologies, Tyson Foods, and Paramount Global will be in focus as the companies report their quarterly earnings reports.

Donald Trump's attacks on former vice president Mike Pence after his recent indictment have raised questions about whether they could amount to witness intimidation. Pence said he would "comply with the law" if he were to testify.

Coup leaders have shut down Niger's airspace until further notice, citing the threat of military intervention from a coalition of West African nations after a deadline passed for the junta to step down and reinstate the country's ousted president.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 3 of 53



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



Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 4 of 53

Groton Jr. Legion wins state consolation title

Weather impacted the state tournament in Lennox so that resulted in a last minute change in venue. The Groton ballfield caretakers got into a full gear and got Locke-Karst Field ready for a 7 p.m. game. Groton would defeat Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern in the consolation game, 5-3.

Braxton Imrie collected three hits in three at bats, as Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion defeated Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern Jr Legion 5-3 on Monday at Groton,SD. Imrie singled in the first inning, singled in the third inning, and singled in the fifth inning.

Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion got on the board in the first inning after an error scored one run.

Alec Mikkelson hit a sacrifice fly, which helped Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern Jr Legion tie the game at one in the top of the second.

In the bottom of the third, Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion broke up the tie when Gavin Englund singled, scoring two runs. Then an error followed to extend the lead to 4-1.

Nicholas Morris earned the win for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. The starting pitcher allowed eight hits and three runs (two earned) over seven innings, striking out five and walking two. Drew Bakeburg took the loss for Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern Jr Legion. The starting pitcher went five innings, allowing five runs (four earned) on five hits, striking out two and walking three.

Englund drove the middle of the lineup, leading Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion with three runs batted in. The right-handed hitter went 1-for-3 on the day. Teylor Diegel and Imrie each stole multiple bases for Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion. Groton Post 39 Jr. Legion stole eight bases in the game.

Chase Mansfield went 3-for-4 at the plate to lead Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern Jr Legion in hits. Gavin Lane and Mikkelson each drove in one run for Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern Jr Legion. Tristan Gosch collected two hits for Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern Jr Legion in three at bats. Warner-Ipswich-Northwestern Jr Legion turned one double play in the game.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 5 of 53

Warner-Ipswich-
Northwestern Jr Legion

3 - 5

Groton Post 39 Jr.
Legion

📍 Home 📅 Sunday August 06, 2023

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	R	H	E
WRNR	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	8	2
GRTN	1	0	3	0	1	0	X	5	5	2

BATTING

Warner-Ipswich-Nr	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
D Fischbach (SS,...	3	1	1	0	0	1
X Kadlec (CF)	4	0	0	0	0	0
C Mansfield (C)	4	1	3	0	0	0
D Bakeburg (P, SS)	3	0	0	0	1	0
G Lane (2B)	3	1	1	1	0	1
L Little (1B, P)	4	0	1	0	0	1
T Gosch (RF)	3	0	2	0	0	1
A Mikkelson (3B)	2	0	0	1	0	1
M Heinz (LF)	1	0	0	0	1	0
L Fischbach	1	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	28	3	8	2	2	5

2B: D Fischbach, C Mansfield, L Little, **TB:** D Fischbach 2, T Gosch 2, C Mansfield 4, L Little 2, G Lane, **SF:** A Mikkelson, **HBP:** D Fischbach, G Lane, **SB:** D Fischbach, C Mansfield, X Kadlec, **LOB:** 9

PITCHING

Warner-Ipswi	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
D Bakeburg	5.0	5	5	4	3	2	0
L Little	1.0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Totals	6.0	5	5	4	4	2	0

L: D Bakeburg, **P-S:** L Little 9-3, D Bakeburg 95-49, **HBP:** D Bakeburg, **BF:** L Little 3, D Bakeburg 24

Groton Post 39 Jr.	AB	R	H	RBI	BB	SO
B Flihs (CF)	3	0	1	0	0	0
K Kucker (SS)	3	0	0	0	0	0
B Imrie (2B)	3	3	3	0	0	0
T Diegel (LF)	1	1	0	0	1	0
G Englund (1B)	3	1	1	3	0	1
N Morris (P)	2	0	0	0	1	0
C Simon (3B)	3	0	0	0	0	0
J Erdmann (RF)	2	0	0	0	1	1
C Mcinerney (RF)	0	0	0	0	0	0
K Flies (C)	2	0	0	0	1	0
Totals	22	5	5	3	4	2

TB: G Englund, B Flihs, B Imrie 3, **HBP:** T Diegel, **SB:** T Diegel 3, B Flihs, B Imrie 4, **LOB:** 4

Groton Post 39 Jr.	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	HR
N Morris	7.0	8	3	2	2	5	0
Totals	7.0	8	3	2	2	5	0

W: N Morris, **P-S:** N Morris 103-63, **HBP:** N Morris 2, **BF:** N Morris 33

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 6 of 53



Karyn & Bruce Babcock along with Tom Mahan await golfers during the Olive Grove "Wine on Nine." (Courtesy Photo - Bruce Babcock)



Looking East from Groton before a much needed rain started Sat afternoon. Groton received over two inches of rain from the two-day event. (Courtesy Photo - Bruce Babcock)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 7 of 53

Weekly Vikings Recap - First Week of Training Camp

By Jack & Duane Kolsrud

The 2023 Minnesota Vikings season has officially begun as the team is already a week through training camp and started to begin having padded practices. This past Thursday, the Vikings hosted their annual night practice, which allows fans access to watch the team run various drills and partake in 7-on-7 scrimmages. Although the night practice is more of a show for the fans rather than a hardcore practice, it does offer an early perspective into what we can expect from the Vikings in terms of the depth chart and overall scheme of the offense and defense.

What's exciting is that it appears that a few of the rookies for the Vikings this year seemed to already be making noise, the most notable of which is Jordan Addison. The Vikings hoped when they drafted Jordan Addison in the first round this year that he would make an immediate impact on the team. However, all indications out of training camp are that Jordan Addison has the chance to be a special wide receiver who comes with the unique skillset of having both a quick burst of athleticism and a natural ability to play the position. Some even have gone as far as to say that he might have a real possibility to win NFL offensive Rookie of the Year, which would make him the first Viking to do so since Percy Harvin in 2009.

The other two rookies that are making noise are cornerback, Mekhi Blackmon, and linebacker, Ivan Pace. Blackmon, who was the Vikings' second draft pick in last year's draft, has appeared to move into the first-team cornerback group alongside Akayleb Evans and Byron Murphy, Jr. If Blackmon can turn into a successful starting cornerback this early in his career, this will add a level of depth to a Vikings' cornerback group that looked like it was going to be the defense's main issue coming into the season. For Ivan Pace, Thursday's night practice was the first time we got to see him get some first-team reps with the linebacker group. For an undrafted guy, Pace's rise to the first team this early in training camp not only shows how good he is but also shows that Brian Flores has a plan for him with his defense.

The main storyline coming out of Thursday's night practice would have to be the aggressiveness of the defense thanks to new defensive coordinator, Brian Flores. Flores is notorious not only for his creativity when it comes to blitzing but also for the sheer quantity at which he does it. This will be a fun contrast to last year's defense, which might have been the most conservative in NFL history. Further, for a defense that lacks a ton of big-name star power, the ability to come up with timely, creative blitzes might be the one thing that might give the Vikings any chance to create any sort of problems for opposing offenses.

Looking ahead, the Vikings will continue to practice this week until Thursday, when they head out to Seattle to face the Seahawks in the team's first preseason game of the season. I would fully expect that the starting offense and defense will not play. However, it will still be an intriguing game to watch and see how some of the rookies and second-year players look in a game setting. The player I am most looking forward to watching is Jaren Hall, the rookie quarterback out of BYU, who has shown flashes of success during camp. Hopefully, he can continue to perform well against the Seahawks and give the Vikings some belief in him being a possible bridge quarterback next season.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 8 of 53

"Drug Prices"

High costs and shortages of pharmaceuticals are serious, on-going issues. Drug prices in the US are among the highest in the world. A recent survey by the Rand Corporation looked at drug prices in 32 developed countries. US prices were the highest in the group and were more than twice the average of prices in other countries. What is especially troubling is that the products sold in many of these countries are the same drugs produced by the same manufacturers as those sold in the US at much higher prices.

When it comes to drug prices, consumers – and even third-party payers – have little bargaining power. The reality is, drug companies are free to charge "what the market will bear".

Recently developed, brand name drugs are typically the most costly. New drugs are usually covered by patents which give the developers exclusive rights to market the product without competition. Patents are for 20 years and begin when a new drug application is filed. This usually occurs years before the product actually comes to market. Nonetheless, companies typically enjoy 10 or more years without any direct competition.

When patents are nearing expiration companies have numerous ways to "game" the system. One of the most common is to make minor, often insignificant, changes in the product and apply for a new patent. Sometimes major producers actually buy up smaller potential generic competitors or pay such companies to delay the introduction of competitive products. Regulators have blocked some but not all such practices.

The patent process is defended as a way to give firms some assurance that they can recoup the expenses they incur if they undertake the costly and highly unpredictable process of drug development. The public clearly has an interest in encouraging new drug development. Critics, however, have pointed out that often much of the early development is done in academic centers, usually at public expense.

Even when patents expire the usual market forces do not always bring about effective cost control. The best example is insulin. There are three major producers of insulin who produce very similar products. Instead of competing on price all three companies progressively raised the retail prices of insulin. Insulin prices in the US climbed to as much as ten times those in Canada. Recent legislation has forced companies to limit out-of-pocket insulin costs for Medicare recipients to no more than \$35 per month. Subsequently, public pressure led all three insulin producers to agree to a limit \$35 per month for all users. In this situation competition produced real benefits. However, one wonders if the companies can afford to drop the price from over \$100 to \$35, what was their margin before the reduction?

What about prices that are too low? Some older drugs are still vitally important. In several of these cases the prices – and the profitability – have dropped to the point where producers have left the market leaving us with seriously limited production capacity.

Vincristine is a cancer drug, a key component in the treatment of childhood leukemia. Because of low profitability virtually all vincristine has come from a single manufacturer. When that producer ran into production problems no other source was available. Cancer physicians struggled for months with heart rending decisions of having to ration among seriously ill children the very limited amounts of vincristine they could get.

There are other more recent examples. This past winter there were serious shortages of amoxicillin, a widely used antibiotic and, more recently, we are facing dangerous shortages of albuterol, a key treatment for asthma and COPD. In each of these situations the companies have made what they considered to be sound business decisions but decisions which were clearly not in the public interest.

What to do? Open market principles have often served us well but we need to be smart enough - and tough enough - to recognize when we are benefitting and when we are not. We need regulatory limits that protect creativity and innovation yet prevent price gouging and insure availability of vital medicines. That is a high bar but one we as a society must keep working toward.



Based on Science, Built on Trust



Tom Dean, MD

EARTHTALK ™

Dear EarthTalk: I've heard that grilling generates a lot of pollution and greenhouse gases. Are there greener types of grills or grilling methods that are more planet-friendly?
– Bill D., Raleigh, NC

We certainly do love to grill. Whether it's hot dogs, burgers, steaks, salmon or shish-kebab, chances are you and/or your neighbors have grilled it up recently. But all that grilling can't be good for the planet or our carbon footprints. Researchers in the United Kingdom report that a typical summer barbecue for four people releases more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere than an 80-mile car journey.

There are several types of grills that can contribute to pollution, and your grill is most likely included. Charcoal grills release more emissions because they are literally burning carbon. If you live in a poorly ventilated area, charcoal grills may not be the best option since they release particulate matter into the air.

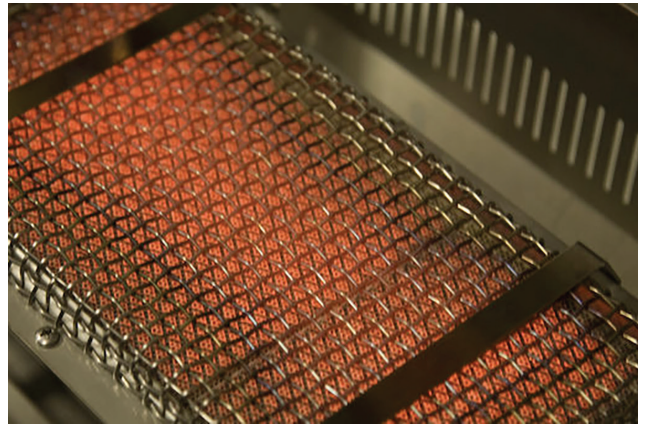
There are two major types of charcoal: lump charcoal, which is roasted wood; and briquettes, which are laced with chemicals and flammables. Both release very toxic volatile organic compounds and carbon monoxide when burned. But, between both of them, lump charcoal is the more sustainable option.

On the other hand, propane and natural gas grills emit significantly less pollutants than charcoal grills; however, they do burn fossil fuels. They are more efficient, cooking faster easier, but still release chemicals like Nitrogen oxide, although usually on a smaller scale compared to charcoal grills.

An even better option are electric grills. These might be pricier, but they do significantly reduce emissions and will last a long time without refueling. They rely on electricity from the grid, so their environmental impact depends on the source of electricity generation.

Choosing renewable energy sources, such as solar or wind power, further enhances the sustainability of electric grills. Similarly, infrared grills use infrared radiation for cooking. Instead of heating the air around the food, they target the actual metal and food on the grill. They also lock in moisture making them ideal for cooking steaks, burgers and other meats.

Grilling is an integral part of our culinary culture, but it is essential to acknowledge and address its potential environmental impact. By embracing sustainable alternatives, such as electric grills or infrared grills, we can still indulge in grilling while minimizing our carbon footprint.



Electric infrared grills don't generate any pollution and lock in moisture making them ideal for cooking steaks, burgers and other meats.

Credit: Eve Summer, FlickrCC.



SOUTH DAKOTA SEARCHLIGHT

<https://southdakotasearchlight.com>

Drought drives big drop in wheat and oat forecast amid long-term shift to corn and soybeans

BY: JOSHUA HAIAR - AUGUST 6, 2023 6:00 AM

The federal government is projecting big declines in South Dakota's production of wheat and oats, due in part to drought conditions but also because of a decades-long transition to corn and soybeans.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture is forecasting that South Dakota farmers this year will produce 17% less winter wheat, 29% less spring wheat and 23% less oats.

Compared to last year, the area planted to each crop is relatively unchanged, but each crop's yield-per-acre forecast is down significantly, indicating that drought is a factor.

Jim Clendenin, of rural Watertown, is a soil health technician with the South Dakota Soil Health Coalition. He said drought conditions in parts of eastern South Dakota are affecting this year's crops.

"It's just been so dry," Clendenin said. "We need some rain, desperately."

While this year's declining harvest projections may be attributable to drought, Clendenin said oat and spring wheat production have been trending downward for over half a century. He said the explanation is simple.

"Cash is king," Clendenin said. "And corn and soybeans are where the cash is."

Wheat production had been growing until a decline in the early 2000s.

"And that's partly because corn and soybean subsidy programs are so robust," Clendenin said. "It's just easier only to grow corn and soybeans now."

Corn acres planted in the U.S. increased from 60 million in 1983 to 89 million last year. The USDA attributes much of that growth to expanding ethanol production, which now accounts for nearly 45% of total corn use. Additionally, corn now accounts for more than 95% of feed grain – which has grown in demand as confined animal feeding operations have proliferated.

The popularization of soybeans is largely attributed to greater global demand (from China in particular), favorable planting conditions in the Midwest, and attributes that make it beneficial to rotate with corn.

What has happened as a result is troubling to some farmers. Bryan Jorgensen incorporates cereal grains such as wheat and oats into the crop rotations at his farm and ranch near Ideal.

"I am very adamant about keeping cereal grains in our crop rotations for the soil health benefits," Jorgensen said.

Working cereal grains into a crop rotation keeps living roots in the ground for more of the year, and that minimizes topsoil loss and rainfall runoff, Jorgensen said. Additionally, keeping diverse root systems in the soil pulls a more varied range of nutrients into that soil.

Jorgensen isn't alone in thinking the long-term decline in cereal grain production is "a problematic trend." It's a sentiment shared by Gettysburg farmer Tregg Cronin, who added that "your best crop yields will follow wheat," because of the large amount of crop residue. He said crop residue catches more snow, which results in more moisture and cooler soil temperatures.

Jorgensen said farmers have turned away from cereal grains and toward corn and soybeans because "all the right government incentives are there to ensure a return on investment," and because there are fewer places to sell cereal grains.

"There are very few oat buyers in the game anymore," Jorgensen said. "There has been a lot of consolidation in the grain buying industries, and now there are a lot of places that only take corn or soybeans."

Cronin attributes the downward trend to a few other factors as well.

Groton Daily Independent

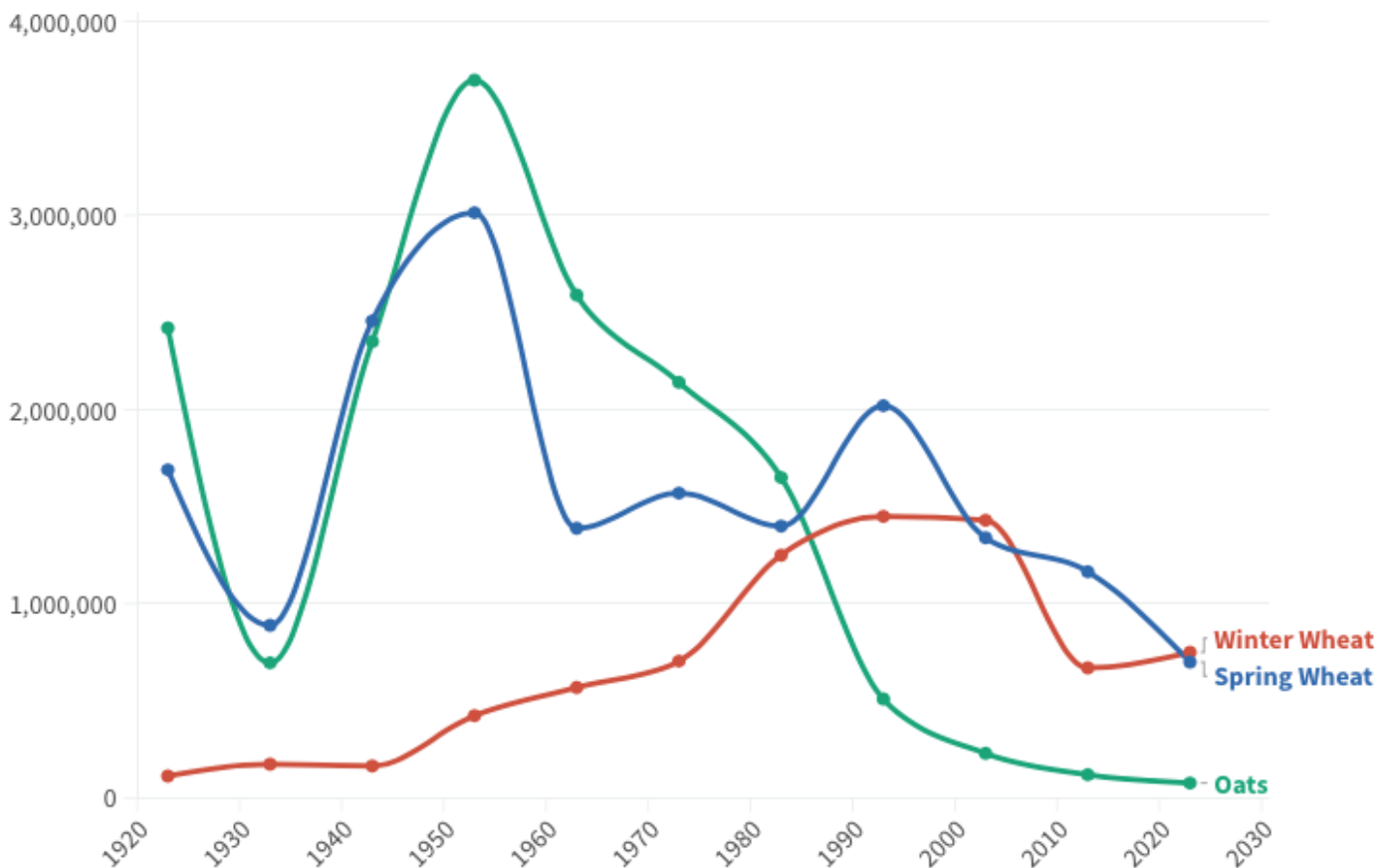
Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 11 of 53

"The investments that multinational seed and chemical companies make isn't going to cereal grains. It is going into corn and soybeans," Cronin said. He said that makes those crops "a lot easier to grow."

Cronin said a crop like wheat has a number of grading and testing requirements it must meet before a buyer will take it, largely because wheat is made into flour and must meet quality standards, while a significant share of corn ends up as ethanol or livestock feed.

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

South Dakota crop acres harvested 1923 to 2013 (with 2023 projections)

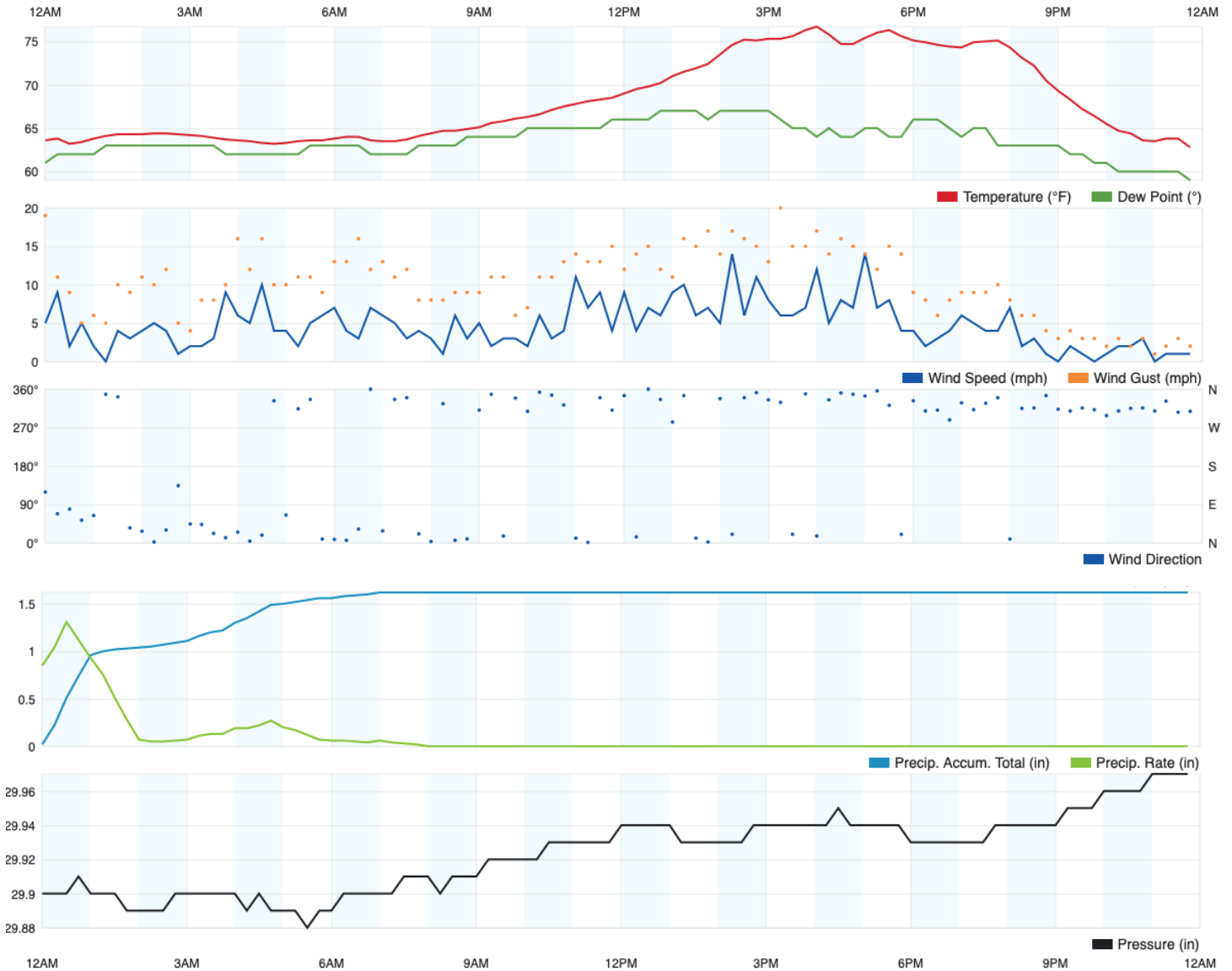


Source: USDA

Groton Daily Independent







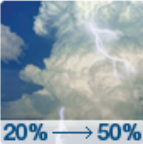
Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 12 of 53

Yesterday's Groton Weather Graphs



Groton Daily Independent


Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 13 of 53


Today	Tonight	Tuesday	Tuesday Night	Wednesday	Wednesday Night	Thursday
						
Mostly Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Sunny	Mostly Clear	Sunny	Partly Cloudy	Slight Chance T-storms then Chance T-storms
High: 80 °F	Low: 56 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 57 °F	High: 81 °F	Low: 58 °F	High: 80 °F





The Work Week Forecast


August 7, 2023
2:07 AM

Today - Mild, Highs 75-85° 

Tuesday - Continued Mild, Highs 76-85° 

Wednesday - Chc morning rain east, Highs 78-88° 

Thursday - Chc showers/storms, Highs in the 80s 

Friday - Mild, Highs 72-85° 

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

National Weather Service
Aberdeen, SD

The Work Week Forecast

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 15 of 53

Today in Weather History

August 7, 1968: From 9 miles north of Isabel, hail up to golf ball size was observed with a severe thunderstorm. This storm continued moving in a southeast direction, causing extensive damage to crops, trees, utility lines, and structures. A radio tower was blown over near Huron, and a wind gust of 115 mph was reported at Huron. A woman was swept from a roof in Huron and was critically injured.

August 7, 2009: A supercell thunderstorm developed across the northern Black Hills and moved eastward across the Sturgis area, southern Meade County, northeastern Pennington County, Haakon County, and northeastern Jackson County. The storm produced baseball sized near Sturgis, then high winds and hail larger than baseball sized developed as the storm moved across the plains. The storm hit Sturgis during the annual motorcycle rally and caused extensive damage to motorcycles, vehicles, and property. Minor injuries from the hail were also reported.

August 7, 2010: An EF4 tornado touched down south of Tyler in Richland County North Dakota and tracked to the northeast for roughly 2.5 miles before crossing the Bois de Sioux River into Wilkin County, Minnesota. In Wilkin County, the tornado continued for another 2.5 miles and lifted about 650 pm CDT. The total track length was about 5 miles, and peak winds were estimated at 175 mph.

1904 - A flash flood near Pueblo, CO, washed a train from the tracks killing 89 passengers. A bridge, weakened by the floodwaters sweeping through the valley below, gave way under the weight of the train dashing all but the sleeping cars into the torrent drowning the occupants. Rail service was frequently interrupted in the Rocky Mountain Region and southwestern U.S. that summer due to numerous heavy downpours which washed out the railroad beds delaying trains as much as five days. (David Ludlum) (The Weather Channel)

1918 - Philadelphia, PA, established an all-time record with a high of 106 degrees. New York City experienced its warmest day and night with a low of 82 degrees and a high of 102 degrees. Afternoon highs of 108 degrees at Flemington NJ and Somerville NJ established state records for the month of August. (The Weather Channel) (Sandra and TI Richard Sanders - 1987)

1924: A tornado caused estimated F4 damage moved southeast from south of Osseo, WI to Black River Falls, WI. One person was killed as a home was leveled and a boy was killed running to the storm cellar near the start of the path. Two people died as farm homes were swept away near the northeast edge of Black River Falls. Damage totaled \$200,000 as 50 farms were hit and buildings were unroofed in the town of Northfield. The tornado followed the present route of Interstate 94.

1980: Hurricane Allen bottomed out at 899 millibars (26.55 inches of mercury) while moving through the Yucatan Channel in the southeastern part of the Gulf of Mexico. Allen was the second lowest pressure ever recorded in the Western Hemisphere up to that time. Allen's winds at the time were sustained at 190 mph.

1984 - El Paso, TX, normally receives 1.21 inches of rain in August. They got it in forty-five minutes, with four more inches to boot, during a storm which left Downtown El Paso under five feet of water. (The Weather Channel)

1986 - A rare outbreak of seven tornadoes occurred in New England. One tornado carved its way through Cranston RI and Providence RI causing twenty injuries. Rhode Island had not reported a tornado in twelve years, and three touched down in 24 hours. (Storm Data) (The National Weather Summary)

1987 - Morning thunderstorms drenched Goldsboro, NC, with 3.37 inches of rain. Late morning thunderstorms in Arizona produced dime size hail, wind gusts to 50 mph, and two inches of rain, at Sierra Vista. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

1988 - A dozen cities in the central U.S. reported record high temperatures for the date, including Waco, TX, with a reading of 107 degrees. The record high of 88 degrees at Marquette, MI, was their twenty-third of the year. Afternoon and evening thunderstorms produced severe weather in Nebraska, Minnesota and Wisconsin, with wind gusts to 81 mph reported at McCool, NE. (The National Weather Summary) (Storm Data)

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 16 of 53

Daily Devotionals

Seeds of Hope

PRETZELS AND PRAYER

Years ago, there was a group of monks in the northern part of Italy who gathered a group of children together to teach them to pray. Each time the children learned a new prayer, they were given a gift as a reward.

One monk began to pray about the gifts he was giving the children. He wanted them to understand the importance of prayer as well as to remind the children to pray. So, he decided to give the children a tasty item baked in his oven from unleavened bread. Rolling out a piece of dough, he carefully designed a pastry with three holes and a twist in the middle that represented two arms folded in prayer. He called it a "pretola" which means "little gift." It was eventually called a "pretzel" and has been enjoyed all over the world for 1300 years.

All of us have many opportunities to remind people of the importance of prayer. One thing we can do is to share God's answers to our prayers with others. Another thing we can do is to invite people to pray with us. We can also remind others of what God's Word teaches about prayer, something as simple as, "Call on Me, and I will answer you!"

Perhaps one day when eating a pretzel with a friend, we can share the story of the pretzel and remind them to pray whenever they see a pretzel.

Prayer: Help us, Lord, to understand the importance of prayer in our lives, and to pray more often! May we realize that You are waiting, willing and wanting to hear from us, and meet our need. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Scripture For Today: One day Jesus told his disciples a story to show that they should always pray and never give up. Luke 18:1



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

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 17 of 53

2023 Community Events

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

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 18 of 53

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

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 19 of 53



WINNING NUMBERS

MEGA MILLIONS

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.04.23

11 30 45 52 56 20

MegaPlier: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$1,550,000,000

NEXT 1 Days 15 Hrs 27
DRAW: Mins 18 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LOTTO AMERICA

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.05.23

1 36 38 41 43 5

All Star Bonus: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$7,430,000

NEXT 14 Hrs 42 Mins 17
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

LUCKY FOR LIFE

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.06.23

4 6 22 25 48 8

TOP PRIZE:

\$7,000/week

NEXT 14 Hrs 57 Mins 17
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

DAKOTA CASH

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.05.23

7 12 22 27 31

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$20,000

NEXT 2 Days 14 Hrs 57
DRAW: Mins 18 Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

DOUBLE PLAY

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.05.23

14 25 37 57 67 16

TOP PRIZE:
\$10,000,000

NEXT 15 Hrs 26 Mins 18
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

POWERBALL

WINNING NUMBERS:
08.05.23

18 42 44 62 65 23

Power Play: 2x

NEXT ESTIMATED JACKPOT:
\$145,000,000

NEXT 15 Hrs 26 Mins 18
DRAW: Secs

[PREVIOUS RESULTS](#)

News from the Associated Press

Ex-Minneapolis officer faces sentencing on a state charge for his role in George Floyd's killing

By STEVE KARNOWSKI Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The last former Minneapolis police officer to face sentencing in state court for his role in the killing of George Floyd will learn Monday whether he will spend additional time in prison.

Tou Thao has testified he merely served as a "human traffic cone" when he held back concerned bystanders who gathered as former Officer Derek Chauvin, who is white, knelt on Floyd's neck for 9 1/2 minutes while the Black man pleaded for his life on May 25, 2020.

A bystander video captured Floyd's fading cries of "I can't breathe."

Floyd's killing touched off protests worldwide and forced a national reckoning of police brutality and racism.

Hennepin County Judge Peter Cahill found Thao guilty in May of aiding and abetting second-degree manslaughter. In his 177-page ruling, Cahill said Thao's actions separated Chauvin and two other former officers from the crowd, including an emergency medical technician, allowing his colleagues to continue restraining Floyd and preventing bystanders from providing medical aid.

"There is proof beyond a reasonable doubt that Thao's actions were objectively unreasonable from the perspective of a reasonable police officer, when viewed under the totality of the circumstances," Cahill wrote.

He concluded: "Thao's actions were even more unreasonable in light of the fact that he was under a duty to intervene to stop the other officers' excessive use of force and was trained to render medical aid."

Thao rejected a plea bargain on the state charge, saying "it would be lying" to plead guilty when he didn't think he was in the wrong. He instead agreed to let Cahill decide the case based on evidence from Chauvin's 2021 murder trial and the federal civil rights trial in 2022 of Thao and former Officers Thomas Lane and J. Alexander.

That trial in federal court ended in convictions for all three. Chauvin pleaded guilty to federal civil rights charges instead of going to trial a second time, while Lane and Kueng pleaded guilty to state charges of aiding and abetting manslaughter.

Minnesota guidelines recommend a four-year sentence on the manslaughter count, which Thao would serve at the same time as his 3 1/2-year sentence for his federal civil rights conviction, which an appeals court upheld on Friday. But Cahill has some latitude and could hand down a sentence from 41 to 57 months.

Lane and Kueng received 3 and 3 1/2-year state sentences respectively, which they are serving concurrently with their federal sentences of 2 1/2 years and 3 years. Thao is Hmong American, while Kueng is Black and Lane is white.

Minnesota inmates generally serve two-thirds of their sentences in prison and one-third on parole. There is no parole in the federal system but inmates can shave time off their sentences with good behavior.

Pope discusses health, his ditched peace prayer in Fatima and LGBTQ+ Catholics in airborne briefing

By NICOLE WINFIELD Associated Press

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE (AP) — Pope Francis said Sunday his recovery from his latest abdominal surgery is going well and stressed that he ditched speeches during his five-day trip to Portugal and spoke off-the-cuff not because he was tired or feeling unwell, but to better communicate with young people.

Francis was asked about his health en route home from Lisbon, where he presided over World Youth Day festival. It was his first trip since he was hospitalized in June for nine days following last-minute surgery to repair an abdominal hernia and remove intestinal scar tissue.

The trip, which came during a heat wave that sent temperatures to 40 degrees C (104F) in Lisbon, was notable because the 86-year-old pontiff deviated so often from his speeches, homilies and even prayers,

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 21 of 53

which are usually drafted months in advance and crafted with specific events and audiences in mind.

One of the most notable deviations was a prayer for peace that Francis was supposed to have delivered in the Portuguese shrine of Fatima, which is famous precisely because of its century-old connection to exhortations for peace and Russia's conversion in the aftermath of World War I.

Given Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine, a papal peace prayer at Fatima was to have been one of the highlights of Francis' visit, but also potentially problematic as the Vatican seeks to maintain relations with Moscow and the Russian Orthodox Church, which has strongly supported the Kremlin's invasion.

Instead of pronouncing the prayer, Francis ad-libbed his speech before the statue of the Madonna and skipped the peace prayer entirely, reciting instead a Hail Mary with young disabled people. The Vatican later posted part of the prayer on the @Pontifex handle of the platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

Asked why, Francis insisted en route back to Rome that he had prayed silently for peace but didn't want to give "publicity" to a public prayer.

"I prayed! I prayed! I prayed to the Madonna and I prayed for peace. I didn't make publicity. But I prayed. And we have to continually repeat this prayer for peace."

A Vatican official, speaking on condition he not be named, noted that Francis had originally wanted to travel to Fatima alone, with just a few gendarmes for a private visit, but relented to a proper visit. The official denied any ecclesial-diplomatic considerations entered Francis' decision-making, suggesting instead that the omission was part of an attempt to separate Fatima's mystical-religious value from its Soviet and World War I history.

Francis, meanwhile, said he cut short his other speeches because he realized young people "don't have a lot of attention" and that he needed to engage them, not lecture them with lengthy, complicated discourses or homilies, he said.

"Homilies can sometimes be torture," he said. "Bla, bla, bla."

He said the church must come around to a new idea of homilies that are "brief and with a clear, loving message."

On his recovery, Francis said he had the abdominal stitches removed, but that he had to wear a protective belt for two to three months to ensure the incision healed well. "My health is good," he said.

In other comments, Francis affirmed that he included LGBTQ+ Catholics in his exhortation that "todos, todos, todos" (everyone, everyone, everyone) is welcome in the Catholic Church. The comment became something of a motto for this World Youth Day, reflective of his vision of an inclusive church, welcome to all.

"The church is mother," he said. "Each of us finds God on his or her own path in the church. And the church is mother, and guides each one on his or her path."

Multiple passengers dead after charter bus crashes in Pennsylvania, police say

LOWER PAXTON TOWNSHIP, Pa. (AP) — Multiple passengers died after a charter bus carrying up to 50 people collided with a vehicle on an interstate in Pennsylvania, state police said.

The crash happened during heavy rain about 11:50 p.m. Sunday on southbound Interstate 81 in Dauphin County's Lower Paxton Township, near Harrisburg, Pennsylvania State Police said. The bus flipped on its side.

Police said in a statement that "multiple passengers" died. The route being taken by the bus and the cause of the crash weren't immediately known.

"This is considered a mass casualty incident," Trooper Megan Frazer said. "We do have eight ambulances that assisted with us, as well as lifeline (emergency response), just because of how many people were involved and the amount of injuries."

It was raining heavily at the time of the crash, WHTM-TV reported Frazer said.

Multiple people were taken to Milton S. Hershey Medical Center with injuries, but police didn't immediately release further information. A message seeking comment was left Monday at the hospital.

The American Red Cross of Greater Pennsylvania was providing food, drinks and cots at the Chambers Hill Fire Department for passengers being discharged from the hospital. When asked how many people

were being assisted, the Red Cross said "the situation is still evolving" and they were not able to release a number.

Tens of thousands of young scouts to evacuate world jamboree in South Korea as storm Khanun looms

By KIM TONG-HYUNG Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea will evacuate tens of thousands of scouts by bus from a coastal jamboree site as Tropical Storm Khanun looms, officials said Monday.

More than 1,000 vehicles will be used starting Tuesday morning to move 36,000 scouts — mostly teenagers — from the World Scout Jamboree in the southwestern county of Buan, according to Kim Sung-ho, a vice minister at South Korea's Ministry of the Interior and Safety.

Most of the scouts, who come from 158 countries, will be accommodated at venues in the capital city, Seoul, and the nearby metropolitan area, he said. Officials were trying to secure spaces at government training centers and education facilities as well as hotels. Kim said it would take six hours or more to evacuate the scouts from the campsite, which organizers said will no longer be used for any event after they leave.

Officials at Camp Humphreys, a major U.S. military base 70 kilometers (45 miles) south of Seoul, did not immediately confirm reports that thousands of scouts from Sweden, Norway and Denmark were to be transferred to its facilities.

The base is already accommodating hundreds of American scouts, who were moved over the weekend because of heat concerns as South Korea grapples with one of its hottest summers in years.

The announcement about the evacuations came after the World Organization of the Scout Movement said it called on South Korea to quickly move the scouts from the storm's path and "provide all necessary resources and support for participants during their stay and until they return to their home countries."

South Korea's government did not immediately specify any venues where the scouts will be staying. David Venn, global director of communications for the World Organization of the Scout Movement, said it was still waiting for government officials to provide detailed plans.

Khanun has taken an unusual, meandering path around Japan's southwestern islands for more than a week, dumping heavy rain, knocking out power to thousands of homes and disrupting flights and train services. On Monday afternoon, it had sustained winds of 108 kph (67 mph), with higher gusts, and was forecast to maintain that strength as it brushed Japan's main island of Kyushu this week, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

South Korea's weather agency reported that Khanun was expected to make landfall in South Korea on Thursday morning, potentially packing winds as strong as 118 to 154 kph (73 to 95 mph). Large swaths of the country's south, including Buan, could be affected by the storm as early as Wednesday, the agency said.

The plans to evacuate the scouts were announced hours after President Yoon Suk Yeol's office said he called for "contingency" plans, including relocating them to hotels and other facilities in the greater capital area.

The agency said the storm was about 160 kilometers (99 miles) east of Amami city on Japan's southern main island of Kyushu and moving gradually toward the north as of Monday afternoon. It warned residents in affected regions to watch out for mudslides, high winds and rough seas.

The storm has caused one death and 70 injuries on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa, according to the country's Fire and Disaster Management Agency. Due to the forecast of harsh weather in the region, West Japan Railway Co. said there was a possibility of suspending Shinkansen "bullet" train services from Wednesday night to Thursday morning.

Hot temperatures have already forced thousands of British and American scouts to leave the site, which is made on land reclaimed from sea. The British scouts were transferred to hotels in Seoul while the American scouts were moved to Camp Humphreys.

Hundreds of participants had been treated for heat-related ailments since the jamboree started on

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 23 of 53

Wednesday. Long before the event started, critics raised concerns about bringing such large numbers of young people to a vast, treeless area lacking protection from the summer heat.

Geir Olav Kaase, leader of the 700-member Norwegian contingent, said Norwegian scouts had already started leaving the campsite on Monday evening to "avoid any chaos that may arise in the event of a joint evacuation." Kaase said the evacuations were proceeding in "close cooperation" with the Danish contingent, but he did not specify whether the Danes have started to leave too.

"We do all we can to ensure that the scouts are safe and well, and that the transfer goes as smoothly as possible. We help each other and keep our spirits up," Kaase said in a statement.

The Swedish news agency TT said some 1,500 scouts from Sweden will be relocated to Camp Humphreys along with Norwegian and Danish scouts.

Kim Hyun-sook, South Korea's minister of gender equality and family, said officials are trying to arrange new cultural events and activities for the scouts before they leave, including a possible K-pop concert at a Seoul soccer stadium on Friday to go with the closing ceremony.

"We don't see it that way," Kim said when asked whether the scouts' departure from Buan should be seen as an early end for the jamboree. "We are creating new programs with regional governments away from the campsite, so it could be said jamboree is widening."

Organizers earlier on Monday were scurrying to come up with plans to evacuate the scouts ahead of the storm's arrival but weren't committing to abandoning the campsite entirely.

Choi Chang-haeng, secretary-general of the jamboree's organizing committee, said organizers have secured more than 340 evacuation venues, including community centers and gyms, in regions near Buan.

About 40,000 scouts came to the jamboree. About 4,500 were from the U.K., representing the largest national contingent, while about 1,000 were from the United States.

South Korea categorizes Khanun as a typhoon, defined as a tropical storm with winds stronger than 61 kph (38 mph). South Korea's weather agency expects Khanun to weaken to a storm within the next five days.

India's Modi faces a no-confidence vote over silence on ethnic violence tearing at remote Manipur

By KRUTIKA PATHI Associated Press

NEW DELHI (AP) — His social media accounts suggest that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is launching high-speed trains and rubbing shoulders with foreign leaders as a powerhouse on the global stage and the face of an ascendant India.

But that carefully crafted image, followed by millions, sits uncomfortably at odds with his silence on what's come close to a civil war engulfing India's northeastern state of Manipur.

For three months, the strongman leader has been absent on arguably the worst ethnic violence ever seen in the remote state, where Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party is in power. Modi's role, or lack thereof, has sparked a no-confidence motion against him in Parliament, where his government holds the majority.

He will almost certainly defeat the effort this week. But proponents of the motion are betting that just bringing it up will force Modi to address the Manipur crisis from the floor of Parliament.

MODI'S SILENCE

More than 150 people have died and over 50,000 displaced after ethnic clashes in Manipur erupted in early May.

The conflict was triggered by an affirmative action controversy in which Christian Kukis protested a demand by mostly Hindu Meiteis for a special status that would let them buy land in the hills populated by Kukis and other tribal groups and get a share of government jobs.

"I think everybody is very puzzled by the prime minister's silence," said Arati R. Jerath, an independent journalist and political commentator.

A harrowing video showing two women in Manipur being assaulted and groped went viral a few weeks

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 24 of 53

ago, forcing Modi to condemn the specific attack even as he held back from addressing the overall conflict.

Modi is the first to showcase incidents or projects that reflect India's rising prowess, but critics and analysts say he is often deliberately mute on controversies— such as the COVID-19 Delta surge across India, or acts of communal violence.

Last week, a railway police officer opened fire inside a train, killing a senior officer and three Muslims before hailing Modi, according to a purported video of the attack. Police are investigating the incident.

On the same day, five people died in a communal clash between Hindus and Muslims in a BJP-ruled state during a religious procession by a radical Hindu group.

"The prime minister believes that silence on these issues does not harm him. He believes that he is reaching out to the people of India through the work that his government is doing," Jerath said.

Speaking out on the tension in Manipur could also amount to criticism of his own party in the state, especially as calls grow for a dismissal of the chief minister and government which has failed to quell the bloodshed.

Some observers say that his silence could shield his political brand ahead of a general election next year, especially since Modi is more popular than the BJP. But Jerath said the conflict has now become too consequential to ignore.

"It is harming the prime minister because he comes across as somebody who doesn't have empathy ... and that's not a good image" especially with India set to welcome leaders of the top 20 economies for a summit next month, she said.

WHY IT MATTERS

The danger of violence and distrust between communities remains high in Manipur, which has essentially been split into two parts -- between the hill tribes home to the Kukis and the plains below, where the Meitei live. They're divided by a buffer zone manned by police forces.

The internet was blocked for over two months and movement for residents remains severely restricted. Furious and armed mobs have torched homes and buildings, massacred civilians and driven tens of thousands from their homes. They have also raided police armories, looting nearly 3,000 weapons including rifles, machine guns and AK-47s, said Sushant Singh, a senior fellow at the Centre for Policy Research and an Indian army veteran.

Last week, India's top court said there has been a breakdown of law and order and demanded the Manipur police director appear in court on Monday.

There's also growing fear that the turmoil in Manipur could potentially spread across India's northeast, a region with a fractured history of ethnic violence that previous governments have long tried to resolve. The state also shares a border with Myanmar.

"There are shared ethnic roots that run across state boundaries -- it has already started to spill over into nearby states like Mizoram and parts of Assam," said Singh.

And since the state machinery has collapsed, tens of thousands of army personnel have been brought in, including those from a division that was manning the disputed India-China border, according to Singh.

"If the issue is not resolved quickly, these commitments will continue and can weaken India's defense posture against China in the eastern sector," he added.

THE NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION

The opposition knows there's hardly any chance of winning the no-confidence vote. But they argue that the motion means the prime minister will have to appear on the Parliament floor to answer questions and address the Manipur crisis.

The newly formed INDIA alliance comprising 26 opposition parties have been pushing for a statement from Modi on Manipur in Parliament since its session began last month.

They have also called for the firing of Biren Singh, Manipur's top elected official in Manipur and a member of Modi's party, and to impose a rule that would bring the state under direct federal control. For weeks, the opposition has protested inside and outside the Parliament, which has been consistently adjourned amid loud sloganeering and booing as the government tries to rush through bills.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 25 of 53

They also visited the state recently, in a bid to pressure the government while taking a swipe at Modi, who hasn't set foot in Manipur since the violence began.

But nothing has worked so far. "We had to escalate our efforts," said Gaurav Gogoi, a lawmaker from the opposition Congress party who initiated the no-confidence motion.

Home Minister Amit Shah visited Manipur in May for three days, where he held talks with community leaders and groups. But overall, critics say the government has shared very little publicly on the situation in Manipur and any plans to resolve it.

"When there is a conflict of this magnitude, the leader of the country uses the forum of the Parliament to communicate his vision and message and then members of the house come together in support," said Gogoi. "But at a moment when the Indian Parliament needs to be at its finest, we are seeing such unwarranted indifference from the government," he added.

3 killed after firefighting helicopters collide in midair in Southern California, officials say

CABAZON, Calif. (AP) — Three people were killed after two firefighting helicopters collided in Southern California on Sunday while fighting a blaze in Riverside County, emergency officials said.

One of the helicopters landed safely. "Unfortunately, the second helicopter crashed and tragically all three members perished, which included one Cal Fire Division chief, one Cal Fire captain and one contract client pilot," Cal Fire Southern Region Chief David Fulcher said during a news conference early Monday.

Fulcher did not identify the victims.

Cal Fire and Riverside County Fire Department resources were dispatched to a reported structure fire near the intersection of Broadway Street and South Ronda Avenue in the community of Cabazon, Fulcher said.

Shortly after the arrival of the first engine company, the fire was reported to have extended into the vegetation and a full wildland fire dispatch was initiated, which included fixed-wing and rotary-wing aircraft.

While battling the blaze, the two helicopters collided. The crash caused an additional 4-acre (1.6-hectare) fire, which was extinguished.

"Although this was a tragic event, we are also thankful today that it wasn't worse," Fulcher said. "The individuals in the first helicopter were able to land safely without incident and no one else was hurt."

The helicopter pilot was performing work under contract with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, fire captain and spokesman Richard Cordova said Sunday evening.

The crash is being investigated by the National Transportation Safety Board.

Niger's junta shuts airspace and accuses regional countries of planning to invade as deadline passes

By SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

NIAMEY, Niger (AP) — Niger's mutinous soldiers closed the country's airspace and accused foreign powers of preparing an attack, as the junta defied a deadline to reinstate the ousted president.

State television announced the move Sunday night, hours before the deadline set by West African regional bloc ECOWAS, which has warned of using military force if the democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum isn't returned to power.

A spokesman for the coup leaders, Col. Maj. Amadou Abdramane, noted "the threat of intervention being prepared in a neighbouring country," and said Niger's airspace will be closed until further notice. The junta also claimed that two central African countries are preparing for an invasion, but did not say which ones, and called on the country's population to defend it.

The junta said any attempt to fly over the country will be met with "an energetic and immediate response."

International airlines have begun to divert flights around the airspace of Niger, which the United States and others had seen as the last major counterterrorism partner in the vast Sahel region, south of the Sahara Desert, where groups linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group are expanding their influence.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 26 of 53

In Mali, the armed forces said today that it and Burkina Faso, both neighbors of Niger run by military juntas, were sending a delegation of officials to Niger to show support. Both countries have said they would consider any intervention in Niger as a "declaration of war" against them.

Regional tensions have mounted since Niger's coup nearly two weeks ago, with the mutinous soldiers detaining Bazoum and installing Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani, former head of the presidential guard, as head of state. Analysts say the coup is believed to have been triggered by a power struggle between Tchiani and the president, who was about to fire him.

It was not immediately clear what ECOWAS will do now that Sunday's deadline has passed. The region is divided on a course of action. There was no sign of military forces gathering at Niger's border with Nigeria, the likely entry point by land.

On Saturday, Nigeria's Senate pushed back on the plan to invade, urging Nigeria's president, the bloc's current chair, to explore options other than the use of force. ECOWAS can still move ahead, as final decisions are made by consensus by member states.

A former British army officer who worked in Nigeria said military officials there told him Monday that President Bolu Tinubu had not given orders to use military force. He spoke on condition of anonymity because of the sensitivity of the situation.

Guinea and neighboring Algeria, which is not an ECOWAS member, have come out against against the use of force. Senegal's government has said it would participate in a military operation if it went ahead, and Ivory Coast has expressed support for ECOWAS' efforts to restore constitutional order.

The junta does not appear interested in negotiation. An ECOWAS delegation sent to Niger last week for hours of talks was not allowed to leave the airport and met only with Tchiani's representatives.

At a rally on Sunday, thousands cheered junta leaders who said their loyalty would be repaid.

"We are with you against them. We will give you the Niger that you are owed," Brig. Gen. Mohamed Toumba said. After his speech, The Associated Press saw rallygoers behead a chicken decorated in the colors of former colonizer France.

The junta is exploiting anti-French sentiments among the population to shore up its support base and has severed security ties with France, which still has 1,500 military personnel in Niger for counterterrorism efforts. On Monday, France's Ministry of Foreign Affairs formally discouraged any travel to Niger, Burkina Faso or Mali, and called on French nationals to be extremely vigilant. The day before, the ministry announced that France had suspended development aid to Burkina Faso.

It's not clear what will happen to the French military presence in Niger, or to the 1,100 U.S. military personnel also in the country.

Many people, largely youth, have rallied around the junta, taking to the streets at night to patrol after being urged to guard against foreign intervention.

"While they (jihadists) kill our brothers and sisters ... ECOWAS didn't intervene. Is it now that they will intervene?" said Amadou Boukari, a coup supporter at Sunday's rally. "Shame on ECOWAS."

Niger's junta has also asked for help from the Russian mercenary group Wagner, which operates in a handful of African countries including Mali.

But others have expressed concerns about the junta's tightening grip.

One official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment, said the junta is scaring people into joining it.

Trucking giant Yellow Corp. declares bankruptcy after years of financial struggles

NEW YORK (AP) — Trucking company Yellow Corp. has declared bankruptcy after years of financial struggles and growing debt, marking a significant shift for the U.S. transportation industry and shippers nationwide.

The Chapter 11 bankruptcy, which was filed Sunday, comes just three years after Yellow received \$700 million in pandemic-era loans from the federal government. But the company was in financial trouble long

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 27 of 53

before that — with industry analysts pointing to poor management and strategic decisions dating back decades.

Former Yellow customers and shippers will face higher prices as they take their business to competitors, including FedEx or ABF Freight, experts say — noting Yellow historically offered the cheapest price points in the industry.

“It is with profound disappointment that Yellow announces that it is closing after nearly 100 years in business,” CEO Darren Hawkins said in a news release late Sunday. “For generations, Yellow provided hundreds of thousands of Americans with solid, good-paying jobs and fulfilling careers.”

Yellow, formerly known as YRC Worldwide Inc., is one of the nation’s largest less-than-truckload carriers. The Nashville, Tennessee-based company had 30,000 employees across the country.

The Teamsters, which represented Yellow’s 22,000 unionized workers, said last week that the company shut down operations in late July following layoffs of hundreds of nonunion employees.

The Wall Street Journal and FreightWaves reported in late July that the bankruptcy was coming — noting that customers had already started to leave the carrier in large numbers and that the company had stopped freight pickups.

Those reports arrived just days after Yellow averted a strike from the Teamsters amid heated contract negotiations. A pension fund agreed to extend health benefits for workers at two Yellow Corp. operating companies, avoiding a planned walkout — and giving Yellow “30 days to pay its bills,” notably \$50 million that Yellow failed to pay the Central States Health and Welfare Fund on July 15.

Yellow blamed the nine-month talks for the demise of the company, saying it was unable to institute a new business plan to modernize operations and make it more competitive during that time.

The company said it has asked the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Delaware for permission to make payments, including for employee wages and benefits, taxes and certain vendors essential to its businesses.

Yellow has racked up hefty bills over the years. As of late March, Yellow had an outstanding debt of about \$1.5 billion. Of that, \$729.2 million was owed to the federal government.

In 2020, under the Trump administration, the Treasury Department granted the company a \$700 million pandemic-era loan on national security grounds.

A congressional probe recently concluded that the Treasury and Defense departments “made missteps” in the decision and noted that Yellow’s “precarious financial position at the time of the loan, and continued struggles, expose taxpayers to a significant risk of loss.”

The government loan is due in September 2024. As of March, Yellow had made \$54.8 million in interest payments and repaid just \$230 million of the principal owed, according to government documents.

The financial chaos at Yellow “is probably two decades in the making,” said Stifel research director Bruce Chan, pointing to poor management and strategic decisions dating back to the early 2000s. “At this point, after each party has bailed them out so many times, there is a limited appetite to do that anymore.”

Prison probably isn’t the end of the political road for Pakistan’s ex-Prime Minister Imran Khan

By RIAZAT BUTT and MUNIR AHMED Associated Press

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Former Prime Minister Imran Khan, Pakistan’s popular opposition leader, is now an inmate at a high-security prison after being convicted of corruption and sentenced to three years.

It’s the most dramatic twist yet in months of political and legal wrangling between Khan and his political rivals since he was toppled in a parliamentary no-confidence vote in April 2022.

Khan’s party said it will appeal what government critics describe as a flimsy case, aimed at removing the former cricket star from politics ahead of a general election meant to be held this fall. The government defended the conviction as lawful and denied that Khan is a victim of political persecution.

If the conviction stands, the 70-year-old Khan would be prohibited by law from running for office or leading Pakistan Tehreek e-Insaf, the party he founded in the 1990s. However, polls indicate a strong election showing for PTI, and Khan’s imprisonment could further boost its standing.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 28 of 53

WHAT WAS THE CASE AGAINST HIM?

An Islamabad court ruled Saturday that Khan failed to report income from gifts he received from foreign dignitaries and heads of state while he was in power. In Pakistan, government leaders are allowed to keep such gifts after leaving power, in exchange for paying a portion of the value for them.

The court said Khan sold some of those gifts and failed to state those earnings in a report last year to Pakistan's election commission. The court convicted Khan of corruption, handed down a three-year sentence and fined him 100,000 rupees, or roughly \$350.

Shortly after the verdict, Khan was detained at his home in the eastern city of Lahore and taken to a high-security lockup in the town of Attock, about an hour's drive from the capital of Islamabad.

WHAT OTHER CASES ARE PENDING AGAINST KHAN?

Since Khan's ouster, more than 150 cases have been filed against him by various government agencies on charges ranging from contempt of court to terrorism and inciting violence.

Critics say this flurry of legal filings is part of an attempt by the governing coalition to sideline Khan, who as opposition leader has been able to mobilize huge crowds of loyal supporters.

The government, in turn, portrays Khan as a corrupt trickster who has employed legal maneuvers to stay out of prison. The government has backers in Pakistan's powerful military, which has controlled the country for much of its 75-year history.

HOW IS THIS ARREST DIFFERENT?

Khan is being held in Attock, a notorious lockup for convicted militants and violent criminals. Officials familiar with conditions there said he has his own cell with a fan and separate bathing facilities, a step up from the prison's generally harsh conditions. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not allowed to brief the media.

This is in marked contrast to Khan's brief detention in May, after he was dragged from a court hearing on a different set of corruption charges by anti-graft officials. The Supreme Court intervened swiftly, declaring the detention illegal. Khan was allowed to stay at a guest house in a police compound and could receive visitors while the legal arguments over his detention played out. Khan eventually returned to Lahore, where his car was showered with rose petals.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The Supreme Court could overturn Khan's conviction and sentence on appeal — an outcome that political analyst Imtiaz Gul believes is likely.

"There was absolutely no solid case against Imran Khan, who had to face this conviction because of a technical mistake," said Gul, who heads the Center for Research and Security Studies, an Islamabad-based think tank.

Information Minister Marriyum Aurangzeb claimed in a statement defending the conviction that support for Khan is eroding.

"He may deceive a few naive, gullible supporters, but the general public now recognizes his true nature," she wrote. "His pretense has been stripped away, revealing the face of an individual who evaded the law, exploited state gifts for trivial profits."

If Khan's conviction stands, he won't be able to lead his party into an election because those with criminal convictions are barred from running for office. But even from behind bars, he could wield significant political influence.

After his detention in May, his supporters demonstrated their ability to disrupt public life. Tens of thousands of Khan loyalists rampaged through cities, some of them destroying military and government property. The government cracked down, detaining more than 7,000, with some prosecutions still ongoing.

By comparison, the reaction to Khan's arrest this weekend was much more muted, possibly because of fears of another crackdown. His calls for peaceful protests failed to rouse widespread support.

WHAT IS THE POLITICAL FALLOUT?

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif is likely to dissolve parliament in the coming weeks, possibly paving the way for elections by mid-November. The government could delay the vote by several months if it decides

to redraw constituencies based on recent census results.

Khan's imprisonment could win him and his party greater electoral support. It would also feed into the political persona he created after losing power — that of a fearless campaigner for Pakistan's disadvantaged.

"The next elections are likely to be held without active participation of Imran Khan, but even from jail, he has the potential to effectively run a campaign for his candidates," said political analyst Azim Chaudhry.

Attacks at US medical centers show why health care is one of the nation's most violent fields

By REBECCA BOONE Associated Press

Word spread through an Oregon hospital last month that a visitor was causing trouble in the maternity ward, and nurses were warned the man might try to abduct his partner's newborn.

Hours later, the visitor opened fire, killing a security guard and sending patients, nurses and doctors scrambling for cover.

The shooting at Legacy Good Samaritan Medical Center in Portland was part of a wave of gun violence sweeping through U.S. hospitals and medical centers, which have struggled to adapt to the growing threats.

Such attacks have helped make health care one of the nation's most violent fields. Data shows American health care workers now suffer more nonfatal injuries from workplace violence than workers in any other profession, including law enforcement.

"Health care workers don't even think about that when they decide they want to be a nurse or a doctor. But as far as actual violence goes, statistically, health care is four or five times more dangerous than any other profession," said Michael D'Angelo, a former police officer who focuses on health care and workplace violence as a security consultant in Florida.

Other industries outpace health care for overall danger, including deaths.

Similar shootings have played out in hospitals across the country.

Last year, a man killed two workers at a Dallas hospital while there to watch his child's birth. In May, a man opened fire in a medical center waiting room in Atlanta, killing one woman and wounding four. Late last month, a man shot and wounded a doctor at a health center in Dallas. In June 2022, a gunman killed his surgeon and three other people at a Tulsa, Oklahoma, medical office because he blamed the doctor for his continuing pain after an operation.

It's not just deadly shootings: Health care workers racked up 73% of all nonfatal workplace violence injuries in 2018, the most recent year for which figures are available, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

One day before the July 22 shooting in Portland, employees throughout the hospital were warned during meetings to be prepared for a possible "code amber" announcement in case the visitor attempted to kidnap the child, according to a nurse with direct knowledge of the briefing who spoke to The Associated Press. She spoke on condition of anonymity because she feared retaliation at work.

Fifteen minutes before the shooting, someone at the hospital called 911 to report the visitor was threatening staffers, according to a timeline provided by Portland police.

"He kind of fell through the cracks," the nurse said. "I don't know how many chances he received. It kind of got to the point where staff did not know what to do, or what they could or couldn't do with him."

Police arrived at the maternity ward within minutes, but it was too late. Bobby Smallwood, a security guard who had been called in from another Legacy hospital to cover shifts for Good Samaritan's understaffed security team, had been fatally shot. Another hospital employee was wounded by shrapnel. The suspect fled and was later killed by police in a nearby community.

The hospital declined to respond to the nurse's comments because the case is still under investigation.

"Events like these are unpredictable, but our team exhibited professionalism and a great deal of courage in the face of extraordinarily challenging circumstances that day," Legacy Health said in a statement to the AP.

Legacy Health in Portland plans to install additional metal detectors, require bag searches at every hos-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 30 of 53

pital and send patients and visitors to controlled entrances. More security officers will be provided with stun guns, the hospital said, and bullet-slowing film is being applied to some interior glass and at main entrances.

Around 40 states have passed laws creating or increasing penalties for violence against health care workers, according to the American Nurses Association. Hospitals have armed security officers with batons, stun guns or handguns, while some states, including Indiana, Ohio and Georgia, allow hospitals to create their own police forces.

Critics say private hospital police can exacerbate the health care and policing inequities already experienced by Black people. They also say private police forces often don't have to disclose information such as how often they use force or whether they disproportionately detain members of minority groups.

Security teams cannot address all of the factors leading to violence because many of them are caused by a dysfunctional health care system, said Deborah Burger, a registered nurse and the president of National Nurses United.

Patients and families are often bounced between emergency rooms and home, and are frustrated over high costs, limited treatment options or long wait times, Burger said.

"Hospitals don't really have a complaints department, so the only real target they have is the nurse or staff that are standing right in front of them," she said.

Understaffing forces nurses to care for more patients and affords them less time to assess each one for behavior problems. Efforts to de-escalate aggression aren't as effective if nurses haven't had time to bond with patients, Burger said.

Growing nurse-to-patient ratios are an "absolutely catastrophic formula for workplace violence increasing," D'Angelo said. "Now you don't even have the good old buddy system of two co-workers keeping an eye out for each other."

Some hospital administrators encourage staff to placate aggressive visitors and patients because they are worried about getting bad reviews, Burger said. That's because the Affordable Care Act tied a portion of federal reimbursement rates to consumer satisfaction surveys and low satisfaction means a hit to the financial bottom line.

"The results of those surveys should never take priority over staff safety," D'Angelo said.

Eric Sean Clay, the president-elect of the International Association for Healthcare Security & Safety and vice president of security at Memorial Hermann Health in Houston, said the workplace violence rates attributed to health care facilities are "grossly underreported."

"I think that a lot of it comes down to caregivers are just very tolerant, and they come to look at it as just part of the job," he said. "If they're not injured, sometimes they don't want to report it, and sometimes they don't think there will be any change."

Clay's hospital uses armed and unarmed security officers, though he hopes to have them all armed eventually.

"We actually have our own firing range that we use," Clay said. None of his security officers have drawn their weapons on the job in recent years, but he wants them to be ready because of the rise in gun violence.

Clay and Memorial Hermann Health declined to answer questions about whether an armed security force could negatively affect access to health care or existing inequities.

The nurse at the Portland hospital said the shooting left her colleagues terrified and unusually solemn. She is worried Legacy Health's promises of increased safety will be temporary because of the cost of finding, training and retaining security officers.

Some of her co-workers have resigned because they don't want to face another "code silver," the alert issued when someone at the hospital has a weapon.

"You know, we always say these patients and their families are so vulnerable, because they're having the worst day of their life here," the nurse said, and that makes many staffers reluctant to demand better behavior.

"We have to stop that narrative," she said. "Being vulnerable is bleeding out from a bullet wound in your

indictment says.

Former allies of Trump have said Trump knew he lost but spread false claims about fraud anyway. After he failed to convince state officials to illegally swing the election, Trump and his allies recruited fake electors in swing states to sign certificates falsely stating Trump had prevailed.

"He knew well that he had lost the election," Trump's former Attorney General Bill Barr told CNN last week.

Lauro said Trump's defense team will seek to move the case from Washington because it wants a more diverse jury. He said he would support televising the trial, and dismissed speculation that it could wrap up before the 2024 election.

"In 40 years of practicing law, on a case of this magnitude, I've not known a single case to go to trial before two to three years," Lauro said on CBS' "Face the Nation."

Responding to questions about whether Trump can get a fair trial in the nation's capital, former New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie, a former federal prosecutor and a Republican, said he can.

"Yes, I believe jurors can be fair. I believe in the American people," Christie said Sunday on CNN.

A slew of people charged in the Jan. 6 riot have tried to get their trials moved out of Washington. Yet judges have rejected those motions in every case, saying fair jurors can be found with proper questioning.

Trump's legal team has until 5 p.m. Monday to respond to the prosecution's request for a protective order limiting Trump's ability to publicly disclose information about the case. The decision is up to Chutkan.

Protective orders are common in criminal cases, but prosecutors said it's "particularly important in this case" because Trump has posted on social media about "witnesses, judges, attorneys, and others associated with legal matters pending against him."

Prosecutors pointed specifically to a post on Truth Social platform from Friday in which Trump wrote, in all capital letters, "If you go after me, I'm coming after you!"

Express train derails in southern Pakistan, killing 30 people and injuring more than 90

By ASIM TANVEER Associated Press

MULTAN, Pakistan (AP) — Ten cars of a passenger train derailed in southern Pakistan on Sunday, killing 30 people and injuring more than 90 others, officials said.

Some of the derailed cars on the Hazara Express train overturned in the crash near the town of Nawabshah, senior railway officer Mahmoodur Rehman Lakho said. The train was going from Karachi to Rawalpindi when the 10 cars went off the tracks near the Sarhari railway station.

The derailed cars sprawled across or near the tracks in the flat, rural landscape. Local television showed rescue teams extracting women, children and elderly passengers from damaged and overturned cars. Some of the injured lay on the ground crying for help while locals gave out water and food.

Senior police officer Abid Baloch said from the scene that the rescue operation was complete by early evening: Dozens of the injured were brought to safety and the last flipped car cleared.

Expressing grief over the loss of life, Prime Minister Shahbaz Sharif prayed during a political gathering in Punjab for the souls of the departed and for the quick recovery of those injured.

"We all pray, may Allah grant a place in heaven to those who passed away and I wish quick recovery for the injured," he said.

Lakho, who is in charge of railways in the accident area, said rescue crews took injured passengers to the People's Hospital in Nawabshah.

Ihtesham Ali lost his family members and was looking for them in the chaotic situation. "Seven members of my family and 22 from my neighborhood were missing and so far we found only four of them, rest are still missing."

Mohsin Sayal, another senior railway officer, said train traffic was suspended on the main line as repair trains were dispatched to the scene. Sayal said alternative travel arrangements and medical care would be made available for the train's passengers.

All trains in both directions were held at the nearest stations till the tracks could be cleared, while all departures were delayed. Passengers at Karachi station complained that they were waiting in hope as railway authorities kept changing departure times.

Owais Iqbal, a Lahore bound passenger at Karachi railway station said: "Our train was to depart at 5 p.m. Now we have been told that it will leave at 8 p.m. It may even get later. We are waiting. We are suffering because of the poor railway system."

Minister for Railways Khwaja Saad Rafiq said an investigation into the cause of the crash was underway. He said that military and paramilitary troops helped rescue workers to rescue the trapped passengers. The most seriously injured passengers were transported to distant hospitals in military helicopters for better treatment.

Train crashes often happen on poorly maintained railways tracks in Pakistan, where colonial-era communications and signal systems haven't been modernized and safety standards are poor.

The future is uncertain for the United States after crashing out of the Women's World Cup

By ANNE M. PETERSON AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — The rest of the world has finally caught up to the United States.

The once-dominant Americans crashed out of the Women's World Cup on penalties after a scoreless draw with Sweden in the Round of 16 on Sunday. It was the earliest exit ever for the four-time tournament champions.

A shootout in the 1999 World Cup — with a much different outcome — supercharged the U.S. team's prominence atop the sport globally. The Americans beat China on penalties in front of a sellout crowd at the Rose Bowl and Brandi Chastain doffed her jersey in celebration.

Except for some desperate energy in its last match, this U.S. team appeared uncharacteristically timid and disorganized throughout this World Cup. The two-time defending champions squeaked by in the group stage with just a win against Vietnam and disappointing draws against Netherlands and Portugal.

The Americans have fallen victim to growing parity in women's soccer. Former powerhouse teams like the United States, Germany and Brazil were all sent home early while teams including Jamaica, Colombia and first-timers Morocco surpassed expectations.

"I think it says a lot about the growth of the game," defender Crystal Dunn said. "I think so many people are looking for us to win games 5-0, and World Cups."

"We should be proud that those days aren't here. We, as members of the U.S. women's national team, have always fought for the growth of this game globally, and I think that is what you're seeing."

After a bronze medal at the Tokyo Olympics and now the early exit from the World Cup, coach Vlatko Andonovski's future with the team is uncertain as it prepares for the next big tournament, the Paris Games next year.

Andonovski took over the job for Jill Ellis, who led the Americans to their back-to-back World Cup titles in 2015 and '19. He has gone 51-5-9 during his time with the team.

"I never came into the job, never came into the locker room with the mindset that I wanted to do something to save my job," Andonovski said on Sunday, clearly shaken. "I was always focused on doing a good job, doing my job in the best possible manner to prepare this team for the challenges they have in front of them, and to prepare them to represent our country."

U.S. Soccer issued a brief statement Monday morning.

"While we are all disappointed our journey has ended at the Women's World Cup, we want to thank the players, coaches and staff for their remarkable effort and to our fans both in the stands and at home for their unwavering support," the federation said. "As we always do after a major tournament, we will conduct a review to identify areas of improvement and determine our next steps. As we look ahead, we embrace the hard work necessary to become champions again."

In addition to a stronger level of competition, the United States also struggled with inexperience.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 33 of 53

The United States brought 14 players to the World Cup who had never played in the event. Indeed, 12 of them had never played in a major tournament.

The changes were part of a U.S. youth movement after the disappointing Tokyo Games. Andonovski focused his attention on developing young players like Sophia Smith, Trinity Rodman and 18-year-old Alyssa Thompson.

One player, midfielder Savannah DeMelo, had never appeared in a national team match when she was named to the World Cup roster. She appeared as a substitute in a send-off match against Wales in San Jose, before starting in the first two World Cup games.

Smith, the U.S. Soccer Player of the year for 2022, had a good start to the tournament with two goals against Vietnam, but went scoreless the rest of the way. She missed her penalty attempt against Sweden along with Megan Rapinoe and Kelley O'Hara.

The only other scorer for the team was co-captain Lindsey Horan, who also had two goals.

"Even though it didn't end up the way we wanted, it's a huge experience for some of these young players," Andonovski said. "There's a group of players that will make a mark in the future."

There was backlash on social media and among pundits following the match, critical of both Andonovski's tactics and Rapinoe's reaction after missing her penalty attempt. She laughed, explaining later that she had fully expected to make it.

Rapinoe, the outspoken star on the 2019 World Cup known for her iconic victory pose, wasn't the same game-changer she once was. At 38, and after a pair of World Cup titles and an Olympic gold medal, her role had diminished. She announced before the tournament started that it would be her last World Cup.

"I know it's the end and that's sad, but to know this is really the only time I've been in one of these, this early, says so much about how much success I've been able to have and just how much I've loved playing for this team and playing for this country," Rapinoe said, tears in her eyes. "It's been an honor."

After the match defender Julie Ertz also said it was likely her last time wearing the U.S. jersey.

It was also clear the United States was missing several important players.

Mallory Swanson, the team's top scorer this year, tore her patella tendon in an exhibition match with Ireland in April. Becky Sauerbrunn, the team's captain, announced in June that she was unable to get over a foot injury in time for the tournament.

Dynamic forward Catarina Macario, hailed among the future stars of the team, tore her ACL last year playing with French club Lyon and didn't recover in time.

In the end, however, the United States struggled most with its identity. It could never muster the confidence of teams past — including the legendary '99ers.

"All we want to do is be successful, be able to uphold the legacy that this team deserves. We failed at that this time," said forward Alex Morgan, who like Rapinoe was playing in her fourth World Cup. "But I'm still hopeful with the future of this team. I still stand by that. This game is evolving, the game is getting better and that's not going to change. It's only going to continue."

US loses to Sweden on penalty kicks in its earliest Women's World Cup exit ever

By ANNE M. PETERSON AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — The United States played its best game of this Women's World Cup and it wasn't good enough to stop the two-time reigning champions from being eliminated in the round of 16.

The Americans' bid to win an unprecedented third consecutive title ended Sunday on penalty kicks. It is the earliest exit in tournament history for the United States, four-time winners of the World Cup.

Megan Rapinoe, Sophia Smith and Kelley O'Hara missed with kicks from the penalty spot before Lina Hurtig converted to clinch the shootout 5-4 as Sweden knocked the United States out of the World Cup after a scoreless draw in regulation and extra time.

The Americans controlled the shootout until the trio of misses.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 34 of 53

"I mean, this is like a sick joke. For me personally, this is like dark comedy that I missed a penalty," Rapinoe said as she blinked back tears. "This is the balance to the beautiful side of the game. I think it can be cruel."

U.S. goalkeeper Alyssa Naeher fruitlessly argued she had saved Hurtig's attempt, but it was ruled over the line by VAR. The stadium played Abba's "Dancing Queen" in the stadium as the Swedes celebrated and the U.S. players sobbed.

"We just lost the World Cup by a millimeter. That's tough," said Naeher, who successfully converted her own penalty kick. "I am proud of the fight of the team. We knew we hadn't done our best in the group stage and we wanted a complete team performance and the team came out and played great."

She praised Sweden goalkeeper Zecira Musovic, who had 11 saves to deny the U.S. a spot in the quarterfinals. The American's worst previous finish had been third place, three different times.

"We didn't put anything in the back of the net," sobbed Julie Ertz after the loss. "The penalties were tough. It's just emotional because it's probably my last game ever. It's just tough. It obviously sucks. Penalties are the worst."

The loss was somewhat expected based on the Americans' listless play through three group-stage matches. But they played their best game of this World Cup against Sweden, only to have it decided by penalties.

"I am proud of the women on the field," U.S. coach Vlatko Andonovski said. "I know we were criticized for the way we played, and for different moments in the group stage. I think we came out today and showed the grit, the resilience, the fight. The bravery showed we did everything we could to win the game. And, unfortunately, soccer can be cruel sometimes."

It was the fourth time the Americans went to extra time at the World Cup. All three previous matches went to penalties, including the 2011 final won by Japan. The U.S. won on penalties in a 2011 quarterfinal match against Brazil, and in the 1999 final at the Rose Bowl against China.

Sweden knocked the United States out of the 2016 Olympics in the quarterfinals on penalties.

Sweden goes on to the quarterfinals to play Japan, which beat Norway 3-1 on Saturday night.

Sweden has never won a major global tournament, either the World Cup or the Olympics. The closest the team has come is World Cup runner-up in 2003. They placed third in the 1999, 2011 and 2019 editions, and won silver medals in the last two Olympics.

The result ended the international career of Rapinoe, the Golden Boot winner of the 2019 tournament who is retiring after the World Cup. She had taken on a smaller role in her final tournament and was a substitute in the United States' first and third games of group play.

She went on in extra time against Sweden and in her final game and few minutes of action, she failed to control a ball played in deep, whiffed on a rebound, hit the side of the net with a corner kick and then missed the penalty that would have put the United States on the verge of victory.

"Just devastated. It feels like a bad dream," captain Alex Morgan said. "The team put everything out there tonight. I feel like we dominated, but it doesn't matter. We're going home and it's the highs and lows of the sport of soccer. So, yeah, it doesn't feel great."

The Americans struggled through group play with just four goals in three matches. They were nearly eliminated last Tuesday by first-timers Portugal, but eked out a 0-0 draw to fall to second in their group for just the second time at a World Cup.

The Americans looked far better against Sweden, dominating possession and outshooting the Swedes 5-1 in the first half. Lindsey Horan's first-half header hit the crossbar and a second-half blast was saved by goalkeeper Musovic, who had six saves in regulation.

Sweden won all three of their group games, including a 5-0 rout of Italy in its final group match. Coach Peter Gerhardsson made nine lineup changes for the match, resting his starters in anticipation of the United States.

"They will come back for sure, they have so much quality on their team," Sweden midfielder Kosovare Asllani said of the U.S. team. "This defeat will not take them down. I expect them to be ready for the

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 35 of 53

next World Cup.”

It was tense from the opening whistle.

Naehner punched the ball away from a crowded goal on an early Sweden corner kick. Three of the Swedes' goals against Italy came on set pieces.

Trinity Rodman's shot from distance in the 18th minute was easily caught by Musovic, who stopped another chance by Rodman in the 27th.

Horan's header off Andi Sullivan's corner in the 34th hit the crossbar and skipped over the goal. Horan was on target in the 53rd minute but Musovic pushed it wide. Horan crouched to the field in frustration while the Sweden keeper was swarmed by her teammates.

“I had a really good feeling before the game,” Musovic said. “Once again, I'm extremely proud of the girls. Many people out there didn't think that (win) was possible.”

Musk says his cage fight with Zuckerberg will be streamed on X

NEW YORK (AP) — Elon Musk says his potential in-person fight with Mark Zuckerberg would be streamed on his social media site X, formerly known as Twitter.

The two tech billionaires seemingly agreed to a “cage match” face-off in late June. Zuckerberg is actually trained in mixed martial arts, and the CEO of Facebook's parent company Meta posted about completing his first jiu jitsu tournament earlier this year.

“Zuck v Musk fight will be live-streamed on X,” Musk wrote in a post Sunday on the platform. “All proceeds will go to charity for veterans.”

On his Threads social media account, Zuckerberg responded: “Shouldn't we use a more reliable platform that can actually raise money for charity?”

Musk said earlier Sunday he was training for the fight by lifting weights.

“Don't have time to work out, so I just bring them to work,” Musk wrote.

Zuckerberg replied on Threads: “I'm ready today. I suggested Aug 26 when he first challenged, but he hasn't confirmed. Not holding my breath. I love this sport and will continue competing with people who train no matter what happens here.”

Whether or not Musk and Zuckerberg actually make it to the ring in Las Vegas has yet to be seen — especially as Musk often tweets about action prematurely or without following through. But even if their cage match agreement is all a joke, the banter has gained attention.

It all started when Musk, who owns X, responded to a tweet about Meta preparing to release a new Twitter rival called Threads. He took a dig about the world becoming “exclusively under Zuck's thumb with no other options” — but then one Twitter user jokingly warned Musk of Zuckerberg's jiu jitsu training.

“I'm up for a cage match if he is lol,” Musk wrote.

Representatives of X, Meta and Ultimate Fighting Championship, which owns the venue where the fight might take place, didn't immediately respond to emails seeking comment.

Musk's push to stream the video live on X comes as he aims to turn the platform into a “digital town square.” However, his much-publicized Twitter Spaces kickoff event in May with Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis announcing his run for president struggled with technical glitches and a near half-hour delay.

Musk had said the problems were due to “straining” servers because so many people were trying to listen to the audio-only event. But even at their highest, the number of listeners listed topped out at around 420,000, far from the millions of viewers that televised presidential announcements attract.

California authorities capture suspects in break-ins at Lake Tahoe homes: a mama bear and three cubs

SOUTH LAKE TAHOE, Calif. (AP) — California authorities have captured four suspects in multiple break-ins at homes around South Lake Tahoe: a mama bear and three of her cubs.

DNA has confirmed the large female black bear and her three little accomplices were responsible for

chest. Being vulnerable is having to barricade yourself and your patients in a room because of a code silver.”

Pence, Trump attorney clash over what Trump told his VP ahead of Jan. 6, 2021

By DAVID KLEPPER Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump’s defense attorney says the former president never asked Mike Pence to overturn the will of the voters in the 2020 election, but only wanted the former vice president to “pause” the certification of votes to allow states to investigate his claims of election fraud. Those baseless claims had already been rejected by numerous courts.

Speaking on several Sunday morning news shows, Trump attorney John Lauro said Trump was within his First Amendment rights when he petitioned Pence to delay the certification on Jan. 6, 2021.

“The ultimate ask of Vice President Pence was to pause the counts and allow the states to weigh in,” Lauro said on CBS’ “Face the Nation.” He added that Trump was convinced there were irregularities in the election that needed to be investigated by state authorities before the election could be certified.

The former president on Sunday also lashed out at the judge overseeing the case, U.S. District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan. On his Truth Social platform, Trump said his legal team would be “immediately asking for recusal of this judge,” as well as to move the case outside of Washington.

The pronouncements were Trump’s latest legal wrangling, made in full public view, as he faces charges that could carry decades in prison if he is convicted.

Trump pleaded not guilty to those charges. Separately, he also faces charges that he falsified business records relating to hush money payments to a porn actor in New York and improperly kept classified documents at his Palm Beach, Florida, resort and obstructed an investigation into their handling.

Last week’s indictment chronicles how Trump and his allies, in what special counsel Jack Smith described as an attack on a “bedrock function of the U.S. government,” repeatedly lied about the results in the two months after he lost the election and pressured Pence and state election officials to take action to help him cling to power. Those efforts culminated on Jan. 6, 2021, when Trump supporters violently stormed the Capitol in an effort to stop the certification.

Speaking on ABC’s “This Week with George Stephanopoulos,” Lauro said Pence’s testimony will show Trump believed the election was rigged and that he was listening to the advice of his attorneys when he sought to delay the certification. Pence, who appeared before the grand jury that indicted Trump, said he will comply with the law if asked to testify.

“I cannot wait until I have the opportunity to cross examine Mr. Pence,” Lauro said. “He will completely eliminate any doubt that President Trump firmly believed that the election irregularities had led to an inappropriate result.”

Pence, who like Trump is seeking the Republican nomination for president in 2024, flatly rejected that Trump was merely seeking a certification “pause” during an interview Sunday, saying Trump seemed “convinced” as early as December that Pence had the right to reject or return votes and that on Jan. 5, Trump’s attorneys told him “We want you to reject votes outright.”

“They were asking me to overturn the election. I had no right to overturn the election,” Pence said on CNN’s “State of the Union.”

Pence’s role in certifying Joe Biden’s win over Trump in the 2020 election makes him a central figure in the prosecution against Trump on charges that he sought to overturn the will of the voters and remain in office even after the courts had roundly rejected his claims of electoral fraud. Federal and state election officials and Trump’s own attorney general also had said there was no credible evidence the election was tainted.

The 45-page indictment details how people close to Trump repeatedly told him he had lost and that there was no truth to his claims of fraud. In one encounter days before the riot, Trump told Pence he was “too honest” after the vice president said he didn’t have the authority to reject electoral votes, the

at least 21 instances of property damage since 2022, the state Department of Fish and Wildlife said in a statement.

The mother bear and her babies were "safely immobilized" on Friday, the statement said. The adult female, known to researchers as 64F, will likely be taken to a sprawling wildlife sanctuary near Springfield, Colorado.

Her cubs could end up at a rehabilitation facility in Sonoma County, California, "in hopes they can discontinue the negative behaviors they learned from the sow and can be returned to the wild," the statement said.

64F, who was outfitted with a tracking device earlier this year, is one of three adult bears identified last year as being responsible for 150 incident reports, including property damage, in the lake region straddling Northern California and Nevada.

Originally it was believed that a single, large black bear the public nicknamed "Hank the Tank" had been breaking into homes. Eventually, Fish and Wildlife announced that it was actually three separate bears responsible for the mayhem.

Conservative groups sue to block Biden plan canceling \$39 billion in student loans

By COLLIN BINKLEY AP Education Writer

Two conservative groups are asking a federal court to block the Biden administration's plan to cancel \$39 billion in student loans for more than 800,000 borrowers.

In a lawsuit filed Friday in Michigan, the groups argue that the administration overstepped its power when it announced the forgiveness in July, just weeks after the Supreme Court struck down a broader cancellation plan pushed by President Joe Biden.

It asks a judge to rule the cancellation illegal and stop the Education Department from carrying it out while the case is decided. The suit was filed by the New Civil Liberties Alliance on behalf of the Mackinac Center for Public Policy and the Cato Institute.

The Education Department called the suit "a desperate attempt from right wing special interests to keep hundreds of thousands of borrowers in debt."

"We are not going to back down or give an inch when it comes to defending working families," the department said in a statement.

It's part of a wave of legal challenges Republicans have leveled at the Biden administration's efforts to reduce or eliminate student debt for millions of Americans. Biden has said he will pursue a different cancellation plan after the Supreme Court decision, and his administration is separately unrolling a more generous repayment plan that opponents call a "backdoor attempt" at cancellation.

The Biden administration announced July 14 that it would soon forgive loans for 804,000 borrowers enrolled in income-driven repayment plans. The plans have long offered cancellation after borrowers make 20 or 25 years of payments, but "past administrative failures" resulted in inaccurate payments counts that set borrowers back on their progress toward forgiveness, the department said.

The new action was announced as a "one-time adjustment" that would count certain periods of past non-payment as if borrowers had been making payments during that time. It moved 804,000 borrowers across the 20- or 25-year mark needed for cancellation, and it moved millions of others closer to that threshold.

It's meant to address a practice known as forbearance steering, in which student loan servicers hired by the government wrongly pushed borrowers to go into forbearance — a temporary pause on payments because of hardship — even if they would have been better served by enrolling in one of the income-driven repayment plans.

Under the one-time fix, past periods in forbearance were also counted as progress toward Public Service Loan Forgiveness, a program that offers cancellation after 10 years of payments while working in a government or nonprofit job.

Biden's action was illegal, the lawsuit says, because it wasn't authorized by Congress and didn't go

through a federal rulemaking process that invites public feedback.

"No authority allows the Department to count non-payments as payments," the lawsuit says. It adds that the action came in "a press release that neither identified the policy's legal authority nor considered its exorbitant price tag."

The conservative groups say Biden's plan undercuts Public Service Loan Forgiveness. The Mackinac Center and Cato Institute say they employ borrowers who are working toward student loan cancellation through the program. They say Biden's action illegally accelerates progress toward relief, diminishing the benefit for nonprofit employers.

"This unlawful reduction in the PSLF service requirement injures public service employers that rely on PSLF to recruit and retain college-educated employees," the suit alleges.

The Cato Institute previously sued the administration over the cancellation plan that was struck down by the Supreme Court. The Mackinac Center is separately challenging Biden's pause on student loan payments, which is scheduled to end this fall with payments resuming Oct. 1.

Simone Biles is trying to enjoy the moment after a two-year break. The Olympic talk can come later

By WILL GRAVES AP National Writer

HOFFMAN ESTATES, Ill. (AP) — Simone Biles is well aware of how the drill goes. She's lived it. Multiple times at this point.

Whenever the gymnastics star goes to work, the questions about the Olympics come, no matter where the Games fall on the calendar.

"It's just like when you get married (and) they ask when you're having a baby," said Biles, who married Green Bay Packers safety Jonathan Owens in April.

So it's telling that while Biles talked for a good 15 minutes on Saturday night after her electric victory at the U.S. Classic — the 26-year-old's first meet since her 2021 Tokyo Games was interrupted by a bout with "the twisties" — the words "Paris" and "2024" didn't escape her lips.

"I'm in a really good spot and who knows," she said. "I'm not going to think so far ahead."

For now, she's making it a point to enjoy "the little wins." Stay in the moment. Try to enjoy the ride, something that became increasingly difficult in 2021, when COVID-19 restrictions forced her to compete in front of a largely empty Ariake Gymnastics Center with her friends and family essentially on the other side of the world back in Texas.

She was never really able to get her bearings in Japan. She knows she wasn't the only one. Once she came forward to talk about the need to take a break to focus on her mental health, she had athletes in the Olympic Village coming up to her to share their own battles with what she called "silent demons."

"Getting to talk to people and realizing we're kind of all going through this together was nice," Biles said. "But it's sad because it's the pinnacle of your career. You should be on top of the world and everybody's kind of dreading it and so sad."

Shedding that weight has taken time, therapy (which she goes to at least once a week) and a concerted effort by herself and her team to make sure she doesn't end up in the same place she was during those strange, lonely, isolated days in Tokyo.

The plan this time around includes a lower profile, at least at this point. Her return was announced via a press release from USA Gymnastics. She has communicated with the public at large strictly through her social media channels, a form of self-protection of sorts.

Biles admitted she was worried about how she'd be received on Saturday night, mindful of the vitriol she had regularly experienced since Tokyo.

That's why the sonic explosion that accompanied her somewhat frantic introduction — she spun in a circle as she ran onto the floor, momentarily unsure of where she should go — surprised her.

"I think I was more worried about outside noises, but coming in here and seeing all the girls and they're

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 39 of 53

just so excited and happy and proud," she said. "For me, it's just like, this is why I do it."

Well, not the only reason. Biles stressed she is doing this "for herself," a description she would use regularly in 2021, one that ultimately turned out not to be entirely true. She could feel the pressure put upon her by unidentified people inside USA Gymnastics that she said called her "our gold medal token."

"And that's from our inside team," Biles said. "That was really tough."

Asked what doing it "for herself" means this time around, the newlywed laughed.

"I'm a little bit older," she said. "I'm more mature. So at this point, it's like nobody's forcing me out here. This is truly me."

A decade into her spot atop the sport, the competitiveness still remains. While she has insisted she doesn't regret what happened in Japan, she called her motivation to get serious about her training in early May "kind of obvious."

"You saw what happened, pulling out of five finals when ... I know what I'm capable of and knowing what I can do," she said. "It was like a mental injury, you know, So something like that. I knew I could with the proper work and the proper help, I knew I could come back and hopefully have a shot."

Her gymnastics may be the least of her concerns. Her all-around score of 59.100 was the highest in the world since the Code of Points was updated in 2022, and that's with her taking a half-point deduction on vault so that coach Laurent Landi could stand on the podium to spot her just in case.

Not that she needed it. She took only a small hop on her Yurchenko Double Pike — a roundoff onto the table followed by two backflips with her hands clasped behind her outstretched legs — and broke out into a celebratory dance afterward.

It provided an exclamation point on a night when she looked as dominant and charismatic as ever.

Still, no talk of Paris. There will be time for that down the road. She's more focused on making minor improvements before the national championships in San Jose at the end of the month. A trip to Belgium in October, where she could add to her record haul of 25 world championship medals, awaits.

She knows the rhythm of the calendar as the Olympics draw closer. This time around, she's not getting ahead of herself.

"I think we'll take it one step at a time," she said. "And we'll see."

The EPA's ambitious plan to cut auto emissions to slow climate change runs into skepticism

By TOM KRISHER AP Auto Writer

DETROIT (AP) — The U.S. government's most ambitious plan ever to slash planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions from passenger vehicles faces skepticism both about how realistic it is and whether it goes far enough.

The Environmental Protection Agency in April announced new strict emissions limits that the agency says are vital to slowing climate change as people around the globe endure record-high temperatures, raging wildfires and intense storms.

The EPA says the industry could meet the limits if 67% of new-vehicle sales are electric by 2032, a pace the auto industry calls unrealistic. However, the new rule would not require automakers to boost electric vehicle sales directly. Instead, it sets emissions limits and allows automakers to choose how to meet them.

Even if the industry boosts EV sales to the level the EPA recommends, any reduction in pollution could prove more modest than the agency expects. The Associated Press has estimated that nearly 80% of vehicles being driven in the U.S. — more than 200 million — would still run on gasoline or diesel fuel.

ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS SAY IT'S NOT ENOUGH

Pointing to surging temperatures and smoke from Canadian wildfires that fouled the air over parts of the U.S. this summer, Dan Becker, director of the safe climate transport campaign at the Center for Biological Diversity, said: "We need to do a hell of a lot more."

He wants the EPA to slash emissions even further.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 40 of 53

Carbon dioxide and methane levels in the atmosphere keep rising. Scientists say July will end up being the hottest month on record and likely the warmest human civilization has seen. The Earth is only a few tenths of a degree from the goal set out in the 2015 Paris Agreement on climate change of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) since pre-industrial times.

Though a panel of United Nations scientists said in March that there was still time to prevent the worst harm from climate change, the scientists said the world would need to quickly cut nearly two-thirds of carbon emissions by 2035 to avoid weather that is even more extreme.

Peter Slowik, a senior EV researcher with the nonprofit International Council on Clean Transportation, has calculated that to cut emissions enough to reach Paris Agreement goals, the proportion of new electric and plug-in hybrid vehicles sold would have to reach 67% by 2030. The EPA has projected 60% by then.

"The EPA proposal is a really great start to putting us on a Paris-compatible path," said Slowik, whose group provides research and analysis to environmental regulators. "But no, it isn't enough to comply with the Paris accord."

The council has calculated that carbon dioxide pollution from passenger vehicles would have to drop to 57 grams per mile by 2030 to reach the Paris goals. The EPA's preferred regulation would cut those emissions to 102 grams per mile by 2030 and to 82 by 2032.

In addition, Slowik cautioned, carbon emissions from new gasoline vehicles would have to drop 3.5% each year from 2027 to 2032. The EPA's preferred regulation doesn't set reductions for gas vehicles. But fuel economy standards recently proposed by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration could.

WHAT DOES THE EPA SAY?

The EPA contends its proposal will significantly reduce pollution. It estimates that passenger-vehicle carbon dioxide emissions would fall 47% by 2055, when the agency expects most gas-powered vehicles to be gone.

As the biggest source of pollution in the United States, transportation generates roughly 29% of heat-trapping greenhouse gas emissions, according to the EPA. Passenger vehicles are by far the worst transportation polluters, spewing 58% of that sector's greenhouse gas pollution.

The EPA also is proposing big reductions from other sources, including heavy trucks, electric power plants and the oil and gas industry.

Using sales projections from the EPA and industry analysts from 2022 through model year 2032, the AP calculated that Americans will likely buy roughly 60 million EVs. With 284 million passenger vehicles on U.S. roads today, at that pace only about 22% of them would be electric in nine years. Two million are already in use, and vehicles now stay on the road for an average of 12.5 years.

Dave Cooke, a senior vehicles analyst for the Union of Concerned Scientists, said that even with slow vehicle turnover, studies show the EPA's proposal would be an important step toward a zero-carbon transportation system by 2050. In addition, power plants that fuel EVs, he noted, will be converted to renewable energy such as wind and solar.

"We know that EVs provide a compounding benefit as we dramatically cut (electric power) grid emissions," Cooke said.

His group is among those pushing the EPA for more stringent standards than the agency is pursuing.

The EPA will consider such comments before adopting a final regulation in March 2024.

THE AUTO INDUSTRY SAYS THE LIMITS CAN'T BE MET

The Alliance for Automotive Innovation, a trade group that represents companies such as General Motors, Ford and Toyota that make most new vehicles sold in the United States, argues the EPA standards are "neither reasonable nor achievable in the time frame covered."

The alliance says the agency is underestimating the cost and difficulty of making EV batteries, including short supplies of critical minerals that also are used in laptops, cellphones and other items. Sizable gaps in the charging network for long-distance travel and for people living in apartments pose another obstacle.

Though automakers continue to downsize engines and produce more efficient transmissions, the alliance says they need to use their limited resources more on producing EVs than on developing more fuel-efficient technology for gas-powered engines.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 41 of 53

ARE ELECTRIC VEHICLES REALLY CLEANER?

Studies by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology show that shifting to electric vehicles delivers a 30% to 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions over combustion vehicles, depending on how the electricity is derived.

Jessika Trancik, an MIT professor of energy systems, said electric vehicles are cleaner over their lifetimes, even after taking into account the pollution caused by the mining of metals for batteries. The university has a website that lists auto emissions by vehicle.

Trancik believes that once EV sales accelerate, more people will want them, and the percentages could actually exceed EPA predictions. Sales of EVs, she noted, are growing far faster in many other countries.

"You often see exponential growth," she said.

'Barbie' joins \$1 billion club, breaks another record for female directors

By LINDSEY BAHR AP Film Writer

Greta Gerwig should be feeling closer to fine these days. In just three weeks in theaters, "Barbie" is set to sail past \$1 billion in global ticket sales, breaking a record for female directors that was previously held by Patty Jenkins, who helmed "Wonder Woman."

"Barbie," which Gerwig directed and co-wrote, added another \$53 million from 4,178 North American locations this weekend and \$74 million internationally, bringing its global total to \$1.03 billion, according to studio estimates on Sunday. The Margot Robbie-led and produced film has been comfortably seated in first place for three weeks and it's hardly finished yet. It crossed \$400 million domestic and \$500 million internationally faster than any other movie at the studio, including the Harry Potter films.

"As distribution chiefs, we're not often rendered speechless by a film's performance, but Barbillion has blown even our most optimistic predictions out of the water," said Jeff Goldstein and Andrew Cripps, who oversee domestic and international distribution for the studio, in a joint statement.

In modern box office history, just 53 movies have made over \$1 billion, not accounting for inflation, and "Barbie" is now the biggest to be directed by one woman, supplanting "Wonder Woman's" \$821.8 million global total. Three movies that were co-directed by women are still ahead of "Barbie," including "Frozen" (\$1.3 billion) and "Frozen 2" (\$1.45 billion) both co-directed by Jennifer Lee and "Captain Marvel" (\$1.1 billion), co-directed by Anna Boden. But, "Barbie" has passed "Captain Marvel" domestically with \$459.4 million (versus \$426.8 million), thereby claiming the North American record for live-action movies directed by women.

Warner Bros. co-chairs and CEOs Michael De Luca and Pam Abdy also praised Gerwig in a statement and said the milestone, "is testament to her brilliance and to her commitment to deliver a movie that Barbie fans of every age want to see on the big screen."

New competition came this weekend in the form of the animated, PG-rated "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem" and the Jason Statham shark sequel, "Meg 2: The Trench," both of which were neck-in-neck with Christopher Nolan's "Oppenheimer," also in its third weekend, for the second-place spot.

"Meg 2" managed to sneak ahead and land in second place. It overcame its abysmal reviews to score a \$30 million opening weekend from 3,503 locations. The Warner Bros. release, directed by Ben Wheatley, currently has a 29% critics' score on Rotten Tomatoes and a B- CinemaScore from audiences. The thriller was released in 3D, which accounted for 22% of its first weekend business.

Third place went to "Oppenheimer," which added \$28.7 million from 3,612 locations in North America, bringing its domestic total to \$228.6 million. In just three weeks, the J. Robert Oppenheimer biopic starring Cillian Murphy has become the highest grossing R-rated film of the year (ahead of "John Wick Chapter 4") and the sixth-biggest of the year overall, surpassing "Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania."

"Oppenheimer" also celebrated a landmark, crossing \$500 million globally in three weeks. Its worldwide tally is currently \$552.9 million, which puts it ahead of "Dunkirk," which clocked out with \$527 million in 2017, and has become Nolan's fifth-biggest movie ever. It's also now among the four top grossing biogra-

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 42 of 53

phies ever (company includes "Bohemian Rhapsody," "The Passion of the Christ" and "American Sniper") and the biggest World War II movie of all time.

Paramount's "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" was close behind in fourth place with an estimated \$28 million from 3,858 theaters in North America. Since opening on Wednesday, the film, which is riding on excellent reviews (96% on Rotten Tomatoes) and audience scores, has earned \$43.1 million.

"This is one of those movies that is a multigenerational joy," said Chris Aronson, Paramount's president of domestic distribution. "I think the enduring popularity of 'Turtles' is showing its true colors. And there hasn't been an animated film in eight weeks and there won't be another for eight weeks which is great for us."

"Turtles" cost \$70 million to produce and features a starry voice cast that includes Jackie Chan, Ice Cube, Paul Rudd, Ayo Edebiri and Seth Rogen, who produced and co-wrote the film, which leans into the "teenage" aspect of the turtles.

"Barbie," "Oppenheimer" and even the surprise, anti-trafficking hit "Sound of Freedom" (now at \$163.5 million and ahead of "Mission: Impossible 7") have helped fuel a boom at the box office, bringing in many millions more than was expected and helping to offset pains caused by some summer disappointments.

"After 'The Flash,' 'Indiana Jones' and, to a certain extent, 'Mission: Impossible,' people were saying the summer was a disappointment. But it's not over yet," said Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for Comscore. "We're going to have a summer that is going to go out on a high note."

But the moment of triumph for the industry will likely be short lived if the studios can't reach an agreement with striking actors and writers soon. The fall release calendar has already gotten slimmer, with some studios pushing films into 2024 instead of trying to promote them without movie stars.

Sony had planned to release its PlayStation-inspired true story "Gran Turismo" in theaters nationwide next Friday, but will now be rolling it out slowly for two weeks before going wide on Aug. 25. The thinking? If movie stars can't promote the film, maybe audiences can.

"We have to be realistic," Dergarabedian said. "We're on this emotional high of movies doing so well, but we have to temper our enthusiasm and optimism with the fact that the strike is creating a lot of uncertainty. The longer it goes on the more profound the issues become. But the audience has spoken and they love going to the movie theater."

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

1. "Barbie," \$53 million.
2. "Meg 2: The Trench," \$30 million.
3. "Oppenheimer," \$28.7 million.
4. "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem," \$28 million.
5. "Haunted Mansion," \$9 million.
6. "Sound of Freedom," \$7 million.
7. "Mission: Impossible — Dead Reckoning Part I," \$6.5 million.
8. "Talk to Me," \$6.3 million.
9. "Rocky Aur Rani Kii Prem Kahaani," \$1.5 million.
10. "Indiana Jones and the Dial of Destiny," \$1.5 million.

Rosenwald Schools helped educate Black students in segregated South. Could a national park follow?

By JEFFREY COLLINS Associated Press

ST. GEORGE, S.C. (AP) — As Ralph James settled into the restored, highbacked desk at the segregated school he attended in rural South Carolina, he remembered the old school bell, the cascading light through tall windows, the Christmas pageant and the basketball court just outside.

It was in schools like this one, and nearly 5,000 others built in the American South a century ago, that Black students largely ignored by whites in power gained an educational foundation through the generosity of a Jewish businessman who could soon be memorialized with a national park.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 43 of 53

They are now called Rosenwald Schools in honor of Julius Rosenwald, a part-owner and eventual president of Sears, Roebuck and Co., who teamed up with African American educator and leader Booker T. Washington to create the program to share the expenses of schools for Black children with the community.

It was nothing short of revolutionary in a segregated place like South Carolina, where governments spent pennies to teach Black children and dollars on white students.

"Education has always been the key to success. Julius Rosenwald gave us that key," James said.

The 76-year-old retired municipal judge has made it his life's goal to restore his old school. In the past decade, James has secured more than \$2 million in grants, money from the state and gifts from corporations and others.

The payoff is near. South Carolina's governor is scheduled to visit the renovated Rosenwald School in St. George on Tuesday as it hosts a meeting for electric cooperatives. A grand opening is planned for September.

A nationwide movement is underway to tell the Rosenwald Schools story to more people. After a request from Congress, the National Park Service is studying how to create a national park to honor Rosenwald. A visitors center about his life would be in Chicago and the project may also include about five schools across the 15 Southern states that were home to the buildings.

Rosenwald gave \$20 million to his foundation to build schools and \$4 million more to other African American education and welfare causes. That would be worth about \$440 million today.

It was still less than half of the money Rosenwald donated in his life to other causes including Jewish charities, hospital construction, scientific research and war relief, according to a report from The Campaign To Create a Julius Rosenwald and Rosenwald Schools National Historical Park.

Rosenwald was the son of Jewish immigrants from Germany and saw in African Americans a chance to help another oppressed group willing to invest what little it could in its own future, said Dorothy Canter, a former Environmental Protection Agency scientist leading the national park effort. Canter was inspired to get involved after seeing a 2015 documentary on Rosenwald.

The Jewish community often saw in the Black community the same kind of violent repression they suffered in Europe, she said.

The Rosenwald Schools story is crucial to the modern success of the United States, and showing how different groups working together to create a better society when those in power did not want to help is an important lesson, Canter said.

"Where would the Civil Rights movement be? Where would John Lewis, Medgar Evers or Maya Angelou have gotten their education?" she said.

Education for Black children was an afterthought in the South in the generations after the end of slavery. More than 51% of South Carolina's population were classified as "negro" in the 1920 census. But in 1927, the state spent \$14.9 million on white students and \$1.7 million on Black students, according to the education superintendent's annual report to the Legislature.

The Rosenwald Fund helped build 481 schools in South Carolina. Only North Carolina (787) and Mississippi (557) had more.

Photographer Andrew Feiler, who is fascinated by Rosenwald's story, has taken photos of more than 100 Rosenwald schools and plans to be at the St. George event Tuesday. For him, Rosenwald's legacy is giving while you're living, as well as pioneering the modern idea of a matching grant by providing seed money and requiring community support.

"We often believe problems are intractable in modern America, especially those related to race," Feiler said. "But this partnership between African Americans and a Jewish businessman shows concerted, focused action really can make a difference."

About 500 Rosenwald Schools remain standing and roughly half are still in a condition to be used, according to the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

A two-room Rosenwald School in Gifford, South Carolina, was built in 1920 but is barely upright today. It closed in 1958 and was taken over by a church that had donated the land. Community meetings, concerts and family reunions were held there, but ultimately it fell into disrepair.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 44 of 53

Charlie Grant is trying to secure the money to restore the building but hasn't found the same support as St. George.

"I would hope to see it done in my lifetime. But if it's not, that's OK too," Grant said. "I always go back to scripture. There was a Moses and there was a Joshua. Maybe I'm moving in the steps of Moses and somebody will come along and catch the vision and represent Joshua."

Grant has a vision of the old school transformed into a community center with a small museum honoring Black gospel quartets: singing groups who crisscrossed the South during Jim Crow selling records with popular songs of hope and faith. The building is already on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places.

Other Rosenwald schools have been converted into senior centers, town halls, special event venues or restaurants. Many remain recognizable by the careful plans Rosenwald approved. Tall windows oriented to the east and west assured an abundance of natural light and ventilation in rural areas where electricity often didn't reach until after the Great Depression.

In St. George, the vision isn't just restoring the school, but providing a sense of the thriving African American neighborhood surrounding it during segregation. Businesses including a grocery store, barber shop and pool hall benefitted the Black community.

Inside the restored school, two classrooms look almost as they did 70 years ago. Another classroom is a public meeting room. The auditorium has been turned into a multipurpose space and will have exhibits detailing the school's history and hands-on science displays, James said.

"You can feel what it was like just like I did," he said.

Ukraine replaces Soviet hammer and sickle with trident on towering Kyiv monument

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — The towering Mother Ukraine statue in Kyiv — one of the nation's most recognizable landmarks — lost its hammer-and-sickle symbol on Sunday as officials replaced the Soviet-era emblem with the country's trident coat of arms.

The move is part of a wider shift to reclaim Ukraine's cultural identity from the Communist past amid Russia's ongoing invasion.

Erected in 1981 as part of a larger complex housing the national World War II museum, the 200-foot (61-meter) Mother Ukraine monument stands on the right bank of the Dnieper River in Kyiv, facing eastward toward Moscow.

Created in the image of a fearless female warrior, the statue holds a sword and a shield.

But now, instead of the hammer-and-sickle emblem, the shield features the Ukrainian tryzub, the trident that was adopted as the coat of arms of independent Ukraine on Feb. 19, 1992.

Workers began removing the old emblem in late July, but poor weather and ongoing air raids delayed the work. The completed sculpture will be officially unveiled on Aug. 24 — Ukraine's Independence Day.

The revamp also coincides with a new name for the statue, which was previously known as the "Motherland monument" when Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union.

The change is just one part of a long effort in Ukraine to erase the vestiges of Soviet and Russian influence from its public spaces — often by removing monuments and renaming streets to honor Ukrainian artists, poets, and soldiers instead of Russian cultural figures.

Most Soviet and Communist Party symbols were outlawed in Ukraine in 2015, but this did not include World War II monuments such as the Mother Ukraine statue.

Some 85% of Ukrainians backed the removal of the hammer and sickle from the landmark, according to data from the country's Culture Ministry released last year.

For many in Ukraine, the Soviet past is synonymous with Russian imperialism, the oppression of the Ukrainian language, and the Holodomor, a man-made famine under Josef Stalin that killed millions of Ukrainians and has been recognized as an act of genocide by both the European Parliament and the United States.

The movement away from Soviet symbols has accelerated since Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine on Feb 24, 2022, where assertions of national identity have become an important show of unity as the

country struggles under the horror of war.

In a statement about the emblem's removal, the website of Ukraine's national World War II museum described the Soviet coat of arms as a symbol of a totalitarian regime that "destroyed millions of people."

"Together with the coat of arms, we've disposed the markers of our belonging to the 'post-Soviet space'. We are not 'post-', but sovereign, independent and free Ukraine."

Russia unleashes missile and drone strikes against Ukraine, retaliating for an attack on a tanker

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Russia unleashed a missile and drone barrage Sunday across parts of Ukraine that killed six people, Kyiv officials said, as Moscow followed through on its promise to retaliate for an attack on a Russian tanker.

Separately, Moscow's second-largest airport briefly suspended flights early Sunday following a foiled drone attack near the Russian capital.

Ukraine's air force said Russia launched 70 drones and missiles from aircraft over the Caspian Sea, including Iranian-made, Shahed-136/131 strike UAVs.

Three waves of missiles hit the Starokostiantyniv area, damaging several buildings and igniting a fire at a warehouse, said Serhiy Tyurin, deputy head of Ukraine's Khmelnytsky region military administration. The strike may have been intended for the city's airfield, officials said.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said the facilities of aircraft engine manufacturer Motor Sich in the Zaporizhzhia region had also come under attack.

The Russian barrage followed a Ukrainian drone attack on a Russian tanker in the Black Sea near Crimea late Friday. Ukraine also struck a major Russian port with drones earlier the same day.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova condemned what she called a Ukrainian "terrorist attack" on a civilian vessel in the Kerch Strait.

"There can be no justification for such barbaric actions, they will not go unanswered and their authors and perpetrators will inevitably be punished," she posted on the Telegram messaging app.

An official with Ukraine's Security Service confirmed to The Associated Press that a Ukrainian drone packed with 450 kilograms (992 pounds) of explosives struck the tanker that was transporting fuel for Russian forces. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak publicly.

Russia's Federal Agency for Marine and River Transport posted on Telegram that although the drone blasted a hole in the tanker's engine room, there were no casualties among the 11 crew members. On Sunday, a Ukrainian missile hit the Chonhar bridge connecting the Russian-occupied Kherson region and northern Crimea, causing minor damage to the span's roadway, said Vladimir Saldo, the Moscow-installed leader of the Kherson region. He also said several more rockets had been shot down by air defense forces.

The bridge, which is one of three key spans connecting the Crimean Peninsula to the mainland, was previously attacked on July 22 and July 29.

Two of the six killed overnight occurred during a Russian airstrike in Ukraine's Kharkiv region, according to the head of the local regional military administration, Oleh Syniehubov. Four others were injured.

Zelenskyy said a guided bomb had hit a blood transfusion center in the area's Kupyan district late on Saturday.

"This war crime alone says everything about Russian aggression," Zelenskyy wrote on social media. "Defeating terrorists is a matter of honor for everyone who values life."

Heavy shelling continued along the front line in eastern Ukraine as Kyiv continued its ongoing counteroffensive. Elsewhere in the Kharkiv region, a 58-year-old woman was killed and a 66-year-old man was wounded after Russian shelling of the village of Podoly, an official said. In Ukraine's eastern Kupyan region, Russian missiles injured a 55-year-old man and ignited a forest fire, officials said on social media. Russian attacks in the Donetsk region villages of Torske and Niu-York killed two people, local Gov. Pavlo Kyrylenko said on social media.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 46 of 53

Ukrainian shelling in Russian-held Donetsk killed a woman in her 80s, Moscow-appointed Mayor Alexei Kulemzin said. The shelling also set the main building of a university on fire, according to Denis Pushilin, the Moscow-installed head of the illegally annexed region.

Russia's Emergency Situations Ministry said the blaze caused the building's roof to collapse, but that there were no casualties.

Moscow's Vnukovo airport, located 15 kilometers (9 miles) southwest of the capital, briefly suspended flights Sunday morning after a drone was shot down in the airspace around the city. It was the fourth attack on Moscow in a month, highlighting the city's vulnerability as Russia's war grinds into its 18th month. The drone was destroyed by air defense systems in the Podolsk region of the Moscow suburbs, Russia's Defense Ministry said.

It said no one was injured from the abortive drone attack, although Russian media outlet Baza later reported a 77-year-old man suffered a shrapnel wound on his hand. The reports could not be independently verified.

Ukrainian authorities, which generally avoid commenting on attacks on Russian soil, didn't say whether it launched the raid.

Flights were last halted at the airport on July 30, when two drones crashed into the Moscow City business district after being jammed by Russian air defenses.

Also on Sunday, Ukraine replaced the Soviet hammer and sickle that adorned the 200-foot (61-meter) Mother Ukraine statue in Kyiv with the tryzub, the three-pronged trident that was officially adopted as the country's coat of arms in 1992.

The change to one of the nation's most recognizable landmarks is part of a wider shift throughout Ukraine to reclaim its cultural identity from the Soviet era amid Russia's ongoing invasion.

Pope announces World Youth Day to return to Asia in 2027, urges young people 'not to be afraid'

By NICOLE WINFIELD, BARRY HATTON and HELENA ALVES Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Pope Francis told young people on Sunday the Catholic Church needs them and urged them to follow their dreams as he wrapped up World Youth Day in Portugal with a massive open-air Mass and an announcement that the next edition would be held in Asia for the first time in three decades.

News that Seoul, South Korea would host World Youth Day in 2027 was a reflection of the continent's increasing importance to the Catholic Church, given the church is young and growing there, whereas it is withering in traditionally Christian lands in Europe.

Francis made the announcement at the end of a Mass before an estimated 1.5 million pilgrims, many of whom camped out overnight on the Lisbon field so they could be in place for the grand finale of the Catholic festival. Joining them were some 700 bishops and 10,000 priests, the Vatican said.

Later, before departing, Francis went to thank some of the event's around 30,000 international volunteers. They assembled at a riverside site despite the afternoon heat that reached around 40 degrees Celsius (104 F) and prompted authorities to issue an extreme weather alert. The pontiff appeared uncomfortable in the heat as he toured the site in an open-topped popemobile, but was at ease as he gave a speech from a shaded stage.

Francis largely stuck to script at the Mass but again skipped much of his prepared homily, continuing the improvisation that has characterized his five-day trip to Portugal to preside over the Lisbon edition of World Youth Day.

Early on in his 10-year papacy, Francis would frequently go rogue and ignore his pre-planned speeches, seemingly moved by the moment to engage directly with the crowd. In more recent years, he largely stuck to script especially when visiting places where Christians are a minority or where his audiences might not appreciate his informal style.

But in Lisbon, he was back on comfortable turf, with many people who can easily follow his native Spanish and seemed to appreciate his conversational way of communicating. They also seemed to appreciate

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 47 of 53

the massive turnout.

"I never thought that so many people would come," said Ana Garcia Prat, a 23-year-old Spanish pilgrim in Lisbon. "In my head, I never pictured a Mass with so many people from so many different countries."

On Sunday, Francis urged young people to follow their dreams and not be afraid of failing, reprising a theme that St. John Paul II frequently repeated during his quarter century of World Youth Days.

"As young people, you want to change the world and it is good that you want to change the world and work for justice and peace," Francis said. "The Church and the world need you, the young, as much as the earth needs rain."

"Do not be afraid!" he said.

Francis gave a special shout-out to John Paul, recalling that he launched the World Youth Day events in the 1980s to inspire the next generation of Catholics. It was John Paul who presided over one of the largest-ever Youth Day gatherings, in Manila, Philippines in 1995, the last and only time the festival was held in Asia.

After Francis announced Seoul would host the 2027 edition, South Korean youths bearing a huge national flag jumped on the stage in glee. A half-century ago, Catholics represented about 1 percent of the South Korean population; today they represent 10 percent of the population of 50 million, and Vatican statistics show that more than 100,000 people are baptized every year.

Seoul Archbishop Peter Soon-taek Chung told reporters that he expected "hopefully" more than the around 300,000 pilgrims who attended the 2008 Sydney edition to come to Seoul. He said one aim would be to reinvigorate youth ministry in South Korea, which he said had suffered during the pandemic with fewer young Catholics attending Mass.

Notably, Francis didn't promise to be in Seoul – he will be 90 in 2027. But he noted there will be an earlier occasion for a youth jamboree in 2025 when the Vatican hosts a Jubilee year expected to draw more than 30 million pilgrims to Rome.

Jonghchan Chan, a South Korean pilgrim, was in the field for the announcement and voiced concern about the weather — if it is held in August, heat could be a problem. Just this week, there were calls to shorten a big international scouting jamboree in Seoul because of excessive heat.

"I'm very happy but a little bit worried we have to welcome all other people," the 33-year-old said. "It will be a bit worrying but we will going to make it."

In Lisbon, young people braved a searing temperature of 38 degrees C (100 F) on Saturday to be in place for his evening vigil service and then faced higher temperatures on Sunday at midday.

They woke Sunday as the sun rose over the River Tagus. Many had slept on mats, cots and the bare ground to be in place for Francis' Mass. Starting at dawn, a priest-DJ started spinning thumping reggae and Christian hymns from the sound system.

Francis' message this week has been one of inclusivity, insisting that "everyone, everyone, everyone" has a place in the church. That is consistent with his message that the church isn't a place of rigid rules where only the perfect can be let in, but rather a "field hospital" for wounded souls, where all are welcome.

Lisbon Cardinal Manuel Clemente said the pope wanted the event to be "open ... to everyone, showing the breadth of the Gospel, which excludes no one and is open to all."

"It's something really important in today's world to accept us as we are, and to know our place as Christians, and to validate it," said Doriane Kilundu, a 23-year-old pilgrim from the Democratic Republic of Congo. "We really support the message of the pope and we are happy to be here."

Kilundu said the experience of spending the night on the field, with 1.5 million other people of faith, was a first for her and other Congolese pilgrims.

"I'm in the company of young girls from my country that for the first time are confronted with people from other places, and to understand that we are one nation, and for us is beautiful," she said.

A deadline arrives for Niger's junta to reinstate the president. Citizens cheer and fear what's next

By SAM MEDNICK Associated Press

NIAMEY, Niger (AP) — The deadline arrived Sunday for Niger's military junta to reinstate the country's ousted president, but the West Africa regional bloc that has threatened a military intervention faces prominent appeals to pursue more peaceful means. In the capital, coup leaders appeared at a stadium rally where a chicken decorated in the colors of former colonizer France was beheaded, to cheers.

Neighboring Nigeria's Senate has pushed back against the plan by the regional bloc known as ECOWAS, urging Nigeria's president, the bloc's current chair, on Saturday to explore options other than the use of force. ECOWAS can still move ahead, as final decisions are made by consensus by member states, but the warning on the eve of the deadline raised questions about the intervention's fate.

The July 26 coup, in which mutinous soldiers installed Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani as head of state, adds another layer of complexity to West Africa's Sahel region that's struggling with military takeovers, spreading Islamic extremism and a shift by some states toward Russia and its proxy, the Wagner mercenary group.

Niger's ousted President Mohamed Bazoum said he is held "hostage" by the mutinous soldiers. An ECOWAS delegation was unable to meet with Tchiani, who analysts have asserted led the coup to avoid being fired. Now the junta has reached out to Wagner for assistance while severing security ties with former colonizer France.

Algeria and Chad, non-ECOWAS neighbors with strong militaries in the region, have said they oppose the use of force or won't intervene militarily, and neighboring Mali and Burkina Faso — both run by juntas — have said an intervention would be a "declaration of war" against them, too.

It was not immediately clear on Sunday what ECOWAS will do next. Thousands of people at Sunday's rally in Niger's capital, Niamey, cheered the coup leaders' appearance and expressed defiance against both the ECOWAS threat and France's long presence in the region. Some waved Russian flags.

"We will all stand and fight as one people," declared one of the junta leaders, Brig. Gen. Mohamed Toumba. "We are asking you to stay mobilized."

Hours before Sunday's deadline, hundreds of youth joined security forces in the darkened streets in the capital to stand guard at a dozen roundabouts until morning, checking cars for weapons and heeding the junta's call to watch out for foreign intervention and spies.

"I'm here to support the military. We are against (the regional bloc). We will fight to the end. We do not agree with what France is doing against us. We are done with colonization," said Ibrahim Nudirio, one of the residents on patrol.

Some passing cars honked in support. Some people called for solidarity among African nations.

ECOWAS shouldn't have given the junta a one-week deadline to reinstate Bazoum but rather only up to 48 hours, said Peter Pham, former U.S. special envoy for West Africa's Sahel region and a distinguished fellow at the Atlantic Council. "Now it's dragged out, which gives the junta time to entrench itself," he said.

The most favorable scenario for an intervention would be a force coming in with the help of those on the inside, he said.

The coup is a major blow to the United States and allies who saw Niger as the last major counterterrorism partner in the Sahel, a vast area south of the Sahara Desert where jihadists linked to al-Qaida and the Islamic State group have been expanding their range and beginning to threaten coastal states like Benin, Ghana and Togo.

The United States, France and European countries have poured hundreds of millions of dollars of military assistance into Niger. France has 1,500 soldiers in the country, though their fate is now in question. The U.S. has 1,100 military personnel also in Niger where they operate an important drone base in the city of Agadez.

While Niger's coup leaders have claimed they acted because of growing insecurity, conflict incidents decreased by nearly 40% in the country compared to the previous six-month period, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data project. That's in contrast to surging attacks in Mali, which has

kicked out French forces and partnered with Wagner, and Burkina Faso, which has gotten rid of French forces as well.

Some in Niger quietly expressed concerns about the coup. One official, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to comment, said many people want Bazoum reinstated but were afraid to say so for fear of retaliation.

"At present, the population is living in total psychosis," the official said.

The uncertainty in Niger is worsening daily life for some 25 million people in one of the world's poorest countries. Food prices are rising after ECOWAS imposed economic and travel sanctions following the coup. Nigeria, which supplies up to 90% of the electricity in Niger, has cut off some of the supply.

Humanitarian groups in Niger have warned of "devastating effects" on the lives of over 4.4 million people needing aid.

Some struggling residents said military intervention is not the answer.

"Just to eat is a problem for us. So if there is a war, that won't fix anything," said Mohamed Noali, a Niamey resident patrolling the streets.

Veterans see historic expansion of benefits for toxic exposure as new law nears anniversary

By CHRIS MEGERIAN Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nicole Leger always thought of the burn pits at military bases in Afghanistan as more like campfires than health hazards. Ordered to dispose of sensitive documents, she would toss the paperwork into the flames while catching up with fellow soldiers, moments of quiet bonding that provided a respite from her riskier work as a hastily trained medic for the U.S. Army.

"We really didn't see that it was dangerous at the time," she said. "It was just part of the mission. So we had to get it done."

But then her sinus problems began, only worsening after she returned home, where she sometimes found herself gasping for breath at night. She remembered thinking, "This wasn't who I was before I got in."

Although Leger already received disability benefits for post-traumatic stress, migraines and a hip fracture, it wasn't until President Joe Biden signed legislation known as the PACT Act last year that her monthly payments expanded to take into account the impact of the burn pits. Now 34 years old, Leger and her fiancé have moved out of a cramped townhouse and into a larger home in a suburb of Tampa, Florida, where their four children can each have a bedroom.

"I still wake up pinching myself," she said.

Leger is one beneficiary of the largest expansion of veterans assistance in decades, and the administration is racing to sign up as many people as possible as the first anniversary of the law approaches. Although there's no deadline to apply, anyone who files a claim or simply signals the intent to do so by Wednesday could collect payments retroactive to last year if the claim is approved.

Under the law, certain cancers and ailments are presumed to be connected to the burn pits that were used to dispose of trash and potentially toxic materials. For veterans who served during the Vietnam War, hypertension and other conditions were added to the list of problems presumed to be caused by exposure to Agent Orange, which was used by the U.S. military to clear vegetation.

Biden will mark the law's anniversary at a Veterans Affairs hospital in Salt Lake City on Thursday. According to administration statistics, the Department of Veterans Affairs has received nearly 786,000 disability claims under the PACT Act, processed almost 435,000 and approved more than 348,000.

About 111,000 veterans who are believed to have toxic exposure have enrolled in VA health care since the law was enacted. In addition, more than 4.1 million veterans have completed toxic screenings, which are questionnaires to analyze their potential exposure and determine whether additional tests are required.

Implementing the legislation has proved challenging for the VA despite hiring new staff to accommodate a historic influx of claims. The backlog is about 266,000, meaning waits of at least four months for claims to be processed, and the list is expected to grow to 450,000 in October and 730,000 in April. During a

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 50 of 53

recent oversight hearing. Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., expressed concern about “bad trends.”

Veterans Affairs Secretary Denis McDonough said his agency is doing better than expected based on internal projections and is using new technology to process claims faster.

“Am I satisfied? I’m not,” he said in an Associated Press interview. “Until every veteran in this country knows what is available to him or her, and has come in and filed a claim, and then we’ve awarded that claim for him or to her, I won’t be satisfied.”

Despite the growing backlog, the VA has kept up its outreach efforts. It has spent \$7.5 million on advertising, including a billboard in New York’s Times Square, and hosted events around the country. Comedian Jon Stewart, who played a leading role in pushing for the PACT Act, has chipped in by posting videos on social media.

“The VA could have slow rolled it to make their job easier,” said Allison Jaslow, a former Army captain who leads the advocacy organization Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America. “But to their credit, they didn’t.”

Jaslow said the department is “doing a pretty incredible job given the influx of claims that came in.”

For a moment last year, it looked like the PACT Act might not get approved. The legislation unexpectedly stalled when Republicans balked, leading some advocates to start camping outside the Capitol. Biden had contracted the coronavirus and could not visit in person, so he sent McDonough with pizza and he talked to the veterans over FaceTime.

The pressure campaign worked, and Congress passed the measure. It was a bipartisan success but also a personal victory for Biden, who has long believed that his eldest son, Beau, developed fatal brain cancer from serving near burn pits in Iraq as a captain in the Delaware Army National Guard.

McDonough sees the PACT Act as a turning point for the VA, making the nation’s largest health care system more agile, robust and competitive.

“The president has been very clear to us that this new law can be the largest expansion of VA benefits and care in the history of the VA,” he said.

It is not just veterans who receive benefits through the PACT Act. More than 16,000 surviving family members have submitted claims. One of those who have qualified for compensation is Ailyn Colby, 59, whose husband, Glenn, died of colon cancer six years ago.

He was 51 years old and a former major in the Rhode Island National Guard who served in Iraq.

“He never really talked to me about his experience because maybe I would worry too much about him,” said Colby, who lives near Hartford, Connecticut.

After his death, she filed for survivor benefits and was denied, describing it as “a horrible experience.”

But when she reapplied under the PACT Act in April, the claim was approved.

“I thought, they still remember the family,” she said.

Crammed with tourists, Alaska’s capital wonders what will happen as its magnificent glacier recedes

By BECKY BOHRER Associated Press

JUNEAU, Alaska (AP) — Thousands of tourists spill onto a boardwalk in Alaska’s capital city every day from cruise ships towering over downtown. Vendors hawk shoreside trips and rows of buses stand ready to whisk visitors away, with many headed for the area’s crown jewel: the Mendenhall Glacier.

A craggy expanse of gray, white and blue, the glacier gets swarmed by sightseeing helicopters and attracts visitors by kayak, canoe and foot. So many come to see the glacier and Juneau’s other wonders that the city’s immediate concern is how to manage them all as a record number are expected this year. Some residents flee to quieter places during the summer, and a deal between the city and cruise industry will limit how many ships arrive next year.

But climate change is melting the Mendenhall Glacier. It is receding so quickly that by 2050, it might no longer be visible from the visitor center it once loomed outside.

That’s prompted another question Juneau is only now starting to contemplate: What happens then?

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 51 of 53

"We need to be thinking about our glaciers and the ability to view glaciers as they recede," said Alexandra Pierce, the city's tourism manager. There also needs to be a focus on reducing environmental impacts, she said. "People come to Alaska to see what they consider to be a pristine environment and it's our responsibility to preserve that for residents and visitors."

The glacier pours from rocky terrain between mountains into a lake dotted by stray icebergs. Its face retreated eight football fields between 2007 and 2021, according to estimates from University of Alaska Southeast researchers. Trail markers memorialize the glacier's backward march, showing where the ice once stood. Thickets of vegetation have grown in its wake.

While massive chunks have broken off, most ice loss has come from the thinning due to warming temperatures, said Eran Hood, a University of Alaska Southeast professor of environmental science. The Mendenhall has now largely receded from the lake that bears its name.

Scientists are trying to understand what the changes might mean for the ecosystem, including salmon habitat.

There are uncertainties for tourism, too.

Most people enjoy the glacier from trails across Mendenhall Lake near the visitor center. Caves of dizzying blues that drew crowds several years ago have collapsed and pools of water now stand where one could once step from the rocks onto the ice.

Manoj Pillai, a cruise ship worker from India, took pictures from a popular overlook on a recent day off.

"If the glacier is so beautiful now, how would it be, like, 10 or 20 years before? I just imagine that," he said.

Officials with the Tongass National Forest, under which the Mendenhall Glacier Recreation Area falls, are bracing for more visitors over the next 30 years even as they contemplate a future when the glacier slips from casual view.

The agency is proposing new trails and parking areas, an additional visitor center and public use cabins at a lakeside campground. Researchers do not expect the glacier to disappear completely for at least a century.

"We did talk about, 'Is it worth the investment in the facilities if the glacier does go out of sight?'" said Tristan Fluharty, the forest's Juneau district ranger. "Would we still get the same amount of visitation?"

A thundering waterfall that is a popular place for selfies, salmon runs, black bears and trails could continue attracting tourists when the glacier is not visible from the visitor center, but "the glacier is the big draw," he said.

Around 700,000 people are expected to visit this year, with about 1 million projected by 2050.

Other sites offer a cautionary tale. Annual visitation peaked in the 1990s at around 400,000 to the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center, southeast of Anchorage, with the Portage Glacier serving as a draw. But now, on clear days, a sliver of the glacier remains visible from the center, which was visited by about 30,000 people last year, said Brandon Raile, a spokesperson with the Chugach National Forest, which manages the site. Officials are discussing the center's future, he said.

"Where do we go with the Begich, Boggs Visitor Center?" Raile said. "How do we keep it relevant as we go forward when the original reason for it being put there is not really relevant anymore?"

At the Mendenhall, rangers talk to visitors about climate change. They aim to "inspire wonder and awe but also to inspire hope and action," said Laura Buchheit, the forest's Juneau deputy district ranger.

After pandemic-stunted seasons, about 1.6 million cruise passengers are expected in Juneau this year, during a season stretching from April through October.

The city, nestled in a rainforest, is one stop on what are generally week-long cruises to Alaska beginning in Seattle or Vancouver, British Columbia. Tourists can leave the docks and move up the side of a mountain in minutes via a popular tram, see bald eagles perch on light posts and enjoy a vibrant Alaska Native arts community.

On the busiest days, about 20,000 people, equal to two-thirds of the city's population, pour from the boats. City leaders and major cruise lines agreed to a daily five-ship limit for next year. But critics worry that

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 52 of 53

won't ease congestion if the vessels keep getting bigger. Some residents would like one day a week without ships. As many as seven ships a day have arrived this year.

Juneau Tours and Whale Watch is one of about two dozen companies with permits for services like transportation or guiding at the glacier. Serene Hutchinson, the company's general manager, said demand has been so high that she neared her allotment halfway through the season. Shuttle service to the glacier had to be suspended, but her business still offers limited tours that include the glacier, she said.

Other bus operators are reaching their limits, and tourism officials are encouraging visitors to see other sites or get to the glacier by different means.

Limits on visitation can benefit tour companies by improving the experience rather than having tourists "shoehorned" at the glacier, said Hutchinson, who doesn't worry about Juneau losing its luster as the glacier recedes.

"Alaska does the work for us, right?" she said. "All we have to do is just kind of get out of the way and let people look around and smell and breathe."

Pierce, Juneau's tourism manager, said discussions are just beginning around what a sustainable south-east Alaska tourism industry should look like.

In Sitka, home to a slumbering volcano, the number of cruise passengers on a day earlier this summer exceeded the town's population of 8,400, overwhelming businesses, dragging down internet speeds and prompting officials to question how much tourism is too much.

Juneau plans to conduct a survey that could guide future growth, such as building trails for tourism companies.

Kerry Kirkpatrick, a Juneau resident of nearly 30 years, recalls when the Mendenhall's face was "long across the water and high above our heads." She called the glacier a national treasure for its accessibility and noted an irony in carbon-emitting helicopters and cruise ships chasing a melting glacier. She worries the current level of tourism isn't sustainable.

As the Mendenhall recedes, plants and animals will need time to adjust, she said.

So will humans.

"There's too many people on the planet wanting to do the same things," Kirkpatrick said. "You don't want to be the person who closes the door and says, you know, 'I'm the last one in and you can't come in.' But we do have to have the ability to say, 'No, no more.'"

Today in History: August 7, allies land at Guadalcanal during World War II

By The Associated Press undefined

Today in History

Today is Monday, Aug. 7, the 219th day of 2023. There are 146 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History:

On Aug. 7, 1942, U.S. and other allied forces landed at Guadalcanal, marking the start of the first major allied offensive in the Pacific during World War II.

On this date:

In 1789, the U.S. Department of War was established by Congress.

In 1882, the famous feud between the Hatfields of West Virginia and the McCoys of Kentucky erupted into full-scale violence.

In 1963, first lady Jacqueline Kennedy gave birth to a boy, Patrick Bouvier Kennedy, who died two days later of respiratory distress syndrome.

In 1964, Congress passed the Gulf of Tonkin resolution, giving President Lyndon B. Johnson broad powers in dealing with reported North Vietnamese attacks on U.S. forces.

In 1971, the Apollo 15 moon mission ended successfully as its command module splashed down in the Pacific Ocean.

In 1989, a plane carrying U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas, and 14 others disappeared over Ethiopia.

Groton Daily Independent

Monday, Aug. 7, 2023 ~ Vol. 32 - No. 044 ~ 53 of 53

(The wreckage of the plane was found six days later; there were no survivors.)

In 1990, President George H.W. Bush ordered U.S. troops and warplanes to Saudi Arabia to guard the oil-rich desert kingdom against a possible invasion by Iraq.

In 1998, terrorist bombs at U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania killed 224 people, including 12 Americans.

In 2005, ABC News anchorman Peter Jennings died in New York at age 67.

In 2007, San Francisco's Barry Bonds hit home run No. 756 to break Hank Aaron's storied record with one out in the fifth inning of a game against the Washington Nationals, who won, 8-6.

In 2010, Elena Kagan was sworn in as the 112th justice and fourth woman to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court.

In 2015, Colorado theater shooter James Holmes was spared the death penalty in favor of life in prison after a jury in Centennial failed to agree on whether he should be executed for his murderous attack on a packed movie premiere that left 12 people dead.

Ten years ago: President Barack Obama's five-year effort to reboot U.S.-Russian relations crashed as the White House abruptly canceled his planned face-to-face summit with Russia's Vladimir Putin. The Major League Baseball Players Association formally appealed Alex Rodriguez's drug probe suspension, sending the case to an independent arbitrator. (The suspension was withheld.)

Five years ago: Sharice Davids won a Democratic congressional primary in Kansas, becoming the state's first Native American and gay nominee for Congress. (Davids went on to become one of the first two Native American women elected to the House.) The fourth suspect in the shooting death of emerging South Florida rap star XXXTentacion turned himself in to authorities. Chicago police said they would deploy hundreds of additional officers to neighborhoods where a burst of gun violence over the weekend left at least 11 people dead and 70 wounded. Hall of Fame hockey forward Stan Mikita, who helped the Chicago Black Hawks win the 1961 Stanley Cup, died at the age of 78.

One year ago: Democrats pushed their estimated \$740 billion election-year economic package through the Senate. The hard-fought compromise was less ambitious than President Joe Biden's original domestic vision but it still met deep-rooted party goals of slowing global warming, moderating pharmaceutical costs and taxing immense corporations. A cease-fire between Israel and Palestinian militants took effect in a bid to end nearly three days of violence that killed dozens of Palestinians and disrupted the lives of hundreds of thousands of Israelis. Colombia's first leftist president, Gustavo Petro, was sworn into office, promising to fight inequality and heralding a turning point in the history of a country haunted by a long war between the government and guerrilla groups.

Today's Birthdays: Singer Lana Cantrell is 80. Former FBI Director Robert Mueller is 79. Actor John Glover is 79. Actor David Rasche is 79. Former diplomat, talk show host and activist Alan Keyes is 73. Country singer Rodney Crowell is 73. Actor Caroline Aaron is 71. Comedian Alexei Sayle is 71. Actor Wayne Knight is 68. Rock singer Bruce Dickinson is 65. Marathon runner Alberto Salazar is 65. Actor David Duchovny is 63. Actor Delane Matthews is 62. Actor Harold Perrineau is 60. Jazz musician Marcus Roberts is 60. Country singer Raul Malo is 58. Actor David Mann is 57. Actor Charlotte Lewis is 56. Actor Sydney Penny is 52. Actor Greg Serano is 51. Actor Michael Shannon is 49. Actor Charlize Theron is 48. Rock musician Barry Kerch is 47. Actor Eric Johnson is 44. Actor Randy Wayne is 42. Actor-writer Brit Marling is 41. NHL center Sidney Crosby is 36. MLB All-Star Mike Trout is 32. Actor Liam James is 27.